

BANGLADESH

21 June – 4 July 2018

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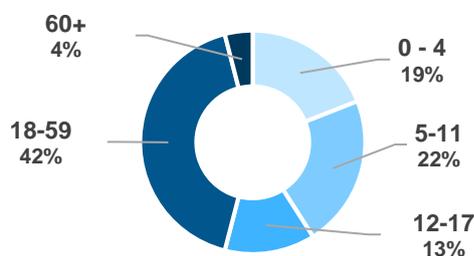
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The **UN High Commissioner for Refugees** undertook his **2nd visit to Bangladesh** from 1-3 July. He accompanied the first visit of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres with World Bank President Dr. Jim Yong Kim. The Executive Director of UNFPA, Natalia Kanem, also accompanied the mission. The **World Bank announced \$480 million in grant aid for the refugee response.**

The **relocation of refugees is underway in Kutupalong to move people from areas at high-risk of landslide or flooding** to a new safe site in the northwest of the settlement. The area, called "Camp 4 extension," is a 60 acre section of land engineered into a flat, safe area. **Additional land next to Chakmarkul has been granted currently under development,** where UNHCR can move the highest risk households.

POPULATION FIGURES

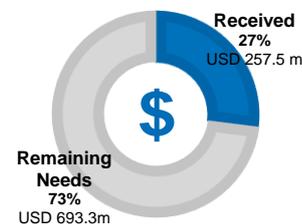
888,111 Total number of refugees in Bangladesh
722,039 Estimated newly arrived since 25 August 2017
 Age breakdown of refugees in Bangladesh



UNHCR FUNDING 2018



JRP FUNDING 2018



UNHCR Cox's Bazar's Head of Operations briefs the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres during his visit to a transit center for new arrivals from Myanmar. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi (second from left), the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Md Abul Kalam (third from left), and Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali (second from right) joined Guterres' one-day mission in Cox's Bazar on 2 July. © UNHCR/Adam Dean

Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar

Ten months after the events of August 2017, **refugees continue to arrive in Bangladesh**. Since 1 January 2018, some 11,523 people have arrived from Myanmar to seek safety in Bangladesh;¹ however, the rate is decreasing.

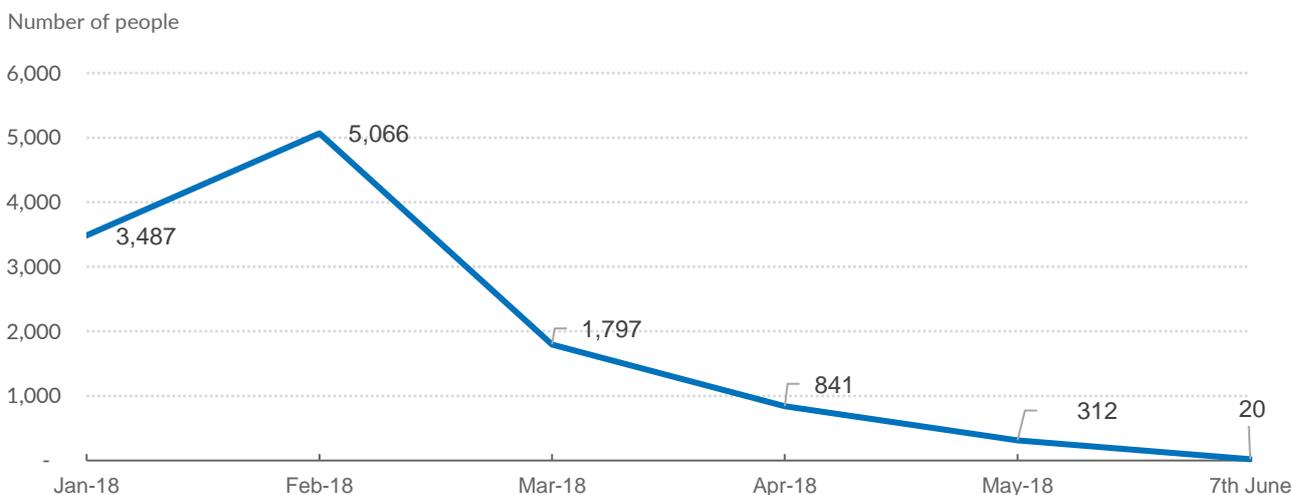
The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi accompanied the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to meet new arrivals at a UNHCR Transit Centre in Cox's Bazar on 2 July. **New arrivals continue to raise concerns about their security in Myanmar**, and voiced disagreement with the requirement from the Myanmar authorities that they accept a National Verification Card (NVC) in Myanmar.

Recent arrivals have continued to arrive by boat through the southern peninsula of Cox's Bazar District (Sabrang and its surrounding areas).

Bangladesh's Army, UNHCR, and partners have continued to maintain stand-by services for new arrivals, including medical staff and food. **Many arrivals report that relatives remaining in Myanmar also plan to leave due to continued fears over security.**



New arrival trend by month | since 1 January 2018



¹ According to the border monitoring conducted by UNHCR 9,543 individuals were reported crossing the border during the same period.

