

# BANGLADESH

1 – 30 June 2019

**IN THIS UPDATE:**

- *Infant and young child feeding monitoring exercise completed*
- *Ongoing monsoon shelters works and assessment*
- *Lightening arrest poles installed in Rohingya settlements*
- *Registration at 43%*
- *World Refugee Day marked in Cox's Bazar and Dhaka*
- *Japan Goodwill Ambassador visits Kutupalong settlement*

Over **374,271** Rohingya have received identity cards through the ongoing **joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR registration exercise**. It is estimated **43%** of the registration process is completed so far. With 4,500 individuals going through registration on average per day, progress is being made to complete the entire population before the year end.

A UNHCR **shelter assessment** has examined over 53,384 households for shelter repair needs. Some 62% are in need of partial replacement of selected shelter materials, while **35% are in need of full shelter kit replacement**.

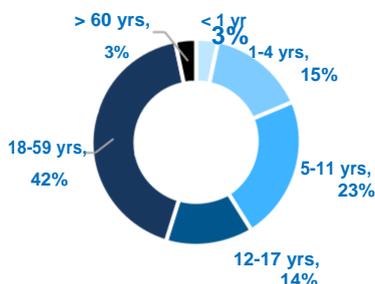
## Population figures

(as of 30 June 2019)

**911,113** Total number of refugees in Cox's Bazar

**741,947** Estimated new arrivals since 25 August 2017

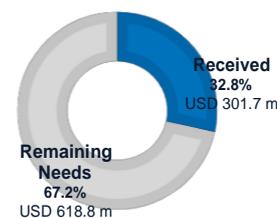
### Age breakdown of refugees in Cox's Bazar



### UNHCR FUNDING REQUIREMENTS 2019



### JOINT RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING REQUIREMENTS 2019



U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, H. E. Earl R. Miller, walks with refugee community members, volunteers, and UNHCR to highlight the journey of refugees worldwide – StepsWith Refugees campaign - in Kutupalong refugee settlement on 20 June – World Refugee Day. Photo: UNHCR/K. Hosain

## Infant and Young Feeding monitoring exercise completed

UNHCR and Save the Children International (SCI) led a nutrition sector infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF–e) monitoring exercise in April/May 2019 to examine practices within the Rohingya community. The exercise found that less than optimal infant and young child feeding practices were the main causes of malnutrition among Rohingya children. The assessment follows two rounds of SMART nutrition surveys conducted in 2017 and 2018, both of which showed limited improvement in IYCF indicators despite efforts to promote recommended and appropriate IYCF practices among refugees living in the settlements in Cox's Bazar.

The findings of the IYCF-e exercise reveal that 50 per cent of new borns receive pre-lacteal feeding of honey, sugar water, and mustard oil within the first three days after birth. This practice can result in gastrointestinal infections in the newborn. Exclusive breastfeeding and continuation of breastfeeding up to two years was found to be low, which can result in reduced protection against infections. Timely initiation of breastfeeding was reported by 79% of those interviewed, while exclusive breastfeeding among children 0-5 months was reported in 64% of cases. Timely introduction of semi-solid, solid or soft food, which is recommended when children are 6 months old was practiced by 51% of mothers interviewed, however, they reported that they mostly start giving foods at 7-8 months instead of at the recommended 6 months marker.

Dietary diversity and meal frequency among children aged 6 – 23 months was generally poor with only 46% of children meeting the minimum dietary diversity, 56% reaching minimum meal frequency, and 27% having a minimum acceptable diet. It was found that there is limited knowledge on types of complementary food and limited dietary diversity in the refugee settlements.

Recommendations coming out of the exercise include strengthened coordination and integration of IYCF in and between health and nutrition partners and among Rohingya community volunteers working on health/nutrition/WASH (especially on food preparation and feeding), the establishment of a community-based mother-to-mother support group, increased community engagement on IYCF to target key influencers, and the development of a communications strategy and IEC materials to disseminate key messages.

