

BANGLADESH

1 – 15 October 2018

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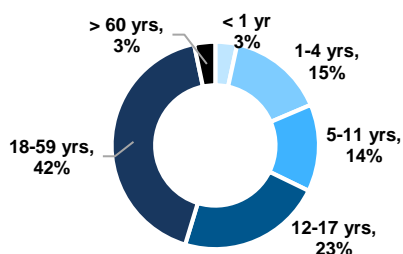
Through community consultations, UNHCR identified **1,400 locations in refugee settlements that need street lighting** and mapped those requiring repair. UNHCR is procuring **1,000 solar street lights for installation** in refugee sites and will repair the damaged lights. More than **1,600 street lights have been installed as of September in refugee settlements and host community areas to increase security** during night time, particularly for **women and girls**.

A total of **102 incidents** of landslides, windstorms, and floods were recorded from 1 to 15 October, affecting **727 families** across all settlements. Heavy rains fell in Cox's Bazar for three consecutive days as a result of *Cyclone Titli*, which hit Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, India, on 11 October. UNHCR and partners relocated **88 households (384 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.

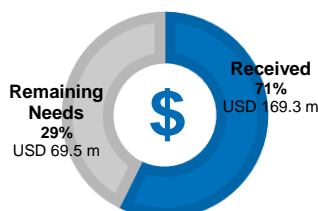
POPULATION FIGURES (as of 15 October 2018)

897,733 Total number of refugees in Cox's Bazar
730,292 Estimated new arrivals since 25 August 2017

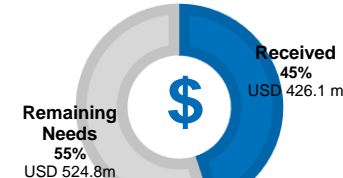
Age breakdown of refugees in Cox's Bazar



UNHCR FUNDING 2018



JOINT RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING 2018



Refugee children in Ukhiya sub-district of Kutupalong refugee settlement celebrate the national Child Rights Week with a painting competition organised by UNHCR's partner, Relief International. The Government of Bangladesh organised the week-long event from 7-13 October in Dhaka under the theme 'Safe Schools to Secure Our Children's Future'. ©UNHCR/Relief International

Refugees prepare to respond to a potential cyclone

Refugee volunteers from the Community Outreach Member teams (COMs) have held meetings in their communities to **raise awareness on potential cyclone response**. The awareness raising sessions cover **critical issues such as the protection of persons with specific needs**. The volunteers gave briefings on the **early warning flag system in place used by the Government of Bangladesh**, and advised on the **immediate actions refugees would need to take**, underlining the **importance of keeping families together** as well as **storing emergency supplies**, including food and drinking water. During the reporting week, **10 refugee settlements received information sessions, reaching around 20,000 refugee men and women**.



Refugee women attending an information session on cyclone at BRAC Information Point in Camp 4 settlement in Kutupalong. ©UNHCR

UNHCR's partner, BRAC also **provided awareness raising sessions** on similar topics for refugees visiting Information Points and Community Centres. A total of **1,317 refugees** have attended the sessions since the sessions started in early September 2018.

As part of its cyclone preparedness, UNHCR protection staff attended Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) refresher sessions in Cox's Bazar, jointly organised by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society/International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Society/American Red Cross, BBC Media Action and Translators without Borders. The sessions covered cyclone warning systems, early warning communication with communities, and effective information dissemination. A pictorial guidebook has been released in Bangla language, with plans for Burmese translation, for use by field staff and community mobilisers.

Since January 2018, **307 Community Outreach Members (COMs)**, 208 men, 99 women, have conducted **19,081 home visits** to reach out to all members of the refugee community for feedback on various aspects of their life in the settlements. In total **68,040 persons** (32,018 male and 36,022 female) were reached. Furthermore, **13,309 awareness raising sessions** were conducted on protection concerns, diphtheria, fire safety, emergency preparedness, landslide risks, cholera, the joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR verification, voluntary return questions, and hygiene issues, reaching **272,419 refugees** (136,670 men and 135,749 women). Of **18,315 cases identified for support**, 1,311 were referred for urgent intervention, 4,269 cases were provided direct support, and 3,582 others received assistance through UNHCR's community protection partnerships with Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI) and BRAC.

