

# BANGLADESH

05 – 20 June 2018

Landslides, flooding, and water-logging from very heavy monsoon rains affected roads, shelters, and camp services in refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar from 10-15 June. Since 11 May, **monsoon weather has damaged some 3,310 shelters, 22 water points and 300 latrines**, impacting the lives of over 28,450 refugees, with 1 death and 32 injuries.

A Site Maintenance Engineering Project (**SMEP**) [by UNHCR, WFP, IOM] has been **repairing and rehabilitating damaged roads, culverts, bridges and drainage channels** in Kutupalong site since 10 June. The central access road in the settlement was impassable as a result of the heavy rains, but the condition has improved to allow assistance in.

The first **21 families (87 individuals) were relocated** from high-risk locations to **new flat-land in Kutupalong (Camp 4 Extension)** on 18 June. UNHCR and partners continue to prepare safe relocation areas for refugees who are currently at risk of flooding and landslides. As of 18 June, 16,429 refugees living in areas at high-risk of landslides had been relocated to safer areas by UNHCR and IOM.

## POPULATION FIGURES

**887,661** Total number of refugees in Bangladesh

**721,641** Estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017

## STAFFING & PARTNERS

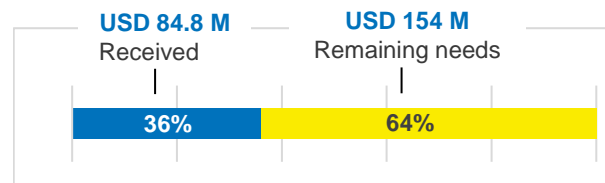
**280** staff currently working on the emergency compared to 49 prior to the crisis. **191** are national staff.

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

## FUNDING

**USD 238.8 million**

Requested for UNHCR's emergency response in 2018.



Funding update: June 19, 2018



A joint UNHCR/WFP/IOM engineering project (SMEP) repairing roads in Kutupalong after heavy monsoon rains in mid-June. Photo: © UNHCR/S. O'Brien

## Refugee arrival trends

Since January 2018, 9,450 refugees have arrived in Bangladesh, with 164 individuals arriving in the last two weeks<sup>1</sup>. Travelling from Myanmar by boat, refugees continue to cross the border into Bangladesh primarily through the southernmost tip of the peninsula that lies across from Myanmar.

Most of the new arrivals (71%) arrived from Maungdaw, and Buthidaung or other places (29%).

More than half of them are women and children. The Bangladesh Army, UNHCR, and partners have maintained basic services in Sabrang for new arrivals, which includes health screening and food assistance, especially important as many refugees undertake the difficult journey with limited supplies or fall sick on the way.

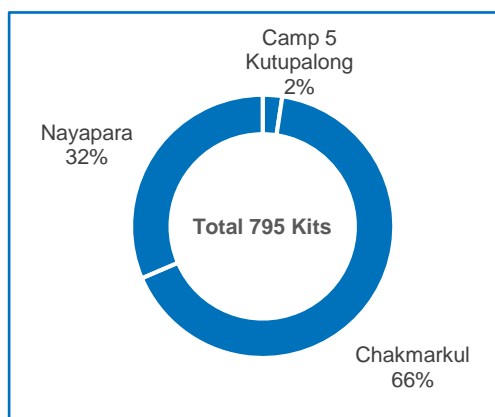


## Preparedness and response to monsoon and cyclone

**UNHCR response to monsoon emergency:** During 5-20 June, heavy rainfall across Cox's Bazar resulted in 132 incidents of landslides, flooding and water-logging. Strong winds also created challenges. About 4,237 households (18,709 individuals) were affected, with 2,134 shelters damaged in all camps. The main arterial road, known as the 'Army Road', fell away in several parts and was inaccessible for days as repair works were underway. This hampered the delivery of assistance.

Roads, footpaths and bridges were also damaged inside the camps, restricting movement and access to facilities and basic services.

In Teknaf sub-district, a newly constructed dam collapsed during a heavy downpour in Nayapara refugee settlement. Parts of some sites, including Nayapara and Unchiprang, were inundated, which prompted the evacuation of a number of refugee households to higher ground.



Post-monsoon kits distributed by UNHCR per area.

