

Alert note

Rohingya Refugees Crises in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh since 2017

Completed by: Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)

Date completed: October 27, 2025

Forum: Bangladesh

Type of emergency: Large-scale, protracted humanitarian crisis

Date of emergency (if rapid onset):

Funding Survey

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request funding members to please fill out this [survey form](#) which will help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

1. The nature of the emergency

The Cox's Bazar crisis represents one of the world's most protracted humanitarian emergencies, originating from the mass influx of over 745,000 Rohingya refugees from Rakhine State, Myanmar, in August 2017. Currently, around 1.14 million refugees live in 33 densely populated camps across Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas, alongside a vulnerable host community. The situation has evolved beyond an acute emergency into a complex humanitarian-development challenge marked by severe food insecurity, deteriorating health conditions, and growing socio-environmental strain. Funding shortfalls since 2023 have forced reductions in food rations and limited-service delivery, heightening malnutrition risks and protection vulnerabilities. Overcrowding within camps aggravated by high birth rates averaging 30,000–35,000 new births annually continue to stretch already limited resources, increase demand for maternal and child health services, and exacerbate sanitation challenges.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

The Rohingya crisis in Cox's Bazar remains a **large-scale**, protracted humanitarian emergency that continues to affect both refugee and host populations. Based on Cordaid Bangladesh's initial assessment and data from UNHCR, ISCG, and the 2025 Joint Response Plan, the situation in October 2025 is characterized by worsening food insecurity, persistent disease outbreaks, and deepening social and environmental pressure. The emergency, now in its eighth year, has expanded beyond an immediate humanitarian concern into a multidimensional crisis that requires an integrated humanitarian-development response. It involves approximately 1.14 million Rohingya refugees residing in 33 formal camps across Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar District, as well as around 392,126 host community members who are indirectly or directly affected by the crisis.

Host communities in Cox's Bazar face increased demand for land, water, health services, and employment. These communities, already living near the poverty line, have seen local market disruptions, wage depression, and declining access to natural resources since the refugee influx began.

The demographic composition of the refugee population remains weighted toward vulnerable groups: **52 percent are women and girls, 49 percent are children under 18**, and about **4 percent are older persons** (UNHCR, July 2025). The majority are stateless ethnic Rohingya who remain fully dependent on humanitarian aid. Recurrent funding shortfalls have directly worsened living conditions. Since 2023, **WFP has been forced to reduce food rations by up to 30 percent** due to severe funding gaps, cutting monthly entitlements and pushing thousands of households into crisis-level food insecurity. Malnutrition rates have consequently risen, with **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)** fluctuating between 8.6 and 12.7 percent

(UNHCR, 2024). Many households have resorted to negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing meal frequency, selling assistance items, or borrowing money, further deepening debt and vulnerability. As of the current year, an estimated \$900 million is required to address the ongoing Rohingya crisis. However, only 35% of this amount has been secured, according to data from the NGO platform. This substantial funding gap poses a serious threat to essential services; particularly emergency education programs aimed at the youth in the camps.

The Rohingya influx into Bangladesh has had both immediate and long-lasting consequences on the displaced population and the host communities. In the short term, the Rohingya experienced severe disruption to their livelihoods, losing homes, businesses, and access to basic resources. Many were forced into overcrowded camps, where they faced dire conditions, including inadequate shelter, food shortages, and poor sanitation, which increased the risk of disease outbreaks. Protection issues, particularly for women and children, were immediate concerns, with heightened vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and trafficking. Host communities also felt the strain, as local resources, infrastructure, and jobs were overwhelmed by the large influx of refugees, leading to tensions and competition for resources.

3. Local and national capacity

Communities in Cox's Bazar are coping through a mix of household coping strategies, strong local NGO action, and established government-UN coordination structures, but capacity is stretched and fragile.

The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) field office and Cox's Bazar district administration coordinate day-to-day camp management with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and district authorities. At the national and international level, UN agencies and major INGOs maintain operational response plans. The Joint Response Plan (JRP) remains the principal funding and operational framework for humanitarian actors, with priority packages and sectoral targets guiding humanitarian programming and donor appeals; UNHCR, IOM and the Resident Coordinator's office co-chair the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) and work through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) at field level to align operations. Sectoral clusters (Health, Nutrition, Food Security, WASH, Protection, Shelter-camp coordination & camp management, Education, etc.) are active and maintain contingency rosters, surge arrangements and pre-positioning for seasonal risks. WHO and the Health Sector issue regular situation reports and coordinate disease surveillance. WFP, FAO and partners lead food assistance and livelihoods interventions while maintaining contingency options for cash/voucher scaling. Despite these mechanisms, funding shortfalls (notably WFP ration reductions in 2023–2025) and episodic donor suspensions have forced program adjustments and service gaps (JRP 2025).

4. Key needs and gaps

Despite a well-established response architecture in Cox's Bazar, critical life-saving gaps remain across multiple sectors and geographical areas and in many cases fall short of Sphere minimum standards. The Joint Response Plan (JRP) and ISNA/J-MSNA assessments identify the most acute shortfalls in **food security, health (including disease surveillance and primary care), nutrition, WASH, shelter-CCCM, protection (child protection, GBV), and education**, with the greatest concentration of unmet needs in the most congested camps and in adjacent host-community. The JRP's hyper-prioritization for 2025 lists food security, health & nutrition, shelter, protection, site management and WASH among the first-priority gaps to avoid a collapse in life-saving services (JRP 2025-26).

The 2025 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya refugee response is 37 percent funded as of 31 August 2025, with USD 342 million received against the overall appeal of USD 934.5 million.

