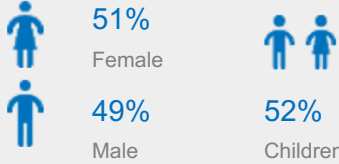




## POPULATION

**981,064** # of registered refugees

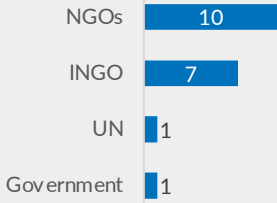
96.4% in 33 camps in Ukhiya & Teknaf  
3.6% on the island of Bhasan Char



as of 31 May 2024

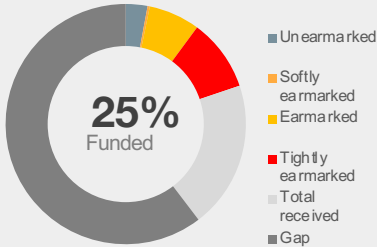
## PARTNERS

**19** # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2024



## FUNDING

**275 M** Funding for 2024 operations



as of 31 May 2024

## HISTORY

UNHCR has been a friend of Bangladesh since 1971, providing life-saving aid to some 10 million refugees forced to flee during the Liberation War.

Today, UNHCR and partners manage 16 camps in Cox's Bazar, including Nayapara and Kutupalong Registered Camps, plus the island of Bhasan Char, supporting the Government of Bangladesh to provide essential services and meet the protection needs of one million Rohingya refugees, including special services for women, children and persons with disabilities. Most arrived in 2017, fleeing persecution, large-scale violence and human rights violations.

Support is additionally extended to host communities while continuously working towards solutions to ensure that refugees can return in a safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable way once conditions in Myanmar allow.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

### May 2024



As Cyclone Remal approached on 26 May, cyclone preparedness volunteers trained by BDRCS raised flags and alerted the community on the island of Bhasan Char. @ BDRCS

## KEY UPDATES

- 2024 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN (JRP):** As of 31 May, the 2024 JRP was [30% funded](#), with USD 254.2 million received against an appeal of USD 852.4 million. The 2024 JRP requests continued support for one million Rohingya refugees, who are dependent on humanitarian assistance, and includes more than 400,000 host community members. As the conflict in Myanmar continues to escalate, international solidarity with Bangladesh and refugee protection is urgently needed. In 2023, the JRP was [65.8% funded](#) with USD 576 million received against an overall appeal of USD 876 million. [Read more.](#)
- CYCLONE REMAL:** On 26 May, [Cyclone Remal](#), the year's first cyclonic storm brought heavy rainfall and winds to 19 districts across Bangladesh, affecting 3.75 million people. This was [Bangladesh's most devastating storm](#) in recent years – damaging 150,000 homes. In the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char, no loss of life nor severe damage was reported – a testament to robust and well-coordinated early warning and emergency preparedness efforts, with strong government support. More than 3,600 Rohingya volunteers tied down almost 3,800 shelters, undertook door-to-door visits to raise awareness, hoisted cyclone signal flags, and relocated families living in risky areas. Across 33 camps, 2,000 temporary shelters, 250 WASH structures and 17 community centres suffered storm damage and must be repaired from dwindling shelter stocks. [Read more.](#)
- PROTECTION OF REFUGEE VOLUNTEERS:** Increasing security incidents in the camps, including reports of forced recruitments of Rohingya men and boys, have heightened risks for refugee volunteers, affecting delivery of critical services in the refugee camps. The Protection Sector, led by UNHCR, is working with key protection partners to develop guidelines for volunteers to help keep them safe in such circumstances. In addition, a risk mapping exercise, led by the Protection Sector, is being conducted to identify the numbers of volunteers and services impacted by the growing insecurity.
- NEW REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:** New standard operating procedures (SOPs) on continuous registration were approved by the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) in May. The new SOPs include provisions to ensure timely registration of newborn refugee children, and others aimed at further enhancing the quality, efficiency and integrity of the Joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR population database – which comprises an essential, reliable and up-to-date source of statistics and documentation for the Rohingya Response. Effective from June, the SOPs will help ensure complete and accurate records of all Rohingya individuals and families residing in the camps through timely recording of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, departures, etc.
- ROHINGYA YOUTH EDUCATION:** A certificate ceremony was organized for 224 Rohingya youth graduating from the Language, Images and Analytical Thinking (LIT) programme in the Cox's Bazar camps, a joint venture of BRAC University's Centre for Peace and Justice and Bard College. Guest speakers including the RRRC emphasized the great importance of education programmes like LIT to build refugee youth's capacity in English and computer skills – which are critical to forging youth leadership.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### 1. BASIC RIGHTS, PROTECTION & EDUCATION

Refugee rights are respected, and they have access to education and protection, including protection against gender-based violence.

### 2. ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS IN A GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Essential and sustainable services (including safe shelters, health, nutrition, WASH, energy) are ensured, and the environment is protected.

### 3. SKILLS & CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Work toward sustainable solutions, with voluntary repatriation at the centre, supported by skills development, livelihoods and capacity building for refugees.

### 4. DIVERSIFIED FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with development and private sector actors to innovate, support and localize operations.

