



Umra (13), Soimong Sai (11), Soithoyai (7), and Methui (4) stand resilient after a devastating flood struck northern Bangladesh in August. Stranded for days as their home suffered damage, they had no shelter to shield them from the relentless challenges brought by the flood, serving as a stark testament to the uncertain future these children face in the wake of such adversity. © UNICEF Bangladesh/2023/Mukut

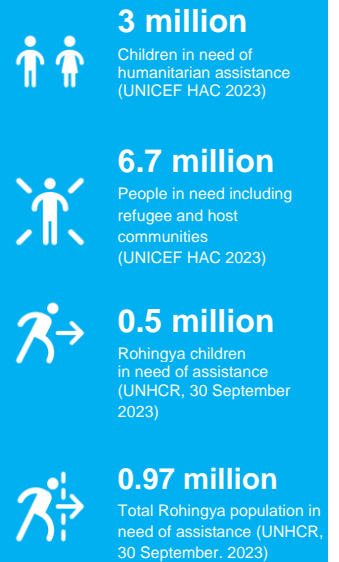
UNICEF BANGLADESH Humanitarian Situation Report No. 65

Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 September 2023

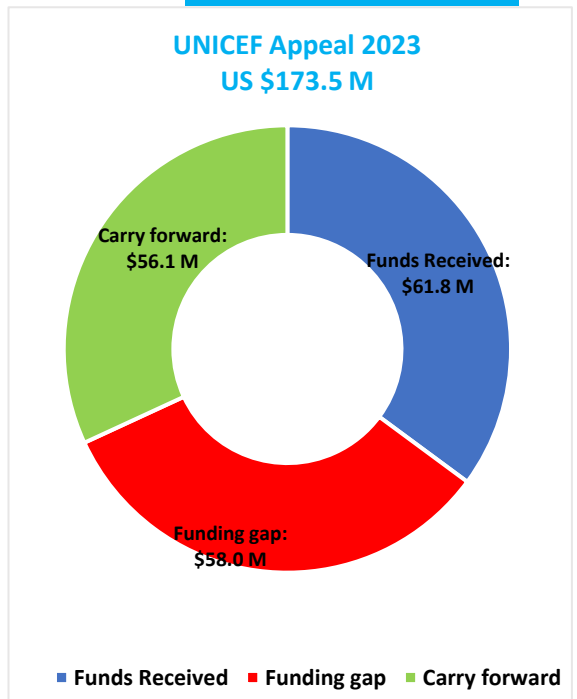
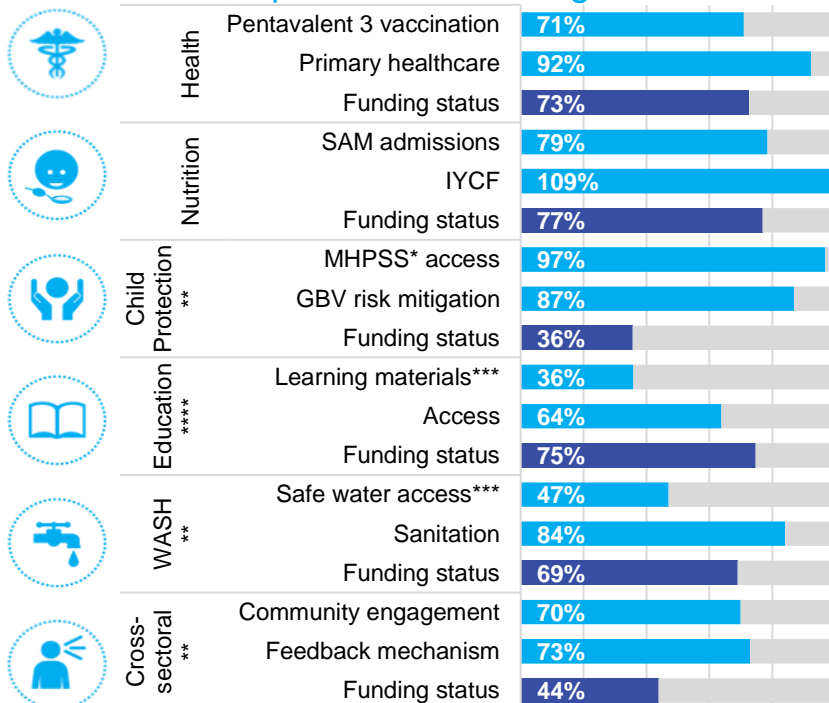
Situation in Numbers

Highlights

- The humanitarian situation in Bangladesh continues to worsen, with a serious dengue outbreak and floods experienced in the second half of 2023.
- The dengue viral disease outbreak has affected up to **203,406 people (including 39 per cent women and 18 per cent children (0-15 yrs.))**, including **989 deaths (56 per cent female, 11 per cent children (0-15 yrs))** reported as of 30 September 2023.¹
- In August 2023, floods and landslides in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar affected over 1.3 million people including **630,000 women and 480,000 children (0-18 years old)** and left **600,000 people** in need of humanitarian services in four districts, with **51 deaths (including 12 children)** reported.²
- 302,700 people (155,096 female and 2,444 Persons with Disabilities)** accessed a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs (**47 per cent of target**) while **444,414 people (226,569 female and 3,306 Person with Disabilities)** accessed appropriate sanitation services (**84 per cent of the target**).
- UNICEF has provided life-saving support to **551,642 beneficiaries including 150,000 people (60,300 children and 62,400 women)** in the Rohingya refugee camps and host communities in the Cox's Bazar district as of September 2023. UNICEF's dengue response interventions reached over **6.8 million people (50.63 per cent women)** in awareness creation on dengue prevention across the country.
- UNICEF trained **270 frontline-** emergency personnel (government, CSO and UNICEF staff) from 6 disaster-prone Divisions in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and resilience programming.
- UNICEF continues to experience a funding gap of **US\$ 58 million (33 per cent)** to further enhance the provision of a comprehensive package of response interventions to the vulnerable children and women in Bangladesh, including Rohingya Refugees.



UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



¹ Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS (https://old.dghs.gov.bd/images/docs/vpr/20230930_dengue_all.pdf)

² NAWG Chattogram Division Flash Flood and Monsoon Rain 2023 Assessment Report and the Divisional Health Office

* Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

** While Child Protection and WASH remain underfunded, targets were overachieved because of aligning interventions with preparedness actions utilizing other regular resources (ORR)

*** The cumulative result is low as the anticipated monsoon floods did not occur in 2023.

**** For Education, the cumulative result is only for Cox's Bazar.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The UNICEF 2023 HAC appeal of \$173.5 million has about \$117.9 million of its funding requirements met (67 per cent), with a funding gap of \$58 million (33 per cent of the total appeal). UNICEF continues to fundraise through various donors to address this financial gap.

With the current funding available (new funds for 2023 plus carry-over from 2022), UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to the Asian Development Bank, Australia (DFAT), Canada (GAC), Denmark, Education Cannot Wait, the European Union (ECHO, INTPA), Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance, Germany (BMZ/KfW Development Bank), Global Partnership for Education, Islamic Development Bank (KS relief), Japan, South Korea (Republic of Korea), Sweden (Sida), Switzerland (SDC), the United Kingdom (FCDO), United States of America (BPRM, BHA-USAID), UNOCHA-CERF, the World Bank, and various other UNICEF National Committees for their generous contributions to this response. At the same time, UNICEF acknowledges that the current critical funding gaps in Child Protection (64 per cent), cross-sectoral interventions (56 per cent), and WASH (31 per cent) restrict UNICEF's ability to meet all priority needs of children, including girls, women, and people with disabilities.

Adequate funding allows UNICEF to deliver on its Core Commitments for Children and to timely and efficiently respond to the needs of children and vulnerable communities, without which, UNICEF cannot meet its HAC commitments. To address the funding gap, UNICEF has mobilized its own internal resources to ensure an efficient and timely response is provided to those in need. The impact of the significant decrease in humanitarian funding in 2023 can be seen in the reduction in critical and lifesaving assistance and services, including two cuts in general food assistance to Rohingya refugees in March 2023 (from \$12 per month to \$10) and to \$8 in June 2023, resulting in an overall decrease in food assistance by 33.3 per cent. Declining funding for Humanitarian Action in Bangladesh is putting more children at risk of human trafficking, gang violence, drug-related crimes, domestic violence, and early marriage and leaving Rohingya children and youth vulnerable to multiple risks. Flexible and multi-year donor funding in the fourth quarter of 2023 will be critical in providing essential support to Rohingya refugees and the most vulnerable children in Bangladesh.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Bangladesh continues to host 965,467 Rohingya refugees³ from Myanmar in 33 camps in Cox's Bazar District and Bhasan Char of Noakhali District, 52 per cent of them are children. As part of the Rohingya refugee relocation plan by the Government of Bangladesh to Bhasan Char, **30,748 refugees** were relocated to the Island as of 30th September 2023. The Government of Bangladesh has since revised downwards the total number of refugees to be relocated to Bhasan Char from 100,000 to only 70,000. Provision of basic services for the refugees in Bhasan Char has been ensured collectively by the humanitarian community. However, water-borne disease outbreaks, malnutrition, inadequate health facilities, lack of educational opportunities for adolescents, and the risks of exploitation and violence, including Gender Based Violence (GBV) are commonly faced by children. Due to funding constraints, in March 2023, WFP had to reduce its life-saving food vouchers in Cox's Bazar from **US\$ 12 to US\$ 10 per person per month**.⁴ With the funding gap persisting, starting June 2023, WFP projected a further decrease to the voucher value for a second time – from US\$ 10 to US\$ 8. This is expected to result in a negative impact on nutrition among refugee children as even before the ratio cut in March, **12 per cent of children were acutely malnourished and 41 per cent of children were chronically malnourished**. WHO reported that **40 per cent of the Rohingya population were affected by scabies in the month of August**, which has since been contained through mass drug administration and social behaviour change interventions in the camps. Any further ratio cut would likely lead to a precipitous spike in acute malnutrition.⁴ UNHCR, with technical support from UNICEF, will be conducting Standard Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) to determine the likely impact of food ratio cuts on the Rohingya refugees in the month of October and November 2023.

Bangladesh is experiencing a serious outbreak of dengue, with a significant impact on the public health system in the country. Sporadic outbreaks have been occurring in Bangladesh since 1964, with a major dengue outbreak in 2000. Since then, there have been varying intensities of dengue every year in Bangladesh. In 2019, Bangladesh experienced a major dengue epidemic, with **101,354 dengue cases** recorded and **164 dengue-related deaths**.¹ However, since the beginning of this year, the number of cases has increased significantly, exceeding cases over the same period in the previous years and the number of deaths is the highest ever recorded. As of 30th September 2023, **203,406 people (including 39 per cent women and 18 per cent children (0-15 yrs) have been infected with dengue, with 989 deaths (56 per cent female, 11 per cent children below 15 years old) reported**.¹ Even worse, **one in every five people infected is a child**, and children under five are at greater risk of severe illness (4 per cent so far infected), with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 0.47 per cent.⁵ **For every eight deaths, one is a child**. Though the majority (**61 per cent**) of cases are males, nearly three of every five deaths (**57 per cent**) are among females. The overall CFR, which is higher compared to previous years, is also higher in females than among males (0.70 per cent v 0.35 per cent) with female having four times higher CFR than males among those aged 21-40 years (0.71 per cent vs 0.18 per cent).⁶ This number represents only the diagnosed cases from different Government hospitals and some selected private hospitals. Most of the cases who do present at hospitals and are taking remedies or taking consultations from private practitioners are not reflected in national database.

