

Annual Results Report

2024

Bangladesh

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2024, the operational context for UNHCR in Bangladesh evolved amidst political, social, environmental and security challenges. The Rohingya refugee situation protracted further, with over one million refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, heavily dependent on humanitarian aid. Despite Bangladesh's continued commitment to hosting refugees, the response was impacted by security risks, civil unrests, natural disasters, fire hazards, and reduced funding.

In January, Bangladesh held general elections, resulting in continued Awami League leadership. However, student protests led to the ousting of the government and the formation of an interim government in early August. The new government reaffirmed its commitment to the voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya refugees. However, bilateral negotiations with Myanmar remained stalled as the conflict between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar Armed Forces intensified, leading to a sharp increase in the number of refoulement-related cases at the border in the second half of the year as the Interim Government continued to hold Bangladesh's closed border policy but also new arrivals in the camps. Security in the Rohingya camps further deteriorated in 2024, with increased violence at the hands of organized groups, posing protection risks for refugees and humanitarian workers. Misinformation and disinformation fueled negative perceptions of refugees. UNHCR advocated for a Peace & Security Campaign in the camps, launched in October by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC).

Extreme weather events continued to threaten both host communities and refugees in 2024. In Cox's Bazar, heavy rains triggered landslides and flooding, damaging shelters and facilities and causing loss of life. The temporary nature of shelters, due to the restrictive policy on shelter materials, continued to expose refugees to heightened fire risks.

Despite ongoing challenges, UNHCR remains focused on advocating for sustainable response, maintaining critical humanitarian assistance, and strengthening partnerships with the Government of Bangladesh, donors, and development actors.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By the end of 2025, forcibly displaced and stateless people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to protect their rights and live in safe, enabling environment that uphold basic rights

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100%	93.34%

While the conflict continued to intensify in Myanmar, Bangladesh continued its closed border policy, reinforcing its surveillance and patrols across the border. As a result, UNHCR recorded more than 7,000 Rohingyas fleeing from conflict who were allegedly subjected to refoulement-related incidents in 2024. Since February 2024, UNHCR has steered collective advocacy efforts at the interagency level, sharing data and key findings on the border situation on a weekly basis. These efforts led to the approval of a head-count exercise of new arrivals in the camps in October, recording some 65,000 individuals, and their biometric identification by the end of December. UNHCR has also reestablished its relationship with the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB), resulting in a workshop for BGB personnel in January 2025, which was the first to take place since 2019.

While refugees continued to face restrictions on movements outside of the camps, as a result of continuing advocacy, familiarization of authorities with refugee's documentation and implementation of the relevant case law, the number of refugees arrested for violating the Bangladeshi Foreigners Act remained low for the second consecutive year. With the national law and order jeopardized by the revolution, safety and security in the camps rapidly deteriorated. In 2024, UNHCR verified 909 cases, including 75 killings, which represented a 48% increase compared to 2023. In addition, UNHCR and IOM recorded 1,750 refugees reportedly forcibly recruited to fight in Myanmar by organised groups.

In response, UNHCR reinforced its case management capacity, providing support to more than 9,000 refugees through counselling, referrals and other protection interventions. Additionally, UNHCR strengthened its engagement with civil authorities, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary to improve law and order in the camps. UNHCR also spearheaded the interagency Peace & Security campaign, officially launched in October by the RRRC, to promote peacebuilding, trust and engagement with the security sector.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By the end of 2025, refugees live in healthy environments, are meaningfully engaged in the planning, design and implementation of humanitarian interventions, and have an increased capacity to adapt to and recover from disasters

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17.79%	8.39%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	99.81%

As the Rohingya refugee crisis entered its eighth year, refugees remained dependent on aid due to restrictive government policies on livelihoods. The 2024 Inter-Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA) found 27% of refugee households had no income, while 55% earned less than BDT 5,000 (USD 42) per month, highlighting the financial vulnerability of the population. Since 2018, UNHCR has provided Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as cooking fuel to all refugee households, mitigating protection and health risks and supporting environmental rehabilitation. Blanket distribution of other key non-food items and hygiene kits continued. UNHCR advanced sustainable, climate-resilient settlements by integrating emergency preparedness, protection-sensitive infrastructure, and community-driven solutions, benefitting 189,090 individuals in 42,220 shelters. Site planning was central to settlement improvements, leading to the adoption of the Integrated Site Planning Approach, endorsed by Shelter-CCCM sector. This strengthened collaboration among refugees, government and humanitarian actors, reinforcing the humanitarian-development nexus. UNHCR remained a key health and nutrition provider, conducting 669,566 consultations and providing referral services to 10,549 patients.

Preventive health efforts, led by the UNHCR-chaired Community Health Working Group across all camps, ensured near-100% vaccination coverage, improved maternal and child health, with maternal deaths reduced from 57 in 2023 to 46 in 2024. Additionally, 88% of deliveries in all camps were conducted by a skilled health worker. The 2024 Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) revealed improvements in nutrition outcomes. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) fell from 15.1% in 2023 to 8.6% in 2024, and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) decreased from 2.1% to 0.5% among all refugee children in the camps, bringing both below critical thresholds. In the UNHCR supported nutrition facilities, 3,957 children with SAM, 16,629 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 1,156 pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition were enrolled and treated.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By the end of 2025, forcibly displaced people thrive as part of empowered communities

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.04%	89.71%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.62%	9.17%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.71%	47.05%

Due to restrictive government laws and policies, refugees are prohibited from wage earning activities, except for volunteer work in humanitarian programmes for which they receive pre-determined incentives. As a result, there are limited income generating opportunities for refugees in the camps. In 2024, over 51,000

individuals (73% refugees and 27% host community) were engaged as paid volunteers in different sectors, receiving incentives that contribute to their empowerment and resilience. Of these, 24,039 refugee volunteers and 7,279 host volunteers were funded through UNHCR's programmes.

UNHCR and partners continued with advocacy for more flexible policies towards the livelihoods of refugees, including the expansion of the approved skill development programme beyond the ten approved professions, authorization for refugees to run small businesses inside the camps, approval for camp-based products to be marketed in the domestic or international markets, etc. However, the 2024 ISNA report showed that while over 60% of vocational and non-formal skills training enrollees were women, only 8% of women of working age (18-59) were engaged in any income-generating activities, underlining the critical needs to increase opportunities for women.

In 2024, 305,869 refugee children (including 154,626 girls) aged 3-18 had access to education services across all 33 camps and on Bhasan Char through various education partners. Of these, 14,777 students (6,799 girls) accessed early childhood, primary, secondary, and informal education. 603 volunteers were engaged (73% refugees, 27% host community).

In two registered camps, UNHCR introduced the Pearson Edexcel curriculum for Kindergarten and Grade 1, benefiting 2,391 students, with phased implementation to be completed by 2027. UNHCR also collaborated with Pearson plc and the British Council to implement teacher capacity-building activities.

According to the 2024 Inter-Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA), security remains a significant concern for refugees in the camps. While approximately 40% of the 3,465 households interviewed reported never having felt concerned about their security, 22% felt concern on several occasions, and 14% reported constant security worries. Theft was the primary concern (50.5% of cases). The Perception survey conducted by the Protection Sector in December showed that 39% of respondents reported feeling "a little unsafe" within their block/community, while 19% stated they felt "totally unsafe." Perceptions of safety outside their immediate community were even lower, with 48% of respondents feeling "a little unsafe" inside the camps and 30% reporting they felt "totally unsafe."

