

# BANGLADESH

13 October 2017

During the last week, an additional **20,000 new refugees arrived in Bangladesh** from Rakhine State. Most of them are women and children with urgent needs.

A majority of newly arrived refugees are settled around existing camps and among host communities, where **services and infrastructures remain insufficient.**

UNHCR is now **expanding its operational response** into the main border entry points and the spontaneous settlements **to reach all refugees** with protection and assistance.

## POPULATION FIGURES

**536,000\*** Estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2015

**307,500** estimated refugee population before the influx  
**843,500** estimated total refugee population

## STAFFING

**182** Staff now present in the operation compared to 49 prior to the crisis.

\* As reported by the Cox's Bazar Inter Sector Coordination Group

## FUNDING

**USD 83.7 M**

Requested for UNHCR's emergency response in Bangladesh for the next six months

USD 30.2 M  
Received

USD 53.5 M  
Remaining  
funding needed



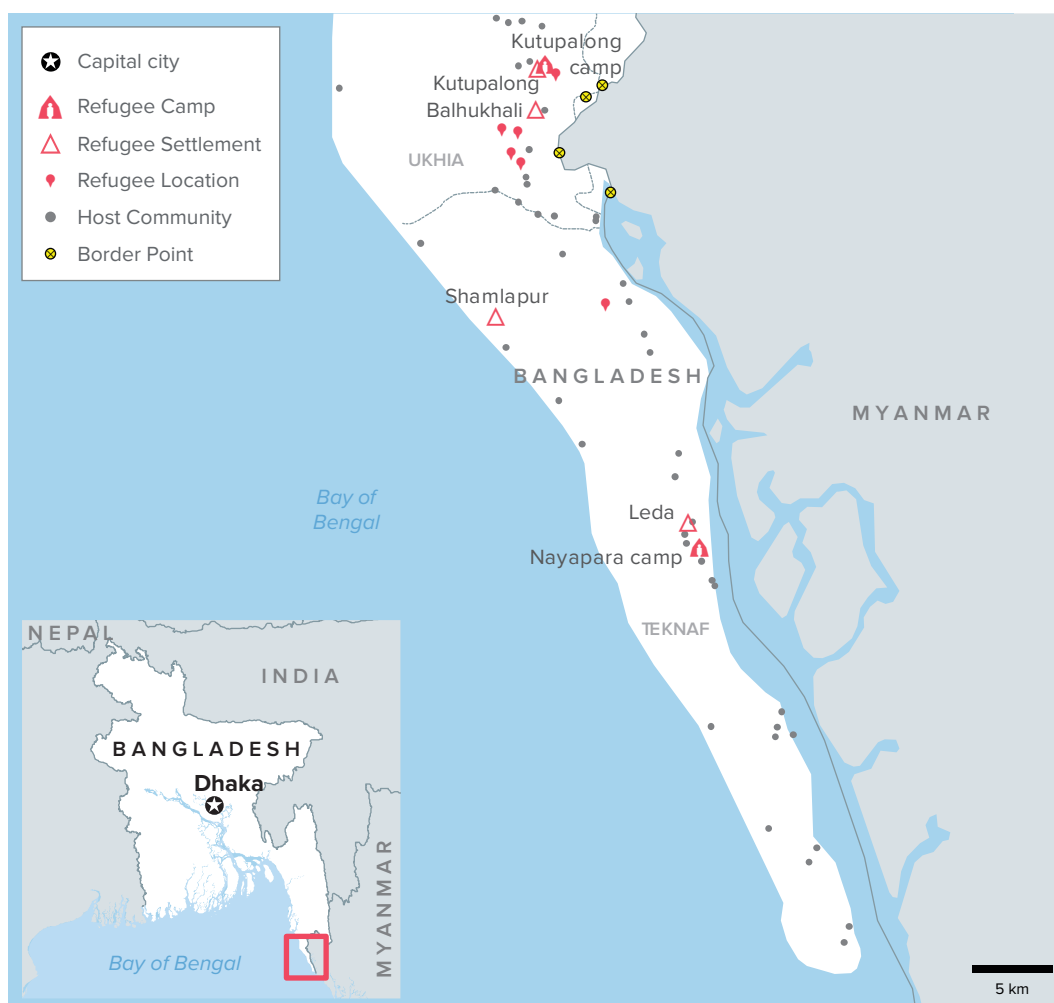
(c) UNHCR / Roger Arnold

# Update On Achievements

## Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, over **half a million refugees have fled violence** in northern Rakhine state in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh in desperate conditions, many families splitting in the process.