³ Joint Government of Bangladesh – UNHCR Population Factsheet (as of 30 September 2023)

⁴ WFP Memo on reduction of food rations

⁵ Dengue Situation Analysis

⁶ [Denque - Bangladesh \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)



In August 2023, Chattogram Division experienced the impact of devastating flash floods that left thousands without essential provisions like food, clean water, functional latrines, health care and electricity. Heavy rainfall, ranging from **44 to 89 mm**, led to flash floods and landslides in the Hill Tracts, especially in Bandarban Town and nearby areas. **1.3 million people including 630,000 women and 480,000 children (0-19 years old) were affected while 600,000 people were left in need of humanitarian assistance in four districts (Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, and Bandarban). 51 deaths were reported including 12 children.**² 38 out of the division's 51 Upazilas were submerged, leading to significant destruction of public facilities and infrastructure (WASH facilities, roads, schools, health facilities etc) in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar,

Little Ovi stands amidst the wreckage caused by a landslide in Lama, Bandarban during August 2023. Left with nothing, he and his family have sought refuge in a relative's house. In the face of such climate emergencies, UNICEF remains dedicated, working tirelessly to provide essential shelter, healthcare, and protection, striving to rebuild shattered lives in the aftermath of this natural disaster. © UNICEF Bangladesh/2023/Mukut

Rangamati, and Bandarban. Major rivers in the region were overflowing, crippling major transport routes, and resulting in the damage of up to 410 kilometres of roads. Recovery efforts are ongoing and are aimed at addressing not only the basic requirements of the affected people but also infrastructure and supplies.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

- As of 30th September 2023, **7,986 children (4,323 girls) (79 per cent of target)** suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were treated in UNICEF supported facilities countrywide (including Cox's Bazar). A total of **219,442 caregivers (all women and 109 per cent of target)** of children 0-23 months received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling.
- In Rohingya Camps (including Bhasan Char), **a total of 5,038 children (2,636 girls, 109 children with disabilities) under the age of five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) recovered** after treatment in 26 UNICEF-supported nutrition facilities, representing **67 per cent of the target of 7,554 children**. Similarly, **37,075 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and caregivers of children 0-23 months (32 with disabilities)**, representing 72 per cent of the target of **51,808 mothers**, were counselled on IYCF aiming to promote recommended optimal IYCF practices among the mothers to bring change in the care practices in line with IYCF Practice in Emergency.
- In Host Communities, during the reporting period, **480 children (266 girls) with SAM** and medical complications, representing **66 per cent of the target of 732 children**, received life-saving treatment. Similarly, **55,278 PLWs (70 with disabilities)**, representing **78 per cent of the expected target of 71,000 PLWs**, received needs-based IYCF counselling.
- **In the host communities, 1,005 women (including women-headed families with 63 Persons with Disabilities) have received BDT 6,000 as an unconditional multi-purpose cash grant** (aligned to the Cash Working Group guidelines) under our Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme to support floods- affected families. **1,300 flood affected families** (including women headed families and ultra-poor families) received hygiene kits in Pekua, one of the Upazilas (sub-district) most affected by floods in Cox's Bazar.

Health

- As of 30th September 2023, **717,814 infants (353,213 girls) aged 0 to 11 months received pentavalent 3 vaccine (71 per cent of target)**, **686,648 pregnant women received quality antenatal and postnatal care services** and **926,559 children (451,432 girls)** under five years received integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) services through UNICEF support (**92 per cent of target**). With UNICEF technical support, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) ensured continuity of maternal, newborn and child health services, and provided regular coordination of routine expanded program on immunization (EPI) sessions as per the micro-plan while intensifying immunization outreach services to reach **717,814 children (353,213 girls)** who missed their immunizations.
- In the UNICEF Dengue response, a total number of **9,906 combo dengue test kits** were delivered to CDC-DGHS, **enabling 107,115 tests as of 30th September 2023**. UNICEF plans to procure kits for a total of **290,000 tests**. As the number of Dengue cases is increasing with an average of 3,000 cases being reported daily, CDC-DGHS has requested UNICEF for more dengue combo rapid test kits.
- With support from UNICEF, the CDC-DGHS is continuing the capacity development of doctors and senior staff nurses in Dhaka and other parts of the country. UNICEF plans to train a **total of 1,400 doctors and nurses** in 37 batches on dengue case management.

- With Support from UNICEF, data for dengue monitoring and visualization has been improved with the establishment of a dashboard within the national health management information system.
- In Rohingya camps (including Bhasan Char), **19,029 Rohingya children 0-11 months of age (9,368 Girls) have received Penta-3 vaccines**, from January to September 2023 (**61 per cent of the target**). In the host communities, **65,920 children** of 0-11 months (**32,536 Girls**) had received Penta-3 vaccines by September 2023.
- In Rohingya camps, UNICEF continues supporting **10 health facilities**, among them five are Primary Health Care Centres including indoor facilities. During January to September 2023, these facilities **provided 130,920 total consultations of which 89,556 were for children under five years (48 per cent of girls)**, and **80 for persons with disabilities**.
- In Bhasan Char, UNICEF supported Newborn Stabilization Unit (NSU) in a 20-bed hospital. **23 sick newborns (10 female) were treated for different critical illnesses, bringing the total number to 81 admissions since the beginning of the services**. Through the outdoor pediatric service corner, **921 children** received consultations (**284 of them children under 5 years of age**).

