

BANGLADESH

10 November 2017

Some **8,000 refugees** fled violence and human rights violations in Rakhine State in Myanmar last week and reached Bangladesh, including by raft.

A majority of newly arrived refugees are settling in and around existing camps and among host communities, **stretching already limited resources.**

UNHCR is supporting the authorities to **assist and protect newly arrived refugees** and host communities.

POPULATION FIGURES

615,500* estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017

307,500 estimated refugee population before the influx
923,000 estimated total refugee population now

STAFFING

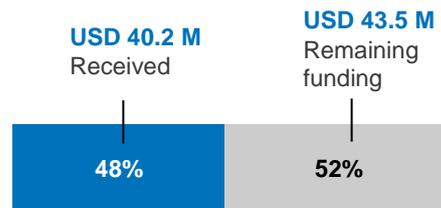
225 Staff now present in the operation compared to **49** prior to the crisis.

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

FUNDING (AS OF 7 NOVEMBER 2017)

USD 83.7 M

Requested for UNHCR's emergency response for 2017



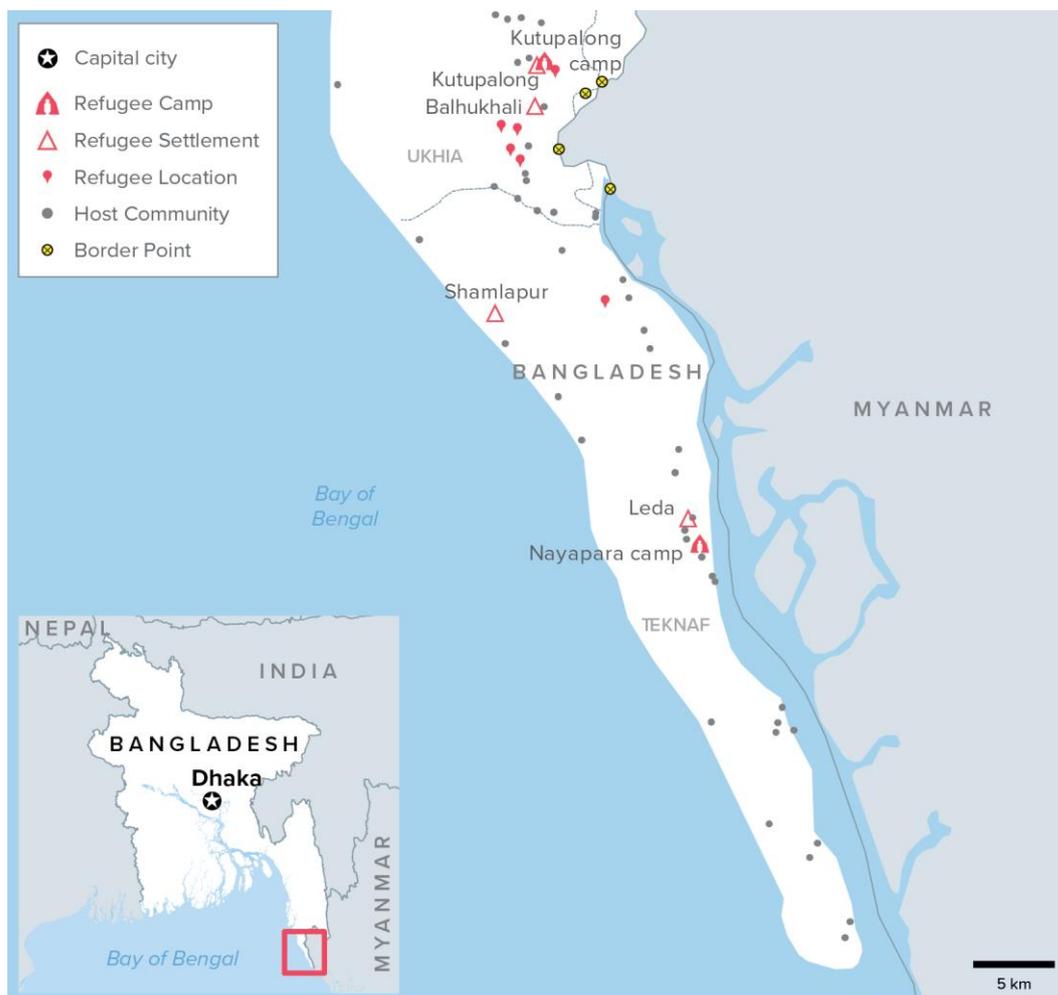
In a designated safe space for children in the Kutupalong extension site in Cox's Bazar, south-east Bangladesh, young Rohingya refugees were asked to draw their memories of fleeing their villages, as a therapeutic exercise. © UNHCR / Roger Arnold

Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, **615,500 refugees have fled targeted violence and serious human rights violations** in northern Rakhine state in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh, bringing the total number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to close to a million.

