# 2024 REPORT ON THE JOINT RESPONSE PLAN ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

- JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024 -



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Situation update	Δ
Key JRP 2024 figures	Z
PART I: HIGHLIGHTS FROM COX'S BAZAR	
Education	6
Food Security	7
Health	8
Nutrition	Ö
Protection	10
Protection - Child Protection	1
Protection - Gender Based Violence	12
Shelter - Camp Coordinartion and Camp Management	13
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	14
Livelihoods and Skills Development	15
PART II: SPOTLIGHT ON LOCALIZATION	16
DART III. COORDINATION AND CROSS SUITING ISSUES	4.6
PART III: COORDINATION AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES	16
PART III: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOST COMMUNITY	18
PART IV: HIGHLIGHTS FROM BHASAN CHAR	
Common Services and Logistics	20
Education	2
Food Security	2
Health and Nutrition	2
Livelihoods and Skills Development	22
Protection	22
Site Management, Shelter, and NFI	23
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	24
PART V: ASSESSMENTS	25

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Through eight successive Joint Response Plans (JRPs), the international community has generously contributed nearly USD 4.81 billion to the Rohingya response, accounting for 70% of the total financial requirement. However, cost-efficiency efforts were unable to compensate for ongoing funding gaps in 2024.

Funding shortfalls initially necessitated food ration cuts in March and June 2023. Although the food ration was fully restored in August 2024, refugees have been left weaker and more vulnerable due to the prolonged drop in food assistance. While the community showed remarkable resilience, numerous security risks, together with underfunding of protection activities, exacerbated vulnerabilities for women, children and those most at risk. The reduced funding impacted water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) infrastructure maintenance and investment, and the soap ration, compromising dignity and increasing the risk of cholera, which surged in 2024 with Hepatitis C. Health facilities faced shortfalls in specialized medical equipment, medicine, doctors, and nurses, leading to increased maternal and critical case mortality. Under Site Management, reduced funding prevented more effective site planning, exacerbating shelter damage and destruction from extreme weather. Livelihood and skills development activities could not reach as many refugees or host community members as planned, and targeted assistance to support vulnerable learners under education was also impacted.

Despite the challenges, the Sectors continued to make notable progress and achievements in Cox's Bazar Camps. A Peace & Security Campaign was launched to counter violence and promote peaceful coexistence within the camps. 306,000 children (51% girls) enrolled in learning facilities, with 22,800 out-of-school children placed in Myanmar curriculum grades. 5,500 refugees completed vocational training, and 6,128 engaged in income-generating activities. Over 1 million refugees received monthly food assistance, 282,000 children and women received nutrition support, 5.5 million outpatient consultations provided critical health services. Temporary safer shelter designs were approved, 88,000 households received regular shelter repairs, and almost all refugee households received liquid petroleum gas (LPG) provision; 85% of refugees reported enough water, and almost 50,000 latrines were constructed and maintained while improving waste management, with 84% of households using a two-bin system.

Working closely with national and local authorities, JRP partners supported over 300,000 Bangladeshi host community members affected by the financial, social, and environmental impacts of the Rohingya crisis in Cox's Bazar District. At ISCG, the Youth Working Group was re-established to ensure the needs, concerns, and well-being of youth are integrated into the response. The Cox's Bazar Development Forum was set up to facilitate partner engagement on the interface between the Rohingya response and broader district development. Rationalization efforts continued, and coordination was streamlined for faster decision-making. Meanwhile, cross-cutting issues were mainstreamed across the Sectors, while non-Sector and non-JRP partners contributed to the response with complementary programmes in the camps and host communities.

On **Bhasan Char**, close collaboration with government authorities continued to strengthen services and activities, meeting the humanitarian and protection needs of over 35,000 refugees on the island. Significant improvements were made in protection services, site management, education, WASH, health, and food. Fortified rice was introduced to enhance nutrition, the complaints and feedback mechanism was integrated into the Centralized Automated Information Processing Platform (CAIPP), and the Individual Maternal & Child Health Card (MCH) was introduced to improve health tracking.

#### SITUATION UPDATE

In 2024, the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the international community were crucial to sustaining humanitarian assistance to over 1 million Rohingya refugees/Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) in Bangladesh. Having passed the seventh anniversary of the 2017 influx of refugees from Myanmar, the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh has become more protracted, necessitating an approach that promotes the wellbeing, dignity and resilience of refugees, as well as the cost-effectiveness of the response. In addition, an unknown number of new Rohingya arrivals entered the camps in 2024 having fled the ongoing conflict in Myanmar to seek safety and assistance amongst the existing camp population.

Refugees living in camps and host communities remained highly vulnerable to weather-related hazards in 2024, including monsoon flooding, landslides, sudden and devastating fire outbreaks. Furthermore, the temporary nature of construction and congested shelters and facilities in the camps increased the likelihood and associated risks of large-scale damage, injuries, loss of life, and displacement of households.

Despite ongoing efforts by Bangladesh law enforcement and security agencies, the security situation in the camps remained highly challenging, due to the increasingly violent actions of organized groups. Rohingya refugees faced multiple security and protection risks, which were compounded by their displacement and vulnerability, as

well as the lack of meaningful economic and livelihood opportunities, and limited education services.

The Government of Bangladesh remained committed to hosting the world's largest refugee camp, while stressing the importance of voluntary, safe and dignified return as the primary solution to the Rohingya crisis. In late 2024, the interim Government approved the construction of temporary safer shelters and the biometric identification of new arrivals following advocacy by the humanitarian and donor community. However, the decline in humanitarian funding in 2024 as the population and needs increased adversely affected camp infrastructure, curtailed livelihood opportunities, reduced soap production and limited access to basic services, placing further strain on conditions in the camp. More robust, predictable and sustained funding for longer-term investments in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, and in the surrounding communities, remained essential to maintaining humanitarian standards and social cohesion as well as strengthening resilience.

We count on the continued engagement and support of all partners in the Rohingya response to build on the successes outlined in the 2024 Joint Response Plan (JRP) report and to navigate the significant challenges in 2025. We thank the Government and people of Bangladesh, as well as the international community, for their generous support.

#### KEY JRP 2024 FIGURES

# 1.35<sub>M</sub> PEOPLE TARGETED

51.8% Women & Girls \*\* The Trining \*\* 48.2% Men & Boys

Host communities 346K

Rohingya refugees/FDMNs\*\*

\*Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals

# 1.30<sub>M</sub> PEOPLE REACHED



# USD 852.4m TOTAL REQUIREMENTS



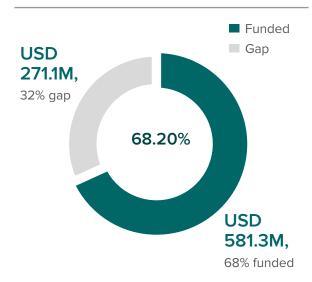
\*\*This includes 56 appealing partners and 94 implementing partners (of the appealing partners, 33 are implementing activities under other projects).