Rohingya refugee registration and verification exercise

The Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR launched a joint verification exercise for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh on 21 June. The exercise will help consolidate a unified database for the purposes of protection, identity management, documentation, provision of assistance, population statistics, and ultimately solutions for an estimated 900,000 refugees who have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. It is expected to take up to six months to complete.



Female refugees attending verification exercise. © UNHCR/Caroline Gluck

The verification plays a key role in establishing refugees' identities and their declared places of origin in Myanmar. The exercise will help enhance the accuracy of current data on refugees in Bangladesh, helping the Government of Bangladesh and humanitarian partners better identify and plan for specific needs amongst the refugee population and assist both the delivery of protection activities and assistance while avoiding duplication in services

Biometric data, including iris scans and fingerprints, as well as photographs, are used in the exercise to confirm individual identities for all refugees over the age of 12. At the end of the process, refugees receive a **new identity card** which replaces two previously

existing cards: a Family Counting Card and a Ministry of Home Affairs registration card. The credit card-sized plastic IDs contain a number of anti-fraud features. They are **issued jointly by the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR**.

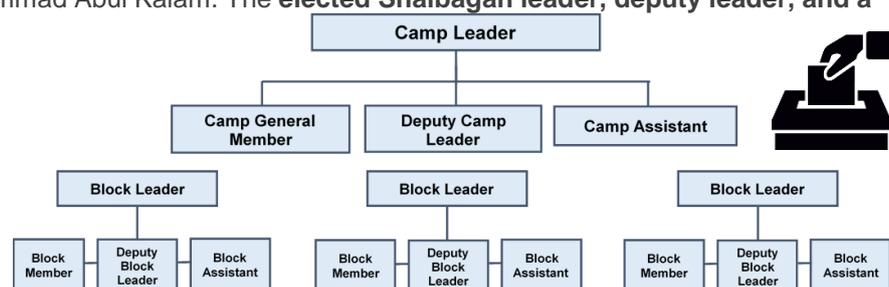
UNHCR has conducted information and awareness campaigns, including through consultations with the refugee communities in the camps, on the purpose and process of verification. Refugee committees are also supporting and encouraging refugees to participate and attend their appointments. Some 4,200 refugees have been verified since the start of exercise. Despite heavy monsoon rains in recent days, most refugees continue to attend their verification appointments, aware of the significance of having a refugee identity card.

Working with the Government of Bangladesh, UNHCR is providing laptops, servers, wireless routers, biometric hardware, and printing equipment, while also making available its biometric registration software. In addition, together with NGO partners, 150 staff are currently working to support government officials and community organisers.

RRRC inaugurates elected camp leaders

On 27 June, the first elected refugee representatives from among last year's new arrivals were welcomed in an inauguration ceremony in Nayapara by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Mohammad Abul Kalam. The **elected Shalbagan leader, deputy leader, and a significant number of other representatives, are women.**

After the Kutupalong mega-settlement, the **second largest concentration of refugees in Cox's Bazar reside in Nayapara**, in the southernmost part of the



An outline of the structure developed for camp governance in Nayapara's new arrivals camp.

district, with a population of nearly 80,000. Refugees arriving to Nayapara since August 2017 settled near an older refugee population, in an area known as Shalbagan, or Nayapara Extension.

The Commissioner highlighted the significance of the Shalbagan election as a **transition to a democratic form of representation among the Rohingya community**, stating that the voices of refugees will have a firmer ground to communicate gaps in services and their needs.

The election process was a result of solid collaboration among Nayapara refugee settlement's Camp-in-Charge (camp administrator from the Government), UNHCR, and partners. UNHCR supported the process with the belief that representative governance systems play an important role at camp level and can help address grievances, strengthen accountability of all actors towards refugees, and bridge important communication gaps. UNHCR is discussing with authorities how to **replicate the governance established in Shalbagan camp in other camps** as a way of promoting more meaningful participation and empowerment of refugees in decision making processes.

Refugees' safety a priority at Camp 4 Extension

The relocation of refugees is underway in Kutupalong to move people from areas at high-risk of landslide or flooding to a new safe site in the northwest of the settlement. The area, called "Camp 4 extension," is a 60 acre section of land engineered into a flat, safe area. The layout and design of the new camp also uses a traditional grid-like system, with more living space, in contrast to the congested shelters mounted on hills in other areas of the settlement. An engineering platform called 'Site Management Engineering Project' (SMEP)—a collaborative project of UNHCR, WFP, and IOM—ensured the land was habitable and safe for refugees.



