

BANGLADESH

19 – 31 July 2018

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- *UNHCR, partners, and refugees' emergency response during monsoon storms*
- *Ongoing response activities and capacity building*
- *Progress on refugee registration and verification*
- *Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar*

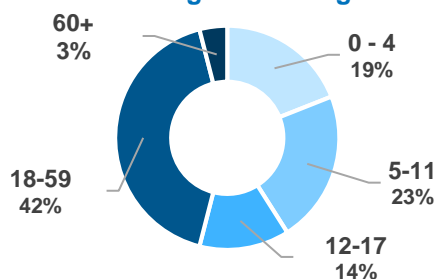
In response to some of the heaviest rain ever seen in Cox's Bazar, around **1,022 post-disaster kits** were distributed to **affected refugee families**, while **300 kits** were provided to members of the **local host communities**. In total, over **2,440 refugee families** so far have been **permanently relocated** by UNHCR, partners, and refugee volunteers, including 360 families relocated in the last two weeks due to being affected by the recent rains.

UNHCR and partners continue to provide regular **awareness sessions** on critical protection risks and concerns— child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), trafficking and exploitation, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) —reaching **3,627 refugees in the second half of July**, as well as **922 individuals from the host community** on legal literacy.

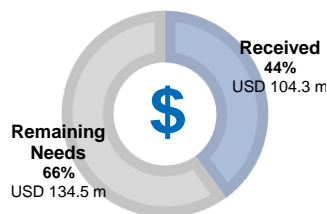
POPULATION FIGURES (as of 31 July 2018)

889,752 Total number of refugees in Bangladesh
723,527 Estimated newly arrived since 25 August 2017

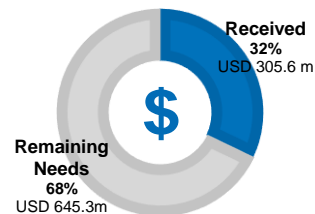
Age breakdown of refugees in Bangladesh



UNHCR FUNDING 2018



JRP FUNDING 2018











UNHCR expanded its emergency monsoon response to host communities. Around 300 post disaster kits were distributed to the affected Bangladeshi people in Jhilwanga Union of Cox's Bazar Sadar sub-district. And thousands more have been allocated for rapid distribution ©UNHCR/I. Bayzid

Heavy monsoon rains trigger emergency response

The strongest test of monsoon mitigation measures and emergency response came **on 25 July 2018, with the heaviest monsoon rainfall (around 463 mm) thus far** across Cox's Bazar district. The settlements largely weathered the storms, proving the value of months of mitigation efforts, with no deaths reported in the refugee sites. **60 potentially life-threatening incidents, and others averted through swift action.**

Monsoon incidents (19 – 31 July 2018)¹

					Total
	Landslide	Wind-Storm	Flood	Water-logging	
 # of incident	70	37	14	12	133
 # of affected household	1,533	744	442	337	3,056
 # of individuals affected	6,877	3,579	1,915	1,633	14,004
 # of shelters damaged	370	161	130	27	688

UNHCR and partners quickly mobilised emergency response teams (ERTs) to support and urgently assist over 3,000 of refugee families affected by landslides, flooding, water-logging, and the risk of such incidents. Trained **refugee volunteers**, including Community Outreach Members (COMs), Safety Unit Volunteers (SUVs), and Community Health Workers (CHWs), were mobilized and provided support. The training provided to these volunteers in the past months was utilised fully with a solid response that demonstrated good cohesion, spirit, organisation, and coordination.

UNHCR and partners' response to monsoon incidents



Relocation

1,505

Households in UNHCR managed camps at high-risk of landslides²



Post-disaster kits

1,022

provided to incident-hit households



Shelter

640

monsoon-hit households had shelters replaced



Tarpaulin

499

households supported with new tarpaulin

¹According to reports from the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), which receives information from Site Management Support agencies. Data is based on preliminary assessments and figures are subject to change following further assessments and monitoring.

² This is a cumulative figure since June 2018 of refugees who were relocated by UNHCR to safer sites in order to mitigate the high risks of landslides.

Protection emergency response unit teams (PERU) also tracked response activities, assisted in assessing protection needs and risks, and provided psychological first aid to affected households, facilitated referrals and, in some instance, relocation to safe community shelters.

Shelter teams responded by providing **post disaster kits (PDKs)** and **assisting to repair damaged or exposed shelters**. Numerous shelters were repaired across 15 refugee camps managed by UNHCR, and 1,022 PDKs (1 per family) were distributed to affected families.