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- **302,700 people (155,096 female and 2,444 Person with Disabilities) accessed** a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs (**47 per cent of the target**) while **444,414 people (226,569 female and 3,306 Person with Disabilities) accessed** appropriate sanitation services (**84 per cent of the target**).
- Through the UNICEF Dengue response, **a total of 1,033 volunteers/government staff were trained** on effective WASH responses for dengue (**65 per cent of the target**).
- With UNICEF support, **2,000 hygiene kit packages (each containing 15 items) have been distributed** in the flood affected areas in Satkania, Chattogram District through the leadership of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE). UNICEF supported the DPHE in the distribution of **2,800 Jerry cans (10L)** with pure drinking water among **2,800 affected households** in Bandarban (Sadar Upazila) which has benefitted **approximately 11,200 people**. UNICEF supported the DPHE Rangamati in the distribution of **100,000 Water Purification Tablets and 500 Jerricans to support approximately 2,250 affected families**.
- In Cox's Bazar, WASH Section distributed hygiene kits to families from two of the most flood- affected Upazilas in collaboration with the Upazila Administration and Local Government Institutes (LGIs), **benefitting a total of 41,370 population (15,710 female and 9,198 children)**.
- In Cox's Bazar host communities, **134 latrines and 78 handwashing devices** have been installed. **429 tube wells, 1 tap stand, 2,308 latrines and 1,222 handwashing devices** have been repaired. **235 water infrastructures have been disinfected** while **15,100 aqua tabs** have been distributed. As a result, approximately 120,000 people (10,000 from Rohingya, 110,000 from host community) received WASH related services. Moreover, WASH Section **distributed hygiene kits to families from two of the most affected Upazilas** in collaboration with Upazila Administration and Local Government Institutes (LGIs), **benefitting a total of 41,370 population (15,710 female and 9,198 children)** during the reporting period and cumulatively more than **150,000 people**.
- In Bhasan Char, Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted on hand washing with soap and on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) through mass media and focused group discussions which **reached approximately 1,350 people**.

Education

- As of 30th September 2023, with UNICEF's support, **a total of 225,650 children (109,061 girls and 1,578 Persons with Disabilities) (64 per cent of target) accessed formal or non-formal education**, including early learning and **216,901 children (104,008 girls and 1,497 Persons with Disabilities) (36 per cent of target) received individual learning materials**.
- **216,901 learners (104,008 female and 1,497 Children with Disabilities) (100 per cent of target) have had continuous access to education** in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char. This included **162,938 (77,864 female) learners following the Myanmar Curriculum** in UNICEF-supported facilities. UNICEF's direct programming contributes to more than **75 per cent** of the overall Education Sector achievements for the Myanmar Curriculum delivery.



Rohomatullah, 12, a Rohingya refugee boy smiles as stands in his classroom in front of the study charts and poses for a portrait on 11 June 2023 at a learning centre in the Rohingya Refugee Camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, © UNICEF/UNI406800/Mawa

Child Protection, Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE)

- As of September 2023, **2,810,667 children and caregivers (1,599,874 female, 16,399 Persons with Disabilities) received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) (97 per cent of target)** while **1,036,317 girls, boys & women (659,235 female including 3,400 Persons with Disabilities) accessed Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation**, prevention, and response interventions **(87 per cent of target)**.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), **261,378 people (178,248 women, 1,212 Persons with Disabilities)** were reached with targeted approved dengue prevention direct messaging, events, and discussions across 30 of the most highly dengue-prevalent districts through **572 Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCH)**. In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), **253,241 people (156,803 women, 324 Persons with Disabilities)** were reached with targeted approved dengue prevention direct messaging, events, and discussions across 16 of the most dengue-affected districts through **6,056 Sports for Development** events and sessions.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), **the Child Helpline (1098) received 3,828 calls requesting for information on dengue and Social Workers followed up and reached 7,022 people (5,134 women, 276 Persons with Disabilities)** of the most vulnerable children and families in the 30 most dengue-affected districts, including those living on the streets.
- In collaboration with the Social Behavior Change (SBC) Section, **UNICEF Child Protection distributed over 900 leaflets** concerning Dengue prevention for children living in the streets through 200 Department of Social Services (DSS) Social Workers and 22 Child Protection Community Hubs under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA).
- For flood response, UNICEF, in collaboration with the DSS, distributed **2,850 Family kits & Dignity kits. Distribution took place** across three flood-affected districts (Bandarban, Chattogram, Rangamati), providing support for **a total of 12,825 individuals**.
- In addition, **the Child Protection Section facilitated over 4,300 informative sessions for flood survivors**, covering a range of topics including how to access assistance, avoiding family separation, and drowning prevention. Notably, these initiatives were undertaken in collaboration with the MoWCA and MoYS, which organized various activities, including referral of vulnerable children, sporting events and hub-centered programs.
- In Cox's Bazar, as of September 2023, **6,170 children (2,943 girls and 3,227 boys including 799 children with disabilities) received case management services**. UNICEF supported the Department of Social Services (DSS) and NGO implementing partners to enhance the child protection capacity of social workers and caseworkers.
- To enhance community-based Child Protection, **227 Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs) are active: 147 CBCPCs in the Rohingya camps, 14 CBCPCs in Bhasan Char, and 66 CBCPCs in the Bangladesh host communities**. **6,888 CBCPC members (2,819 women including 182 Persons with Disabilities)** are now oriented on CBCPC responsibilities and are better able to identify and assist at-risk children and refer cases for specialized case management. To date, CBCPCs have referred **1,771 child protection cases (840 girls, 52 children with disabilities)** to case workers for case management.
- **27,327 adolescent children (14,471 girls, including 239 children with disabilities) have participated in Life Skills-based learning**. The Child Protection Section also conducted Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion training reaching **1,530 community members (746 female)** to promote inclusivity and social harmony.



UNICEF with support from the government and its dedicated social workers from the Department of Social Services distributed Family Kits and provided crucial support to the most vulnerable children & families affected by the severe flooding in Chattogram. © UNICEF Bangladesh/2023/Chakma

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Child Safeguarding

- **A PSEA Training of Trainers (TOT) was delivered to 18 PSEA focal points** from across the country including Cox's Bazar in September 2023. The training aimed to equip participants with knowledge and skills on effective UNICEF PSEA mechanisms and practices and enable them to lead confidently on PSEA and child safeguarding in their respective field offices and sections.
- Preparations are underway for the commencement of the **PSEA Taskforce for UNICEF BCO**. The overarching purpose of the PSEA task force is to support senior management in coordinating the development and implementation of the PSEA policy and procedures. The Taskforce will provide a mechanism to discuss, plan, implement, monitor, and report on the implementation of activities to ensure effective protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the UNICEF Bangladesh Country Programme.