These new refugees have settled in the border areas in the South-east of Bangladesh, where an estimated 307,500 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar were already living. Weather conditions, hilly terrain, and the lack of roads limits access to the refugees, especially those living in more remote areas of the spontaneous settlements.

As a steady flow of new arrivals continues to cross into Bangladesh to seek safety, UNHCR is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance to the refugees, and support host populations affected by this influx. UNHCR is working around the clock to develop site plans for empty zones in Kutupalong extension site, and to ensure that basic infrastructure is in place before refugees settle.



Update on achievements



PROTECTION

UNHCR and partners continue to provide assistance to new arrivals. Over 3,000 refugees entered through Anjunmanpara border crossing last week (2-3 November). Over 1,700 people, including the most vulnerable, were temporarily sheltered in UNHCR's Rubber Plantation transit centre while the rest were transferred directly to Balukhali, to receive assistance from IOM to relocate in Zone SS. UNHCR is relocating families from the Rubber Plantation transit centre to Zone OO while continuing to receive groups that have reached Bangladesh by boat, landing in coastal areas near Cox's Bazar.

Achievements and Impact

- **Access to Safety and Protection:** Over 3,000 refugees entered through Anjunmanpara border crossing last week (2-3 November). Over 1,700 people, including the most vulnerable, were temporarily sheltered in UNHCR's Rubber Plantation transit centre while the rest were transferred directly to Balukhali, to receive assistance from IOM to relocate in Zone SS. UNHCR is relocating families from the Rubber Plantation transit centre to Zone OO while continuing to receive groups that have reached Bangladesh by boat, landing in coastal areas near Cox's Bazar.

Meanwhile, refugees continue to arrive regularly through Bangladesh's southern border, Shah Porir Dwip. A daily average of 170 families arrived over the last week at the Shah Porir Dwip, compared to 130 the week before. This represents a daily average of 700 people, almost 5,000 a week. New arrivals receive assistance at a distribution point (established by the army) in Sabrang and where UNHCR and other agencies provide assistance before the population moves towards existing refugee settlements.

UNHCR teams conducted over **50 border monitoring missions** during the month of October to capture a more comprehensive picture of new arrivals along the border. Rapid assessments were conducted in border areas in Bandarban district where at least four groups of refugees (from a few hundreds to 7,000 people) have been stranded for the past two months. Because of their high exposure to imminent security risks due to proximity with the border, UNHCR and other protection actors are advocating for prompt relocation of the estimated 16,000 refugees to a safer area.

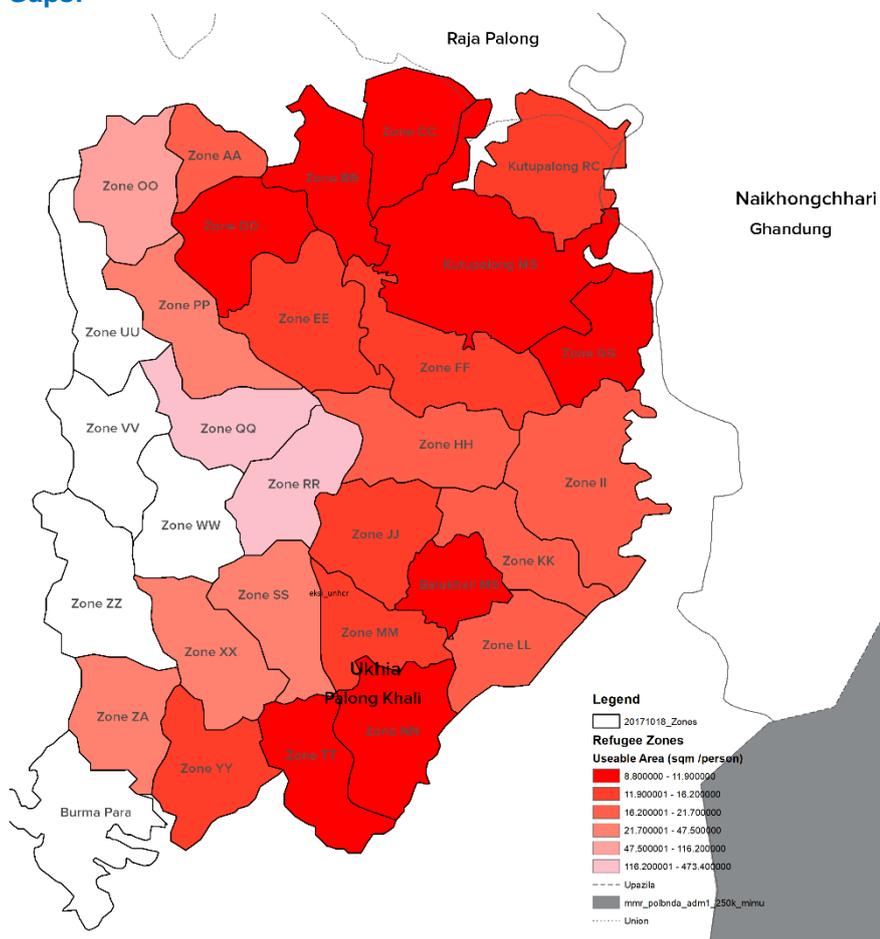
- **Information and Participation:** UNHCR, together with partners TAI, Save the Children, NGO Forum, Handicap International, ADRA, and Codec, finalized a community assessment in Nayapara, consulting with 123 women, men, children youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities and their caregivers. Assessments will continue in other refugee settlements, notably Chakmarkul and Kutupalong. Issues raised by

