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Bangladeshi communities were the first to respond to the influx of Rohingya refugees in 2017, providing lifesaving assistance together with the Government of Bangladesh. The rapid increase of the refugee population however strained the local community resources, infrastructure and public services and affected the economy, particularly in Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts. There were positive benefits too, including employment for young graduates in NGO and UN agencies, as part of the response, and local procurement.

In recognition of the support from host communities, UNHCR is working with the local authorities and partners to support quick impact projects (QIPs). These small-scale community-based projects are being implemented in a short period of time to directly support communities. The projects are part of UNHCR's commitment to work with the host community to enhance and develop their capacity in a quick and meaningful way, and contribute to a protective environment for all.

Progresses

Working with local and international organizations and the authorities, the following has been achieved:

<p>16 out of 41 quick impact projects in education, water and sanitation, health, shelter and energy completed</p>	<p>37 out of 59 schools renovated with additional classrooms, buses, computer labs and latrines</p>	<p>2,028 women received livelihoods support and training, providing resources to make a difference to their daily lives</p>
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Way forward

UNHCR plans to work closer with development actors to scale up its interventions into more substantial ventures. This collaboration will identify development potential that helps strengthen resilience and social cohesion through support to the poorest members of the host community. Together with partner organizations and the international community, coordinating with the authorities, UNHCR is also exploring ways for greater engagement with affected communities to harness ideas for improvements that the communities would be interested in.

Challenges going forward

-  Need for additional evidence-based assessments on host community needs
-  Monsoon can impact the time taken to implement projects

71 projects for infrastructure, basic services, arts, school improvements in Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts throughout 2018

30,000+ family kits distributed to families at risk and affected by natural disasters in host communities

170,000+ beneficiaries from both refugee and host communities

UNHCR is strengthening its support for refugee-hosting communities through:

- 1 Ongoing consultation** with local communities hosting refugees
- 2 Livelihood support** to host communities,
- 3 particularly for the poorest Income-generating activities** with short implementation period and direct impact for local communities and the local economy

Partners: BRAC, Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), NGO Forum for Public Health, Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI), UNDP, CODEC-Artolution, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

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 23 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS** Swiss Intercooperation | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation) |

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 1,000 **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 volunteers** 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 Support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh has been very generous. More support is currently needed from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response in Bangladesh for refugees and host communities. Continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation remain vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to support Bangladesh's humanitarian response to refugees.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018)



UNHCR financial needs for 2018

	Protection	26.7 m
	Basic relief items	5.6 m
	Water, sanitation & hygiene	40.8 m
	Shelter/infrastructure	25.0 m
	Energy and environment	13.4 m
	Education	10.0 m
	Community mobilization	18.1 m
	Health and nutrition	34.5 m
	Logistics	11.0 m
	Camp management	35.3 m
	Support costs	18.4 m
TOTAL		238.8 m

With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, IKEA Foundation, International Islamic Relief Organization Kuwait Finance House, OPEC Fund for International Development, Prosolidar-Onlus Foundation, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Big Heart Foundation, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, and UPS Corporate. Special thanks also to CERF.