Refugees who fled violence in Myanmar to Bangladesh since August 2017 continue to face mental health and psychosocial concerns. These can affect their long-term mental health and psychosocial well-being. In addition to their experiences in Myanmar and the impact of those events had, their living conditions in refugee settlements in Cox’s Bazar contribute to higher levels of daily stress for the refugees. Consequently, the mental well-being of the most vulnerable continues to be affected and requires support.

**Progress**

UNHCR, in collaboration with partner organizations, continues to improve the situation to support refugees’ mental health status. The following activities have been completed since January 2019:

- 958 refugees received individual psychosocial support services
- 249 clinical mental health consultations provided
- 18,802 refugees participated in psychosocial group activities

**Challenges**

- Community-based psychosocial interventions are not yet at the scale needed to reach the number of refugees in need of these activities
- Currently clinical mental health services are not widely integrated in general healthcare support
- MHPSS data collection and reporting is only partially available across different sectors

**Way Forward**

UNHCR is working to strengthen different levels of mental health and psychosocial support interventions, including recruiting and training Community Psychosocial Volunteers (CPVs) and Community Para-Counsellors to promote community-based activities. Equally, UNHCR is training psychologists and counsellors on individual psychosocial support, and integrating mental health services into its primary healthcare system in eight locations (with possibility to extend to more locations). In 2018, UNHCR published a study on the culture, context and mental health of Rohingya refugees, which will also be used as guidance to inform the way forward.
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 partnership 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 27 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) | **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** | **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)**

UNHCR’s humanitarian response in Bangladesh is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed unrestricted funding to UNHCR’s global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR Bangladesh operations. In 2018 and 2019, support has been received from the people and governments of:

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

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.