

Annual Results Report

2025

Bangladesh

Acknowledgements

UNHCR would like to thank all the stakeholders that contributed data and evidence to this report and reviewed their progress against the joint results of the strategy, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, host communities and host governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. Their contributions enable us to create positive changes in the lives of the people we serve.

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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.

Downloaded date: 08/05/2026

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2025, the operational context in Bangladesh evolved amidst political flux ahead of the general elections scheduled for February 2026, alongside ongoing social, environmental and security challenges. The protracted Rohingya refugee situation persisted, with more than one million refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char heavily dependent on humanitarian aid. Bangladesh's interim Government maintained its long-standing commitment to hosting refugees while increasing diplomatic efforts to enable future voluntary returns, including through the United Nations. It enabled the biometric identification and issuance of Joint Assistance cards for the purpose of delivering lifesaving assistance to some 140,000 new arrivals, allowed the use of sustainable shelter materials, and initiated a pilot to issue SIM cards to Rohingya refugees.

The humanitarian response continued to face operational challenges, including security risks, natural disasters, fire hazards and reduced funding. In Cox's Bazar, heavy rain triggered landslides and flooding that damaged shelters and facilities and resulted in loss of life. Structural limitations further compounded these risks.

Restrictive policies on shelter materials meant that most shelters are made from unsustainable, lower quality materials, while severe congestion increased refugees' exposure to risks. Extending assistance to 140,000 new arrivals in Bangladesh exacerbated existing pressures, particularly given the chronic shortage of adequate space. Restrictions on shelter assistance for most new arrivals heightened protection risks and contributed to tensions both within refugee communities and with host communities.

Funding shortfalls further constrained the response. UNHCR and partners were forced to take drastic cost-efficiency and recalibration measures although these efforts also created opportunities to strengthen coordination, reduce overlap and duplication in assistance and services, and improve the overall efficiency of the refugee response.

The security situation in the camps improved in 2025 but remained fragile. The number of killings and serious assaults decreased by 29% (642 incidents) compared with 2024 (909 incidents) largely due to a truce between organized groups brokered in November 2024. New organizations like the Rohingya Committee for Peace and Repatriation and the United Council of Rohingya emerged, but many refugees and humanitarian actors questioned their agendas and the genuineness of their representation of the interests of displaced Rohingya.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's border remained officially closed to new arrivals from Myanmar. Border Guard Bangladesh continued to detain and return people attempting to cross irregularly. As a result, UNHCR recorded 4,808 people affected by refoulement-related incidents. Engagement with the authorities to advocate for access to territory and the protection of affected civilians yielded limited results.

Despite these constraints, UNHCR remained focused on advocating for a more sustainable response, while continuing to digitize and systematize 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 (2025)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.34%	99.59%

In 2025, Bangladesh implemented its closed border policy, with 4,808 Rohingya reportedly denied access to the country. This represented a 37% decrease compared to the previous year (7,678), mainly due to fewer Rohingya attempting to cross from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Estimated arrivals were significantly higher in late 2024 (19,077) and in the first half of 2025 (13,151) due to intensified armed conflict in Rakhine State. Arrivals declined in the second half of 2025 (5,078), reflecting stricter border controls and reduced fighting in Northern Rakhine compared to the previous year.

UNHCR advocated with Border Guard Bangladesh for the release of newly arrived Rohingya who had been detained with limited success. UNHCR managed to advocate for the successful release of 183 individuals at risk of refoulement out of 871 interventions (21% success rate.) Increased border security and a much stricter approach against humanitarian exceptions resulted in a reduced success rate in 2025 compared to 2024, when between 70-80% of interventions were successful. Interventions could not be conducted for all cases refouled as UNHCR does not always receive timely information about cases at risk of refoulement. In response, UNHCR strengthened its engagement with relevant actors, including through a workshop for Border Guard Bangladesh personnel in January 2025 – the first since 2019. It also conducted its first training session with the Bangladesh Coast Guard in October 2025.

As a result of the interim Government's decision to implement biometric enrolment for new arrivals, joint assistance cards issued to them enabled access to lifesaving services, including food, cooking gas, and non-food items. While not a substitute for standard individual registration, household-level registration enabled 141,532 people to benefit from improved protection and access to basic humanitarian assistance in 2025.

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 (2025)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.39%	9.75%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.81%	96.18%

Since 2018, UNHCR has provided liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as cooking fuel for refugee households in Cox's Bazar. In 2025, this support reached more than 108,000 households, including new arrivals. Studies in Cox's Bazar consistently show that LPG is the most effective cooking fuel, playing a critical role in mitigating protection and health risks and supporting environmental rehabilitation. Over time, adjustments to the distribution and use of LPG, along with the consolidation of distribution points, led to significant efficiency gains. In Bhasan Char, LPG was provided to refugees through a Government-led programme. The distribution of other key core relief items and hygiene kits also continued in 2025 in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

In 2025, UNHCR advanced sustainable, climate-resilient settlements by integrating emergency preparedness, protection-sensitive infrastructure and community-driven solutions – improving safety, living conditions and resilience to climate-related risks for 227,595 people in 45,519 shelters. In this regard, the adoption of the integrated site planning approach – endorsed by the shelter and camp coordination and camp management sector – was central to improving preparedness and response, and optimizing the use of available resources while protecting people and ecosystems and reducing long-term risks. This strengthened collaboration among refugees, the Government and humanitarian actors, and supported closer alignment and complementarity between humanitarian and development efforts. In addition, support for camp management and coordination ensured coherent and timely interventions at the camp level, including preparation for and response to cyclical hazards such as fires, cyclones and monsoons.

UNHCR remained a key provider of health and nutrition services in 2025, delivering 505,057 primary health care consultations and 10,403 referrals to secondary and tertiary care. Across eight primary health centres and 13 integrated nutrition centres, UNHCR supported nutrition treatment for 16,315 children and 980 pregnant and lactating mothers with acute malnutrition.

Through its leadership of the community health working group, UNHCR coordinated the efforts of 1,600 community health workers across all Rohingya camps. This contributed to nearly 100% vaccination coverage, strengthened emergency preparedness and response, increased awareness of the importance of facility-based deliveries and enhanced community health workers' capacity to provide first aid.

As co-lead of the mental health and psychosocial support working group, UNHCR further strengthened national and refugee capacity to deliver evidence-based mental health support for adolescents, a particularly under-served age group.

In addition, UNHCR provided technical support to the sexual and reproductive health working group to address maternal and newborn deaths, which declined from 46 maternal deaths in 2024 to 37 deaths in 2025. UNHCR also developed tools and supported partners in implementing suicide prevention interventions in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

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 (2025)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.71%	84.82%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.17%	35.71%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	47.05%	71.91%

UNHCR and partners advocated for more flexible policies to support refugees' livelihoods, including expanding the skills development programme beyond the 10 approved professions, authorizing refugees to run small businesses in the camps and allowing camp-based products to be marketed internationally, among other measures. Despite restrictive conditions, the Results Monitoring Survey indicated that 10% of the population reported increased income compared to the previous year, highlighting refugees' potential to use their skills to become more self-reliant.

In 2025, 306,068 refugee children aged three to 18 years, including 154,958 girls, accessed education services across all 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char through various partners. Funding shortfalls led to a drop in enrolment in the Cox's Bazar camps from 296,000 in June to 280,000 in July 2025. Most of the reduction occurred in early childhood education, where several partners scaled back activities. Of those enrolled, 9,822 students (3,757 girls) accessed early childhood, primary and secondary education as well as life-long learning through UNHCR-supported education services, including 5,515 students (2,726 girls) who had access to the Pearson Edexcel curriculum in both registered camps. Through UNHCR's proactive advocacy with the Government of Bangladesh, the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner formally approved the implementation of the refugee Higher Education Access Programme, including the roll-out of online degrees in partnership with several universities.

