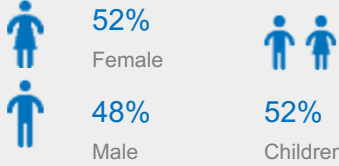




## POPULATION

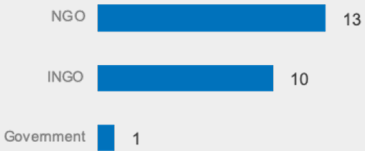
**963,038** # of registered refugees



as of 31 August 2023

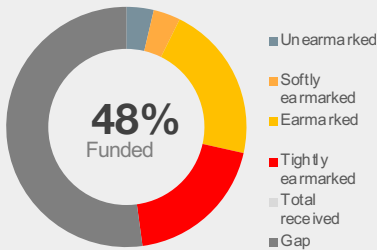
## PARTNERS

**24** # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2023



## FUNDING

**275 M** Funding for 2023 operations



as of 20 August 2023

## HISTORY

UNHCR has been a friend of Bangladesh since 1971, providing life-saving aid to some 10 million refugees forced to flee during the Liberation War.

Today, UNHCR and partners manage 16 camps in Cox's Bazar, including Nayapara and Kutupalong Registered Camps, plus the island of Bhasan Char, supporting the Government of Bangladesh to provide essential services and meet the protection needs of one million Rohingya refugees, including special services for women, children and persons with disabilities. Most arrived in 2017, fleeing persecution, large-scale violence and human rights violations.

Support is additionally extended to host communities while continuously working towards solutions to ensure that refugees can return in a safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable way once conditions in Myanmar allow.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

August 2023



August rains wreaked havoc on the camps. © Ayoub Khan, Rohingya volunteer

## KEY UPDATES

- SEVEN YEARS ON:** On 25 August, UNHCR and partners marked the sixth anniversary of the mass influx of over 700,000 Rohingya refugees into Cox's Bazar, bringing attention to key challenges: dwindling humanitarian funding, need for greater access to education, skills development and livelihoods for the refugees, and need for progress towards solutions. "There is an urgent need to invest in collective efforts to allow Rohingya to become self-reliant as they cannot, and do not wish to, remain dependent on humanitarian aid," said UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh, Johannes van der Klaauw. [Read more.](#)
- 2023 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN:** As of [31 August](#), the 2023 Joint Response Plan (JRP) is 30% funded with USD 266 million received against the overall appeal of USD 876 million, including USD 67 million for Bhasan Char. The 2023 Plan provides protection services and essential assistance to nearly one million vulnerable Rohingya refugees and a half million Bangladeshis in host communities. [Read more.](#)
- REGISTRATION EXERCISE:** The exercise to verify and update the registration data of refugees in Kutupalong Registered Camp (KRC) is 74% complete and will close on 14 September. The CiC will make a formal announcement through a community townhall.
- IMAMS AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:** UNHCR convened partners working in religious engagement, *SASA! Together* and the Male Role Model (MRM) programme to create a strategy for imam participation in GBV prevention activities. As community faith leaders, imams can address questions on social and religious norms arising during *SASA! Together* and MRM sessions. To increase the faith leaders' awareness of GBV-issues, GBV partners will visit community-based protection's weekly imam engagement sessions, and report back concerns and challenges to the GBV unit for further discussion.
- PROTECTION TRAINING FOR ARMED POLICE BATTALION (APBn):** A joint UNHCR-IOM training on protection principles for APBn, whose personnel are responsible for camp security, was initiated in August. Eight cohorts will be trained over two months. Sessions will be facilitated by UNHCR, IOM, the office of the RRRRC and APBn.
- CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:** An assessment of 70 child protection (CP) facilities of four UNHCR partners found that only eight structures are accessible to persons with mobility impairment, 39 are partially accessible, and 23 structures are not accessible. To enhance access of children with disabilities in CP activities, further funding is needed. Funding is also needed to support families of children with disabilities, to ensure their proper care and well-being.
- PREVOCATIONAL TRAINING:** 9,219 adolescents (4,575 girls) who completed the six-month pre-vocational course in basic numeracy, literacy, and life skills sat for an assessment test, of which 71% received a passing grade. The successful graduates are now eligible for enrollment in curriculum-based vocational skills training.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### 1. BASIC RIGHTS, PROTECTION & EDUCATION

Refugee rights are respected, and they have access to education and protection, including protection against gender-based violence.

### 2. ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS IN A GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Essential and sustainable services (including safe shelters, health, nutrition, WASH, energy) are ensured, and the environment is protected.

### 3. SKILLS & CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Work toward sustainable solutions, with voluntary repatriation at the centre, supported by skills development, livelihoods and capacity building for refugees.

### 4. DIVERSIFIED FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with development and private sector actors to innovate, support and localize operations.

### 5. CREATING A POSITIVE NARRATIVE

Lead the narrative on the Rohingya refugee response and improve public attitudes toward the Rohingya.

## DONORS

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jersey, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America.

With additional support received from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Qatar Charity, and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives.

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 Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- VOCATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION:** Workshops continued with 2,476 refugees (1,231 female) receiving curriculum-based vocational training in seven trades in a second batch under the Global Affairs Canada-funded project. Meanwhile, 93% of trainees from the first batch who took part in a third-party skills assessment received passing marks. Under the Fast Retailing project, 356 refugee women were engaged in sanitary napkin and underwear production across four production centres.
- SKILLS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTION:** Partners developed modules to teach climate smart agriculture methods to refugees and sustainable livelihood skills to local Bangladeshis. 4,847 Rohingya refugees and 2,500 Bangladeshi households will be supported under this project by Emirati private sector partner MBRGI.
- MONSOON RESPONSE:** Heavy rain in August caused partial or full damage to 4,699 shelters, temporarily displacing 1,943 individuals. As front-line responders, volunteers helped families relocate to safe places and access hot meals. Over 25,000 households in 16 UNHCR camps have received support over eight months of 2023, compared to 28,000 households in all of 2022. UNHCR continues to advocate for improved shelter designs that are more weather- and fire-resistant and cost effective. On 30 August, UNHCR partner BDRCS broadcast a live radio show on risk mitigation and response to heavy rain and landslide, via Facebook Live and community radio station [Radio Naf](#).
- E-WASTE COLLECTION:** In mid-August, one ton of e-waste collected from the two registered camps was sent to a certified e-waste recycling company in Dhaka, while repairable electronic items were set aside to be repaired by refugees in the e-waste repair training, beginning in November. The e-waste project is an innovation service pilot, launched by UNHCR in July.
- HEALTH CARDS FOR ALL:** The health card campaign kicked off in August, with some 890,000 refugees receiving health card booklets (96% coverage). This joint initiative will empower refugees with information about their own health, enable health staff at different facilities to facilitate continuity of care, and help increase cost efficiency through tracking distribution of medicine. The campaign was supported by the Community Health Working Group, led by UNHCR, and Registration team.
- COX'S BAZAR PANEL SURVEY:** In August, UNHCR published two briefs from the Cox's Bazar Panel Survey (CBPS) on Bhasan Char, the first socio-economic assessment providing insights into the wellbeing and livelihoods of Rohingya refugees on the island. [Brief 1](#) highlights key population demographics and outlines key thematic areas. [Brief 2](#) focuses on the livelihood opportunities and engagements of Rohingya refugees on the island. The survey is a partnership between UNHCR, Yale University, the GAGE programme, and the World Bank. [Read more.](#)
- MISSION REPORT:** In August, UNHCR hosted/assisted 11 visits from donors and partners to Cox's Bazar camps and Bhasan Char, including delegations from the US Congress and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- NEW FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS:** [New funding contributions](#) for UNHCR Bangladesh were received from Korea, Sweden, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and UPS.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- "All over the world, I see students reaching great heights through education – and I feel sad thinking about the future of Rohingya people, living in the camps, unable to pursue their dreams. I always long to go back to my country, Myanmar – but with full rights."** [Read Mohammed Moshowraf's story](#) about his life in the camps for the sixth year mark.
- In August, UNHCR Bangladesh published 24 [Facebook](#) posts, 29 [tweets](#) and 15 [Instagram](#) posts on topics including [World Breastfeeding Week](#), [heavy rainfall](#), and the [sixth year mark](#).

What would you take with you

if you had to flee your home?



Put yourself in the shoes of a refugee. What would you take with you? [Join the conversation on our Facebook page.](#)

