

BANGLADESH

26 December 2017

In the past week, some 700 Rohingya refugees crossed into Bangladesh through Teknaf. They were assisted by UNHCR and partners and transfer to Nayapara settlement.

The Governments of Bangladesh and of Myanmar established a Joint Working Group (JWG), which is tasked to develop a specific instrument for repatriation.

A referral pathway for “persons at heightened risks” has been rolled out. It aims to ensure that identified refugees in need are linked to specialized services and care.

POPULATION FIGURES

655,000* Estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017

307,500 Estimated refugee population before 25 August 2017

954,500 Estimated total refugee population currently

STAFFING & PARTNERS

188 staff currently working on the emergency compared to **49** prior to the crisis. **113** are national staff.

21 partners compared to **7** prior to the crisis.

* As reported by the Cox’s Bazar Inter Sector Coordination Group

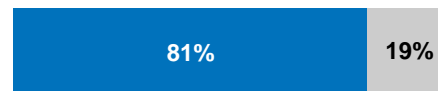
FUNDING (AS OF 26 DECEMBER 2017)

USD 83.7 million

Requested for UNHCR’s initial emergency response (until February 2018). A Joint Response Plan is under preparation.

USD 67.9 M
Received

USD 15.8 M
Remaining needed



Rohingya mother Laila Begum, 30, and her children (from left) Aysha, 7, Rogida, 12, Kishmot Ara, 5, and Mohammed Riaz, 13, receive their UNHCR Non-Food Items emergency relief pack in their makeshift shelter at Kutupalong refugee camp, Bangladesh. The pack includes a solar lantern, phone charger, blankets, tarpaulin and kitchen set. Photo: © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, some 655,000 refugees have fled targeted violence and serious human rights violations in Rakhine State, Myanmar. UNHCR has undertaken a total of 99 border monitoring missions since early October and assisted newly arrived refugees, together with partners. The majority of refugees are from Maungdaw and Buthidaung. The latest arrivals reported that, during their flight, women's gold, money and other valuables were taken away.

Newly arrived refugees are settling in the border areas in the South-east of Bangladesh, where an estimated 307,500 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar were already living. Weather conditions, the hilly terrain and lack of roads limit access to the refugees, especially those living in more remote areas of the spontaneous settlements.

UNHCR is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance to the refugees and to support host populations affected by the influx. The Office also continues to work to develop sites in the extended areas of Kutupalong along with ensuring that basic infrastructure is in place where refugees settle.

On 23 November, the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a bilateral 'arrangement' on the return of refugees to Myanmar. A Joint Working Group (JWG) consisting of Government representatives from Myanmar and Bangladesh for the return of refugees was subsequently formed on 19 December. The JWG is tasked to "develop a specific instrument on the physical arrangement for the repatriation of returnees in a speedy manner." UNHCR continues to engage with both governments outlining UNHCR's established role in voluntary return processes.

UNHCR welcomes the committee established to implement the [Rakhine Advisory Commission's recommendations](#) and all measures taken to advance the rights of Rohingya people and improve conditions inside Rakhine State.

Update on achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and impact

- On 19 December, some 150 newly arrived refugees, mostly women and children, were temporarily accommodated for two days at the Border Guard posts in Mochapara of Teknaf. UNHCR and partners provided basic assistance, UNHCR WASH teams also established mobile toilets in Mochapara. In order to facilitate the transfer of new arrivals to Nayapara, UNHCR has made two buses available.
- As part of its efforts to ensure that refugees receive the information which they need and can participate in the decisions that affect their lives, UNHCR rolled out a Community Outreach Members (COMs) initiative on 12 December in Zone EE of the Kutupalong extension. Since then, 25 COMs have conducted information sessions on diphtheria with 1,546 refugees. They also made 140 home visits and met individually with 256 people. UNHCR's partners TAI and BRAC have identified and are

training another 84 COMs to cover Zones CC, EE, OO of Kutupalong extension, Nayapara and Chakmarkul. Some 200 COMs are expected to be recruited by the end of 2017.

- The Protection Working Group's Referral Pathway Task Force, led by UNHCR, piloted and rolled out a referral pathway for "persons at heightened risks" in the past weeks. This initiative aims to ensure that persons at heightened risks are linked to services and receive the care which they need. So far, there has been two pilots by TAI in Zones BB and CC of Kutupalong extension and by IOM and other agencies in Balukali. These pathways have now been rolled out in Zones BB, CC, and Nayapara extension site by UNHCR's partner TAI. Solidarité is also expected to roll out a referral pathway in the spontaneous settlement and host community as of January 2018. Many NGO partners, including Handicap International, Oxfam, Help Age, Caritas, Save the Children, People in Need and DRC, are also participating in these efforts.