UNHCR launched an emergency relocation of families at risk of landslides in Chakmarkul settlement to a safer site developed by the Sultanate of Oman. About 731 refugees were relocated to the new site to date. **Nutrition activities continued without interruption** with UNHCR's partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF) activating a mobile nutrition team to provide services at the relocation site.



On 29 July, UNHCR supported the UN Migration Agency (IOM) with relocating households from areas managed by IOM to UNHCR's newly created safe shelters.

The jointly organised relocations supported families from IOM-managed camps to relocate to UNHCR camps. UNHCR is in talks with IOM to expedite relocation of vulnerable families living in IOM-managed camps to safer areas.

As of 31 July 2018, **about 1,505 families (6,535 individuals) at high risk of landslides have been permanently relocated by UNHCR** to safer sites.



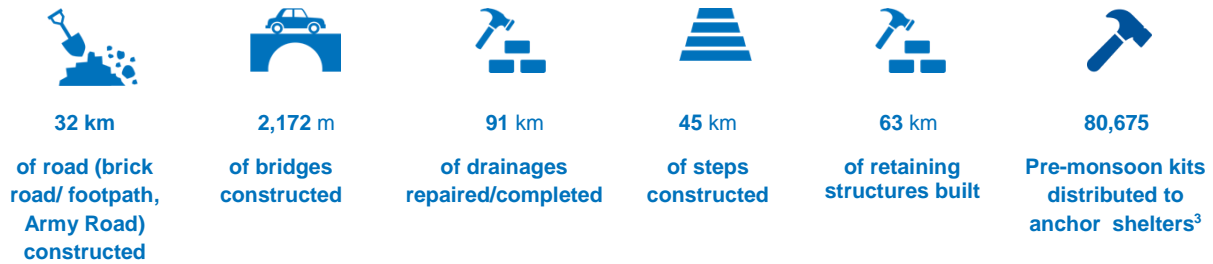
A jointly organised relocation aims to move refugees at risk in IOM-managed areas to safer sites. © UNHCR/ S. O'Brien



Refugees at risk arrive to safer shelters in Camp 4 Extension (west of Kutupalong settlement) © UNHCR/ SM. Chy

UNHCR continues to develop new sites for relocations, one of which, Camp 4 Extension in Kutupalong, currently has a capacity of about 1,400 households, of which 500 are vacant while construction of additional shelters is ongoing. The Bangladesh authorities, multi-functional UNHCR teams, partners, and

refugee volunteers continue to work together to identify and **motivate people living in landslide hazard zones to relocate to safer locations.**



Protection, advocacy, and community voices

During the reporting period, three **focus group discussions were held with refugee women, men, and youth**, including influential advocacy groups within the refugee community, on the impressions and **feedback regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** UNHCR and UNDP signed with the Government of Myanmar. The sessions aim to **provide clarifications and understand concerns** to ensure that further information can take account of any requirements or explanations not already covered.

Discussions mainly focused on the MoU and **refugees raised some concerns, including** the guarantee of safety by the Government of Myanmar, the possibility of visiting their villages before they return, freedom of movement in Myanmar, in addition to other issues. The groups reiterated that they would not consider going back to Myanmar unless questions of citizenship, legal rights, access to services and restitution are addressed.

UNHCR continues to conduct **advocacy interventions on behalf of refugees** with the local authorities, including Camp-in-Charge (CiC) officers⁴, Bangladesh police and army, as well as the coast and border guards with the aim to improve the living conditions and protection environment for refugees. In addition, UNHCR partners Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), TAI, and Solidarités International continued regular **awareness sessions** on protection risks and concerns, including child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), trafficking and exploitation, and sexual exploitation and abuse, **reaching 3,627 refugees in the second half of July**. Moreover, **922 individuals from the host community attended legal literacy session**, as part of host community outreach activities. Training sessions for partners on legal assistance also continued, covering topics such as the **legal framework applicable to refugees in Bangladesh**, as well as UNHCR's role on legal assistance and reducing risk of detention and the effectiveness of mediation as tool for dispute resolution among refugees.

Capacity building on sexual and gender-based violence (**SGBV**) and the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (**PSEA**) was also prioritized, with sessions held with CiCs, protection partners such as BRAC and BNWLA, and influential figures in the refugee community such as mahjis. UNHCR organised focus groups discussions (FGDs) with refugee women to better understand their concerns and challenges in accessing the services, including WASH, shelter and lighting. UNHCR also conducted a safety audit in certain locations, which identified poor construction or damages of latrines and lack of privacy as serious problems. UNHCR has addressed these issues, including the recommendations made by refugee women through FGDs, with the relevant actors in the WASH sector and camp coordination in order to ensure safety measures are taken into consideration for structures and facilities.

