

BANGLADESH

03 November 2017

Since 25 August 2017, refugees, including women, children and the elderly fled Rakhine State in Myanmar. Many walked days to reach Bangladesh.

The majority of the newly arrived settled in/around existing camps and/or host communities. **Services and infrastructure remain insufficient.**

UNHCR **established a transit site** and **relocated the latest arrivals to a new zone** in an effort to decongest existing refugee settlements.

POPULATION FIGURES

607,000* estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017

307,500 estimated refugee population before the influx

914,500 estimated total refugee population

STAFFING TOTAL

219 Total staff as compared to **49** prior to the crisis

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

FUNDING (AS OF 03 NOVEMBER 2017)

USD 83.7 M

Requested for UNHCR's emergency response in **Bangladesh for the next six months**

USD 38.3 M
Received

USD 45.4 M
Remaining funding

46%

54%



Scenes of daily life and food distribution in Unchiprang spontaneous refugee settlement.(c) UNHCR / Roger Arnold

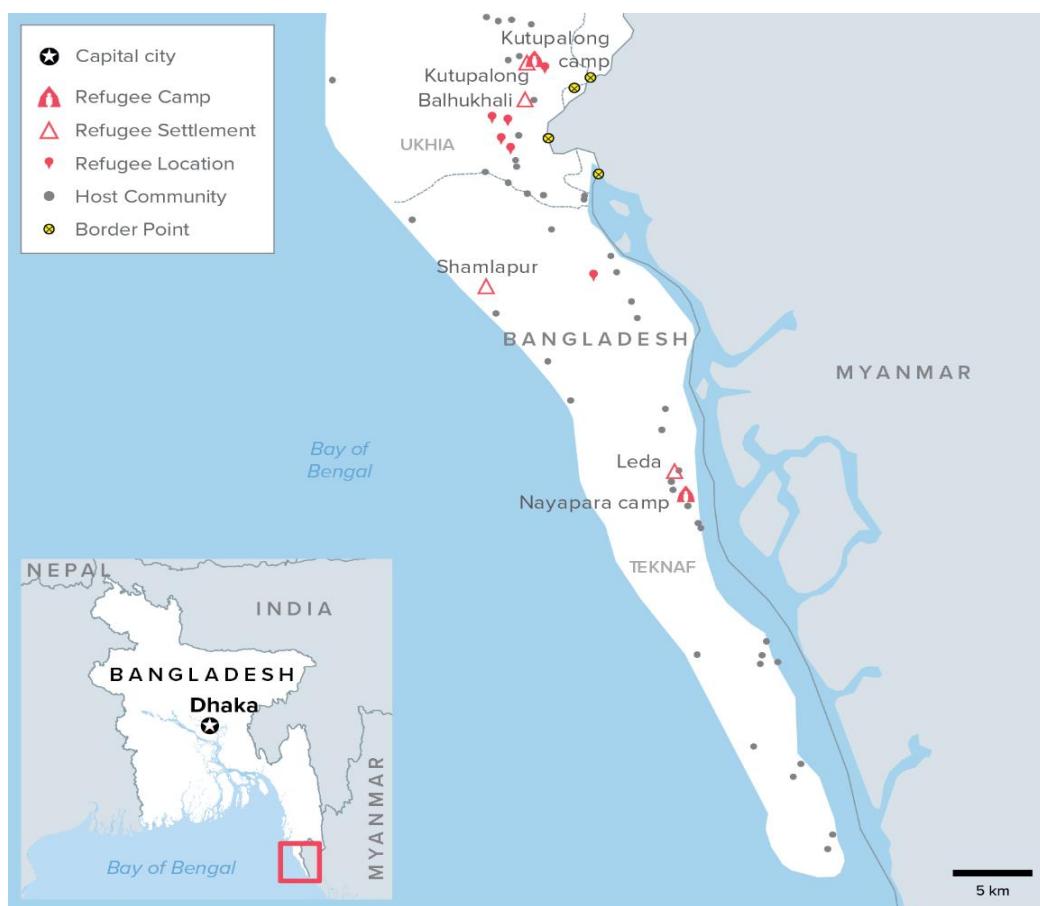
Operational Context

Since 25 August 2017, over **600,000 Rohingya refugees fled** violence and human rights violations in northern Rakhine state in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh. This brings the **total number of refugees in Bangladesh close to a million**.

The newly arrived refugees have settled in the border areas in the South-East of Bangladesh, where an estimated 307,500 refugees from Myanmar were already living. The weather conditions, uneven terrain and the lack of basic infrastructure, notably roads, impedes access to the refugees. Especially those living in spontaneous settlements constructed on the side of hills, under makeshift shelters made from bamboo and plastic sheeting.

Refugees continue to cross into Bangladesh for safety as UNHCR continues to scale up its activities, working with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance and support host populations affected by this crisis.