These new refugees settled in the border areas in the South-east of Bangladesh, where an estimated 307,500 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar were already living, bringing the total number of refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh to over 840,000. The weather conditions, the rough terrain and the lack of basic transport infrastructure limits access to the refugees, especially those living in the new spontaneous settlements, constructed out of the stilts and plastic sheets provided by UNHCR and its partners.



Although the rainy season is coming to an end, last week has seen heavy rains which delayed construction of roads and latrines. Such conditions impede delivery of assistance and create a fertile ground for the spreading of water borne diseases.

As new influx of refugees are anticipated in the coming days and weeks, UNHCR will continue working with the Government of Bangladesh and its partners to provide assistance to the refugees and host populations affected by this crisis.

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

UNHCR is working with the Bangladeshi authorities and partners to **prepare for a potential refugee influx in the coming days** in order to provide assistance upon arrival. An informal alert system in the event of new arrivals was established between the Army, the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and UN agencies. UNHCR is distributing shelter material at entry points. Together with the authorities, UNHCR identified a site for a transit centre to temporarily host new arrivals before they are allocated a plot in Kutupalong extension. UNHCR is now developing a site map for the transit centre and coordinating with partners to set up medical services, sanitation facilities, provision of food and water and family reunification.

### Achievements and Impact

- UN agencies in Cox's Bazar are preparing a joint contingency plan to respond to three identified risks: the new arrivals of refugees, a cyclone and the outbreak of disease. UNHCR is **leading the task force on the potential arrival of new refugees** while the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISCG) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) are leading the task force on the risk of a cyclone. The existing cholera task force will continue to work on a contingency plan for the risk of outbreak of disease.
- The Protection group led by UNHCR is mapping out current protection activities and gaps and scaling up significantly its engagement in all refugee settlements. The Protection group is actively engaged with the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection sub-sector working groups. With respect to the former, in addition to finalizing relevant referral pathways, this sub-sector developed guidelines for relations

with the media on SGBV. In collaboration with UNFPA and the International Rescue Committee, UNHCR also trains SGBV programme coordinators on setting up and running safe spaces for survivors of violence.

- The Child Protection sub-sector is working on establishing a case management system for children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children. Partners are scaling up activities both to identify and refer children at risk and to provide psychosocial support, and recreational and learning opportunities for girls and boys.

#### RRRC family counting exercise

UNHCR is supporting a family counting exercise led by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). So far, **a total of 17,855 families have been counted**. Families are delivered a RRRC-card with a unique identifier number to be used as a platform for harmonized assistance delivery. An initial analysis of data gathered so far indicates that over 35% of families recorded have a family member with a visible, easily-identifiable specific need. Meanwhile, support to the Ministry of Home Affairs' biometrics exercise continues.



(c) UNHCR / Tamas Almos



### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many refugees have experienced violence and traumatic events and are in need of support. Proper identification of those most in need is a priority. Rape, human trafficking, and survival sex have been reported among the existing perils for women and girls during flight. Measures to ensure the safety and security of women and girls in refugee settlements, such as public lights and separate facilities, are also urgently needed.
- A boat carrying 60 refugees capsized on 8 October some 2km from the Bangladeshi shore. UNHCR **transferred the 20 survivors to Kutupalong camp where they received assistance**, including psychosocial support. The overcrowded boat was caught in a sand bank and capsized during high tide. Survivors reported that the boatman was reluctant to carry too many passengers but that people were desperate due to the lack of water, food and harsh weather conditions in Myanmar.