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By the end of 2025, a comprehensive solutions approach for refugees in Bangladesh will include resettlement and complementary pathways, alongside the preferred solution of voluntary repatriation

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	239	3,195
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	74	51

Voluntary, dignified, safe, and sustainable repatriation to northern Rakhine State remained the preferred solution for most Rohingya refugees, when conditions allow. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) consistently maintained that repatriation was the primary solution for Rohingya refugees. Efforts were made to enable commitment to ensuring the voluntariness of returns. UNHCR continued to advocate for comprehensive solutions, prioritising advocacy for safe, voluntary, informed and sustainable repatriation when conditions would become conducive, complemented by third-country solutions and strengthening self-reliance initiatives in the camps. While new arrivals fleeing conflict continued to arrive with critical needs.

Since 2022, UNHCR, in collaboration with the GoB and key resettlement countries, has resumed third-country solutions, focusing on resettlement and complementary pathways, such as family reunification,

education, and labour mobility, targeting refugees who have been residing in Bangladesh since 1992, and those with heightened protection risks. In 2024, resettlement efforts scaled up, with increased submissions and more countries offering resettlement spaces. Advocacy continued with the Government to streamline resettlement processing, leading to a substantial increase in resettlement departures - 3,195 in 2024 compared to 239 in 2023. The pilot education pathway project with the Japan International Cooperation Agency entered its second year, and a new educational pathway to Canada was launched in 2024. UNHCR and the International Refugee Assistance Project continued a family reunification pilot, supporting refugees' relatives to submit quality family reunification applications. To address labour mobility barriers, UNHCR Bangladesh focused on skills development by engaging with UNHCR offices in destination countries, INGOs, and the refugee community.

These efforts secured government buy-in for third-country solutions, not just repatriation, offering life-saving solutions for vulnerable refugees, and promoting the right of family unity for Rohingyas separated from relatives.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The Government of Bangladesh continued to demonstrate solidarity by hosting over one million Rohingya refugees. However, the absence of a national asylum framework, the limitation of protection to Rohingyas inside the camps, and the restrictions to their freedom of movement and ability to work continued to leave them vulnerable, dependent on humanitarian assistance seven years on. Amidst escalating conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State, the Government of Bangladesh continued its closed door policy, and refoulement occurred throughout the year. UNHCR continued to intervene and advocate for access to territory and safety for all civilians fleeing the conflict in Myanmar, but with limited success. UNHCR also advocated for the registration of new arrivals. In October, the Interim Government finally allowed a headcount exercise for assistance purposes and by the end of December, the biometric identification of new arrivals, who continue to be denied access to full registration and individual documentation. Significant progress was made during the year in registering the births of newborns, although implementation challenges persisted at the field level.

Security conditions in the refugee camps deteriorated significantly during the year, with escalating violence at the hands of organized groups disrupting access to services. Refugee volunteers, particularly those receiving monthly incentives, were increasingly targeted for abductions. However, a late-year truce between four organized groups led to some improvements in the camps controlled by these groups. Political instability, social unrest, and security threats across Bangladesh affected the operational environment for humanitarian agencies. Movement restrictions imposed on the UN and NGOs due to security concerns at the time of the political unrest in August hindered programme delivery.

The government maintained a restrictive policy on livelihoods, despite acknowledging the importance of engaging youth. These restrictions hindered efforts to promote self-reliance and increased dependency on humanitarian aid. Additionally, limitations on refugees' access to mobile money meant that all assistance had to be delivered in-kind, increasing operational costs and reducing efficiency.

Severe flooding and landslides, caused by record-breaking monsoon rains, posed significant risks to both refugees and host communities, leading to loss of lives and assets. A spike in waterborne diseases was reported in the camps during the second half of 2024.

In December, the Government approved the construction of Temporary Safer Shelters (TSS), providing an opportunity to improve the fragile shelter and camp infrastructure, which currently relies on temporary materials such as bamboo and tarpaulin. However, significant development funding will be required to build.

The prolonged presence of refugees has also fueled anti-Rohingya sentiment among host communities. Targeted development interventions are essential to foster peaceful coexistence.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

The Office has established a robust network of partnerships with national and local stakeholders, which has been crucial in achieving key impacts in 2024.

Key partnerships include the Government of Bangladesh, which has played a central role in providing protection and support to the Rohingya refugees, allowing UNHCR to operate in Cox's Bazar and other locations. Close collaboration and advocacy continued with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and RRRC's Office, and other relevant authorities.

UNHCR, in partnership with the UN Resident Coordinator, co-chairs the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) of the Rohingya refugee response alongside IOM. At the field level, UNHCR worked closely with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in Cox's Bazar to ensure the quality and timeliness of the response. UNHCR led or participated in various inter-agency coordination structures, including the SEG, Joint Response Plan, United Nations Country Team, Security Management Team, Programme Management Team, and Operation Management Team. UNHCR also leads key sectors such as Protection, Shelter/CCCM, and Livelihoods and Skills Development. On Bhasan Char, UNHCR took the lead in coordinating the response, in close partnership with RRRC.

In 2024, UNHCR continued to rationalize its partnerships, focusing its resources on sectors where it has a leadership role and a comparative advantage. The Office signed partnership agreements with 19 partners, including 17 international and national NGOs, one UN agency, and one government institution (RRRC). Additionally, UNHCR piloted partnerships with refugee-led organizations and community-based organizations to enhance capacity building within communities. The office expanded collaboration with operational partners, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB), to diversify operational delivery modalities and reduce donor dependency.

UNHCR further strengthened its engagement with development actors, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). UNHCR contributed actively to technical discussions regarding the allocation of USD 1 billion in funding from the World Bank and ADB for the Rohingya refugee response. The Office also supported a joint livelihoods initiative with the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) to explore private sector engagement in the refugee response. Collaboration with JICA resulted in additional scholarships for Rohingya students.

Additionally, UNHCR expanded its engagement with the private sector to increase livelihood opportunities in refugee camps. The ongoing partnership between UNHCR and Fast Retailing continued to provide both financial and technical support to enhance camp-based production activities.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Asylum-seekers and refugees have access to territory and registration services

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		100.00%	100.00%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50,497
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	468,659

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Joint registration activities by the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR continued in 2024 in seven registration sites in Cox's Bazar and one on Bhasan Char, serving refugees in all camps. The Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) maintained overall operational responsibility for registration, while the Ministry of Home Affairs has, since 2017, deployed staff to the registration sites to process and issue unique individual registration numbers. UNHCR continued to conduct registration activities, maintain the joint proGres database and provide technical infrastructure, resources and personnel.

In 2024, UNHCR newly registered 50,497 persons, of whom 50,249 were birth registrations. Of the births registered, 20,458 children were born in 2024, while 29,791 were births from previous years pending registration as the Government did not allow birth registration till the babies reaching 6-month-old during 2023. The Government was stricter in enforcing the moratorium against new arrivals registration issued in May 2022, exceptionally allowing the registration of 248 individuals, most of whom were family members undergoing a resettlement or third country departure processing.

Due to the deteriorating security situation in Myanmar, an influx (the highest since 2017) of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar continued to arrive in Bangladesh since November 2023. In October 2024, the Government approved a household-level pre-registration (called “headcount”) to allow humanitarian agencies to provide lifesaving assistance, during which approximately 65,000 individuals were counted without biometrics. To address concerns over duplicate registration, on 31 December 2024, the Government authorized UNHCR to verify the identities of the new arrivals using biometrics and record basic information. The biometric identification exercise will continue with new arrivals who missed the headcount and who continue arriving after the headcount exercise.