refugees include access to water, latrines, lighting, health, education, and information. This assessment will complement the rapid assessment already carried out to guide UNCHR's response and establish communication mechanisms with the communities. Establishment of Information Points with partner TAI is ongoing with points already operationalized in Kutupalong.

- Data and Protection Analysis:** UNHCR and the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) completed the first phase of their joint **Family Counting exercise**, counting over 541,759 refugees from 125,662 families. The exercise covered Kutupalong camp, makeshift settlement, and extension areas, as well as Balukhali makeshift area. Using geotags and based on satellite imagery, UNHCR calculated the total usable area in various zones of Kutupalong. In just over two months, some areas in Kutupalong are already more densely populated than Dhaka, the world's densest city. Figures also indicate that **one in three families are living with a person with a specific need** that is easily identifiable - meaning that the number of vulnerable cases is likely to be higher. **There is also a high proportion of elderly people and unaccompanied and separated children – some of them taking care of younger siblings.** Children made up 54% of the total population; women 52%. 14% of the families counted are composed of single females and/or female headed households. Furthermore, while the number of boys (49%) and girls (51%) is balanced, there is a significantly higher number of adult women (55%) compared to adult men (45%). The family counting exercise teams are now moving south, counting families in Teknaf district.

- Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps:**

Main obstacles to **access life-saving assistance** include limited information on where to get support, long distance to distribution points with unsteady bridges, muddy pathways, and long queues without protection from the sun or rain. Refugees have explained that female-headed households with small children, pregnant women, the elderly, and women without a man in the family have had the most difficulties in receiving assistance.

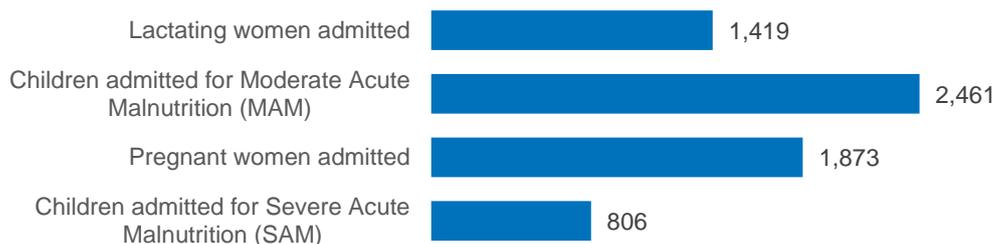



EDUCATION
Achievements and Impact

- **All schools in Kutupalong refugee camp and Nayapara refugee camp are now up and running.** Additional education facilities are needed urgently as there has been a tenfold increase of the number of school-aged children (aged 5 to 18), from some 15,000 before 25 August to over 157,000 just two months later. With 5 classrooms each and a three shift rotation, over 287 schools are needed to cover education needs. UNHCR and partners held consultations with registered refugees and with new arrivals to agree on a revised timetable to accommodate preparatory learning classes for newly arrived children. Refugees were also consulted on a modular design for temporary learning structures in the extension areas.


