BANGLADESH
16 – 31 October 2018

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UNHCR, in partnership with Total and its local supplier NF Enterprise, refilled 1,681 Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders in two settlements from 16 to 28 October 2018. In total, 4,416 LPG tanks were refilled since the program started on 15 September. The pilot distribution of LPG and cooking sets to 7,000 refugee families which started in August has been completed. The switch from using firewood as cooking fuel to LPG is a concerted effort to halt deforestation and improve refugee health.

A total of 21 incidents of landslides, flooding, and fires, were recorded from 16 to 31 October, affecting 57 families (206 individuals) across all settlements. UNHCR and partners relocated 168 households (686 individuals) at high risk of landslides, as well as families and new arrivals affected by ongoing construction projects in the settlements, to safer areas during the reporting period. UNHCR has been working with refugees and partners to prepare to respond to any potential cyclone emergency situation.

POPULATION FIGURES (as of 31 October 2018)

899,349 Total number of refugees in Cox’s Bazar
731,769 Estimated new arrivals since 25 August 2017

Age breakdown of refugees in Cox’s Bazar

UNHCR FUNDING 2018

JOINT RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING 2018

The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Mohammad Abul Kalam (third from left), joins UNHCR, its partner NGO Forum and the refugee community, in an event in Kutupalong to mark the Global Handwashing Day (GHD) on 22 October. The GHD is marked annually on 15 October to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an easy, effective and affordable way to prevent diseases. Apart from rallies, other activities across refugee sites included art competitions for children.

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Priorities identified to strengthen protection response

In follow-up to a Protection Support Mission led by UNHCR to review protection mechanisms to respond to the Rohingya refugee crisis earlier this year, the team, which also included a representative from the Women’s Refugee Commission, launched their report during the reporting period underlining gaps and recommended measures for the overall protection response. Partners were given the opportunity to engage on the findings and provide inputs and feedback.

Refugee women lead a community-based newborn care program

A nutrition survey conducted in April and May 2018 found that the mortality rate for children under five years old in the refugee settlements in Cox’s Bazar had reduced by 29% from 1.22 in November 2017 to 0.86 deaths per 10,000 children under 5 per day. Although the under-5 mortality rate is below the SPHERE emergency threshold of 0.9/10,000/day for South Asia, UNHCR and partners continue to aim to prevent unnecessary deaths by addressing the root causes at the household and community levels. Most under 5 deaths in refugee settlements occur during the first week of life due to various reasons, including the community’s lack of knowledge or use of sexual and reproductive health services, and poor utilisation of maternal and neonatal care services.

To address this, UNHCR is piloting a community-based newborn care program to support early identification and care of newborns at risk to increase their likelihood of survival, in collaboration with partners, Food for the Hungry/Medical Teams International (FH/MTI), and Research Training and Management International (RTMI).

A total of 100 female refugees who are members of the Community Health Workers (CHW) refugee volunteer groups in Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee settlements were trained and coached by midwives under the pilot program to provide community-level postnatal and neonatal care services, including identifying warning signs during regular home visits.
Since September, CHWs supported by UNHCR have carried out 434 community-level neonatal care visits in Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee sites through this pilot program. The community health sub-working group led by UNHCR plans to scale up the community-based neonatal care program in the coming months.

UNHCR and its partners are providing primary healthcare services through 22 health facilities across refugee settlements. As part of the health outreach programs, individual and group discussions are held with healthcare service providers and refugee women to enhance access to antenatal and postnatal care, skilled delivery and family planning services.

### Rohingya children taught about and engaged on mental health

**Past experiences** including exposure to violence and the loss of family members, compounded by current challenges such as lack of access to education in refugee settlements, are risk factors affecting the mental health and wellbeing of Rohingya children in the short and long-term.

UNHCR and partners use **different approaches and methods** to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to refugee children. A key priority in MHPSS is to empower children through programs that build their capacity and resourcefulness to overcome adversity.

In collaboration with partners Food for the Hungry/Medical Teams International (FH/MTI), UNHCR has been teaching refugee children aged 12-15 years from two refugee settlements on how to participate in community workshops to engage their peers. The workshops raise refugee children’s awareness on a range of mental health issues, based on a curriculum that was developed through extensive discussions with refugee children and other members of the refugee communities.