## Ongoing shelter works, assessment and targeted support for monsoon

The majority of refugee households live in self-built homes in congested settings. Many of the shelters are now worn or degraded after more than a year and a half and having survived at least one full monsoon season in 2018. They require new materials to make them viable living spaces and targeted support is currently underway to ensure refugees can continue to use existing shelters during the 2019 monsoon season.

In March 2019, UNHCR launched an assessment of shelters part of a wider shelter strategy and has examined over 53,384 household shelters. The assessment finds that some 62% are in need of partial replacement of selected shelter materials, while 35% needs full shelter kit replacement. Transitional shelters are being upgraded to mid-term shelters using treated bamboo for more wind damage resistance.

Monsoon preparation efforts also include the distribution of tie-down kits used to strengthen shelters ahead of expected monsoon winds, with tie-down kits already distributed to 87,540 households through UNHCR's partner, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).

For its emergency response, UNHCR has contingency stocks prepositioned with shelter partners, including 9,500 upgrade shelter kits and 13,500 tie-down kits that can be deployed rapidly. There are also prepositioned tents for quick instalment and use.

With the agreement of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), UNHCR is piloting a steel-frame shelter prototype which will be used to demonstrate the potential for this type of material and design. The advantages of steel-frame are both the more durable and sustainable and the adaptability of the design to incorporate two floors which would increase living space or help decongest parts of the settlements. This would be a new modality for mid-term shelter if accepted as a way forward.

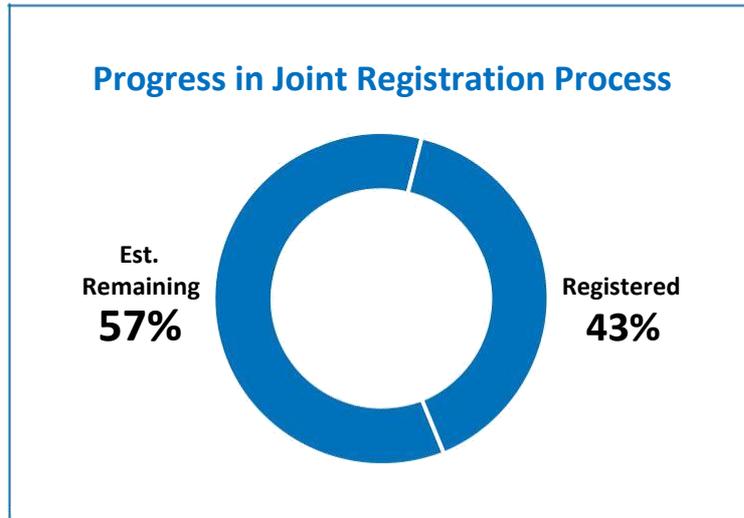
UNHCR – Shelter Assistance by year		
Emergency Shelter Kit (2017)	Upgrade Shelter Kit + (2018-19)	Tie Down Kit (2018-19)
Tarpaulin	Tarpaulin	
Borak Bamboo	Borak Bamboo	
Muli Bamboo	Muli Bamboo	
Rope	Rope	Rope
	Wire	Wire
		Steel Peg
	Sand Bags	
	+Padlock & Chain	
	+Solar Light	

## Lightening arrest poles installed in Rohingya settlements

Lightening arrest poles have been installed in the settlement to mitigate the risks of lightning strikes and the risks and damage they can pose accompanying the pre-monsoon and monsoon, particularly in the hilly settlements like Kutupalong. Bangladesh is located geographically in a tropical zone where lightning strikes are high. UNHCR plans on installing hundreds of these devices across the settlements and surrounding host communities as part of a plan over the next 2 years.



