

CONTEXT

- Bangladesh experiences recurrent natural disasters—including cyclones, floods, and monsoon rains—exposing acutely vulnerable populations to annual climatic shocks resulting in crop and infrastructure damage, displacement, and loss of livelihoods, according to the UN. The negative impacts of climate change, combined with high inflation and low incomes, continue to drive decreasing food availability and worsening food insecurity conditions across the country. Heavy rainfall and resultant flash floods in Chattogram Division in August 2023 affected more than 1.5 million people, relief organizations report. Tropical Cyclone Hamoon impacted 1.5 million people in Cox’s Bazar District in October 2023, and Tropical Cyclone Remal in May 2024 affected approximately 3.75 million people, according to the UN. The UN projects that Bangladesh—already one of the most climate-affected countries in the world—will likely face an increased frequency and intensity of climatic shocks in the coming years, generating additional humanitarian needs.
- Bangladesh hosts nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees from neighboring Burma. Displacement from western Burma’s Rakhine State escalated significantly in August 2017 following the launch of large-scale and indiscriminate military operations by Burma’s military forces, which the U.S. Government (USG) has since characterized as genocide. More than 944,000 of these refugees were residing in 33 crowded camps in southeastern Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District, while more than 35,000 refugees had been relocated to Bhasan Char—a silt island in the Bay of Bengal—as of April 2024, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Due to restrictions on livelihood activities and movement, refugees rely almost entirely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs, according to the UN. Moreover, refugees, particularly women and girls, face a heightened risk of experiencing protection violations, including gender-based violence (GBV), the UN reports. Men and boys also face protection risks, such as forced conscription or recruitment into armed groups.



ASSISTANCE

- With USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and other donor support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continue to reach more than 900,000 refugees monthly in Bhasan Char and Cox’s Bazar with emergency food and nutrition assistance as of May 2024. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, USAID/BHA provided \$87 million to WFP and \$2 million to UNICEF. Since FY 2022, USAID/BHA has

supported partner the International Rescue Committee for protection activities—including activities which aim to prevent and respond to GBV incidents—in Rohingya refugee camps and host communities in Cox’s Bazar.

- During FY 2023, USAID/BHA contributed \$500,000 to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to provide immediate shelter assistance, multipurpose cash assistance, and emergency relief items to affected populations in response to the landfall of Tropical Cyclone Mocha in May 2023 and widespread flooding in Chattogram in August 2023.
- USAID/BHA continues to support early, recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in northern and southwestern Bangladesh through nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners CARE and World Vision. During FY 2023, CARE and World Vision continued to support vulnerable communities by improving agricultural practices, increasing the capacity of community volunteers, improving WASH practices, and enhancing community infrastructure in the districts of Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Khulna, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, and Satkhira. The two NGOs provided approximately 800 farmers with technical training on climate-smart technology; constructed 200 community and household plinths; and trained more than 2,300 community volunteers on early warning systems, evacuation protocols, gender-related shelter management, and protection issues during disasters.
- During FY 2023, USAID/BHA also funded the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) Bangladesh Resilience Advancement in City Ecosystems (BRACE) program aimed at enabling communities to undertake risk assessments and identify priority interventions to strengthen resilience in Cox’s Bazar and Bangladesh’s capital city of Dhaka. In FY 2024, ADPC worked with Bangladesh’s Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives to develop and approve the BRACE urban risk assessment digital application to enable communities to identify, prioritize, communicate, and respond to disaster risks. Following its approval, ADPC trained four municipal-level disaster management committees in the use of the application to develop customized risk reduction action plans.
- USAID/BHA provided \$750,000 during FY 2023 via the UN Office for Project Services to support the UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO) in Bangladesh to strengthen the humanitarian coordination to enhance national-level coordination of disaster risk reduction efforts. UNRCO, in collaboration with international and national partners, developed the first sub-national level earthquake risk assessment in Bangladesh to enhance the country’s preparedness against seismic risks.
- During FY 2024, USAID/BHA provided \$300,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to strengthen national-level coordination for displacement response and enhance capacity of shelter management efforts in vulnerable areas of Bangladesh. USAID/BHA also supports BDRCS to strengthen its institutional capacity and localized readiness in anticipatory actions and response in disaster-prone districts of the country.

USAID/BHA Funding in Bangladesh ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2023	\$99,970,324	\$6,500,000	\$106,470,324 ³
FY 2024	\$89,000,000	\$3,704,094	\$92,704,094

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 9, 2024.

Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.

³ Includes funding for BDRCS to address immediate needs from Tropical Cyclone Mocha in 2023.