Refugee men and women from the Community Psychosocial Volunteer teams, who work with FH/MTI, were initially trained to facilitate four MHPSS workshops, including one for children. During the workshop, some children were keen to help their peers who lived in the same refugee sites. They were engaged at an appropriate level and taught how they can participate in creating a safe and protective environment for other children.
In October, about 200 refugee children attended more than 10 workshops facilitated with the assistance of the young mental health champions. Each workshop offered different activities for children which delivered five key messages related to the importance of mental wellness and recovery, addressing stigma, and promoting resilience.

Local partnership to ensure sustainable access to safe water

In an effort to increase refugees’ sustainable access to safe water for a longer term, UNHCR works with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector partners to develop chlorinated water network systems in 26 refugee settlements, starting in the northern part of Kutupalong settlement. Each system is comprised of a borehole, a reservoir, pipes and tap stands that will provide 20 liters of water per person per day in line with the agreed WASH Sector standards.

Water from deep tube wells will be stored and chlorinated in the reservoirs before being distributed to households through taps. Until now, water has been used directly from boreholes, with risks of contamination that affect health.

In Camps 1 East and 1 West settlements, the first network has started to be rolled out. BRAC, UNHCR’s local partner, works with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to build a system that provides chlorinated water for about 80,000 refugees with UNHCR’s support. Each tap stand is built within 100 meters walking distance from households and serves a maximum of 125 refugees.

The MSF-BRAC project underscores the importance of localising humanitarian assistance to ensure sustainability, with BRAC contributing in its expertise in community engagement and its extensive knowledge on local contexts for sensitising refugees on the health benefit of chlorinated water. The project is unique as the first local collaboration with MSF, which uses its expertise to train BRAC engineers on the high-tech equipment and technology used.
during the six month project. BRAC will ensure monitoring and maintenance of the systems together with local camp administrators. Refugees are also engaged and provided with training throughout the project.

Hundreds of refugees verified daily in Nayapara

Since the beginning of October 2018, there has been a significant increase in the number of refugees taking part in the joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR verification exercise. This was attributable to continuous community outreach and consultations primarily led by the Government of Bangladesh’s Camp-in-Charge officials (camp administrators) and UNHCR with community leaders and refugee families.

A new verification site was opened in late September in Nayapara. Located near a local market, UNHCR distribution point and WFP food distribution sites; it is also more accessible from all refugee sites in Teknaf sub-district. The new site was set up with enhanced privacy for refugee families visiting the site.

As of 31 October, over 24,000 individuals have been verified through the exercise. An ID card, commonly referred to as the ‘smart card’, is issued to all refugee women, men, girls and boys above the age of 12 and replaces two existing cards that they already possess – a Ministry of Home Affairs (white) registration card and a Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (yellow) family counting card.

The new card provides a secure identity documentation for refugees. It aims to establish a more efficient system for refugees to access protection, services and assistance through better use of technology and continuously updated and more accurate information. It also affirms in writing on the card the Bangladesh Government’s commitment against forced return.

The verification will eliminate duplications in the existing database, and enable all humanitarian actors to ensure transparent, effective and efficient provision of assistance, as well as tailor protection response more effectively.

Information dissemination on the card’s importance and its purpose continues, with messages being spread through consultations, videos, and radio broadcasts.

Refugees continue to arrive from Myanmar

More than a year after violence erupted in Rakhine State in western Myanmar, refugees continue to arrive in Bangladesh. A total of 85 refugees arrived in Bangladesh during the reporting period.
New arrivals continue to raise concerns about their lack of rights and security in Rakhine State. They also cited their disagreement with the Government of Myanmar over a requirement to undergo a nationality verification process, as they already consider themselves citizens of Myanmar.

