

# BANGLADESH

16 – 31 October 2018

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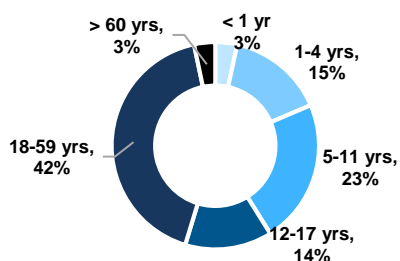
UNHCR, in partnership with Total and its local supplier NF Enterprise, , refilled **1,681 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders** in two settlements from 16 to 28 October 2018. In total, **4,416 LPG tanks** were refilled since the program started on 15 September. The pilot distribution of LPG and cooking sets to 7,000 refugee families which started in August has been completed. The switch from using firewood as cooking fuel to LPG is a **concerted effort to halt deforestation and improve refugee health.**

A total of **21 incidents** of landslides, flooding, and fires, were recorded from 16 to 31 October, affecting **57 families (206 individuals)** across all settlements. UNHCR and partners relocated **168 households (686 individuals)** at high risk of landslides, as well as families and new arrivals affected by ongoing construction projects in the settlements, to safer areas during the reporting period. UNHCR has been working with **refugees and partners to prepare to respond to any potential cyclone emergency situation.**

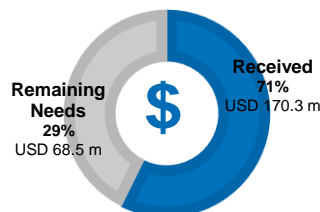
**POPULATION FIGURES** (as of 31 October 2018)

**899,349** Total number of refugees in Cox’s Bazar  
**731,769** Estimated new arrivals since 25 August 2017

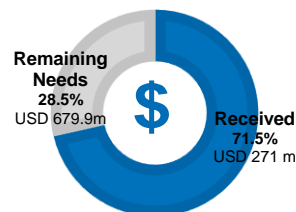
**Age breakdown of refugees in Cox’s Bazar**



**UNHCR FUNDING 2018**



**JOINT RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING 2018**



*The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Mohammad Abul Kalam (third from left), joins UNHCR, its partner NGO Forum and the refugee community, in an event in Kutupalong to mark the Global Handwashing Day (GHD) on 22 October. The GHD is marked annually on 15 October to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an easy, effective and affordable way to prevent diseases. Apart from rallies, other activities across refugee sites included art competitions for children. ©UNHCR/A. Rahman*

## Priorities identified to strengthen protection response

In follow-up to a Protection Support Mission led by UNHCR to **review protection mechanisms to respond to the Rohingya refugee crisis** earlier this year, the team, which also included a representative from the Women's Refugee Commission, launched their [report](#) during the reporting period underlining **gaps and recommended measures for the overall protection response**. Partners were given the opportunity to engage on the findings and provide inputs and feedback.



*Street light illuminates public areas such as this road and prevents dark spots, therefore improving safety and community's sense of security. ©UNHCR/M. Edon*

## Refugee women lead a community-based newborn care program

A [nutrition survey](#) conducted in April and May 2018 found that the **mortality rate for children under five years old in the refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar had reduced** by 29% from 1.22 in November 2017 to 0.86 deaths per 10,000 children under 5 per day. Although the under-5 mortality rate is below the SPHERE emergency threshold of 0.9/10,000/day for South Asia, UNHCR and partners **continue to aim to prevent unnecessary deaths by addressing the root causes at the household and community levels**. Most under 5 deaths in refugee settlements occur **during the first week of life** due to various reasons, including the **community's lack of knowledge or use of sexual and reproductive health services**, and poor **utilisation of maternal and neonatal care services**.



*A member of Community Health Worker discusses newborn care with a new mother during home visit. ©UNHCR/FH/MTI*

To address this, UNHCR is **piloting a community-based newborn care program** to support early identification and care of newborns at risk to increase their likelihood of survival, in collaboration with partners, Food for the Hungry/Medical Teams International (FH/MTI), and Research Training and Management International (RTMI).