Findings from an inter-sector needs assessment indicated that a significant proportion of refugee and new-arrival households did not feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark. Of the new-arrival households reporting security concerns, 74% avoided moving at night and 47% restricted themselves to their homes, driven by fear and reported extortion demands from organized groups. Refugees reported during consultations that these risks were exacerbated by weak law enforcement, limited and ineffective security patrolling and poor shelter conditions. Similarly, among refugee households with security concerns, 86% reported avoiding movement after dark, while 57% remained confined to their homes to stay safe. Nearly half (47%) of households reported reducing sleep to guard against potential robbery or criminal activity. To mitigate risks, households adopted coping mechanisms such as moving in groups (38%), avoiding specific areas (23%), and, for women, being accompanied by men at night (22%). Insecurity also restricted access to essential services, with 13% avoiding communal facilities such as latrines at night.

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

Indicator		
Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2025)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,195	2,160
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51	113

Voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable repatriation to northern Rakhine State when circumstances allow, remained the preferred solution for most Rohingya refugees. The Government of Bangladesh consistently maintained that repatriation was the primary solution. Efforts continued to ensure the voluntariness of returns. UNHCR advocated for comprehensive solutions, prioritizing safe, voluntary, informed and sustainable repatriation when conditions are conducive, complemented by third-country solutions and self-reliance initiatives in the camps.

Despite constrained global resettlement quotas and major staffing reductions, UNHCR advanced 4,222 resettlement submissions, addressing survivors of violence, women and girls at risk, vulnerable children,

and families requiring reunification. Multi-stream identification pipelines and collaboration with resettlement countries such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand enabled this progress.

The departure of 2,153 refugees underscored the commitment of resettlement states while highlighting unmet needs in one of the world's largest protracted displacement crises. Strategic engagement with Australia, Canada, and New Zealand sustained a multi-country pipeline and pathways for those most at risk. The demographic profile – 59% women and girls – reflected UNHCR's prioritization of gender-responsive, protection-driven case selection.

In 2025, complementary pathways expanded in Bangladesh, supported by a stronger candidate pipeline and new third-country interest. UNHCR broadened access to education pathways to Canada, Japan and the Philippines, enabling accredited degrees unavailable in Bangladesh. With ACTED, UNHCR conducted awareness sessions on family reunification and collected data to identify barriers and inform advocacy. Complementary pathways benefited 113 refugees, expanding international protection through education, labour mobility and family reunification.

For the small number of forcibly displaced and stateless people residing in urban areas, the Government of Bangladesh did not permit resettlement. A limited number of people nonetheless explored self-organized voluntary pathways. In 2025, only three urban refugees proceeded with self-organized voluntary return.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The Government of Bangladesh maintained its closed border policy throughout 2025 and access to territory remained constrained. The reduction in the number of Rohingya denied entry during the year did not reflect improved access, but rather fewer attempted crossings and strengthened border control measures. UNHCR continued to advocate with Border Guard Bangladesh for the release of detained new arrivals, however, these efforts were largely unsuccessful from February onwards with only limited releases secured.

While life-saving assistance continued at scale, the operational environment remained challenging. Adjustments to LPG distribution, including the consolidation and rehabilitation of distribution points in parallel with continued large-scale distributions presented operational challenges. Camps remained exposed to fires, cyclones and monsoons, necessitating sustained emergency preparedness. Shelter needs, including for new arrivals, largely went unaddressed due to policy and funding constraints as well as limited investments in site development. Acute malnutrition persisted among children and pregnant and lactating mothers, while mental health and psychosocial support for adolescents remained insufficient. Although maternal deaths decreased, fatalities continued and suicide prevention interventions remained necessary. Financial and contextual limitations also affected efforts to improve water, sanitation and hygiene access, requiring intensive coordination with multiple partners.

Patriarchal norms remained deeply entrenched in refugee and host communities, restricting women's autonomy, safety and access to services. Survivors of gender-based violence and children affected by violence faced limited access to national protection services, leaving communities heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance.

Restrictive Government policies on livelihoods and education limited self-reliance, especially for adolescents. Boys were exposed to harmful coping mechanisms, while girls were largely confined to domestic work, with few opportunities for growth. Few working-age women participated in income-generating activities, and family documentation issued in the camps held limited validity outside, undermining autonomy and access to support.

LGBTQ+ individuals faced high levels of stigma, elevated risks of gender-based violence, and restricted access to services. While hijras were legally recognized as a third gender, discrimination persisted and protections against sexual orientation-based discrimination were absent.

Funding shortfalls in education led to the loss of 16,000 student places, particularly in early childhood education. Security concerns in the camps remained high, with households fearing movement at night,

avoiding communal facilities, experiencing sleep disruption, and adopting coping mechanisms against robbery and extortion.

Refugee-led organizations could not gain legal recognition, preventing funding or partnerships with humanitarian actors and limiting localization and sustainability. Community representation was weak, as refugees could not elect leaders or establish formal structures, which restricted political ownership and agency despite ongoing UNHCR engagement.

UNHCR faced systemic constraints in advancing resettlement and complementary pathways. Complex procedures, persistent data gaps, heavy best interests determination workloads, as well as documentation challenges slowed case readiness and processing. The suspension of the United States' Refugees Admission Programme and staff cuts created operational instability, increased workloads and reduced capacity for comprehensive case management. Short-term advocacy with other resettlement countries helped stabilize processing, but abrupt changes fuelled rumours and uncertainty among refugees. Complementary pathways expanded, but uneven integration, documentation gaps, limited education levels and weak cross-unit coordination constrained equitable access and scale.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR maintained a strong network of national and local partnerships in 2025, which was critical to achieving key operational and protection outcomes.

The Government of Bangladesh remained UNHCR's principal counterpart, enabling the organization to operate in Cox's Bazar and other locations. Close collaboration and advocacy continued with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), and other relevant authorities.

At the strategic level, UNHCR led or actively participated in several key inter-agency coordination mechanisms. With the UN Resident Coordinator, it co-chaired the Strategic Executive Group of the Rohingya refugee response alongside IOM. At the community level, UNHCR worked closely with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in Cox's Bazar to ensure a timely and effective response. It was also involved in the Joint Response Plan, UN Country Team, Security Management team, Programme Management Team, and Operation Management Team. UNHCR continued to lead the protection, shelter/camp coordination and camp management, and livelihoods and skills development sectors. On Bhasan Char, it coordinated the response in close partnership with the RRRC, working through the sector coordination groups based on the island.

In 2025, UNHCR continued to rationalize its partnerships, prioritizing sectors where it had a leadership role and comparative advantage. The Office maintained partnership agreements with 19 partners, including 17 international and national NGOs, two UN agencies, and the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner. UNHCR also piloted partnerships with refugee-led and community-based organizations to strengthen community capacity and expanded collaboration with operational partners such as the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Islamic Relief Bangladesh to diversify delivery modalities and reduce donor dependency.

Engagement with development actors was further strengthened, including with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

UNHCR also worked closely with the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, WFP and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office to develop a regulatory sandbox for access to mobile financial services, which was expected to be piloted with refugee community volunteers in 2026. In tandem,

UNHCR expanded private sector engagement to support refugee livelihoods, including Fast Retailing, which continued to provide financial and technical support for 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 (2025)	Actual (2025)
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%	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

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	177,433	
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	205,142	

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, registration and data management activities expanded significantly, reflecting operational scale-up, stronger data integrity and greater inclusion. New registrations increased from 50,497 in 2024 to 177,539 in 2025 (approximately 252%). While more than 99% of registrations in 2024 were for births, due to a moratorium on new arrivals, 2025 saw a major shift in population documentation. Birth registrations accounted for 39,669 people (22%), while 137,870 (78%) were enrolled through biometric identification following Government authorization after the headcount exercise.