UNHCR and partners, together with the Bangladesh authorities, are responding to the needs and doing repair works. While the SMEP teams and the Army were quickly repairing the main road, UNHCR distributed over 795 post-disaster kits, containing sleeping mats, plastic tarpaulins, buckets, rope and wire, and aquatabs (water purification tablets), in three camps during 12 - 20 June to respond to the refugees most affected by the monsoon incidents so they could repair their shelters.

As of 20 June, UNHCR and partners had distributed around 83,900 upgraded shelter kits, comprising tarpaulin, bamboos, rope, sandbags and tools, and over 37,280 tie-down kits that

<sup>1</sup> Information on arrivals at border points are reported through various sources which cannot always be verified or confirmed.

include rope and steel pegs for families to reinforce their shelters and anchor them to the ground (for better protection from high winds). Affected refugees were also supported through partners to obtain core relief item kits, comprising kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, buckets, blankets, solar lights, jerry cans, sleeping mats, and dried food.



UNHCR's Representative in Bangladesh examining the monsoon response in Cox's Bazar. Roads affected by the heavy rain being repaired by SMEP, a joint UNHCR/WFP/IOM engineering project, and Bangladesh Army. Photo: ©UNHCR/S. O'Brien

UNHCR protection staff and partners worked closely during the rains with volunteers from the refugee community to identify refugees in need of assistance and help move people, when needed, to safer areas. As of 20 June, 3,310 households were temporarily accommodated in communal structures such as Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs), Safe Spaces for Women, Child-Friendly Spaces, and community centers, while injured persons received medical treatment at healthcare centers inside the camps.

**Deployment of Protection rapid response team:** Eight Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams, working under the Protection Working Group led by UNHCR, were deployed. The teams, comprising 48 Protection specialists from different Protection Working Group agencies, including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SBGV) and Child Protection experts,

were deployed to seven camps during the heavy monsoon rains from 10 to 14 June and assisted in ensuring emergency protection concerns were taken into consideration in the response activities covering health, shelter, WASH, food, logistics and other services. PERU members also monitored some children who had been placed temporarily in madrasas and other community shelters where they were looked after while their parents or caregivers sought to repair their shelters or queued to receive assistance.

**Refugees relocated to safe place:** As of 20 June, 3,647 families (16,690 individuals<sup>2</sup>) at high risk of landslide had been relocated to safer areas. UNHCR assisted 648 of these families directly (2,908 individuals).

A significant development has been the start of relocations to newly available flat land in an extension area provided by the Bangladesh Government for monsoon response. On Monday 18 June, 21 families (87 individuals) moved to the new extension to the west of Kutupalong settlement. Relocations to other new settlements by IOM continue apace with the installation of shelters and basic facilities. UNHCR is supporting IOM's efforts with 500 tents to be used as emergency shelters for



Twenty-one refugee families, who lived in areas at risk of flood and landslides, are moving to Camp 4 extension, a new settlement in Kutupalong in Ukhiya sub-district. © UNHCR/Patrick Brown

<sup>2</sup> This figure includes relocations to available plots within the existing settlements as well as to new land, facilitated by UNHCR, IOM or any others. It also includes an extra 1,258 refugees who were found at high risk during verification on the ground in addition to the initially estimated 41,705 refugees at high risk of landslide.



relocations. The number of refugees to be urgently relocated will likely increase throughout monsoon season.

UNHCR and partners estimate that at least 200,000 people are at risk of flooding and/or landslides during the monsoon season, out of which 41,705 individuals were identified to be at critical risk of landslides and in urgent need of relocation.

**Water contamination after monsoon rains:** Water trucking in Nayapara refugee settlement, which had been necessary for a short period, has stopped as of 11 June. During the dry season, water was distributed to various locations through water trucking to overcome a water shortage problem that annually afflicts this area, including for the host community. Heavy rainfall has replenished water stocks. However, heavy rains have increased the turbidity of surface water and increased the risks of contamination of groundwater, necessitating secondary treatment. UNHCR is working with WASH actors to scale-up chlorination at the water point level and distribute water purification tablets.

