110,737

linear meters of access roads, drainages, slope stabilization, terracing, retaining walls, embankments constructed and/or maintained.

39,499

Number of households receiving shelter support (emergency and repair / replacement)

3,460

Number of transitional shelters provided

3,800

Number of extremely vulnerable households assisted with shelter construction/repair

Refugee camps with increased green spaces. ©UNHCR.

UNHCR's Shelter and Settlement programme delivered a comprehensive and protection focused response throughout 2025, ensuring timely support to vulnerable households and strengthening resilience across high-risk areas. The rollout of the Integrated Settlement Planning (ISP) Approach enhanced coordinated, risk informed camp development and contributed to the establishment of a government-endorsed multisector planning platform. The programme advanced inclusive and climate adapted shelter solutions, improved site conditions through extensive infrastructure upgrades, and strengthened preparedness for fire and monsoon risks. Through effective partnership management, technical guidance, and innovation in materials and design, UNHCR reinforced its leadership in shelter and settlement planning within the Rohingya response.

Key achievements

- In 2025, shelter remained the top community-reported concern and need of the refugees in the camps, with **159,184** CAIPP/CFM shelter complaints resolved at a **97%** closure rate.
- **41,959** households received shelter assistance (emergency, repair, and replacement), surpassing 2024 outputs despite reduced funding, supported by strong planning and partner coordination. Rapid emergency response restored shelter for **1,200+** households following major fires in Camp 1W and Camp 26.
- **3,560** transitional shelters were constructed, integrating protection, WASH, and settlement planning considerations. Inclusive and resilient shelter designs were advanced, including disability-inclusive features. 70 double storey shelters with external kitchens were constructed in Camp 4 Extension Block F and **400** stilt shelters were constructed in flood prone Camp 26.
- The Integrated Settlement Planning (ISP) Approach was developed and rolled out, contextualizing UNHCR's Masterplan methodology for Bangladesh. A four-day ISP workshop enhanced technical capacities of UNHCR staff, SCCCM partners, and government officials, strengthening territorial planning and cross-agency alignment. ISP outputs informed a Mult hazard risk assessment, which served as the basis for the Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS) Scale Up Plan. Contributions to interagency and government coordination strengthened the Government-endorsed Multisector Settlement Planning Taskforce, embedding settlement planning at coordination level.
- **110,737** meters of site development works—including access roads, drainage, slope stabilization, terracing, and embankments—were constructed or maintained across UNHCR camps, improving safety and resilience.
- Advocacy with the government resulted in improvements in the quality of materials used in site development works, for example, a shift from geotextile sandbags to permeable concrete blocks and in some locations, replacement of bamboo bridges with steel bridges, enhancing durability and environmental performance.
- In collaboration with BRAC, **6** camps had their meso-settlement plans developed through participatory processes that ensured community engagement and optimization of land through facility rationalization plans.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT

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- UNHCR continued to conduct research on solutions to inform the shelter response including **safe, double-storied shelter**, promoting compliant and landefficient design options. Innovation was fostered through development and sectoral adoption of **Geotex**, a sustainable alternative to bamboo used by partners including IFRC and NGOF.

Challenges

- Progress toward safe and dignified housing continued to be constrained by major structural barriers, foremost the **lack of land** for settlement expansion. This continues to contribute to the congestion across camps and limited opportunities for decongestion, safer layouts, and the creation of fire breaks.
- **Policy restrictions** prevented shelter support to 150,000 new arrivals, leaving many in unsafe, substandard shelters.
- Continued reliance on bamboo—a resource heavily depleted after years of extensive procurement—resulting in supply shortages, especially during the monsoon season, and hampering timely repair and maintenance.
- Shrinking funding to the sector hampered efforts, for example while the approval of the **Temporary Safer Shelter** model represented progress toward more durable solutions, scaling up requires significant additional resources and operational flexibility.
- The **ISP** approach improved spatial optimization, but the lack of available land and communities' reluctance to relocate—often linked to livelihoods and social ties—restricted larger-scale improvements.
- In the **energy and environment** sector, limited national infrastructure, high costs of parallel systems such as solar, and environmental pressures from dense camps hindered progress toward sustainable solutions. Longterm gains remain dependent on development investments.