Documentation outputs were substantial in 2025. Family attestation certificates were issued to 60,074 households, covering approximately 288,355 people, while joint assistance cards reached 39,852 households. In addition, 87,857 people aged 12 and over received identification cards. Changes in family composition were processed for 8,650 families, and 13,248 people received status updates, including both activations and inactivation.

Biometric identity management system adjudication cases reached 2,412 – a 45% increase compared to

2024 – reflecting strengthened data verification efforts. Key procedural achievements included removing the appointment requirement for new birth registration, improving access to birth information notes and simplifying processes to enhance accessibility and efficiency.

Quarterly presence confirmation exercises in Bhasan Char confirmed the population at fewer than 30,000 by the end of November, reinforcing population oversight and accountability. Capacity-building initiatives strengthened interviewing techniques, child-friendly communication, community messaging and case management. Coordination with Humanity and Inclusion also improved disability prevalence data and promoted greater inclusion.

Additional progress included strengthened complaint and feedback mechanisms, the renovation of five registration sites to improve service delivery conditions, and enhanced coordination with integrity and Government counterparts. Overall, 2025 demonstrated substantial growth in biometric verification, documentation coverage and disability inclusion, marking clear progress in operational maturity, infrastructure and data reliability compared to 2024.

For the urban caseload, 33 asylum-seekers were registered and issued documentation on a priority basis, partially reducing the waiting list created by staff reductions and expenditure constraints. Refugee status determination for forcibly displaced people residing in urban settings continued on a strategic basis, aligned with protection and solutions criteria. However, limited staff capacity and competing priorities made it unfeasible to conduct refugee status determination for newly registered cases in 2025. Priority cases are expected to be addressed in 2026.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Refugee status determination procedures are in place.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
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

At the start of 2025, there was no backlog of people awaiting refugee status determination. The registration of 33 asylum-seekers in November 2025 who resided in urban settings did not result in any first instance decisions on refugee status determination due to a lack of staff capacity and competing priorities. Their status will be determined in 2026 in accordance with standard operating procedures.

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

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Not yet aligned	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	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
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

Efforts to prevent refoulement through advocacy had mixed results in 2025.

While 183 people were released from detention, there were 4,808 refoulement incidents. In response, UNHCR intensified its engagement with Border Guard Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Coast Guard on refoulement risks in the final few months of 2025, including training for 47 border guards and 20 coast guard officers.

Other engagement with authorities included training for 50 senior Government officers at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre. There was also a protection workshop attended by 21 officials from the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's office, known as 'camp-in-charge' staff, who manage administration, security and aid coordination in each camp. A group of 32 camp-in-charge staff also attended civil documentation training. In addition, UNHCR hosted a training of trainers session with the judicial training institute, including district judges in Cox's Bazar, and four training sessions for Bangladesh peacekeepers. The Office also co-hosted a high-level international seminar on sustainable solutions for the Rohingya with the Foreign Service Training Academy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and completed a certificate course with graduate students from the Dhaka University Departments of Law and International Relations. Two multi-year memorandums of understanding were signed with both departments, cementing existing relationships. In Bhasan Char, six training sessions on refugee protection and access to justice were attended by 120 personnel from district police and the Armed Police Battalion, who had been deployed to the island. Government and law enforcement personnel also attended workshops on mainstreaming child protection.

Advocacy and engagement continued with the authorities at Cox's Bazar and in Dhaka to strengthen patrolling in the camps and ensure the safety of refugees and humanitarian staff. UNHCR also scaled up training for the Armed Police Battalion on protection principles and community outreach, reaching 518 staff (40 female and 478 male). Improvements in the armed police's capacity and integrity were observed in the second half of the year, including disciplinary action against personnel implicated in reported misconduct. Across the 33 camps, reported incidents involving Armed Police Battalion personnel decreased from 34 in 2024 to nine in 2025.

In addition, 55 police investigation officers received sensitization training on refugee protection response, and a workshop with 28 pro-bono lawyers supported efforts to advance refugee inclusion in the national

legal aid system.

Refugees continued to face restrictions on movement outside the camps. However, the number of refugees arrested for violating the Bangladeshi Foreigners Act remained low for the third consecutive year as a result of continued advocacy, greater familiarity among authorities with refugees' documentation and implementation of the relevant case law.

UNHCR continued to provide legal protection counselling and support services. Through legal aid services, 34,769 refugees (57% women and girls) were better informed about and able to exercise their rights. Support included legal counselling, assistance with filing cases, court representation, mediation, and interventions to secure release from detention. Additionally, 43,367 refugees were reached through legal awareness sessions.

To support refugees' self-reliance in navigating justice mechanisms, UNHCR and its implementing partner delivered a month-long legal literacy course for refugees covering legal rights, responsibilities, and referral pathways. 361 refugees participated in Cox's Bazar and 40 on Bhasan Char.

UNHCR, together with UNFPA and UN Women, also improved access to legal assistance for women and girls by deploying female lawyers and refugee paralegals in Multi-Purpose Women Centers in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. Seven of these centers, run by UNFPA and UN Women, exist in the camp to provide safe spaces for women and girls-centered programming, and legal desks were established to improve accessibility of these services to women and girls.

UNHCR engaged with the Office of the High Representative on Rohingya Problem and Priority Issues; the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Disaster Management and Relief; as well as the telecommunications regulator; the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's office; and partners, to develop a pilot programme enabling the legal issuance of SIM cards to Rohingya and to secure an enabling regulatory and digital environment for a sustainable solution. By the end of 2025, the SIM card pilot had begun implementation in Camp 4. Agreements were also secured with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief to establish a regulatory sandbox for mobile financial services for refugee community volunteers, to be implemented in 2026

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Forcibly displaced people are safe from gender-based violence.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Host Community	70.59%	95.00%	89.20%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86.63%	90.00%	86.28%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Host Community	47.59%	60.00%	59.02%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.00%	90.00%	54.55%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	99.94%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	224,674

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR continued to deliver life-saving services for survivors of gender-based violence, providing comprehensive support that included access to health care, psychosocial support, legal aid, and security. In 2025, 224,674 people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes.

Services to support survivors of gender-based violence were delivered across 33 camps and six host locations and through 56 dedicated facilities on Bhasan Char. This was done in collaboration with partners BRAC, ActionAid Bangladesh and Bandhu. Survivors at imminent risk of further harm could access safe and community-based shelters.

UNHCR sought to help prevent gender-based violence by fostering long-term behavioural and attitudinal change. As part of this approach, it launched a male role models programme with a structured curriculum for 789 men and boys, addressing the harms of child marriage and other dangerous traditional practices. Girl Shine programmes, an evidence-based initiative designed to protect and empower adolescent girls in humanitarian settings, reached 3,640 people and focused on equipping girls aged 10 to 19 with the knowledge, skills and confidence to navigate their health, well-being and social relationships. In parallel, 213,737 people learned more about harmful power imbalances and gender norms through SASA! Together, a community-mobilization approach that works with communities to prevent gender-based violence.

On Bhasan Char specifically, 90 refugees, the majority of whom were women (75), were enrolled in literacy and numeracy programmes as part of broader gender-based violence prevention activities. While the skills were basic, the programmes significantly improved communication, inclusion and empowerment within the community.

To address the structural drivers of gender-based violence and reduce people's vulnerability to violence, UNHCR also advanced women's empowerment and leadership through its women empowerment and leadership programme, which delivered training to 458 women in salon services, farming, food pickling, tailoring and stitching. Of those participants, 309 became part of a women's and girl's support network in 2025, forming 16 peer-support groups that foster solidarity and skill-sharing while supporting participants to eventually establish autonomous, self-sustaining activities. Additionally, 800,779 people participated in gender-based violence prevention and risk mitigation activities through awareness-raising, community outreach and evidence-based programming.