- UNICEF BCO has **completed SEA Capacity assessment for 23 CSOs** following the newly launched UN PSEA Common Toolkit.
- **A total of 357,556 beneficiaries (183,573 female)** are aware of safe and accessible channels to report SEA by personnel who provide humanitarian assistance to affected populations. Yearly data will be shared by the beginning of 2024.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Community Engagement & Accountability

- For Dengue response, SBC Section-supported RCCE activities **reached 6.8 million people (50.63 per cent women)** nationwide and engaged **185,705 people (49.46 per cent women)** in awareness creation on dengue prevention across the country. **Social media posts on dengue prevention, care, and treatment developed by the SBC Section reached approximately 68.67 million social media users (32 per cent women)**. A USAID-supported Public Service Announcements (PSA) on dengue prevention, reached more than **16.3 million people**, and this video has been viewed more than **11.12 million times**, generating **91,373 engagements** on social media.



Community volunteers operate in the communities around the Dhalpur Aalo Clinic, spreading life-saving messages about Dengue prevention far and wide. They utilize every tool in their arsenal, including public announcements through miking, distributing leaflets, and organizing community meetings. Their relentless efforts, supported by UNICEF, reinforce the critical importance of awareness and community engagement in the fight against dengue.
© UNICEF Bangladesh/2023/Mawa

- In the flood response in Chattogram, Bandarban Rangamati, Khagrachari, a hotline has been set up by the Greenhill NGO to receive feedback from the affected population in Bandarban and Rangamati districts on the UNICEF-supported response. Boxes have been set up at different sites, to receive feedback and complaints from the affected communities to ensure accountability to the affected population (AAP). **UNICEF and partners disseminated key lifesaving messages and information among 318,000 affected population through street miking**. UNICEF provided lifesaving messages to **95,000 people (52,250 women)**⁷ through the local radio station, Sagorgiri, which are continuously being aired by the radio station.
- In Rohingya Refugee camps, **a total of 487,950 Rohingya refugee people (252,006 female and 7,261 Persons with Disabilities) were reached with various messages** including on key family essential health care and life-saving behaviors and practices such as hand washing and anti-natal care. e.g., dengue prevention, acute watery diarrhea (AWD), Scabies, Penta/Td, Measles and Rubella (MR), Cyclone “Mocha”, fire safety and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through two-way communications.
- Through 14 Information and Feedback Centers (IFCs), **UNICEF received and referred 67,479 complaints, feedback, and inquiries (CFQs)**. Of those, **4,501 were complaints while 51,218 were feedback, and 11,760 were queries**. The majority of the CFQs pertained to Health, Non-food Items, and WASH issues and 80 per cent of the CFQs were successfully resolved.
- In host communities, **UNICEF and its partners mobilized and engaged 237,222 individuals (with 136,547 female and 1,012 People with Disabilities)**, in addressing a wide range of life-saving and essential family care issues including ending child marriage, promotion of girls’ education and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Government of Bangladesh leads and coordinates the Rohingya humanitarian response in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char. The National Task Force chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh provides oversight and strategic guidance for the overall response. In addition, the National Committee on Coordination, Management and Law and Order, led by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), was formed in December 2020. The Office of Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) manages and provides oversight of the day-to-day operations under the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR). The Deputy Commissioner (DC) leads the civil administration and coordinates the responses to the needs of Bangladeshi host communities, including during natural disasters, and to ensure security and public order. UNICEF leads the Nutrition and WASH Sectors and Child Protection Sub-Sector and co-leads the Education Sector with Save the Children in Cox’s Bazar’s Rohingya response and WASH and Education sectors in Bhasan Char, in coordination with the RRRC and the relevant government departments. UNICEF actively participates in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPRWG), and Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG) which functions under Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) which functions under the Office of the District Commissioner.

UNICEF is one of the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) members with other UN agencies. The SEG provides overall guidance for the Rohingya humanitarian response and engages with the Government of Bangladesh at the national level. The UN Rohingya Response Meeting (UNRR) convenes periodically in Dhaka and comprises of the Country Representatives of all UN agencies with a physical presence in Cox’s Bazar engaged in the refugee response, and the ISCG Coordinator. The UNRR is chaired by the UNHCR Representative or any of the Co-Chairs in his/her absence.

⁷ From a Survey conducted by the community radio station

Among other things, the UNRR seeks to assist UN agencies in arriving at a common UN position on issues discussed at the SEG. The UNRR also takes stock of the operational issues raised by various Heads of Offices at the Cox's Bazar level and by the ISCG Coordinator in relation to the activities at the Sectoral Level. At the field level in Cox's Bazar, the ISCG Secretariat ensures the overall coordination of the response. The ISCG Principal Coordinator chairs the Refugee Operations and Coordination Team (ROCT), which brings together the Heads of operational UN Agencies, members of the international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donor representatives based in Cox's Bazar. The ISCG convenes the Inter-Sector Meeting to ensure intersectoral coordination in the response. The SEG Co-Chairs are leading a process to streamline the coordination system in Cox's Bazar that will be implemented in 2023. In 2022, the humanitarian community finalized a set of Principles of Rationalization that aim to ensure that all Rohingya refugees have equitable access to all basic services in a predictable, efficient, and timely manner, and that the humanitarian community is transparent and accountable in its interventions. This exercise has informed the joint response plan (JRP) 2023 and will continue to be applied in the coming years.⁸ As part of the Rationalisation, UNICEF is taking over implementation of formal education program from UNHCR. KG- Grade 10 and the ECD programme from UNHCR in both Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

As part of strengthening emergency preparedness, and response, while enhancing the humanitarian -development nexus, including promoting the localization agenda, UNICEF trained about 270 frontline-emergency personnel (government, CSO and UNICEF staff) from six disaster-prone Divisions in emergency disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework), preparedness, response and resilience with the objective of strengthening the capacity of local level authorities in disaster risk reduction and resilience programming. Participants had the opportunity to simulate preparedness and response activities while linking the disaster response to long-term resilience, in an effort to improving our coordination at the subnational level. This activity will be further expanded in 2024. UNICEF was nominated as the co-lead of the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group that aims at harmonizing and strengthening the AAP framework across all the different humanitarian actors.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF developed communication and advocacy content, such as press releases, human interest stories, social media messaging, and multimedia assets to raise awareness on and encouraging continued support to respond to all six key programmatic areas⁹ of response for Rohingya and Bangladeshi children and communities, highlighted through the UNICEF Bangladesh website and social media channels. UNICEF Bangladesh is leading among all Country Offices globally in terms of digital media outreach, with over 11 million social media followers and over 6 million unique website visitors in 2023.

