



Bangladesh – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 23, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>1.55 MILLION</p> <p>Number of People in Need in 2024</p> <p><i>UN – March 2024</i></p>	<p>1.35 MILLION</p> <p>People Targeted for Humanitarian Assistance in 2024</p> <p><i>UN – March 2024</i></p>	<p>954,000</p> <p>Number of Rohingya Refugees in Cox’s Bazar</p> <p><i>UNHCR – July 2024</i></p>	<p>35,400</p> <p>Number of Rohingya Refugees on Bhasan Char Island</p> <p><i>UNHCR – July 2024</i></p>	<p>\$852.4 MILLION</p> <p>Required Funding to Meet Needs of the 2024 Joint Response Plan</p> <p><i>UN – March 2024</i></p>
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- Civil unrest in Bangladesh since July has led to the deaths of nearly 650 civilians, injury to thousands of others, and significant disruptions to humanitarian operations, including restricted access to Rohingya refugee camps and temporary delays to food assistance activities.
- In response to severe flooding in Bangladesh, U.S. Ambassador Peter D. Haas issued a DHN on July 2; USAID/BHA provided \$350,000 to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to assist flood-affected communities in July.
- WFP restored full food assistance rations for Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar in August following a previous reduction in ration value due to funding shortages.



<p>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Bangladesh Complex Emergency and Rohingya Regional Crisis Response in FY 2024</p>	USAID/BHA ¹	\$89,350,000
	State/PRM ²	\$25,830,000
<p>Total</p>		\$117,880,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Violent Civil Unrest Across Bangladesh Since July has led to Civilian Deaths and Impeded Humanitarian Operations

Since early July, civil unrest—stemming from students protesting quotas on the allocation of civil service positions in Bangladesh—resulted in the deaths of at least 650 people and injury to thousands of others, temporary disruptions to humanitarian operations, and the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, international media reports. Clashes during the protests resulted in the death of at least 32 children, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). As a result of the unrest, the Government of Bangladesh imposed a curfew and shut down the internet for nearly a week in mid-July, restricting access to essential services and hindering emergency response operations.

Due to instability and insecurity across the country, humanitarian actors, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, temporarily paused some humanitarian operations to prioritize the delivery of the most urgent life-saving assistance during July. The insecurity also prevented relief actors from providing humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugee settlements in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District including delaying food assistance deliveries due to diminished law enforcement capacity as of late July, according to relief actors. Despite operational difficulties and following the announcement of an interim government on August 8, humanitarian organizations, including those receiving USG funding support, have been able to access all 33 camps and provide life-saving food, nutrition, health, and protection assistance as of August 14.

Heavy Monsoon Rains Since June Generate Floods and Landslides Across Bangladesh, Affecting Millions of People

Heavy monsoon rains in Bangladesh’s Sylhet Division—including Moulvibazar, Sunamganj and Sylhet districts—in mid-to-late June resulted in the deaths of at least ten people and adversely affected approximately 3.7 million people, including more than 723,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to the Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG). The floods and landslides also caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure, including the damage or destruction of more than 63,800 houses as well as health care and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, NAWG reports. Local authorities had established more than 6,000 shelters for individuals displaced by floods in Sylhet as of late June, according to international media. Bangladesh continues to experience severe flooding due to heavy rainfall across the northeastern and southeastern parts of the country resulting in at least four deaths, more than 75,500 people displaced, and approximately 3.6 million people reportedly affected as of August 23, according to the NAWG and international media.

U.S. Ambassador Peter D. Haas issued a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) due to the effects of flooding and landslides in Bangladesh on July 2. In response, USAID/BHA provided \$350,000 to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to support multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to approximately 28,000 flood-affected individuals in Sylhet Division. Ongoing floods, compounded with the effects of Tropical Cyclone Remal in May, underscore Bangladesh’s vulnerability to climatic shocks and resultant humanitarian needs including displacement, destroyed livelihoods, and the disruption of essential services like education and health care, relief actors note.

WFP Restores Full Food Assistance Rations in August Following Previous Reduction Due to Funding Shortages

The UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide life-saving food assistance—with

USAID/BHA and other donor funding support—to Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar. The UN agency raised the value of electronic food vouchers for refugees in Cox’s Bazar from \$10 to \$11 in June, and then fully restored the value of the vouchers to \$12.50 per person per month in August. The full voucher amount also includes a valuation increase to provide fortified rice, which was introduced in January and scaled-up in all 33 camps in June, to improve nutritional intake for vulnerable populations. Previously, funding constraints in 2023 had forced the UN agency to reduce the value of monthly electronic food vouchers in Cox’s Bazar from \$12 to \$8 between March and June 2023, negatively affecting refugees’ daily food consumption, the UN reports. Notably, nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar depend exclusively on humanitarian aid to meet their basic food needs as of early August, according to the UN.

MSF Responds to Spike in Arrivals of Wounded Rohingya Refugees from Burma in Early August

Intensifying violence between ethnic armed organizations and the Myanmar Armed Forces in Burma’s Rakhine State has prompted a surge in violence-related injuries to Rohingya people crossing into Bangladesh since early August, according to the international nongovernmental organization (NGO) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Between August 3 and 7, MSF teams in Cox’s Bazar treated nearly 40 injured people, more than 40 percent of whom were women and children. The injuries, ranging from gunshot wounds to mortar shell impacts, peaked on August 6, with more than 20 people treated in a single day. MSF staff noted that the recent surge in injured people crossing into Bangladesh marks the first time since 2023 that the organization has encountered such a high volume of severe injuries. Rohingya refugees are also reporting severe protection violations while attempting to flee to Bangladesh, including bombardments resulting in civilian deaths and forced familial separations, according to MSF.

