

World Refugee Day

## Honoring Refugees and Host Communities for Building a Better Tomorrow

Border security & the armed forces must be urgently strengthened for dignified repatriation

21 June 2026

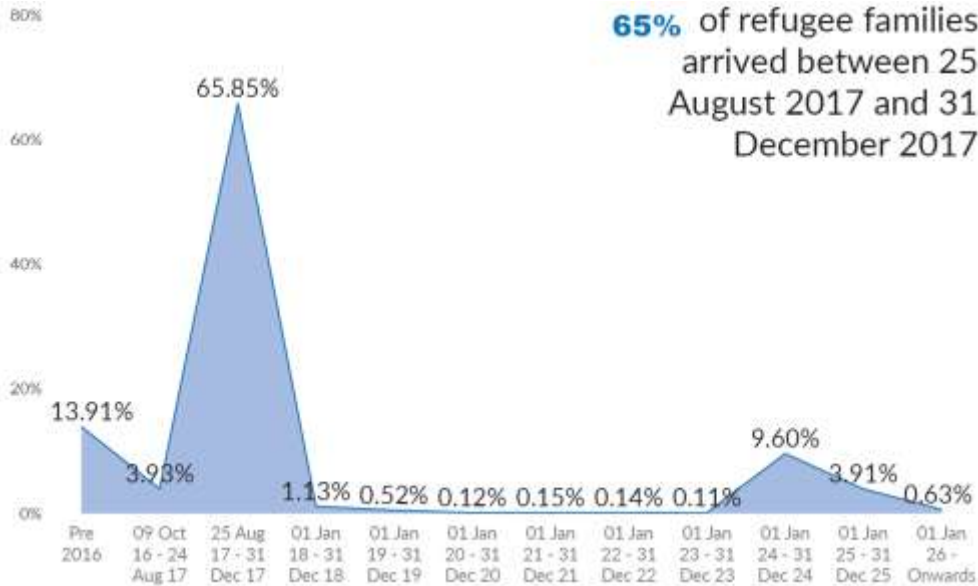


## Background



- Bangladesh hosts 2 million Rohingya (May 2026).
- Refugees are living in 33 camps in Ukhiya, Teknaf and Bhasan Char.
- Largest influx occurred in August 2017 following military violence in Myanmar.
- UN described the violence as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" and genocide.
- Bangladesh officially refers to Rohingya as Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs).

## Rohingya Influx is Continuing



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- 150,000 new arrivals entered Bangladesh in 2025.
- UNHCR identified 141,532 new arrivals (37,244 families) through biometric registration.
- Population increased from:
  - 1,005,675 (Jan 2025)
  - 1,182,755 (Jan 2026)
- Increase in one year:
  - 177,080 people
  - 35,548 newborn babies
- No repatriation has taken place in the last nine years.



## No Progress Toward Durable Solutions

- Safe and voluntary repatriation remains dreams.
- Camps continue to become overcrowded
- Host communities face increasing pressure
- Humanitarian funding is declining
- Assistance packages continue to shrink (food assistance etc.)
- Rohingya communities are losing hope.



## Humanitarian Reset Vision

### Core Principles:

- Locally led and globally supported humanitarian action.
- Community-centered response.
- Protection at the center, especially women and girls.
- Reduce bureaucracy and duplication.
- Strengthen accountability and localization.

### Commitments:

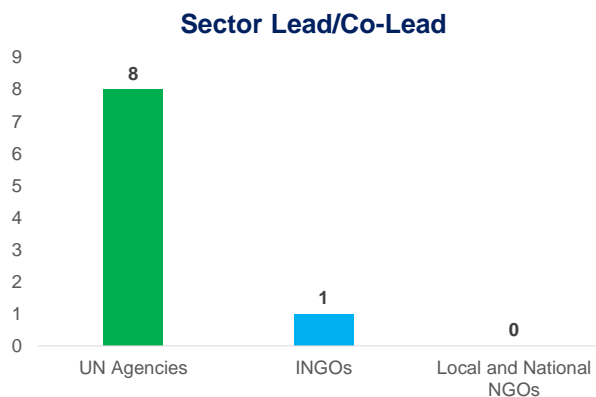
- Local leadership in coordination.
- Equitable partnerships with local actors.
- "As local as possible, as international as necessary."
- 70% pooled funding aspiration for local actors.



