



Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Bangladesh

Cox's Bazar District is hosting over 855,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.¹ A plan for their voluntary and sustainable return is being explored, though past attempts have been unsuccessful. Two years into the crisis, with the support of the Government, donors and humanitarian partners, necessary infrastructure and basic services have been established and are generating substantial improvements in children's well-being. Global acute malnutrition rates have dropped from 19 to 11 per cent,² and 90 per cent of children aged 4 to 14 years have access to learning centres. However, significant challenges remain. The quality of education requires further improvement. Shelters made of bamboo and tarpaulin remain highly susceptible to fire and damage during monsoons and cyclones. While access to water has improved, there are persistent issues with quality – 70 per cent of household water samples are contaminated.³ Overall vulnerability and social tensions in host communities require additional investments and a district-wide approach. Families across Bangladesh are also extremely vulnerable to flooding due to cyclones and monsoons, a situation that is exacerbated by the growing effects of climate change. The July 2019 floods affected 7.6 million people across half of the country.⁴

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian response in Bangladesh is aligned with the 2020 Joint Response Plan and the 2019 Humanitarian Response and Recovery Plan. In 2020, UNICEF will prioritize: 1) providing life-saving health and nutrition services for children and pregnant women; 2) operating water networks and improving sanitation infrastructure and technology and hygiene promotion; 3) improving access to integrated quality education and skills, including for adolescents and children with disabilities and piloting the Myanmar curriculum; 4) increasing access to protection services, including structured psychosocial support, and addressing violence, exploitation and abuse, including gender-based and sexual violence; 5) disseminating protection and peacebuilding messages through various media and household visits; and 6) strengthening feedback mechanisms for improved accountability to affected populations. UNICEF will strengthen the linkages between its humanitarian response and development programmes to achieve sustainable results in refugee camps and host communities. Integrated skills development for refugee and host community adolescents⁵ and youth will focus on resilience-building. UNICEF will invest in preparedness across the country, including in Cox's Bazar, respond to the massive floods of 2019 and prepare for any new humanitarian needs. UNICEF leads the nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors/clusters and the child protection sub-sector/cluster and co-leads the education sector/cluster.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$84.5 million available against the US\$152.2 million appeal (55 per cent funded).⁶ UNICEF and partner investments in prevention, social mobilization, service coverage and quality improvements in health, nutrition and water services helped prevent major disease outbreaks. The number of learning centres has nearly doubled, from 1,409 to 2,500, with more than 74,000 children in the centres in 2019. Integrated vocational and life-skills programmes have been introduced, reaching 12,500 adolescent boys and girls in camps and host communities. Reaching all targeted adolescents remains challenging due to technical and space limitations in centre construction and partner capacity limitations. To improve the quality and sustainability of drinking water, UNICEF constructed piped water networks that have reached 40 per cent of the population in its geographical area of responsibility. Additional water networks planned through the end of 2019 aim to reach 80 per cent of the population in UNICEF's area of responsibility. Safe spaces are being expanded in camps and introduced in host communities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Awareness-raising for partners on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse has been scaled up and mechanisms for reporting on and supporting survivors are being established.

Total people in need

2 million⁷

Total children (<18) in need

1.06 million⁸

Total people to be reached

597,300⁹

Total children to be reached

427,300¹⁰

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 6,600 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by severe acute malnutrition who are admitted for treatment¹¹
- 191,100 children aged 6 to 59 months who received vitamin A¹²

Health

- 104,900 children aged 0 to 11 months who received pentavalent 3 vaccine
- 5,000 sick newborns treated

WASH¹³

- 338,034 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene¹⁴
- 377,604 people benefiting from functional latrines to agreed standards¹⁵

Child protection

- 125,000 children accessing psychosocial support¹⁶
- 16,500 children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions¹⁷

Education¹⁸

- 293,750 children accessing quality education¹⁹
- 15,000 adolescents aged 15 to 18 years accessing secondary education²⁰
- 32,000 adolescents aged 15 to 18 years and youth aged 19 to 24 years accessing vocational skills training