Monitoring results show encouraging progress. The majority (86%) of refugee women, girls, men, and boys reported knowing where and how to access gender-based violence services, reflecting effective communication of referral pathways and the strong visibility of gender-based violence partners. Attitudes toward violence against women also improved gradually, with 54% of refugees and 59% of host community members reporting that such violence was unacceptable.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Refugee children are safe and able to fully enjoy their rights

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.80%	100.00%	100.00%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	82.53%
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%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	501,796

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners prioritized child protection capacity-building to strengthen core principles, minimum standards, and the best interests procedure, enhancing the capacities of UNHCR, partners, Department of Social Services (DSS), and communities, and contributing to more coordinated and effective child protection services for refugee and host community children.

In 2025, UNHCR and its implementing partners strengthened child protection outcomes for refugee and host community children in 13 UNHCR-managed camps in Cox's Bazar, Bhasan Char, and three host community locations, focusing on multi-faceted response and prevention measures. Child protection services, including psychosocial support, life skills education and resilience-building activities supported 501,796 children and caregivers.

UNHCR continued to provide quality case management services for vulnerable children, in line with its best interests determination process. During the year, 5,155 children at risk of harm (2,501 girls and 2,654 boys), including 481 children with disabilities and 841 unaccompanied and separated children, received specialized case management services. An additional 995 children underwent child protection assessments to support their access to registration, food collection and individualized protection support, ensuring timely and tailored interventions.

The best interests determination process was strengthened, with 737 decisions approved in 2025 – nearly double the 436 recorded in 2024. This reflected greater engagement from the Department of Social Services, interagency capacity-building and enhanced coordination. UNHCR formalized the best interests determination process through terms of reference and collaborated with the case management technical working group to ensure the best interests assessment was integrated into case management tools, supporting consistent protection outcomes across all sites.

Preventive and resilience-building outcomes were scaled up. Psychosocial support was accessed by 13,806 children and adolescents, 470,862 participated in child development activities, and 3,610

adolescents completed life skills-based education programmes. On Bhasan Char, 279 children accessed psychosocial support, 20,334 participated in child development activities, and 400 adolescents completed life skills programmes, building resilience and enabling the early identification of protection concerns.

Community-based protection mechanisms remained central to UNHCR's work in 2025, with 176 community-based child protection structures strengthened, and 275 lost and missing children reunified with families. Awareness initiatives reached 120,713 people, with 8,363 parents participating in positive parenting programmes. On Bhasan Char, 30 community-based structures were strengthened, 11 unaccompanied children were reunified with family, six DSS caseworkers were trained, and 1,500 parents engaged in parenting programmes, reflecting increased local ownership and sustainability.

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

Community engagement strengthened and expanded.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.58%	70.00%	68.37%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,155
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	365,794
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,177,962

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR's community-based protection approach strengthened community resilience, social cohesion and access to protection services across refugee camps. Working with community structures, religious leaders, volunteers and partners, refugee communities were actively engaged in identifying protection risks, supporting vulnerable people and leading solutions to improve living conditions. This approach ensured community members were not only participants of UNHCR's programmes but active drivers of protection outcomes, focusing on awareness-raising, safe

spaces, volunteer engagement and community-led initiatives, with targeted attention to adolescents, women and people with disabilities.

Community centres provided safe spaces for social interaction, learning and psychosocial support. In 2025, 626,257 people participated in activities including sports, arts, literacy, life skills and social gatherings, fostering social cohesion and emotional well-being. Awareness-raising sessions reached 987,964 people on topics including child protection, gender-based violence prevention, peaceful coexistence, disability inclusion, health and psychosocial well-being. Community outreach members, volunteers, refugee leaders and religious leaders played key roles in delivering these messages effectively, ensuring inclusivity. This expanded local capacity and enhanced sustainability of protection interventions across camps.

Refugee-led initiatives addressed protection concerns such as infrastructure improvements, support for people with disabilities, and assistance to vulnerable households, while promoting social cohesion through cultural, sports, youth and interfaith activities. UNHCR engaged 8,600 volunteers, including 550 on Bhasan Char, to support outreach, awareness, and community-led protection interventions. Volunteers received training to enhance skills in protection principles, conflict resolution, inclusion and referral pathways, ensuring consistent quality across all sites and supporting the sustainability of local protection networks.

Women, girls, people with disabilities, and marginalized groups were actively engaged in community activities, leadership roles and safe spaces. Community structures and youth groups facilitated awareness-raising, dispute resolution and leadership initiatives, further strengthening social cohesion. Refugees who participated in these activities reported to have developed essential knowledge and skills to better cope with daily challenges, enhance their well-being, and strengthen community engagement and social interaction.

The Sports for Protection (S4P) program strengthened social inclusion and youth empowerment among children and adolescents aged 10–24 years across six camps. Over 1,200 sports sessions were conducted by 36 trained coaches, engaging approximately 3,200 adolescents, 46% of whom were female. The program enhanced life skills, leadership, teamwork, gender awareness, and protection knowledge. UNHCR rehabilitated 12 sports fields, built girl-friendly and disability-accessible facilities, and provided sports equipment.

During the year, 365,794 queries were submitted through the centralized automated information processing platform – UNHCR’s digital system for streamlining complaint and feedback mechanisms. Nearly all queries (97%) were addressed within 17 working days. Helpline operators responded to 78% of enquiries immediately. Improving Wi-Fi connectivity at selected complaints and feedback desks enhanced access to digital submissions and timely responses. On Bhasan Char, 257 sessions reached 3,252 people, and 21 fire drills trained 4,491 refugees, including 140 volunteers, to respond effectively during emergencies and improve safety awareness within the community.

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 (2025)	Actual (2025)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Host Community	Data not available	2.00%	0.18%
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	69.12%	100.00%	56.42%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.00%	100.00%	96.63%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Host Community	1,177
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27,912
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	587,353
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	541,204

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The interim Government of Bangladesh demonstrated flexibility on certain refugee livelihoods opportunities, such as mobile SIM cards, cash for entrepreneurship and approval for refugee-made products to be sold on international markets. However, livelihood opportunities remained limited in 2025. Refugees continued to reside in the camps without the right to work, and in-camp opportunities were limited to those supported by humanitarian actors, leaving most households reliant on humanitarian support.

In 2025, UNHCR continued to support access to essential cooking fuel, core relief items, and shelter, enhancing safety, dignity and living conditions.

During the year, 859,806 LPG refills were distributed to 108,055 households across the 16 UNHCR-managed camps. To promote safe and efficient use of LPG, 19,609 stoves, 29,845 pressure cookers and 18,285 new LPG sets were distributed. LPG support was extended to more than 15,000 new arrival households, and UNHCR went door-to-door to raise awareness raising on safe LPG use was conducted of how to safe LPG use. Coordinated action ensured distributions resumed promptly following two brief supply interruptions in February and December.

On Bhasan Char, LPG supply was significantly reduced after one provider discontinued support in July, prompting a reprioritization of distribution that excluded households with alternative income sources. As a result, fuel insecurity increased, with more families resorting to privately buying fuel, including cutting or buying firewood, which contributed to environmental degradation.

To mitigate these challenges, 260 pressure cookers were distributed to newly arrived refugees and individuals who were missed in the 2024 distribution. In addition, 1,081 double-burner biogas stoves were installed in communal kitchens to expand access to biogas for cooking. Following the LPG reductions, 414 households became fully reliant on biogas, while previously, 2,206 families – including extremely vulnerable people and large households – had used biogas only as a supplementary fuel source.

Across 18 camps, 587,353 people received core relief items, including 210,437 female hygiene kits for women aged 12 to 49, and regular soap assistance to all households. Critical core relief items support reached 11,381 newly arrived households (45,099 people), while 92,064 households received a replenishment of core relief items, addressing long-standing gaps in blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, sleeping mats, and hygiene items. In many cases, it was the first replenishment since 2018. UNHCR coordinated with implementing and operational partners to ensure mosquito nets were distributed to all households in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

All distributions in 2025 used the global distribution tool, which was applied for the first time in shelter distributions in Cox's Bazar. In Camp 4 Extension, 220 composite bamboo and 75 double-storey shelters were provided to 305 households, including 184 new arrivals. These distributions strengthened targeting, accountability and transparency in the renovated Block F.

