In 2023, Bangladesh experienced various emergencies that have necessitated the revisions to the HAC 2023 (Cyclone Mocha, Chittagong floods, and the Dengue Outbreak). In addition, the Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2023 was developed, with new planning figures. The funding requirement and program targets for 2023 have therefore been revised due to these contextual changes as stated below:

- Bangladesh hosts 963,038 Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar District, including 500,780 children. This includes 30,607 Rohingya refugees relocated to Bhasan Char Island.
- Cyclone Mocha (May 2023) affected 334,620 Bangladeshi nationals in Cox’s Bazar District and 36,907 Rohingya refugees in camps.
- Floods and landslides in Chittagong and Cox’s Bazar affected 1.3 million people.
- The ongoing Dengue outbreak has affected 121,500 people (August 2023), 19% children (0-15 yrs) and with 576 deaths (12% children (0-15 yrs)) reported.
- UNICEF is appealing for US$173.5 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 at risk of dengue, floods, and cyclones for 2023.

### KEY PLANNED TARGETS

**1.7 million**

- children and women accessing primary healthcare
**605,833**

- children receiving individual learning materials

**2.9 million**

- children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support

**643,491**

- people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

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Figures are provisional and subject to change based on the humanitarian situation.
Bangladesh is facing a complex humanitarian situation due to the protracted Rohingya crisis, recurrent natural disasters, including the recent dengue outbreak. Large-scale forced displacement of Rohingya occurred following violence in Rakhine State in 1978, 1992, 2012, and again in 2016, with by far the largest forced displacement taking place in 2017. As of 31 August 2023, Bangladesh hosts 963,038 Rohingya refugees, including 500,780 children and 30,607 relocated to Bhasan Char Island.

Refugees are residing in 33 extremely congested camps formally designated by the Government of Bangladesh in Cox’s Bazar District, as well as on the island of Bhasan Char. Women, girls and boys, who make up the majority of the Rohingya refugee/Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) population, are particularly vulnerable to risks of abuse, exploitation, and gender-based violence (GBV). Children make up more than half the refugee population and have been disproportionately affected by the crisis due to physical, psychological, and social vulnerabilities (JRP 2022).

Of late, the Rohingya response has faced financial challenges with funding. For example, food rations being reduced by WFP from $12 per HH in 202 to $6 per HH now. WFP’s decrease to the voucher value has, as expected, resulted in a negative impact on nutrition among refugee children, where 12% of children were acutely malnourished and 41% of children were chronically malnourished (March 2023).

In May 2023, Cyclone Mocha made landfall and a total of 334,620 Bangladeshi nationals were affected in Cox’s Bazar Districts and 36,907 Rohingya refugees living in camps had their shelters damaged or destroyed. More than 110,000 (47,906 children) people lost access to clean drinking water and other sanitation and hygiene services.

In August 2023, the heavy rains triggered flash floods and landslides across Chittagong. In Cox’s Bazar, approximately 538,373 people (including 25,533 in Rohingya camps and 185,200 children) were exposed after the floods and landslides, while nearly 85,500 people (3,500 children and 3,974 Rohingya refugees) were displaced and sheltered in temporary flood shelters. 22 people including 12 children died in Cox’s Bazar district in August 2023. Additionally, Bangladesh is facing the worst dengue outbreak in its history. As of 30 August 2023, 121,500 dengue cases (19% children (0-15 yrs) have been infected, with 576 deaths (12% children (0-15 yrs)). According to WHO, the mosquito-borne disease has spread to all 64 districts in Bangladesh.

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### SECTOR NEEDS

- **2.4 million** children in need of immunization services
- **24,419** 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 WASH services

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### STORY FROM THE FIELD

She had a high fever and tested dengue-positive upon admission to the children’s ward. Currently, she is receiving treatment and being monitored.

[Read more about this story here](#)
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 grants and risk communication and community engagement activities. UNICEF will invest in preparedness, build communities’ resilience, and strengthen humanitarian and development nexus.

UNICEF is 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 response to the refugee crisis (Rohingya Camps and Bhasan Char), 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.

