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1.10 M

Affected Population in 33 Camps



1st of June

Estimated Date from which soap will be disrupted due to severe funding cuts



4.93M Bathing soap
5.34M Laundry soap

Soap missing in 2025



2.98M USD

Funding gap for soap in 2025

Background:

Around **1.10 M Rohingya** refugees in 33 Camps rely on the continuous provision of basic hygiene items, particularly soap, to meet their daily hygiene needs. In densely populated and resource-limited camp settings, soap is not a luxury—it is an essential life-saving commodity.

Current context:

Since August 2023, WASH Sector has reduced the distribution soap to **one bathing soap** and **one laundry soap per Rohingya refugee per month** (refer to [RRRC letter](#)). However, the Sphere Standards recommend **250 grams of bathing soap** and **200 grams of laundry soap per person per month**, which is equivalent to two bathing soaps and one large bar of laundry soap. This means WASH Sector has already been providing below the humanitarian Sphere Standards since 2023.

Due to severe funding cuts in 2025, the distribution of soap in **the camps will be discontinued starting 1st June 2025**, unless actors are able to secure an additional **2.68M USD** funding.

All the camps will be affected in the coming months (between June to December) with both type of laundry and bathing soap. Moreover, with current funding forecasts, **there are no guarantees that either bathing or laundry soap can be distributed across any camp in 2026.**

Consequences:

Soap plays a vital role in preventing hygiene-related diseases such as Scabies, Cholera, Conjunctivitis, Hepatitis A, and other diarrheal diseases, which have high transmission potential in overcrowded camp settings.

The suspension of soap not only increases individual vulnerability but also poses a broader public health risk. Handwashing with soap can protect approximately 1 in every 3 young children who fall ill with diarrhea, and nearly 1 in 5 who suffer from respiratory infections such as pneumonia. Moreover, handwashing has been shown to reduce diarrheal morbidity by up to 44% ([Fewtrell, 2005](#)).



Solution: Bathing Soap (1.63M USD) + Laundry Soap (1.05M USD): 2.68M USD



Agencies	Type of Soap	Duration	Total Soap Quantity	Cost (USD)	Remark
UNICEF Area	Bathing Soap for General Use	7 Month	3,612,000	1,194,049	This Quantity is required from June 2025 to December 2025
	Laundry Soap for General Use	7 Month	3,612,000	716,429	
				1.91 Million	
IOM Area	Bathing Soap for General Use	7 Month	105,000	43,388	This Quantity is required from June 2025 to December 2025
	Laundry Soap for General & MHM Use	7 Month	630,000	130,165	
				0.17 Million	
UNHCR Area	Bathing Soap for General Use	4 Month	1,218,070	389,782	This Quantity is required from September 2025 to December 2025
	Laundry Soap for General Use	4 Month	1,098,070	208,633	
				0.60 Million	
In Total Cost				2.68 Million	

Alternative thinking:

WASH sector has started a collaboration with livelihood sector to produce the soap locally in the camps (photo in right side). Based on an early piloting, this initiative could reduce the cost of soap by 30 to 40% as well as creating local employment for approximately 100 Rohingya refugees. It could lead by 2026 a new Win-Win collaboration between WASH and livelihood.



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Conclusion:

To address this critical hygiene gap and prevent further deterioration of public health risks in the Rohingya refugee camps, WASH Sector urgently requires **USD 2.68M** additional funding. This amount is essential to maintain the distribution of bathing and laundry soap across all camps from June to December 2025, ensuring alignment as closely as possible with minimum humanitarian standards. Without urgent support, 1.10 M of vulnerable individuals, especially women, adolescent girls and children, who rely on consistent access to hygiene materials will face increased health risks.