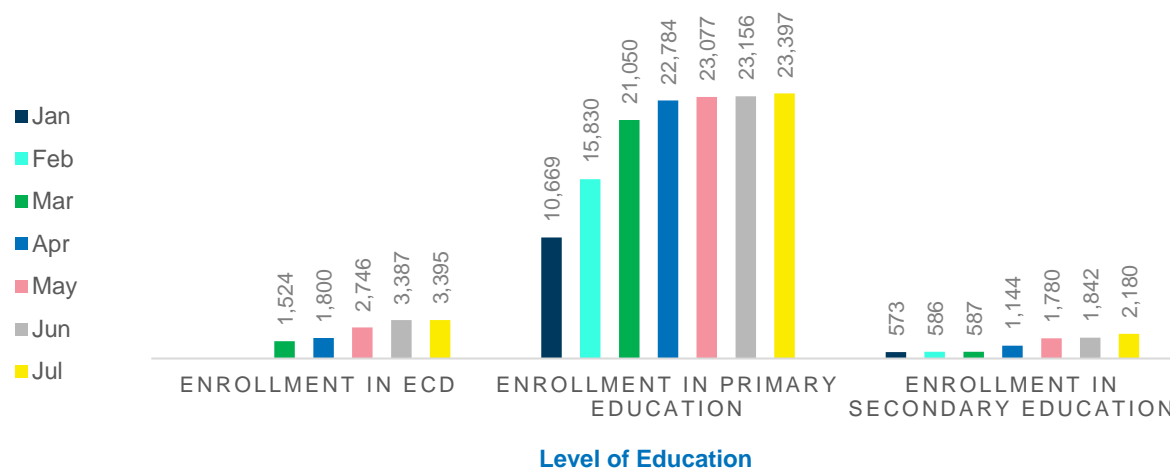
³ 88,835 households were assisted with shelter upgrade kits before the monsoon started in June.

⁴ CiCs are Bangladeshi officials appointed by the government to manage and coordinate activities within the camps in the refugee settlements.

Education

As of 26 July, UNHCR and partners constructed 267 learning centres with the capacity to accommodate 32,040 learners. Challenges faced during the monsoon, leading to lower attendance in primary and secondary education⁵ learning and early childhood development (ECD) centres, include rain damage inside facilities (learning materials getting wet), and lack of umbrellas for some students.

Enrollment Trends January-July 2018



Progress on refugee registration and verification

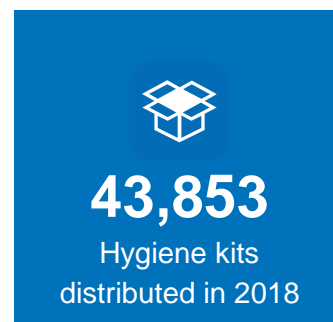
The joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR verification of Rohingya refugees continues. By 28 July, over 12,600 individuals had been verified and provided with individual ID cards with smart anti-fraud features. The cards provide enhanced protection and efficient access to services and assistance in Bangladesh. It also affirms the Bangladesh government's commitment against forced return to Myanmar.

A frequently asked questions (FAQs) document based on questions posed by refugees has been released in English and Myanmar. Information dissemination through community meetings and meetings with elders and community leaders continue, with the aim of ensuring that refugees receive correct information.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

As a health risk mitigation measure, UNHCR has decommissioned over 1,000 latrines that are malfunctioning or that are located in areas at risk of soil erosion following heavy rains. This will prevent latrines from potentially toppling into flood waters and contaminating water sources, which would expose refugees to health risks. In addition, UNHCR has constructed over 840 latrines and installed over 100 water points in relocation sites, namely Camp 4 Extension and Camp 17 in Kutupalong.

Site improvement works are ongoing in new expansion areas, including providing durable drainage solutions to prevent further soil erosion.



⁵ Note: While efforts are ongoing to expand access to education in all of the refugee settlements, secondary education is currently only available in the registered camps.

UNHCR piloted mitigation measures aimed at addressing WASH-triggered soil erosion in Camp 5 (See photo). Areas surrounding the latrine and slopes were **reinforced with sandbags, and rain channels were laid out** using perforated pipes and sandbags.

Moreover, UNHCR conducted **12 monsoon simulations and rapid assessment trainings** for WASH volunteers from the refugee community during April and May 2018. **As a result, volunteers were able to quickly coordinate and mobilise responses** to heavy rains that hit the refugee settlements from 25 to 27 July. UNHCR also conducted the first **sludge transport system improvement workshop** for some partners in parts of Kutupalong, and will continue to conduct these workshops as technical assistance to WASH sector on sanitation improvement.



