



# HI humanitarian response in Bangladesh

Facts and figures

## Key figures

### Emergency response in Bangladesh

Since August 2017, HI has worked in 32 refugee camps, out of 34, and 10 Unions in surrounding host communities. In 2022, HI is working in 17 camps.

HI has helped more than **125,000** people since 2017, including some **40,000** people since 2020

### Since 2020:

- HI has provided physical rehabilitation services to more than 28,000 people
- HI has established five rehabilitation units in health facilities and 16 static points in camps
- HI has donated more than 30,000 assistive devices, including mobility aids such as walking frames and wheelchairs
- HI has provided mental health and psychosocial services to more than 6,100 people
- HI has chartered more than 9,200 lorries for NGOS partners
- HI has run two storage hubs for NGOs, in addition to one temporary hub dedicated to Covid response in 2020



© HI – Kutupalong refugee camp, Bangladesh

## Assistance for the Rohingya: an ongoing priority

In Bangladesh, almost one million stateless refugees, members of Myanmar’s Rohingya Muslim minority, are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance. They live in appalling conditions in camps with vastly inadequate sanitation and beset by violence and insecurity.

### Background

HI has been working in Bangladesh since 1997 and has been present in Cox’s Bazar for 15 years aiming at supporting Rohingya refugees.

After fleeing violence in Myanmar in August 2017, more than **700,000 Rohingya refugees** arrived in Bangladesh - a country already overwhelmed by poverty and at risk from natural disasters. They have joined established refugees who have arrived since the 1990s, swelling the Rohingya population in

Cox's Bazar to over **918,841<sup>1</sup> people, half of them children**, making the area the largest and most densely populated refugee camp in the world.

More than **1.3 million people<sup>2</sup>** are in need of humanitarian aid in Cox's Bazar district, including 34% of host communities. The most common needs for refugees include shelter, water-sanitation-hygiene facilities, access to food and water, capacity-building and education. The most commonly reported needs for host communities include access to food as well as to cash, reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, and despite associated measures to mitigate the spread of the virus on food security and livelihoods.

**The needs of people with disabilities** are also not sufficiently addressed, especially with regards to specialised services such as physical and functional rehabilitation and education.

Access to quality education remains out of reach particularly for children with disabilities.

HI also observed that response to these needs are rarely inclusive of people with disabilities.

## HI humanitarian response



Over the last five years, HI has been implementing an emergency response in aid of thousands of Rohingya refugees who have fled Myanmar since August 2017. This emergency response is implemented in addition to projects supported by HI in Rohingya refugee camps and host communities for more than 13 years, including official and makeshift refugee camps in Kutupalong, official refugee camps in Nayapara, and 10 villages in the Teknaf and Ukhiya areas.

© Abir Abdullah / HI - Rohingyas refugee camp, context

## Comprehensive and integrated services

Since October 2017, HI has provided comprehensive and integrated services to refugees and the host population, targeting the most vulnerable in need of specialised services:



© Zannatul / HI - Stump bandaging in a refugee camp

- **HI delivers functional and physical rehabilitation services** to people with disabilities or injuries who need physiotherapy sessions, assistive devices such as mobility aids (crutches, wheelchairs, walking frames, etc.) and advices to their caregivers.

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR population Factsheet – December 2021

<sup>2</sup> Joint Response Plan – Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis 2021



© HI - Home based psychosocial group session

- The organisation also runs a specific psychosocial support project and provides **mental health and psychosocial support**, since many Rohingya refugees suffer **serious trauma** due family separations, witnessing violence, and the like. As part of this project, HI provides psychological support individually and in groups, including discussion groups and peer support groups. The aim is to help them overcome their stress or trauma and to cope with the harsh realities of life in a refugee camp.



© Parvin / HI -Nursing care for pregnant women

- In addition, **HI multi-sectorial specialized teams meet the individual protection needs of very vulnerable people**, especially referrals to relevant services. They raise awareness on protection-related topics such as early marriage, girls' education, protection, human rights and sexual violence,) and organise recreational activities, especially for children to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities. **Team members** include physical therapists, psychosocial and social workers, safeguarding specialists, sports educators and local volunteers.

HI implements this approach through **Emergency mobile units** as part of an outreach/home-based approach, and **static points in camps** of which 16 are spread across the Ukhiya and Teknaf areas.

## Functional and physical rehabilitation units in health facilities



© Ezsmin / HI – Rehabilitation session in a Rohingyas refugee camp

**HI has set up five rehabilitation units** in existing health facilities in partnership with health humanitarian actors (MSF and IOM) and public health facilities (Teknaf and Ukhiya sub districts Health complex and Cox Sadaar hospital).

HI aims also to promote and strengthen the early identification of disability, prevention and early rehabilitation, through **training for medical staff** in basic physical rehabilitation services and the enhancement of referral mechanisms.

## Ensuring access to education for all children, enabling children with disabilities to go to school



© Nicolas Axelrod / HI - A Rohingya refugee child with disability is attending school thanks to HI inclusive education activities.

HI is enabling children, including children with disabilities, **to attend school in both refugee camps and host communities**. Identified children with disabilities are provided with direct personalised support for inclusive education, including home-based learning, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. HI also delivers **community-based awareness on inclusive education**.

In addition, the organisation develops a **capacity-building programme for education partners on inclusive education** that aims to enable them to effectively integrate children with disabilities into their programme planning, design, implementation and

monitoring.

## Ensuring logistical support



© Shumon Ahmed/HI - HI staff organising humanitarian material to address emergency response for Rohingya refugee crisis

HI, together with Atlas Logistique<sup>3</sup>, established a **logistics platform** in 2018 in Cox's Bazar. Through it, **HI provides both storage and transport services to national and international NGOs** to support them in their humanitarian activities for the benefit of refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar district, especially hard-to-reach areas. HI set up two storage hubs in Unchinprang and Leda as well as a temporary hub in Cox's Bazar dedicated to the Covid-19 response in 2020.

In addition, HI delivers a capacity-building program to strengthen the supply chain management skills of humanitarian stakeholders, including NGO staff, suppliers, and workers in host communities.

## Emergency preparedness

As **Cox's Bazar District is also prone to cyclones and monsoons**, HI works on **emergency preparedness**, through regular emergency preparedness drills, to improve its partners' abilities to secure storage infrastructures in case of emergency.

## Inclusive employment & economic empowerment to improve living conditions

HI strengthens the food security of the Rohingya population through economic empowerment support, focusing on the most vulnerable, especially people with disabilities. The organisation enables refugees to **access new sources of income**, develop new occupational or livelihood

<sup>3</sup> In 2006, HI merged with Atlas Logistique.

activities and to benefit in addition better recognition within their community in a more sustainable way.

HI also accompanies its livelihood partners by providing overall guidance on the dignified inclusion of people with disabilities within their livelihood activities.

## Advocating for inclusive humanitarian action

In order to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian action, HI employs a twin-track approach by mainstreaming disability (in addition to age and gender) in all programming, while employing specific actions to address the unique needs of people with disabilities.

HI also provides technical advice and capacity-building to humanitarian actors on inclusive humanitarian action and helps enhance data collection on disability.

In addition, HI aims to empower people with disabilities and their representative organisations to participate in humanitarian response.

Lastly, the organisation advocates for more inclusive policies and influences humanitarian decision-making at local and national humanitarian coordination level with all humanitarian actors, including nationals and international NGOs and UN agencies.

HI is also member of the Age-Disability working group that works closely with all sectorial coordination platforms to promote inclusive humanitarian action.

© Shumon Ahmed/HI - Rohingyas refugee camp, context