(c) Paula Bronstein



### EDUCATION

#### Achievements and Impact

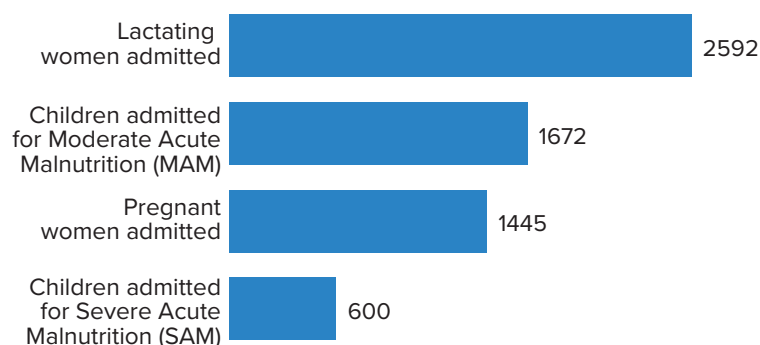
- **Five schools out of 12 in Kutupalong camp reopened** after a month of suspension on 11 October and 538 children were present on the first day. Education staff are visiting families to encourage children to come back to school.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Reopening existing schools and opening additional education facilities is a priority.


**HEALTH**
**Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR identified sites to build five additional health centres, as planned in its emergency response plan. **Two centres are under construction and already providing some services**, such as outpatient and maternity services. The five health centres will benefit approximately 50,000 patients each, thus covering a total 250,000 refugees.

**Number of persons admitted for malnutrition treatment**


- A diarrhoea centre established by UNHCR and its partners in Kutupalong is up and running and another treatment centre will open on 15 October in Nayapara. UNHCR plans to open **four to six diarrhoea centres** with 80 beds in total.
- UNHCR, together with UNICEF and WHO, is supporting the government's cholera **vaccination campaign** that started on 10 October. An estimated 1,200 to 1,500 volunteers will be mobilized.
- UNHCR has established two treatment centres for malnourished children in Kutupalong and Nayapara. They are providing nutritional support and treatment.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- **Malnutrition and acute watery diarrhoea** are the most pressing health priorities.

**Multi-agency emergency nutrition assessment**

UNHCR is taking part in a **multi-agency emergency nutrition assessment**, to start on 21 October. This survey will inform the nutrition response by assessing the prevalence of malnutrition, morbidity, and vaccination coverage, as well as infant and young children feeding practices, among other things.

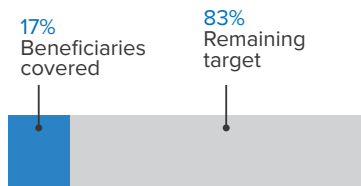


**WATER AND SANITATION**

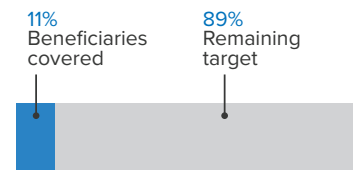
**Achievements and Impact**

- To date, UNHCR and its partners have built more than 615 latrines and a total of 91 tube-wells. As a result, over **30,000 refugees now have access to latrines** and over **45,000 to water**. UNHCR also rehabilitated 44 existing latrines in the refugee camps. Maintenance, including removing and dislodging clogs, cleaning and disinfecting is ongoing. Hygiene sessions for new arrivals are regularly carried out by partners.
- Over 25 temporary bathing spaces were built so that refugees, especially women, can have a private and safe space to bath. UNHCR will sustain its effort to ensure the provision of safe water and appropriate sanitation facilities, with the objective to reach 250,000 refugees within the next six months.

**Refugees with access to water**



**Refugees with access to latrines**



(c) Roger Arnold

- UNHCR is installing **garbage containers** in refugee settlements and regularly collecting them. Waste management is essential to avoid the spread of diseases.
- In Kutupalong extension, UNHCR is holding **weekly coordination meeting with the various WASH partners**, to map out existing water and sanitation facilities, provide technical assistance and monitor activities.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- It is important to build and upgrade water and sanitation facilities to avoid the spreading of water-borne diseases. Additional safe bathing facilities, including for women, are needed.