In May 2024, the RRRC approved Continuous Registration Standing Operating Procedures, which simplified and harmonised the registration process across all camps. During the year, UNHCR updated the data of some 496,200 individuals in 144,645 families in proGres (about 49% of the total population). Biometrics of some 52,600 individuals were enrolled or captured, bringing the proportion of individuals aged five years and above who have biometrics to 96%. 135,712 asylum identity documents were issued, including 54,795 ID cards and 80,917 Family Attestations. Additionally, 27,200 individuals updated their addresses following approved relocations. UNHCR updated shelter level addresses for 66,062 households and the education and work experience of some 30,553 and 20,836 individuals, respectively.

UNHCR and the RRRC completed the comprehensive verification of the 1990s refugee population. Of the 40,812 targeted, 37,588 were verified; the rest were no-shows and inactivated.

UNHCR continued supporting civil registration by providing marriage and divorce registration forms to Camps-in-Charge in all camps and maintaining registers. In 2024, 10,482 family composition changes were processed, of which 10,192 resulted from new marriages and 290 due to divorce. UNHCR recorded 2,398 deaths.

UNHCR continued to support secure and appropriate access and use of the Joint Registration data by funded and operational partners. In 2024, UNHCR signed data-sharing agreements with UNICEF and IOM and completed discussions with WFP on updated Annex 3. The agreement with IOM enables it to use the Global Distribution Tool (GDT) to process and biometrically verify assistance distributions and third-country departures.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Refugee status determination procedures are in place.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00	270.00	147.21

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Bangladesh is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and lacks national legislation or an administrative mechanism for determining asylum claims. Unlike Rohingya refugees who arrived before 2022, non-Rohingya asylum-seekers are not officially registered by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), which does not recognize their legal status. In fact, the term refugee is also not applied, calling them instead Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals FDMN. As a result, the protection environment for non-Rohingya asylum-seekers and refugees remains highly restrictive.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

National policies and practices provide effective protection for people with and for whom UNHCR works.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Unknown	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Unknown	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In the absence of a national asylum legal framework, UNHCR continued to closely engage with authorities, namely the camp civil administration, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary, to expand the protection space for refugees.

In 2024, UNHCR scaled up training for the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) on protection principles and community outreach, reaching 712 staff, followed by a 3-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for 30 senior APBn staff in Dhaka on refugee protection. UNHCR continued advocacy at Cox's Bazar and Dhaka levels for more effective patrolling in the camps to ensure the safety of refugees and humanitarian staff and to address staff misconduct. An increase in APBn capacity was observed in the latter half of the year and disciplinary actions were taken against certain staff who were removed from the camps. Across the 33 Cox's Bazar camps, the number of incidents perpetrated by APBn reduced from 52 in 2023 to 34 in 2024.

UNHCR also reinforced its engagement with the civil authorities, providing training on civil documentation to 33 Camp-in-Charge staff, and prompting the RRRC's actions, through bilateral dialogues and confidential reporting, to address concerning practices in the camps such as mistreatment of refugees by CiC staff, arbitrary conditions imposed to access documentation (e.g., birth control implants to access marriage certificates), and the dire situation of new arrivals who lacked access to basic services. This yielded positive outcomes such as removal of certain staff, lifting of arbitrary conditions, and ultimately support for the headcount exercise and biometric identification of new arrivals enabling their access to life-saving services.

To address access to justice issues, UNHCR continued its engagement with the judiciary, organising the first ever camp visit for 11 judges from the Cox's Bazar District Court to raise awareness on access to justice concerns and explore solutions such as virtual hearing and witness/victim protection. UNHCR organised its second workshop with the Judicial and Administration Training Institution (JATI) on refugees' legal access with 48 judges. To steer advocacy towards refugees' inclusion into the national legal aid system, UNHCR organized workshops for 58 pro bono lawyers from the District Legal Aid Office in Cox's Bazar. Furthermore, to address refugees' barriers to filing cases with the police, UNHCR provided training for 93 local police. UNHCR was also invited to make a submission to the Justice Sector Reform Commission, where it highlighted the gaps in refugees' access to justice and made recommendations to support their inclusion in the national justice system.

2024 was a landmark year as UNHCR reestablished its engagement with the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), a critical counterpart given the concerns over refoulement incidents. While UNHCR's advocacy with BGB on individual cases yielded limited results (197 individuals released from detention), a foundation was set for further collaboration, including a planned workshop for BGB in 2025.

UNHCR also provided training on protection and humanitarian principles and the Code of Conduct for 741 humanitarian staff and 117 refugee volunteers to enhance overall delivery of services for refugees in a protection-oriented manner.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Forcibly displaced people are safe from gender-based violence.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Host Community	80.00%	90.00%	70.59%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.22%	90.00%	86.63%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Host Community		48.00%	47.59%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.90%	80.00%	77.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.85%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	145,692

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The gender-based violence (GBV) programme is a core component of UNHCR's protection response in Bangladesh. GBV services are delivered across 17 camps and Bhasan Char through 52 dedicated facilities, in collaboration with three national partners: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB), and Bandhu. The programme is structured around three pillars: prevention, risk mitigation, and response, providing case management to GBV survivors, including men, women, and non-binary individuals at risk.

In 2024, three evidence-based prevention programmes—Girl Shine, SASA! Together, and Male Role Models—were successfully implemented. These initiatives aimed to foster significant behavioural change in a community shaped by patriarchal gender norms and unequal power dynamics. The Male Role Models programme expanded to reach 485 men and boys, representing a 25% increase in impact compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, the Girl Shine program provided life skills education to 3,162 individuals, including adolescent girls and their caregivers, empowering them to make confident decisions and support the healthy development of their children. From this group, 121 girls became Girl Shine Stars, taking on mentorship roles within their communities to share their knowledge and raise awareness among their peers.

In response to the protracted situation in Bangladesh and the high rates of Intimate Partner Violence, in 2024, UNHCR shifted its focus to enhancing female empowerment and leadership by launching the Women Empowerment and Leadership Programme (WELP), which reached 1,148 women. Participants received training in both traditional and non-traditional occupations, including firefighting, electrical work, farming, beauty services, and specialised tailoring. This initiative aimed to boost their self-esteem and provide them with an income, enabling them to become financially independent and free from violence.

In collaboration with UNHCR's Education team, education activities were integrated into the GBV prevention programme to enhance refugees' literacy and numeracy, thereby strengthening the socioeconomic response to GBV. In 2024, 3,880 individuals received basic literacy training, creating sustainable pathways out of the cycle of violence. In line with UNHCR's policy on the prevention, risk mitigation, and response to GBV, ten safety audits were conducted to identify and mitigate potential gender risks in UNHCR's programmes, promote gender equality and address power imbalances that could lead to violence.

Innovative tools were developed to reinforce community structures, and volunteers were trained to conduct dynamic and engaging sessions, raising awareness of GBV among 478,024 individuals.

SASA! activists worked in 17 camps, conducting door-to-door interventions to open dialogues and mitigate the risks of intimate partner violence, reaching 126,233 individuals. Despite the operational challenges faced in 2024, outreach activities and case management were continuously conducted within all camps.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Refugee children are safe and able to fully enjoy their rights

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	94.80%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86.00%	100.00%	100.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
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Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	268,378

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR and its partners, Community Development Centre (CODEC) and Terre des hommes (Tdh), implemented quality case management services for vulnerable refugee children at risk adhering to the Best Interest Procedure (BIP), as well as series of child protection activities for refugee and host community children and their parents/caregivers. These included structured psychosocial support for children, life skills training for adolescents, positive parenting sessions, recreational activities, awareness-raising initiatives in 13 UNHCR-managed camps and two host communities in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char as well as strengthened community-based child protection mechanisms.

