

OVERVIEW

Over 730,000 refugees fled from Myanmar since August 2017 and are hosted in Bangladesh. They undertook long and difficult journeys and reported experiencing atrocities and human rights abuse. The Government of Bangladesh continues to provide access to its territory for the Rohingya seeking refuge from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and other human rights violations. Although the overall influx has significantly slowed down since the onset of the crisis in August 2017, Rohingya refugees continue to arrive in Bangladesh. Since January 2018, **16,656 individuals** sought refuge in Bangladesh, many of whom witnessed family members killed or endured separation and deep psychosocial distress. Additional risks and needs are placed onto them in displacement with one in three refugees identified with a specific vulnerability that requires specialised protection attention. Children make up 55% of the total refugee population; women and girls 52%.

In total, 907,199 Rohingya refugee women, men, girls and boys are hosted in Cox's Bazar District, including 33,956 registered refugees who arrived in the 1990s (4%); and other unregistered refugees who had settled in host communities prior to August 2017.

PROGRESS

The Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR launched a **joint registration exercise** for Rohingya refugees at the end of June 2018. The exercise helps consolidate a unified database for the purposes of protection, documentation, provision of assistance, and population statistics.

UNHCR and partners support case management with rapid and comprehensive assessments, referrals, reunification of children with parents/relatives, and monitoring of foster care.

Since January 2018, **1,059** unaccompanied children (492 boys and 582 girls) and **2,703** separated children (1138 boys and 1561 girls) were identified and assisted.

Daily protection monitoring undertaken in settlements since January by UNHCR and partners. In addition, border monitoring missions by UNHCR teams to various border entry points continue. **6,980** refugees received legal consultations/ counselling. A total of **10,866** arrivals assisted in 2018.

In 2018, **26,310** cases in need of support, including 1,850 requiring urgent intervention, were identified during 28,618 home visits and referred to relevant services by 354 trained refugee volunteers (243 men, 111 women) as part of UNHCR's community-based protection program. **354 refugee volunteers** also known as Community Outreach Members (COMs) were trained on protection, humanitarian principles, Code of Conduct, and gender-based violence (GBV), with 30% now specialised on GBV prevention, response and safe referral to appropriate services.

KEY FIGURES



525,115 refugees (incl. 254,399 men and boys & 270,716 women and girls) reached through more than **25,000** awareness raising sessions on key lifesaving activities and how to mitigate protection risks.



360,631 (186,812 boys and 173,819 girls) children benefitted from psychosocial support through Child-Friendly Spaces and **55,677 children (27,908 boys and 27,769 girls)** through mobile services.



Over **1,000** unpaid refugee volunteers of Men, Women and Youth Community Groups completed 365 service projects which were identified in consultation with the community, or an average of one service project every day of the year.



9 community centres offer integrated GBV services.



4th round of data collection at settlements and protection profiling completed in December 2018.



Minoara, 27, (wearing black and gold hijab) and Fatema Khatun, 27, (wearing peach and purple) are elected representatives in Camp 4 Extension, Kutupalong refugee settlement. They are working with community members to solve problems. UNHCR and partners support refugee camp governance to develop an accountable and inclusive refugee camp governance through elected community representation. ©UNHCR/R. Arnold

Through community outreach, UNHCR engaged with refugees to strengthen awareness on key lifesaving and protection risks, including trafficking and exploitation, child marriage, GBV, health (such as diphtheria and cholera), education, as well as preparedness and response during emergency and extreme weather, reaching **525,115 refugees** (52% male and 48% female) in the course of more than 25,000 awareness raising sessions.

Nine community centers with integrated GBV services, 11 safe spaces for women and girls, 3 integrated counselling centers, 2 integrated women center, 1 comprehensive women center, and 7 counselling centers, are operational in 17 sites with UNHCR support.

From January to December 2018, a total of **360,631** children (186,812 boys and 173,819 girls) were able to benefit from psychosocial support through structured activities and **55,677** children (27,908 boys and 27,769 girls) through mobile services activities at the Child-Friendly Space (CFS). A total of 47 static CFS established under UNHCR funding are operational.

