

Bangladesh

6 October 2017

Over **half a million Rohingya refugees** have fled from Myanmar into Bangladesh since 25 August 2017. Most of them are women and children with urgent needs.

A majority of the newly arrived refugees settled around existing camps and host communities, where **services and infrastructures** are insufficient.

UNHCR has expanded its **operational response beyond the existing camps** to reach all refugees. It is stepping up its **central protection role** including in registration and will continue to **increase its assistance** to refugees and host communities.

KEY INDICATORS

515,000*

Estimated new arrivals into Bangladesh since 25 August 2015

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

83,7 Million USD requested to fund UNHCR's emergency response

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND STAFF INCREASE

77 Staff deployed on emergency mission

and

42 Staff newly recruited locally to support the 49 staff already present in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar at onset of the crisis



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Myanmar refugee caseload in Bangladesh

Estimated refugee population in Bangladesh (before 25 August 2017) **307,500**

Estimated new arrivals since 25 August 2017 **515,000**

TOTAL: **822,500**

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

Update On Achievements

Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, over **half a million refugees have fled violence** in northern Rakhine state in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh. They settled in areas where an estimated 307,500 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar were already living, bringing the total number of refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh to over 820,000, including:

- Some 35,000 new arrivals have settled in two existing refugee camps, Kutupalong and Nayapara, doubling the pre-25 August 2017 population (33,000 refugees), and thus putting serious pressure on existing resources. Together with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), UNHCR has been providing protection and assistance to registered refugees in these camps for several decades.
- An estimated 150,000 new arrivals have settled in host communities and immediate relief is also needed to scale up existing services and infrastructures to support their urgent needs.
- Finally, over 285,000 newly arrived refugees have settled in existing makeshift settlements around the refugee camps, where some 274,000 refugees were living already. These “unregistered” refugees arrived prior to 2017 and were labelled as “undocumented Myanmar nationals” by Bangladeshi authorities. The new arrivals, have little or no access to aid, including safe drinking water, food, shelter and healthcare.

Access to the refugees, especially those living in the new spontaneous settlements, is very limited due to the the difficult terrain and the lack of basic transport infrastructure. These dire conditions inhibit the prompt delivery of assistance, creating a fertile ground for the spreading of water borne diseases.



Achievements



PROTECTION

Protection

The **Protection group** led by UNHCR is mapping out current protection activities and gaps and scaling up significantly its engagement in all refugee settlements. Access to safety, registration of all refugees and access to documentation, identification and protection measures for particularly vulnerable groups and individuals, response and prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and the provision of psychosocial support are amongst key protection priorities.

For example, as part of the SGBV sub-group, UNHCR, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted a training for programme coordinators to harmonize the setting up and running of safe spaces in new refugee settlements areas.

Achievements and Impact

- A joint family counting exercise, led by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and supported by UNHCR, was launched on 4 October in Balukhali. A joint team of around 114 staff is collecting information on families, including vulnerabilities and specific needs, and geo-localising them through a mobile device. Refugee families will receive a RRRC card. The data collected could be used to harmonize assistance distribution from different actors. It could also be a useful baseline data for site planning (providing, for instance, information on density per community and community boundaries). Over 2,111 families (approximately 10,000 individuals) were identified and geo-localized so far. The RRRC and UNHCR are planning to start by mapping out the entire Kutupalong and Balukhali settlements, where over 350,000 refugees are estimated to have settled. Meanwhile, UNHCR continues to support the Ministry of Home Affairs' led biometrics enrolment and to advocate for better data collection standards.
- UNHCR is scaling up its ongoing and planned protection activities and expanding its partner network in registered refugee camps and in new refugee settlements. UNHCR deployed three mobile field units to refugee settlements to coordinate and monitor the prompt delivery of assistance and to identify persons with specific needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many refugees have experienced violence and traumatic events and are in need of support. Proper identification of those most in need is a priority. Rape, human trafficking, and survival sex have been reported among the existing perils for women and girls during flight. UNHCR's immediate protection response is focusing on registration, facilitating access to protection services, prevention and response to SGBV and addressing the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children and others with specific needs.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR's first diarrhoea treatment centre (20 beds) is now operational in Kutupalong. It was established in partnership with Gonoshathaya Kendra (GK) with the technical participation of Medical Teams International, under the Refugee Health Units. A second treatment centre should be operational by the end of the week in Nayapara. In total, UNHCR plans to open 4 to 6 diarrhoea treatment centres with a total capacity of 80 beds over the next six months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Malnutrition and acute watery diarrhoea are the most pressing health priorities. UNHCR's health emergency response aims at:
 1. developing and expanding a diarrhoea epidemic response by the end of October 2017;
 2. supporting the gradual transition from mobile health services to five primary health care centres (including mental health and reproductive health, among others); and,
 3. supporting the ministry of health in strengthening the national health system.



