

The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Kelly T. Clements and UNHCR Director for Asia and the Pacific Indrika Ratwatte undertook a joint mission to Bangladesh from 13 to 18 February, which included visits to the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar where some one million Rohingya refugees reside, as well as to the island of Bhasan Char, and meetings with senior Government officials, local and international partners. Read more [here](#).

While the COVID-19 cases in the camps increased in the first half of February (test positivity jumped to 42 per cent from 12 per cent in January), it slowly declined to 21 per cent by the end of the month. Most cases were mild. The second phase of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continued reaching some 280,000 refugees (91 per cent coverage) aged 18 years and above, who had received their first vaccine in December. On Bhasan Char, over 5,800 refugees (97 per cent coverage) aged 18 years and above received their second dose.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- Some 100 refugee volunteers, from four camps, participated in firefighting training. The two-day long workshop includes live-fire simulations utilizing three-wheeler vehicles equipped with water pumps and hoses, as well as fire extinguisher drills. The training will be rolled out across all camps in Ukhiya by end of March 2022, with twenty-four volunteers trained from each camp.
- Over 100,000 calls were made to refugees with pre-recorded awareness messages on fire prevention and response through UNHCR's Interactive Voice Response project.
- The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner issued a directive on 23 February for the reopening of Learning Centres in the camps on 2 March. Following an increase in COVID-19 cases, all educational institutions across Bangladesh were closed from 7 February 2022. The reopening will be in line with guidance on COVID-19 prevention measures such as mask wearing, temperature checks, and seating arrangements. Educational institutions across Bangladesh were also closed for 18 months between March 2020 and September 2021 to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- 1,800 Rohingya and 700 Bangladeshi teachers started pedagogy training with UNHCR and partner BRAC. The training will continue until the end of 2022.
- 600 girls and caregivers, including 90 male caregivers, registered for the Girl Shine programme in seven camps. In partnership with BRAC and Relief International, UNHCR launched 'Girl Shine' in September 2021 in an effort to prevent violence against adolescent girls in the camps. The curriculum, originally developed by the International Rescue Committee, was adapted for the Rohingya context by UNHCR and its partners and targets both adolescent girls and their caregivers. Learn more about the programme [here](#).
- UNHCR sponsored and supported the International Conference on Environment at Khulna University which took place on 19 and 20 February. The conference provided a platform to share and enhance knowledge on nature-based solutions, climate action, cleaner fuels and disaster risk reduction.
- **BHASAN CHAR:** Some 40 health professionals took part in workshops on safe management of gender-based violence cases, and appropriate referrals (based on the established referral pathway). Participants included doctors, nurses, midwives, and medical assistants.



Deputy High Commissioner Kelly T. Clements (centre) meets a group of Rohingya refugee girls in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. © UNHCR/Amos Halder



Rohingya refugee volunteers participate in a firefighting exercise in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. © UNHCR/Amos Halder

DONORS

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and UN CERF.

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FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements for Bangladesh: US\$ 285.1 million



UNHCR PARTNERS

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief | Action Aid Bangladesh | Action Against Hunger | Bangladesh Red Crescent Society | Bangladesh Legal Aid and | Services Trust | Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee | Caritas Bangladesh | Center for Natural Resource Studies | Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust | Community Development Centre | Danish Refugee Council | FH Association | Friendship NGO | Gonoshasthaya Kendra | Handicap International | Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation | International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources | Mukti Cox's Bazar | NGO Forum for Public Health | Oxfam GB | Relief International | Research, Training and Management International | Save the Children International | Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable | Technical Assistance Incorporated | Terre des Hommes | UNDP |

CONTACTS AND LINKS

Hannah Macdonald, External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar, macdonah@unhcr.org
Romain Desclous, Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka, desclous@unhcr.org

LINKS: [UNHCR data portal](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#) – [Instagram](#)

In case you missed:

Canada's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, H.E. Lilly Nicholls, made her first visit to the camps in Cox's Bazar.

UK Development Director, Judith Herbertson, from the UK Embassy in Bangladesh visited Bhasan Char.

POPULATION UPDATE