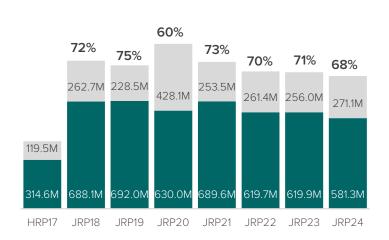




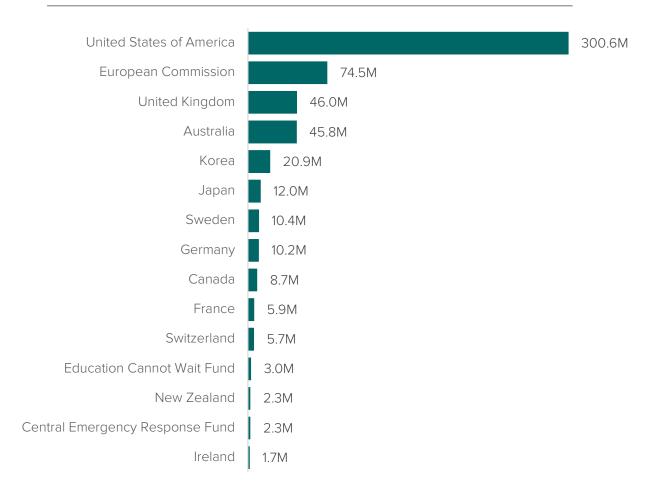
# USD 581.3M RECEIVED\*

# **2017-2024** FUNDING COMPARISON





# 2024 FUNDING BY DONOR\* (TOP 15)



\*Funding status reflects figures reported in the Financial Tracking Service as of 15 April 2025. These figures do not account for funding outside of the JRP. (According to internal estimates based on the financial reporting, not yet verified, the 2024 JRP is **74% funded** with **USD 631.2M** against the overall appeal of **USD 852.4M**)





## HIGHLIGHTS FROM COX'S BAZAR<sup>1</sup>

# **EDUCATION**



Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF | Save the Children

**70%** of targeted Rohingya FDMN/refugee children, adolescents, and youth aged 3 to 24 accessing inclusive ad quality learning opportunities (target: 456,655).

70% 30%

**87%** of enrolled Rohingya children, adolescents and youth aged 3-24 who achieved grade level competencies for MC and other alternative learning.

87%

**7,656** Teachers/facilitators, master trainers and mentor teachers from the Rohingya trained in line with the Teacher Professional Development Framework (target: 4,000).

Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- Working closely with the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC), the Sector and its partners focused on implementing the Myanmar Curriculum (MC) and increasing girls' enrollment. A total of 305,869 children (51% girls) from grades 1 to 11 were enrolled and supported by the Sector and 88% of children regularly attended classes (more than 4 times per week)<sup>2</sup>.
- A total of 22,791 Out-of-school (OOS) and ALP (Accelerated Learning Program) learners, including children with disabilities, took placement tests and were assigned to grades based on results. Among these, 14,503 were girls representing 63% of participants.
- 84,043 children (43% girls) in grades 3-10 completed one academic year in the Myanmar Curriculum and sat the end-of-year assessment with 87% achieving grade level competencies.
- 10,284 teachers and facilitators (4,753 female) engaged in delivering education to Rohingya learners in refugee camps, comprising 6,540 Rohingya teachers (1,974 females) and 3,744 Bangladeshi teachers (2,779 females)<sup>3</sup>.
- 7,656 Rohingya and host community teachers and facilitators (41% females) participated in professional development (pedagogy, subject-based or basic/ foundational training). The achievement resulted in over-achievement as the sector target was 4,000 teachers<sup>4</sup>.
- From December 2024, UNESCO assumed the leadership of Burmese Language training for Rohingya teachers, a huge milestone in improving the quality of teaching and learning.

- The Sector could not reach approximately 23% of children, adolescents and youth with education programs, especially adolescents aged 15 to 18 years, with over 70% of children above 15 years being out of school. According to the 2024 Inter Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA)<sup>5</sup>, the major reasons mentioned by refugees for non-enrolment included: family restrictions on adolescent girls (24%), and the child having already been married (12%), enrolled in a madrassa (12%) or needing to help at home (6%).
- The learning facilities structures remained inadequate and constructed using bamboo, making them susceptible to environmental wear and tear. Learning facilities also lacked equipment such as school desks, fans and lights. To provide more durable facilities and reduce the costs of renovations, the Education Sector advocated and received permission from the Government of Bangladesh to construct two-storey learning facilities.
- Lack of a clear pathway after completion of secondary school remained a challenge as the Rohingya communities and learners lacked access to tertiary education such as universities.

Inter-Sector Needs Assessment 2024.





<sup>1.</sup> The green boxes in the Sector summaries present the achievements against selected key indicators. The achievements against all JRP Sector indicators can be found on <u>Humanitarian Action</u> (under 'Population data by sector' next to Sector Objectives for outcome level indicators, and next to Sector Activities for output level indicators).

<sup>2.</sup> Education Sector dashboard.

<sup>3.</sup> Education Sector dashboard.

<sup>4.</sup> Despite the target being 4,000 teachers out of 10,500, partners were able to train more teachers using different kinds of teacher training programmes.

# **FOOD SECURITY**



Sector Lead Agencies: WFP | FAO

**1,006,556** refugees received general food assistance through the primary sources of e-voucher outlets and fresh food corners (target:931,574).

108%

137,708 refugee households reached from food production resilience building activities (target: 77,081).

179%

From the targeted 68%, only **65**% of refugee households reached an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) (based on REVA-8 conducted in December 2024).



Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- The Sector provided monthly life-saving general food assistance to all Rohingya refugees registered to receive food assistance (1,006,556). With e-vouchers valued at USD 12.50 per person per month, households were able to purchase up to 12 food items from 19 outlets across all 33 camps. The extremely vulnerable households, such as those headed by women or children, or with older people or persons with disabilities (30% of the population) received an additional \$3 monthly top-up to access fresh foods from 20 Fresh Food Corners (FFCs).
- To enhance micronutrient intake and combat malnutrition, specifically micronutrient deficiencies among the population, the Sector introduced fortified rice to WFP's food assistance package at the start of 2024.
- A total 137,708 refugee households benefited from the homestead gardening project conducted by 20 Food Security Sector (FSS) partners. The provision of technical training, agricultural tools, seeds and technical support enabled refugees to grow fruits and vegetables, complementing their food supply and enhancing their nutrition and resilience.
- The RRRC officially endorsed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Emergency Rapid Food Assistance in May 2024 to strengthen emergency response coordination, and the use of harmonized and standard approaches in multi-hazard emergency response.
- FSS coordinated emergency food assistance in response to fire incidents, cyclones and flash floods, providing affected refugee households with fortified biscuits and hot meals to meet their food needs. 75,426 hot meal packages were distributed, and 7,275 individuals received complementary dry food packages and breakfast.
- The homestead gardening program has showed a

positive impact on household food security among Rohingya refugees, on average, each supported household produced 94 kg of vegetables in 2024, yielding an average profit of USD 31 per household. As evidenced by the Food Consumption Score (FCS) from the 2024 RIMA assessment (55% of gardening households achieved acceptable food consumption, compared to only 40% among non-gardening households). Households practicing homestead gardening show a steady and significant increase in Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) from 25 in 2021 to 39 in 2023.

- In 2023, due to funding shortfalls, the Sector had to lower the US\$ 12 monthly transfer value of general food assistance to US\$ 10 first, and to US\$ 8 from June 2023 to July 2024. After 17 months of ration cuts, FSS and WFP restored the ration to the full amount of USD 12.50 in August 2024. This brought much needed relief to the population, who were confronted with deteriorating food security and nutrition situation resulted in worsening key indicators, including a 30%6 drop in acceptable food consumption scores and high levels of global acute malnutrition (GAM) 15.4%7 creating a severe public health concern.
- Continuous support remained crucial to avoid future ration cuts as any cut in food assistance has severe and far-reaching impacts on the food security of refugees. Cuts result in food insecurity, pushing malnutrition into emergency levels across the camps and even starvation, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women and children who constitute 78% of the total refugee population. In addition, cuts weaken the only lifeline of refugees, straining individual and family wellbeing, breaking social cohesion while increasing protection risks (e.g. child marriage/labor, GBV, trafficking, selling assets and NFI), with a trickledown effect across the entire response.

