



A group of Rohingya girls wash their hands at a handwashing station established at their learning centre with UNICEF support.

unicef   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Bangladesh

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Bangladesh faces three overlapping humanitarian emergencies. Over 860,000 Rohingya refugees<sup>1</sup> living in Cox's Bazar District are highly dependent on international aid. A densely populated country, Bangladesh is experiencing a significant coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak across its eight divisions. Millions of families are also vulnerable to floods and cyclones.
- In Rohingya camps, UNICEF and implementing partners will provide health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection and gender-based violence services at scale. Across the country, UNICEF will support the Government to prepare for and respond to humanitarian needs, including the impacts of COVID-19.
- UNICEF is appealing for US\$198.8 million in 2021 to support COVID-19 prevention and treatment and continue vital health, nutrition and WASH services in Bangladesh and Rohingya refugee camps. The response will focus on ensuring that every Rohingya child has an education, including through the introduction of the Myanmar curriculum.

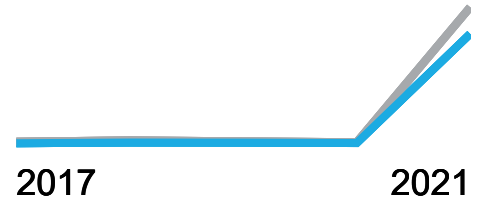
IN NEED

**173.7 million people<sup>2</sup>**      **62.7 million children<sup>3</sup>**



TO BE REACHED

**29.6 million people<sup>4</sup>**      **23.9 million children<sup>5</sup>**



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**10.5 million** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



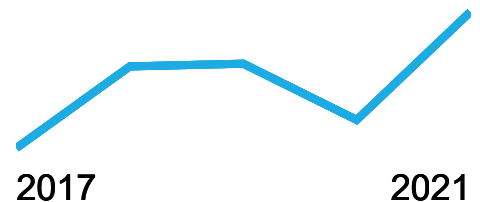
**547,692** women and children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation/prevention/response



**47.7 million** people participating in engagement actions

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 198.8 million**



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Three years after extreme violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar, sparked a massive refugee influx into Bangladesh, there are 860,000 Rohingya refugees living in 34 congested camps in Cox's Bazar District.<sup>6</sup> To date, conditions for their safe and voluntary return to Myanmar have not been achieved. While widespread cases of COVID-19 have not been identified in the camps, to stem a potential outbreak, it is essential that treatment facilities, masks and accurate information are widely available.

The primary and secondary impacts of COVID-19 have compromised access to health and nutrition services for Rohingya refugees, reversing some of the gains made in the past few years. Before learning centres were closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, 76 per cent of Rohingya boys and 70 per cent of Rohingya girls aged 6 to 14 years were accessing education.<sup>7</sup> Child protection sub-sector partners are reporting increased levels of violence against children, gender-based violence and psychosocial distress. Since March 2020, however, access to the camps has been restricted to critical services, and adolescent girls and people with disabilities are among those least likely to access the services they need.<sup>8</sup>

As of September 2020, Bangladesh – one of the world's most densely populated countries – had the 14th highest caseload of COVID-19 globally.<sup>9</sup> The pandemic has had a major impact on the economy and is overwhelming health and nutrition services. There were already too few health workers before the pandemic (8.3 health workers per 10,000 people, compared with 45 per 10,000 recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO)).<sup>10</sup> Constrained access to health and nutrition services could worsen the nutrition crisis, raising acute malnutrition rates by 14 per cent.<sup>11</sup>

In addition, projections indicate that 2020 gross domestic product growth could decline from 7 to 2 per cent.<sup>12</sup> Increased poverty will create an additional barrier to children's rights. Children from vulnerable households, including those with no wage earners, report lower levels of access to alternative learning modalities.<sup>13</sup> In a country where 45 million children are subjected to violent discipline,<sup>14</sup> violence against women and children, including gender-based violence, has increased by an estimated 31 per cent during the pandemic.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to these vulnerabilities, the population is at risk due to recurrent monsoon and cyclone-related disasters exacerbated by climate change. In 2020, one quarter of the country was flooded,<sup>16</sup> affecting 5.4 million people.<sup>17</sup>

## SECTOR NEEDS



### Health

**3.4 million** children need immunization services<sup>18</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**103 million** people lack access to safe water<sup>19</sup>



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

**715,669** children need psychosocial support<sup>20,21</sup>



### Education

**42.7 million** children need education support<sup>22</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



As schools remain closed across the world to contain the spread of COVID-19, students like Shefuka are trying to adapt to their new reality. However, studying from home in a refugee shelter without access to electricity is extremely challenging.