In preparation for additional influxes, UNHCR is site planning in the remaining empty zones in Kutupalong extension site to ensure basic infrastructure is in place prior to new arrivals. This versus other areas where site planning efforts are constrained due to large numbers of refugees that spontaneously self-settled at the start of the influx.



Operational Update

**PROTECTION****Achievements & Impact**

IMPROVED RECEPTION

To support the reception of new arrivals and ensure their access to basic services, UNHCR established an **operational transit centre** close to Kutupalong Camp. Designed with the local authorities and partners, the centre will decongest key population access points and support the authorities to ensure safety and security in these areas. After being given health checks, food, water and basic supplies for a few days the refugees move out of the transit centre to settle in their own shelters.

- **Decongestion:** In an effort to decongest existing sites, UNHCR is assisting with the **relocation of approximately 1,000 families** of newly arrived refugees to a new site in Kutupalong extension. This exercise, which started on 25 October, will be completed in early to mid-November. UNHCR has demarcated space for partners to build distribution points, community centres, health posts, schools and child-friendly spaces. Each family receives household items and shelter kits that contain plastic sheets, bamboo poles and ropes. Medical partners screen the new arrivals while volunteers assist the *most vulnerable* in carrying their belongings to the new site and construction of shelters.
- **Border monitoring:** UNHCR conducts regular **border monitoring missions to all border points**, including Anjumanpara and entry points along the southern tip of Bangladesh, Shah Porir Dwip. The team works through an extensive network of contacts, including local community members, fishermen, boatmen, refugees, religious leaders and authorities to triangulate information on potential new arrivals.
- **Information & participation:** UNHCR is setting up **information points** in strategic locations throughout the settlements to inform refugees on services and assistance available. Managed by partners and trained Community Outreach Volunteers these points also allow refugees to provide feedback on assistance and refer persons at risk for appropriate care.
- **Community-based protection:** UNHCR is launching a **community assessment** to consult refugees and partners on protection priorities and proposed solutions. Priorities include protection and assistance concerns, coping mechanisms, solutions and information needs and gaps. Through this exercise UNHCR also identifies additional potential volunteers for protection and information outreach activities and services.
- **Data & protection analysis:** The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC)'s **Family Counting exercise**, supported by UNHCR, has counted over 107,000 families and **over 464,000 individuals**. It is expected to be completed early November.

Over 30% of families counted have easily-identifiable vulnerabilities, notably female-headed households, older persons at risk, family members with a disability and/or a serious medical condition.

PROTECTION COORDINATION

As the overall lead on protection for this refugee response UNHCR chairs the **Protection Working Group (PWG)**. Current key work streams include:

1. **Finalisation and utilisation of protection messages and guidance for the authorities when relocating refugees.**
2. **Protection incident monitoring, mapping of existing/evolving protection services and development of referral pathways in close coordination with child protection and sexual and gender-based violence subsectors.**
3. **Collaboration with the Site Management Sector to ensure vital protection infrastructure facilities are prioritised as part of the planning process. This also includes input to the cyclone preparedness plan led by the ISCG.**

Identified Needs & Remaining Gaps

- Many refugees have experienced violent and traumatic events and are in need of specific support. Rigorous identification of those *most* in need remains a priority.
- Rape, human trafficking, and survival sex are reported among the existing perils for women and girls during flight. Communal lighting and separate WASH facilities are also urgently needed to ensure safety and security of all refugees, notably women and girls.



EDUCATION

Achievements & Impact

- **Five out of 12 schools in Kutupalong Camp and eight out of 11 in Nayapara Camp reopened.** UNHCR continues to relocate refugees out of schools so as resume education in all schools.
- UNHCR works with partners to standardise the education curriculum in refugee settlements. This includes establishing an amended programme for newly arrived refugees for the remainder of the school year.



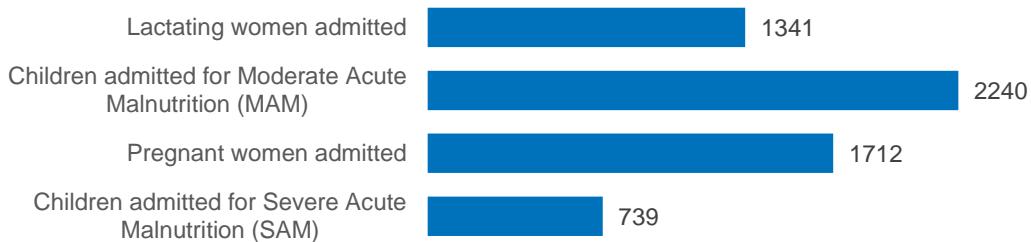
HEALTH

Achievements & Impact

- From an initial two health facilities prior 25 August in Kutupalong and Nayapara Camps, UNHCR has scaled-up to deliver a total of **nine health facilities**. Four more health facilities are soon to be established.
- Amongst other activities, UNHCR conducted **reproductive health assessments** in the aforementioned facilities, providing basic emergency obstetric care and on-the-job training and supervision of health staff.

