

BANGLADESH

Situation Overview

- Light showers and one fire incident were recorded during the reporting period. The rains resulted in **12 incidents** of landslides and flooding. **50 shelters** across all settlements were destroyed affecting **315 individuals**.¹
- UNHCR and partners continue **relocating refugees from areas at high risk of landslides to safe areas**. Relocations were also necessary for **construction activities** and **decongestion of overcrowded settlements as a risk mitigation measure**.

UNHCR and Partners' Response

 Through the Site Management Engineering Project (SMEP)², UNHCR and its partners continue to **repair and pave roads**, implement **slope stabilisation works**, and clean drainages in refugee settlements. The work includes site levelling and reconstruction of a primary access road to the refugee settlement in Unchiprang. The SMEP team also completed the construction of a forward operating base in Chakmarkul where equipment and materials will be stored.

 UNHCR is continuing site improvements. The agency has completed the construction of **52km of road, 7,700m of bridges, 56km of steps, 65 running km of retaining structures**, and has repaired **100 km of drainage** as of 6 September.

 During the reporting period, **54 families (242 individuals) from 5 settlements were relocated** to Camp 4 Extension in the north-west of the large Kutupalong refugee settlement. A total of **4,577 individuals** have been relocated to this site to date.

 A fire incident burnt **15 shelters** near Chakmarkul refugee settlement in the early morning on 5 September. About **30 refugee families** affected by the fire are currently staying with relatives and friends on the same site. Those affected were assisted by Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV)³ to evacuate from their homes and have received food and non-food items from partner agencies – Action Against Hunger (ACF), and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). The local authorities are investigating the incident.

 UNHCR is extending its **support to Bangladeshi communities affected by monsoon rains** through the **distribution of family kits**. A kit includes a sleeping mat, tarpaulin, wire, rope, and a bucket. During the reporting period, **9,300 households in 2 sub-districts** (Cox's Bazar and Pekua) have received the kits. The distribution was organised with the Government of Bangladesh's Deputy Commissioner's office.



A staff from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), UNHCR's partner distributing family kits at a centre in Islampur Union in Cox's Bazar on 3 September. ©UNHCR/F. Al-Khateeb

¹ According to reports from the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, which receives information from Site Management Support agencies, the data is based on preliminary assessments. Figures are subject to change.

² A joint engineering project by UNHCR, IOM (International Organisation for Migration), and WFP (World Food Programme).

³ The Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) are a refugee community safety committee established in all refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar. SUV comprises a maximum of 50 refugee volunteers to conduct specific preparedness activities and act as first responders on fire and other emergencies (including landslides, cyclones, and other weather events). 20 out of 50 refugees are assigned to the Government of Bangladesh's Cyclone Preparedness Program. The refugee volunteers receive a range of trainings such as fire safety, first aid, and emergency response from the humanitarian community including UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh.

Key population figures

-  **900,000** total refugees (approx.)
-  **200,000** est. total refugees at risk of flood and landslide hazards
-  **41,700** est. refugees at high risk of landslide hazards

Emergency evacuation

Relocation due to high risk of landslide

-  **25,610** refugees out of **41,700** est. at high risk of landslide relocated from all 28 identified settlements
-  More than **90%** of work completed in 60 acre land in Kutupalong (1,395 shelters) and the site in Nayapara (48 shelters)

UNHCR emergency evacuation plan

-  **42,000** refugees to be relocated with other families within the UNHCR managed camps
-  **14,450** refugees to be relocated/hosted within existing community infrastructures such as mosques, Temporary Learning Centers, etc.
-  **14,600** refugees to be relocated to community infrastructures within the host community*
-  **60,000** refugees to be relocated to tents

Progress

Protection

-  **262** UNHCR Community Outreach Members (COMs) trained on awareness raising for landslide and cyclone risk
-  **161,808** refugees reached by **7,438** awareness campaigns on landslides and cyclone
-  **260** Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) trained on the Government of Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)
-  **700** Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) trained on fire fighting and landslide awareness
-  **15** Information Points out of **16** established

Shelter & site improvement

-  **52** kilometers of road (brick road/footpath, Army Road) constructed
-  **3,800** meters of bridges constructed
-  **48** kilometers of steps constructed
-  **65** running kilometers of retaining structures built
-  **100** kilometers of drainages repaired/completed
-  **90,803** shelter upgrade kits out of **90,803** distributed
-  **80,964** pre-monsoon shelter tie-down kits out of **80,964** distributed
-  **9,560** family tents pre-positioned and **467** distributed
-  **233,421** plastic tarpaulins pre-positioned and **93,366** distributed
-  **128** storage containers out of **146** pre-positioned
-  **20** host community structures being upgraded

