



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Bangladesh

Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis
Joint Response Plan 2023

Nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees live in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee camp, and **are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance**. Already densely populated and affected by chronic poverty and climatic shocks, the Bangladeshi host community faces their own food security and livelihood challenges. As limited resources are overwhelmed and ecosystems increasingly come under strain, cost-effective emergency agricultural assistance is needed to enable host and refugee communities to meet their food needs themselves. For example, **refugee families can secure yields more than double the value of every dollar FAO invests** in vegetable production inputs.



TO ASSIST
75 400 people



FAO REQUIRES
USD 5.1 million



JANUARY–DECEMBER
2023

What investments in agriculture can achieve

USD 170

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With the seeds provided, a family can produce up to 200 kg of winter vegetables after 10 to 12 weeks.

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Support a refugee family of 5 to produce nutritious food and diversify their diets

USD 380

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With the seeds provided to families and farm machinery to their aggregation centres, each family can produce an estimated 1.1 tonnes of winter vegetables.

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Support a host community family of 5 to produce nutritious food and earn income

USD 50

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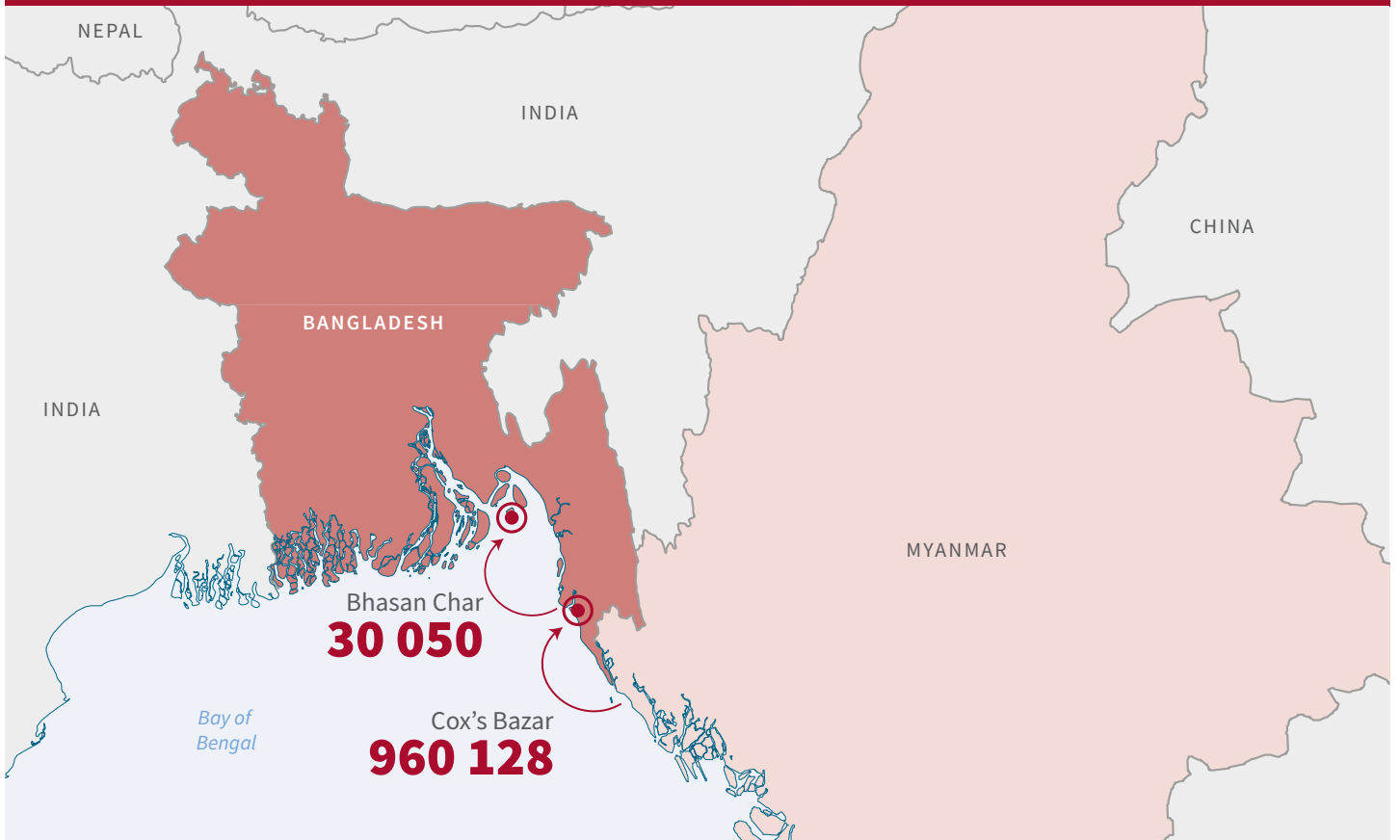
Cash for work enables a family to meet basic needs, while engaging in the rehabilitation and reforestation of land within the camps.

