

## UNHCR REFUGEE POPULATION FACTSHEET

On 4 October 2017, the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) of the Government of Bangladesh, with the support of UNHCR, launched the Rohingya refugee family counting exercise to count refugee arrivals from Myanmar in Bangladesh. Going from shelter to shelter, a joint team of RRRC staff, UNHCR staff and UNHCR-hired enumerators collect information on the refugee arrivals, identify their specific protection needs and vulnerabilities, geo-reference each family and deliver a family counting card that provides each refugee family with a unique identification number. The family counting data supports protection and assistance activities both at the household and individual level and is used for programming purposes.

The shelter-by-shelter approach allows for the collection of geo-referenced data that provides critical information on the refugee population in terms of demography and location. The tools used for data collection allow for GPS coordinates to be included even in areas with no mobile phone coverage. The tools and design of the data collection exercise facilitate rapid collection, analysis and visualisation of the data.

In December 2017, RRRC and UNHCR continued the work to establish a consolidated population database by launching the Linking Exercise. The collaborative exercise aimed at merging attributes of the Rohingya population data collected by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) through individual biometrics registration with the RRRC Family Counting data, leading to individual data grouped into families which is used to better assist and protect refugees.

On 21 June 2018, the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR jointly launched a verification exercise to create a unified database for the purposes of identity management, documentation, protection, provision of assistance, population statistics and for seeking solutions. The exercise aims to achieve this objective by updating information and issuing documents to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to make sure that people are able to live safely during their stay in Bangladesh and can access services and assistance.

The UNHCR population factsheet includes all refugees from Myanmar except some in a few locations within the host community. The dataset provides population data for the Government and all humanitarian partners which can support site planning, harmonization of aid, and most critically protection responses that address vulnerabilities and specific needs among the refugee population.

The population factsheet and its accompanying refugee population density map will be updated bi-weekly and are made available at UNHCR official data portal:  
([http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar\\_refugees](http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar_refugees)).