UNHCR identified 4,284 children at risk (1,943 girls, 2,048 boys, 109 girls with disabilities, 184 boys with disabilities). Among them, 585 unaccompanied and separated children (291 girls, 288 boys, 3 girls with disabilities, 3 boys with disabilities) received targeted case management services, including referrals, within UNHCR's responsible camps for Child Protection (13 camps and the Transit Centre).

Working closely with the Child Protection Sub-sector, the Case Management Working Group, and the Strategic Advisory Group, UNHCR advanced the integration of the BIP components into existing case management mechanisms for refugee children. This involved capacity building for various child protection actors in Cox's Bazar, including the government counterpart, the Department of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Welfare to strengthen their role in the Best Interest Determination (BID) panel meetings. The guidelines and processes of the BIP emerged as fundamental tools for evaluating the needs of vulnerable refugee children within specific eligibility criteria. As a result, a total of 1,376 Best Interest Assessments (BIA) and 1,146 Best Interest Determinations (BID) were conducted including 436 BID reports submitted for durable solutions purposes, three times more than the 122 BID reports submitted in 2023.

In UNHCR managed camps, 40 multi-purpose centers in Cox's Bazar and 10 child-friendly spaces on Bhasan Char functioned as safe learning environments for children, parents, and caregivers through structured psychosocial support and recreational programs. These facilities benefited 258,587 individuals, representing half of the population served by UNHCR in the 13 camps under its area of responsibility. Among them 91.93% or 237,713 children (105,776 girls, 130,086 boys, 526 girls with disabilities, 1,325 boys with disabilities).

A total of 102 community-based-child protection committees, adolescent clubs, youth ambassador groups, and parent groups comprising of 8,072 trained members (1,407 girls, 1,115 boys, 2,765 women, 2,785 men) were equipped with essential materials, technical support, and relevant information. This empowered them to identify child protection risks/concerns in the community, raise awareness, and implement mitigation activities. In 2024, child protection committees and volunteers successfully reunited 564 lost/missing children (228 girls, 329 boys, 4 girls with disabilities, 3 boys with disabilities) with their parents or caregivers. Additionally, 72,657 individuals, including children, parents, and caregivers (17,111 girls, 21,634 boys, 16,418 women, 16,370 men, 234 girls with disabilities, 478 boys with disabilities, 189 women with disabilities, 223 men with disabilities), participated in awareness-raising activities led by trained volunteers and different child protection community-based structures through community outreach, drama performances, sports, and drawing competitions.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Community engagement strengthened and expanded.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		Extensive	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.99%	100.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.37%	50.00%	42.58%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2024)
Population Type		
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		1,764
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		343,341
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		1,005,520

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Over the period under review, community empowerment was promoted through strengthened engagement with the community aiming at ensuring community ownership of the refugee response. In 2024, quarterly community consultations were held using an age, gender and diversity lens to ensure the participation of women, girls, boys and men of diverse ages and backgrounds, including older people and people with disabilities. Over 130 community consultations were held with 1,764 refugees across all 33 camps, 40% of whom were women, 6% older people and 7% people with disabilities. The primary concern of the community gathered through FGDs is related to safety and security.

In 2024, 58 of the 114 (51%) elected camp representatives were women. UNHCR continued to nurture relationships with female religious teachers under the religious engagement network, providing support and trainings. UNHCR and partners ensured that 50% of vocational skills training participants across the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char were women.

Community leaders, religious leaders including imams and female religious teachers, women and girls' groups, youth groups supported the mitigation of protection risks related to gender-based violence, child protection, safety and security. Imams are meaningfully and greatly contributing to the peace and security campaign, communicating for peace and harmonious social cohesion through Friday sermons and other awareness raising platforms.

The youth (girls and boys) are actively participating in sport for protection activities which support youth empowerment, promote the girls' rights and seek to mitigate risks of negative coping mechanisms.

These engagements with the community at various levels have contributed to promoting a favorable and enabling protection environment in the very complex situation prevailing in the camps.

The operation provided training and capacity-building to over 10,000 UNHCR funded refugee volunteers across sectors to support their efforts to be agents of their own protection. These volunteers supported UNHCR to connect the most vulnerable individuals with essential services, provided information on key intersectional issues, gauged community priorities and ideas on how to address these, and led on the design and implementation of community projects. Community Outreach Member (COM) volunteers (46% female) conducted 87,873 home visits to identify people with specific needs to ensure proper referral to services and provide key information through awareness sessions across all camps and on Bhasan Char

Since December 2023, a Centralized Automated Information Processing Platform (CAIPP) integrating all communication channels with UNHCR used by refugees to ensure greater accountability to affected populations (AAP) has been introduced to harmonize the complaint and feedback mechanism. After a pilot, CAIPP was successfully rolled out in all 33 camps and on Bhasan Char in June, which streamlined all complaints and improved the recording and referrals of all tickets received through the various CFM channels. Between June and December 2024, a total of 220,594 queries were submitted through CAIPP, with 65% (144,009) of these being submitted through the CFM desks and 35% (76,585) through the Helpline. Of these cases, the closure rate was 84%, with an average of 39 days to close queries. Through the use of regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions, and close quality control, Helpline operators were able to respond to 78% of all enquiries on the spot. The top sectors of queries remain Shelter (41% of all tickets), Field and Site Development (13%) and Registration (13%), followed by Protection, Site Development and Food Security at 5% each. The 2024 Inter Sectoral Needs Assessment (ISNA) revealed 72.2% of 3,465 households interviewed indicated awareness of a complaint and feedback (CFM) mechanism and increased by 20%.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Forcibly displaced people receive sufficient assistance to meet their basic needs

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Host Community	100.00%	100.00%	69.12%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	98.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Host Community	7,279
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24,039
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	437,997
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	439,925

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to livelihood opportunities remained very limited in 2024, as refugees live in the camps and have no right to work. The Inter Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA) findings indicated that only 15% have had a chance to participate in livelihood skills training. A higher proportion of the population, therefore, still relies on humanitarian assistance.

Findings also show that 97% of refugee families mostly use LPG support to meet their cooking fuel needs. To address the basic needs of the population, UNHCR undertook uninterrupted regular distribution of non-food items and LPG refills during the year.

In 2024, 437,647 individuals were supported with non-food items in the 16 UNHCR managed camps. Blanket distribution of bath and laundry soaps, and female hygiene kits to females aged 12-49 years continued. Coordination with IOM and other actors was strengthened across all 33 camps, in order to ensure a harmonized assistance approach. This is exemplified by the coordinated non-food items assistance to new arrivals, where UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF coordinated closely to ensure smooth distribution for all new arrivals in the absence of biometric data. A total of 7,325 new arrival households were assisted in UNHCR managed camps. Following the fire in Camp 1W in December, UNHCR engaged 14 different operational NGO partners, ensuring coordinated NFI distribution to fire affected families.

795,460 liquified petroleum gas (LPG) refills were regularly distributed to 93,601 households i.e., 98% of the targeted population in the 16 UNHCR managed camps. Families reporting losses or damages, and those affected by fires were assessed and supported accordingly. An adjustment to LPG refill cycles, following the second study on the saving on LPG by utilizing pressure cookers, based on family size rather than family group, led to significant savings. During the political unrest in August, UNHCR managed to continue distribution of 51,924 LPG refills, ensuring uninterrupted access to cooking fuel by the refugee community.

The 2024 ISNA indicated that 81% of the respondents were satisfied with NFI support, and 93% respondents found the female hygiene kit support sufficient in the post distribution monitoring. These female hygiene kits have been produced in the camps by female volunteers after receiving skills training, as part of UNHCR's efforts to empower women. In order to strengthen efficiency and cost effectiveness, UNHCR adapted the monthly distribution to bi-monthly distribution, as such reducing refugee movements to collect assistance.