<sup>6.</sup> WFP (2024, July). Bangladesh Refugee Influx Emergency Assessment (REVA-8).

<sup>7.</sup> The 2023 Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS).

## HEALTH

Ż

Sector Lead Agency: WHO

90% of Penta 3 among <1 year old covers (target: ≥95%).

90%

**4.7** outpatient consultations per person per year (attendance rate or consultation rate) (target: ≥2).

0% fatality rate among cholera cases (target: <1%).

0% fatality rate among dengue cases (target:<1%).

Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- Sector partners, with considerable support from the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, provided more than 5 million outpatient consultations to Rohingya refugees (4.7 consultations per person per year, which is above the threshold for emergencies per international humanitarian standards). A total of 118,192 inpatient admissions were recorded, representing a 13% increase from 2023.
- The Sector updated and published the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS), tailored to the specific needs of Cox's Bazar camps. The approved version was developed based on the WHO's High-Priority Health Services for Humanitarian Response package.
- As part of the GoB's nationwide immunization efforts, the Sector successfully supported two major vaccination campaigns in Cox's Bazar. Under the HPV vaccination campaign, 72,324 girls aged 10–14 years were reached, achieving 109.8% coverage of the target. Additionally, in collaboration with Sector partners, the GoB conducted two rounds of the Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) campaign for children under five in the camps, with 175,482 children receiving both doses and reaching 99.7% of the target population.
- In 2024, Cox's Bazar camps faced the largest cholera and dengue upsurge, reporting 541 culture-confirmed cholera cases and 16,679 dengue-positive cases. The Sectors' patient treatment ensured no cholera fatalities and a 0.05% dengue fatality rate (less than the WHO threshold).
- The Sector, in collaboration with the Government and partners, developed the sector's response strategies for Hepatitis C and AWD/Cholera for 2024-2025.

#### Complementary programmes

 Structured coordination between the Health Sector and non-JRP partners (e.g. MSF, IFRC, and the Turkish Field Hospital (TFH)) ensured availability and access to essential health services together with reduced excess morbidity and preventable mortality from common causes.

- Funding shortfalls affected the Sector's capacity to provide accessible health services, especially to vulnerable groups, e.g., Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The chronic scarcity of specialized medical equipment and medications exacerbated the situation for vulnerable individuals.
- The fragmented health system in the camps hindered the coordination efforts and timely response to public health needs, especially for referral services.
- The unavailability of specialized pharmaceutical items negatively affected the quality of health services and placed an economic burden on patients, who were often forced to obtain these medications from the private sector.
- While the Sector continued to pursue rationalization/ cost-efficiencies throughout 2024 and into 2025, limited partner cooperation in closing nonrecommended health facilities risked continued use of scarce resources on non-essential services.



# **NUTRITION**



Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

74,457 cases with severe and moderate acute malnutrition newly admitted for treatment (target:76,600).

97% 3%

75,560 pregnant and lactating women including caregivers received IYCF counselling (target:59,800).

126%

**185,239 children** 6-59 months enrolled in blanket supplementary feeding or nutrition-sensitive e-voucher programmes (target:184,900).

98%

Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- Nutrition Sector partners reached 282,762 refugee children under 5, adolescent girls, and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers with preventive and curative nutrition activities (96% of the target; 70% female). This includes blanket and targeted supplementary feeding, nutritive-sensitive e-vouchers, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), Iron Folic Acid (IFA) and Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, growth monitoring and promotion, community outreach activities including screening for malnutrition, and the outpatient therapeutic programme. The achievement greatly contributed to decreasing the mortality and morbidity of the most vulnerable groups (children under 5 years old and women).
- The Sector launched a series of new initiatives, including the use of micronutrient-fortified rice in food rations, contributing to the prevention of "hidden hunger" (micro-nutrient deficiency), the review of the updated WHO guidelines on prevention and management of wasting, and the development of light operational guidelines potentially reducing the unit cost.
- The Sector also piloted the effectiveness of locally produced ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) in the camps, potentially reducing the unit cost if commercialized and produced on a large scale.
- The Sector conducted partner capacity assessments and fire preparedness assessments at nutrition sites resulting in high-quality and timely emergency responses.
- The current SBC strategies to tackle the cultural barrier compromising non-optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding were updated.

#### Complementary programmes

JRP and non-JRP partners worked together to avoid duplication of services and improve the efficiency of referral systems. In 2024, MSF treated 897 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications at its stabilization center within the hospital in Goyalmara Centre near Camp 16. UNICEF and WFP also treated SAM children with medical complications, and children and PBW with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) respectively, in the Kutubdia, Pekua and Moheskhali Upazillas.

- Limited in-camp income generation opportunities remained insufficient to enable families to support themselves with an adequate and diverse range of foods to prevent malnutrition, both stunting and wasting.
- Funding shortages in the Health and WASH Sectors directly impacted refugees' nutrition. Failure to prevent and treat malnutrition in a timely manner can lead to an impaired immune system, leading to greater morbidity and mortality.
- New arrivals further strained nutrition facilities, particularly in camps with only one nutrition facility.

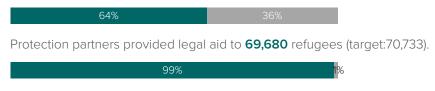


# **PROTECTION**



Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

**55,043** refugees received case management including direct protection assistance and protection counselling (target:86,290).



Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- The GoB and UNHCR successfully conducted joint continuous registration and documentation for 968,981 Rohingya refugees. Some 31,822 individuals were supported in obtaining Birth Information Notifications to ensure the formal registration of their children and secure their legal identity and access to essential services. A Joint SOP was endorsed by the RRRC to guarantee streamlining birth registration processes.
- Protection partners provided legal aid to 65,944 refugees through 74 camp-based lawyers and 78 refugee paralegal volunteers. Among them, 16,713 refugees received legal counselling, 387 were assisted with filing legal complaints in police stations and courts and 468 were provided with representation support in court legal proceedings. These interventions empowered refugees to seek remedies for rights violations, despite the limitations in the national legal framework affecting access to justice. 7,970 refugees received mediation support as part of an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, including 3,968 legal cases, of which 80% were resolved successfully.
- Some 3,246 refugees achieved durable solutions in third countries through resettlement and complementary pathways programs.
- A total 6,791 refugees received support, including legal assistance and mediation, on housing, land and property (HLP) cases.
- The escalation of the conflict in Rakhine State in November 2023 had a profound adverse impact on the protection of refugees in the camps. Together with the RRRC, the Protection Sector (including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence sub sectors) launched a Peace and Security Campaign involving civilian and law enforcement authorities with the humanitarian community to counter violence and promote peaceful coexistence within the camps.

#### Complementary programmes

- Non-JRP partners (MSF, IFRC and ICRC) providing complementary services were crucial in the protection response, emergency preparedness and in monitoring the protection impact in Bangladesh amidst the worsening conflict in Rakhine State, which allowed for evidence-based advocacy and programming to support new arrivals.
- A Security Pillar Task Team was established under the Peace and Security Working Group to address identified gaps and work towards joint capacity building efforts. This task team aims to ensure law enforcement agencies - including investigative bodies such as the District Police - prevent and reduce safety and security risks, uphold human rights standards while dealing with refugees and counter threats posed by rival organized groups, while containing the escalation of violence.