Over 200 water and sanitation experts trained on cyclone preparedness

UNHCR and its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners, BRAC, Oxfam, ACTED and NGO Forum for Public Health, completed **seven cyclone preparedness trainings** from September to October 2018. A total of **222 WASH focal points from humanitarian organisations working in the refugee settlements, community WASH volunteers, and Government of Bangladesh's Camp-in-Charge**

officials were trained on WASH requirements for cyclone emergency preparedness. They also identified needs and solutions through rapid assessments in evacuation areas. The hands-on training included anchoring latrines and protecting water points, among other activities.

During the reporting period, **14,000 standard tie-down kits** were distributed to be used by UNHCR WASH partners to secure **5,511 latrines** and **2,922 bathing facilities** in advance of strong winds expected at this time of the year. Essential WASH hygiene kit, such as water purification tablets (aquatabs), have been prepositioned for any potential cyclone-related emergency.



A UNHCR staff shows how to tie down a latrine in preparation for the cyclone season. ©UNHCR/C. Gluck

Shelter locks increase security for refugee women



A locked shelter at Camp 17 settlement in Kutupalong. ©UNHCR/I. Susanti

Following consultations with refugees and at their request, UNHCR is providing locks for shelters. Since August 2018, UNHCR and partners have distributed chains with locks to **70,760 families** to increase security of shelters. Another 25,000 locks are in the pipeline for further distribution.

In focus group discussions in Kutupalong, refugee women welcomed the distribution of lock, adding that they felt **safer with a lockable shelter** which enable them to protect their belongings and sleep easier at night. They also stated that they were now able to leave their shelters during the day to access services without worrying about theft.

The project is part of UNHCR's work to **prevent sexual and gender-based violence** through ensuring safe shelter and protection-centred WASH interventions, such as installation of solar lighting near facilities.

UNHCR assisting refugee access to legal assistance and counselling

Since January 2018, UNHCR and partners have offered more than **4,000 legal consultations** to refugees as well as legal **assistance for more than 850 individual cases**. In order to enhance capacity in the handling of legal cases involving refugees, UNHCR and local authorities regularly organises workshops and trainings on legal support for refugees with protection partners and government officials. These efforts aim at raising awareness on specific issues concerning refugees in need of legal aid.

In partnership with UNHCR, Bangladesh lawyers from Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI), the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) and BRAC are available to assist refugees with all legal questions and cases, both civil and criminal. Among the common legal issues refugees seek guidance and assistance for are domestic violence, disputes in the community, missing persons, detention, and suspected exploitation and trafficking cases.



Cox's Bazar police officers attend an information session run by UNHCR on access to justice. ©UNHCR

Medical waste management training for safer environment

Since September 2018, UNHCR has been conducting a series of medical waste management trainings for **242 healthcare workers** from UNHCR-supported health facilities across 12 settlements in Kutupalong and Nayapara. About **75 healthcare workers** are expected to attend additional trainings during the month of October.

Safe disposal of medical waste remains a challenge in healthcare facilities in refugee settlements. Medical waste, if not properly disposed, may result in contamination that threatens the health and wellbeing of the surrounding communities, as the waste may carry pathogens and various toxic substances.

The training was held in collaboration with the Refugee Health Unit set up by the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Medical Teams International (MTI), Research Training and Management International (RTMI), Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) and Relief International. It targeted **medical staff**, including doctors, nurses and lab technicians to increase their **knowledge of the various health risks linked to improper disposal of medical waste** as well as preparation for appropriate action to eliminate risks.

Participants were familiarised with sources of medical waste, medical waste segregation, safe disposal, and infection prevention. Practical sessions were undertaken to assess health facility practices, and action plans started to ensure adherence to waste management standards. Health facility managers will be supported to implement the plans with continued guidance from UNHCR.



UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador (GWA) from Thailand, Praya Lundberg, plants a tree sapling at the Community Centre in Camp 17 during her visit to the refugee site in Cox's Bazar on 9 October. The planting project is a collaborative effort by the refugee community, BRAC, and UNHCR to support the environment. The GWA had the opportunity to learn from the refugee community about their ideas to help restore the environment in the area they live in, which saw many trees cut during the settlement of large numbers of new arrivals in 2017. A total of 23,990 tree saplings have been planted since September 2018, covering an estimated 10 hectares of land in five refugee settlements. In addition, UNHCR and partners have planted 233,000 vetiver grass on about six hectares of land to stabilise slopes. ©UNHCR/F. al-Khateeb

The first two-storey temporary learning centre inaugurated

In the presence of the Joint Secretary Admin of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, BRAC, UNHCR and the RRRRC inaugurated the **first two-storey Temporary Learning Centre (TLC)** in Kutupalong refugee settlement on 3 October. This new centre will be able to accommodate **up to 240 students** in two classrooms with three shifts a day, which doubles the number of students currently attending a TLC per day. Across all the refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar, there are an estimated **540,000 children and youth aged 3-24 years old** who need education. However, current TLCs can only accommodate **160,552 students**, leaving a gap of **47% children aged 3-14 years without access to primary education**, and more than **97% of 15-24 year old adolescents and youth not attending any educational facilities**.



The temporary learning centre in Camp 4 Extension refugee settlement in Kutupalong. ©UNHCR

The challenge in providing education includes a lack of land to build more learning centres. The two-storey TLC is an innovative way to try to address this gap.

To mark the **World Teachers' Day** on 5 October, UNHCR and its partner, Community Development Centre (CODEC) inaugurated the first **teacher's training centre** in Camp 4 settlement which can accommodate **163 teachers from three settlements**. The centre also functions as an innovative platform where teachers can share best practices, such as teaching aid they developed. The training centre is part of a broader strategy to improve teachers' capacity and the overall quality of education services.

Progress on refugee registration and verification

Over 18,500 individuals have been verified in the joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR verification exercise to date, with increasing numbers of individuals verified on a daily basis since the beginning of October. 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 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 capture refugee needs more precisely as well as tailor the protection response more effectively.

Information dissemination to the refugee community on the card’s importance and its purpose continues with messages being spread through consultations, videos, and radio broadcasts. A [short video](#) on the verification was disseminated to inform refugees about the card.

Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar

More than a year after violence erupted in Rakhine State in western Myanmar, refugees continue to arrive to Bangladesh, albeit at a decreasing rate. A total of 110 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 Myanmar over a requirement for them to undergo a nationality verification process, as they consider themselves as citizens of Myanmar already.

Since 1 January 2018:

14,180

individuals have arrived in Cox’s Bazar

27 September-10 October 2018:

110

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



39,145

children (19,838 girls and 19,307 boys) with access to Early Childhood Development, primary, and lower secondary education

Education



336

classrooms constructed, providing learning spaces for 40,320 children

Child Protection



29,673

children, including 15,528 boys and 14,145 girls, provided with psychosocial support

Community-Based Protection



100,000 approx

refugee men, women and children received information on hygiene, the use of *aquatabs* and Acute Watery Diarrhea from community volunteers (COMs) since mid-July 2018

Protection awareness



100

personnel from the Border Guards of Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts received training on international protection of refugees in October 2018

Transit Centre



54

individuals arrived spontaneously for assistance from 27 September to 10 October 2018

Shelter Locks



70,760

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

LPG Distribution



6,248

refugee families received Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and a cooking set as part of the pilot phase started in August 2018. About 4,181 families received LPG refills. The distributions are part of UNHCR's SGBV prevention and environmental protection efforts, by reducing unaccompanied trips to collect firewood and addressing deforestation

Complaint & feedback mechanism



800

letters written by refugees have been received, through dedicated boxes available across camps, and processed by UNHCR protection team since January 2018

Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs a 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 partnerships with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian 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). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. UNHCR also has a strong network of 28 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ACTED** (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development) | **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) | **CSI** (Center for Social Integrity) | **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) | **IRC** (International Rescue Committee) | **MTI** (Medical Teams International) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PIN** (People in Need) | **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 6,500 volunteers from the refugee community** who are **often the first responders on the ground**. UNHCR and the partners have trained and worked 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 Government and the people of Bangladesh have shown extraordinary generosity in responding to the crisis. However, more support and solidarity is required from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response. Continued political efforts to work towards a solution to the situation remains vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (as part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

UNHCR Bangladesh is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have provided unrestricted and broadly earmarked funds, as well as to donors who have contributed directly to the Operation in 2017 and 2018:



With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, and companies such as the Arab Gulf Fund, 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