## Refugee protection and response

**Camp leadership elected:** Female refugees were elected as Camp Leader and Deputy Leader in Shalbagan, an extension area of Nayapara refugee settlement in Teknaf. UNHCR has welcomed the successful election and the support of the Government of Bangladesh Camp-in-Charge in establishing representative refugee leadership (for over 42,000 refugees) and providing a strong and credible forum for refugee participation in camp governance. The refugee representatives serve an important function as channels of information between refugees and others, including agencies working to assist refugees.



*A volunteer refugee who is a Community Outreach Member (COM) speaks with a group of refugees to raise their awareness about the dangers of landslides. © UNHCR*

**Learning activities interrupted by rains:** Five temporary learning centers in various camps managed by UNHCR were damaged by the monsoon rains and interrupted the learning activities of 600 children. A system aimed at monitoring and reporting the real-time impact of the monsoon on education facilities has been put in place to ensure the better safety of children and teaching staff. A mechanism has also been put in place for the learning centers to be used only as a last resort for temporary evacuation during emergency events to minimize the disruption of learning activities. Safe learning spaces remain a vital element of child protection work, particularly important given the sizable refugee child population in Cox's Bazar.

**Engaging men in SGBV interventions:** About 40 staff members from two NGOs, Relief International and BRAC, attended UNHCR-organized workshops for male engagement facilitators, as part of efforts to step-up SGBV prevention activities. Sessions provided guidance on UNHCR's approach for engaging men in SGBV interventions within the refugee community. Participants are expected to be role models and agents of change in the community, and be able to engage other men and boys to prevent SGBV incidents.

## World Refugee Day (20 June 2018)

For World Refugee Day, several events were organized at the community level by refugees and partners in the settlements, including a peace rally, cooking competition, volleyball and football tournaments, as

well as talent shows, and dramatic performances. UNHCR in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) supported a drama performance and a puppet show by Elephant Response Teams to raise awareness about elephant-human contact and how to mitigate dangers, as well as protect the estimated 45 critically-endangered Asian elephants from harm and support their survival.



Refugee children and adolescents, with the help of IUCN, perform a puppet show on the occasion of World Refugee Day to raise awareness about elephant-human incidents. © UNHCR/Patrick Brown












In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR in collaboration with partners and local artists held a cultural event at the town's Cultural Center, where the art and handicrafts of Rohingya refugees, in addition to local artists, were exhibited. Human Flow – a documentary directed by Ai Wei Wei was screened. The film focuses on the current global refugee crisis.

In Dhaka, a week-long art exhibition on Rohingya refugees was organized to run from 20-28 June in collaboration with the Cox's Bazar Art Club and the Liberation War Museum's art gallery. Titled as "Art for Humanity: The Flight and Resilience of the Rohingya", the exhibition will conclude on 28 June with a panel discussion on the Bangladesh's '1971 Refugee Experience: Reflections on Past and Present'.

## Working in partnership

At Dhaka level, UNHCR co-chairs the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. UNHCR leads the protection response for all refugees, and heads a Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR coordinates its delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners through various working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR works with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and Camp-in-Charge officials in different settlements. In close cooperation with IOM and UNDP, UNHCR is also providing tangible support to coordination efforts of local government entities in Cox's Bazar, Ukhia and Teknaf. UNHCR also works closely with a range of international and national actors in Bangladesh. It has a partnership network of 26 partners, both international and national actors:

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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>238.8 m</b>

**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) | **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) | **MDMR** (Ministry of Disaster Management) | **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) | **WFP** (World Food Programme)

In 2018, UNHCR is increasing national and local sourcing of goods and services.

## Donor Support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh is extraordinarily generous. More support is required from the international community to assist Bangladesh in its humanitarian response to the refugee situation. UNHCR has called for support for refugees and host communities, as well as continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation. On 16 March, a Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis was launched, calling for USD 951 million to continue delivering lifesaving assistance from March-December 2018. As of 4 June, only 19.8% (USD 188.5 million) has been funded, as reported by the Financial Tracking Service.

UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8 million as part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018 in order to continue to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees who are now in the midst of a harsh monsoon season.

### Donor country contributions to the UNHCR Bangladesh operation in 2017 and 2018, and unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations



With thanks also to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, IKEA Foundation, 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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