Food rations for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have been slashed in half by the World Food Programme. The WFP, which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions and provides assistance to more than 150 million people, said it did not have enough funds to continue to provide the full ration so would be reducing the food voucher to 726 Bangladeshi taka (£4.60) per person, from 1,515 taka. Daniel Sullivan, the director for Africa, Asia, and the Middle East at Refugees International, said the cut to aid for Rohingya refugees was a result of "indefensible harm" caused by aid cuts by the US, UK and others. Sullivan said: "With USAid decimated, and other donors following suit with their own reductions, the outlook for restored food aid is dismal and will lead to the loss of life. Though the emergency food delivery by the World Food Programme, supported by the US, continues in the Rohingya camps in Ukhia and Teknaf, the

health sector, waste management and site management are already being impacted. At least five hospitals.

The impact of reprioritized funding stemming from U.S. aid cuts has markedly worsened shelter conditions in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps for the Rohingya. According to a report by UNHCR, shelter repairs and maintenance have been scaled down by 30 %, and there will be a 40 % reduction in repairs of critical infrastructure during the monsoon and cyclone seasons. As of 2025, around 72% of total households face shelter damage and nearly 150,000 new arrivals in 2025 also increase needs. Most shelters, built in 2017 with very temporary bamboo and tarpaulin, which require yearly repair and maintenance. The JRP 2025 appealed for USD 176.8 million for the shelter sector, but by mid-2025, only 32% was funded, and mostly covered for LPG, leaving majority households unreached for shelter.

According to a recent UNICEF situation report, only 21% of the required funds for safe-water access and sanitation are covered — leaving a US \$114.8 million (61%) gap in the 2025 appeal that spans both refugee and host-community populations locally. This shortfall, further aggravated by the abrupt USAID funding freeze affecting over 100 projects nationwide, has slowed or halted WASH interventions in the district's host-community zones, increasing the risk of waterborne disease and hygiene-related illness.

Information gaps persist and must be addressed to refine operational targeting. Key data deficits include (a) timely, camp-block level nutrition and GAM trend data after ration changes; (b) high-resolution host-community vulnerability and livelihood loss assessments (to inform nexus programming and avoid negative market impacts); (c) up-to-date, disaggregated incidence and mapping of dengue/cholera at micro-camp level for targeted vector/WASH interventions(d) reliable, verified figures on recent arrivals and movement patterns (biometric/registration lags) and (e) Timely and equitable delivery of life saving Shelter support Rohingya Refugees/FDMNs to reduce exposure to physical and protection related risks. While the 2024 ISNA and periodic J-MSNA provide a strong baseline, sector leads plan follow-up micro-assessments, sectoral rapid needs assessments and pre-monsoon contingency reviews timelines indicate iterative updates through the 2025 JRP cycle and pre-monsoon contingency period (Q2–Q3 2025) and additional sector costing exercises led by WHO and ISCG to close information gaps.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below. *Please refer to your EPRP and Contingency Plan.*

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
Cordaid	Cox's Bazar	Livelihood, Food Security, Health and Nutrition,	Funding support to scale assistance for affected populations	USD 500,000

		WASH and GBV	and potential new influx groups.	
HEKS/EPER	Camp 15, Upazila- Ukhiya District- Cox's Bazar	Shelter/NFI	- Shelter Upgradation & Maintenance (SUM) - Cash for Work	USD 375,000
	Union- Palongkhali Upazila- Ukhiya District- Cox's Bazar	WASH	Constrution/renovation of WASH, infrastructures - Coordination	USD 125,000
RDRS Bangladesh	Rohingya camps and adjacent host community in Cox's Bazar	Food Security, Health, Livelihood & Skill Development, Nutrition	Grant fund	USD 500,000
CCDB	Host community in Cox's Bazar	Livelihood, WASH, DRR-CC	Funding support for affected host community	USD 500,000

5. Potential responses

ACT Alliance members in Bangladesh are planning to extend its support in the sectors of Health, Food security, Hygiene, education, livelihood, nutrition and protection issues. Sectors have been divided among the members based on the technical skills, capacities and current programming in camp and host communities.

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS):

RDRS Bangladesh is planning to work on **Food Security, Health, Livelihood & Skill Development, Nutrition sector** to respond the present crisis of Rohingya.

Cordaid:

Through an integrated project will focus on **Food security, Health & nutrition, Livelihood, skill development, WASH and protection issues**. The potential responses will address urgent humanitarian needs while reinforcing resilience and sustainability.

HEKS-EPER:

HEKS/EPER will strengthen access to **safe, dignified, and disaster-resilient shelters** in camp 15 and **Community-led WASH infrastructure improvement, Hygiene promotion campaigns and capacity building of the wash community structures in HC**

Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB):

CCDB will focus on dissemination of information to community and different stakeholder about project services, build capacity of staffs, safeguarding, procurement, Monitoring & Evaluation to implement the project activity. CCDB intervention will focus on **WASH, DRR, Livelihood and need based sanction of program components** considering the local context in host community.

<https://rohingyaresponse.org/project/2025-26-jrp/>

file:///C:/Users/arnest/Downloads/IMA_inf_JRP-2025-funding-update_FTS_08312025.pdf

https://reliefweb.int/attachments/9e1eeea1-002b-46f0-9771-dcd3218f3030/IMA_inf_JRP-2025-funding-update_FTS_08312025.pdf

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/mar/06/world-food-programme-food-rations-rohingya-bangladesh?utm_source=chatgpt.com#img-1

https://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-influx/news/rohingyas-hit-us-fund-cuts-3816466?utm_source=chatgpt.com