

BANGLADESH

1 – 15 August 2018

IN THIS UPDATE:

- *Refugee youth volunteers*
- *UNHCR renovates schools for Bangladesh children*
- *UNHCR concludes multipurpose cash assistance pilot*
- *UNHCR builds national capacity on site coordination and management*
- *Training on sustainable fecal sludge management*

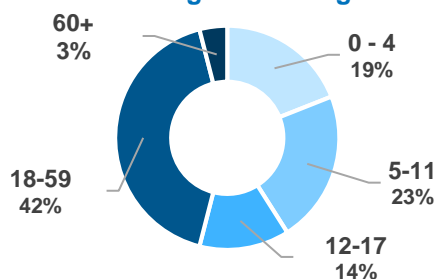
As **monsoon rains decreased during the reporting period**, UNHCR continued to relocate refugees living in areas at high risk of landslides, while also aiming to decongest overcrowded settlements. As of 15 August 2018, **3,484 refugees have been relocated** to new sites west of Kutupalong. All refugees were consulted prior to relocation to discuss their concerns over availability of basic services, safety, and living near family and relatives.

New classrooms and computer labs for local schools in Teknaf and Ukhiya were opened during the reporting period. As part of its support to the host community, which has housed and assisted many of the refugees (even before the August 2017 influx), **UNHCR continues to support local projects to rehabilitate schools and other public facilities** – providing income-generating opportunities, and strengthening local services.

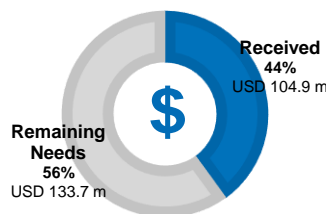
POPULATION FIGURES (as of 31 July 2018)

891,233 Total number of refugees in Bangladesh
724,920 Estimated refugee arrivals since 25 August 2017

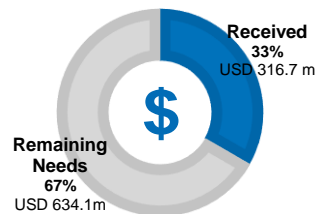
Age breakdown of refugees in Bangladesh



UNHCR FUNDING 2018



JRP FUNDING 2018



A mother and her baby are seen in their new and improved shelter west of Kutupalong settlement, where refugee families at risk of landslides continue to be relocated by UNHCR and partners. ©UNHCR/ D. Alsharhan

Protection and community outreach

Since January 2018, **262 Community Outreach Members (COMs)**, refugee volunteers trained by UNHCR, have conducted **over 12,200 home visits**, meeting 45,700 people (21,500 male and 24,200 female), and conducted **9,000 awareness raising sessions**, reaching more than 185,000 people (94,000 male and 91,000 female refugees). COMs continue to **engage refugee communities and highlight issues such as the risks and mitigation measures** that can be taken against **diphtheria and cholera, fire safety, emergency preparedness, and landslides**, as well as protection concerns including child marriage, trafficking, and gender-based violence. Other issues recently discussed include the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) UNHCR and UNDP signed with the Government of Myanmar, which establishes a framework for cooperation aimed at creating conditions that are conducive to refugees' voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return to their places of origin or their choosing; and the verification exercise being conducted jointly with the Government of Bangladesh, which will help consolidate a unified database for the purposes of protection, identity management, documentation, provision of assistance, population statistics and solutions.



Community Outreach Members, trained refugee volunteers, continue to conduct awareness sessions for refugee families. ©UNHCR/IJ. Caplin

As part of its ongoing protection activities, UNHCR continued to engage men and boys on the **prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**. An awareness session on healthy family relationships was conducted in Chakmarkul during the reporting period for 15 male refugees, with a focus on **identifying good practices to ensure equal opportunities for all family members**. Other discussion sessions were organized for women and adolescent girls on how and where to report SGBV incidents, the presence of Safe Havens, and how to overcome challenges during the monsoon season

UNHCR conducted 14 trainings on **child protection** issues, reaching close to 270 refugees, who received information on **meeting points for lost children, classification of children at risk, the integration of child protection into primary healthcare, protective behavior training, as well as positive discipline** in emergencies. **Unaccompanied and separated children are regularly identified and placed in alternative care while tracing is being conducted, and until they are reunited with their families or relatives.** Children who have been identified as being engaged in child labor, exposed to neglect, abuse, SGBV, trafficking, and trauma are referred for specialized partners in order to receive the support they require.