Identified needs and gaps

- A comprehensive and unique database of all refugee women, men, girls and boys for coordinating protection and assistance interventions, and which could form the foundation for solutions, remains a priority.
- Mental health and psychosocial support continue to be essential to address the needs of many of the refugees who have suffered various forms of violence and deep psychological harm.
- Protecting children, who constitute 55% of the total refugee population, through facilitating their access to education is also a high priority. Advocacy in this regard will continue.
- Community-based protection interventions need to be scaled up to strengthen refugees' resilience, especially in view of the positive outcomes of the efforts deployed to date to mobilize various community groups.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Some 745 newly arrived refugee children in Nayapara registered camp are attending primary schools. Currently, some eight temporary learning centres (TLCs) have been opened in the Zone OO in Kutupalong extensions, while there are four in Zone UU. They each count some 960 and 380 children enrolled. In addition, a global partnership for Education (GPE) approved some funds for Rohingya children's education. In 2018, UNHCR is planning to build 40 TLCs, with some 120 classrooms, in the Kutupalong and Nayapara. The TLCs will cover early childhood learning, basic education, adolescent and youth education.

Identified challenges and gaps

- UNHCR Shelter teams are currently selecting the site for these learning centres. However, this has proven to be challenging due to the limited areas available.
- More support is needed for adolescent and youth education programmes. Barriers for youth's regular school attendance include the need to support their families financially.

**SITE COORDINATION AND SITE MANAGEMENT****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR continues to support the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) officers, the Bangladeshi officials appointed to the RRRC to manage refugee settlements and to improve coordination. Since early December, UNHCR's partners, the Danish Refugee Council and BRAC, have been providing Site Management Support to the CiC appointed in the northern part of Kutupalong, with agreements with other UNHCR partners imminent to ensure Site Management coverage for all UNHCR coordinated sites including Nayapara, Chakmakul and northern Kutupalong extension blocks. Site Management Support agencies will help to improve the coordination challenges by supporting the CiC to conduct block level coordination meetings, sector monitoring, community mobilization and engagement, and small site works to improve paths and stairs. The CiC are working closely with representatives from the refugee community. Going forward, UNHCR will support a more inclusive representation system, including through elections, as successfully conducted in Kutupalong and Nayapara registered camps.
- On 19 December, UNHCR and partners have started work at the Transit Centre to develop brick steps, footpaths and shades to ensure that all refugees, including those with specific needs, can easily access services and move within the centre. Similarly, some 24 footbridges are currently being built, and footpaths are being improved with brick and steps in Kutupalong makeshift and extension.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Coordination remains a challenge across all sites. Some humanitarian and private actors are implementing activities without engaging the coordination structures leading to agencies constructing on land allocated for another service, duplication of services or sub-standard service provision.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- As part of their winterization activities, UNHCR and its partners are continuing to distribute shawls and sweaters as the temperatures decrease. A total of 20,458 shawls were distributed as of 20 December. UNHCR is also distributing, through its partners, sweaters for children under five. In Nayapara, the military agreed for UNHCR to use its distribution point, which will increase the outreach from 526 families to 1,200 families during each distributions that take place four times a week.
- Some 21,045 upgraded shelter kits have been distributed. This represents 47% of the 45,000 families targeted for the upgrade. Distributions will continue until the end of 2017 and will accelerate in 2018. Following feedback from refugees, who reported that locks on their shelters would increase their sense of safety, UNHCR tested different types of locks. Following this exercise, it has been recommended that two feet chain and a standard padlock are included in the upgraded shelter kits, which also comprise of bamboo poles, ropes, tools and tarpaulins.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- The main suggestions by refugees to increase their sense of safety in the settlement include the need to establish lighting around key infrastructures, and warning systems in case of natural disasters or elephant attacks. In 2018, UNHCR will be partnering with International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to develop assessments on elephant routes, to raise awareness of the host and refugee population, as well as to develop deterrent systems to prevent elephants from entering the settlement and early warning systems for the populations.

