

**Reference:**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2024**

**To: All WASH Sector partners**

CC: Office of ISCG & Office of RRRC

**Subject: Rationalization of WASH Interventions**

Dear partners,

As part of the ongoing rationalization process and with a view to enhance efficiency and operational effectiveness, IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF have mutually decided to optimize the WASH interventions in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The overarching goal is to consolidate and rationalize programs in an optimized manner to ensure greater complementarity and better synergy among different actors in the WASH response.

As such, the following have been agreed upon among the three UN agencies, effective 1 January 2025:

- UNICEF will assume responsibility as the Area Focal Agency (AFA) for the camps 3, 4, 4 Ext, 5 & 17 (currently under UNHCR)
- UNICEF will assume responsibility as AFA for the camps 13 & 19 (currently under IOM)
- UNHCR will assume responsibility as AFA for the camps 24 & 25 (currently under IOM).
- Following an operational transition phase involving all the WASH actors (July to December 2024), the changes of AFA will officially take effect from 1 January 2025 and for the foreseeable future unless revised by the three agencies upon mutual agreements.
- From 2025 onwards, IOM will cover 19% of the refugee camps, UNHCR 31%, and UNICEF 50%. The newly designated Area Focal Agency on WASH in the refugee camps will be communicated to the government, donor communities, and concerned partners soon after the agreement.

The above decisions were made in consultations among Country Representatives of the three UN agencies and Heads of Offices in Cox's Bazar following meetings on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 and the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 (meeting minutes available on request). Please refer to the map below illustrating the coverage by each AFA effective 1 January 2025.

IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF highly value the strategic partnerships with WASH partners and greatly appreciate your immense contributions made over the years to ensure effective WASH services in accordance with the UN Convention on Human Rights and humanitarian standards. The three UN Agencies are committed to work closely to ensure smooth transition. Therefore we would highly appreciate your support during this transitional period and beyond.

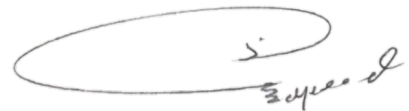
Thank you and best regards,

*Samuel L. Falsis*

For: ERDOGAN Nihan  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
IOM, Cox's Bazar



Yoko Akasaka  
Head of Sub-Office  
UNHCR, Cox's Bazar



Ezatullah Majeed  
Chief of Field Office  
UNICEF, Cox's Bazar

### Area Focal Agency per camp from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 (WASH sector)