**WATER AND SANITATION****Achievements and Impact**

- In just over five weeks, UNHCR and its partners have built more than 350 latrines and a total of 55 tube-wells. This means that over 17,800 refugees now have access to latrines and over 23,500 to water. UNHCR will sustain its effort to ensure the provision of safe water and appropriate sanitation facilities, with the objective to reach 250,000 refugees within the next six months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To avoid the spreading of water-borne diseases, there is an urgent need to scale up efforts to upgrade and build WASH facilities and to increase community awareness with preventive health measures.

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

- An estimated 9,000 families, representing a total of over 45,000 refugees, have received tarpaulins in order to build shelters from UNHCR and its partners so far. UNHCR is developing a shelter kit including bamboo poles, rope and tools in addition to tarpaulins, which will be distributed over the next weeks to cover the shelter needs of over 250,000 refugees in total.
- So far, 5,826 families have received UNHCR's core relief items kits. This represents almost 30,000 people who received core relief items so far, against a total 250,000 people targeted to receive assistance over the next six months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Difficult access combined with bad weather due to the rainy season are limiting the delivery of much needed assistance. UNHCR is scaling up its warehousing and supply capacities to speed up delivery.

**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT****Achievements and Impact**

- With the support of UNHCR, the road construction to provide access to Kutupalong extension site is progressing. The army has opened 1.5 km of road, at one end (the south of Balukhali). From the north, the army upgraded about 2km of the existing road track and has now started to level the ground to build the new road across vegetation and paddy fields. The road connecting Kutupalong Extension site to the main road leading to Cox's Bazar will be approximately 5km long. The RRRC estimated that USD 4.2 million is required to build a network of over 20 km of roads and pathways, which will facilitate access to the new refugee settlements. UNCHR contributed USD 2 million so far.
- UNHCR, together with other agencies, is part of the Physical site planning Task Force supporting the RRRC to develop a comprehensive site plan for the 2000 acres of Kutupalong Extension site. The task force so far developed maps for a road network and zoning (maps are available [here](#)). The next step is to reach an agreement with the RRRC on settlement design parameters, so that detailed design and site preparation for the unoccupied zones can commence.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Agreeing on settlement parameters in line with minimum standards will be a challenge considering the limited size and geography of the 2000 acres so far envisaged to host over half a million refugees.



With the support for UNHCR, the Bangladeshi authorities are building a road network to facilitate access to refugees settlements in Kutupalong. Construction started with a 5km road to connect the settlements to the main road leading to Cox's Bazar. 2017 © UNHCR / Philipp Huebner



LOGISTICS

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has delivered five humanitarian airlifts which were loaded with supplies such as tents, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and kitchen sets. A sixth airlift is being scheduled.

Working in partnership

- 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 office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the local representative of the MoDMR.
- UNHCR is assuming its role in the protection response for all refugees and convened the first Protection Working Group held this week in Cox's Bazar. Coordinating closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and partners, UNHCR collaborates to the various sector working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.

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