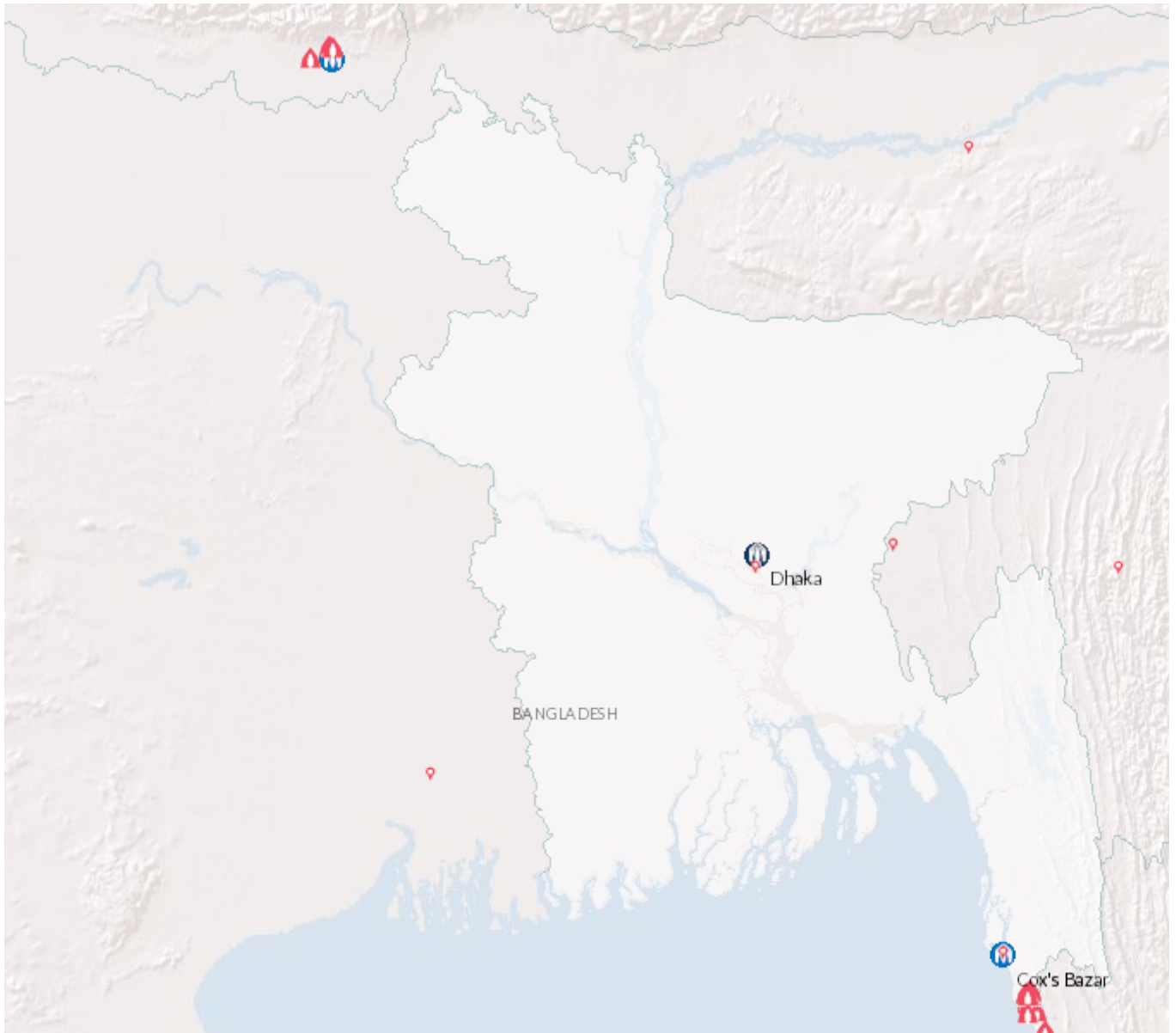


2021 Planning summary

11/1/2021

Operation: Bangladesh

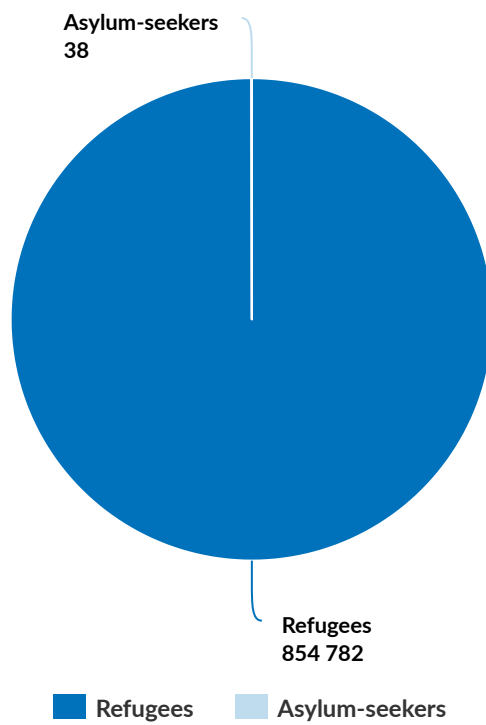


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

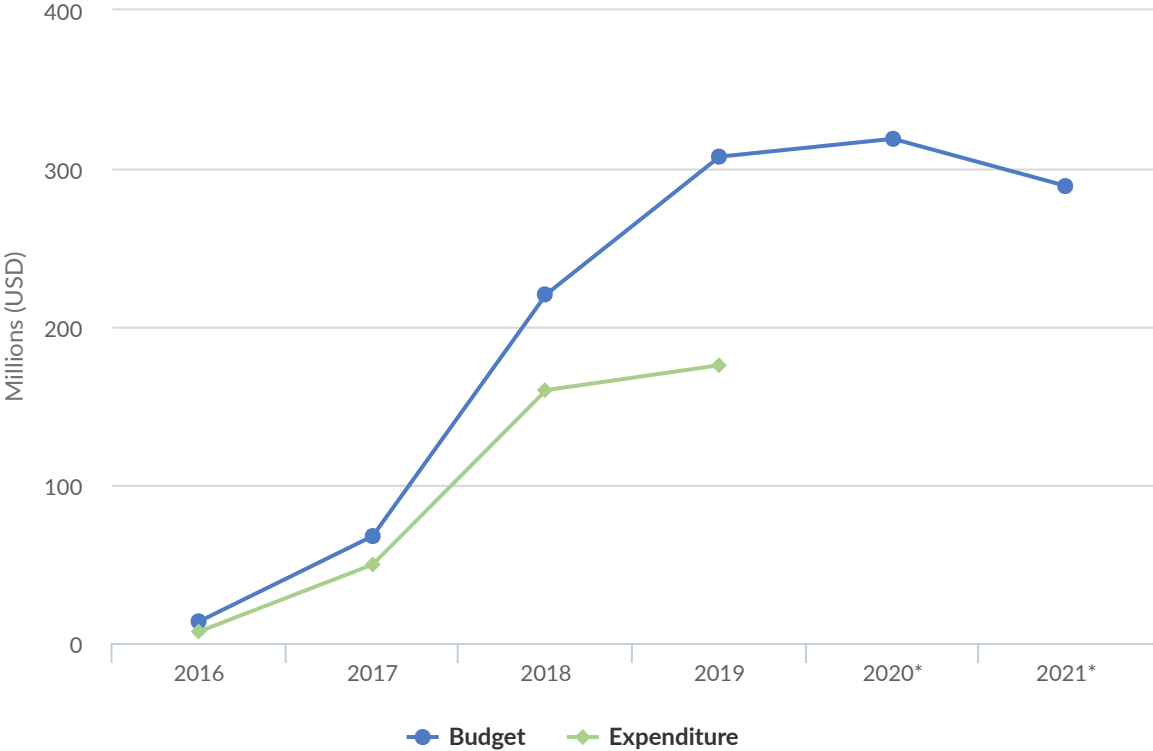
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
6% 2019

2019	854,820
2018	906,690
2017	932,334



Budgets and Expenditure for Bangladesh



Operational environment

As of 30 November 2020, the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh consists of 864,281 individuals or 188,233 families (52% female, 48% male, 52% children).

Hosting refugees from Myanmar for decades, the Government and the people of Bangladesh continue to demonstrate commendable hospitality and generosity in responding to the large-scale refugee crisis that began in August 2017, including largely maintaining open borders and providing land and other facilities for hosting the refugee population.

Moving into 2021, and into the fourth year of the crisis, the protection environment in Cox's Bazar, is likely to grow increasingly complex with deteriorating security conditions. There are as well increased security enforcement measures in the camps, as well as ongoing restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which limit key activities such as education. This may lead to further increases in negative coping mechanisms in refugee communities, including dangerous onward movements, intimate partner violence, and child marriage, among others.

UNHCR expects the Government to maintain its position on voluntary repatriation as the only feasible solution for Rohingya refugees. This policy has constrained the operation by emphasizing temporariness over more sustainable responses. This includes limitations on livelihoods, education, and consideration of other durable solutions. UNHCR will work within these policy constraints to expand opportunities in Bangladesh. These measures will also help to prepare refugees for sustainable reintegration in Myanmar.

In 2021 UNHCR will retain partnerships with 26 NGOs, continuing to work within a well-coordinated humanitarian architecture, which includes the Government, national organisations, NGOs and UN agencies. More than half of UNHCR's partners are national organisations. UNHCR's key priority remains to strengthen these partnerships to ensure efficient and effective delivery of assistance and services for refugees, and best value for money in terms of the use of donor funds.