- UNHCR and partners have also established **outpatient therapeutic programmes** in Kutupalong, Nayapara, Baghona and Karantuli. To-date, 863 children were admitted for severe acute malnutrition. Numbers of children admitted and the results from the screening indicate high levels of malnutrition across the refugee settlements.

Number of persons admitted for malnutrition treatment



Identified Needs & Remaining Gaps

- Acute malnutrition and watery diarrhoea remain the **most pressing health priorities**.
- Other health challenges include **lack of ambulances** to transfer patients to the closest hospitals, **limited services** for pregnant women and training for medical staff and community health workers.



Scenes of daily life and food distribution in Unchiprang spontaneous refugee settlement.(c) UNHCR /



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements & Impact

- **Collectively**, the WASH responding agencies (including UNHCR) have constructed a total of **10,386 functioning latrines and 4140 functioning handpumps**. This means a ratio of 59 persons per functioning latrine, which approaches the emergency target of 50 persons per latrine and 149 persons per functioning handpump, the latter well within the emergency target of 500 persons per handpump. As part of this overall response UNHCR and partners have supplied 925 latrines and 166 hand pumps to ensure **46,250 refugees have access to latrines and 83,000 to water**.
- In Kutupalong extension and Nayapara, UNHCR **with the various WASH partners** continue to map out existing water and sanitation facilities and provides technical guidance to WASH actors to address standards.

Identified Needs & Remaining Gaps

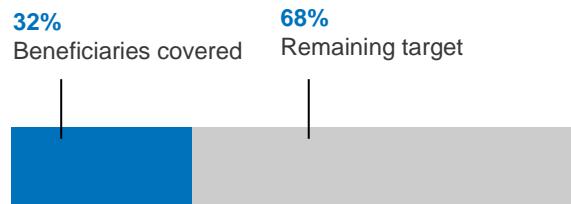
- The spread of water-borne diseases remains a constant threat. In connection, **space continues to be an issue** in relation to WASH and not building latrines close to water points.
- To **address the risk of water contamination, hydrogeological studies and geophysical surveys** are underway to identify deep aquifers for long term sustainable water supplies.
- Many of the recently constructed latrines are rapidly filling up so UNHCR is **developing more sustainable latrines**.



SHELTER & NFIS

Achievements & Impact

- Approximately 25,000 families (135,000 individuals) received tarpaulins in order to build their own shelters. Assuming approval from the RRRC, UNHCR will proceed with a **cash for shelter pilot project** for 12,000 households. The plan is to implement the pilot this year before scaling-up cash interventions in 2018.
- So far, a total 16,300 families (81,500 individuals) have received UNHCR's core relief items kits.
- **Contingency planning** is underway as part of the site planning process. This includes **flood and slope risk analysis**. Areas of significant risk are being identified with mitigation through drainage, terracing and awareness raising as part of an advocacy approach through communicating with communities, Government of Bangladesh and partners.



Identified Needs & Remaining Gaps

- Further scaling up of the shelter response remains a priority to meet a target of 45,000 households (135,000 individuals) through direct assistance and partner implementation in Kutupalong, Nayapara and the spontaneous settlement sites.
- An increased demand for certain material, notably bamboo, has resulted in significant inflation. Cash-based interventions should be implemented gradually so as not to distort the market.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Achievements & Impact

- UNHCR has developed a site plan for a vacant plot in Kutupalong extension site. It covers 350,000 meters squared and is expected to host around 5,000 people (55 to 60 square meters per person). This site is located close to the road the Army is building with UNHCR's support. The plan is it be used as a "model" for replication in other zones, land permitting.
- Through the Shelter Sector Working Group, UNHCR and partners conducted an assessment of shelter upgrade needs as part of a strategy to help refugees build better/safer shelters.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Immediate risk mitigation measures, which includes site cleaning and waste management are required before the winter season. ISCG initiated a process for cyclone preparedness and is developing a contingency plan to which UNHCR contributes.
- An assessment of community structure is needed to assess how to reinforce buildings used as safe areas in view of the next rainy/cyclone season (April 2018).

Working in Partnership

- UNHCR supports the Government of Bangladesh's efforts in providing protection and assistance to all refugees. Its principal government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), who leads the emergency refugee response in coordination with the district authorities. At the sub-national level in Cox's Bazar, UNHCR collaborates with the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the local representative of the MoDMR.
- UNHCR works with international/national NGOs in Bangladesh. To-date its partnership network stands at 21 partners, including nine national NGOs.

- UNHCR leads the protection response for all refugees, coordinating closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners, through the various sector working groups of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.

External/Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

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CONTACTS

Showvik Das Tamal, Associate External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh,
TAMAL@unhcr.org, Tel: +880 17 7874 5379

Vivian Tan, Senior Regional Public Information Officer, UNHCR Bangkok (Regional Office), TANV@unhcr.org, Tel: +66 2 342 3503

LINKS

[UNHCR operation page](http://www.unhcr.org)