KEY FIGURES



\$87 Million

In USAID/BHA support for emergency food assistance and nutrition in FY 2024

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA provides funding to WFP to deliver emergency food assistance, such as food vouchers, to refugees in Bangladesh. USAID/BHA also supports complementary nutrition services for refugees and host communities, as well as coordination and capacity-building activities among other food security actors in Bangladesh to strengthen response efforts. In addition, State/PRM supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, and NGO partners to deliver complementary livelihood and nutrition services to refugees and other vulnerable individuals in Bangladesh. USAID/BHA also supports UNICEF to provide nutrition assistance, including malnutrition screenings for mothers and children and the delivery of ready-to-use therapeutic food.

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support humanitarian partners to address protection concerns among host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar. USG-supported protection activities focus on increasing access to protection services such as gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, child-friendly spaces, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, and legal assistance. State/PRM partner IOM provided



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USG partners supporting protection assistance programming

protection support in June by offering awareness trainings on counteracting trafficking efforts to nearly 12,200 people; directly assisting at least 40 trafficking victims; reaching more than 15,000 individuals with awareness campaigns about GBV; and providing GBV support services to at least 9,400 people.



13,700

Households received tie-down kits from USG partner IOM for cyclone and monsoon impact prevention during June

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA works with partners in Bangladesh to enhance community resilience to cyclones and other natural disasters by conducting disaster risk reduction activities, as well as infrastructure rehabilitation in host communities. State/PRM-supported shelter assistance in Bangladesh includes disaster preparedness, emergency shelter repairs, and distribution of shelter materials, such as plastic sheeting to prevent roof leaks, complemented by site coordination capacity-building activities. State/PRM partner IOM provided shelter materials to more than 700 households and assisted nearly 13,700 households with tie-down kits, during June, offering shelter upgrades to an estimated 2,100 families. USG partners also provide cash assistance for host community members and refugees to purchase local shelter materials to improve the resilience of their living spaces to natural disasters.



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USG partners implementing critical WASH programming

WASH

With State/PRM funding, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and other NGO partners address critical WASH needs in Cox's Bazar by improving drainage and waste removal systems, installing handwashing stations and latrines, providing hygiene supplies and safe drinking water, and strengthening community awareness of proper WASH practices to reduce the spread of disease. During June, State/PRM partner UNICEF provided nearly 274,000 refugees and at least 12,200 host community members with safe drinking water.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Bangladesh hosts nearly 1 million refugees, the majority of whom belong to the Rohingya ethnic minority group. The refugees fled Rakhine in August 2017 after Burma's military forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations, which the USG has since characterized as genocide. Nearly 943,000 of these refugees are residing in 33 crowded camps in Cox's Bazar, while more than 35,400 refugees had been relocated to Noakhali District's Bhasan Char Island as of July 2024.
- The potential repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Burma remains a primary concern among humanitarian actors and the international community, due to continued human rights violations against Rohingya populations in Burma and persistent humanitarian access restrictions that would limit relief actors' ability to provide assistance upon repatriation. Since the initial influx of more than 742,000 refugees in August 2017, the Government of Bangladesh has made multiple unsuccessful attempts to repatriate the refugees back to Burma in November 2018 and August 2019. Rohingya in Bangladesh have expressed concern regarding their physical safety should they return as well as uncertainty regarding their citizenship status, voting rights, and ability to return to their home villages.

- Bangladesh is one of the countries most affected by climate changes and is regularly exposed to recurrent natural hazards, including cyclones, floods, monsoon rains, and storm surges. Climatic shocks during FY 2024 have exacerbated humanitarian needs throughout the country. Tropical Cyclone Remal in May 2024 and heavy monsoon rainfall in July 2024 resulted in damage to critical infrastructure and the temporary displacement of refugees, thereby further increasing refugee needs for food assistance, livelihood support, protection services, safe drinking water, and shelter.
- On October 15, 2023, U.S. Ambassador Peter D. Haas re-issued a DHN for FY 2024 in response to ongoing humanitarian needs among Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh. U.S. Ambassador Haas also issued a DHN in response to humanitarian needs generated by the effects of flooding and landslides in Bangladesh on July 2, 2024.
- As a result of the civil unrest in Bangladesh since July, an interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus was sworn in on August 9 and plans to lead the country until a national election is held. An interim cabinet comprising members with significant development, human rights, and NGO experience was also announced in August.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BANGLADESH COMPLEX EMERGENCY AND ROHINGYA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR FLOOD AND ROHINGYA CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
BDRCS	MPCA	Sylhet Division	\$350,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Cox's Bazar, Bhasan Char	\$2,000,000
WFP	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice; Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$87,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$89,350,000
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$200,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice	Cox's Bazar	\$2,400,000
IOM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM); Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Livelihoods and Economic Recovery; Logistics Support; Monitoring and Evaluation; Protection; Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice (RMPP); Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$7,600,000
UNHCR	CCCM; Education; Health; HCIMA; Livelihoods and Economic Recovery; Logistics Support; Monitoring and Evaluation; Protection; RMPP; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$9,630,000
UNICEF	COVID-19 Response, Education, HCIMA, Health, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, RMPP, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$6,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$25,830,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR FLOOD AND ROHINGYA CRISIS RESPONSE			\$115,180,000

REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE ROHINGYA CRISIS RESPONSE

IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Indonesia	\$2,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE ROHINGYA CRISIS RESPONSE			\$2,700,000
TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE ROHINGYA CRISIS RESPONSE			\$2,700,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE BANGLADESH COMPLEX EMERGENCY AND ROHINGYA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$117,880,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 23, 2024.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)