- The security situation continued to deteriorate in the camps, driven by the presence of organized groups which contributed to a significant increase in protection incidents. The Protection Sector led joint-protection monitoring, during which 1,687 security incidents were reported, including forced recruitment, including of children, abductions, kidnappings, and extortion.
- Limited funding impacted partners' ability to respond to emerging protection risks linked to security incidents inside the camps, including safety interventions for refugees. Protection caseloads increased while community-based protection mechanisms and engagement with diverse community structures to support community resilience remained heavily underfinanced. Insufficient funding for the identification of people with specific needs led to less support and increasing vulnerability, particularly for new arrivals.



# **PROTECTION - CHILD PROTECTION**



Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

**14,191** identified girls and boys at risk who received specialized and gender sensitive child protection services (target: 45,923).

31% 69%

1,104 community members and volunteers trained in child protection approaches (target: 1,682).

66% 34%

**59,321** girls, boys, including adolescents benefiting from group based structured psychosocial support sessions (target: 82,005).

72% 28%

**587,311** identified girls and boys, women and men, benefitted directly and indirectly from Child Protection awareness raising and focused recreational activities (target: 992,351).

59% 41%

Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- The CPSS successfully established and endorsed the Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) system for the first time in the response. Through monthly data collection across all 33 camps and 11 host community unions, a total of 3,191 Key Informant Interviews and 132 Focus Group Discussions were conducted. This monitoring initiative generated critical insights into the evolving protection risks and needs of girls and boys, enabling more targeted and informed programming. The findings directly contributed to setting priorities, shaping response strategies, and informing advocacy with donors and humanitarian actors.
- The CPSS published the Child Protection Situation Analysis Report, covering findings from January to September. Developed in collaboration with CPSS partners, the report presented an evidence-based analysis of key child protection concerns impacting Rohingya children and their families. Drawing on data collected from over 4,000 community members—including children and caregivers—across all 33 camps, the report highlighted critical issues such as child labor, child recruitment, child marriage, physical and emotional maltreatment, and psychosocial distress. The findings have been instrumental in informing programming priorities and advocacy efforts to enhance the protection and well-being of children in the camps.
- The Sub-sector trained 1,145 child protection case workers, volunteers and Community-Based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC) members on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and prevention and specialized Child Protection services.
- With growing concerns about child recruitment in the camps, the CPSS established the children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) task

- team as an instrument of response to connect the monitoring and reporting of incidents by the Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism (CRMM) with timely and targeted services for children. The task team conducted a stakeholder analysis and risk assessment to guide strategic CAAFAG interventions, laid a CAAFAG referral pathway for non-child protection actors, and developed specialized guidelines for case workers on the safe identification and referral of CAAFAG cases.
- In collaboration with the Global CAAFAG Task Force, CPSS rolled out the CAAFAG Toolkit through a series of trainings and workshops, engaging 12 CPSS partners and 33 case workers. Six workshops were conducted to strengthen partner capacity on prevention and response to CAAFAG cases.

## **Complementary programmes**

 Collaboration and coordination with government bodies including the Department of Social Services (DSS) was strengthened through regular meetings and coordination. These engagements helped align humanitarian efforts with national child protection priorities and policies and enhance DSS presence and intervention in the camps.

#### Challenges

 Due to underfunding, many vulnerable children in need of case management support were either not reached or received only partial assistance, limiting their access to critical services such as psychosocial support, family tracing, and reintegration. Planned scale-up of services to additional locations could not be implemented, and existing services faced disruptions due to staff shortages and limited resources, affecting the timely follow-up and resolution of high-risk cases.

8. Child Protection Situation Analysis Report 2024.





# **PROTECTION - GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**



Sector Lead Agency: UNFPA

**26,058** individuals who completed the minimum package of GBV response, mitigation and prevention training (target: 34,686).

75% 25%

**85%** of targeted locations with GBV case management services access, case management trainings and supervision (target: 85%).

85% 15%

**92%** of sexual violence survivors who presented within 72 hours of incident, had access to timely lifesaving health and clinical management of rape (CMR) referrals (target: 90%).

92%

Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector reached a total 590,046 refugees across Cox's Bazar Camps with GBV activities such as capacity building, behavior change communication, GBV prevention and risk mitigation, and GBV case management. All these interventions helped survivors and vulnerable communities to access critical and lifesaving services both routinely and during emergencies such as floods and fire incidents.
- The GBVSS conducted a sector-wide GBV service audit, which covered 67 GBV service facilities across 33 camps and 12 host communities, generating actionable recommendations to improve service standards across all GBV actors in 2025.
- To reduce access barriers and enhance the holistic well-being of women and girls, the GBVSS provided integrated GBV and d sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, along with legal aid support at Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) and Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) in the camps and host communities As a result, 92% of sexual violence survivors were referred timely for clinical management of rape (CMR) services within the critical window of 72 hours, thus enabling them to access life-saving services and improve healing outcomes.
- The Sub-Sector enhanced GBV service delivery by ensuring coordination among GBV and protection providers, camp authorities, law enforcement agencies and other relevant actors at the camp level. Enhanced engagement, coordination and capacity building of field-level actors contributed to sustainable, localized, community-based protection, increased awareness, and better service provision.

#### Complementary programmes

• The coordination between the GBVSS and other Sectors

complemented GBV programming through the provision of integrated information and services such as SRH, legal aid, livelihood, skill development training and adult literacy. Moreover, non-JRP partners providing complementary services played a crucial role in addressing service gaps and ensuring the continuity of GBV service provision along with JRP partners, thereby mitigating the impact of funding shortfalls.

- Funding constraints adversely impacted GBV service provision, including project closures, limited staffing, and reduced availability of services in the camps during nights and weekends. Underfunding also contributed to high staff turnover, disrupting the referral pathways and compromising the quality of services provided. These challenges hindered GBV prevention, mitigation and response measures - as well as GBV mainstreaming - in the camps. Safety and security challenges rose due to the presence of armed groups at the camp level, exposing women and girls to GBV risks including forced domestic labor, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and even death threats. Organized groups' presence and involvement in sexual violence cases contributed to the underreporting of this egregious form of GBV in the community, as survivors feared retaliatory acts. GBV actors, case workers and Camp Focal Points (GBV CFP) reported that GBV risks increased in public areas such as marketplaces, latrines, streets and pathways - particularly at night, while fear of sexual violence intensified.
- The year saw an increase in technology-facilitated GBV as well, affecting adolescent girls. Additionally, women newly arrived from Myanmar faced unique GBV and SEA risks due to housing challenges, as they were forced to cohabit with unknown relatives and individuals or exploited for rent, coupled with a lack of knowledge on basic available assistance and services in the camp.
- The lack of livelihood opportunities and the worsening security situation in the camps drove households into greater debt and contributed to child and forced marriage, and the adoption of other negative coping strategies. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remained the predominant form of GBV, accounting for approximately 78% of reported incidents (GBVIMS Q4 Factsheet). Additionally, reduced access to services and the worsening security situation stemming from heightened insecurity and fear of organized groupsled to increased confinement of women and girls, further exposing them to GBV risks. Overcrowding in the camps, along with natural disasters like floods and fires, further intensified GBV vulnerabilities.





# SHELTER-CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT



Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR | IOM

**51%** of Rohingya households reached with regular Shelter assistance (TSA, R&M, MTS, HH-level site improvement) (target: 60%).

51% 9%

92% of Rohingya households reached with emergency shelter assistance (target:15%).

92%

66% of Rohingya households reached with NFI assistance (target: 83,727).