UNICEF accessed funds from the Today and Tomorrow initiative towards Cyclone Mocha, evidence of the practical effectiveness of the disaster risk financing to benefit children. UNICEF will continue focusing on Anticipatory Action as a key component of our preparedness actions. Beyond the Rohingya crisis, and in response to the cyclones, floods and dengue outbreak, UNICEF is strengthening the capacity of the Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) at the divisional level to improve their preparedness and response capacities and plans. The findings from a recent Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) in 2022 from the report will be considered for implementation in 2024. UNICEF is supporting the Government in innovating climate resilient safe water supply and sanitation facilities that are more adaptive to the changing climate context and lead to social and behavioral changes in cyclone/floods affected areas and dengue hotspots. UNICEF is supporting partners in keeping schools and learning centres operational by providing learning materials and supporting the roll-out of SOP implementation for dengue outbreak. UNICEF is strengthening social workers’ capacity to prevent, report and respond to cases of violence against children and women in cyclone/floods and dengue affected areas. UNICEF is advocating for health system capacity strengthening, effective case management, mortality audit and implementation of the audit recommendations while also assisting the Government in sustaining the quality of nutrition services at the cyclone/floods affected areas, facilitating the treatment of children with severe wasting to strengthen nutrition service delivery in community clinics. UNICEF will continue leading the nutrition, WASH and child protection sectors/clusters and co-leading the education sector/cluster and actively contributing to Access Working Group (AWG), Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPRWG), Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Working Group and co-lead the AAP Working Group. UNICEF will prioritize gender responsiveness and community engagement to ensure the participation of women, girls, and persons with disabilities in decision-making, and to ensure accountability to the affected population. Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and strengthening mechanisms for reporting and for supporting survivors will be prioritized. UNICEF will also work with the Government and civil society organizations to strengthen the localization approach and humanitarian-development nexus through integrating build back better principles following HCTT’s nexus strategy.

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.

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change based on the humanitarian situation.
UNICEF’s revised appeal requirement is US$173.5 million to support the continuity of life-saving services and meet the needs of vulnerable populations. The HAC appeal has decreased by US$0.35 million to align with the funding requirements under the Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2023, Cyclone Mocha flash appeal and case for funding for Dengue Outbreak. The health, education and WASH funding requirement have increased due to the new programme targets for dengue response while the child protection and gender-based violence, cross-sectoral have decreased as the anticipated monsoon massive floods did not occur in 2023. 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$129.1 million required to support critical needs of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar District and in Bhasan Char. The other US$44.3 million will support work linked to the inter-agency Nexus Strategy for climate-related disasters and dengue outbreak. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, urgent donor support will be life-saving for the children and families in Bangladesh.

### Appeal sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal sector</th>
<th>Original 2023 HAC requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds available (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>25,698,387</td>
<td>25,818,757</td>
<td>18,060,941</td>
<td>7,757,816</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>22,026,730</td>
<td>22,026,730</td>
<td>16,803,507</td>
<td>5,223,223</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>33,930,737</td>
<td>30,774,603</td>
<td>10,930,823</td>
<td>19,843,780</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>46,269,606</td>
<td>48,184,253</td>
<td>35,624,570</td>
<td>12,559,683</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>32,430,036</td>
<td>34,521,320</td>
<td>22,378,093</td>
<td>12,143,227</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>6,482,690</td>
<td>5,159,100</td>
<td>1,824,252</td>
<td>3,334,848</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Preparedness</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>4,924,916</td>
<td>2,075,084</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>173,838,186</td>
<td>173,484,763</td>
<td>110,547,102</td>
<td>62,937,661</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Emergency Preparedness (4.0%), Cross-sectoral (3.0%).

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43. UNICEF is committed to meeting the needs of children with disabilities. This is the sum of the maximum number of people to be reached across the programme in flood- and cyclone-prone areas, refugee camps and host communities (1,644,605 adults receiving mental health and psychosocial support in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, 74,314 adults receiving health consultations in Cox’s Bazar District host communities, 142,216 adults having access to safe water in refugee camps and Bhasan Char and 1,607,907 children receiving services through all UNICEF interventions).

44. The targets for 2023 have been reduced as the anticipated monsoon floods did not occur in 2023.

45. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made in 2019 in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF in line with the Grand Bargain. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.

46. The target of primary healthcare has been reduced as the anticipated monsoon floods did not occur in 2023.

47. This includes 1,344,832 children (51 per cent girls, 2.8 per cent children with disabilities) aged 6-59 months in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 108,199 Rohingya refugee children (48 per cent girls) and 47,478 women, including in Bhasan Char; and 117,158 children and 70,000 women in affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District. The total target includes 45,260 children with disabilities.

48. This includes 2,241,386 children in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 317,224 children in Cox’s Bazar District host communities, based on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2022; and 410,539 children in Cox’s Bazar District host communities.

