

Bangladesh

February 2020

The Government of Bangladesh took a decision to expand access to education for Rohingya children and adolescents through a pilot **introduction of the Myanmar curriculum** for some 10,000 children.

The second phase of the Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR Joint Registration exercise was completed in 2019. Some **819,787** persons received identity documents.

UNHCR completed its distribution of **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** to **112,188** refugee households in settlements and 8,548 Bangladeshi families in 2019.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



* includes the 819,787 Rohingya refugees registered in the Joint Registration exercise mentioned above and 34,917 registered refugees from pre-existing and registered camps.

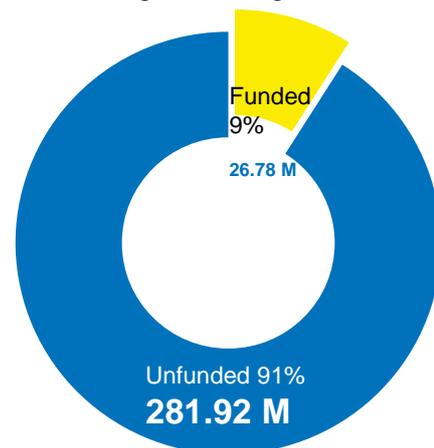
*Of the total refugee population of **854,704 refugees**:

- # of which are children (0-17 years old): **459,111 (53.7%** of the population)
- # of which are female: **441,515 (51.6%** of the population)
- # of which are persons with special needs: **36,592 (4.3%** of the population)
- Average household size: **5** (rounded up from 4.6)

FUNDING (AS OF 6 FEBRUARY 2020)

USD 308.7 M

requested for the Bangladesh refugee situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

204 National Staff

218 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Dhaka

1 Sub Office in Cox's Bazar



A view from UNHCR's distribution point in Camp 17 (Kutupalong refugee settlement) in 2018 (left) and 2019 (right), which demonstrates the regrowth taking place with the assistance of the LPG intervention. An arrow points to the same location in each photograph. Photo: UNHCR/S. O'Brien

Working with Partners

UNHCR leads the protection response for the Rohingya refugee situation in Bangladesh, ensuring coordination through a Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR collaborates with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM as part of an ad hoc Strategic Executive Group (SEG) at Dhaka level. The agency collaborates with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on technical areas of the response in Cox's Bazar, particularly driving forward the need for mainstreaming of protection. UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and its Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials and a range of international and national actors on the ground in the camps, including:

Action Aid Bangladesh, ACF, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, BRAC, Caritas Bangladesh, Centre for Natural Resource Studies, CODEC, COAST, Danish Refugee Council, FH Association, GK (Gonoshasthaya Kendra), IUCN, Handicap International, Helvetas, Light House, Oxfam, Relief International, Mukti Cox's Bazar, NGO Forum for Public Health, Practical Action, RTMI, Save the Children International, SARPV (Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable), Terre des Hommes Foundation, TAI, World Vision Bangladesh.

Refugees play an important role in the response in Cox's Bazar. Over 3,000 volunteers from the refugee community are engaged in a range of community outreach activities and also serve as first responders for different incidents in the settlements, in conjunction with the authorities and supporting agencies. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with safety unit volunteers (SUVs) to better support the emergency monsoon response; community outreach members who support raising awareness on important issues (e.g. health, protection, referrals); community health workers who assist with outreach on health and nutrition; and others who provide further critical support to the response, including on protection.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR's protection interventions focus on access to territory, registration and documentation, access to assistance, community participation, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection, education, and access to justice. UNHCR actively engages other actors in its protection activities, including government agencies, UN partners, NGOs, civil society organisations, and donors, with an aim to solicit wide support and create a favourable environment for Rohingya refugees.
- The second phase of the Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR Joint Registration process was completed in 2019. Some 819,787 persons received identity documents under the process. The third phase has commenced in January 2020 and focuses on continuous registration to update registration and population data, as required.
- UNHCR has worked closely with refugees to share information within their communities and to hear feedback on their needs and challenges. In 2020, UNHCR will continue to expand

community-based responses to protection issues through enhanced community engagement.

- In 2019, UNHCR enhanced awareness on access to justice among the refugee community and provided access to legal assistance services, including community-based mediation, and during the year 13,512 refugees received legal assistance to support their access to formal justice mechanisms.

Health

- UNHCR is providing and expanding primary healthcare services. As of December 2019, there are 24 UNHCR-supported health facilities including 9 24/7 clinics. A total of 567,061 primary health care consultations were conducted last year; 5,841 patients were referred to secondary and tertiary medical care. Mental health services are integrated in primary health care; 4,674 mental health consultations were provided in 2019. Some 4,874 deliveries were conducted by skilled attendants in health facilities in 2019. UNHCR supports an ambulance service and referral costs that helps refer critically ill refugees from 50% of the camps to hospitals in Cox's Bazar.
- Ministry of Health and WHO conducted three mass vaccination campaigns in response to outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and measles. UNHCR, as lead of the Community Health Working Group, supported the campaign in planning and implementation. For the first time, Rohingya volunteers took a leading role in the campaign by providing the oral cholera vaccine through door to door visits, reaching more than 160,000 children.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR is working with its partners in Cox's Bazar to build and upgrade water and sanitation services to support healthier living conditions for refugees. In 2019, 2,509 water taps were installed, while maintenance for 73,029 tube-wells and latrines was ensured through repair, renovation, decommissioning, and de-sludging. Essential materials for good hygiene practice, including female hygiene kits, soap and jerry cans, are planned for distribution in 2020.

Shelter and Site Management

- Site development activities such as drainage, constructing and maintaining footpaths, stairs, slope stabilization works are a priority before the monsoon starts in 2020. In 2019, 27 kilometers of road pathway, 78 kilometers of drainage, 59 kilometers of retaining structures, 32 kilometers of steps and 4.4 kilometers of bridges were constructed by UNHCR.
- Some 88,361 of pre-monsoon shelter tie-down kits were distributed in 2019. In addition to that, 91,572 households were provided with shelter repair and replacement assistance last year. UNHCR is proposing the use of two-storey steel frame shelters to decongest the settlements and improve living conditions for refugees.

Energy and Environment

- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distribution started in August 2018. UNHCR completed its distribution to 112,188 refugee households in settlements and 8,548 Bangladeshi families in the host communities. In 2019, UNHCR also provided training on environmental protection for 185,035 refugees. Electricity, using solar-powered mini-grids, is now being

successfully used in selected parts of the settlements as a pilot in collaboration with IKEA Foundation.

Host Community Engagement

- In 2019, 48 quick impact projects were implemented in Bangladeshi hosting communities. These include school renovations, road repairs, drainage system improvements, construction of water and sanitation facilities, etc. In addition, 5,941 Bangladeshi households (over 29,705 people) benefited from livelihoods support.

Financial Information

In 2020, UNHCR is appealing for USD 308.7 million to respond to the needs of refugees. Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 27 million**. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

UNHCR's humanitarian response in Bangladesh is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR Bangladesh operations.

In 2019 and 2020, support has been received from the people and governments of:

Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and CERF.

UNHCR is sincerely grateful for the additional support received from many individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide including Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Education Cannot Wait, Kuwait Finance House, Qatar Charity, and Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al Thani Humanitarian Fund.

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