

BANGLADESH

| Working environment |

● The context

Bangladesh is host to refugees from an ethnic, linguistic and religious minority in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State, and which constitutes one of the most protracted refugee situations in the world. Some 28,700 refugees reside in the two camps of Kutupalong and Nayapara in the south-eastern district of Cox's Bazar. They represent the residual population of the 250,000 refugees who arrived in 1991, most of whom subsequently repatriated. In addition, the Government has estimated that another 200,000 unregistered persons of concern from Myanmar live in Bangladesh without any legal status, mostly in the villages outside the camps.

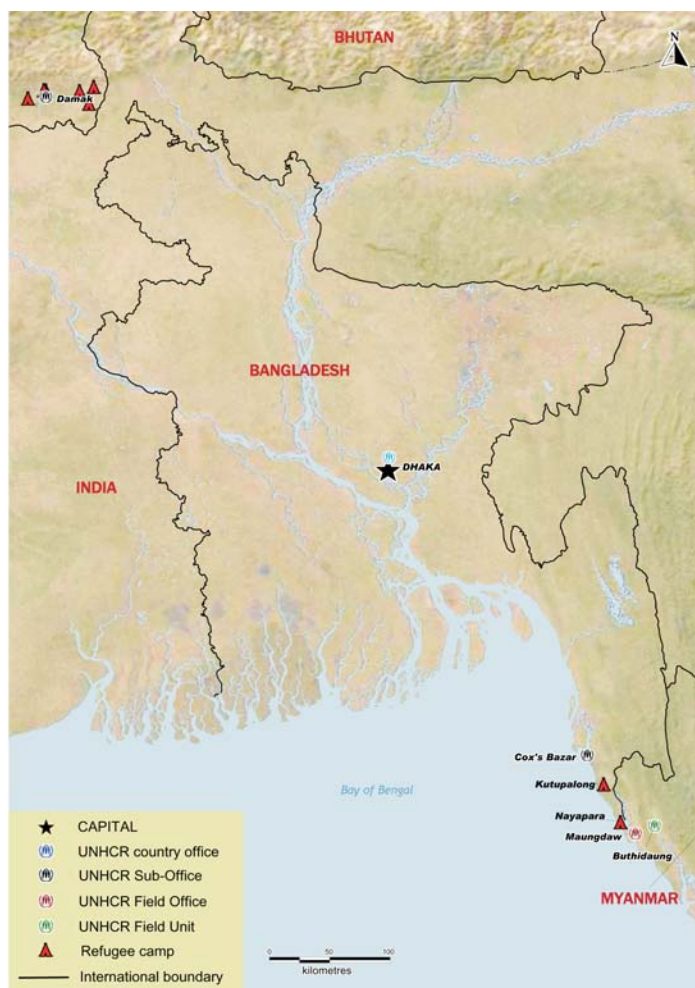
Though positive government policies have ensured some improvements in the situation of registered refugees over the past few years, their quality of life remains very poor. Moreover, a 3 per cent annual increase in poverty levels and high illiteracy and unemployment rates in the district, are contributing to a growth of hostility towards the refugees, affecting the unregistered population in particular. This has resulted in more than 28,000 unregistered persons of concern from Myanmar settling spontaneously outside Kutupalong camp, where they face high rates of malnutrition and poor sanitary conditions.

In the absence of a national refugee law, UNHCR determines the refugee status of a small number of urban asylum-seekers in Dhaka. Currently there are around 245 refugees supported by the urban refugee programme.

● The needs

UNHCR will continue its protection and assistance programmes for refugees from Myanmar's northern Rakhine State, and small numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas.

Despite tangible improvements in recent years, the living conditions of the refugees still do not meet minimum international standards. UNHCR will continue to assist in meeting basic needs in education, health, nutrition, sanitation, shelter and self-reliance, in anticipation of durable solutions. Community mobilization and self-management will be another important feature of UNHCR's programme in 2011.