Way Forward

- Continue **advocacy with the Government of Bangladesh** for additional land to ease congestion, enable safer settlement layouts, and support dignified living conditions for the refugee population.
- Expand the use of **Double Storey Shelter**s to maximize limited land while meeting the spatial needs of growing families.
- Work toward **operationalizing and scaling up the Temporary Safer Shelter model**, including mobilizing the required resources and promoting the gradual transition to more durable, fire-retardant materials.
- Strengthen **joint procurement and supply chain strategies** to stabilize material availability—particularly bamboo—while accelerating the shift toward sustainable, longer-lasting alternatives.
- Deepen **community engagement** to support relocations needed for safety, risk reduction, and settlement optimization, ensuring that concerns linked to livelihoods and social networks are addressed.
- In the energy and environment sector, continue to **engage development actors**, including multilateral banks, to drive investments that support more sustainable, climate-resilient, and environmentally responsible solutions for both refugees and host communities.
- **Advocate for enabling policies** that permit **cash and e voucher modalities** for shelter repair, maintenance, and targeted upgrades—prioritizing households with specific needs and areas with functioning markets. This can unlock **livelihood opportunities** (local suppliers, artisans, transporters) while **reducing delivery costs** and leakages by minimizing intermediaries.
- **Leverage development finance** to upgrade critical settlement that reduce disaster risk and recurrent O&M costs. This can also be done through **cofinanced programmes** where World Bank/ADB resources cover largescale, durable works while humanitarian funding focuses on community engagement ensuring protection mainstreaming.
- **Continued prioritization of the ISP approach**, enabling effective cross-sectoral, sustainable and impactful interventions in the Bangladesh-context.

Household received shelter and housing assistance

41,959

UNHCR and partners, working closely with government counterparts, conducting Shelter, Site Development, and Settlement Planning activities, in 16 of the 33 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district and 1 settlement on the island of Bhasan Char, Noakhali district in addition to host community areas in Bangladesh.

110,737

Linear meters of access roads, drainages, slope stabilization, terracing, retaining wall, embankments constructed and/or maintained

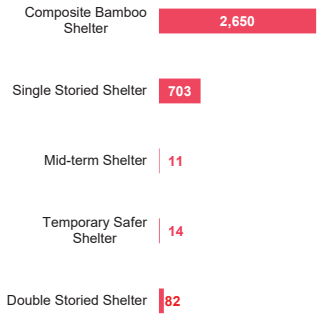
1,365

Households supported with ememgency shelter assistance

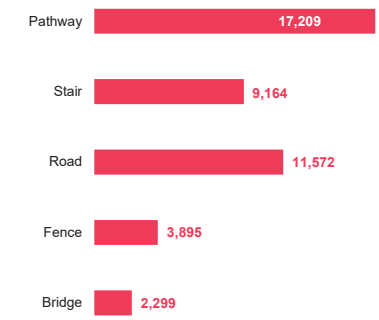
9,233

# of female who belong to extremely vulnurable households assisted with shelter construction/repair assistance

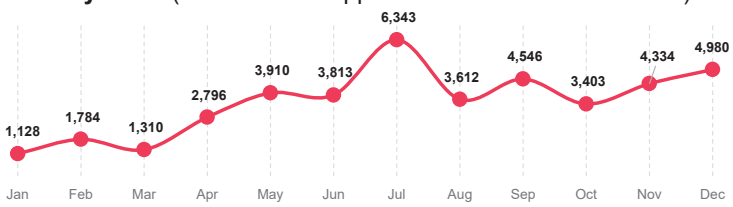
Shelter support provided to households



Site development activity constructed/maintained (in meter)



Monthly trend (Households supported with shelter assistance)