Renovations and the consolidation of distribution points also improved cost efficiency and service delivery. By December, the transition to new distribution partners was completed, integrating distribution and site management activities. This change further enhanced coordination, operational efficiency, and refugee participation, ensuring smoother and more reliable service delivery for the community.

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 (2025)	Actual (2025)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.39%	15.00%	11.25%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.21%	100.00%	99.50%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	187,488

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR advanced climate action by promoting safer, more resilient and protection-centered living conditions and strengthening its technical leadership and integrating settlement planning. The rollout of the integrated settlement planning approach introduced a structured, risk-informed framework for camp development and supported the Government-endorsed multi-sector settlement planning taskforce within the coordination structure.

A multi-hazard risk assessment across all managed camps informed site planning and guided the scale-up of temporary safer shelters. UNHCR also provided technical oversight to partners, ensuring harmonized and protection-sensitive approaches.

Despite reduced funding, UNHCR achieved a 99% shelter implementation rate. Pre-positioning of materials and efficient supply management enabled assistance to 41,959 households, surpassing 2024 levels. Rapid responses to fires in Camps 1W and 26 restored support to more than 1,200 families.

In total, 3,560 transitional shelters were constructed with disability-inclusive and flood-resilient features, bringing cumulative improvements to nearly 6% of shelters across the 16 UNHCR-managed camps. Engagement with Camp-in-Charge officials promoted environmentally efficient materials, including steel bridges and permeable concrete, further strengthening the sustainability of shelter interventions.

UNHCR invested \$6 million in community infrastructure, including registration and distribution centres, community spaces, learning facilities and 90 fire safety water tanks. The rollout of

UNHCR's Global Distribution Tool across 19 sites strengthened monitoring and transparency. This approach promoted sustainable materials such as Geotex and provided inter-agency technical leadership on settlement planning and safe double-storey shelter options. Advocacy efforts supported continued Government approval of temporary safer shelter designs, while pilots of double-storey shelters addressed congestion.

Renewable energy interventions expanded, with maintenance of more than 12,000 solar streetlights and support to mini-grids serving key facilities. Technical oversight ensured compliance with engineering standards. Ecosystem rehabilitation under the SuLMER programme continued to mitigate disaster risks and strengthen environmental protection.

Camp coordination meetings addressed emerging issues, and 180 stakeholders in Cox's Bazar received camp coordination and camp management training through joint initiatives, with another 32 stakeholders on Bhasan Char receiving similar training.

The human-elephant conflict mitigation project, aimed at protecting Rohingya refugees and endangered Asian elephants and other wildlife, engaged 594 volunteers across 99 watchtowers in the first half of the year. Following restructuring, 342 volunteers operated 57 watchtowers in the second half, reporting 157 incidents and approximately 60 wildlife rescue responses. The transition aligned activities more closely with site management while maintaining community-based prevention.

On Bhasan Char, repairs across 64 clusters - residential units with common kitchen and wash facilities - benefited 1,888 households, improving roofing, access ways, and roads. Community consultations engaged 128 refugees, while 368 participated in cash-for-work activities. Households reporting insufficient sleeping space decreased from 46% to just under 33%, and 93% confirmed that they received the shelter support they needed. Limited electricity maintenance benefited 2,974 households.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Forcibly displaced people have access to health and nutrition services

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.69%	100.00%	94.15%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.00%	100.00%	89.36%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services		
Host Community	11,911	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	493,146	
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services		
Host Community	619	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	293,975	

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR worked in line with the Health Sector's rationalization strategy, handing over three health facilities to operational partners, including primary health care centres in Nayapara Refugee Camp and Kutupalong Refugee Camp. Three health posts were closed and 11 nutrition facilities were transitioned to UNICEF.

UNHCR supported 505,057 consultations. There were 7,382 inpatient admissions, including 156 patients admitted for specialized mental health care. Studies led by Médecins Sans Frontières reflected an alarming prevalence of hepatitis C among refugees. In response, UNHCR provided hepatitis C testing kits and medications for almost 7,000 refugees.

The UNHCR-led Community Health Working Group (CHWG) played a pivotal role in strengthening preventive health activities across all camps, contributing to high-impact vaccination campaigns for oral polio vaccine, the human papillomavirus, and oral cholera vaccine, achieving close to 100% coverage in every camp. During the year, 3,778 deliveries took place in UNHCR-supported facilities, with 89% attended by skilled health workers. UNHCR also enhanced healthcare delivery through comprehensive training for health workers on emergency response, maternal and child health, birth and death notification processes, basic first aid and the prevention of priority diseases.

Community health workers referred more than 1.2 million people from the community to health facilities. Most referrals were for suspected communicable and non-communicable diseases (56.2%), followed by routine immunization (15.6%) and antenatal care (14.8%). Additionally, community health workers conducted 72,039 group sessions in the community on key health, nutrition and protection topics.

Malnutrition rates remained a challenge. During the year, 3,214 children under five received treatment at UNHCR-supported integrated nutrition facilities for severe acute malnutrition and 13,101 children were treated for moderate acute malnutrition. Additionally, 980 pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition received specialized support. Coverage of preventive services remained consistently high, particularly vitamin A supplementation (98%) and deworming (94%). In coordination with UNICEF and WFP, UNHCR led a joint assessment mission and developed a joint plan of action across sectors to be presented in early 2026.

In 2025, access to focused, evidence- and community-based psychosocial interventions was maintained and expanded. UNHCR addressed gaps in culturally appropriate and linguistically adapted interventions for Rohingya adolescents. The Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions intervention was piloted alongside caregivers. Frontline workers were trained in Psychological First Aid, case identification, and referral. A total of 24,759 refugees, including 7,781 people newly identified with mental health needs, received focused individual counselling by trained refugee counsellors. In addition, 10,295 refugees with more severe needs received specialist counselling. UNHCR introduced digital pre- and post-counselling psychological assessment tools, enabling outcome analysis for more than 2,300 refugees. Impact evaluations indicated statistically significant improvements across key mental health and psychosocial indicators.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Forcibly displaced people have optimal access to education.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.21%	2.00%	0.48%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,322

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR and its partners provided learning opportunities across multiple levels of education, reaching 9,322 students (3,757 girls) in early childhood, primary and secondary education in the two registered camps, basic education at the transit centre, and lifelong learning programmes across 21 camps. Among adolescents and young people, 2,027 participants (191 girls) attended the language, images and analytical thinking (LIT) course and the refugee higher education access programme (RhEAP), while 480 young people (179 girls) received advanced computer training. Female participation was lower in the LIT course and RhEAP programmes due to the limited number of Rohingya girls completing Grade 8, many of whom were enrolled in the Asian University for Women. LIT and RhEAP, implemented jointly by Bard College and BRAC University, provided pathways for higher education and self-reliance. Among RhEAP graduates, 70% were employed by NGOs, 15% were pursuing undergraduate degrees, and 4% were running their own businesses.

Through advocacy with the Government of Bangladesh, the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner formally approved the implementation of RhEAP and the roll-out of online degree programmes. Scholarship programmes were expanded with partner universities, enabling five students to pursue undergraduate degrees in the Philippines and Canada, and two students to attend master's programmes in Japan. The Education and Public Health Unit also collaborated with the University of Geneva to deliver a certified Advanced Community Health course to 30 adolescents and young people.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University (BRAC IED), provided certified pedagogy training to 1,008 teachers (474 female) and academic supervision training to 100 school supervisors from various education partners. The training emphasized learner-centered practices, play-based approaches, and effective curriculum delivery. In partnership with Pearson plc, six batches of subject content training on the Pearson Edexcel curriculum engaged 171 teachers from registered camps participating for 2.5 days each, strengthening skills in feedback, differentiation, leadership and supporting students' critical thinking. An additional 305 teachers participated in ongoing professional development, including monthly refreshers, peer learning through teacher circles, and training on cross-cutting issues such as inclusive education, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and child safeguarding.

