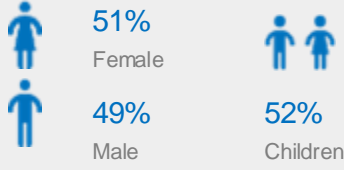




POPULATION

994,124 # of registered refugees

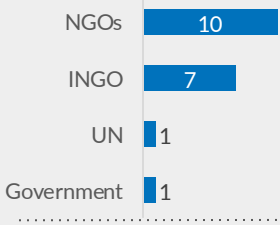
96.4% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf
3.6% on the island of Bhasan Char



as of 31 August 2024

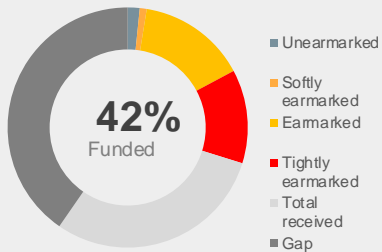
PARTNERS

19 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024



FUNDING

275 M Funding for 2024 operations



as of 31 August 2024

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 2024



Heavy rain and other incidents continued to affect the camps. © Selim Khan, Rohingya photographer

KEY UPDATES

- 2024 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP):** As of 31 August, the 2024 JRP was [40 per cent funded](#), with USD 339.4 million received against an appeal of USD 852.4 million, according to the [FTS tracker](#). The 2024 JRP requests continued support for one million Rohingya refugees, who depend on humanitarian assistance, and for more than 400,000 host community members. As the conflict in Myanmar continues to escalate, international solidarity with Bangladesh and support for refugee protection is urgently needed. In 2023, the JRP was [66 per cent funded](#) with USD 578 million received against an overall appeal of USD 876 million. [Read more.](#)
- SEVENTH YEAR MARK:** As August marked the seventh anniversary of the large-scale forced displacement of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, UNHCR called for sustained commitment from the international community and renewed efforts to develop comprehensive solutions to end their plight at a press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. [Read the briefing note.](#)
- UPDATE ON POLITICAL UNREST:** On 5 August, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled to India, concluding a month of tumultuous student-led protests that had paralyzed the country. Several days of violence, including acts of looting, arson and revenge-taking, followed, with many incidents targeting people and places associated with Hasina's political party, including police stations and officers for their role in firing on unarmed protestors. The violence was exacerbated by a nationwide police walkout, including Armed Police Battalion (APBn) forces stationed in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps. On 8 August, an interim government was sworn in with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus as Chief Advisor. On 10 August, police began a gradual return to their posts, though the security situation remains fluid. The Bangladesh Army has stepped in to maintain law and order. UNHCR continues to carefully monitor the situation to ensure safety of staff, volunteers and refugees, as well as the community's access to essential services. By the end of August, regular field missions had resumed, with all camp activities fully operational.
- CAMP SECURITY:** In August, the security situation in Cox's Bazar camps deteriorated significantly, partly linked to the absence of law enforcement and camp administration agencies in the camps due to nationwide civil unrest and political change. Serious protection incidents were reported in several camps including an increase in shootings and the suspected use of firearms, killings, child recruitment and child abductions.
- VOLUNTEER & SKILLS DATA:** The fifth round of volunteer and skills development data was submitted to the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), which included 106,697 individuals: 43,836 volunteers and 62,861 participants in skills development activities. In line with guidelines on engagement of the host community, about 27 per cent of the volunteers are Bangladeshi nationals, most of whom are engaged in skilled employment in the education, health, livelihoods, and skills development sectors.
- COMPLAINTS & FEEDBACK:** In August, UNHCR recorded 21,655 requests for interventions by refugees through the Centralized Automated Information Processing Platform (CAIPP), of which 6 per cent were protection-related. All requests are automatically forwarded to the relevant units for action and follow-up.

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, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, Finland, the European Union, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA.

With additional support received from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), UN AIDS and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including adidas AG, Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Zakat House of Kuwait and Tanmeia Foundation.