Stories:

- [Six years of a crisis](#) (25 August 2023)
- [In the face of adversity, Rohingya refugees get creative](#) (21 August 2023)
- [14-year-old Ehsan's drive for learning perseveres despite the loss of his arms](#) (20 June 2023)
- [Art brings children into safe spaces and closer to critical services in Bangladesh](#) (19 June 2023)
- [With a supportive father and a bold new curriculum, 13-year-old Ayesha is making a mark in science](#) (14 June 2023)
- [Ten-year-old Shohana learns to read again after COVID-19 school closures](#) (1 June 2023)
- [A new clinic model is offsetting the burden of health care costs in the slums of Bangladesh](#) (25 May 2023)
- [Newborn Rohingya refugee baby Hosne Ara and mother Hasina wait out Cyclone Mocha's landfall](#) (15 May 2023)
- [Tahmina takes a stand against child marriage](#) (3 May 2023)
- [Going mobile to reach Bangladesh's zero-dose children](#) (17 April 2023)
- [Children living and working on the street need our empathy and support](#) (27 March 2023)
- [Furious fire leaves 6,000 Rohingya refugee children without shelter in Bangladesh refugee camps](#) (8 March 2023)
- [Surviving poverty, floods, and malnutrition in Bangladesh](#) (7 March 2023)
- [Bangladeshi children and youth share their journey to better mental health](#) (16 February 2023)
- [A UNICEF economic empowerment programme reunites children with their families](#) (11 January 2023)

Press releases/statements:

- [Funds for world's climate hotspots woefully neglect the needs of children, new report finds](#) (22 June 2023)
- [UNICEF: Children urge parliamentarians to safeguard education, health and protection in national budget](#) (7 June 2023)
- [Millions of children at risk in Myanmar and Bangladesh in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha](#) (17 May 2023)
- [Government commits to accelerate universal health coverage](#) (11 May 2023)
- [Global polycrisis creating uphill battle to end child marriage – UNICEF](#) (3 May 2023)
- [New data indicates declining confidence in childhood vaccines of up to 44 percentage points in some countries during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (20 April 2023)
- [New report details shocking deprivation of children living on the street](#) (10 April 2023)
- [UNICEF launches first large-scale fundraising campaign in Bangladesh](#) (22 March 2023)
- [Survey confirms devastating impact of digital divide on children's learning during COVID-19](#) (16 March 2023)
- [Malnutrition in mothers soars by 25 per cent in crisis-hit countries, putting women and newborn babies at risk](#) (7 March 2023)

⁸ bangladesh_2023_jrp_rhc_appeal_en

⁹ They are health and nutrition, education, child protection, water sanitation and hygiene, HIV/AIDS, Social and behavioral change, and other salient child rights issues

- [Statement by UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh, Mr. Sheldon Yett, on the fire in the Rohingya refugee camps \(6 March 2023\)](#)
- [UNICEF concerned that more than half of children with disabilities in Bangladesh do not go to school \(24 January 2023\)](#)
- [Mobile app helps adolescents access public health services \(17 January 2023\)](#)

For general information regarding the actions being taken by UNICEF and other humanitarian community actors for the Rohingya refugee Emergency, Cyclones, Floods, and the concerned resource requirements, please see the following documents.

- [UNICEF Bangladesh Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal \(HAC\)](#)
- [UNICEF Bangladesh Facebook page](#)
- [Bangladesh 2023 Joint Response Plan Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis](#)

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Annex A. Summary of Programme Results¹

Sector				
Indicator	Disaggregation	2023 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
NUTRITION				
Children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	Girls	5,260	4,323	▲ 3,351
	Boys	4,913	3,663	▲ 2,908
	Person with Disability (PwD) ²	230	111	▲ 81
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Women	200,508	219,442 ¹⁰	▲ 187,257
	PwD ²	3,969	102	▲ 84
HEALTH				
Children aged 0 to 11 months who have received pentavalent 3 vaccine	Girls	513,452	353,213	▲ 341,981
	Boys	498,622	364,601	▲ 352,971
	PwD ²	27,777	12,028	▲ 12,028
Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	Girls	757,031	451,432	▲ 430,438
	Boys	738,843	475,127	▲ 449,812
	Women	251,292	686,648	▲ 645,581
	PwD ²	45,265	21,399	▲ 21,370
Number of children and adults who were treated for dengue	Girls	10,644	12,237	▲ 12,237
	Boys	16,553	12,028	▲ 12,028
	Men	7,437	18,971	▲ 18,971
	Women	8,391	19,300	▲ 19,300
	CwD	1,187	-	
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of dengue cases	Men	275	-	-
	Women	275	-	-
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE³				
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs ⁴	Girls	157,051	74,373	▲ 924
	Boys	160,582	77,818	▲ 2,064
	Men	158,345	69,786	▲ 5,785
	Women	167,513	80,723	▲ 7,848
	PwD	12,645	2,444	▲ 508
	Girls	132,675	110,039	▲ 28,805
People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	Boys	137,593	111,089	▲ 27,230
	Men	124,380	106,756	▲ 34,947
	Women	133,843	116,530	▲ 35,124
Number of volunteers/government staff trained on effective WASH responses for dengue	PwD	9,425	3,306	▲ 1,103
	Men	800	734	▲ 734
	Women	800	299	▲ 299

¹ Includes response in Rohingya refugee camps, Cox's Bazar host communities, national floods, and national cyclones. Categorized based on the following threshold: 50% or above achievement against total annual target considered as "On Track" and achievement below 50% considered as "Constrained"

² There was a challenge to collect disaggregated data by the person with a disability in the system.

