



Bangladesh Overview December 2018

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Glossary

AL	Bangladesh Awami League
BNP	Bangladesh Nationalist Party
GBV	Gender Based Violence
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
IOM	International Organization for Migration
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

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Locations	Risk Level	Comment	Forecast
Bangladesh general including Cox Bazar.	Moderate	<i>Risk levels for Bangladesh are usually low, but at the time of reporting political protests and hartals are causing substantial unrest and violence in the lead up to parliamentary elections. Whilst Cox Bazar is not particularly affected by the violence, uncertainty created by the elections, the need to transit through Dhaka and JPF's lack of infrastructure in the country requires risk levels to be moderate across the country.</i>	<i>The violent protests and hartals are unlikely to stop once the elections are over. A violent response to election results is likely.</i>

1. Domestic News

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Bangladesh holds its 11th parliamentary elections on 30 Dec 2018. Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina is seeking a third consecutive term in office, but is accused of rights abuses, authoritarianism, arresting political rivals and restricting media freedom. Her government also faces the allegation that to ensure a win the election will not be free and fair. The PM leads the Bangladesh Awami League (AL) which is in alliance with 13 smaller parties to form the Grand Alliance.

The main opposition party is Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), but the leader, two-time former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, is barred from contesting the elections because she is current in prison having been convicted of corruption charges. The BNP has formed an alliance with 3 other political parties called the Jatiya Oikya Front (National Unity Front) and is led by the former Foreign Minister Dr Kamal Hossain.

In the build-up there has been wide spread violence with clashes mostly between police and opposition supporters. Such violence is common around elections in Bangladesh. Reports vary, but at least 6 people have been killed in the violence so far. The BNP claims half of the opposition's 300 candidates were attacked while campaigning, while more than 11,500 of its members, including over a dozen contenders, have been detained in the past month.

The United States called off an observer mission it was financing because of delays in issuing visas.

Comment: The election is undoubtedly been conducted in a repressive political environment. If AL win again, regardless of whether the election results are credible, the oppressive policies of the government will not rebuild the democratic credentials of the country – the 2014 elections were internationally condemned for being undemocratic. The street violence will probably continue after the election, irrespective of who wins.



DRUG CRIME IN BANGLADESH

A current growing social issue is drug use and the harsh police response. Bangladesh has an estimated seven million drug addicts, with up to four-fifths addicted to Yaba, a methamphetamine smuggled in from labs in Myanmar. The police response has been violent with over 9,000 arrests and hundreds killed. Reportedly a special police unit killed more than 120 people in May 2018. However, claims are growing that the police killings are extrajudicial, and some are politically motivated with opposition members being amongst the dead.

2. Rohingya Refugee Crisis Situation

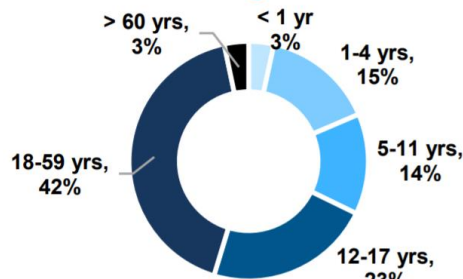
JOINT RESPONSE PLAN AND FUNDING

In Cox Bazar, Bangladesh, the humanitarian response is coordinated by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) which is led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). To address the ongoing and increasing needs, a new Joint Response Plan was launched on 16 Mar 2018, requesting US\$951 million to provide life-saving assistance to 1.3 million people, including Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar to Bangladesh and local host communities. As of 19 Nov, the appeal is 71 per cent funded.

2018 ARRIVALS

Rohingya refugees continue to arrive in Bangladesh, though in much fewer numbers than the initial influx in late 2017. More than 14,922 new arrivals were reported from 1 Jan to 15 Nov 2018 (source: UNHCR).

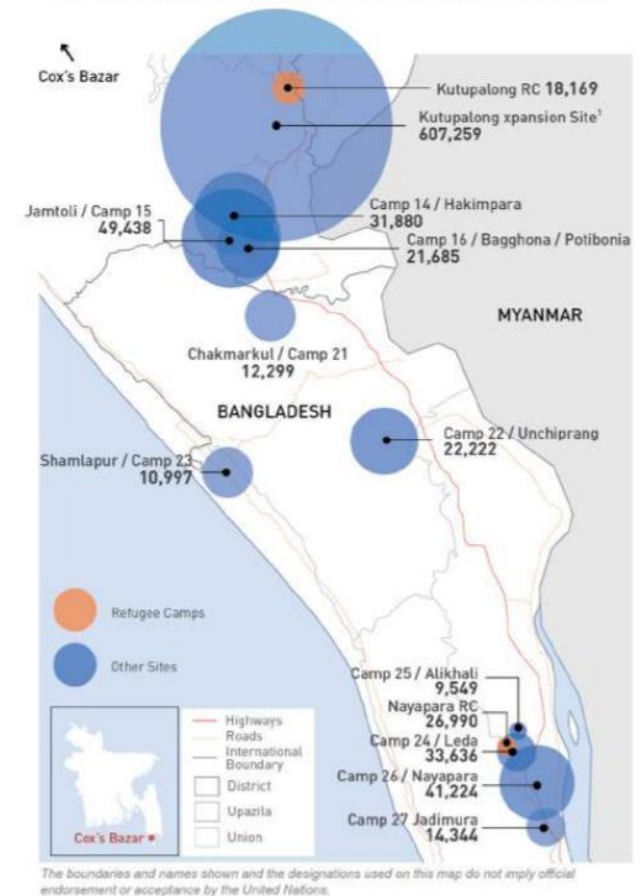
Age breakdown of refugees in Cox's Bazar



Rohingya refugees estimated by location as of 28 Nov 2018 (source: FCN & NPM)