## Gap Between Commitments and Reality

### Coordination Leadership

- 8 major sectors
- 8 led by UN agencies
- Only 1 sector has an INGO co-lead (education sector)
- 0 local NGO sector lead
- 0 local NGO co-lead
- Humanitarian coordination remains controlled and managed by UN and international actors.



## UN OCHA Pooled Fund Allocation

### US Government recent Funding allocation through UN OCHA

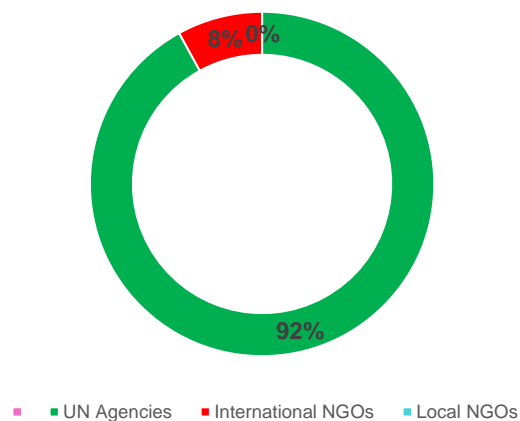
- Total allocation in Bangladesh US\$150 million
- 92% funding allocation to UN Agencies
- 8% funding allocation to International NGOs
- 0% funding to Local NGOs

### Concern:

This contradicts the Humanitarian Reset aspiration:

- 70% pooled funding should reach local actors.

UN OCHA Pooled Fund in Rohingya Response



## Contribution of Local NGOs

### Local NGOs have:

- Responded since 2017
- Maintained social cohesion
- Delivered emergency assistance
- Built trust with host communities
- Advocated for refugee rights

### COAST Foundation:

- APRRN member for 20+ years
- Emergency response since 2017
- Formed CCNF
- Conducted advocacy nationally & internationally
- Organized RHPW seminars
- Participated in European Humanitarian Forum



## Host Community is Being Left Behind

### Current Situation

- Social and economic pressures increasing
- Environmental degradation continues
- Host community needs excluded from JRP 2026 Funding
- NGOAB policy: 25–30% for affected host community
- Current JRP allocation: **Only 5%**



## Declining Sympathy & Security Challenges

- Local acceptance is declining.
- Competition over jobs and resources is increasing.
- Security incidents occur regularly.
- International attention to the crisis is decreasing.
- Fewer countries are actively pursuing durable solutions.

### Until repatriation becomes possible:

- Peaceful coexistence must be maintained.
- Investment in social cohesion is critical.
- Joint projects should benefit both refugees and host communities.
- Long-term stability depends on community trust.



## Border Security Challenges

- Cox's Bazar border has historically remained vulnerable.
- Large-scale movement and conflicts continue in Myanmar
- Weak border management creates humanitarian and security challenges.
- Allegations of drug trafficking from Myanmar further complicate the situation.



## Our Recommendations

1. The definition of local NGOs must be revised (origin and chief leadership are from Cox's Bazar)
2. NGOs operating from outside Cox's Bazar should gradually phase out their direct implementation roles in the camps.
3. Representatives of local government and elected Members of Parliament should be included in the Rohingya coordination structure
4. The concentrated funding structure should be reformed, and resources should be distributed more equitably among other qualified local NGOs.
5. Environmental Recovery Fund
6. International NGOs and UN agencies should provide mandatory training on localization for their staff.
7. Local NGOs should be engaged to ensure a cost-effective and sustainable Rohingya response.
8. Strengthen diplomatic efforts with Malaysia, China, and ASEAN countries to advance Rohingya repatriation.

## Our Recommendations

9. Need diplomacy at the international level to promote safe, voluntary, and dignified Rohingya repatriation.
10. Foreign diplomacy on the repatriation of Rohingya and use platforms
11. Need for a Joint Repatriation Plan (JRP 2.0) with a clear roadmap for safe, voluntary, and dignified return.
12. Rohingya community should promote peace, security, and well-being, and stop terrorism, drug trafficking, and arms dealing in the camps
13. Provide skill development training, travel pass
14. Increase diplomatic pressure and targeted sanctions on Myanmar
15. Accountability of the Myanmar Junta
16. International Court of Justice should expedite its decision on The Gambia's genocide case against Myanmar and ensure accountability for crimes
17. Modernize and strengthen the capacity of Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Army and the BGB

Thank you all!!