¹⁰ The overachievement over the target is due to improved monitoring from the Zonal Nutrition Officers and the data is captured in the DHIS2

³ The emergency response at the national level didn't occur by the mid-year of 2013. Therefore, the achievement is low.

⁴ WASH cluster has revised the indicator measurement to focus on quality, which contributed to a reduction in the result. To measure this water indicator, WASH Sector is considering '% of Household-level water sample tested with 0 E. Coli' and this is from the round of reporting Jan-dec 2022, we have found 89% of HH water sample tested 0 E. coli and we have used this one. However, there are 17,521 tube wells have been constructed in the field, but it is not considered in the calculation for the camp beneficiaries.

CHILD PROTECTION & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ¹¹				
Children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	630,839	1,242,824	▲ 1,214,818
	Boys	652,338	1,056,389	▲ 1,026,726
	Men	789,749	154,404	▲ 139,274
	Women	828,152	357,050	▲ 340,889
	PwD	78,961	16,399	▲ 12,957
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Girls	417,776	447,998	▲ 371,978
	Boys	265,209	377,082	▲ 306,151
	Women	508,787	211,237	▲ 181,866
	PwD	32,948	3,400	▲ 2,812
People who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by akers	Girls	255,316	90,201	▲ 90,201
	Boys	237,528	94,582	▲ 94,582
	Men	320,813	79,401	▲ 79,401
	Women	345,528	93,372	▲ 93,372
	PwD	23,607	3,576	▲ 3,576
EDUCATION ³				
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls	172,509	109,061	▲ 2,380
	Boys	180,948	116,589	▲ 820
	Men	-	-	-
	Women	-	-	-
	PwD	5,989	1,578	-
Children receiving individual learning materials	Girls	298,697	104,008	▲ 16,946
	Boys	180,948	112,893	▲ 22,312
	Men	-	-	-
	Women	-	-	-
	PwD	13,077	1,497	▲ 108
CROSS-SECTORAL (HCT, SBC / ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM) ³				
Number of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors	Households	5,000	-	-
People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Girls	282,526	187,610	▲ 71,267
	Boys	295,455	186,546	▲ 91,704
	Men	375,118	263,861	▲ 182,604
	Women	411,766	317,312	▲ 153,035
	PwD	27,209	14,809	▲ 10,820
People with access to established accountability /feedback mechanisms (CFQ)	Men	68,987	32,795	▲ 19,432
	Women	47,430	52,236	▲ 30,265
	PwD	1,416	1,889	▲ 1,702
Number of people engaged in discussion and prevention actions on Dengue	Girls	32,446	70,048	▲ 70,048
	Boys	34,095	67,135	▲ 67,135
	Men	40,936	72,034	▲ 72,034
	Women	47,523	97,903	▲ 97,903
	PwD	1,640	6,047	▲ 6,047

¹¹ While Child Protection remains underfunded, CP targets were overachieved because of aligning interventions with preparedness actions related to climate change in disaster-prone locations, and utilised other regular resources (ORR) to achieve above target.

Summary of Humanitarian Programme Results (Cox's Bazar level)¹

Indicator		Sector Response									
Sector	Disaggregation	2023 Target		Total Results		Change since last report ▲▼	2023 Target		Total Results		Change since last report ▲▼
		Rohingya*	Host	Rohingya*	Host		Rohingya a	Host	Rohingya	Host	
NUTRITION²											
Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	Girls	3,958	358	2,636	266	▲ 2,045	5,592	1,232	4,163	643	▲ 1,881
	Boys	3,596	374	2,402	214	▲ 1,914	5,908	1,268	4,025	391	▲ 1,705
	CwD	166	11	109	2	▲ 81	115	36	79	15	▲ 35
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling	Women	51,808	71,000	37,075	55,278	▲ 60,168	85,000	11,000	37,957	18,575	▲ 19,042
	PwD	756	1,037	32	70	▲ 84	850	157	376	266	▲ 219
HEALTH³											
Children aged 0 to 11 months who have received pentavalent 3 vaccine	Girls	15,183	41,026	9,368	32,536	▲ 30,672					
	Boys	15,990	43,320	9,661	33,384	▲ 31,415					
	CwD	312	2,362	-	-	-					
Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	Girls	51,643	19,524	40,180	13,631	▲ 32,817					
	Boys	56,556	23,320	49,376	16,137	▲ 40,198					
	Women	47,478	74,314	41,364	78,707	▲ 79,004					
	PwD	2,273	1,711	80	-	▲ 51					
Number of children and adults who were treated for dengue in UNICEF supported health facilities	Girls	82	-	-	-	-					
	Boys	33	-	-	-	-					
	Women	524	-	-	-	-					
	Men	714	-	-	-	-					
	PwD	20	-	-	-	-					
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE											
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	Girls	76,268	5,160	72,199	2,174	▲ 924	229,716	73,180	201,576	61,066	▲ 183,768
	Boys	79,909	5,932	75,692	2,126	▲ 2,064	241,957	76,763	212,318	64,056	▲ 17,554
	Women	74,936	6,950	72,343	8,380	▲ 7,848	234,350	72,630	205,640	60,607	▲ 15,057
	Men	67,378	6,958	64,018	5,768	▲ 5,785	196,775	71,153	172,670	59,375	▲ 12,689
	PwD	2,985	700	2,375	69	▲ 508	9,028	3,935	-	-	-
People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	Girls	76,268	37,500	72,494	37,545	▲ 28,805	229,716	73,180	229,018	68,295	▲ 5,578
	Boys	79,909	39,000	76,029	35,060	▲ 27,230	241,957	76,763	241,223	71,639	▲ 5,871
	Women	74,936	37,500	72,407	44,123	▲ 35,124	234,350	72,630	233,636	67,782	▲ 5,661
	Men	67,378	36,000	65,629	41,127	▲ 34,947	196,775	71,153	196,176	66,404	▲ 4,902
	PwD	2,985	4,200	2,197	1,109	▲ 1,103	9,028	3,935	1,063	1,749	▲ 135
Number of volunteers/government staff trained on effective WASH responses for dengue	Girls	-	-	-	-	-					
	Boys	-	-	-	-	-					
	Women	250	50	290	9	▲ 299					
	Men	250	50	734	-	▲ 734					
	PwD	-	-	-	-	-					
CHILD PROTECTION & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE											
Children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	45,797	40,560	29,098	58,565	▲ 77,293	20,522	6,840	24,308	8,535	▲ 16,943
	Boys	42,274	37,440	27,869	59,025	▲ 76,738	21,360	7,120	25,364	9,312	▲ 22,662
	Women	42,274	37,440	29,756	22,259	▲ 41,014	-	-	-	-	-
	Men	39,022	34,560	28,916	12,204	▲ 30,953	-	-	-	-	-
	PwD	2,473	4,200	1,893	481	▲ 874	1,250	300	982	201	▲ 1,075
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions ⁴	Girls	9,226	2,901	6,392	6,940	▲ 5,369					
	Boys	5,972	1,878	3,128	4,922	▲ 3,436					
	Women	8,730	2,745	8,273	11,350	▲ 10,856					
	PwD	349	110	254	32	▲ 84					
People who have access to a safe and	Girls	144,247	82,711	90,201	-	-					
	Boys	133,151	76,349	94,582	-	-					