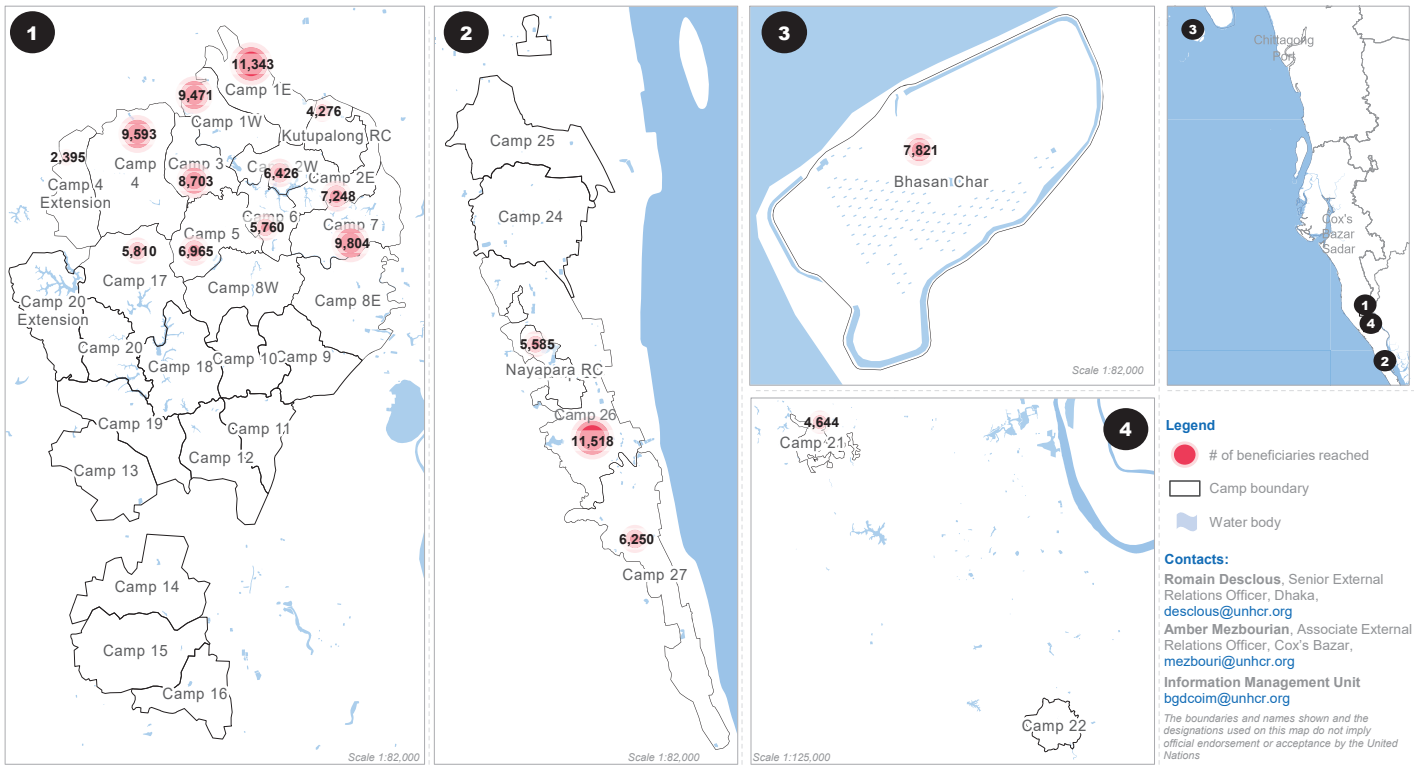


Key achievements

Progress against target

	REACHED	TARGET
# of households receiving shelter support (emergency and repair / replacement)	38,499	35,924
100%		
# of transitional shelters provided	3,460	3,345
100%		
# of extremely vulnurable households assisted with shelter construction/repair	3,800	3,810
100%		
Linear meter of drainages constructed, maintained and cleared (drainages, canal re-excavation)	21,173	18,723
100%		
Linear meters of access roads constructed and/or maintained (pathway, roadway, stairs, bridges)	44,245	36,521
100%		
Linear meter of Slope Stabilization, Terracing, Retaining wall, Embankments constructed and/or maintained	45,319	38,712
100%		
# of community basic infrastructure constructed or maintained	139	136
100%		
# of volunteer supported	326	295
100%		
# of individuals received capacity building training	190	190
100%		

Geographic overview (Beneficiaries received shelter support)



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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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Sources: UNHCR Partners (Activity Info)

Partners: BDRCS, BRAC, NGOF

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, Finland, the European Union, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, 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., and Tanmeia Foundation.

Households received LPG assistance

109,589

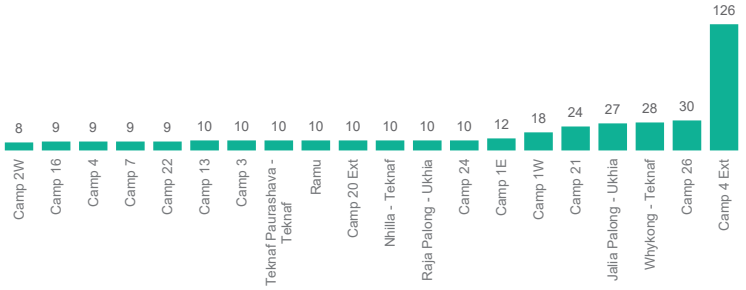
UNHCR and partners conduct energy and environment activities in the Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char localities, including facilitating access to solar and electrical infrastructure, provision of LPG and fuel efficiency items, watershed management and environmental education and conservation.

888
# of streetlights repaired

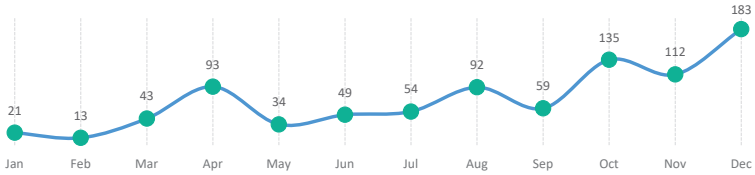
70
# of mini-grids installed and maintained in institutional and communal facilities

166
# of times Human-Elephant conflict mitigated

By location (# of individuals received environmental education)



Monthly trend (# of streetlight maintenance (repairing))



Key achievements

Progress against target

	REACHED	TARGET
# of mini-grids installed and maintained in institutional and communal facilities (100%)	70	70
# of technical energy or environment assessment delivered (100%)	40	40
# of wildlife rescued and released (100%)	120	100
Proportion of total street lamps that are functioning (100%)	75	75
# of times Human-Elephant conflict mitigated (100%)	166	166
# people received environmental education (64%)	389	611
# streetlights repaired (100%)	888	800
# of volunteers supported (93%)	938	1,012

Geographic overview (# of solar system maintained in UNHCR AoR)

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