Since 1 January 2018: 

**14,649** individuals have arrived in Cox’s Bazar

11 - 27 October 2018:  

**85** individuals entered Bangladesh

**Most arrived by boat** via the southern peninsula of Cox’s Bazar, including Sabrang and surrounding areas.
Quick facts and figures on UNHCR protection services and assistance

**Education**

39,155 children (19,841 girls and 19,314 boys) with access to Early Childhood Development, primary, and lower secondary education

300 teaching assistants (168 men and 132 women) received training from UNHCR’s partners BRAC and CODEC

**Child Protection**

36,300 children, including 19,063 boys and 17,237 girls, provided with psychosocial support

**Community-Based Protection**

318,756 refugee men, women and children received information on broad range of topics from health, emergency preparedness and specific protection/solutions matters

148 community projects in Nayapara and Shalbagan implemented by Community Groups of refugee volunteers that include men, women and youth

**Transit Centre**

168 individuals arrived spontaneously for assistance from 16 to 31 October 2018

**Shelter Locks**

73,842 households with padlocks to ensure their shelters are secured and better protected

**Cyclone Preparedness**

>100,000 refugees reached through 6,500 cyclone awareness raising sessions by ‘Community Outreach Member’ refugee volunteer groups since September 2018, including knowledge on early warning signs, preparation and how to stay safe during floods and storms

**Legal Counselling**

181 refugees in Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts received legal counselling and general protection assistance
Key population figures

- **900,000** total refugees (approx.)
- **200,000** est. total refugees at risk of flood and landslide hazards
- **41,700** est. refugees at high risk of landslide hazards

Emergency evacuation

**Relocation due to high risk of landslide**
- **26,637** refugees out of **41,700** est. at high risk of landslide relocated from all 28 identified settlements
- More than 90% of work completed in 60 acre land in Kutupalong (1,395 shelters) and the site in Nayapara (48 shelters)

**UNHCR emergency evacuation plan**
- **42,000** refugees to be relocated with other families within the UNHCR managed camps
- **14,450** refugees to be relocated/hosted within existing community infrastructures such as mosques, Temporary Learning Centers, etc.
- **14,600** refugees to be relocates to community infrastructures within the host community
- **60,000** refugees to be relocated to tents

**Progress**

- **260** UNHCR Community Outreach Members (COMs) trained on awareness raising for landslide and cyclone risk
- **161,808** refugees reached by **7,438** awareness campaigns on landslides and cyclone
- **705** Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) trained on the Government of Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)
- **700** Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) trained on fire fighting and landslide awareness
- **15** Information Points out of **16** established

Shelter & site improvement

- **53** kilometers of road (brick road/footpath, Army Road) constructed
- **5,000** meters of bridges constructed
- **46** kilometers of steps constructed
- **71** running kilometers of retaining structures built
- **121** kilometers of drainages repaired/completed
- **91,247** shelter upgrade kits out of **91,247** distributed
- **84,982** pre-monsoon shelter tie-down kits out of **84,982** distributed
- **9,560** family tents pre-positioned and **467** distributed
- **198,427** plastic tarpaulins pre-positioned and **147,874** distributed
- **136** storage containers out of **146** pre-positioned
- **20** host community structures being upgraded

WASH

- **958** latrines out of **958** constructed in relocation areas for refugees at high risk of landslide
- **112** water points out of **113** installed in relocation areas for refugees at high risk of landslide
- **12** camps out of **12** with Emergency WASH Simulation exercises completed

Health

- **2,044** Community Health/Nutrition Workers out of **2,044** trained on first aid in emergencies
- **400** Community Health Workers out of **400** trained on the Government of Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)
- **1,403** Community Volunteers and Counsellors trained on psychological first aid, identification and referral of mental health cases, and basic counselling skills
- **6** nutrition mobile teams established to reach displaced families

Landslide and flood hazard analysis

- **60** acres of land being developed in Camp 4 Extension
- **174** acres of land being developed near Chakmarkul
- **60** storage containers out of **146** pre-positioned
- **20** host community structures being upgraded

* Subject to approval from the government

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BANGLADESH REFUGEE EMERGENCY

Emergency preparedness and response update dashboard

(31 October 2018)
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 (WFP, UN-HABITAT, UNDP) 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 a strong network of 23 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | BDRCES (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | BNVLA (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 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 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:

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, Prosolida-Organisational 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.

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LINKS: UNHCR data portal – UNHCR operation page – Facebook – Twitter – Latest stories – Instagram