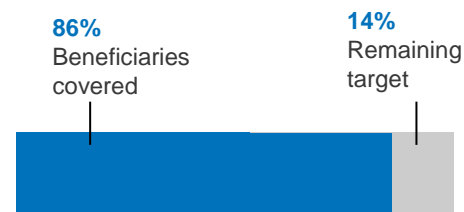


WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- Based on UNHCR's site planning, WASH actors are collaborating to install water and sanitation in new areas where refugees settle. So far, over 4,309 latrines, 1,654 bathing cubicles and 815 tube wells were installed in Kutupalong and Nayapara settlements.
- Since October, UNHCR's partners, BRAC and NGO Forum, have conducted over 400 information sessions on hygiene with refugees in Zones OO, QQ, RR and UU of Kutupalong extension.
- UNHCR's partner Oxfam has developed a natural and comprehensive treatment system to process 20,000 cubic meters of faecal sludge per day. This modular system can be expanded to some 40,000 and then 60,000 cubic meters a day as required. In addition, the RRRC agreed to allocate land in Zone OO and its periphery in Kutupalong extension for desludging purposes. The treatment system on this land should become operational by end of February 2018, scaling up throughout the year.

Refugees with access to latrines



Identified needs and remaining gaps

- In Nayapara, the Camp Committee (CC), composed of both female and male community leaders, reported some information gaps on hygiene amongst newly arrived refugees. The CC expressed interest in collaborating with UNHCR to deliver awareness sessions. Such information gaps are also reported in Kutupalong settlements.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- So far, WHO has reported 2,440 cases of diphtheria and 26 deaths amongst those staying in Balukhali, Jamtoli, Unchprang, and Hakimpara. The majority (73%) of cases are under 14 years of age. A District Core Committee on the outbreak has been set up, led by the Civil Surgeon of Cox Bazar and facilitated by WHO. UNHCR teams have been actively conducting training for partners' Community Health Workers and clinicians on case definition, contact tracing and early identification for the purpose of referrals. Currently, all treatment is still provided by MSF. The vaccination campaign for those under 15 years of age is on-going. UNHCR supports partners through the provision of non-food items and shelter material for the setting up of isolation and treatment facilities.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Referral pathways for emergency medical and obstetric cases still need to be clearly delineated for all stakeholders.
- More efforts are required to ensure that health services are provided at the time indicated and that adequate shaded areas are available for refugees waiting.

Working in partnership

- **UNHCR continues to support the Government of Bangladesh's efforts in providing protection and assistance to all refugees.** UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), which is in charge of leading the emergency refugee response in coordination with the district authorities. In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR cooperates with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the local representative of the MoDMR.
- UNHCR is working with international and national NGOs in Bangladesh and scaled up its partnership network to 21 partners, including nine national NGOs. UNHCR is assuming its lead role in the protection response for all refugees, coordinating closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners through the various sector working groups of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.



Rohingya adapt to new lives in Moynerghona refugee camp, Bangladesh. Photo: © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Donor Support

UNHCR is providing emergency assistance and protection in an evolving humanitarian context in Bangladesh. UNHCR continues to call for flexible funding in order to efficiently respond to changing needs and quickly respond to new emerging priorities. UNHCR is grateful for the valuable support provided by all donors who have contributed towards identified immediate life-saving needs, and towards supporting the safety and dignity of refugees. The valuable support provided also helps the Government of Bangladesh, through its ministries and authorities, to manage the response with UNHCR's support.

The significant demands on the humanitarian response for Bangladesh need to be recognised. The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh has been extraordinarily generous. However, additional support is needed. UNHCR hopes that the commitment of Bangladesh towards supporting refugees' immediate needs and finding solutions will continue to be supported by the international community with adequate financial contributions and with other support in 2018. To date, support has been encouraging with 75% of UNHCR's initial appeal for USD 83.7 million received.

UNHCR will continue work in 2018 with Bangladesh to provide essential services for refugees, in particular enhancing access to protection services, shelter, health and nutrition, water/sanitation, education and others. Activities to protect natural resources and the environment will be supported also in consultation with local communities.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh operation in 2017

Canada | Denmark | European Union | Estonia | Germany | Iceland | Japan | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | Slovenia | Spain | United Arab Emirates | United States of America.

With thanks also to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies and other donors in Australia, China, Egypt, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, and UAE, including IKEA Foundation, UNIQLO Co. Ltd, Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation, Opec Fund for International Development, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, UPS Corporate, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Silent Foundation, Fondazione Prosolidar-Onlus and RUSSING Group. Special thanks also to UNOPS, and CERF.

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017



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