As a pilot to expand skills development and income generating opportunities, 17 refugee volunteers received stove repair training and thereafter were engaged as repair technicians at the LPG distribution points across UNHCR-managed camps.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Access to physically safe and secure settlements with basic facilities is ensured

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.28%	20.00%	8.39%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Host Community		100.00%	95.14%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.97%	100.00%	94.21%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	189,029

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR prioritized the development of sustainable, climate-resilient settlements for Rohingya refugees by incorporating emergency preparedness, protection-sensitive infrastructure, and community-driven solutions. Through strategic planning and innovative shelter designs, living conditions were improved. Building on the integrated Shelter-WASH approach initiated in 2023, UNHCR enhanced protection-sensitive infrastructure, with a focus on benefiting women and persons with disabilities. A pivotal strategy shift placed site planning at the center of settlement improvements, leading to the Integrated Site Planning Approach, building on the Macro-Planning Plan developed with UN-HABITAT in 2019. Endorsed by the Shelter-CCCM sector, this new approach aims to foster collective action among refugees, government agencies, and humanitarian partners.

In 2024, UNHCR responded to multiple emergencies, repairing 7,390 shelters in the 16 UNHCR managed camps, and constructing 1,998 new ones, including 435 single-storey shelters in Nayapara and Kutupalong registered camps. After a fire in Camp 5 displaced 5,000 people, a site plan was developed within 72 hours, marking the first full integration of site planning into fire and cyclone response efforts. The Integrated site planning approach was further piloted following the abandonment of Camp 4 Extension Block F due to heightened insecurity, and in Camp 26 Block H, where stilt shelters were constructed to address the recurring flood risk during monsoon. Shelter repair and maintenance assistance benefited 189,090 individuals across 42,220 shelters, covering 51% of households in UNHCR-managed camps.

As the Shelter-CCCM sector co-lead agency, UNHCR contributed to strategy development, coordination, and operational improvements. 335 government and humanitarian staff were trained on CCCM topics. Over 188 camp-level coordination meetings addressed emerging challenges. Through the tireless advocacy efforts of UNHCR, sector partners and other stakeholders, the GoB approved the temporary safe shelters, based on a proposal submitted by the SCCCM Sector in mid-2023. UNHCR further piloted double-storey shelters to address the growing shelter needs and congestion in the camps and will continue its advocacy with Sector partners for the approval by the GoB. Infrastructure improvements focused on safety and accessibility, with community-led projects addressing cyclones, flooding, and landslides across 16 camps. Cash-for-work schemes enhanced sites and provided income. UNHCR also rehabilitated Bhasan Char's main hospital, expanded Ukhiya Hospital (Phase 2), and built a Community Centre in Camp 7. Collaboration with ADB and the World Bank improved infrastructure and long-term resilience. UNHCR strengthened climate action by solarizing five facilities and electrifying 52 sites across the camps. Additionally, in UNHCR managed camps, 11,000 solar streetlights were maintained, enhancing sustainability and refugee protection.

In the UNHCR managed camps, climate risk mitigation activities were implemented, including the installation of new lightning arrestor systems, integrating watershed management, blue-green networks, and nature-based solutions. Energy-related training expanded refugee and host community access to sustainable power. The Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Rehabilitation (SuLMER) project directly benefited 10,796 refugees, and 800 tree saplings were planted. Conservation efforts rescued and released 150 wildlife species, and environmental education reached 3,000 individuals. To mitigate human-elephant conflict, 884 volunteers responded to 174 incidents, preventing casualties across all the Cox's Bazar camps and within the host community.

Gender diversity and Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) principles were strengthened, increasing leadership roles for women and third-gender individuals across the sectors. Community engagement was further enhanced through the appointment of SMS block leaders and the formation of multi-functional volunteer teams in two pilot camps, improving multisectoral coordination and referrals.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Forcibly displaced people have access to health and nutrition services

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.75%	100.00%	97.69%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.35%	100.00%	88.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	634,629
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	332,406

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR continued its rationalization strategy, handing over five health facilities, including the Ukhiya Specialized Hospital to Health Sector partners, closing two, and transitioning eight nutrition facilities to UNICEF. By year-end, UNHCR operated eight primary health centers, two inpatient departments, one health post, and 13 nutrition facilities, serving 43,000 households.

UNHCR conducted 669,566 consultations, with 3% accessed by the host community. Inpatient admissions totaled 9,366 (including 228 patients admitted for specialized mental health care), with a 69% bed occupancy rate. USH also provided specialized services to around 71,000 refugees and host community patients. Additionally, 10,549 patients received secondary and tertiary care through medical referrals.

The UNHCR-led Community Health Working Group (CHWG) played a crucial role in enhancing preventive health activities across all the camps, contributing to vaccination campaigns for Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, and Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV), with close to 100% coverage in all camps. 4,963 deliveries occurred in UNHCR-supported facilities, ensuring 88% of deliveries were attended by skilled health workers. Across the camps, maternal deaths decreased from 57 in 2023 to 46 in 2024. UNHCR enhanced healthcare delivery in the camps through trainings in areas such as emergency health response, maternal and child health, birth and death notification process, and prevention of priority diseases. To strengthen community-level first aid, the CHWG distributed 1,800 first-aid kits and 1,400 portable stretchers among the CHWs.

In close coordination with UNICEF and WFP, UNHCR led annual nutrition surveys in the Cox's Bazar camps (CXB) and Bhasan Char (BC), indicating an acute malnutrition situation of medium public health concern and improvement in the prevalence rate of wasting from 15.1% (14.7% in BC) in 2023 to 8.6% (8.5% in BC) in 2024 in Cox's Bazar, attributed to better food security and Infant and Young Child Feeding practices. However, chronic malnutrition remained critical in 2024 (40.7% in CXB and 34.7% in BC). Preventive services had high coverage, including measles vaccinations (97.7%), vitamin A supplementation (94.5%), deworming (94.3%) and antenatal care (87.7%).

A total of 3,957 children under the age of five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 16,629 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) received nutrition treatment through UNHCR-supported Integrated Nutrition Facilities (INFs). Additionally, 1,156 pregnant and lactating women suffering from acute malnutrition received specialized nutrition support.

In 2024, UNHCR reinforced MHPSS integration with community-based interventions, nutrition, and primary health care, reaching 258,421 refugees through awareness sessions. Volunteers provided evidence-based psychotherapy for 37,935 refugees, with specialized counselling strengthened through a capacity building programme rolled out by UNHCR and the Columbia University. UNHCR also contributed to the “Training of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) on Refugee Protection and Community Outreach” in which 159 personnel from the three APBn battalions overseeing the 33 camps attended, with a session on coping with stressful situations to equip participants with practical tools to manage their stress and anger while working in a difficult environment.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Forcibly displaced people have optimal access to education.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		28.00%	0.21%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and its partners provided learning opportunities to 14,777 students (6,799 girls) in early childhood, primary, secondary in the two registered camps, and informal education in 19 camps (16 UNHCR and 3 IOM managed camps). This included 6,360 adolescents and youth (3,105 girls) in pre-vocational courses, 1,090 adolescents and youth (64 female). 480 youth (172 girls), 50% refugees, attended advanced computer training. The Language Images and Analytical Thinking (LIT) and the Refugee Higher Education Access (RheAP) programme represented the foundation for a pathway toward higher education and self-reliance, implemented jointly by Bard College and BRAC University. Lower female participation was observed in LIT and RheAP programmes, due to the lack of Rohingya girls who have completed Grade 8.