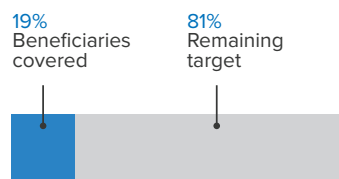


## SHELTER AND NFIS

### Achievements and Impact

- Almost 17,000 families (around 85,000 individuals) have received tarpaulins in order to build their own shelters. UNHCR is working on a pilot “cash for shelter” project, to complement tarpaulins with bamboo poles, rope and tools and cover the shelter needs of over 250,000 refugees.
- UNHCR continues to provide core relief items to families, with a tokens delivered after community mapping. So far, 9,619 families have received UNHCR’s core relief items kits.

### Refugees who received core relief items



### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Difficult access to refugee settlements and heavy rains are limiting the swift delivery of assistance by trucks. Bamboo bridges need to be built within the camp to improve access to various areas and vulnerable cases need support to transport their kits back to their shelters.



## ACCESS TO ENERGY

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees expressed their need for fuel during UNHCR’s participatory assessment. In addition to protection concerns, access to fuel would relieve pressure on the environment.





## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

### Achievements and Impact

- The site planning taskforce (UNHCR, IOM and the RRRC) conducted an onsite visit and agreed on settlement parameters. Because authorities want to minimize the impact of refugee settlement on the environment, only 15 to 25% of the offered extension site will be usable. On the basis of contextualized planning standards, the site planning working group agreed on an average of 20 to 25 square meters per persons (compared to 45 square meter as per SPHERE standard). The site planning taskforce is now working on a pilot zone.
- UNHCR is supporting local authorities' efforts to set up site management mechanisms: 26 new officials were hired to manage Kutupalong extension area. UNHCR met with them on 10 October to support with site profiling and offer capacity building.



(c) Roger Arnold

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- According to the agreed standards, the site identified by authorities for a further extension to Kutupalong can host a maximum of 100,000 people. More land is therefore needed to accommodate other new arrivals.
- Information management systems supporting site/camp management need to be set up building on existing governance structures. Information mechanisms also need to be put in place to provide the refugee population with information on the provision of assistance and services by UNHCR and its partners.

### Working in partnership

- UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), which is in charge of leading the emergency refugee response in coordination with the district authorities. In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR cooperates with the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the local representative of the MoDMR.
- UNHCR is assuming its lead role in the protection response for all refugees. UNHCR is coordinating closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners. UNHCR collaborates with the various sector working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.



(c) Roger Arnold



## External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

### **Donors of contributions for Bangladesh in 2017**

United States of America | European Union | IKEA Foundation | Japan | Denmark | CERF | Priv Donors Switzerland | Mr. Tadashi Yanai | Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation | Switzerland | HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein | UPS Corporate | Qatar Charity | United Nations Office for Project Serv. | Canada | UNIQLO Co., Ltd | The Silent Foundation | United Arab Emirates | Priv Donors Egypt | Priv Donors Republic of Korea | Priv Donors Singapore | Priv Donors Netherlands | Priv Donors Philippines | Priv Donors Italy | Priv Donors India

### **Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017**

United States of America | Sweden | Netherlands | Priv Donors Spain | United Kingdom | Norway | Japan | Priv Donors Republic of Korea | Denmark | Australia | Canada | Priv Donors Italy | Switzerland | Priv Donors USA | France | Germany | Priv Donors Japan | Priv Donors Sweden | Italy

### **Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017**

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Chile | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Morocco | New Zealand | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Spain | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Zambia | Private Donors

## **CONTACTS**

**Showvik Das Tamal**, Associate External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh,  
[TAMAL@unhcr.org](mailto:TAMAL@unhcr.org), Tel: +880 17 7874 5379

**Vivian Tan**, Senior Regional Public Information Officer, UNHCR Bangkok (Regional Office),  
[TANV@unhcr.org](mailto:TANV@unhcr.org), Tel: +66 2 342 3503

## **LINKS**

[UNHCR operation page](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Latest story on Bangladesh](#)