UNHCR will also pursue strategic collaboration with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank as well as private sector stakeholders in order to encourage development support and assistance focusing on host communities in areas such as infrastructure, poverty alleviation, health, education, social protection and livelihoods. Enhancing support for host communities and local development promotes peaceful coexistence and strengthens protection space for the refugees.

As the pandemic rapidly unfolded in 2020, UNHCR stepped up preparedness, prevention and response measures in the camps and host community, adjusting its activities in line with necessary Government restrictions aimed at minimising risk, while ensuring continued access to critical services in the Rohingya settlements and host communities. As COVID-19-related restrictions begin to ease, UNHCR will resume some key activities that were suspended. In 2021, UNHCR will also continue implementation of pandemic responses focusing on the health and water, sanitation and hygiene programming, which will require additional resources to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of these services.

Key Priorities

The Operation's focus remains on building a favourable protection environment for the more than 860,000 refugees in the settlements, advancing protection and gender mainstreaming, access to justice, and improving refugees' quality of life through the empowerment of the community and the strengthening of community-based structures already in place.

UNHCR will also strengthen Government leadership with the phased and responsible handover of camp

management to the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, as well as by catalysing strategic partnerships, further strengthening localisation efforts and exploring all possible opportunities for solutions. At the same time, UNHCR in Bangladesh will continue focusing on meeting the basic needs of refugees through the delivery of quality programmes in key sectors, including health and nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation, shelter, education, and energy and environment.