In collaboration with the Government and other partners, UNHCR will aim to improve the situation of the host population and the unregistered population from Myanmar, mainly through community-based support. This will be critical in reducing growing tensions between refugee and host communities.

| Strategy and activities in 2011 |

UNHCR's regional strategy towards the Muslim residents from Myanmar's northern Rakhine State aims at stabilizing the

Planning figures for Bangladesh

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Myanmar	29,100	28,900	29,600	29,300
	Somalia	10	0	10	0
	Sri Lanka	10	0	10	0
	Various	10	0	20	0
People in a refugee-like situation	Myanmar	200,000	0	200,000	0
Total		229,130	28,900	229,640	29,300

communities in the countries where they currently reside, while addressing the root causes of their displacement. In Bangladesh, in addition to improving the conditions in the camps, UNHCR and its partners will seek to ensure that basic services such as health care, education, and access to justice are provided to all people in the district, without discrimination.

● **Constraints**

UNHCR's strategy in Bangladesh is dependent on ensuring that the Government and host communities remain tolerant of the unregistered population from Myanmar in their midst. Moreover, refugees face restrictions on their freedom of movement and lack the right to work legally. This limits efforts aimed at promoting their self-reliance and preparing them for eventual solutions, including voluntary repatriation.

Organization and implementation

● **Coordination**

UNHCR works closely with the Government of Bangladesh, especially with the Ministry for Food and Disaster Management. Support for the UN Joint Initiative to combat poverty in the refugee-hosting districts, and measures to encourage more national NGOs to work in these areas are of crucial importance to the Office's approach.



Some refugees from Myanmar are separated from their families and fall into the hands of human traffickers during their search for employment.

UNHCR / S. KRITSANAVARIN

To achieve its goals, UNHCR is working closely with other UN agencies, including WFP (food and nutrition), UNICEF (education, child protection and lead of the UN Joint Initiative) and UNFPA (reproductive health) as well as IOM (resettlement departures). The Office will continue working with humanitarian and development partners to adjust its programmes in order to benefit both refugees and the host community.

Main objectives and targets

Security from violence and exploitation

- Strengthen the protection of children.
 - ☞ All children with special needs receive support and assistance in the camps.

Community participation and self-management

- Strengthen and expand community self-management and the equal representation of women.
 - ☞ Some 40 per cent of the participants in management structures inside the camps are female.
- Strengthen community security management structures.
 - ☞ Approximately 75 per cent of conflicts are resolved through community resolution mechanisms.
 - ☞ The number and severity of incidents related to tensions between host and refugee communities are reduced.
 - ☞ Improve livelihoods and raise the level of self-reliance

- ☞ Some 25 per cent of adult refugees (aged 18 to 60) earn an income.

Basic needs and services

- Improve shelter and infrastructure.
 - ☞ All families of concern live in adequate dwellings.
 - ☞ All infrastructure for water and sanitation are completed.
- Improve or maintain the health of the population.
 - ☞ In-patient medical services are moved to sub-district health complexes to benefit refugees and host communities.
- Improve the nutritional status of the population.
 - ☞ Anaemia among women of reproductive age is reduced to 25 per cent.
 - ☞ The Global Acute Malnutrition rate is reduced to meet international standards.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	62
International	10
National	31
JPOs	1
UNVs	19
Others	1

Financial information

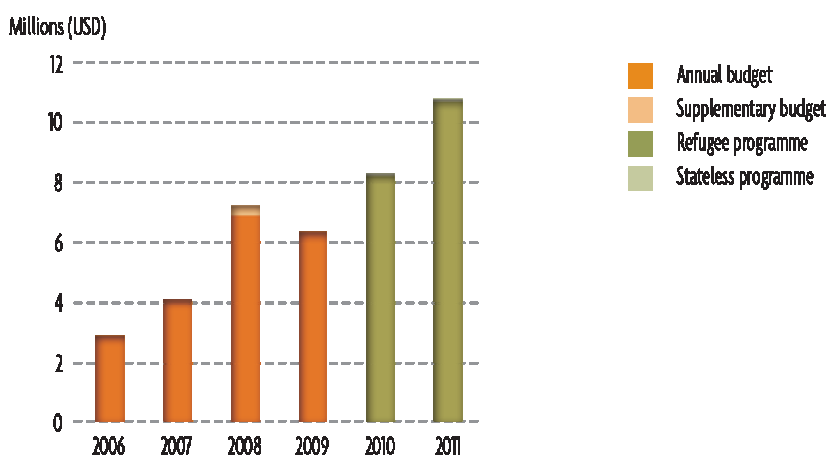
On average, 97 per cent of UNHCR's budget is allocated to the Myanmar refugee programme. Pending durable solutions for these refugees, UNHCR has focused on stabilizing the situation by providing basic assistance such as shelter, water, sanitation and health and education services.