2070 calls from refugees through a UNHCR Protection Hotline were logged and referred for relevant follow-up.

In partnership with REACH, UNHCR published the third round of settlement and protection profiles, which provides data disaggregated per site (demographics, protection and safety concerns, interventions needed, and priority needs expressed by refugees). The fourth round of data collection was completed in December 2018.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) response is integrated into complaint mechanisms. An awareness raising campaign and materials were developed and disseminated. UNHCR, partners and government staff were trained on PSEA. Sensitisation of refugees is ongoing.

UNHCR completed an analysis of the legal framework applicable to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

UNHCR also advocated successfully and obtained the agreement of the Government of Bangladesh to **register births of all refugee children** born on the territory.

MONSOON AND CYCLONE SEASON



Female refugee volunteers conducted outreach to Rohingya children on the danger of flood and landslide at Kutupalong refugee settlement in Ukhiya sub-district. ©UNHCR

As preparedness for the monsoon and cyclone season, UNHCR has established Information Points for lost family members' meeting and tracing locations. In line with the Child Protection Sub-sector guidance, **six** CFS were designated as lost child and caregivers meeting points.

Sessions on emergency preparedness were undertaken with key messages for the community on extreme weather, disaster risks and mitigation measures, and protection risks. These were widely disseminated to refugees at their homes, in temporary learning centres, as well as in community and public spaces, reaching **161,808** persons.

UNHCR trained first responders for emergencies in the community, including 594 safety unit volunteers (452 male and 142 female) on protection. Some 51 refugee volunteers were trained on psychological first aid (PFA).

UNHCR and Protection partners from the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) through different initiatives trained **296 PERU** (Protection Emergency Response Unit) mobile team members from 25 different organisations, including specialised GBV and child protection staff, on humanitarian principles, coordination structure and PFA, as well as PSEA.

COORDINATION AND PARTNERS

UNHCR leads the Protection Sector with an overall coordination role among protection actors, and liaises with relevant government authorities on protection issues.

From the onset of the emergency, the Protection Working Group (PWG) met in Cox's Bazar on a regular basis to identify key issues related to protection and coordinate efforts to address them. The PWG established an inter-agency protection focal point system to strengthen the response at camp level, referral pathways for individual cases, and prepared joint protection advocacy papers. The PWG works closely with the Child Protection and GBV Sub-sectors, as well as other sectors in order to mainstream protection and gender across the response

UNHCR's protection partners for 2018, working side-by-side on delivering services, are: Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), BRAC, Danish Refugee Council, Handicap International, Save the Children, Solidarités International, Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI), Terre des Hommes (TDH); Research Training and Management International (RTMI); and Relief International, as well as other partners involved in the inter-agency response.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

UNHCR co-chairs the **Strategic Executive Group** together with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a **Protection Working Group** in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnerships with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as with a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 28 partners, including:

Action Aid Bangladesh | **ACF** (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Woman Lawyer's Association) | **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society** | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **Caritas Bangladesh** | **Center for Natural Resource Studies** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **COAST** (Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust) | **Danish Refugee Council** | **FH Association** (Food for the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **IRC** (International Rescue Committee) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **Handicap International** | **Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation** | **Light House** | **Oxfam GB** | **Relief International** | **Mukti Cox's Bazar** | **NGO Forum for Public Health** | **RTMI** (Research, Training and Management International) | **Save the Children International** | **Sesame Workshop** | **Solidarites International** | **Terre des hommes** Foundation | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated)

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 3,000 volunteers from the refugee community who are often the first responders on the ground. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with safety unit volunteers (SUVs) who support the emergency response, community outreach members who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, community health workers who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2018/2019)



With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including the Arab Gulf Fund, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Education Cannot Wait, International Islamic Relief Organization, Kuwait Finance House, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Big Heart Foundation, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, and UPS Corporate. Special thanks also to CERF.