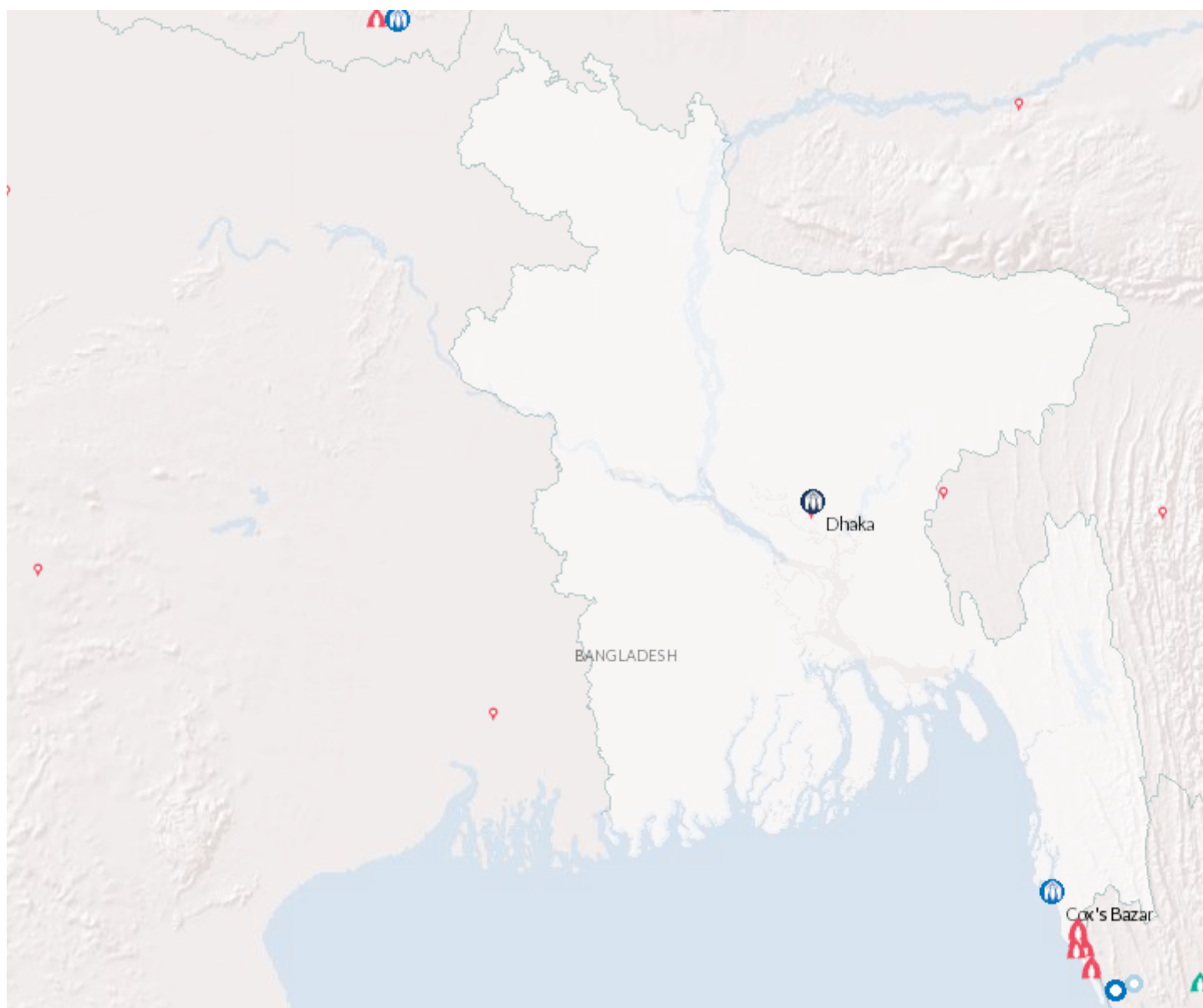


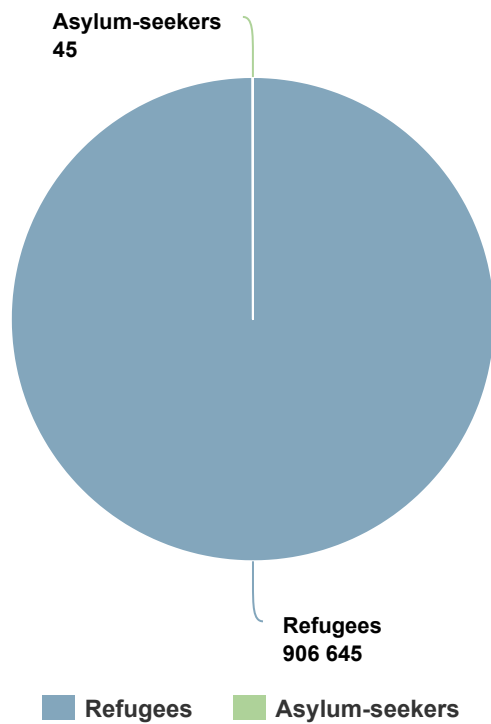
Operation: Bangladesh



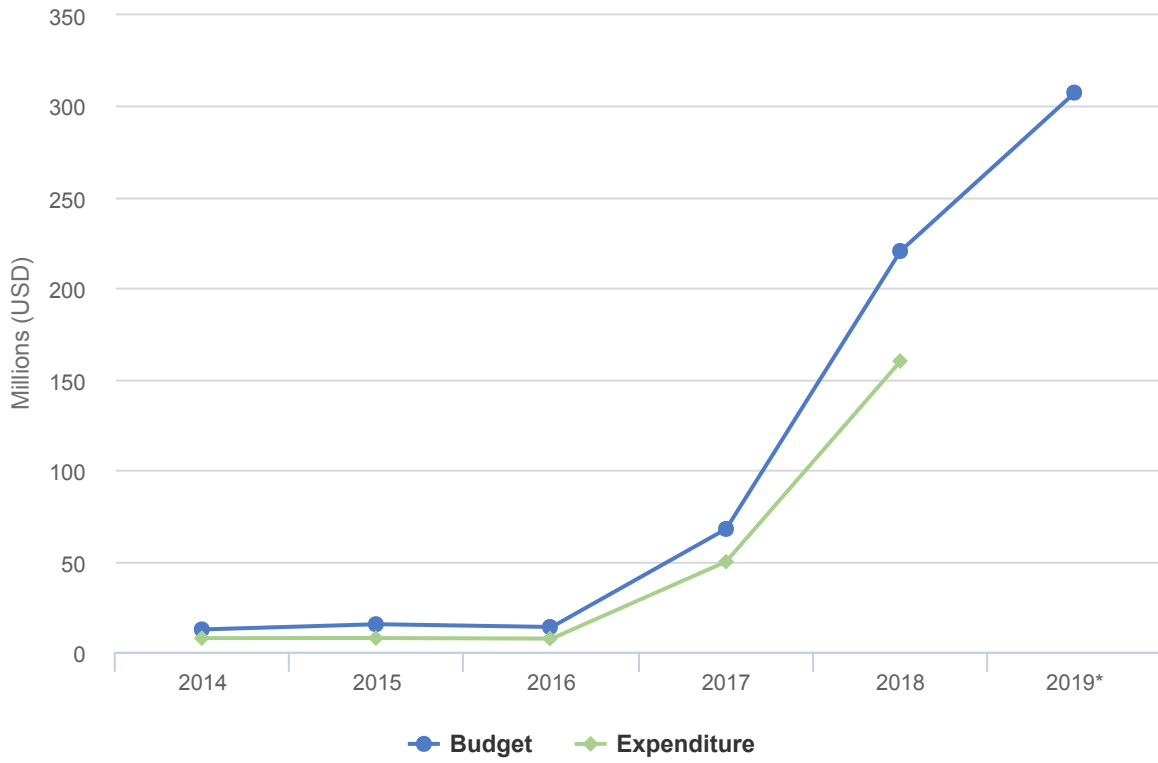
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
3% 2018

2018	906,690
2017	932,334
2016	276,208



Budgets and Expenditure for Bangladesh



Operational environment

In 2018, UNHCR focused on protection and together with other humanitarian actors bolstered multi-sectoral preparedness and response for the monsoon and cyclone season. Rohingya refugees received support through transitional interventions, encouraging a shift away from meeting immediate humanitarian needs toward solutions-oriented responses. In this regard, the engagement of development actors – the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank – were important steps in integrating development-oriented approaches.

UNHCR continues to operate within the inter-sector coordination group framework, and as the lead agency for the protection sector promoted community mobilization/refugee representation and advocacy across all sectors. A coordination review was conducted together with IOM, UNDP and ICVA to improve the coordination structure.

In June 2018, UNHCR and the Government of Bangladesh launched a joint verification/registration exercise to enhance protection and assistance to refugees through the distribution of biometric ID cards. At the end of 2018, this exercise was still ongoing.

Throughout 2018, the Government maintained its generosity towards people of concern and upheld the principle of non-refoulement. In April 2018, a MoU was signed between the Government and UNHCR relating to the voluntary return of Rohingya refugees, however, the Office maintained that conditions were not conducive for the safe and sustainable return of refugees to Myanmar. Moreover, the Government's plan to relocate refugees to Bhasan Char island did not materialize in 2018 and is expected to be raised again in 2019.

Population trends