Communication for development

- 700,169 people reached through messaging and dialogue (house-to-house) on key life-saving behaviours and referrals to services with a focus on health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection
- 50,000 people accessing mechanisms for voicing their needs/concerns, including feedback and complaint mechanisms

	Cluster/ sector 2019 targets	Cluster/ sector total results	UNICEF 2019 targets		UNICEF total results
			Refugees	Host communities and people affected by floods	
NUTRITION					
Children aged 0 to 59 months treated for severe acute malnutrition	20,652	18,092	17,000	400	11,629
Children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A ⁱ	191,074	191,300	148,324	42,750	191,300
HEALTH					
Children aged 0 to 11 months who have received pentavalent 3 vaccine			28,857	76,295	73,442
Sick newborns treated in UNICEF-supported newborn stabilization units and special newborn care units			200	3,000	3,114
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE					
People benefiting from safe water to agreed standards that meets domestic demands	1,318,941 ⁱⁱ	1,005,718	250,000	361,820 ⁱⁱⁱ	565,785 ^{iv}
People benefiting from functional latrines to agreed standards	1,221,371 ^v	858,363	250,000	320,850 ^{vi}	317,070 ^{vii}
CHILD PROTECTION					
Children reached with psychosocial support services	343,206	108,082	76,629	13,676	57,665
Adolescents who received life skills	74,900	65,810	34,400	12,530	39,762
Adolescent girls and women provided with gender-based violence prevention and response services.			20,000	3,500	5,429
EDUCATION					
Children aged 4 to 14 years enrolled in emergency non-formal education, including early learning	396,184 ^{viii}	374,256	221,000	63,750 ^{ix}	212,707
Adolescents aged 15 to 18 years who have participated in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment and/or employability	54,864	30,649	28,000	12,000	12,566
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS					
People reached through messaging and dialogue (house-to-house) on key life-saving behaviours and referrals to services with a focus on health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection			725,000	100,000	675,250
People accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns, including feedback and complaint mechanisms			50,000	10,000	53,375

* Results are as of 31 August 2019 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ Vitamin A was delivered to all children in Rohingya camps and host communities in partnership with the local health authorities during Nutrition Action Week, a low-cost, high-impact biannual exercise that will be repeated in October 2019.

ⁱⁱ This includes 76,500 persons benefiting from access to safe drinking water in flood-affected areas.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Overachievement is due to the establishment of improved and sustainable water networks. The continued operation and maintenance of this infrastructure has been relatively low cost.

^v This includes 20,850 persons benefiting from functional latrines in flood-affected areas in the rest of the country.

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} UNICEF supports safe sanitation in host communities through two modalities: direct construction of latrines in areas most heavily affected by the refugee influx and more sustainable Community-Led Total Sanitation strategies in the remainder of the district.

^{viii} In addition to services in Cox's Bazar, this includes 33,750 children benefiting from learning opportunities in flood-affected areas in the rest of the country.

^{ix} Ibid.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is appealing for US\$135.3 million to maintain life-saving basic services and mitigate the impact of protracted displacement on Rohingya refugees and host communities and respond to the 2020 floods/cyclone in the rest of the country. Nutrition, health, WASH, protection and education services will be provided at scale in the camps, with increased focus on quality, equity and linking humanitarian and development assistance. This appeal includes the US\$111.3 million required under the 2020 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya response, as well as additional funds to contribute to the Humanitarian Response Plan and emergency preparedness nationwide.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$) ²¹
Nutrition	14,230,000
Health ²²	15,180,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	30,000,000
Child protection and gender-based violence ²³	17,000,000
Education	47,000,000
Communication for development and accountability to affected populations	3,150,000
Emergency preparedness and social protection	8,700,000
Total	135,260,000

¹ Inter-Sector Coordination Group, '2020 Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis', 2019.

² Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Survey, Round 4, October-November 2019.

³ Department of Public Health Engineering, World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, 'Water Quality Surveillance Update – 10th round', April 2019.