66% 34%

Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- The SCCCM Sector reached 88,000 refugee households with regular shelter repair; 16,000 refugee households with emergency shelter assistance; 174,782 households with LPG distribution and 54,854 individuals with Non-Food Items (NFI) distribution.
- The regular distribution of LPG to refugee households for cooking fuel facilitated the re-greening of the camps, with almost 4,100 hectares of degraded forest land replanted since 2018, mitigating landslide risks, rehabilitating ecosystems, and enhancing biodiversity.
- The Shelter Task Force designed alternative shelter material options, focused on weather resistance, fire safety, the availability of proposed materials, capacity for safe installation, maintenance frequency and cost, and ease of decommissioning. In December 2024, the GoB approved the use of temporary safer shelter materials, which will allow for more safe, sustainable, and cost-effective alternatives that reduce refugees' vulnerability and improve sustainability, while remaining in line with Government policy.
- A total 33,405 households were affected by heavy rain during the monsoon season (April to August 2024).
   The SCCCM sector was able to provide Emergency Shelter response (67%) to 22,439 households.

#### Complementary programmes

 The Sector coordinated the construction of World Bank funded multi-purpose service centres in the camps, working jointly with the RRRC, as well as the ongoing construction of 20 km of road to facilitate more effective emergency response and improve settlement planning.

- The Sector experienced a funding shortfall for critical activities and could not reach 39,394 refugee households with shelter assistance and almost 30,000 refugees with planned NFI assistance.
- The rapidly growing population and new arrivals, coupled with the hilly terrain and temporary quality of much of the infrastructure, created persistent site management challenges, including high maintenance and replacement costs for camp infrastructure, and preventable deaths. Funding shortfalls curtailed site planning and the construction of safer shelters, leaving refugees at the mercy of natural hazards and partners spending significant humanitarian funds on unsustainable maintenance costs. In 2024 alone, heavy rains caused more than 1,500 landslides in the camps, killing 12 Rohingya refugees and damaging hundreds of shelters.
- Sustaining LPG provision remained a major challenge due to declining funding levels: any funding shortfalls will increase the risk of deforestation, health problems, exposure to GBV, and reliance on negative coping mechanisms.
- An estimated 23% of households still used firewood for cooking, meaning that continued LPG assistance, awareness-raising, and the scaling-up of environmentally friendly cooking solutions in the camps remained consistently needed.



# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE



Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

70% refugees accessed a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs.



84% of household segregating waste at household level.



**79%** of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plans didn't meet acceptable Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) standards due to lack of space.



83% of refugees received Menstrual Hygiene Material according to Sector Standard.



Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- WASH Sector interventions ensured 86% of refugees have enough access to water to meet all their domestic needs, with an average of 23 liters of water received per person per day (ISNA 2024). To ensure sufficient and sustainable water supply for the camps under Ukhia and Teknaf Upazila, the Secwtor developed a long-term Water Supply Strategy, providing essential quidance and reference for WASH Partners.
- 49,471 latrines were maintained, with 96% remaining functional ensuring communal access for 20 people per latrine (WASH sector infrastructures monitoring 2024), while a gap for new latrines remains. A total of 167 Fecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) processed 1,000 cubic meters of sludge daily, ensuring effective human waste management. Thanks to solid waste management, only 8% of Rohingya households reported visible waste in the vicinity of their households and 84% are using a two-bin system for efficient segregation of organic and non-organic waste (MSNA, 2024).
- 254,793 (83%) women and girls of menstrual age received Menstrual Hygiene Material, with a reported 98% satisfaction level with the quality of the product (MSNA 2024).
- Thanks to Sector-led awareness-raising campaigns, 87% of beneficiaries (MSNA 2024) can recognize at least three critical handwashing times impacting positively on health.
- The Sector redefined stakeholder roles in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, clarifying the responsibilities of Area Focal Agencies (AFAs) and Operational Partners (including national and international NGOs) to improve coordination and operational cost efficiency. Moreover, the RRRC approved a new policy on

community engagement for solid waste management in the camps as well as landfill extension, leading to more community engagement and cost efficiency.

#### Complementary programmes

- The Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) operated six Fecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs), 63 water networks, and seven Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) with support from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. DPHE also commenced the operation of the Omni Processor treatment plant for fecal and solid waste management.
- MSF carried out the Five Star Survey to assess the performance, identify gaps, and evaluate sustainability, and challenges associated with water networks across the 33 camps.
- The Bangladesh Red Cresent Society (BDRCS) and Partners provided a comprehensive WASH package to 16,710 refugees.

- Only 48% of water networks provide 20 liters of water per person daily and just 48% of the water was chlorinated at tap stand level, which meant that stronger focus needed to be provided on water availability and quantity, as cholera outbreaks in 2024 started in a non-chlorinated water-network.
- Six out of 15 key WASH indicators have deteriorated since 2022 with reduced funding impacting infrastructures and services.
- Due to the lack of space, many sanitation facilities were lacking (with more than 40 people sharing one latrine in some camps) and waste or sludge treatment didn't reach the required standards impacting health, environment and living conditions.





- Reductions in the soap ration compromised dignity, especially of women and girls, while also increasing the risk of cholera, which surged in 2024 alongside pervasive levels of blood-borne Hepatitis C, challenging health service delivery.
- Funding shortfalls led to the reduction of solid waste volunteers, leading to an extra 15% of waste not being collected in 2024, which created pollution, led to conflicts with neighbors, and increased the risk of flooding due to blockages of the drains and water channels.

# LIVELIHOODS AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

6,861 refugees were supported through a range of livelihoods and skill development initiatives (target: 38,753).

18% 82%

2,425 refugees completed Competency Based Vocational Training across 10 occupational areas (target: 9,660).

25% 75%

57% (6,128) refugees transitioned into income-generating activities (target: 10,676).

57% 12%

1,147 refugees were enrolled into an Accelerated Adult learning program (target: 20,163).

99.44%

Achievement against target | Gap

#### **Achievements**

- The Sector rolled out an Accelerated Adult Learning (AAL) package to 2,140 Rohingya refugees (1,160 females) to strengthen foundational skills, enabling participants to qualify for vocational training, improving overall retention rates in skills development programs.
- 5,507 refugees (2,405 females) successfully completed vocational training across ten diverse trades, equipping them with essential skills for economic resilience, and 6,128 refugees (3,557 females) were engaged in income-generating activities.

#### Complementary programmes

 The Sector initiated consultations with development partners, expanding livelihood programs and advocating for the integration of skilled refugee labor into infrastructure projects, to address labor shortages in key sectors such as solar maintenance, electrical work, concrete laying, and plumbing.

#### Challenges

 Due to funding shortfalls, only 57% of the targeted beneficiaries were reached for vocational training, 41% of refugees were supported with income-generating

- opportunities, and 15% of refugees were reached via AAL packages.
- More flexible policies would enable refugees to expand livelihood activities, allowing them to become more self-reliant and less dependent on humanitarian assistance. Specific proposals to increase refugee livelihoods include formalizing small businesses and markets in the camps, forward and backward market linkages, engagement with private sectors and expansion of skills sets to enable refugees with meaningful income generation opportunities in case of repatriation or third country settlement.







## COORDINATION AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Efforts to improve cost efficiencies were ongoing in 2024 with analysis of the impacts of underfunding on Sector activities and a visioning exercise conducted with UN heads to support the JRP 2025-26 planning process. The exercise consolidated major contextual changes and challenges and identified opportunities to improve efficiency and equity in services, promote self-reliance and resilience, and align host community activities with the broader development priorities of the Cox's Bazar District.