A total of **100 female refugees** who are members of the Community Health Workers (CHW) refugee volunteer groups in Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee settlements were trained and coached by midwives under the pilot program to provide community-level postnatal and neonatal care services, including identifying warning signs during regular home visits.

Since September, CHWs supported by UNHCR have carried out **434 community-level neonatal care visits** in Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee sites through this pilot program. The **community health sub-working group led by UNHCR plans to scale up the community-based neonatal care program** in the coming months.

UNHCR and its partners are providing primary healthcare services through 22 health facilities across refugee settlements. As part of the health outreach programs, individual and group discussions are held with healthcare service providers and refugee women to enhance access to antenatal and postnatal care, skilled delivery and family planning services.

## Rohingya children taught about and engaged on mental health

**Past experiences** including exposure to violence and the loss of family members, compounded by current challenges such as lack of access to education in refugee settlements, are **risk factors** affecting the mental health and wellbeing of Rohingya children in the short and long-term.

UNHCR and partners **use different approaches and methods to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to refugee children**. A key priority in MHPSS is **to empower children through programs that build their capacity and resourcefulness to overcome adversity**.



*Rohingya children help facilitate a mental health awareness and prevention session for their peers at Camp 17 settlement in Kutupalong. ©UNHCR/A.N.M.M. Alam*

In collaboration with partners Food for the Hungry/Medical Teams International (FH/MTI), UNHCR has been teaching **refugee children aged 12-15 years** from two refugee settlements on **how to participate in community workshops to engage their peers**. The workshops raise **refugee children's awareness on a range of mental health issues, based on a curriculum that was developed through**

**extensive discussions with refugee children and other members of the refugee communities.**

Refugee men and women from the Community Psychosocial Volunteer teams, who work with FH/MTI, were initially trained to facilitate four MHPSS workshops, including one for children. During the workshop, **some children were keen to help their peers who lived in the same refugee sites**. They were engaged at an appropriate level and taught how they can participate in **creating a safe and protective environment for other children**.

In October, **about 200 refugee children attended more than 10 workshops facilitated with the assistance of the young mental health champions.** Each workshop offered different activities for children which delivered five key messages related to the importance of **mental wellness and recovery, addressing stigma, and promoting resilience.**



*UNHCR Controller Hans Baritt (first from right), and Senior Operations Manager Elisabeth Pelster (third from right) receive flowers from Leda High School students during the inauguration of the newly renovated school in Teknaf sub-district on 23 October. In collaboration with partner NGO Forum, UNHCR improved the access road and provided this local school with additional classrooms, water and sanitation facilities, a new computer lab and furniture for 587 Bangladeshi students. The school is located near Leda and Nayapara refugee settlements. The school renovation is part of UNHCR's Quick Impact Projects to support host Bangladeshi communities affected by the refugee influx. ©UNHCR/C. Melzer*

## Local partnership to ensure sustainable access to safe water

In an effort to **increase refugees' sustainable access to safe water for a longer term**, UNHCR works with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector partners to develop **chlorinated water network systems in 26 refugee settlements**, starting in the northern part of Kutupalong settlement. Each system is comprised of a borehole, a reservoir, pipes and tap stands that will provide **20 liters of water per person per day** in line with the agreed WASH Sector standards.

Water from deep tube wells will be stored and chlorinated in the reservoirs before being distributed to households through taps. Until now, water has been used directly from boreholes, with risks of contamination that affect health.