UNHCR piloted soil erosion mitigation measures around WASH facilities in Camp 5, Kutupalong settlement. © UNHCR/ T. Teh

As part of its ongoing distribution activities, UNHCR has supplied women and adolescent girls with female hygiene kits (such as sanitary napkins and antiseptic liquid) in order to reduce health and protection risks that could arise from unsanitary practices and to reinforce dignified female hygiene. The distribution covers the needs for a period of six months.

UNHCR, through WASH partner Oxfam, **expanded the water supply in Nayapara settlement from 110,000 to 280,000 litres a day** and installed a 20,000 litre water storage tank. The project, which took three weeks to complete, is **expected to increase water supply to 18 litres per person per day. This will exceed the**

emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day and will help provide safe water – reducing the likelihood of health risks linked with inadequate water supply.

Environment

Starting from August, **UNHCR plans to pilot distribution of gas stoves and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** cylinders to 6,500 refugee households and 500 host community families as a more sustainable alternative for cooking fuel. **This alternative to firewood helps improve refugee protection** (as children and women are usually the ones tasked with collecting wood), **health** (by reducing emissions and preventing health risks for families who cook inside their shelters), and **contribute to protecting the environment** (by reducing deforestation).

UNHCR will gradually phase out the use of **compressed rice husks (CRH), which currently does not fully cover fuel needs, and is more costly than LPG**. In 2018, **596,449 bags of CRH** weighing 19 or 15 kilos have been distributed to refugee families.

Nutrition

The nutrition situation in the refugee settlements is improving, with UNHCR contributing to overall efforts to ensure programmes appropriately targeted those in need of support.

UNHCR's partners participated in a Government of Bangladesh/UNICEF **Nutrition Action Week** from 14 to 19 July 2018 through 21 out-patient therapeutic programmes (OTPs) UNHCR operates with partners. The activities conducted included **vitamin A supplementation, de-worming and mass MUAC screening** (middle upper arm circumference) to **identify children suffering from malnutrition**.



UNHCR staff administering a Vitamin A dose during Nutrition Action Week in the Transit Center for new arrivals in Kutupalong settlement. © UNHCR/ O. Shibly

147,167 Children (aged 6-59 months) **supplemented with vitamin A**

88,888 Children (aged 24-59 months) **de-wormed**

149,664 Children **screened for malnutrition**

1,032 Children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) newly identified and assisted
2,637 Children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) identified and assisted



Out of the **149,664 children screened for malnutrition**, those newly identified as suffering from **severe acute malnutrition (SAM)** were admitted to OTPs, while the **moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)** cases were referred to other sites to receive required support.

Building capacity and strengthening the response

UNHCR continues to invest in training to build capacity among partners and refugees, bolstering their contribution to the response with new skills. **UNHCR trained more than 50 CiCs and site management (SM) partners** with 4 Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) training-of-trainers (ToTs) programmes. CiCs and SM partners, having acquired new skills and techniques, will now be responsible to train additional camp actors. **Community Outreach Members (COMs)**, volunteers from the refugee community, **were trained by UNHCR on how to use and navigate Kobo**, a data collection tool, on tablets, which will **replace all paper forms and assessments** for easier and simpler reporting.



ETS hand over the projector and generator to UNHCR and partners BRAC and TAI. © UNHCR



Women and men from the Community Outreach Members (COMs) learn how to use Kobo. © UNHCR/ N. Khan

UNHCR and WFP are joining forces to supply more information capacity in the camps. UNHCR partners Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI) and BRAC, which operate information points in the camps are receiving from WFP portable projectors and screens, a solar kit and fuel-based generator, **to equip these Information Points with adequate power sources to install televisions** and diversify information dissemination. UNHCR has been eager to boost the services in information points, to ensure sufficient facts and information are available to refugees to make informed decisions.

Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar

Eleven months after violence erupted in Rakhine State in western Myanmar, refugees continue flee to Bangladesh, but at a decreasing rate. In comparison to June (279 individuals), however, the estimated number of new arrivals increased in July. **New arrivals continue to raise concerns about their security in Rakhine State**. They also cite disagreement over a requirement by the Myanmar Government to accept the National Verification Card (NVC) in Myanmar.

Many arrivals reported that relatives remaining in Myanmar also plan to leave due to continued fears among the Rohingya community there.

Since 1 January 2018:
12,120
 have sought safety in Cox's Bazar

1-31 July 2018:
413 (estimate)
 individuals entered Bangladesh

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



Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs the 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.

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

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