The registered refugees (who arrived during the 1991 influx) have been boycotting GoB’s policy that formal education in refugee camps must be provided in Burmese, as their children had studied with the Bangla curriculum prior to the ban of the Bangla Curriculum in camps by the GoB in 2018. Through UNHCR’s proactive advocacy with the GoB, RRRC approved the roll out of the Pearson Edexcel curriculum in the registered camps. The curriculum was rolled out for lower grades (Kindergarten and Grade 1, with 2,391 students) in both registered camps in 2024, with upper grades to be rolled out in phases in the coming years.

UNHCR and its partners supported 84 Community Education Committees (CECs) across the 19 camps, consisting of 1,090 members (441 female) who were trained on school management and cross-cutting issues and actively contributed to school improvement planning. In addition, 9,932 parents (5,765 female) participated in monthly parent meetings.

UNHCR collaborated with Pearson plc and the British Council to implement several capacity-building activities, including an English language acquisition programme. Students of grades 2-8 in the registered

camps only have access to basic education using CODEC-developed English materials based on the Bangladeshi curriculum and other English medium curricula. To enhance teaching-learning processes and facilitate quality education, UNHCR, through its partners, implemented ongoing professional development activities for 402 facilitators (193 Females), including 271 refugees. The training included foundational training, monthly refreshers, peer learning through teacher learning circles, subject content training, and training on cross-cutting issues such as inclusive education, disaster risk reduction, PSEA, and child safeguarding.

UNHCR continued to provide technical and strategic advice to the Education Sector, acting as an essential member of all thematic working groups, and leading teachers' professional development initiatives for the entire sector.

UNHCR further collaborated with donors and education institutions to expand education pathways for Rohingya refugees.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Forcibly displaced people have access to safe and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Host Community		25.00%	99.08%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.32%	5.00%	93.98%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.39%	3.00%	1.85%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	400,483

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR continued to enhance WASH management and improve service accessibility across 14 camps. Significant progress was made in preparing for the WASH Sector rationalization plan, aiming to have five camps in Ukhiya handed over from UNHCR to UNICEF, and two camps in Teknaf transferred from IOM to UNHCR as of January 2025. Additionally, UNICEF assumed WASH responsibility on Bhasan Char. At the operational level, about 60% of UNHCR'S WASH services were transferred to operational partners and BRAC's Pool Fund partners.

Safe water access improved, with an average of 33 litres per person per day (up from 31.1 in 2023) delivered in the 14 camps. However, Teknaf camps continued to experience severe water shortages during the dry season. The shortage was exacerbated by the lack of rainfall in late 2024 in the region, resulting in an acute water crisis. By December 2024, the average daily water supply per person declined from 20 to 15

litres, with water trucking planned in March 2025. UNHCR supported the WASH Sector in crisis communication and fundraising efforts to address the shortage. Long-term solutions will require infrastructure development by the GoB and development actors.

Sanitation improved, with 21,984 latrines maintained at 98% functionality (up from 96% in 2023) and 192 new latrines constructed, including 47 accessible ones. 94% of 11,204 bathing cubicles were functional, and the addition of 145 new cubicles (with 47 accessible) improved inclusivity. Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) were upgraded to treat 126,996 cubic meters of sludge. Through the Pit Intelligent Tracker App, pit latrines were closely monitored and maintained to ensure their continued usability.

However, greywater released from the camps to the host community continued to contribute to tensions with local residents. In response, UNHCR has improved the design of the existing wastewater treatment plant in Teknaf and upgraded the facility. Despite these efforts, inadequate camp WASH infrastructure, especially the lack of private latrine and uncovered drains, remained a significant challenge.

A successful transition to household-level solid waste collection increased daily waste collection from 76% in 2023 to 83%, and waste segregation improved from 52% to 68%. Eleven Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) processed 13,309 m³ of waste, generating 306,766 kg of compost, with 274,975 kg distributed to refugees/stakeholders. Plastic waste collection increased from 10 kg per camp in 2023 to over 100 kg per camp in 2024.

UNHCR maintained 95 female hygiene centres, benefiting 6,800 women and girls. The construction of 10 new centres extended services to 325 additional women, integrating privacy-focused designs with breastfeeding corners and menstrual hygiene facilities. To promote local ownership and sustainability 1,408 trained community members (unpaid) repaired 1,104 WASH facilities in 2024.

To further enhance environmental hygiene awareness, 6,000 community members, including 450 with disabilities, participated in awareness events. 85 cleaning campaigns engaged 3,010 residents, contributing to reduced dengue cases. Additionally, 565 sanitation volunteers received Hepatitis B vaccinations, improving health protection for WASH workers.

In addition, through integrated WASH and health interventions, UNHCR responded to multiple outbreaks of cholera, scabies, and dengue, successfully containing the outbreaks and preventing further spread. Additionally, WASH NFIs and female hygiene kits were distributed to households.

Despite meeting sector-wide WASH standards, geographic disparities, exacerbated by unplanned land allocation, disproportionately affect women, children, and persons with disabilities. Many female refugees feel unsafe using shared facilities. To address this, integrated site planning and household-level WASH solutions will improve access and privacy while addressing protection concerns.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Forcibly displaced and stateless people are engaged in self-reliance and livelihoods initiatives

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		1.40%	1.39%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.86%	5.00%	4.63%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,965

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Eight years after the 2017 influx, the Rohingya refugees remained highly dependent on humanitarian aid. Creating opportunities for productive engagement is crucial to reduce reliance on harmful coping mechanisms.

In 2024, 10,521 persons were directly reached with skills development and livelihoods interventions in the 33 Cox's Bazar camps and on Bhasan Char, further benefitting 52,600 individuals indirectly.

Among these 10,521 persons, a total of 7,353 young people in the Cox's Bazar camps completed vocational skills training Level 1 in different occupations, with 93% of them acquiring competencies after undergoing independent assessments. 48% were engaged in volunteer opportunities in the camps and another 34% were self-employed. On Bhasan Char, 54% of 409 learners acquired competencies with 35% engaged as volunteers.

In partnership with UNESCO, UNHCR transitioned from pre-vocational training towards Accelerated Adult Learning (AAL) in 2024, piloting it in 8 camps and reaching 1,649 participants (48% women). AAL was found to be more effective in reaching a wider refugee population with basic literacy, numeracy and life skills. In addition, UNHCR partnered with the British Council to provide the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams for refugees. In 2024, 237 graduates, selected from across the camps based on their competencies, completed a 60-day English Language training course and are scheduled to sit for the IELTS exam in early 2025.

While skills training targets were met, only 50% of graduates were engaged as volunteers. In 2024, over 51,000 individuals (including 73% refugees and 27% host community members) earned monthly incentives as volunteers across different sectors, and an additional 28,000 refugees engaged through cash for work scheme providing short-term income every month, according to reports from JRP partners. With limited volunteer opportunities, focus should shift towards expanding self-employment and other income generating opportunities inside the camps. The 2024 ISNA report showed over 60% of vocational and non-formal skills training participants managed by JRP partners were women, yet only 8% of working age women (18-59) were engaged in income-generating activities. This disparity between training participation and actual earning highlights the need for targeted interventions for female entrepreneurship.

Eight production centres were funded by UNHCR, seven in Cox's Bazar and one on Bhasan Char, engaging over 1,360 women. Five of these centres continued to receive technical and financial support from the Fast Retailing, producing reusable sanitary napkins and female underwear for general distribution. In a joint effort to support the sustainability of the project, UNICEF agreed to source female hygiene kits from these centres, based on satisfactory community feedback on the quality of the products. The rest of the three centres continued producing different types of crafts. However, the lack of GoB approval to market camp-based products in domestic and international markets continued to hinder the sustainability of these production centres. Visits by the local private sector and social enterprises to camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char were facilitated to promote private sector engagement. Similarly, discussions were held with development actors, such as the World Bank, IFC and ADB as they prepare to roll out pipeline projects that will benefit refugee hosting areas.