By the end of 2018, the total Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar District was close to 906,600. Eighty percent of the population had arrived in 2017, adding to an existing population which arrived in several waves during the 1990s. In 2018, some 16,200 refugees continues to cross the border.

Out of the total Rohingya population, 55% are under 18 years of age, 52% are female, and 31% of households have at least one person with vulnerabilities or specific protection needs. Moreover, 731,500 are settled in Kutupalong and adjacent settlements while the rest are in Teknaf.

Key achievements

- The joint UNHCR-Government of Bangladesh registration exercise will provide identification document for unregistered refugees and unified database to enhance protection and advance solutions.
- Improved accountability through increased access to information and services to all refugee groups, raising refugee voices using two-way communication.
- Expansion of protection presence through community-based protection programming and protection coordination.
- Improving living conditions with the establishment of basic infrastructure and service delivery, by improving access to health and WASH facilities for instance.

Unmet needs

- Policy restrictions remain of concern, in particular, access to justice, education and livelihoods. The lack of status accorded to refugees and the inability to move freely presents obstacles to resilience and can lead to

negative coping mechanisms.

- High density living conditions remains a central challenge for the refugee response across all sectors, including protection. Space constraints result in poor living conditions, leaving refugees at risk of landslides and floods during the monsoon season, as well as a range of protection concerns.
 - Maintaining a focus on solutions in Myanmar while demonstrating solidarity with the Government of Bangladesh through the 2019 Joint Response Plan and the solidarity approach remains an ongoing challenge in term of funding and political support.
-