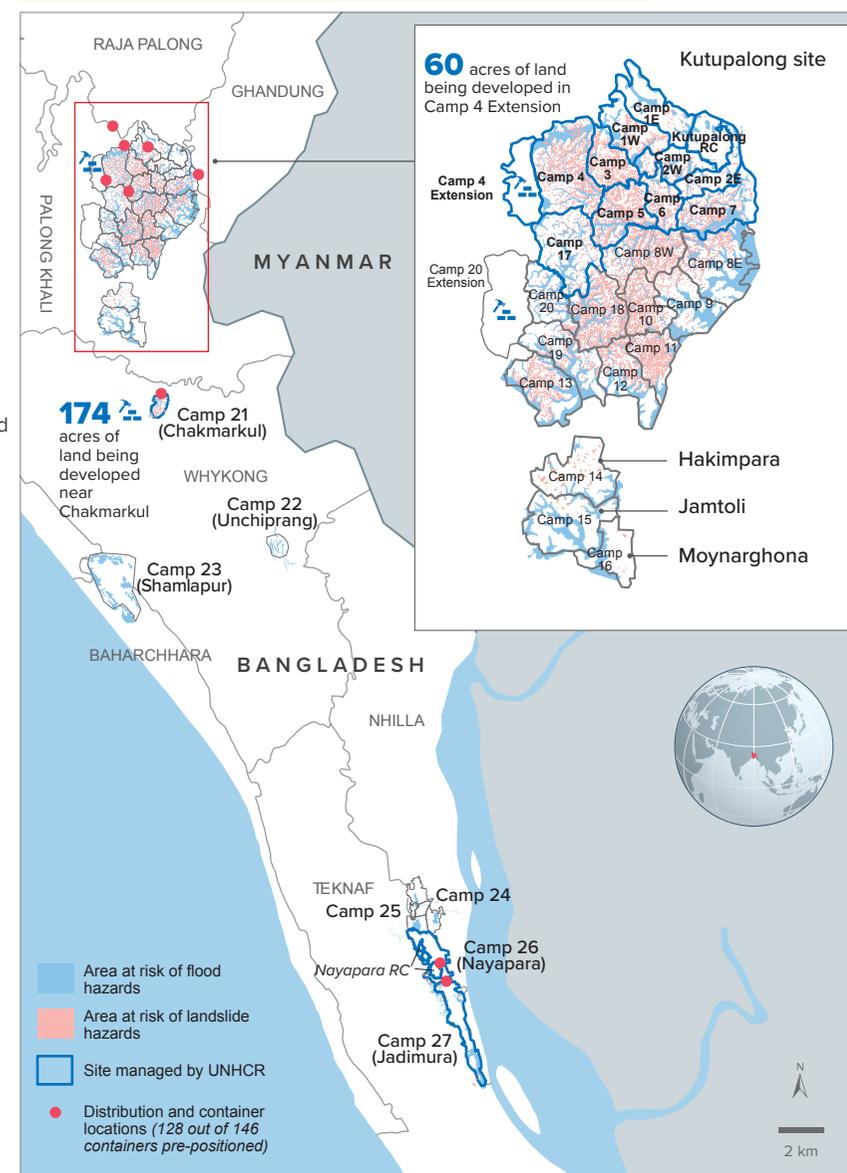
WASH

-  **958** latrines out of **958** constructed in relocation areas for refugees at high risk of landslide
-  **112** water points out of **113** installed in relocation areas for refugees at high risk of landslide
-  **12** camps out of **12** with Emergency WASH Simulation exercises completed

Health

-  **2,044** Community Health Workers out of **2,044** trained on first aid in emergencies
-  **400** Community Health Workers out of **400** trained on the Government of Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)
-  **800** Community Volunteers and Counsellors trained on psychological first aid, identification and referral of mental health cases, and basic counselling skills
-  **6** nutrition mobile teams established to reach displaced families

Landslide and flood hazard analysis



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

Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs a Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnership with other agencies (WFP, UN-HABITAT, UNDP) and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with UN agencies and other partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). In close cooperation with IOM and UNDP, UNHCR is also providing tangible support to coordination efforts of local government entities in Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf. UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 23 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS** Swiss Intercooperation | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation)

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 1,000 **volunteers from the refugee community who are often the first responders on the ground**. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with **safety unit volunteers (SUVs)** who support the emergency response, **community outreach members** who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, **community health workers** who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

Donor support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh is extraordinarily generous. More support is required from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response in Bangladesh for refugees and host communities. Continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation remain vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018) and unrestricted funding to global operations:



With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, IKEA Foundation, International Islamic Relief Organization Kuwait Finance House, OPEC Fund for International Development, Prosolidar-Onlus Foundation, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Big Heart Foundation, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, and UPS Corporate. Special thanks also to CERF.

Contacts

Ivy Susanti, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, susanti@unhcr.org; **Mai Hosoi**, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, hosoi@unhcr.org

Information Management, bgdcoim@unhcr.org

LINKS: UNHCR data portal – UNHCR operation page – Facebook – Twitter – Latest stories – Instagram