

BANGLADESH

16 - 22 January 2018

UNHCR remains prepared to work with both the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar and the refugees towards finding a durable solution to the crisis in the interest of the refugees, both Governments, the host community in Bangladesh and all communities in Rakhine State.

The relocation of some 2,333 refugees from Bandarban to Kutupalong settlement was completed in six days. The relocation of the second group of 6,637 refugees has already begun and is expected to be completed within nine days.

According to UNHCR, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and IOM, 102,000 refugees are expected to be directly affected by floods and landslides during the coming rainy season. UNHCR and partners have accelerated their preparedness efforts.

POPULATION FIGURES

688,000* Estimated new arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017

212,000* Estimated refugee population before 25 August 2017

900,000 Estimated total refugee population currently

STAFFING & PARTNERS

205 staff currently working on the emergency compared to **49** prior to the crisis. **137** are national staff.

23 partners compared to **7** prior to the crisis

** As reported by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.*

FUNDING

USD 83.7 million

Requested for UNHCR's initial emergency response from Sept 17 to Feb 18. Out of this amount, **USD 26,4 million** are the requirements for Jan-Feb 2018:



A Joint Response Plan, covering the period from March to December 2018, is under preparation



After the initial Rohingya displacement, many shelters were built on low land and will be vulnerable to flooding.
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Operational Context

Some 688,000 refugees have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh since 25 August 2017. Between 14 and 20 January 2018, some 506 refugees arrived in Bangladesh, a decrease in comparison to last week which saw the arrival of 690 people.¹

UNHCR is working with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and partners to ensure protection and the delivery of much needed assistance to refugees, many of whom are children (55%) and women and girls (52%). With the monsoon rains fast approaching, all actors continue to expand basic infrastructure and services in the refugee settlements of Kutupalong and Nayapara. Efforts towards the stabilization of the hilly terrain of the settlements to mitigate the effects of landslides and flooding are also underway.

On 23 November 2017, the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a bilateral 'arrangement' on the return of refugees to Myanmar. This agreement outlines important commitments by both governments to ensure the voluntary and safe return of refugees to their place of origin in Myanmar. As of today, UNHCR considers that the necessary safeguards for the potential returns of refugees to Myanmar are absent. UNHCR has called on Myanmar to allow the necessary unhindered humanitarian access in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State and create conditions for a safe and sustainable solution.

On 18 January 2018, the UN Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights in Myanmar, Ms. Yanghee Lee, arrived in Bangladesh, where she conducted interviews with refugees and met with authorities as well as UN agencies. She will conclude her visit on 24 January 2018 and will then travel to Thailand. Her visit came amidst growing anxiety amongst refugees about the discussions on the repatriation process. Some peaceful protests were held in both Kutupalong and Nayapara settlements at the time of her visit. Before considering return to Myanmar, Rohingya refugees reiterated that they would need to see positive developments in relation to their legal status and citizenship, the security situation in Rakhine State, and their ability to enjoy basic rights back home.

¹ Information on arrivals at border points are reported through various sources which cannot always be verified or confirmed.