On Bhasan Char, there was a 10 to 15% increase in crop yields because of improved soil quality after years of cultivation. UNHCR, in collaboration with partners supported over 3,000 households in vegetable production, livestock and poultry rearing and aquaculture. This may also be a significant factor contributing to improved nutrition status on the island as per GAM and SAM statistics. While the GoB allows camp-based products from Bhasan Char to be sold outside of the camps including within Bangladesh, the island continued to face challenges in terms of power shortage and lack of transportation to move materials and goods.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Refugees are empowered to make informed decisions about voluntary return

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Government of Bangladesh maintains a clear position that the presence of refugees in the camps is intended to be temporary, with the expectation of sustainable return once conditions in Myanmar permit. Voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation also remains the desired goal for most Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. However, given the intensifying conflict in Northern Rakhine State, which has predominantly fallen under the control of the Arakan Army, no government-led 'go and see' visits (Rohingya refugees visiting their villages in Myanmar) or 'come and tell' visits (Myanmar officials visiting the camps) were reported in 2024.

Given the continuing emphasis by the Government of Bangladesh on repatriation, UNHCR continued to monitor the unfolding situation in Myanmar to maintain up-to-date information as repatriation must be an informed decision, voluntary and in safety and dignity with sustainable reintegration efforts in place including access to basic services and livelihoods.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Refugees benefit from resettlement and complementary pathways.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,664	13,000	12,439

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Building upon the successful up-scaling of resettlement in Bangladesh in 2023, in 2024 a total of 12,025 resettlement spaces were committed by five resettlement countries for Rohingya refugees residing in Bangladesh. This included recommitment from the four countries including USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and a pilot program for Bangladesh with Ireland starting in 2024. The majority of these spaces are on offer for Rohingya refugees residing in Bangladesh since 1992, but also for some of the most vulnerable refugees with heightened protection risks.

Resettlement identification and processing was further streamlined and strengthened to respond to evolving protection needs in the camps. This was supplemented with periodic staff missions to farther Nayapara camps to save on daily travel time thereby increasing monthly submissions. As a result, UNHCR was able to able meet and even exceed its target reaching 12,439 submissions in 2024. By the end of the year, utilizing the unallocated quotas, UNHCR had resettlement submissions made to eight countries namely, Australia, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and United States of America.

In the meantime, UNHCR continued to identify and develop opportunities to expand the access of refugees to complementary pathways, including education, family reunification and labour mobility. 51 refugees departed to third countries through various complementary pathways programmes in 2024. Majority of refugees were reunified with their family members and the operation witnessed an increase in the number of students accessing education scholarships.

The pilot education pathway project with donors and education institutions continued into its second year with new opportunities further identified. UNHCR implemented a multi-stakeholder partnership family reunification pilot in 2024, whereby UNHCR, local partner and international pro-bono lawyers in specific destination countries would support relatives of refugees to apply and lodge good quality family reunification applications. For labour mobility opportunities, the lack of relevant technical and language skills was identified as a major barrier for Rohingyas. As such, UNHCR Bangladesh strengthened engagement with UNHCR in destinations countries, INGOs, and the refugee community, with the shared goals of promoting skills development for refugees.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

The Rohingya camps are in a protracted situation, often requiring emergency responses due to natural disasters and political changes. UNHCR focuses on enhancing refugees' capacities to create a healthy, sustainable, and equitable environment, empowering them to become first responders on the ground. As part of efforts to improve refugees' well-being, UNHCR engaged a limited number of paid volunteers in various sectors, providing opportunities for livelihoods and skills development. UNHCR engaged 31,318 volunteers, including 24,039 refugees and 7,279 host community members, with 37% being women who have demonstrated excellent leadership skills by occupying non-stereotyped gender roles within their communities.

In 2024, UNHCR launched a dedicated programme to enhance female empowerment and leadership, offering a safe space for women and girls to generate income for their families and become experts in their chosen fields. Access to education increased in 2024, with a proactive focus on women's participation in basic literacy and numeracy programmes to address the root causes of inequality in secondary and higher

education. Additionally, 122 females and 08 persons with disabilities were enrolled in secondary education, and 288 girls benefited from places at the Asian University for Women, with UNHCR's support.

To promote a more disability-inclusive programme, UNHCR selected and trained champions from all operational units. These champions are designing and implementing an advocacy plan and strategy focused on ensuring the dignity of persons with disabilities in the camps. This initiative aims to transform our programme into a sustainable model that mitigates risks and provides solutions for all refugees, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Section 3: Resources

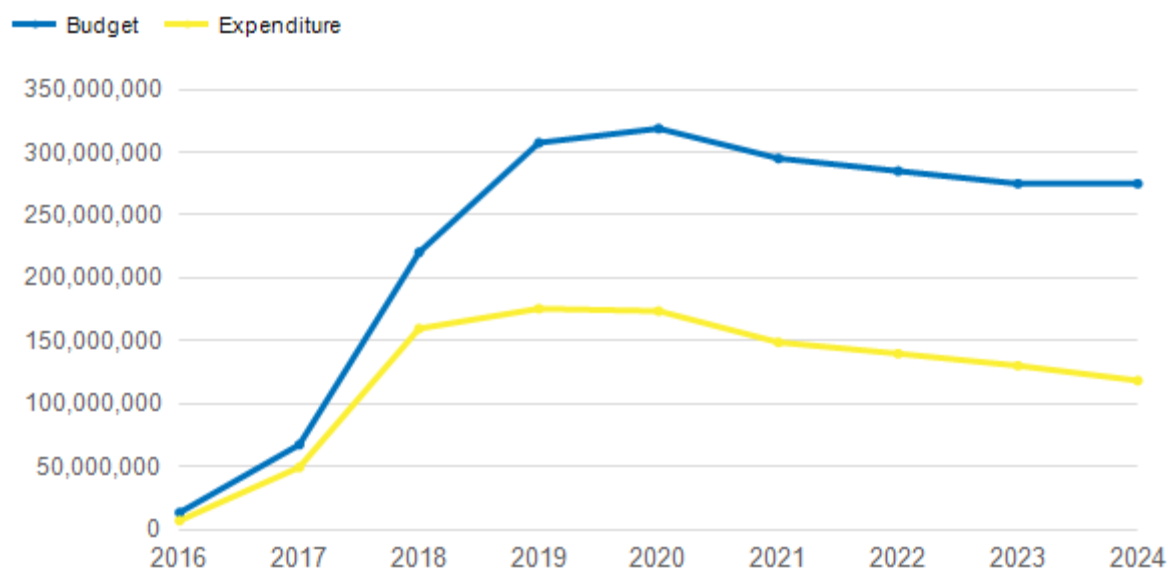
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