In Camps 1 East and 1 West settlements, the first network has started to be rolled out. BRAC, UNHCR's local partner, works with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to build a **system that provides chlorinated water for about 80,000 refugees with UNHCR's support.** Each tap stand is built **within 100 meters walking distance from households and serves a maximum of 125 refugees.**

**The MSF-BRAC project underscores the importance of localising humanitarian assistance to ensure sustainability,** with BRAC contributing in its expertise in community engagement and its extensive knowledge on local contexts for sensitising refugees on the health benefit of chlorinated water. The project is unique as the first local collaboration with MSF, which uses its expertise to train BRAC engineers on the **high-tech equipment and technology** used



*Pipes are being laid to distribute chlorinated water from the reservoirs to tap stands in Camp 1E settlement, Kutupalong, in early October. ©UNHCR/I. Susanti*

during the six month project. BRAC will ensure **monitoring and maintenance of the systems together with local camp administrators**. Refugees are also engaged and provided with training through the project.

## Hundreds of refugees verified daily in Nayapara

Since the beginning of October 2018, there has been a significant increase in the number of refugees taking part in the joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR verification exercise. This was attributable to **continuous community outreach and consultations** primarily led by the Government of Bangladesh's Camp-in-Charge officials (camp administrators) and UNHCR with community leaders and refugee families.

A **new verification site** was opened in late September in Nayapara. Located near a local market, UNHCR distribution point and WFP food distribution sites; it is also more accessible from all refugee sites in Teknaf sub-district. The new site was set up with enhanced privacy for refugee families visiting the site.

As of 31 October, **over 24,000 individuals have been verified** through the exercise. An ID card, commonly referred to as the 'smart card', is issued to all refugee women, men, girls and boys above the age of 12 and replaces two existing cards that they already possess – a Ministry of Home Affairs (white) registration card and a Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (yellow) family counting card.

**The new card provides a secure identity documentation for refugees. It aims to establish a more efficient system for refugees to access protection, services and assistance through better use of technology and continuously updated and more accurate information.** It also affirms in writing on the card the Bangladesh Government's commitment against forced return.

The verification will **eliminate duplications in the existing database, and enable all humanitarian actors to ensure transparent, effective and efficient provision of assistance, as well as tailor protection response more effectively.**



*Inside the new verification site in Nayapara. ©UNHCR*

Information dissemination on the card's importance and its purpose continues, with messages being spread through consultations, [videos](#), and radio broadcasts.

## Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar

**More than a year after violence erupted in Rakhine State in western Myanmar, refugees continue to arrive in Bangladesh. A total of 85 refugees arrived in Bangladesh during the reporting period.**

**New arrivals continue to raise concerns about their lack of rights and security in Rakhine State.** They also cited their disagreement with the Government of Myanmar over a requirement to undergo a nationality verification process, as they already consider themselves citizens of Myanmar.

Since 1 January 2018:

**14,649**

individuals have arrived in Cox's Bazar

11 - 27 October 2018:

**85**

individuals entered Bangladesh

**Most arrived by boat**

via the southern peninsula of Cox's Bazar, including Sabrang and surrounding areas.



## Quick facts and figures on UNHCR protection services and assistance

### Education



**39,155**

children (19,841 girls and 19,314 boys) with access to Early Childhood Development, primary, and lower secondary education

### Education



**300**

teaching assistants (168 men and 132 women) received training from UNHCR's partners BRAC and CODEC

### Child Protection



**36,300**

children, including 19,063 boys and 17,237 girls, provided with psychosocial support

### Community-Based Protection



**318,756**

refugee men, women and children received information on broad range of topics from health, emergency preparedness and specific protection/solutions matters

### Community-Based Protection



**148**

community projects in Nayapara and Shalbagan implemented by Community Groups of refugee volunteers that include men, women and youth

### Transit Centre



**168**

individuals arrived spontaneously for assistance from 16 to 31 October 2018

### Shelter Locks



**73,842**

households with padlocks to ensure their shelters are secured and better protected

### Cyclone Preparedness



**>100,000**

refugees reached through 6,500 cyclone awareness raising sessions by 'Community Outreach Member' refugee volunteer groups since September 2018, including knowledge on early warning signs, preparation and how to stay safe during floods and storms

### Legal Counselling



**181**

refugees in Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts received legal counselling and general protection assistance