### 5. CREATING A POSITIVE NARRATIVE

Lead the narrative on the Rohingya refugee response and improve public attitudes toward the Rohingya.

## DONORS

UNHCR in Bangladesh is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, Finland, the European Union, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA.

With additional support received from UN funds including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), UN AIDS and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and private donors, foundations, corporates, and companies worldwide including adidas AG, Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Zakat House of Kuwait and Tanmeia Foundation.

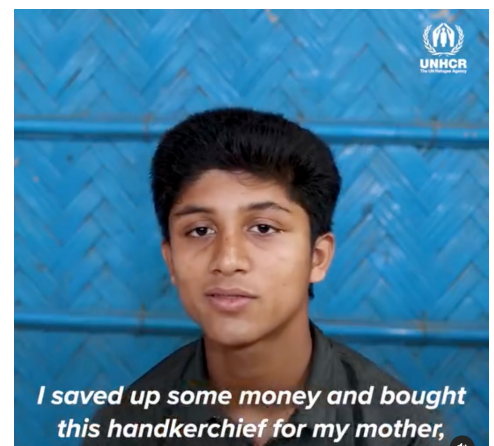
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 External Relations Officer, Cox's Bazar;  
**Romain Desclous**, [desclous@unhcr.org](mailto:desclous@unhcr.org),  
 Senior External Relations Officer, Dhaka.

- **SKILLS TRAINING GRADUATES:** Since the vocational skills programme for Rohingya refugees was launched in December 2022, 4,873 refugees (51.5% female) have received competency-based training in nine trades, with 3,243 trainees successfully graduating after passing the assessment exam. Of graduates, 23% are engaged as volunteers with different agencies; 12% are self-employed in agriculture, tailoring or other activities in camps; and 65% are neither engaged in incentive-based volunteer work nor self-employed. A study is planned to better understand why nearly two-thirds of skills training graduates (2,104 individuals) are inactive. Advocacy for additional livelihoods opportunities is needed to ensure that more graduates have options to leverage their new skills to generate income.
- **LIMITED SHELTER STOCKS:** Bamboo shortages across Bangladesh led to significant delays in shelter repair and construction in April and May, with some 4,000 refugee households on the waiting list for more than a month. UNHCR is working with suppliers to expedite deliveries, while partners update the community via a messaging campaign.
- **FAMILY PLANNING PILOT PROGRAMME:** UNHCR and UNFPA began piloting community-based distribution of family planning methods in ten camps with community health workers distributing oral contraception and condoms, and providing counseling on their use, benefits, and potential side effects. As lead of the Community Health Working Group, UNHCR is supporting coordination, distribution, data collection and awareness-raising. Data from the one-month pilot will be assessed with the possibility of scaling to all 33 camps.
- **HEALTH & SAFETY FOR WASH VOLUNTEERS:** The campaign to vaccinate all sanitation volunteers against Hepatitis B, an occupational hazard of sanitation work, continued in May with 254 volunteers in six camps receiving their third and final dose. The first dose was given to all 605 sanitation volunteers in camps where UNHCR is WASH focal in November 2023; volunteers awaiting their final dose will be reached in June, towards 100% coverage.
- **IMPROVING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:** From January to May, household waste collection improved significantly in camps where UNHCR leads WASH activities, with some camps reporting up to 70% of households separating their own trash into colour-coded bins: green for organic and red for inorganic. This indicates strong behaviour change and reduces need for additional segregation at the material recovery sites. The proportion of organic waste collected has increased – from 30-50% of total waste to 60-80%, varying by camps – leading to increased production of compost fertilizer and decreased deposits of inorganic waste at the landfill, which is projected to reach full capacity by the yearend.
- **WATER RATIONING:** The heavy rainfall brought by Cyclone Remal filled water reservoirs in Teknaf, bringing an end to water rationing for this year. On 28 May, allocation of water was restored from 12 litres per person per day to 20 litres.
- **MISSION REPORT:** In May, UNHCR hosted or assisted 16 visits from donors and partners to Cox's Bazar camps and Bhasan Char, including delegations from the Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UNHCR's [Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific](#).
- **FUNDING UPDATE:** As of 31 May, the UNHCR Bangladesh operation was 25% funded against an operating plan of USD 275 million. New contributions were received from the European Union and the UK.

## IN "CASE YOU MISSED IT..."

- **"I thought my children's future could be ruined there so we decided to take the boat."** Sofia, a 33-year-old Rohingya mother of six, describes why she and her husband decided to leave the Cox's Bazar camps to embark on a dangerous boat journey in search of hope. [Read the story.](#)
- UNHCR Bangladesh published 37 [Facebook](#) posts, 49 [tweets](#) and 30 [Instagram](#) posts in April, including [updates](#) on [Cyclone Remal](#), information on the [plastic recycling shop](#) in the Cox's Bazar camps, a spotlight on [beekeeping](#) as a nature-based solution to deter elephants from human shelters, a peek at the [Refugee Olympic Team](#) and more.



*This Mother's Day (12 May), Rohingya refugees shared touching memories and stories of their mothers. [Watch video.](#)*