Update on achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and impact

- The 190 active community outreach members (COMs), which cover four areas of Kutupalong, including the makeshift, Nayapara extension area and Chakmarkul, have conducted over 150 home visits and more than 210 information sessions, reaching out to some 3,500 refugees. Forty cases under monitoring have been resolved after actions by COMs and partners this week.
- As part of its efforts to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), UNHCR trained some 117 community outreach volunteers (COMs) from Kutupalong on SGBV prevention and response. 17 of these will be engaged in safely referring SGBV survivors to appropriate services and in raising awareness on SGBV with community members. In addition, six focus group discussions were conducted in four areas of Kutupalong settlement to engage communities in the development of the inter-agency SGBV strategy. Amongst others, the communities raised the need to increase awareness raising activities and engage religious leaders, the elderly and community leaders on SGBV prevention and response.
- UNHCR teams continue to conduct protection monitoring and to identify protection incidents in settlements, facilitated by the use of complaint boxes and a hotline service that is open seven days a week. This week, UNHCR received almost 40 calls through the hotline, related to issues of family disputes, medical assistance, and violence. A tracking incidents system has been established and since the launch of the hotline on 3 January and 20 January, some 63 calls were referred to the appropriate services.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- This week, UNHCR met with religious leaders in two areas of Kutupalong settlement to discuss ways to increasingly involve religious leaders, community leaders and groups, in the protection of children. During these preliminary discussions, community members and leaders discussed issues of child labour, which poses particular risk to unaccompanied and separated children and the insufficient number of child friendly spaces and lack of space to play. In addition, they regretted the limited education opportunities for children. UNHCR will continue to hold similar discussions in the remaining areas of Kutupalong settlement. These will help to further guide UNHCR and partners interventions in the area of child protection.
- Refugees have increasingly requested of income generation activities, which would provide them with some additional means and the possibility of accessing a more diverse diet. Lack of safe self-reliance activities places refugees at heightened risk of trafficking, exploitation and abuse.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- So far, over 7,800 refugee boys and girls are enrolled in primary education, with more than 1,300 children enrolled in the past week. Since the last week of December, 15 classrooms were constructed in two areas of Kutupalong settlement. An additional 30 classrooms are expected to be completed by end of February.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Refugee parents continue to call for education opportunities for their children. They emphasized in particular the importance of formal education as they consider some of the current facilities, such as child friendly spaces, inadequate for the development of the children.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Achievements and Impact

- The first part of the relocation of refugee families from Bandarban to Kutupalong settlement was completed, with some 2,333 individuals relocated between 14 and 19 January 2018. The distribution of shelter kits and family counting for this group will continue during next few days. On 21 January 2018, the relocation of 6,637 refugees from Bandarban / Bor Shon Khola began and is expected to be completed within nine days. Partners continue to support UNHCR with logistical arrangements, including volunteers for the carrying of luggage, provision of hot meals and water, as well as medical and protection screening upon arrival to Kutupalong.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Following the fire incident in one tent in the transit centre near Kutupalong, which led to the death of four refugees on 12 January 2018, some additional fire mitigation measures, including 21 fire extinguishers and 100 buckets, have been placed in the facility to complement the 10 fire extinguishers, 50 buckets and fire blankets already available at the facility. Some 300 solar lamps were also delivered to improve lighting at night time in the tents. UNHCR continues to work with the authorities to re-visit and reinforce fire prevention and response systems in the camps to minimise as much as possible the risk of such tragedies.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- The initial findings of the flood and landslide analysis conducted by UNHCR, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and IOM reveal a potentially devastating impact on key infrastructure and services as well as the population living in Kutupalong settlement. Some 102,000 individuals are expected to be directly affected by floods and landslides. Many key infrastructure and services are also at risk of being disrupted or destroyed in the event of a flood or landslide in the coming months, including 23% of bathrooms, 25% of latrines, 30% of fixed health posts, 20% of primary health centre, 40% of sexual and reproductive health clinics. It is highly likely that three out of four bridges will be destroyed.
- This information will guide and further focus UNHCR and partner's ongoing work to implement measures to prevent land slippage and flooding in the hilly camps of Kutupalong. Such interventions, include the distribution of shelter improvement materials and sand bags, the construction of footbridges and the reinforcement of terraced land with local technologies. So far, some 20,345 m² of land has been prepared for communal facilities, such as temporary learning centres or health centres. In addition, some 4,445 steps, 11 kms of pathways and 996 meters of bridges have been

built to facilitate refugees' access to services, in particular for those with specific needs such as children, women at risk and the elderly.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- A number of refugee families have expressed concerns over the coming rainy season and the possibility of landslides. Activities to prepare for the monsoon will accelerate in the next weeks. UNHCR plans to distribute upgraded shelter kits to another 50,000 refugees. The improvements to pathways and bridges will also continue, with works in the remaining areas of Kutupalong starting in February.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- According to WHO, there are some 4,700 suspected cases of diphtheria and 34 deaths as of 21 January 2018. UNHCR is using the capacities of COMs to play a greater role in the second phase of the diphtheria campaign to encourage refugees to seek immunization. The COMs undertook a small scale survey with some 245 refugees on issues around diphtheria messaging. Almost all of those surveyed had heard about diphtheria in the settlements predominantly through COMs, followed by community health workers as well as family, neighbours and friends. Those interviewed shared that challenges include lack of information on the disease and prevention, fear of being vaccinated and lack of understanding on the messages disseminated. Overall, the survey demonstrated the confidence the refugee community places in the COMs, who are ranked first amongst those they would trust on messaging on health, followed by religious leaders, family, friends and neighbours.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- UNHCR and its health partners, are continuing to scale up medical services for refugees in two zones of Kutupalong and Nayapara. Together with OBAT Helpers and Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), a facility with an inpatient department will be established in one area of Kutupalong. In addition, the refugee health unit of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) will start being operational in Nayapara 2 and Shalbon.