Refugee youth volunteers to support their community

Around 140 young refugees have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to selflessly serve their community over the past year. With the onset of the monsoon rains, which damaged shelters and infrastructure, refugee youth have been **helping vulnerable families repair or rebuild their shelters** and improve the accessibility to footpaths in their area. The youth volunteers, aged 15 to 30 years old, are supported and coordinated by UNHCR's local partners, Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI) and BRAC, to assist the refugee communities, and particularly refugees with specific needs. The youth group is

complemented by women and men-specific community groups¹ which are active in seven sites across Kutupalong, Nayapara, and Shalbagan. TAI, BRAC, and other partner agencies support their **capacity development through periodic workshops** and mentoring during weekly meetings.

On 9 August, a youth group in Kutupalong met with the **visiting UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (SGEY), Jayathma Wickramanayake**, while reconstructing a shelter for an elderly widow who does not have family ties or social support. During the discussion with the SGEY, members of the youth group expressed their strong desire to serve their community as well as their expectation to further their education for the future.

Education for refugees, new classrooms for Bangladesh schoolchildren



A **joint needs assessment**² by the Education Sector in Cox's Bazar (which can be found [here](#)) found that **enrollment in a learning facility by adolescent refugee children (aged 15 to 18 years old) since arriving in Bangladesh is notably low, at 14 per cent for boys and 5 per cent for girls.** The average grade level completed prior to displacement for both

boys and girls years old was grade 3. The average increased to grades 5 and 6 for boys aged 17-18, but remained static for girls. According to the report's findings, girls typically stop attending learning facilities beyond the age of 12. In addition, **50% of refugee girls and 42% of refugee boys reported having not completed any formal education when they were in Myanmar.**

UNHCR continues to support and consult partners in order to strengthen access to quality education and to bolster enrolment for refugee children in Bangladesh. As part of its strategy to strengthen collaboration, UNHCR held an introductory meeting with the representatives of national NGOs supporting refugee education, including BRAC, Community Development Centre (CODEC), Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), OBAT, Mukti, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), TAI, and Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF). The objective of the meeting was to **learn from the experience of long-term actors for education in Bangladesh**, and to develop a common vision on how to enhance education delivery. These discussions were important in establishing a coherent approach to strategic issues and in drawing from the experience and network that the national education NGOs have built over the years.

Moreover, UNHCR in collaboration with BRAC, commenced **construction of two double-floor learning centers with a capacity to accommodate 840 children.** The pilot is one of the many initiatives that aim to maximize access to education under existing constraints.

¹ These community groups are self-organized members of the refugee community who voluntarily attend to different projects to improve their community. These volunteers are self-recruiting and pitch their ideas to UNHCR and partners, who provide financial and technical support for them to implement these projects, such as tree planting, repairs to roads, pathways, and shelters in their neighborhoods. The volunteers themselves are not paid, and they do these works out of their own interest. They are distinct from other, more formal refugee community groups such as Community Outreach Members (COMs), Safety Unit Volunteers (SUVs), Community Health Workers (CHWs), etc.

² Joint Education Needs Assessment: Rohingya Refugee in Cox's Bazar (REACH Initiative)

Outside of the refugee settlements, UNHCR in collaboration with BRAC completed the rehabilitation of Kutupalong High School in Ukhiya sub-district as part of the Quick Impact Projects for local Bangladeshi communities.

About 1,200 local children now have more classrooms equipped with school furniture and a computer lab, in addition to improved sanitation facilities and drainage system.

Additionally, on 14 August, a **junior high school in Nayapara was inaugurated.** UNHCR worked with BRAC to rehabilitate the school by adding **two more classrooms, latrines, a computer lab, new tubewell and latrines.** Two more schools in this area are also under renovation.

The **school rehabilitation is part of UNHCR's commitment to support local Bangladeshi communities who have lent valuable support to Rohingya refugees.** Both schools hosted the refugees who fled violence in Myanmar in 2017.

While Quick Impact and similar projects improve local social infrastructure, they also **provide employment opportunities for the local community** and help address critical challenges. Notably, there is a **growing**

recognition that despite changes in the community, refugees also help bring jobs, business, opportunities, growth and the chance for progress and productivity, thereby alleviating host communities' concerns about the impact of the refugee influx. UNHCR is working to understand and respond to the challenges faced by the local communities (e.g. a student-teacher ratio of more than 100:1 in high schools) and engaging local communities to illustrate that **the presence of refugees creates an opportunity for positive change.** UNHCR plans to work with development actors to scale up these initial quick intervention projects into more substantial interventions to support host communities.