⁴ United Nations Resident Coordinator, 'Bangladesh: Humanitarian response and recovery plan – monsoon floods (August 2019–April 2020)', August 2019.

⁵ As per the UNICEF Bangladesh Adolescent Strategy for Rohingya and Host Community Response, this integrated programme includes vocational training; basic literacy and numeracy; life skills; and psychosocial support.

⁶ Available funds include US\$55.46 million received in 2019 and US\$29.01 million carried forward from the previous year. Funds received include humanitarian and other types of funding received for the use of either Rohingya refugees, host communities or emergencies in other parts of the country.

⁷ This figure is aligned with the 2020 Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, which includes all 855,000 refugees (459,112 / 53.47 per cent children) and 444,000 people from host communities (279,720 / 63 per cent children). The figure also includes 736,000 people (320,896 / 43.6 per cent children) targeted in the Humanitarian Response Plan for the flood response (August 2019). The 2020 appeal programme targets are inclusive of this population.

⁸ The total figure includes 510,744 girls and 548,984 boys.

⁹ This includes 45 per cent of the sanitation target to cover adults (169,922), plus all children aged 6 months to 3 years to receive vitamin A (103,592, noting the reduction of children aged 4 and 5 from this target to remove any double counting), and all children aged 4 to 18 years to benefit from education (293,750 + 30,000, noting the reduction of 2,000 youth in the overall vocational target). This includes 52 per cent girls/women and 48 per cent boys/men.

¹⁰ This includes 103,592 children aged 6 months to 3 years to receive vitamin A (out of 172,654 children aged 6 to 59 months) and all the children aged 4 to 18 years to benefit from education (293,750 + 30,000). This includes 49 per cent girls and 51 per cent boys and 3,900 children with disabilities supported with rehabilitation services to enhance their access to learning.

¹¹ The target for SAM treatment in camps was reduced to 6,000 as the initial caseload of 10,000 children was based on admissions using weight-for-height. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, children are being screened only through mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) as it requires less close contact. Programme data from the last two years shows that only one-third of admissions for SAM treatment were based on MUAC. Meanwhile, UNICEF has reduced the MUAC cut-off for the identification of SAM from 115 to 120 mm based upon the global recommendations as well as Nutrition Sector guidance to help compensate for this admission.

¹² The target for Vitamin A in camps has been increased based on the microplanning exercise for the June campaign, which identified more children from 6-59 months than initially estimated.

¹³ Targets for host communities have been reduced based on high levels of achievement in 2019 and a programmatic shift towards the use of sustainable community approaches.

¹⁴ Includes 35,000 people in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas hosting Rohingya refugees and 61,280 flood-affected Bangladeshis across the country. No flood-related results were achieved as of mid-year.

¹⁵ Includes 35,000 people in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas hosting Rohingya refugees and 20,850 flood-affected Bangladeshis across the country. No flood-related results were achieved as of mid-year.

¹⁶ The child protection sub-sector will target 125,000 children for psychosocial support, including 100,000 refugees (35,363 children aged 3 years as well as children aged 4-14 years) and 25,000 people in the host community (the target age group is 4-14 years).

¹⁷ This includes 85 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent men/boys. UNICEF will also engage 750 men on gender-based violence prevention and mitigation.

¹⁸ This includes 3,900 children with disabilities who will be supported with rehabilitation services to enhance their access to learning.

¹⁹ Includes 50,000 children in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas hosting Rohingya refugees and 33,750 flood-affected Bangladeshi children across the country. No flood-related results were achieved as of mid-year.

²⁰ For adolescents, remaining needs are met through alternative modalities, including livelihood programmes run by partners.

²¹ In addition, funding requirements for flood response in the rest of the country have been added in the programme sector requirements as have sector/cluster funding requirements.

²² This amount includes funding required for the HIV and AIDS programme in camps and host communities.

²³ Funding for child protection remains similar to 2019, as psychosocial support transitions from blanket psychosocial and recreational activities to a targeted, structured curriculum, and as the scale of integrated case management support to the most vulnerable children increases.

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