UNHCR and partners supported 36 community education committees, comprising 418 members (329 female), trained in school management and cross-cutting issues, who actively contributed to school improvement planning and decision-making. As Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) co-chair, UNHCR provided technical and strategic advice to the education sector and participated in all thematic working groups, ensuring alignment with national standards and best practices.

The Pearson Edexcel curriculum was scaled up from kindergarten to grade eight in the registered camps, enrolling 5,515 students, including 2,726 girls. This curriculum expansion strengthened foundational learning and prepared students for higher education pathways.

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

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Host Community	99.08%	100.00%	99.75%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.98%	100.00%	98.12%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Host Community	Data not available	50.00%	41.50%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.85%	3.00%	1.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	295,232	

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR ensured refugees and host communities could access clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services across 11 camps, despite operational transitions and severe climatic pressures. The WASH sector reorganization in January 2025 led to UNHCR handing over five camps in Ukhiya to UNICEF and assuming responsibility for two camps in Teknaf from IOM, while UNICEF continued to lead WASH services on Bhasan Char. Throughout these transitions, services continued without interruption and core WASH relief items were distributed to all eligible refugee households.

Access to safe water averaged 23 litres per person per day across all camps, down from 33 litres in 2024. This decline reflected the impact of prolonged drought in Teknaf from late 2024 through mid-2025. By January 2025, water supply in Teknaf was reduced to 10 litres per person per day – the critical minimum threshold. Emergency measures, including water trucking, helped maintain supply during the peak dry season. In contrast, camps in Ukhiya continued to provide water above internationally recommended minimum levels, highlighting differences in water availability across locations.

Sanitation services remained largely stable during the year, with 97% of latrines and bathing facilities functioning (98% in 2024). However, population growth slightly reduced coverage, resulting in an average of 21 people sharing each latrine, marginally above sector standards. Waste treatment systems continued to operate at full capacity, contributing to protecting public health and the surrounding environment.

Managing wastewater and solid waste remained challenging in the camps, creating tensions with nearby host communities. Improvements to wastewater treatment in Teknaf reduced environmental risks, although heavy rainfall still caused greywater to overflow into surrounding areas. Solid waste collection declined from 83% in 2024 to 79% in 2025, and waste separation fell from 68% to 52%, largely due to infrastructure constraints. Despite these challenges, organic waste composting remained significant. Ten material recovery facilities processed 10,492 m³ of waste, producing compost and recycled

plastic products that benefited both refugees and host communities.

Community engagement remained central to gender-responsive WASH services. Thirty women's hygiene centres supported 2,190 women and girls, improving dignity, privacy and menstrual hygiene management. Hygiene promotion activities reached more than 3,200 people, including people with disabilities, contributing to strengthened disease prevention during the monsoon season.

Through integrated WASH and health interventions, UNHCR contributed to containing cholera, scabies and dengue outbreaks in 2025. While most service standards were maintained, some gaps in access persisted – particularly for women, children, and people with disabilities residing in densely populated or newly allocated areas. This highlighted the need for improved site planning and household-level WASH solutions.

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 (2025)	Actual (2025)
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	1.39%	4.00%	3.00%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.63%	10.00%	9.50%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10,865

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Rohingya refugee population faced a critical juncture, remaining highly dependent on humanitarian aid amid significant global funding cuts. To mitigate this systemic dependence, UNHCR and its partners prioritized creating income-generating opportunities both within and beyond camp boundaries to foster self-reliance and promote the refugee community's dignity and resilience.

In 2025, a comprehensive strategy enabled 10,865 forcibly displaced and stateless people to develop their skills and boost their livelihoods across 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. Among them, 2,128 young people successfully completed Vocational Skills Training Level 1. The efficacy of these programmes was high, with 93% of participants acquiring certified competencies following independent assessments. Transitioning from learning to doing, 51% of these graduates were immediately engaged in volunteer or self-employment roles within the camps.

To bridge the gap for those entering formal training, the accelerated adult literacy programme provided

foundational education to 3,913 refugees across 116 learning centres. A partnership with the British Council expanded access to higher education and professional mobility, with 114 refugees completing intensive English training and sitting the IELTS exam.

Recognizing the potential of the digital economy, UNHCR established three advanced digital literacy centres in late 2025, connecting 180 refugees with ICT skills to remote freelancing opportunities.

Simultaneously, the Green Innovation Hub introduced a decentralized, community-led service model in Camp-4ext and Camp-27. This initiative empowered 100 skilled graduates to operate as independent service providers, managing demand-based businesses and delivering repairs and technical services, while retaining profits.

The diversification of skills was evident in sectors ranging from culinary arts to manufacturing. Two cafés in Camp-5 and Camp-27 were staffed by 20 graduates of bakery and pastry training. In another intervention, 50 refugees were nearing completion of a shoe-making course (ending February 2026), which prepared them to engage with private investors or local camp markets.

Women's empowerment remained a cornerstone of these efforts. Over 1,331 refugee women were engaged across eight production centres. Five of these centres continued to receive technical and financial support from Fast Retailing, producing reusable sanitary pads and female underwear for general distribution. In a joint effort to support the project's sustainability, UNICEF procured hygiene materials from UNHCR's partner. In 2025, 169,510 kits were delivered to UNICEF, valued at \$820,000. At the end of 2025, the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner officially approved the entry of refugee-made products into international markets, paving the way for long-term economic sustainability.

On Bhasan Char, livelihood support reached more than 3,500 households through livestock rearing, aquaculture and vegetable production, directly improving nutritional outcomes on the island.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Refugees are empowered to make informed decisions about voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
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 maintained the position that the presence of refugees in the camps was intended to be temporary, with the expectation of sustainable return once conditions in Myanmar permitted. Voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation remained the desired goal for most Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. However, given intensifying conflict in Northern Rakhine State, 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 organized in 2025. The Government of Bangladesh organized a Stakeholder Dialogue in Cox's Bazar on 25 August 2025. UNHCR senior officials participated alongside Rohingya refugees, government officials of Bangladesh and other member States, international organizations, NGOs, development actors, the private sector and political parties. The messaging was overwhelmingly clear – that – for the most part, Rohingya refugees wish to return, once

conditions are in place. The international community called again for a political solution to the crisis in Myanmar, while also reiterating it would work in support of the creation of conditions in Rakhine State conducive to voluntary return. This messaging was underscored by the High Commissioner for Refugees and others speaking at the High-Level Conference on Rohingya Muslims and other minorities on 30 September 2025 in New York.

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, recognizing that repatriation must be an informed decision and must be voluntary, safe, and dignified, with sustainable reintegration arrangements in place, including access to basic services, livelihoods, and a pathway to citizenship.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Refugees benefit from resettlement and complementary pathways

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12,439	5,000	4,220
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Data not available	150	113

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, despite the reduction of the resettlement quotas and processing capacity, UNHCR achieved its resettlement objectives and observed a rise in departures via complementary pathways. Across all population groups, including women, men, adolescents, older people, and people with disabilities among the Rohingya refugees in 33 camps, the year saw important operational advances and the introduction of new systems designed to strengthen protection, advance complementary pathways and enhance resettlement case processing.

Resettlement remained the strongest driver of protection impact, with UNHCR submitting applications for 4,222 people, exceeding its annual submission target of 3,200 people for Australia, New Zealand and Canada. This was supported through expanded collaboration with resettlement countries, including additional Australian quotas and first-time dossier submissions for Canada. A multi-stream identification system integrating referrals from UNHCR units continuously identified people in need of resettlement. The majority of these quotas benefitted Rohingya refugees who had been residing in Bangladesh since 1992, as well as some of the most vulnerable refugees with heightened protection risks.