Working in partnership and inter-agency spirit

- UNHCR works closely with other UN agencies to implement a host of inter-agency projects in a various sectors. UNHCR also works in close collaboration with a range of international and national NGOs in Bangladesh, and scaled up its implementing partnership network to 23 partners, including nine national NGOs. In 2018, UNHCR also intends to pursue additional collaboration with national and local partners to enhance services and delivery, and will work to increase national and local sourcing of goods and services. In addition, UNHCR is assuming its lead role in the protection response for all refugees, coordinating closely on the delivery of assistance with UN agencies and other partners through the various sector working groups of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.
- UNHCR continues to support the GoB's efforts in providing protection and assistance to all refugees. UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR cooperates with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the local representative of the MoDMR.

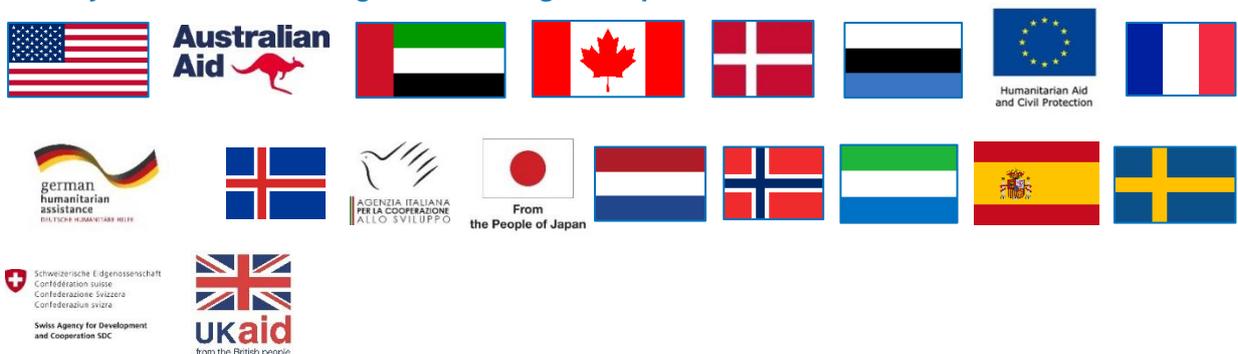
Donor Support

UNHCR is providing emergency assistance and protection in an evolving refugee crisis in Bangladesh. UNHCR continues to call for flexible funding in order to efficiently respond to changing needs and emerging priorities. UNHCR is grateful for the valuable support provided by all donors who have contributed towards identified immediate life-saving needs, and towards supporting the safety and dignity of refugees. The valuable support provided also helps the Government of Bangladesh, through its ministries and authorities, to manage the response with UNHCR's support.

The significant demands on the humanitarian response for Bangladesh need to be recognised. The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh has been extraordinarily generous. However, additional support is needed. UNHCR hopes that the commitment of Bangladesh towards supporting refugees' immediate needs and finding solutions will continue to be supported by the international community with adequate financial contributions and with other support in 2018. An inter-agency Joint Response Plan (JRP), covering the period from March to December 2018 is presently being finalised.

In 2018, UNHCR will continue work with authorities and partners to provide essential services for refugees, in particular enhancing access to protection services, shelter, health and nutrition, water/sanitation, education and others. Activities to protect natural resources and the environment will be supported also in consultation with local communities.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh operation in 2017 and 2018, and donor country unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations



With thanks also to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies in Australia, China, Egypt, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, and UAE, including IKEA Foundation, UNIQLO Co. Ltd, Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation, Opec Fund for International Development, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, UPS Corporate, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Silent Foundation, Fondazione Prosolidar-Onlus and RUSSING Group. Special thanks also to UNOPS, and CERF.

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