¹ Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) covers eight Upazilas in Cox's Bazar level while Joint Response Plan (JRP) covers 2 Upazila (Ukhia & Teknaf). There was a challenge in collecting disaggregated data by the person with a disability in the system.

² Seasonal variation in malnutrition rates might constrain SAM admission. These rates gradually increase during the monsoon and summer seasons, anticipating reaching the target in the upcoming month. Delay in onboarding a health partner to deploy IYCF counsellors in health facilities constrained in delivering IYCF counselling. A collaborative effort and through providing technical and supportive supervision support would enhance IYCF counselling services in the coming month is expected to achieve the target.

³ Reported achievement is low as it only captures DHIS-2 data, which cannot include campaign data with Penta 3.

⁴ Data for men is available but not covered by the HPM indicator "Number of women, girls, and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions"

accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	Women	199,197	114,221	93,372	-	-					
	Men	183,875	105,434	79,401	-	-					
	PwD	9,643	10,604	3,576	-	-					

EDUCATION

Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls	104,374	3,162	104,008	5,053	▲ 2,311	181,093	42,474	157,567	7,464	-
	Boys	112,813	3,163	112,893	3,696	▲ 739	175,379	40,920	167,589	5,878	-
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	8,460	2,113	2,896	303	-
	Men	-	-	-	-	-	6,461	786	1,972	196	-
	CwD	2,172	177	1,497	81	-	11,142	2,589	2,779	174	-
Children receiving individual learning materials	Girls	103,780	-	104,008	-	▲ 6,682	181,093	42,474	157,567	7,464	-
	Boys	112,220	-	112,893	-	▲ 11,613	175,379	40,920	167,589	5,878	-
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	8,460	2,113	2,896	303	-
	Men	-	-	-	-	-	6,461	786	1,972	196	-
	CwD	2,160	-	1,497	-	-	11,142	2,589	2,779	174	-

CROSS-SECTORAL (SBC / ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM)

People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Girls	104,732	27,000	101,613	53,885	▲ 12,180					
	Boys	109,868	27,000	106,810	49,098	▲ 11,170					
	Women	153,487	51,000	150,393	82,662	▲ 18,008					
	Men	131,777	45,000	129,134	51,577	▲ 11,567					
	PwD	4,999	2,190	7,261	1,012	▲ 153					
People with access to established accountability /feedback Mechanisms (CFQ)	Girls	516	132	576	489	▲ 1,065					
	Boys	344	88	538	159	▲ 697					
	Women	51,084	13,068	40,714	9,797	▲ 10,355					
	Men	34,056	8,782	25,651	5,720	▲ 6,296					
	PwD	860	322	1,672	8	▲ 664					
Number of people engaged in discussion and prevention actions on Dengue	Girls	31,392	-	30,883	-	▲ 30,883					
	Boys	32,986	-	25,946	-	▲ 25,946					
	Women	46,073	-	44,067	-	▲ 44,067					
	Men	39,549	-	20,519	-	▲ 20,519					
	PwD	1,500	-	847	-	▲ 847					

* Rohingya column containing both Camp and Bhasan Char target and progress

** Categorized based on the following threshold: 50% or above achievement against total annual target considered as "On Track" and achievement below 50% considered as "Constrained"

Annex B. Funding Status*

Appeal Sector	Funding Requirements*	Funds available					Funding gap		
		Funds Received Current Year (2023)		Total	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-Over)		Total funds available	\$	%
		ORE	ORR		ORE	ORR			
Nutrition	22,026,730	3,230,884	0	3,230,884	2,894,170	10,817,027	16,942,081	5,084,649	23%
Health	25,818,757	6,682,599	0	6,682,599	4,579,224	7,504,999	18,766,822	7,051,935	27%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	34,521,320	14,686,923	85,732	14,772,655	1,606,757	7,195,482	23,574,894	10,946,426	32%
Child Protection/GBV	30,774,603	4,596,206	0	4,596,206	1,256,920	5,077,697	10,930,823	19,843,780	64%
Education	48,184,253	22,418,702	0	22,418,702	5,089,101	8,460,767	35,968,570	12,215,683	25%
Cross-sectoral	5,159,100	1,606,264	0	1,606,264	147,835	505,073	2,259,172	2,899,928	56%
Emergency Preparedness	7,000,000	8,447,261	24,630	8,471,891	947,470	0	9,419,361	-	0%
Total	173,484,763	61,668,839	110,362	61,779,201	16,521,477	39,561,045	117,861,723	58,042,401**	33%

*As defined in the Bangladesh Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal for 2023 revised August 2023

**Funding gap includes up to \$2,419,361 for preparedness actions which was utilised from other regular resources (ORR).