As outlined in the achievements below, cross-cutting issues continue to be mainstreamed across all Sectors and humanitarian partners, including under the newly reformed Youth Working Group.



The Youth Working Group (YWG) was re-established in 2024 to serve as a collaborative platform to ensure the needs and concerns of adolescents and youth are integrated into the overall response. Comprised of 30 members, the YWG provided technical support on data collection for the 2024 Inter-Sector Needs Assessment, gathering data from 3,600 households. For the first time in the Rohingya response, the YWG ensured that indicators specifically focused on youth would be added across Sectors. Additionally, the YWG and Humanitarian Assistance Programme (HAP) hosted a networking event to mainstream youth involvement and connect local youth-led organizations with organizations working with youth. The YWG also brought together 41 partners to ensure effectively application of the IASC Youth Guidelines in humanitarian and protracted crisis contexts.



The Energy & Environment Network (EEN) integrated climate action, nature-based solutions, and renewable energy in the response, strengthening both environmental and community resilience. The Climate Action Strategy (2023-25) was further advanced, especially in line with Blue-Green Network approaches emphasizing watershed management, nature-based solutions, and disaster risk reduction. Reforestation interventions covered 250 hectares in the camps and 730 hectares in the host communities. The EEN made significant progress on solar energy access – including energy grid improvements in the camps, the use of solar light to enhance refugees' safety after dark and coordinating the setup of lightning protection infrastructure to reduce the risks of lightning-related fatalities.



The Accountability to Affected Populations Technical Working Group (AAP TWG), conducted an assessment to strengthen and streamline the Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) in the camps. The AAP TWG developed joint key messages in 4 languages (English, Bangla, Burmese and Rohingya-English transliteration) and in audio-visual formats to align overall communication with communities. Collaborating with cross-cutting units, the AAP TWG revised community engagement strategies, designed assessments, and strengthened engagement with community leaders.



The Age and Disability Working Group (AD TWG) scaled up data collection on Persons Living with Disabilities in Cox's Bazar Camps (3.03% as of November 2024°). With an ongoing sectoral disability inclusion assessment taking place across all 33 camps, the AD TWG will compile accurate disability data by mid-2025, addressing a 7-year gap. By providing technical support to Sectors to promote disability inclusion, the AD TWG established for the first time a mandatory 3% minimum target of PwDs as part of the total target population under the 2025-26 JRP.



The Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) promoted gender equality in the Rohingya refugee response, enhancing the capacities of around 300 humanitarian actors on gender mainstreaming and supporting partners in strengthening gender responsiveness in their proposals. The GiHA WG successfully advocated for including mandatory "identified needs including gender consideration" in the JRP and developed sector-specific Gender Tip Sheets. It also provided training on Rapid Gender Analyses to 17 focal points; secured standing representation for local Women's Led and Women's Rights Organizations (WLOs/WROs) and initiated plans for a technical working group on women's leadership.



The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network, comprised of 164 members, enhanced collaboration and accountability measures to protect Rohingya refugees from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), integrating PSEA into the 2025-26 JRP. The PSEA Network provided training to 15,236 humanitarian staff and 39,367 Rohingya refugee and Bangladeshi volunteers in Cox's Bazar, to ensure staff and volunteers are fully aware of the UN standards of conduct regarding PSEA and understand their responsibilities in preventing and addressing SEA. Two camp surveys were conducted to assess the complaint mechanisms and community perceptions of PSEA, and the Network translated key documents into Bengali, including the IASC's "Saying No to Sexual Misconduct" and the UN OVRA's "Victims' Rights Statement."



The Transfers Working Group (TWG) coordinated cash and voucher assistance implementation plans considering challenges faced by the ongoing security deterioration in camps. Aiming to harmonize the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) implementation processes, the TWG reoriented partners on their volunteer engagement approach and work modality for refugees. The TWG organized the first national CVA Skill Training workshop for Programme Staff, and supported efforts on economic opportunities for refugees, and development initiatives targeting refugees and host communities.



Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) enhanced coordination mechanisms and emergency preparedness, strengthening EPR at all levels, including at the national level through the UNRCO. The Emergency Operation Cell was established, and the inclusion of the ISCG in the District Disaster Management Committee paved the way for broader EPR coordination in the host community in Cox's Bazar. EPR finalized the criteria for identifying vulnerable individuals, conducted a multi-hazard lessons-learned workshop and developed cyclone SOPs, emergency relocation plans, and institutionalized seasonal alerts and advisories. A guidebook for multi-hazard risk communication and community engagement was developed to help keep the community informed and prepared.

<sup>9.</sup> Inter-Sector Needs Assessment 2024



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOST COMMUNITY









In 2024, JRP partners, in close collaboration with national and local authorities, supported over 299,754 members of the Bangladeshi host community in Cox's Bazar District who were affected by the financial, social, and environmental impacts of the protracted Rohingya crisis.

- The **Food Security Sector** partners assisted 47,367 host community households with livelihood, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Natural Resource Management (NRM). They also supported 21,644 host communities with homestead and agricultural inputs, technical training, agricultural tools, seeds and extensions for homestead gardening. About 9,270 individuals received livestock support services and 26,115 farmers were supported with agricultural livelihood projects and market linkages, including through 62 aggregation centers supplying fresh food.
- The **Education Sector** reached 12,997 children (7,308 girls) with education programs, materials and training, of whom 214 were children with disabilities. It also engaged 3,744 host community teachers (2,799 females) in delivering education to children in refugee camps.
- The **Health Sector** provided more than 5 million outpatient consultations to members of the host community (6.16 average OPD consultation per person per year), reaching more than 100% of its target population. The Sector also recorded more than 31,595 inpatient admissions and provided 11,103 facility-based delivery (birth) services, including 1,522 C-Section surgeries.
- Nutrition Sector partners reached 115,579 Bangladeshi children under 5, adolescent girls and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers (80,631 females) in Ukhiya and Teknaf with preventive and curative activities, including infant and young child feeding, micronutrient supplementation, growth monitoring and promotion, and targeted supplementary feeding.
- Under the **Protection Sector**, over 55,498 host community members participated in sessions on social cohesion, non-violent communication and anti-trafficking awareness. Of these, 22,078 individuals joined emergency preparedness prevention and response activities for natural hazards and emergencies such as cyclones, floods, and landslides. Some 8,593 Bangladeshis benefited from legal counselling, and 1,773 community-led initiatives were undertaken with the involvement of 96,532 host community members to strengthen local leadership. The Sector also supported 783 community-led protection initiatives.
- The **Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector** engaged 184,591 host community members in specialized prevention

programs using mixed modalities including integrated sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, and GBV case management response services. To build the host communities' capacities to provide GBV support, 9,367 Bangladeshis completed GBV response, mitigation, and prevention training. In collaboration with the National GBV Cluster and relevant stakeholders, the Sub-Sector held consultative meetings with government officials to establish host community and national referral mechanisms.