Location	Total Population
Refugees in Camps and Settlements	
Kutupalong Expansion Site ¹	607,259
Kutupalong RC	18,169
Camp 14, 15, 16	103,003
Camp 21 (Chakmarkul)	12,299
Camp 22 (Unchiprang)	22,222
Camp 23 (Shamlapur)	10,977
Camp 24 (Leda)	33,636
Camp 25 (Ali Khali)	9,549
Camp 26 (Nayapara)	41,224
Camp 27 (Jadimura)	14,344
Nayapara RC	26,990
Sub Total	899,672
Refugees in Host Communities	
Teknaf	4,650
Ukhia	2,513
Sub Total	7,163
TOTAL Rohingya	906,835

REFUGEE SITES BY POPULATION AND LOCATION TYPE



REPATRIATION OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES

In Oct 2018 the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed to start the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims in Nov 2018. However, the UNHCR said conditions in Rakhine state were "not yet conducive for returns", stressing that they must be voluntary. Leaders of the largely stateless Rohingya community have said they will not return without various demands being met, including the right to Myanmar citizenship. However, in mid-Nov, following protests by hundreds of Rohingya Muslim refugees in Cox Bazar, the Bangladesh government stopped the repatriation of an initial batch of 2,200 Rohingya. *Comment: Its unclear if there will any further attempts at repatriation.*

3. Sector Gaps and Constraints

Source: Inter-Sector Coordinating Group ISCG Situation Report Rohingya Refugee Crisis 29 Nov 2018 (covering 13 – 26 Nov)

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/iscg_situation_report_29_nov.pdf

EDUCATION

- The gap for pre-primary and primary aged children in camps remains approximately 100,243 learners for the age group of 3 to 14 years.
- Inadequate services for adolescents between 15 to 24 years of age remains a major concern. Only 3,756 adolescents have access to education or life skills training – out of the 117,000 in need.
- Out of 1,865 learning facilities, only an estimated 739 have WASH facilities that are accessible to children.
- Constraints to providing access to quality education in the camps including:
 - Limited space in the camps.
 - A lack of a standardised learning framework.
 - Difficulties in recruiting qualified teachers.

HEALTH

- The Sector remains seriously under-funded. While this does not affect the total number of health facilities, it does affect the quality of services provided.
- The following critical gaps continue to exist in health service provision: surgical capacity; 24/7 health service provision; psychiatric and psychological specialists.
- One of the main field hospitals will close in 2018 – which will result in a gap in surgical services.
- Restrictions for international medical staff to remain in the camp at night, reduces service availability specifically for surgeries.
- While the overall target of number of health facilities for the population in need is met, gap analysis reveals considerable inequitable distribution of health facilities across the camps. These can be difficult to fill in camps with high population densities where there is limited available land.
- One key information gap is specific data on the number of host community members reached with health services. The Sector does not currently have a system in place to specify these services.

WASH

- Solid waste handling and disposal is localized and indiscriminate in some locations due to space and technological restrictions.
- Increasingly, number of households constructing own/informal bathing facilities.
- Usable space for replacement/reconstruction of decommissioned facilities remains a challenge.
- Customs and tax waiver for some specialised WASH equipment has delayed the opening of field laboratory for water testing.

FOOD SECURITY

- Only 15.9% of the total population received support in diet diversification through paper vouchers for fresh food, which serves as a top-up to the general food distribution. There is a need to scale-up this intervention to reach more households.
- A significant funding shortfall for Food Security is affecting scale-up of refugees' dietary diversification and expansion of the livelihood program that bolsters the resilience of both refugees as well as the most vulnerable host communities who have been affected by the influx.
- Land acquisition for construction of e-voucher shops remains a challenge.

NUTRITION

- The Sector remains 37% underfunded.
- The network of facilities needs restructuring to improve effectiveness as well as referral and follow-up of discharged cases.
- Space constraints, however, present a great challenge to restructuring.

PROTECTION

- Protection activities are currently 52% funded.
- Established policies constrain basic refugee rights, such as freedom of movement outside of the settlements, civil documentation, and education.
- Areas for multi-purpose community centres and recreational play areas should be included in site planning.
- Lack of access to basic services and self-reliance opportunities especially for women and adolescent girls.
- Lack of dedicated resources for anti-trafficking and mental health services.
- The prolonged government registration process for humanitarian agencies is hindering the deployment of new actors as well as the expansion of the existing partners.

CHILD PROTECTION

- Lack of dedicated funding for integrated programming for adolescents (education and livelihoods), who are at higher risk of trafficking, child marriage and child labour.
- Adolescent girls' and boys' participation at the child-friendly spaces is limited, because some are prevented from participating by their guardians.
- Land allocation for safe spaces for children and adolescents for delivering child protection services needs to be prioritized.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- At least 115 additional GBV case management service entry points are required to achieve full coverage.
- Expanded GBV service provision is required in the host community.
- Some of the GBV service points might be affected by the flood and landslides caused by a Cyclone. There is a high need to ensure the continuation of the life-saving GBV services for survivors through alternative service entry points and mobile service delivery approaches.
- Land allocation for safe spaces for delivering GBV and child protection services must be prioritized.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

- The overarching challenge remains the lack of suitable land to decongest camps and construct shelters that:
 - meet the Sphere minimum standards
 - are capable of withstanding the climatic weather conditions
 - are adequate for meeting the protection needs of women and children.
- Shelter upgrades continue to be hampered by delays in funding, project approvals for NGOs, and supply chain issues.

SITE MANAGEMENT

- Congestion and overcrowding of camps, particularly in Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site, is of grave concern.
- The funding shortfall hampers assistance and provision of many needs identified by the Sector, most notably the construction of critical infrastructure such as roads.