A newly constructed computer lab for a local school supported by UNHCR. ©UNHCR/F. Tajrin



High school students seen in one of the new classrooms rehabilitated with the support of UNHCR. ©UNHCR/F. Tajrin



UNHCR held a **Q&A session** for local and international NGOs as part of its **Call for Expressions of Interest** process. This process is used to help seek and forge partnerships with humanitarian actors on the ground who are interested to work with UNHCR and implement its activities. **Over 200 organizations attended** the session on 1 August which was held in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. ©UNHCR/K. Mostafa

Supporting nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

UNHCR nutrition partners have been successfully implementing the **treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in their established 22 nutrition facilities**. So far in 2018, UNHCR through partners and nutrition volunteers conducted 488,368 malnutrition screenings for 6 to 59 month old children at the community level, while 9,678 newly-identified children suffering from SAM have been admitted in the Outpatient Therapeutic feeding Program (OTP), and 2,330 children suffering from with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) have been admitted in targeted supplementary feeding programs.

UNHCR jointly with IOM completed five MHPSS Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshops. A total of 118 MHPSS focal points from different sites, COMs, and Safety Unit Volunteers (SUVs) participated in the workshops that aimed to strengthen referral pathways during monsoon-related emergencies in addition to coordination at the field level.

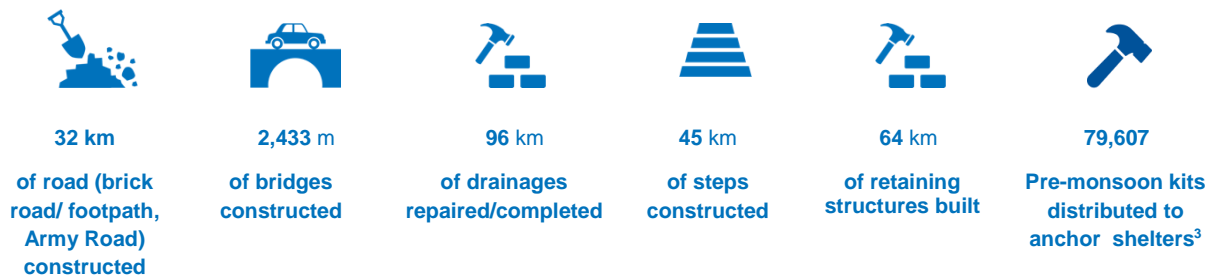


Photos showing the final ceremony announcing the winners from the “COMs Got Talent” competition, which was first launched in January 2018. Over 100 COMs refugee volunteers attended the show, where eight acts performed songs - many of which were originally written and inspired by their day-to-day experiences visiting homes, raising awareness, and supporting their community.

The COMs and partners appreciated the initiative, which not only brought everyone together but was an opportunity for all involved in the outreach program to strengthen camaraderie and raise morale, despite the many day to day challenges faced in the field. ©UNHCR/N. Khan

While monsoon rains decrease, emergency relocations continue

As of 15 August 2018, **3,484 refugees from all settlements were relocated by UNHCR and IOM to new sites in Camp 4 Extension**, of which 3,149 refugees were relocated due to high risk of landslides. **All major WASH activities for the transitional shelters built in Camp 4 Extension and in Nayapara have been completed**, while the construction of the service area and minor site improvement works are almost completed. The Bangladesh authorities, multi-functional UNHCR teams, partners, and refugee volunteers continue to work together to identify and **motivate people living in landslide hazard zones to relocate to safer locations**.



In February, Site Management partners took a major step in **restructuring the boundaries of the refugee settlements in Cox’s Bazar** to enhance administration and management, by dividing zones into “camps”. In another significant step during the first week of August, UNHCR with partners BRAC, ACTED, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) **started to further divide these sites into blocks**. The exercise, which is **expected to last until the end of August**, will cover all refugee settlements in Cox’s Bazar.

³ 88,835 households were assisted with shelter upgrade kits before the monsoon started in June.

The restructuring into blocks will help standardize the sites' address system and, more importantly, facilitate good governance in refugee settlements that promotes democratically elected refugee committees seeking greater accountability, transparency and community based participation in decision making.



UNHCR ran a **pilot cash-based intervention (CBI)** targeting approximately 11,000 beneficiaries with a blanket distribution of **2,500 Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) per household** in two identified areas in Kutupalong settlement. In April 2018, UNHCR distributed cash to 9,015 households. On **12 and 13 August 2018**, UNHCR and its partner BRAC distributed the multipurpose **cash assistance to 767 households** under its cash pilot project.

UNHCR conducted a **Post-Distribution Monitoring** assessment, which can be found [here](#), on how the cash interventions were perceived and utilized by the refugees. One of the key findings was that over 66% of respondents spent the cash within the settlement, while 31.5% stated they spent the cash both inside and outside the settlement.
 ©UNHCR/S. Petric

UNHCR builds national capacity on site management and coordination

As part of its capacity building strategy to **develop and strengthen national capacity on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**, UNHCR has conducted **eight trainings and three four-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for the Government of Bangladesh** and local site management actors who work in refugee settlements. A total of 106 people including the Camp-in-Charges (site administrators appointed by the Government of Bangladesh) and site management actors took part in the first phase of the training in February. In order to ensure sustainability of site management knowledge and practice among national authorities and local site managers and coordinators, UNHCR held three ToTs in July in Cox's Bazar, attended by 51 people including 13 CiCs. All participants earned CCCM certification from UNHCR, enabling them to train new site managers from both government and non-government institutions.

