Five years into the Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh hosts 943,529 Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar District, including 490,635 children. The refugees rely heavily on international aid and humanitarian assistance. As of August 2022, 26,043 Rohingya refugees had been relocated to Bhasan Char Island.3

More than 8 million people in Rangpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Barishal, Khiuna and Chattogram Divisions (43 per cent of them children) are affected by devastating floods and cyclones every year.4 It is predicted that by 2050, one in seven people will be displaced due to climate change.2

UNICEF will continue to invest in government-led preparedness and humanitarian response in line with the Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2022 and the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team Nexus Strategy for climate-related disasters 2021-2025, focusing on floods, landslides and cyclones.

UNICEF is appealing for US$173.8 million to provide child-focused and gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, child protection and education for refugees, host communities and the most vulnerable people in flood- and cyclone-affected districts.

**KEY PLANNED TARGETS**

- **2.2 million** children and women accessing primary healthcare
- **602,022** children receiving individual learning materials
- **3.6 million** children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **1.2 million** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water
- **6.7 million** people5,6
- **3 million** children7
- **4.1 million** people8
- **2 million** children9

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

US$ 173.8 million

**Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.**
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Bangladesh is facing a complex humanitarian situation due to the protracted Rohingya refugee crisis and also because of people’s vulnerability to such climate-induced disasters as cyclones, floods, landslides and thunderstorms. Public health emergencies such as diphtheria, measles, cholera and dengue also pose risks. Compounding all these vulnerabilities are global economic challenges: While in Bangladesh a strong recovery from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continued in 2022, rising commodity prices and a surge in imports in the second half of the year are accelerating inflation and making it more difficult for the most vulnerable people to meet their basic needs.

As the Rohingya refugee crisis enters its fifth year, Bangladesh is hosting 943,529 Rohingya refugees (including 490,635 children) who fled the extreme violence in Myanmar and settled in Cox’s Bazar District. As of 31 August 2022, approximately 26,043 refugees had been relocated to Bhasan Char island to decongest the camps. The complex conditions and limited services in the Rohingya camps and in Bhasan Char continue to increase people’s needs. Some 115,519 Rohingya refugee and host community children are in need of immunization services; 655,025 Rohingya refugee and host community children require access to education, and 1,143,529 Rohingya refugees and members of affected host communities lack access to safe water. Negative coping mechanisms persist, disproportionately affecting Rohingya women, girls and boys, who face risks of abuse, exploitation and gender-based violence.

The adverse impacts of climate change (including unprecedented cyclones and intensified annual floods) have become key drivers of humanitarian needs. In June 2022, the northeastern region of Bangladesh suffered the worst flood in 122 years, severely affecting 7.2 million people, including 3.5 million children. The flooding damaged water and sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, including acute watery diarrhoea. Access to health care and nutrition services was significantly reduced because 90 per cent of the health-care facilities were damaged. More than 3,300 primary schools and 2,400 learning centres required repair work and replenishment of learning materials for children. More than 2.2 million children in flood- and cyclone-prone districts need psychosocial support. Despite humanitarian efforts and a gradual improvement of basic services several weeks after the flooding, significant needs remain unmet across sectors, with only 1.25 million people having received any humanitarian assistance or service.

SECTOR NEEDS

- 2.4 million children in need of immunization services
- 23,701 children in need of severe wasting treatment
- 3 million children need psychosocial support
- 2.7 million children in need of education support
- 6.3 million people lack access to safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD

The epic floods struck northeastern Bangladesh at a time when people were still recovering from flooding in May. The new waters swept away homes, inundated farmlands and disrupted power supplies. More than 400,000 people were evacuated to safety centres with support from the military. Thousands of schools were damaged and are now closed - further disrupting the education of millions of children who missed out on learning due to school closures during the pandemic.

Since the flooding started, UNICEF has delivered more than 1 million water purification tablets, thousands of water containers, dignity and hygiene kits and therapeutic milk for affected families. UNICEF helped disseminate prevention messages within communities to protect children, whom the flooding placed at high risk of abuse, violence, drowning and separation.

Read more about this story here

Kazi Dil Afroza Islam, UNICEF Chief of Field Office, teaches flood-affected families cut off from clean drinking water how to use water purification tablets in Sylhet, Bangladesh, in June 2022.
**HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY**

UNICEF will reach crisis-affected populations in Bangladesh with an integrated package of life-saving services that includes health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection services, humanitarian cash transfers and risk communication activities. UNICEF will invest in preparedness, build communities’ resilience and strengthen humanitarian and development linkages.

