



**17** new arrivals per day in December on average  
**2,200** persons as current TC capacity  
**Over 17,000** refugees accommodated since October 2017  
**2 months** average stay length before moving to shelters at settlements (due to limited land available in main sites to relocate new arrivals)

**UNHCR is supporting newly arrived refugees by:**

- 1** **Providing services on arrival** such as checking the health status of individuals and providing orientation
- 2** **Assessing their protection needs** and ensuring they receive prompt referral
- 3** **Ensuring relocation to a safe and suitable area** in the settlement

UNHCR’s main reception centre, known also as the ‘Transit Centre’ (TC), is situated adjacent to the main Kutupalong refugee settlement on the main Ukhiya-Teknaf highway. It was opened in October 2017 to help receive the newly arrived Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The TC provides new arrivals with temporary shelter and offers immediate lifesaving assistance and services, such as healthcare, vaccination services and food. TC also has latrines, child-friendly space, and communal kitchen. From the TC, UNHCR helps refugees relocate with their belongings to plots deemed suitable and safe for refugee households in the main Kutupalong-Balukhali settlement or other locations.

The TC is also one of the eight locations where UNHCR stores emergency relief items (tarpaulins, kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, buckets, and solar lanterns), shelter materials, water/sanitation and hygiene kits, and Compressed Rice Husks. These items are for general distribution as well as for emergency response. Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) were installed at the TC providing safe and secure accommodation with better privacy. The RHUs will replace emergency tents and bamboo sheds currently set up at the TC.

**Progress**

<p><b>Extremely Vulnerable Individuals</b> identified and prioritised for assistance</p>	<p>All children aged between <b>42 days and 15 years old</b> provided vaccinations before transferring to main settlements</p>	<p><b>63 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs)</b> installed in TC, providing <b>128 rooms</b> for newly arrived families</p>	<p><b>2,613 families (10,330 individuals)</b> in total received assistance at the TC in 2018</p>
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**Service providers at the Transit Centre**

**BDRCS** - site management; on-call medical assistance; **Handicap International** - screening for persons with special needs; **Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI)** - provision of information services; **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** - health, child-friendly space, vaccinations, and psychosocial support; **Action Against Hunger (ACF)** – community kitchen; **NGO Forum** - latrines and water supply; **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** - restoring family links, dry food on arrival; **Save the Children International** - child protection and nutrition screening.

### Way forward

The TC has not ceased to develop since its inception. It will continue serving as a vital piece of the response architecture that offers new arrivals an orderly settlement in a coordinated manner until their relocation to the main settlements. Following the outbreak of diphtheria amongst refugees in late 2017, UNHCR made part of the TC available to MSF to serve as a treatment and isolation centre. As preparedness for the annual monsoon and cyclone seasons, freight containers have been installed at the site to hold pre-positioned materials specifically for emergency response. The TC has also demonstrated its importance with new arrivals to Bangladesh, including the Rohingya refugees from India arriving in late 2018. The absorption capacity of the centre continues to be vital as the main reception centre for newly arrived refugees in needs of lifesaving support and protection assistance.

### Working in Partnership

UNHCR co-chairs the **Strategic Executive Group** together with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a **Protection Working Group** in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnership with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as with a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 28 partners, including:

**Action Aid Bangladesh** | **ACF** (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Woman Lawyer's Association) | **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society** | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **Caritas Bangladesh** | **Center for Natural Resource Studies** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **COAST** (Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust) | **Danish Refugee Council** | **FH Association** (Food for the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **IRC** (International Rescue Committee) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **Handicap International** | **Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation** | **Light House** | **Oxfam GB** | **Relief International** | **Mukti Cox's Bazar** | **NGO Forum for Public Health** | **RTMI** (Research, Training and Management International) | **Save the Children International** | **Sesame Workshop** | **Solidarites International** | **Terre des hommes** Foundation | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated)

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 3,000 volunteers from the refugee community who are often the first responders on the ground. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with safety unit volunteers (SUVs) who support the emergency response, community outreach members who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, community health workers who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

### Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2018/2019)



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