An aerial view of Camp 4 Extension shows shelters and drainage system built after proper site planning. © UNHCR/Adam Dean

Emergency relocation site prepared in Chakmarkul



Family tents are set up in Camp 21/Chakmarkul. © UNHCR/Andre Therik

Chakmarkul, a hilly camp south of Kutupalong settlement, poses high risks to the more than 12,000 refugees, given the terrain's vulnerability to landslides. In discussion with the Bangladesh authorities, additional land has been granted for developing an area close to the site where UNHCR can move the highest risk households, but this land remains under preparation. In the interim, **UNHCR has immediately evacuated households already affected by landslides.**

As of 28 June, 55 UNHCR tents have been set up along with a communal kitchen offering two cooked meals a day at a small evacuation site in the vicinity of the Chakmarkul settlement. Some 38 households (157 individuals) have been relocated to the site temporarily. Three solar street lights have been installed to enhance safety for temporary residents and allow movement during night time.

The evacuated refugees will eventually be relocated to the new land under planning, once shelters and facilities are installed, with the aim to put this plan into effect by the end of July.

Average rainfall in mm (Cox's Bazar)



Monsoon incidents during the reporting period

21 June - 4 July 2018



| | Flood | Landslide | Water-logging | Wind/Storm |
|---|-------|-----------|---------------|------------|
|  # of incident | 9 | 55 | 7 | 34 |
|  # of affected household | 414 | 366 | 175 | 388 |
|  # of individuals affected | 1,652 | 1,565 | 698 | 1,695 |
|  # of shelters damaged | 7 | 267 | 141 | 167 |

UNHCR and its partners' response to monsoon incidents

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Safely relocated | 957 households in UNHCR managed camps |
| Post-disaster kit | 877 kits provided to incident-hit households |
| Shelters replaced | 640 monsoon-hit households had their shelters replaced |
| Replaced tarpaulins | 499 households supported to replace torn or damaged tarpaulins |
| Pre-monsoon kits | 58,673 kits distributed to help further anchor existing shelters ² |

UNHCR and its partners, Caritas International and BRAC, are quickly erecting shelters, including a **flat-pack shelter approach** piloted by BRAC to use already assembled bamboo frames for faster set-up onsite. Basic facilities are under installation at the site. **Refugees have responded positively to the new shelters and living space.** UNHCR is planning to expand solar lighting at the site. Markets are independently developing as in other parts of the larger Kutupalong settlement, a positive sign of the settlement's own small and growing economy.

² 85,173 households were assisted with shelter upgrade kits before the monsoon started in June.

High Commissioner visits Rohingya refugee settlements

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visited Kutupalong refugee settlement in Cox's Bazar on 3 July, a day after his accompanying visit with the UN Secretary General, to see firsthand the situation. After walking through the hilly settlements during monsoon downpours, the High Commissioner stated he had seen significant progress since his earlier visit last September just after the current crisis started. He identified, however, the **need to expand support for refugees** to ensure they could better sustain themselves and develop their communities during their stay in Bangladesh. He **emphasized the need to educate children** to prevent a lost generation as a result of the crisis.

Ten months into the crisis, the response continues to focus on addressing life-saving humanitarian needs and a special focus on mitigating the risks posed by the monsoon. Grandi **praised the host community in Cox's Bazar** for their generosity, urging the international community to support Bangladeshi communities who are sharing their local services with refugees.

While grateful for the generous support of multilateral, state, and private donors so far, he **highlighted that more funds were urgently needed**. The UN's Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya refugee situation in Bangladesh is only 26 percent funded.



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi greets a Rohingya boy in Kutupalong settlement. © UNHCR/Adam Dean

The High Commissioner **welcomed the World Bank President's announcement that half a billion US dollars will be made available to Bangladesh to assist the refugee response**. This will help build the country's capacity to deal with the crisis in key areas including vital services providing healthcare, water, and education.

During his visit, the High Commissioner **acknowledged concerns expressed by the Rohingya community over a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNHCR, UNDP, and Myanmar**. He cited the MoU as a **first necessary step** towards further discussions and work with Myanmar to build a framework for conditions that could in the future enable refugees to exercise their right to return. He was clear to stress that **conditions on the ground were presently not conducive to safe and dignified return**. He noted that UNHCR had also signed a MoU with Bangladesh that established a commitment to work together, underpinned by the **principle of the voluntariness of refugee return**. He reiterated his commitment as High Commissioner to making sure the rights of refugees are at the centre of decisions, as well as the commitment to continue a dialogue with refugees on voluntary return and other matters.

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 other agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with UN agencies and other 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). In close cooperation with IOM and UNDP, UNHCR is also providing tangible support to coordination efforts of local government entities in Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf. 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 works with a strong network of 26 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ACTED** (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development) | **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) | **MDMR** (Ministry of Disaster Management) | **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) | **WFP** (World Food Programme)

Donor Support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh is extraordinarily generous. More support is required 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 respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018) and unrestricted funding to global operations:



| 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, 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.

CONTACTS: Dalal Al Sharhan, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, sharhand@unhcr.org
 Mai Hosoi, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Bangladesh, hosoi@unhcr.org

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