"I feel very sad that our learning centre is closed. I cannot continue my study like before. I miss my classmates and my teachers," says Shefuka.

UNICEF is implementing alternative modalities to sustain children's education. This includes relying on Rohingya volunteer teachers to continue education through learning activities with the support of parents and caregivers.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Shefuka stands in front of her home at a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. With schools closed, UNICEF is supporting Rohingya volunteer teachers to keep children learning.

## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF's humanitarian response in Bangladesh is aligned with the 2021 Joint Response Plan, the Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 and the 2020 Response Plan for the monsoon floods.

For Rohingya refugees and their host communities, UNICEF will prioritize: (1) making COVID-19 treatment facilities available; (2) supporting the continuity and utilization of health and nutrition services; (3) providing safe water and sanitation and supporting the adoption of handwashing behaviours; (4) facilitating life-saving behaviours including mask usage and social distancing; (5) providing education, child protection and gender-based violence services at scale using adapted modalities informed by the latest evidence on COVID-19 prevention; and (6) engaging adolescents to participate within their communities and in the response. Given that the introduction of the Myanmar curriculum in the camps was delayed due to the closure of learning centres, UNICEF will prioritize scaling up the curriculum in 2021. Wherever possible, UNICEF will strengthen the linkages between its humanitarian response and development programmes to achieve more sustainable results.

UNICEF is providing technical, logistical, financial and in-kind assistance to the Government of Bangladesh to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 across the country. UNICEF will support the Directorate General of Health Services to ensure uninterrupted access to health and nutrition services, while also coordinating the Case Management and Infection Prevention Control Pillar and procuring personal protective and other equipment. In coordination with the Department of Public Health Engineering, UNICEF will provide and monitor access to safe water. Education authorities will be supported to safely operate schools and offer quality complementary distance learning, while ensuring the provision of integrated early child education and development opportunities. UNICEF will focus on strengthening the social worker workforce to prevent and respond to increasing child protection and gender-based violence incidents, including by addressing child marriage through in-person and outreach services.

Across its humanitarian response, UNICEF will systematically support national non-governmental organizations to lead the response, in line with the localization agenda. Mechanisms have been established to gather feedback from affected communities and use this information to adapt and improve the response, and prevent, report and respond to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. All sectors will mainstream disaster preparedness and response principles in light of the annual monsoon and cyclone seasons.

UNICEF leads the nutrition and WASH sectors/clusters and the child protection sub-sector/cluster and co-leads the education sector/cluster.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/bangladesh/situation-reports>

## 2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



### Nutrition

- **16,972** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **20,155,080** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months



### Health

- **3,800,553** children aged 0 to 11 months who have received pentavalent 3 vaccine
- **15,234,254** health service consultations for children and women, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care; essential newborn care; immunization; treatment of childhood illnesses; and HIV care<sup>23</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **10,491,754** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **1,168,421** people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **550,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **547,692** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **966,206** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse



### Education<sup>24</sup>

- **838,550** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning<sup>25</sup>
- **2,402,178** girls and boys supported with distance/remote learning in emergencies<sup>26</sup>

