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The Transit Centre (TC) is situated adjacent to the main Kutupalong refugee settlement. The Centre started operations in October 2017 and helps with the initial reception of new Rohingya refugee arrivals in Bangladesh. It provides temporary shelter and a number of life-saving services, as well as being the location from where refugees are facilitated to relocate to the main Kutupalong-Balukhali settlement in an organised manner to a plot deemed suitable and safe for refugee households. The average length of stay is 1-2 weeks.

Progress

UNHCR in collaboration with its partner **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)** and other on-site partners have supported the reception of new arrivals with a variety of services:

All new arrivals in need of medical assistance supported

All children aged between 42 days and 15 years old provided vaccinations before transferring to main settlement

692 individuals identified as vulnerable and provided individual case management

1,590 referrals by UNHCR/TAI information services

Way forward

The TC has not ceased to develop since its inception. Currently it retains its key purpose to receive new arrivals and assist them. It has also evolved into a multi-purpose facility. Following the outbreak of diphtheria among refugees in late 2017, UNHCR made part of TC available to serve as a treatment and isolation centre through MSF's services. The TC is also one of the eight locations where UNHCR Core Relief Items, shelter materials, water/sanitation and hygiene kits, and Compressed Rice Husks are being distributed. Covered seated areas have been provided in the TC to ensure people can stay under shade, or out of rain, while waiting to collect items. Freight containers are also being used at the site to hold pre-positioned materials specifically for emergency response during the monsoon or in event of a cyclone. Staff accommodation has been set-up inside the TC for the emergency positioning of staff. The site also offers office space for Oxfam, BDRCS, and Save the Children.

With diminishing numbers of new refugee arrivals, the multi-purpose function of the TC is evolving. The strategically located area offers an absorption capacity in case of the need for relocating refugees temporarily in case of emergency.

Partners - Handicap International – screening for persons with special needs; TAI – information services; BDRCS – site management; MSF – health, child friendly space, vaccinations, psychosocial support; ACF – hot meals; Oxfam; - latrines and water supply NGO Forum – latrines and water supply; ICRC – restoring family links, dry food on arrival, and 24h mobile health service; Save the Children International – child protection, nutrition screening.

10 new arrivals a day over the last 2 months on average
1,600 current capacity
580 new arrivals staying at the centre as of end of August
1-2 weeks average stay length

UNHCR is working to support refugee reception better by:

- 1** **Providing services on arrival** such as checking the health status of individuals and providing orientation
- 2** **Assessing their protection needs** and ensuring they receive prompt referral
- 3** **Ensuring relocation to a safe area** in the larger settlement, suitable for individual households

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 a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian 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). 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 volunteers** 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 has been very generous. More support is currently needed 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 support Bangladesh's humanitarian response to refugees.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018)



UNHCR financial needs for 2018

	Protection	26.7 m
	Basic relief items	5.6 m
	Water, sanitation & hygiene	40.8 m
	Shelter/infrastructure	25.0 m
	Energy and environment	13.4 m
	Education	10.0 m
	Community mobilization	18.1 m
	Health and nutrition	34.5 m
	Logistics	11.0 m
	Camp management	35.3 m
	Support costs	18.4 m
TOTAL		238.8 m

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.