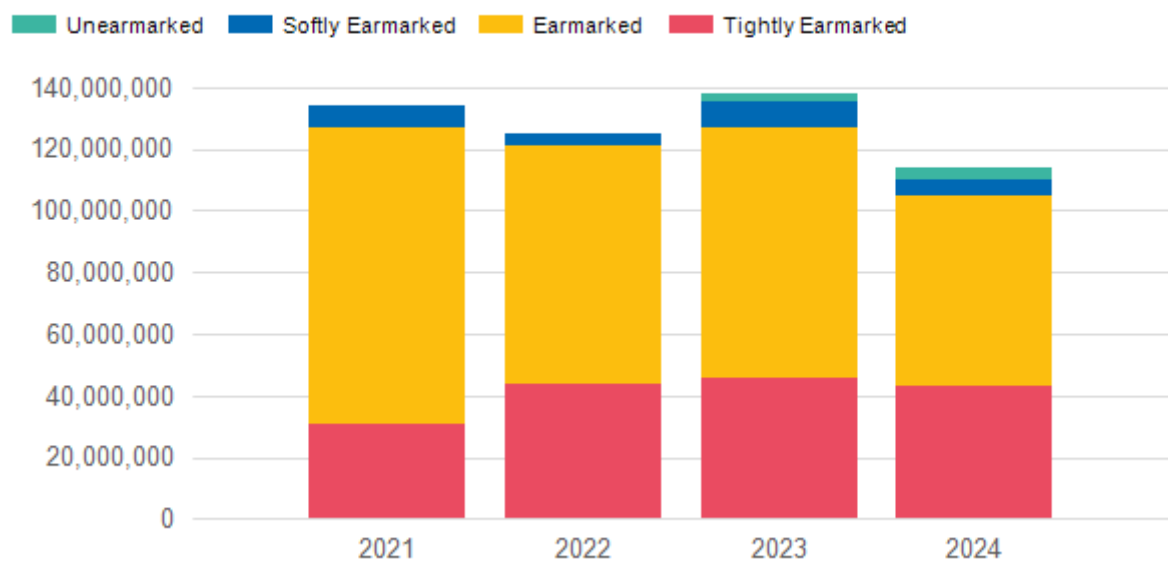
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	50,164,701	22,347,440	44.55%	20,862,246	93.35%
IA2: Assist	180,153,054	70,439,544	39.10%	70,439,544	100.00%
IA3: Empower	35,926,121	21,479,860	59.79%	20,443,305	95.17%
IA4: Solve	8,756,339	6,795,739	77.61%	6,795,739	100.00%
All Impact Areas		3,482,905			
Total	275,000,214	124,545,488	45.29%	118,540,833	95.18%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	8,129,015	7,739,268	95.21%	6,876,228	88.85%
OA2: Status	990,350	661,487	66.79%	661,487	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	6,141,266	3,211,728	52.30%	2,771,409	86.29%
OA4: GBV	10,321,141	3,317,945	32.15%	3,030,806	91.35%
OA5: Children	9,309,491	3,252,671	34.94%	3,240,051	99.61%
OA7: Community	14,701,436	8,220,389	55.92%	8,220,389	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	38,675,112	18,175,128	46.99%	18,041,240	99.26%
OA9: Housing	52,817,831	23,005,599	43.56%	23,005,599	100.00%
OA10: Health	38,059,049	17,271,554	45.38%	17,271,554	100.00%
OA11: Education	15,273,437	5,889,543	38.56%	4,282,265	72.71%
OA12: WASH	26,147,591	6,716,843	25.69%	6,212,618	92.49%
OA13: Livelihood	21,224,684	12,222,915	57.59%	12,222,915	100.00%
OA14: Return	2,716,666	2,360,410	86.89%	2,360,410	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	6,039,672	4,435,329	73.44%	4,435,329	100.00%
EA17: Systems	7,017,681	2,060,151	29.36%	2,060,151	100.00%
EA18: Support	7,186,904	2,189,748	30.47%	2,189,748	100.00%
EA20: External	10,248,886	1,689,129	16.48%	1,658,633	98.19%
All Outcome Areas		2,125,650			
Total	275,000,214	124,545,488	45.29%	118,540,833	95.18%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2024, UNHCR Bangladesh was 42% funded by year-end, resulting in gaps in the provision of basic needs and protection in the camps.

With UNHCR’s response in Bangladesh becoming more protracted against a backdrop of crises in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, it became even more challenging to maintain donors’ interest or expand fundraising efforts.

UNHCR’s resource mobilization was aligned with the Joint Response Plan. To avoid duplication and

optimize the mobilization and use of limited resources, UNHCR collaborated with other UN agencies, development actors and partners and undertook several prioritization exercises to align limited resources with its leadership role in Protection, SCCC and Livelihoods Sectors, and increase cost efficiency and effectiveness.

Against UNHCR's financial requirement, housing needs were 36% funded, leaving a significant gap in shelter construction and rehabilitation. Natural risks such as floods, cyclones, fires, and monsoons frequently damaged shelters, leading to high maintenance and reconstruction costs. Whilst the government approved the Temporary Safer Shelters initiative in December 2024, the roll out will require significant resources from the development actors.

Despite increasing needs, WASH activities in Bangladesh were only 25% funded in 2024 under the UNHCR programme, meaning many planned critical activities could not be implemented.

Only 35% of UNHCR's planned health and nutrition activities were funded, forcing UNHCR to prioritize life-saving efforts. In line with the realignment strategy, UNHCR reduced its health footprint in consultation with the Sector partners and ensured a smooth transition in these facilities. Despite a constrained budget, UNHCR remained a key player in the Health Sector.

There was a significant need for livelihood support for refugees in Bangladesh in 2024 but only 66% of UNHCR's planned activities could be implemented due to resource challenges, making it difficult for refugees to meet basic needs not covered by UNHCR's response.

Only 29% of planned efforts to tackle gender-based violence were funded in 2024 and many critical activities could not be implemented: only 37% of planned activities to address and mitigate child protection risks were funded.

Only 48% of requested funding to support community engagement projects was received and planned activities related to education for Rohingya refugees remained under-funded at 55%.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2024, UNHCR Bangladesh reaffirmed its commitment to supporting refugees and host communities by navigating complex humanitarian challenges and fostering resilience and sustainability. Building on the experiences drawn from 2024, the operation will further strengthen the following key areas:

Advancing Sustainable Response: Significant efforts and notable achievements in recent years, driven by enhanced realignment, localization and rationalization, have improved cost efficiency, effectiveness, and local capacity building for long-term service delivery. However, with funding expected to diminish in the coming years, there is an urgent need for a more flexible policy framework from the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). In particular, increased support for livelihoods is essential to enhance the resilience of both refugees and host communities, thereby reducing aid dependency. Likewise, refugees need the space and safety to develop their own initiatives to support a shift towards refugee-led programmes and ultimately sustainable programming for protection.

Promoting Livelihoods and Self-Reliance: Although JRP partners have successfully provided skill development training and volunteer opportunities to some refugees, the reach of these interventions remains limited, and funding constraints are likely to further restrict these opportunities. It is imperative to create an enabling environment for refugees, especially youth and women, to access income-generating opportunities within the camps. Strengthening linkages with domestic and international markets through partnerships with the private sector and social enterprises will help expand the camp economy, benefiting both refugees and host community members.

Strengthening Localization and Partnerships: Collaboration with national and local actors, including local authorities and national NGOs, has proven essential for enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of the Rohingya response. For UNHCR, localization also means working more closely with refugee-led organizations. Expanding national services into the camps, such as vaccination programmes, has helped avoid the creation of parallel systems and allowed the UN to support refugees through reinforcing the overall national response capacity. Likewise, the justice system in Cox Bazar needs to take into account the specific needs of the refugees and include them in the national justice sector reform and plans.

Enhancing Development Engagement: Fragile shelters and camp infrastructure, resulting from policy restrictions on using more durable materials, has led to significant annual investment on repairs and maintenance. With the recent approval of Temporary Safer Shelters, it is critical for development actors to intensify support for shelter and camp infrastructure improvements. This enhanced engagement will not only improve the safety and living conditions of camp residents but also contribute towards substantial long-term cost savings.



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