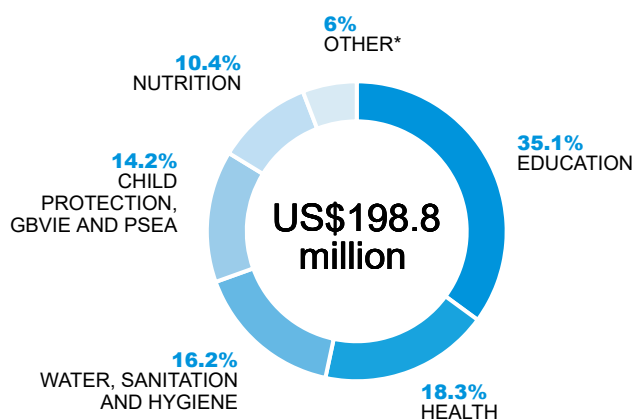


### C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **47,650,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change<sup>27</sup>
- **1,040,000** people who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF is appealing for US\$198.8 million to maintain life-saving basic services for Rohingya refugee children and their families; support host communities affected by the refugee influx; and mitigate the worst direct and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and the cyclical monsoon floods and cyclones on children and families across the country. Nutrition, health, WASH, education, child protection and gender-based violence services will be provided at scale in the camps, using adapted modalities to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. This appeal will also cover the additional resources required to ensure that children most affected by the impacts of COVID-19, including those in densely populated urban areas, from minority ethnic groups, and from the lowest wealth quintile, are able to realize their rights during this challenging time. This appeal includes the US\$141.2 million required under the 2021 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya response, as well as US\$46.5 million to mitigate the worst impacts of COVID-19 on children and their families and US\$11.0 million to contribute to the Humanitarian Response Plan and emergency preparedness nationwide.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	20,688,000
Health	36,373,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	32,133,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	28,266,000 <sup>28</sup>
Education	69,701,600
C4D, community engagement and AAP	4,641,000
Emergency	7,000,000 <sup>29</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,802,600</b>

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Emergency (3.5%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (2.3%).

### Who to contact for further information:

**Tomoo Hozumi**  
Representative, Bangladesh  
T +880 1701208982  
thozumi@unicef.org

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

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)  
T +1 212 326 7160  
chaddadmardini@unicef.org