During the interactive ToTs, participants learned about techniques, tools and knowledge that **they can put into practice such as Humanitarian Reform** and CCCM framework, roles and responsibilities, **Protection in Action**, Design and Settlement Standards, Community Participation, Care and



Local officials receive their certificates after participating in the training organized by UNHCR on. ©UNHCR/I. Yeasmine

Maintenance, Coordination and Information Management.

New site manager trainers acquired new tools and techniques such as designing a training event, adult learning, managing the group, interpersonal communication skills, using flipcharts, power point presentation skills and feedback mechanisms.

Mohammad Zahid Akhter, Camp-In-Charge, Camps 11, 12 and 18, Kutupalong

"We work all day as field workers, but we lag behind in theoretical knowledge. This training gives us a lot of information and material which will allow us to link theories with field work. We obtained an excellent combination of knowledge and field work which makes us more confident."

Mohammad Saiful Islam, Camp-In-Charge, Nayapara Registered Camp and Extension

"The sessions are very helpful because they are very practical and participatory. As I work on care and maintenance activities in the camps or on community participation, I have seen many similarities between my activities and the training sessions. I believe I have a better understanding on what I should be doing in theory and in practical terms and how I can do better."

WASH partners receive training on sustainable fecal sludge management

To further improve the sanitary conditions in the refugee settlements and prevent potential disease transmission, **UNHCR has worked to build the capacities of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners** from UN sister agencies and non-governmental organizations through a **series of trainings on sanitation technologies and fecal sludge management (FSM)**. After an initial FSM in Emergencies training over two days for 48 participants and a related sludge transport training of 20 participants, both in May, UNHCR carried out the first three of five in-depth FSM in Emergencies trainings with 70 participants. Two more trainings are scheduled for 26 and 28 August. UNHCR, together with Oxfam, have played a leading role in sanitation and FSM since November 2017.

UNHCR took on this role as it is committed to sustainable FSM solutions, which improve sanitation services to refugees, reduce public health risks, and reduce long-term costs. In addition to the ongoing trainings, UNHCR has **led the push for improved latrine quality standards** and is working with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** on piloting sustainable sanitation solutions. A workshop with local, national and global experts from 3 to 4 June 2018 has helped lay the groundwork and pilot development is ongoing.

Progress on refugee registration and verification

The **joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR verification of Rohingya refugees continues**. By 15 August, **over 12,800 individuals had been verified** and provided with individual ID cards with smart anti-fraud features. The cards provide enhanced protection and efficient access to services and assistance in Bangladesh. It also affirms the Bangladesh government's commitment against forced return to Myanmar. A **frequently asked questions (FAQs) document** based on questions posed by refugees has been released in English, Bangla, and Myanmar. Information dissemination through community meetings and

meetings with elders and community leaders continue with the aim of ensuring that refugees receive correct information.

Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar

Almost 12 months after violence erupted in Rakhine State in western Myanmar, refugees continue flee to Bangladesh, but at a decreasing rate. New arrivals continue to raise their concerns about security in Rakhine State. They also cite disagreement over a requirement by the Myanmar Government to accept the National Verification Card (NVC) in Myanmar. Despite dangerous weather conditions affecting the water currents on the Naf River, most refugees still continue to arrive by boat.

More than half of the new arrivals reported that relatives remaining in Myanmar also plan to leave due to continued fears.

Since 1 January 2018:

12,936

have arrived in Cox's Bazar seeking safety

Most arrive by boat

via the southern peninsula of Cox's Bazar, including Sabrang and



Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs the 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 partnership with other agencies (WFP, UN-HABITAT, UNDP) and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with UN agencies and other 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). In close cooperation with IOM and UNDP, UNHCR is also providing tangible support to coordination efforts of local government entities in Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf. UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 23 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **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) | **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) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **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 1,000 **volunteers from the refugee community** who are **often the first responders on the ground**. UNHCR and partners have trained and work 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 response of the Government and people of Bangladesh is extraordinarily generous. More support is required from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response in Bangladesh for refugees and host communities. Continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation remain vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.




Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018) and unrestricted funding to global operations:



With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including 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.

CONTACTS: Dalal Al Sharhan, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, sharhand@unhcr.org
 Mai Hosoi, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, hosoi@unhcr.org

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