- The **Child Protection Sub-Sector** supported 244,726 Bangladeshi children and their caregivers, engaging girls, boys, women and men in awareness-raising on child protection risks and safer environments. In close coordination with DSS and national systems, Child Protection interventions covered 11 unions through a full package of services, ensuring alignment with government standards and enhancing the sustainability of the response.
- Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector initiatives reached 13,313 host community members, including 1,361 individuals who received vocational training aligned with the Bangladesh National Skills Development Framework, enhancing their employability in the local labor market. 2,946 beneficiaries were equipped with non-formal technical training, soft skills development, and awareness-raising sessions and 2,344 beneficiaries were directly supported with market linkage services and job placement opportunities.
- Host communities in close proximity to the camps received targeted Shelter Camp Coordination and Camp Management Sector assistance, benefitting from risk assessments and emergency preparedness and response planning. The Sector provided NFI support to 1,062 targeted Bangladeshi households (1.2%) and shelter assistance to 15 households.
- With support of the **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector**, 157,906 Bangladeshis accessed appropriate sanitation services in 2024, and 62% of people reported having safe water to meet all their domestic needs. As basic sanitation is only accessible to 45% of the host community members, Bangladeshis reported WASH being their most urgent need.

While 8 per cent of 2024 funding received went towards the host community¹0, JRP funding is only one part of the international community's broader development support to the Cox's Bazar host population. In 2024, the ISCG Development Unit worked in close cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh, international financial institutions and other development partners, to promote development support for vulnerable host communities. The Asian Development Bank and World Bank have mobilized additional development support for Cox's Bazar, to provide infrastructure and human capital development support, in line with the Government of Bangladesh's priorities for the underprivileged district. For longer-term sustainability, the continued presence of development actors in Bangladesh is essential, together with strong stakeholder engagement aimed at harmonizing development implementation inside the camps with the JRP's inter-sector response.

<sup>10.</sup> In addition to direct support to host communities, JRP partners continued to make significant contributions to the Bangladeshi economy through camp and host community activities. Domestic procurement of services, food and non-food items remained the modality of choice for humanitarian actors, including local procurement directly from Cox's Bazar and Chittagong Division.





## HIGHLIGHTS FROM BHASAN CHAR











The humanitarian response on Bhasan Char Island supports over 35,000 refugees and is coordinated by UNHCR through the Refugee Coordination Mechanism, separate from the ISCG mechanism for the Rohingya response in Cox's Bazar. On Bhasan Char, the GoB continues to lead the response, working in partnership with UNHCR and other UN agencies under a joint policy framework established through a 2021 MoU. Close collaboration with government authorities continued to strengthen services and activities to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of the refugee population. The Government ensured that relocations to the island remained voluntary and based on informed decisions by the refugees. In 2024, the quality of services improved significantly in terms of the provision of protection, site management, education, WASH, health, and food. The response also promoted self-reliance through skills development and community-based initiatives. While Rohingya refugees on the island share similar needs to those in the Cox's Bazar camps, the geographical location of Bhasan Char presents a distinct set of needs and opportunities.



## COMMON SERVICES AND LOGISTICS

Sector Lead Agency: WFP

#### **Achievements**

- In 2024, full oversight of daily operations for two warehouses in Bhasan Char, including managing routine maintenance, monitoring inventory, and implementing a centralized tracking system to ensure accurate and transparent handling of goods from dock to final delivery was assumed. Following the transfer of two government warehouses, key structural reinforcements, upgraded drainage systems, and modernized lighting and ventilation were completed, significantly improving resilience to flooding and safeguarding stored commodities. The full flow of incoming goods for food agencies, including offloading at the docks, verifying manifests, inspecting packaging, logging items into the tracking system, and dispatching commodities to distribution points across the island were also managed.
- Some 376 personnel (both on rotation and permanent) from nine organizations, and 13 donor missions were provided accommodation and logistical support through the common services mechanism on Bhasan Char. Strengthening operational efficiency and digital connectivity, 10 agencies active on the island were supported with high-speed and stable internet services at four sites, installed a 30-foot ISP and rolled out IT-enabled services.













Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

#### **Achievements**

- A total of 11,626 refugees (5,731 girls) accessed education services across 31 schools on Bhasan Char. These schools provided Early Childhood Education (ECE), the Myanmar Curriculum (MC), and a pilot Skills Development Programme, with all learners receiving MC textbooks and other learning materials.
- Some 307 education volunteers (71 females) supported the functioning of 264 classrooms operating in two shifts. In addition, 24 girls' education volunteers actively promoted the enrolment and continued participation of 295 adolescent girls in education.
- 165 MC teaching volunteers (19 females) were trained on the use of formative assessment in classrooms, and 60 MC grade 3-5 teaching volunteers (4 females) complete an in-service training programme designed to strengthen their subject knowledge and subject-specific pedagogy.

#### Challenges

- Funding shortfalls limited the capacity of education partners to establish additional separate classrooms and recruit
  female teachers and volunteers, which are essential for enrolling 829 out-of-school adolescent girls aged 11–18, who
  indicated they would only attend school if single-sex classrooms were available. According to the BCNA 2024, 7%
  of out-of-school children interviewed also recommended increasing the number of female teachers and volunteers.
- Limited funding for school rehabilitation hindered renovation and maintenance works in 50% of schools, while heavy monsoon rains further damaged school buildings, particularly affecting floors and walls, compromising the learning environment.



# Achievements

• The Food Security Sector provided monthly life-saving food assistance to all 33,345 Rohingya refugees registered to receive such assistance. With e-vouchers valued at USD 15 per person per month, households were able to purchase from 3 different outlets and 2 fresh food markets. A total 3,027 individuals received 9,087 cooked meal packages and 771 commodity baskets upon arrival after relocating from Cox's Bazar camps to Bhasan Char. Chicken and beef were also provided to supplement cooked meals. As part of complementary assistance outside the JRP framework, Sector partners distributed Ramadan packages, including dry food, cooked iftar meals, and fresh meat, with blanket coverage for all refugees on the island. Two non-governmental organizations provided additional protein sources, such as chicken and beef, to supplement cooked meals for new arrivals.



Sector Lead Agencies: UNHCR

#### **Achievements**

- In 2024, key vaccination campaigns such as HPV vaccination, OPV and routine immunization were successfully implemented. HPV vaccination reached 100% coverage among girls aged 10–14, OPV coverage reached 100% for children under five, and the mass drug administration against scabies achieved 99% coverage, effectively preventing outbreaks. Routine immunization coverage exceeded 95% for children aged 0–23 months, highlighting strong access and utilization of services.
- 215,087 clinical consultations were conducted, with 56,107 referrals made by community health and nutrition workers. The introduction of the individual Maternal and Child Health Card improved health tracking and access for women and children.
- The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate fell to 8.5% in 2024 from 14.7% in 2023, due to improved infant and young child feeding practices, stable food security, and increased livelihood opportunities. However, stunting remained critical at 34.7%.



- 2,327 children aged 6–59 months and 96 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with acute malnutrition were enrolled in treatment. On average, 6,005 children under five and 1,459 PLW received supplementary feeding monthly through the BSFP.
- Mental health and psychosocial support services expanded with 640 clinical consultations provided, 1,272 individuals supported by psychologists, 29,225 people attending group sessions, and 1,737 receiving focused support from community counsellors.
- Reproductive health services remained robust, with 765 natural deliveries, 73 caesarean sections, and no maternal deaths reported.

#### Challenges

• The absence of specialized treatment to address acute medical conditions (e.g., surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics) at the 20-bed hospital, and absence of facilities to manage and treat serious mental health cases created a gap in comprehensive health care. While underfunding did not severely impact programming in 2024, sustaining operations at the 20-bed hospital remained a concern requiring alternative funding solutions. Coordination efforts were ongoing to ensure the continuation of essential activities such as Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, and mass MUAC screening, in collaboration with the Civil Surgeon's Office and the Community Health and Nutrition Working Group.