HEALTH
Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR supported the **second round of the Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV)** campaign conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) from 4–9 November. The campaign covered all refugee camps and settlements, targeting children aged one to five.
- From an initial two in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps, UNHCR has **scaled up to ten health facilities** in total: two diarrhoea centres in Kutupalong and Nayapara and six temporary health posts in new settlements areas. In addition, UNHCR and partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has set up six nutrition outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) centres to treat malnourished children.
- UNHCR is **supporting Bangladeshi medical healthcare facilities** in Cox's Bazar. This includes logistical and equipment assistance (ambulances, 20 hospital tents, medicines, and medical supplies), financial support (for construction of health facilities), additional human resources in Cox's Bazar District Hospital, and training. UNHCR trained its health partners on Health Information Systems and participated in a three-day training on neonatal resuscitation and clinical management of rape organized by the Ministry of Health and UNFPA.

Number of Persons Admitted for Malnutrition Treatment


Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Malnutrition and acute watery diarrhoea** are the most pressing health priorities. One in four refugee children is affected by Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) (24.3% prevalence rate). Security arrangements need to be put in place for health staff to provide 24 hours services in the settlements.

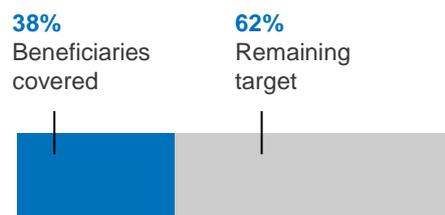


WATER AND SANITATION

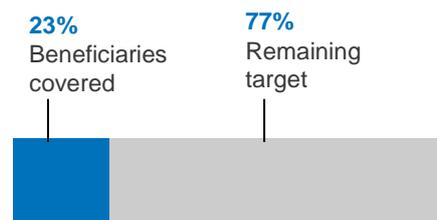
Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partners built 1,573 latrines and 200 tube wells. This represents over **78,000 who have access to latrines and 100,000 who have access to water**. In Zone OO, around 70% of the WASH facilities were completed, applying SPERE standards: 1 latrine / 20 people, 1 bathing facility / 20 people and 1 bore hole / 200 people.
- UNHCR started using a **new design for latrines**, to reduce and simplify desludging. The new design includes two big pits, to be used alternatively. Each pit could be used for approximately 6 months before filling up, which is enough time for the material in the unused pit to be partially sanitized and potentially used as fertilizer.

Refugees with access to water



Refugees with access to latrines



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Solid waste management remains a challenge. The risk of water contamination is high due to the proximity between latrines and water sources.

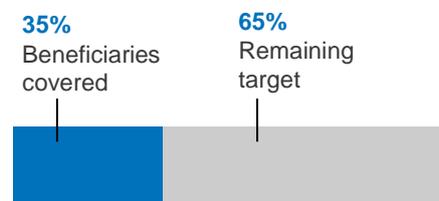


SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR assessed the shelters built by refugees in Zone OO, where some 1,269 families were relocated over the past week after temporarily staying in schools in Kutupalong and in UNHCR's transit centre. This group is the first to receive, since 25 August, a complete shelter kit upon arrival. With bamboo poles, ropes, and tarpaulins provided by UNHCR, refugees built better and more resistant shelters, with adequate ventilation and stronger structure, compared to other areas in the settlement where refugees only received tarpaulins. UNHCR is planning to build on the existing skills of refugees, providing training and technical guidance, and to distribute material to refugees so that they can upgrade and improve their shelters

Refugees who received core relief items



themselves. UNHCR's partner BRAC started to assess shelters in Zone BB to distribute to an initial 450 families shelter material to build or to upgrade their shelters.

- UNHCR continues to provide core relief items to families, with tokens delivered and community mapping. So far, 17,928 families have received UNHCR's core relief items kits.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Poor shelter standards create protection and security risks (fire and cyclone hazards, sexual and gender based violence) and have a negative environmental impact. Efforts need to be focused on improving conditions in existing sites while making more land available.



LOGISTICS

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR received its 15th and last airlift. The airlift was carrying core relief items such as plastic sheets, kitchen sets, blankets jerry cans and buckets. It was the 6th airlift donated by the International Humanitarian Center in Dubai for the Bangladesh emergency. UNHCR is now expecting sea shipments.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR continues to support the Government of Bangladesh's efforts in providing protection and assistance to all refugees. UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), 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 working with international and national NGOs in Bangladesh and scaled up its partnership network to 21 partners, including nine national NGOs. UNHCR is assuming its lead role in the protection response for all refugees, coordinating closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners through the various sector working groups of the inter-sector coordination Group.

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.

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