49. This includes 16,580,000 people in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 943,529 Rohingya refugees, including those in Bhasan Char; and 200,000 members of affected host communities, based on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2022.

50. 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.

51. The targets have factored in the impact of the WFP food ratio cuts.

52. This includes 1,886 children (51 per cent girls, 2.8 per cent children with disabilities) aged 6-59 months in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 7,554 Rohingya refugee children (52 per cent girls, including in Bhasan Char; and 732 children in affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District. The total target includes 200 children with disabilities.

53. This includes 896,584 Bangladeshi children (51 per cent girls, 2.8 per cent children with disabilities) aged 0-11 months in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 428,765 school-age children, including those in Bhasan Char; and 228,240 school-age children of affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District.

54. This includes 5,000 volunteers/government staff (50 per cent female) in refugee camps and Bhasan Char.

55. This includes 161,387 Rohingya refugees (including 7,500 in Bhasan Char) in camps and 150,000 people from the host community in Cox’s Bazar District to be reached under the Joint Response Plan 2023; and 2,581,711 Bangladeshi children and parents/caregivers (50 per cent female, 2.8 per cent children with disabilities) in flood- and cyclone-prone districts. In late 2022, the Child Protection Sub-Sector embarked on a normalization effort, aimed at optimizing effective operations centered on consolidating resources, focusing on two partners per camp for ensuring quality programme responses. Simultaneously, UNICEF progressively bolstered the localization approach, gradually phasing out the involvement of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) with whom UNICEF had known support in 27 camps. Consequently, UNICEF’s presence within the camps underwent a reduction from 24 to 16 camps. As a result of these initiatives, UNICEF’s operational scope has contracted, promising a reduction of mental health and psychosocial support interventions within the camps.

56. This includes 12,994,859 children in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 211,000 Rohingya refugee children and adolescents in Cox’s Bazar District camps, and in Bhasan Char (6.187%); who will access the Myanmar Curriculum and life skills education. Another 6.325 vulnerable children and adolescents from the host community will be supported through accelerated ability-based learning and vocational education skills training.

57. This includes 389,833 Bangladesh children (aged 4-18 years) in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 211,000 Rohingya refugee children and adolescents in Cox’s Bazar District camps, and in Bhasan Char (5.000). The Bangladesh refugee children will be reached with individual learning materials as a way to continue their education.

58. This includes 320,000 children aged 2 years (28 per cent with disabilities) in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 298,491 Rohingya refugees (52 per cent children, 52 per cent female) in eight camps of UNICEF’s area of responsibility, including in Bhasan Char; and 25,000 people in affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District. The total target includes 12,640 people with disabilities.

59. This includes 89,000 children (50 per cent female, 2.8 per cent children with disabilities) in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 298,491 Rohingya refugees (52 per cent children, 51 per cent female) in eight camps of UNICEF’s area of responsibility, including in Bhasan Char; and 150,000 people in affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District. The total target includes 9,425 people with disabilities.

60. This includes 1,000 volunteers/government staff (50 per cent female) at national level, 500 volunteers/government staff (50 per cent female) in Rohingyas Camps including Bhasan Char and 100 volunteers/government staff (50 per cent female) in affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District.

61. This includes 5,000 children aged 5-6 years and adults with disabilities aged 18 years in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy.

62. This includes 1,000 volunteers/government staff (50 per cent female) at national level, 500 volunteers/government staff (50 per cent female) in Rohingyas Camps including Bhasan Char and 100 volunteers/government staff (50 per cent female) in affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District.

63. This includes 6,349 children (50 per cent female, 2.8 per cent children with disabilities) in flood- and cyclone-prone districts, based on the Nexus Strategy; 85,000 Rohingyas refugees (One per cent children, 60 per cent female) and 22,070 people of affected host communities in Cox’s Bazar District. The total target includes 1,416 people with disabilities.

64. This includes 5,000 children aged 2 years (28 per cent with disabilities) at national level and 150,000 Rohingyas refugees (43 per cent children, 52 per cent female) in Rohingyas Camps. The total target includes 1,640 people with disabilities.

65. UNICEF will maintain and expand support for continuity of services within the targeted 20 flood-prone districts and 11 cyclone-prone districts, and in Rohingyas refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar District and in Bhasan Char.

66. UNICEF will maintain and expand support for continuity of services within the targeted 20 flood-prone districts and 11 cyclone-prone districts, and in Rohingyas refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar District and in Bhasan Char.