#### LIVELIHOODS AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR | WFP | BRAC

#### **Achievements**

- Nearly 1,000 refugees took part in formal or informal skills training across various trades, which equipped them with practical competencies to support household incomes and improve resilience.
- Over 6,000 households benefited from on-farm training and input support, which contributed to increased food production and livelihood diversification. An additional 165 households received input support for off-farm activities such as small-scale businesses, supporting income-generating opportunities beyond agriculture.
- A rice fortification plant was installed on the island to enrich rice distributed under General Food Assistance. The
  facility is expected to employ 10 to 15 refugee volunteers, providing both livelihood opportunities and nutritional
  benefits.
- A joint agricultural initiative was launched, engaging refugees as day laborers and contributing to food production and economic inclusion.

#### Challenges

• Due to funding shortfalls, 1,000 households were unable to receive on-farm training and input support, limiting their ability to improve food security and income. Additionally, around 500 refugee youth were unable to participate in informal skills training, reducing their access to livelihood activities and increasing their dependency on humanitarian assistance.



#### **Achievements**

- Three government-facilitated relocations involving 3,111 refugees were monitored. Findings confirmed that relocations were voluntary, driven by expectation of improved security and perception of better services on Bhasan Char. Protection concerns were addressed through coordinated efforts between humanitarian partners and government authorities.
- Joint registration and documentation by the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR led to the issuance of 7,565 new refugee documents, improving access to services and reducing harmful coping strategies. A second legal assistance center was opened, with 985 individuals receiving legal support, and 182 awareness sessions being



- conducted, reaching 2,844 individuals. Eight serious criminal cases were filed through the court system on the mainland.
- Training sessions and capacity-building sessions covered protection mainstreaming, child safeguarding, PSEA, AAP, GBV, and diversity inclusion.
- A Disability Inclusion Working Group was established to foster collaboration across sectors and promote inclusive programming.
- A GBV Working Group was established to coordinate prevention, mitigation, and response efforts. The GBVIMS+ system was introduced to strengthen case management. In 2024, intimate partner violence accounted for 90% of reported GBV cases, and sexual assault and rape accounted for 5% and 4%, respectively. Community-based mechanisms provided safe spaces for women and girls. Emergency safe rooms were established within Women's and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) to offer immediate protection while long-term solutions are explored.
- A Child Protection Working Group was established, CPIMS+ was implemented to enhance case management, and updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) guided interventions. Neglect, accounting for 34% of cases under case management, remained the most prevalent form of harm faced by children. Other forms of harm included child labor (6%), sexual violence (5%), and child marriage (7%), often rooted in socio-cultural and religious beliefs. Additionally, child safety risks such as drowning in cluster ponds and temporary disappearances remained critical, with eight child drownings reported.
- Community outreach volunteers conducted 8,560 inclusive recreational and protection awareness activities.

#### Impacts of Underfunding

• The absence of sustainable livelihood opportunities heightened protection risks. Unauthorized departures from the island continued, with women and girls being at particular risk of trafficking, smuggling and gender-based violence. Families, under financial strain, resorted to early and child marriage as a coping mechanism. Unaccompanied and separated children, as well as female-headed households, remained especially at risk.



#### SITE MANAGEMENT, SHELTER, AND NFI

Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

#### **Achievements**

- All refugee households received non-food items and core relief items on a monthly basis and- for new arrivalsshortly after their relocation to Bhasan Char. Despite funding challenges, the supply of LPG for cooking was mostly maintained, with only a brief disruption, while the expansion of bio-gas facilities supported 1,662 vulnerable households, providing supplementary cooking fuel and promoting environmental sustainability.
- Community engagement remained strong through active community groups and feedback mechanisms, and 23,657 requests and concerns from refugees were effectively processed through the community feedback mechanism request.
- The Sector strengthened emergency preparedness through multi-sectoral coordination, with cyclone and fire response drills being conducted throughout 2024 and over 11,000 refugees participating in training sessions, reinforcing community readiness.
- Community-led infrastructure maintenance supports 30,000 refugees through small-scale repairs, including electricity interventions and road access.

- Resource constraints impacted several areas of site management. The implementation of the Global Distribution
  Tool, a key identity management and assistance tracking system, was not implemented for LPG, limiting efficiency,
  while damage to roads and roofs could not be fully addressed, affecting mobility and living conditions. Lack of
  fencing around water bodies contributed to multiple drowning incidents.
- NFI and CRI distributions lacked dedicated staffing, leading to delays and service disruptions. The brief disruption in LPG supply forced some households to revert to firewood or mud stoves, increasing environmental impact and economic pressure. Electrical repairs and maintenance of solar streetlights were not completed, reducing nighttime visibility and heightening safety and protection risks for the refugee community.





## Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

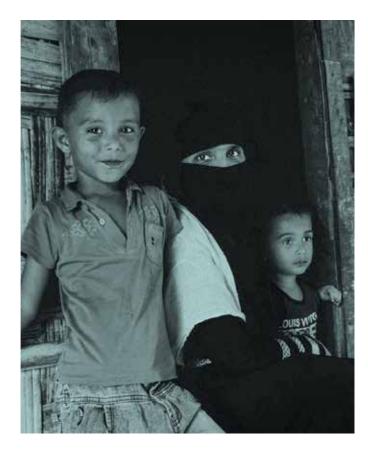
#### **Achievements**

- All refugees on Bhasan Char had access to functional WASH services. Some 4,608 latrines and 3,072 bathing
  facilities have been repaired, maintained, and kept operational, including upgrades to 60 latrines and 56 bathing
  cubicles to improve accessibility and safety for persons with disabilities, and to ensure the safety, dignity, and privacy
  of women and girls. All households received essential WASH items, including soap, menstrual hygiene kits, and
  water purifying tablets. To safeguard groundwater, 1,198 open boreholes were sealed, and a groundwater monitoring
  system was established to track water levels and quality.
- The Sector made notable progress in managing solid waste, with the Solid Waste Management Plant producing 51.15 tons of organic compost, averaging 4.5 tons per month. Of this, 48.74 tons were distributed to 1,200 households participating in livelihood activities, contributing to improved crop and vegetable production. Households that practiced proper waste segregation were prioritized for compost collection, encouraging sustainable waste management practices.
- A plastic recycling plant was also established through a public-private partnership. By the end of 2024, the plant had processed 38.5 tons of plastic chips and 8 tons of rubber waste, including slippers, shoes, and gumboots, supporting environmental protection and resource reuse.

- Funding shortfalls limited critical improvements to WASH infrastructure, particularly in ensuring safety and accessibility for women, girls, and persons with disabilities. According to the 2024 Bhasan Char Needs Assessment, 29% of women and girls reported feeling unsafe using latrines at night, highlighting the need for better lighting and protective measures. Additionally, 38% of households with persons with disabilities lacked sufficient access to latrines, affecting their dignity, hygiene, and well-being.
- Improving fecal sludge treatment remains a priority. In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the Department of Public Health and Engineering plans to install an Anaerobic Baffled Reactor system and an additional hydraulic chamber to enhance treatment capacity and improve effluent quality on the island.









## **ASSESSMENTS**

Cross-sectoral assessments for Cox's Bazar can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>. This includes the Inter-Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA) 2024, the fifth multi-sectoral assessment of the Rohingya camps conducted since 2018. To see sector-specific assessments and 2024 information products from Cox's Bazar, visit the respective Sector and Cross-Cutting webpages at <a href="mailto:rohingyaresponse.org">rohingyaresponse.org</a>.

The 2024 Bhasan Char Needs Assessment can be found here.





https://rohingyaresponse.org



https://www.facebook.com/RohingyaResp



https://twitter.com/RohingyaResp