UNICEF will be part of the interagency Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2023, which focuses on the refugee response in Cox’s Bazar District, including meeting the humanitarian needs of those refugees who have been relocated to Bhasan Char. In addition to the existing 12 programmatic areas of work, the newly created livelihoods/skills development sector will provide appropriate technical skills to improve the employability of adolescents. In response to the refugee crisis, UNICEF will support the continuity of services in all sectors, with a specific focus on 1) scaling up the Myanmar Curriculum; 2) maintaining resilient water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; 3) enhancing primary health care and improving the coverage of immunization services; 4) expanding the community-based nutrition programme; and 5) supporting community-based structures to identify vulnerable children in need of protection and provide them with adequate care and psychosocial support. Following the Government’s plan to relocate an additional 75,000 Rohingya people to Bhasan Char in 2023, of whom 33 per cent will be school-aged children, UNICEF will keep the strategic focus on maintaining the functionality and quality of education and WASH services, while prioritizing emergency preparedness for public health emergencies.

Beyond the Rohingya crisis, and in response to the recurrent climate-related hazards that impact Bangladesh, UNICEF will partner with the Government of Bangladesh and other partners to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and to restore and improve the quality of essential services. As part of these efforts, UNICEF will support the Government in providing uninterrupted, safe water supply and sanitation services and hygiene promotion activities to be more climate resilient. UNICEF will support partners in keeping schools and learning centres operational by providing learning materials and supporting the implementation of risk mitigation-linked protocols. Following an increase in the number of social workers linked with UNICEF programmes, UNICEF will implement a more holistic approach to addressing gender-based violence, including strengthening social workers’ capacity to prevent, report and respond to cases of violence against children and women in vulnerable and disaster-prone districts. UNICEF will work with the Government to reinforce existing coordination mechanisms and support the improvement of essential maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services through the provision of vaccines, cold chain logistics, and other essential commodities to reach children under age 5. UNICEF will also assist the Government in sustaining the quality of nutrition services at the community and facility levels, facilitating the treatment of children with severe wasting to strengthen preparedness and build more resilience.

UNICEF will continue leading the nutrition, WASH and child protection sectors/clusters and co-leading the education sector/cluster. Particularly in Bhasan Char, UNICEF will lead the coordination of the education, WASH and child protection sectors. UNICEF will prioritize gender responsiveness and community engagement to ensure the participation of women, girls and people with disabilities in decision-making, and to ensure accountability to the affected population. UNICEF will also raise awareness among local humanitarian actors on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and strengthen mechanisms for reporting and for supporting survivors.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

**2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS**

**Health**
- 2,164,610 children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 1,012,073 children aged 0 to 11 months who have received pentavalent 3 vaccine

**Nutrition**
- 10,172 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 200,508 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling

**Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA**
- 3,586,905 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 1,481,852 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 1,888,373 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who work for internationally recognized organizations

**Education**
- 342,134 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 602,022 children receiving individual learning materials

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**
- 1,189,211 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 505,831 people accessing appropriate sanitation services

**Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)**
- 12,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors
- 3,184,912 people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- 111,552 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
UNICEF is requesting US$173.8 million to support the continuity of life-saving services and meet the needs of Rohingya refugees, host communities and flood- and cyclone-affected people in Bangladesh. Compared with 2022, the funding requirement for 2023 has decreased due to the removal of COVID-19-related response needs, which will be supported through UNICEF’s regular (non-humanitarian) programme activities. Essential water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, health, education, child protection and gender-based violence prevention and response services, along with humanitarian cash transfers, will be provided at scale.

This appeal includes the US$122.8 million required to support critical needs of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar District and in Bhasan Char. The other US$51 million will support work linked to the inter-agency Nexus Strategy for climate-related disasters. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, urgent donor support will be life-saving for the children and families in Bangladesh.

This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Emergency Preparedness (4.0%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (3.7%).

Who to contact for further information:

Sheldon Yett  
UNICEF Representative, Bangladesh  
T +8802 5566 8088  
syett@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine  
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
T +1 212 326 7163  
mfontaine@unicef.org

June Kunugi  
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)  
T +1 212 326 7118  
jkunugi@unicef.org
1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the COVID-19 response, maintaining its commitment to accelerate learning and development and operations. While UNICEF’s Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, youth and adolescents. Further, UNICEF continues to support the Government of Bangladesh in meeting their Core Commitments for Children during this pandemic.


ENDNOTES