Despite global resettlement constraints, 2,153 refugees departed for third countries, providing essential

pathways to safety and restoring hope for some of the most at-risk people. Resettlement countries such as Australia, Canada, and New Zealand maintained engagement throughout the year. The demographic composition of submissions (59% female and 41% male) demonstrated continued prioritization of gender-responsive protection. Complementary pathways further expanded opportunities, with 113 refugees accessing family reunification, private or community sponsorships and education, and scholarship channels.

These pathways ensured access to secure travel documentation, regulated stay arrangements, and structured support throughout the process. For Rohingya refugees, who continued to face significant restrictions on formal education and employment opportunities inside Bangladesh, these mechanisms created essential prospects for long-term and legal stay and accredited learning abroad. UNHCR simultaneously advanced labour mobility readiness by reinforcing certification processes and aligning refugee skills training with international labour market needs, laying the groundwork for future expansion of safe and lawful employment-based pathways.

In 2025, UNHCR and partners facilitated targeted legal awareness and protection counselling to help refugees understand available family reunification options, documentation requirements, and safe application procedures. Through sustained engagement in camps, evidence from refugee households helped identify systemic barriers, including documentation challenges, embassy access restrictions and procedural burdens, leading UNHCR to advocate for more accessible, protection-sensitive reunification avenues with multiple countries. These efforts contributed to a more predictable and informed process for refugee families seeking lawful reunification abroad.

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2025)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78,835
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not at all

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR continued to progress its age, gender and diversity commitments, focusing on strengthening participation, leadership and inclusion. In 2025, the Girl Shine programme supported 3,640 adolescent girls and their caregivers across 16 camps, with support from UNHCR partners. The programme seeks to support, protect and empower adolescent girls in humanitarian settings. It focused on supporting girls at high risk of being deprived of education and opportunities due to customs that discouraged school attendance or participation in activities after first menstruation, often leading to early marriage.

A peer mentorship programme built the capacity of graduated participants, with 149 young women - "Girl Shine Stars" - serving as outreach volunteers promoting positive social change. Women's representation in community groups and committees reached an average of 49% across Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, reflecting continued efforts to promote women's participation in decision-making.

In parallel, UNHCR co-led the gender-diverse population working group as part of humanitarian protection efforts, focusing on mapping services for vulnerable groups and raising awareness of gender-diverse rights and needs. Through these efforts, 30,365 people with specific needs received non-cash assistance, while 314 staff, community volunteers, caregivers and carpenters were trained in disability-inclusive

programming, disaster risk reduction, rehabilitation and the maintenance of low-cost assistive devices – strengthening the capacity of communities to support vulnerable people.

Building on these protection efforts, UNHCR sought to enhance opportunities for adolescents and young people. With this goal in mind, 480 young people enrolled in computer training, while 2,027 participated in youth- and adolescent-specific education programmes designed to improve literacy, numeracy and other skills, as well as access to higher education. For example, the Language, Images, and Analytical Thinking (LIT) course serves young people aged 16 to 24 with basic literacy and numeracy skills up to the lower-secondary education level, preparing them for the bridging programme, which targets those aged 17 to 24, who have completed LIT or up to grade nine. Across all output areas, an age, gender and diversity approach was applied, ensuring inclusive participation.

Section 3: Resources

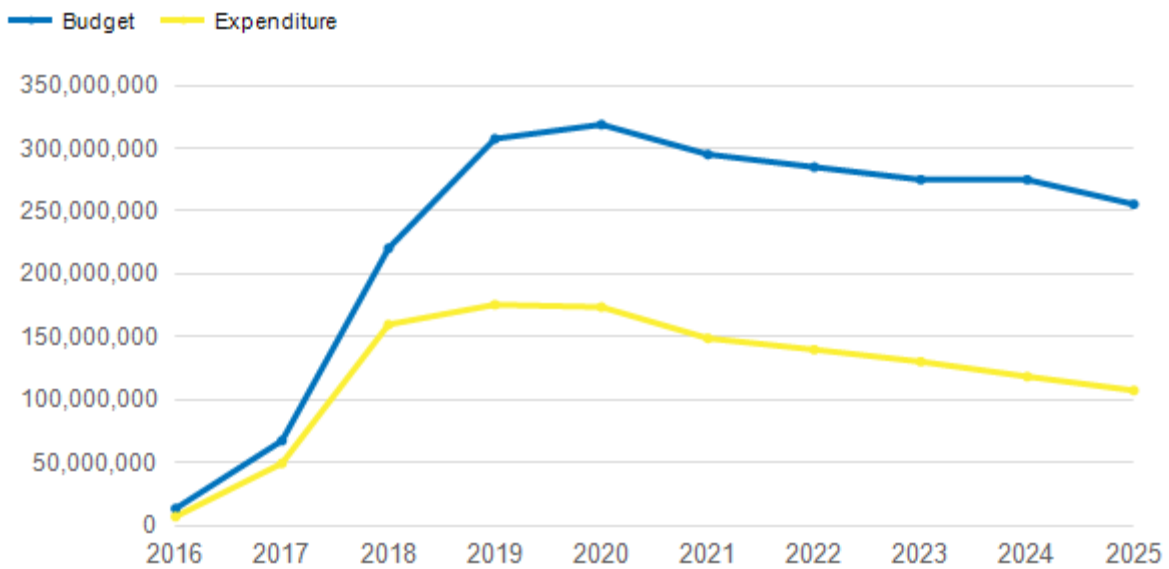
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

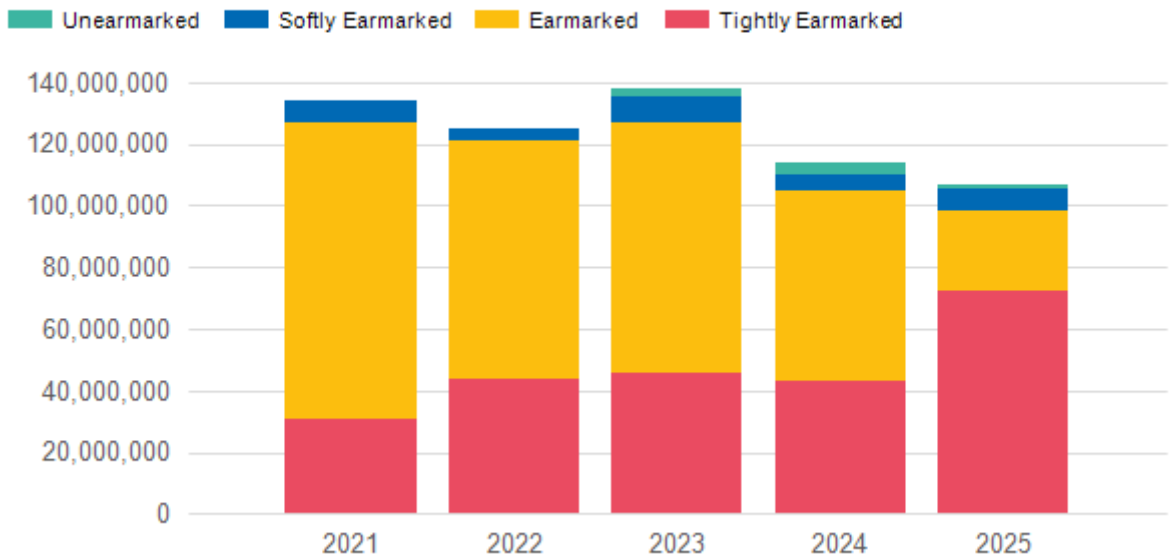
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	42,892,960	18,692,491	43.58%	18,391,949	98.39%
IA2: Respond	169,916,200	64,944,917	38.22%	64,703,148	99.63%
IA3: Empower	35,533,635	21,052,538	59.25%	20,794,727	98.78%
IA4: Solve	7,191,418	3,643,272	50.66%	3,643,272	100.00%
All Impact Areas		794,325			
Total	255,534,213	109,127,544	42.71%	107,533,096	98.54%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	7,895,523	3,903,897	49.44%	3,787,997	97.03%
OA2: Status	868,829	933,479	107.44%	933,479	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	6,095,201	3,244,279	53.23%	3,011,990	92.84%
OA4: GBV	11,597,129	4,058,050	34.99%	3,759,102	92.63%
OA5: Children	9,040,584	3,303,361	36.54%	3,303,079	99.99%
OA7: Community	16,831,065	7,682,105	45.64%	7,682,105	100.00%
OA8: Wellbeing	39,235,348	18,658,883	47.56%	18,533,681	99.33%
OA9: Housing	55,785,730	22,392,128	40.14%	22,392,128	100.00%
OA10: Health	31,776,531	9,973,963	31.39%	9,859,986	98.86%
OA11: Education	7,395,693	3,896,301	52.68%	3,596,301	92.30%
OA12: WASH	26,168,720	7,962,871	30.43%	7,962,871	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	18,702,571	13,370,433	71.49%	13,112,622	98.07%
OA14: Return	2,734,206	1,055,998	38.62%	1,055,998	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	4,457,212	2,587,274	58.05%	2,587,274	100.00%
EA17: Systems	3,996,288	2,033,409	50.88%	1,967,145	96.74%
EA18: Support	6,919,433	2,325,691	33.61%	2,242,599	96.43%
EA20: External	6,034,150	1,745,421	28.93%	1,744,738	99.96%
Total	255,534,213	109,127,544	42.71%	107,533,096	98.54%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

By the end of 2025, UNHCR’s work in Bangladesh had received only 41% of the funds budgeted in its operations plan, creating gaps in the provision of basic needs and protection in the camps. With UNHCR’s response in Bangladesh becoming increasingly protracted amid crises in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, it remained challenging to sustain donors’ interest and expand fundraising efforts.

Mid-year, UNHCR adapted its resource mobilization strategy to align with the Rohingya Response Prioritized Joint Response Plan, while ensuring programme continuity in areas that support longer-term sustainability. To avoid duplication and make the most of limited resources, UNHCR collaborated with

other UN agencies, development actors and partners and conducted several prioritization exercises to align limited resources with its leadership role in protection, shelter, camp coordination and management, and livelihoods, enhancing both cost efficiency and programme effectiveness.

Only 25% of the housing needs identified by UNHCR were funded in 2025, leaving major gaps in shelter construction and rehabilitation. Recurrent floods, cyclones, fires, and monsoons continued to damage shelters, increasing maintenance and reconstruction costs.

Programmes aimed at improving forcibly displaced and stateless people's access to WASH facilities were just 5% funded in 2025, preventing the majority of planned work being implemented.

Just over a third (35%) of planned health and nutrition activities were funded during the year, requiring UNHCR to prioritize life-saving services and reduce its health footprint, focusing on smooth transitions in coordination with its sector partners. Despite budget constraints, UNHCR continued to play a key role in the health sector.

Livelihoods and skills development needs remained high. While UNHCR implemented 87% of its planned activities to address these needs, remaining funding gaps limited full coverage and reduced opportunities for refugees to meet their basic needs independently.

Efforts to better protect forcibly displaced and stateless people from harm in 2025, particularly children, women and girls, faced severe shortfalls too. Only 20% of gender-based violence interventions and 37% of child protection activities were funded.

Community engagement activities received less than a third of the funding required (31%) and this had the potential to limit UNHCR's ability to build trust, respond to community priorities and mobilize local participation among forcibly displaced and stateless people as well as host communities.

Education for Rohingya refugees was also particularly underfunded (13%), which risked restricting children's access to learning and, over time, their opportunities for higher education, livelihoods and social inclusion.

Core protection and registration activities, alongside accountability to affected people and LPG distributions, continued without interruption due to country-level funding and agile private sector support, which was used to bridge timing gaps. This approach also enabled early procurement and positioning for the monsoon season, as modification requests and new grants were being finalized.

Tightly earmarked resources also safeguarded uninterrupted implementation for a number of innovative activities, including the Data for Health initiative backed by Bloomberg Philanthropies, ensuring reliable health and registration information for programme decision making. Private partners reinforced critical lines such as the International Relief Organization Join Together Society, which delivered more than 6 million bars of soap to Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar to support critical hygiene needs, while development and third-party financing underpinned medium-term outcomes, including resources received from EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships and the NDICI (also known as the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument or EU Global Programme), the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's UN Joint Programme with UN Women. Engagement with Global Refugee Forum pledge makers and other third-party platforms supported coordination and complementary resources.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2025, UNHCR reaffirmed its commitment to supporting refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, navigating complex humanitarian challenges while promoting resilience and sustainability. Building on lessons learned, UNHCR will focus on improving efficiency and local capacity by realigning programmes, strengthening partnerships with national actors and rationalizing services.

UNHCR Bangladesh held a 3-day Strategic Moment of Reflection from 27 to 29 January 2025 to assess progress, capture lessons learned and inform priorities for the year ahead. The first day was conducted internally, the second day engaged implementing partners, and the third day marked the first-ever participation of Government counterparts in this format, including the Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and Camp-in-Charges. The event provided an opportunity to review key achievements from 2025 and reflect on how collective efforts can be strengthened to better support refugees, particularly in light of an anticipated constrained funding environment. The following key lessons learned and actions going forward were drawn from the SMR discussions.

Refugees are increasingly taking leadership roles in service delivery and community-based protection, helping to strengthen accountability and the effectiveness of activities.

With funding declining, a more flexible policy environment from the Government of Bangladesh will be essential, particularly to expand livelihood opportunities, reduce reliance on aid, and support refugee-led programming. UNHCR will continue working with development actors, international financial institutions, private sector and donors to support refugees' inclusion in national systems and essential services, benefiting both refugees and host communities.

Localization is a priority. UNHCR expanded its reliance on national partners and refugee volunteers, combining partner support with a hybrid protection model supported by UNHCR focal points. The number of funded partners was reduced from 17 in 2025 to 13 in 2026, prioritizing national actors to strengthen efficiency and sustainability.

Protection and shelter services are also being decentralized. Following a risk assessment, steps were taken to phase out the transit centre, with protection cases to be accommodated within designated camp areas to maintain access to essential services and avoid long-term isolation and further rely on the law enforcement entities to ensure the security of refugees. The transition, which began in 2025, will continue through 2026.

Advances in digital and financial tools have strengthened inclusion and operational efficiency. Advances in digital registration, SIM distribution and preparing the ground for the piloting of mobile financial services in collaboration with the World Bank, IFC, WFP and UK FCDO and agreement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aim to speed up have sped up delivery, enhanced accountability, reduced cash-handling risks, and supported self-reliance.

Stronger coordination with Government and partners improved monitoring, scalability and overall efficiency. Working with national systems helps ensure programmes are sustainable and strengthens relationships with host communities. Joint resource mobilization secures more predictable funding in a challenging global environment.

Given high needs and limited resources, UNHCR must prioritize core protection and other mandate activities and seek ways to make sure its work is cost effective. At the same time, efforts are underway to diversify funding sources, including by engaging with development actors, the private sector, and innovative financing approaches, alongside strengthened donor reporting and cost-efficiency.

Early and structured engagement with development actors has proven critical for long-term solutions. Collaboration with the World Bank and other international financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation, underscored the importance of sustained policy dialogue on economic inclusion, resilience and joint assessments. Lessons learned highlighted the

need to better align livelihood initiatives with local systems, promoting skills recognition and decent work frameworks, and more strategically leveraging the skilled labour force in camps – particularly for infrastructure and resilience-building projects in Cox’s Bazar. Integrating refugee and host community interventions into medium-term development advocacy and planning processes strengthens sustainability and overall impact.



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