In 2006 and 2007, health and nutrition required the largest proportion of resources. In 2008 and 2009, the replacement of old shelters and rehabilitation of basic camp infrastructure were the priorities. Since 2006, UNHCR has also invested in procuring basic household items for refugees, including

compressed rice husk and hygiene supplies, while the refugees have engaged in producing soap, clothing and household items to aid their self-reliance.

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MFDM)—the main Government counterpart—has been the largest recipient of financial support from UNHCR, with allocations reaching 39 per cent of UNHCR's operations budget in 2009. In 2011, the budget will have increased by some USD 2.5 million from 2010. Additional resources will be required to reinforce programmes in shelter, nutrition and self-reliance and livelihood support in the camps, as well as health for both refugees and the local population.

UNHCR's budget in Bangladesh 2006 – 2011



PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
Ministry for Health

NGOs:

Action Contre La Faim
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
Research Training and Management Institute
Technical Assistance Incorporated

Operational partners

NGOs:

Concern Worldwide
Handicap International
Solidarités

Others:

IOM
UNDP
UNFPA
UNICEF

2011 UNHCR Budget for Bangladesh (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
International and regional instruments	79,414	0	79,414
National legal framework	72,139	0	72,139
National development policies	0	27,322	27,322
Environmental protection	129,000	0	129,000
Emergency management	125,217	0	125,217
Subtotal	405,770	27,322	433,092
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Registration and profiling	256,253	0	256,253
Fair and efficient status determination	45,708	0	45,708
Subtotal	301,961	0	301,961
Security from violence and exploitation			
Impact on host communities	774,653	0	774,653
Law enforcement	158,437	0	158,437
Community security management system	121,205	0	121,205
Gender-based violence	122,904	0	122,904
Protection of children	99,728	0	99,728
Freedom of movement	97,902	0	97,902
Access to legal remedies	37,726	0	37,726
Subtotal	1,412,556	0	1,412,556
Basic needs and essential services			
Food security	73,985	0	73,985
Nutrition	945,464	0	945,464
Water	570,461	0	570,461
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,229,591	0	1,229,591
Basic domestic and hygiene items	753,926	0	753,926
Primary health care	1,237,402	0	1,237,402
HIV and AIDS	97,649	0	97,649
Education	567,165	0	567,165
Sanitation services	512,545	0	512,545
Services for groups with specific needs	26,191	0	26,191
Subtotal	6,014,380	0	6,014,380
Community participation and self-management			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	258,398	0	258,398
Community self-management and equal representation	121,759	0	121,759
Camp management and coordination	328,445	0	328,445
Self-reliance and livelihoods	550,712	0	550,712
Subtotal	1,259,314	0	1,259,314
Durable solutions			
Voluntary return	152,621	0	152,621
Resettlement	143,397	0	143,397
Subtotal	296,018	0	296,018
External relations			
Donor relations	11,932	0	11,932
Resource mobilisation	30,090	0	30,090
Public information	15,162	0	15,162
Subtotal	57,184	0	57,184
Logistics and operations support			
Supply chain and logistics	371,223	0	371,223
Programme management, coordination and support	606,888	0	606,888
Subtotal	978,110	0	978,110
Total	10,725,295	27,322	10,752,617
2010 Revised budget	8,231,150	49,593	8,280,743

Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Some 173 shelters for 6,500 refugees will not be completed.
- Global Acute Malnutrition and anaemia rates will not be brought down to manageable levels.
- Domestic and sexual violence, which is prevalent in the camps, will prove more difficult to prevent and address.
- Secondary movements to other countries, often by sea in dangerous conditions, will increase.
- Tensions between refugees and host communities will continue to rise, and more unregistered persons of concern from Myanmar will be forced out of their villages, or be driven to move illegally out of the country.
- Resources will be insufficient to move medical services from the camps to the district health centres to ensure that all persons have equal access to better medical care.