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Romain Descloux, descloux@unhcr.org,
 Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- PRODUCTION CENTRES:** Seven production centres in Cox's Bazar camps employed 598 Rohingya women volunteers, 103 fewer than the previous month due to security issues and political unrest. An additional batch of 45 women will join after completing sewing machine training. On Bhasan Char, 219 women artisans were employed at the handicraft production centre, crafting tote bags, laptop sleeves, cushions covers, key rings, and more.
- CHOLERA & DENGUE:** As of 31 August, 85 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) were reported in UNHCR-managed camps, compared to 78 AWD cases in July. 15 cases were confirmed to be cholera. Dengue cases also rose in August, with 2,539 cases reported and Camps 3 and 17 identified as hotspots. To ensure safe water supply and reduce AWD outbreaks, WASH partners conducted water quality monitoring and distributed water purification tablets, reaching 740 vulnerable households. Hygiene promotion teams organized awareness sessions with religious leaders and community groups, emphasizing water safety, food hygiene, proper handwashing, and keeping children away from flood or drain water. A week-long block cleaning campaign involved the community and focused on eliminating mosquito larvae, cleaning surrounding areas, and addressing stagnant water in drains to curb the spread of dengue.
- BAMBOO SUPPLIES:** Deliveries of bamboo supplies improved slightly, allowing scale-up of shelter assistance. 5,695 households (including 722 extremely vulnerable households) received shelter repair materials in August. Current stocks of *borak* and *muli* bamboo stand at approximately 37,000 and 118,000 pieces each. (*Borak* and *muli* are two kinds of bamboo). To date, suppliers have delivered 140,641 *borak* pieces (35 per cent of the annual target) and 1,272,870 *muli* pieces (42.5 per cent of the annual target). With continued shortages hindering shelter assistance activities, UNHCR is brainstorming alternative materials to bamboo.
- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE:** In August, 221 disaster incidents, including weather, flood and fire, affected 4,634 camp households. 1,098 households were displaced, with 2,966 shelters partially damaged and 99 shelters fully damaged. Due to the shortage of *muli* bamboo, 6,191 households are pending shelter assistance.
- ASSISTING NEW ARRIVALS:** After advocacy by UNHCR, the Civil Surgeon's office and the Immunization Task Force provided guidance on incorporating new arrivals, who are not registered, in the routine immunization programme. New arrivals will receive a temporary card with a permanent vaccine card to be provided after immunizations are completed. As part of contingency planning, UNHCR has also identified vacant sites within three UNHCR-managed camps in Ukhiya where shelters for new arrivals could be constructed. As of 31 August, UNHCR continues to await guidance from the RRRC on permission to assist new arrivals fleeing escalated fighting in Rakhine state, including targeted attacks on the Rohingya community ([link](#)).
- SOLAR STREET LIGHT (SSL) REPAIR:** Efforts to increase light coverage in camps continued with cleaning of 122 solar panels and repairs of 30 lights, bringing SSL functionality to 65 per cent as of 31 August. Light coverage of critical and communal facilities contributes to refugees' safety and security, especially that of women and girls. Discussions are underway to increase SSL functionality to 75 per cent in 2025. Regular wear and tear, theft, and physical damage by disasters are key factors contributing to SSL disrepair.
- MISSION REPORT:** Missions were paused in August due to the political unrest.
- FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 31 August, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 42 per cent funded against an operating plan of USD 275 million. A new contribution was received from the Republic of Korea.

"IN CASE YOU MISSED IT..."

- [Read](#) UNHCR's press release on the seven-year mark.
- After a temporary pause on social media posting from 17 July to 8 August, UNHCR Bangladesh published 7 [Facebook](#) posts, 9 [tweets](#) and 6 [Instagram](#) posts in August. Highlights included a [video](#) marking the 7th anniversary of the Rohingya's flight for their lives on 25 August 2017, a [reel](#) commemorating World Humanitarian Day (19 August), and [messages of solidarity](#) following the August floods in Bangladesh's south-east region, which affected millions in the host community.



On 9 August, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi [welcomed](#) the appointment of Dr. Muhammad Yunus as the head of Bangladesh's Interim Government.