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Provide cash relief to refugee families, while preserving natural resources

Rohingya population figures in Bangladesh (as of June 2023)



Source: United Nations (UN) Geospatial. 2020. Bangladesh map. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/bangladesh-0>, modified to include UN Geospatial map for Myanmar (2020). <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/myanmar-0>. Data: UNHCR. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/bgd>

Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

Fleeing persecution and violence, Rohingya refugees began arriving in Cox's Bazar in 2017. There are now nearly 1 million Rohingya residing in Bangladesh, already one of the world's most densely populated countries facing high levels of poverty and climatic shocks. While refugee families are reliant on humanitarian assistance for all of their needs, host communities face their own livelihood challenges. Both populations face high levels of food insecurity; some 80 percent of Rohingya and 58 percent of host community members reported resorting to negative coping mechanisms to access their food or non-food needs. With significant stress on the environment and limited resources, refugee and host communities need urgent support, and environmentally-sound solutions, to improve food production and access. For example, cash for work activities benefit both host community members and refugees with much-needed income while supporting land stabilization, reforestation, forest maintenance and the creation of riparian zones inside and outside of the camps, thereby contributing to disaster risk reduction.

Coordination

As co-leads of the Food Security Sector in Cox's Bazar, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme work closely with 30 local and international partners, in collaboration with institutional counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

Drivers of food insecurity

- Refugee crisis
- Deforestation
- Climatic hazards
- High poverty rates
- Inadequate access to food and basic services

Key facts

Country population: **169.6 million**



960 128 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and **30 050** in Bhasan Char



537 900 host community members in Cox's Bazar subdistricts of Teknaf and Ukhiya



USD 1.60 out of 100 in humanitarian assistance to food sectors went to support agriculture and livelihoods (2016–2021)

In 2022, FAO reached a total of 12 500 families (62 500 people) with humanitarian assistance in Cox's Bazar. A total of 54.5 ha were reforested and stabilized, and two solar-operated, energy-efficient irrigation systems were installed, benefiting 1 000 farming families. Some 2 000 host community families received inputs to produce summer vegetables, and another 5 000 families received seeds to produce winter season vegetables. About 4 500 families belonging to farmers' groups benefited from the provision of 223 power tillers, water pumps and power threshers.



FAO priorities

Priority	Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package	Cost per beneficiary families (USD)	Number of beneficiary families	Total cost (USD)	Funds needed by	Planned implementation period
Support the food production capacity of Rohingya refugees	Training on homestead production and provision of micro-gardening inputs (watering can, sack, pheromone trap, bamboo, vermicompost fertilizer), summer vegetable seeds (40 g of bitter melon, cucumber, eggplant, sweet melon) and winter vegetable seeds (45 g of bottle melon, country bean, sweet melon, tomato)	170	4 000	680 000	May	June–December
Enable climate-smart, high-value crop production for host community farming cooperatives	80 g winter vegetable seeds (bottle melon, cauliflower, radish, tomato) per family, training, 30 units of farm machinery (power tillers, power threshers, tractors, water pumps, power reapers) and 10 sets of communications technology equipment	380	4 000 (10 aggregation centres)	1 520 000	July	September–December
Strengthen vulnerable host communities' resilience to shocks through alternative sources of livelihood and contribute to mitigating conflicts over natural resources	Support watershed management and disaster risk reduction through capacity building and cash for work to support land stabilization through reforestation (planting and maintenance) and the creation of riparian zones	260	5 000	1 300 000	May	June–December
Increase impact of natural resource management within refugee camps through coordination and capacity building	Training for various camp coordination mechanisms and refugees on the impacts of land stabilization, camp greening and ecosystem restoration to improve implementation and monitoring by camp stakeholders	30	6 000	180 000	May	June–December



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Contribute to improved land stabilization, watershed management and greening of refugee camps to mitigate risks against landslides, flash floods and higher temperatures	Cash for work to engage refugees in participatory planning and maintenance of rehabilitation and reforestation sites	50	5 000	250 000	May	June–December
	Ensure emergency preparedness by setting up landslide early warning systems, provide lifesaving training on disaster risk reduction, and stabilize land within the camps through cash for work	67.54	11 400	770 000		
Strengthen humanitarian coordination in Cox's Bazar	Support the Inter-Sector Coordination Group to enable efficient, data-driven humanitarian activity planning, implementation and monitoring	-	-	366 909	Year-round	Year-round

REQUIRED CITATION

FAO. 2023. *Bangladesh: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis Joint Response Plan 2023*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6641en>

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Contact

FAO Representation in Bangladesh
FAO-BD@fao.org | fao.org/bangladesh
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies
Rome, Italy

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations