



With the support of UNHCR and national NGO partner, Mukti, dozens of refugee families are growing their own vegetables like bitter gourd, pumpkin and chilies on the few tiny patches of arable land available within the congested camps in Bangladesh | © UNHCR/Fahima Tajrin

## BANGLADESH

Nearly one million stateless Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are hosted in Cox's Bazar, the largest refugee settlement in the world, six years after the latest influx. Among these, more than 52% are children, while women and girls comprise 52% of the total population. To decongest the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar, some 30,000 refugees have been relocated to the island of Bhasan Char by the Government of Bangladesh.

The lack of legal status and livelihood opportunities for refugees, along with restrictions on movement outside the camps, has left them entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance and at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse. UNHCR's activities include registering refugees, providing protection and legal assistance as well as child protection responses, preventing, mitigating and responding to gender-based violence, performing camp management (including emergency response and disaster management), providing adequate shelter, WASH and health care, supporting education and skills development, as well as livelihood opportunities, and distributing life-saving relief items where needed.

UNHCR continues to work with partners to safeguard camps and their inhabitants' high

exposure to natural disasters such as [cyclones](#), flooding and landslides during monsoon season and fire incidents during dry season. However, serious funding shortfalls are directly hindering preparedness and response efforts to climate shocks, the shift to more sustainable and reliable energy sources such as liquefied petroleum gas as a reliable source of energy for cooking, environmental rehabilitation efforts and the prevention of protection risks associated with women and children collecting firewood from far away.

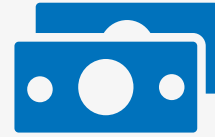
Although the Government of Bangladesh is continuously engaging with the de facto authority in Myanmar on the repatriation of Rohingya refugees, actual return movements have yet to materialize. UNHCR has continued to engage in advocacy on advancing solutions for the Rohingya. Until their voluntary return in safety and dignity is possible, Bangladesh and the Rohingya refugees will require sustained and adequate financial support to ensure they can live safely and decently, and that they are prepared for a successful return when the situation is conducive. Essential sectors such as protection, health, shelter, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) need funding to ensure bare minimum basic needs are covered.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **952,414**

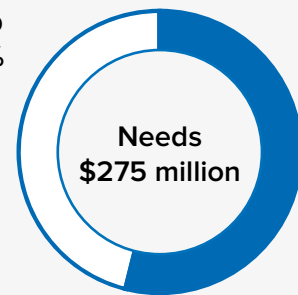
Largest population group: Rohingya - **952,370 / 99.9%**



### FUNDING

Gap  
46%

Funded  
54%



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Child protection:** More than a 30% decrease in the number of child protection case workers supporting vulnerable children in need (consequent drop from 15,000 in 2022 to 10,000 children in 2023).



**Health:** Scaling down the number of health services to seven facilities as well as community health workers in the camps affecting the accessibility, timeliness and quality of service delivery of community, primary and secondary health care, nutrition, psychosocial and mental health support for 100,000 refugees. This is particularly concerning given the two food ration cuts of 33% in a year.



**WASH:** The construction of new latrines has been cut by more than one third, and the number of bathing facilities by more than half, leaving 140,000 refugees unable to meet their basic WASH needs. Moreover, the number of soap bars distributed to some 380,000 refugees has also been reduced by one third.



**Shelter and site management:** Although funding received for the Cyclone Mocha response enabled UNHCR to repair over 4,600 refugee shelters, repairs and maintenance will have to be scaled down 30% during the upcoming cyclone season (October – November). A reduction in the repair and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including a 40% decrease on the number of planned roads and 20% reduction on drainage systems, will result in refugees being forced to live in unsafe environments. In addition, Safety Unit Volunteers – the first line of defence against recurring seasonal hazards – have been cut 30%, impacting the timely response to natural disasters.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Access to territory, registration and documentation - \$2.9 million:** the registration of a projected 33,000 births per year and of newly arrived and other unregistered refugees, as well as timely updates regarding changes in the population due to marriage, divorce, death and departures, will be severely hampered.

In addition, the issuance of family and individual (identity) documents – including those lost, damaged or destroyed by fires and other hazards – and documents for children turning twelve years old, will also be affected, thereby delaying the delivery of critical services. The verification of some 39,000 people from the 1992 influx caseload last conducted in 2014 will be impacted, hampering the resettlement programme approved in 2023 for this population.



**Health - \$16.5 million:** a reduction in the number of community health workers will particularly impact pregnant women, children and infants. Promotion campaigns will be affected and could see an increase in home deliveries in camps and a 30% decrease in child vaccination rates. All this is likely to exacerbate the risk of maternal, neonatal and infant deaths. Due to delays in detecting outbreak-prone diseases coupled with reduced health care services, the disease burden due to uncontrolled spread will put some 100,000 refugees in the camps at increased risk.

In 2022, the prevalence of acute malnutrition in the camps was recorded at 12%. At the present rate and following recent cuts of the monthly food rations by 33%, UNHCR will not have sufficient funds available to respond to the potential rise in malnutrition rates amongst the refugee population. This could exceed the emergency threshold, putting the lives of some 72,000 refugees at risk.



**Shelter and site management - \$15.3 million:** due to the temporary nature of shelter materials (bamboo), the annual maintenance cost for shelters and facilities is high and government approvals for new initiatives on the use of weather and fire resilient materials is still pending. The provision of life-saving emergency shelter support for some 350,000 extremely vulnerable refugees who continue to live in shelters constructed with non-durable materials will be hampered as a result, thereby limiting their preparedness to and heightening their risk of being affected by natural disasters.



**Child protection - \$2.4 million:** some camps will be left without adequate case management, mental health and psychosocial support, and community-based protection measures. As a result, 4,427 vulnerable refugee children will face increased protection risks, which have been exacerbated by two recent food ration cuts.



**WASH - \$5.5 million:** 100% of refugees will not receive essential WASH hygiene items such as dignity kits and soap as per the recommended standards. The operation and maintenance of almost 30% of the camps' water supply networks and sanitation facilities will also be impacted. Deteriorating hygiene conditions will increase health risks and put some 380,000 refugees at risk of acute watery diarrhoea and skin diseases such as scabies.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$154.64 million, if not more.**





With the support of UNHCR and national NGO partner, Mukti, dozens of refugee families are growing their own vegetables like bitter melon, pumpkin and chilies on the few tiny patches of arable land available within the congested camps in Bangladesh | © UNHCR/Fahima Tajrin