Lightening arrest poles distributed throughout the camp helping to make settlements safer. *Photo: UNHCR/S. O'Brien*



## Registration makes its way towards 43% completion

Over 374,271 Rohingya from Myanmar have been jointly registered and provided with new identity cards by the Bangladesh authorities and UNHCR. Each day, over 4,500 are registered at six different locations, where more than 450 staff are working with the goal of completing the process by late 2019.

## World Refugee Day in Cox's Bazar

World Refugee Day was observed in Cox's Bazar by over 12 organisations and the Rohingya refugee community. Over 100 activities were organised on the day, ranging from photographic exhibits to rally walks in support of the refugee situation globally, and family and community games. The majority of the events were led and organised by refugee community groups, including a well-attended football match held in the afternoon of 20 June in the settlement that attracted hundreds of spectators from the Rohingya community in Kutupalong.

His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America, Earl R. Miller, travelled to Cox's Bazar to participate in a 1.5 kilometre walk in support of the #StepWithRefugees campaign run by UNHCR worldwide. The aim of the campaign is to highlight the journey taken by refugees every year and the distances they travel to find safety. UNHCR's Representative and the United States Ambassador also visited a photographic exhibition held by a group of Rohingya women in Kutupalong settlement. This was the first exhibit held by Rohingya women in Cox's Bazar and a proud moment having important visitors come to see it. The theme of the exhibition was resilience. Many of the photographers are using cameras for the first time in their communities to document their lives and tell their own stories.

## UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador from Japan visits camps

UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador from Japan, MIYAVI, visited the Rohingya refugee settlement in Kutupalong in Cox's Bazar from 15-17 June 2019. This was his second visit to Cox's Bazar since previously coming to see refugees in February 2018 just after the majority had fled Myanmar's Rakhine State. He said the second visit enabled him to understand not only the progress that had taken place in the settlements but also how it was advancing. He welcomed the support of UNHCR and other agencies provided for host communities and believed it was important for refugees and host communities to find ways to live together with good relations.



*Young Rohingya refugees from Myanmar singing along with UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador Miyavi during his second visit to Kutupalong refugee settlement. © UNHCR/J. Matas*

The Goodwill Ambassador appealed for progress on education noting parents' concern about this. The Goodwill Ambassador engaged refugee children in songs and also played football with them. He promoted the use of music, sports, art and other activities as a great chance for children to discover and develop their talents.

Visiting a refugee volunteer project he said he was also encouraged by young men and women in the settlements who were making their time available to help their communities without being paid.

MIYAVI participated in the handover of more than 120 footballs donated by the people of Japan for host community schools and refugee community centres in Cox's Bazar as part of Japan's promotion of sport ahead of its hosting of the 2020 Olympic Games.

## Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs a Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh 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 a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of **28 partners**:

**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 | Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | Oxfam GB | Relief International | Mukti Cox's Bazar | NGO Forum for Public Health | RTMI (Research, Training and Management International) | Save the Children International | Solidarites International | Terre des Hommes | TAI (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | World Vision International**

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 refugee response.

## Donor Support

The Government and the people of Bangladesh have shown extraordinary generosity in responding to the crisis. While support has been generous, more support and solidarity is required from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response. Continued political efforts to work towards a solution to the situation remains vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 307.6 million in order to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees, as well as affected host communities.

**UNHCR Bangladesh is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have provided unrestricted and broadly earmarked funds, as well as to donors who have contributed directly to the Operation in 2018 and 2019:**



With sincere thanks for the additional support received from many private donations from individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide including **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Education Cannot Wait, Kuwait Finance House, Qatar Charity, and Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani Humanitarian Fund.**

**CONTACTS:** Steven O'Brien, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Cox's Bazar, [obrien@unhcr.org](mailto:obrien@unhcr.org)  
Mai Hosoi, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Dhaka, [hosoi@unhcr.org](mailto:hosoi@unhcr.org)

[LINKS: UNHCR data portal](#) - [UNHCR operation page](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#) – [Latest stories](#) – [Instagram](#)