## ENDNOTES

1. Government of Bangladesh and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Joint Government of Bangladesh - UNHCR Population Factsheet as of 31 July 2020', UNHCR, August 2020.
2. This includes the population of Bangladesh (172,809,384) as per Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 'Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19', July 2020; and 860,494 Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh, as per the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 30 August 2020.
3. This includes 62,211,378 Bangladeshi children as per 'Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19'; and 450,899 Rohingya children (52.4 per cent of the total Rohingya population) as per UNHCR, 31 August 2020.
4. This includes 3,721,533 children under 1 year to be reached with pentavalent vaccination (50 per cent girls, 1.4 per cent with a disability and 0.8 per cent Rohingya); 17,915,627 children aged 12 to 59 months to be reached with vitamin A (percentage of total target for vitamin A supplementation) (50 per cent girls, 1.4 per cent with a disability, 0.8 per cent Rohingya); 225,455 Rohingya children aged 5 to 18 years to be reached with education (49 per cent girls, 1 per cent with a disability); 2,012,500 Bangladeshi children aged 5 to 18 years to be supported with remote access to education (50 per cent girls, 0.9 per cent children with a disability); and 5,720,747 adults to be reached with WASH services (60 per cent women, 0.5 per cent with a disability, 2.0 per cent Rohingya). The total figure includes 52 per cent women/girls, 1.1 per cent people with a disability and 2.2 per cent Rohingya refugees.
5. This includes 3,721,533 children under 1 year to be reached with pentavalent vaccination (50 per cent girls, 1.4 per cent with a disability and 0.8 per cent Rohingya); 17,915,627 children aged 12 to 59 months to be reached with vitamin A supplementation (percentage of total target for vitamin A) (50 per cent girls, 1.4 per cent with a disability, 0.8 per cent Rohingya); 225,455 Rohingya children aged 5 to 18 years to be reached with education (49 per cent girls, 1 per cent with a disability); and 2,012,500 Bangladeshi children aged 5 to 18 years to be supported with remote access to education (50 per cent girls, 0.9 per cent children with a disability). The total figure includes 50 per cent girls, 1.3 per cent children with a disability and 2.4 per cent Rohingya. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. 'Joint Government of Bangladesh - UNHCR Population Factsheet as of 31 July 2020'.
7. Inter Sector Coordination Group, 'Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment - Key Findings: Refugees and host communities', ISCG, October 2019.
8. Inter Sector Coordination Group, International Organization for Migration, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and United Nations Resident Coordinator for Bangladesh, '2020 Joint Response Plan: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis (January-December 2020) - Bangladesh', 3 March 2020.
9. Worldometer, 'COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic', <[www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/](http://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/)>, accessed 4 September 2020.
10. World Health Organization, 'Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030', WHO, Geneva, 2016.
11. Headey, Derek, et al., 'Impacts of COVID-19 on Childhood Malnutrition and Nutrition-Related Mortality', *The Lancet*, vol. 396, no. 10250, 27 July 2020.
12. International Monetary Fund, 'Helping Bangladesh Recover from COVID-19', IMF, June 2020.
13. UNICEF, June 2020.
14. Government of Bangladesh and United Nations Children's Fund, Bangladesh: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019', 2020.
15. Manusher Jonno Foundation, 'Violence Against Women and Children: COVID-19', May 2020.
16. NASA Earth Observatory, 'Intense Flooding in Bangladesh', 1 August 2020.
17. Humanitarian Coordination Task Team, 'HCTT Response Plan Monsoon Floods', August 2020.
18. This includes 31,000 Rohingya children under 1 year as per '2020 Joint Response Plan: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis (January-December 2020) - Bangladesh'; and 3,319,224 Bangladeshi children under 1 year as per 'Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19'. This number is below the 2021 target for UNICEF as it is based on 2020 sector figures and will be revised once 2021 plans are developed.
19. This includes 840,000 Rohingya refugees and 285,000 members of affected host communities as per '2020 Joint Response Plan: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis (January-December 2020) - Bangladesh'; 5.4 million flood-affected Bangladeshis as per 'HCTT Response Plan Monsoon Floods'; and 96,432,000 other Bangladeshis as per 'Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19'.
20. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
21. This includes 117,627 Rohingya and 11,375 host community children as per '2020 Joint Response Plan: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis (January-December 2020) - Bangladesh'; 36,667 flood-affected Bangladeshi children as per 'HCTT Response Plan Monsoon Floods'; and 550,000 other vulnerable Bangladeshi children impacted by COVID-19 as per 'Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19'.
22. The total figure refers to the broader country population, which is being covered mainly through technical assistance and systems strengthening support by UNICEF Bangladesh. This includes 315,017 Rohingya and 43,547 host community children as per '2020 Joint Response Plan: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis (January-December 2020) - Bangladesh'; 444,786 flood-affected Bangladeshi children as per 'HCTT Response Plan Monsoon Floods'; and 41,890,019 other vulnerable Bangladeshi children as per 'Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19'.
23. It is expected that individual children and women will have multiple consultations within a one-year period and, as such, the number of consultations is not equal to the number of people reached.
24. The education targets for UNICEF Bangladesh primarily focus on Rohingya children, host community children and children affected by floods.
25. The target includes institution-based education such as schools, learning centres, temporary learning centres or other physical spaces where formal or non-formal education, consistent with the definition, is provided. This includes 248,000 Rohingya children; 70,000 Bangladeshi children in affected host communities; 438,000 Bangladeshi children directly impacted by COVID-19; and 82,550 Bangladeshi children affected by floods.
26. This includes 68,100 Rohingya children accessing blended learning opportunities in parallel to informal learning; 2.3 million Bangladeshi children affected by COVID-19 (including those in host communities of Cox's Bazar); and 20,638 Bangladeshi children affected by floods.
27. The targeted population is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
28. For the response in Rohingya camps, this includes US\$12,251,343 for child protection interventions; US\$1,719,450 for gender-based violence interventions; and US\$59,206 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions. For the response to host communities affected by the Rohingya crisis, this includes US\$3,466,702 for child protection interventions; US\$486,544 for gender-based violence interventions; and US\$16,753 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions. For the COVID-19 response, this includes US\$6,403,357 for child protection interventions; US\$898,698 for gender-based violence interventions; and US\$30,945 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions. For the flood response, this includes US\$2,561,168 for child protection interventions; US\$359,455 for gender-based violence interventions; and US\$12,377 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.
29. This includes emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.