

### 1. Crisis overview<sup>i</sup>

|                       |                                                                                         |                                                                                          |                                                                                       |                                                                        |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3.4 / 5</b>        | <b>20 million</b>                                                                       | <b>4 million</b>                                                                         | <b>\$1.1billion</b>                                                                   | <b>46%</b>                                                             |
| Inform severity index | People in need of humanitarian aid (JRP 2025 1.65 million & HRP 2024-2025 18.4 million) | People targeted in the response plan (JRP 2025 1.48 million & HRP 2024-2025 2.5 million) | Required to reach the target (JRP 2025 \$953.4 million & HRP 2024-2025 \$134 million) | Of the required funding secured (JRP 2025 12.5% & HRP 2024-2025 27.6%) |
| <b>121 MSEK</b>       | <b>-</b>                                                                                | <b>7 MSEK</b>                                                                            | <b>128 MSEK</b>                                                                       |                                                                        |
| Initial allocation    | Additional allocation                                                                   | Flexible funding                                                                         | Total Sida funding 2025                                                               |                                                                        |

Across the country, some 20 million people need humanitarian assistance. The two response plans for the country, the Joint Response Plan (JRP) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), target 4 million people for assistance. Bangladesh is among the countries most likely to experience extensive flooding and destructive cyclones and was ranked the seventh most disaster risk-prone country in the world as per the Global Climate Risk Index (CCPI 2021). This triggers humanitarian crises on a cyclical basis and in 2024 over 18.4 million people have been affected by four climate emergencies in Bangladesh, that have displaced millions, destroyed crops, shelters and infrastructure, disrupted education and livelihoods. This will likely exacerbate the needs of the 23.6 million people already facing acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, Phase 3 or above), which is over a quarter of the country's population.

It is now more than seven years since the start of the Rohingya crisis in 2017. More than one million Rohingya have been displaced from Rakhine State in Myanmar following systematic ethnic violence. The Rohingya mainly reside within 33 camps in Cox's Bazar district which are the largest and most densely populated camps in the world. Due to its location, Cox's Bazar is particularly vulnerable to flash floods during monsoon seasons and frequent cyclones. Restrictions of the rights of Rohingya refugees continue with limited freedom of movement, no right to livelihood, income generation or formal education and without any durable solutions in sight. These restrictions contribute to a deteriorating security situation and already severe protection crisis, with an increase in organised crime (drugs and human trafficking, kidnapping and abductions), homicides, suicide and political violence. The dire conditions have led to an increase of refugees leaving Bangladesh, often embarking on dangerous routes at sea.

## 2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

In the past year, Bangladesh has seen a rapidly deteriorating situation of acute food insecurity in several parts of the country. The highest percentage of population in IPC 4 (emergency phase) are the Rohingya refugees and people living in the northern Sunamganj and Kurigram districts. Food insecurity is fuelled by a high inflation, reduced purchasing power and income loss, trade disruptions and record high food prices, especially in agricultural areas affected by recurring climate shocks leading to agricultural production loss. In August 2024, large-scale anti-government protests resulted in violence and hundreds of casualties, leading to the resignation and end of a 15-year long reign by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This political unrest further disrupted supply chains and led to even more deterioration in the food security situation across the country.

Following the landfall of Cyclone Remal on 26 May 2024, more than 4.6 million people were affected by extensive flooding and destruction across eight coastal districts. This was soon followed by flooding in north-eastern regions of the country in June, causing further damage to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods of 3.7 million people. In July, another seven districts in north-western region were flooded, impacting over five million people. In August, 11 districts in eastern Bangladesh were struck by flash floods, affecting an additional 5.8 million people. In total, more than 18.4 million people across 45 per cent of Bangladesh have been affected by climate emergencies since May. As a result, the risk of waterborne disease has increased along with food insecurity, further depleting community resilience and forcing people to resort to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, child marriage and school dropouts.

Malnutrition levels amongst Rohingya children in Cox's Bazar are alarming and getting worse due to food ration cuts introduced in 2023. The isolated island Bhasan Char which hosts nearly 36,000 Rohingya refugees has not yet been affected by food ration cuts but malnutrition levels remain high amongst children aged 6-59 months with only somewhat lower levels of stunting, wasting and anaemia. It is expected that current flooding and increasing food insecurity in the country is likely to have a further negative impact on child nutrition and the overall protective environment for vulnerable groups. This is evidenced in the camps in Cox's Bazar where the dire situation is having a negative impact on the protective environment with organisations on the ground reporting a deteriorating security situation with increased levels of criminal activity and gender-based violence (GBV). There have also been reports of increased tension and conflict between host communities and Rohingya refugees, for example in regard to income opportunities and payment of rent by refugees in exchange for using land. Women, girls, and boys, who make up more than 75 per cent of the refugee population, are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and GBV. Children make up more than half of the refugee population and are particularly vulnerable.

The political imperative within Bangladesh to treat the Rohingya influx as a temporary crisis with repatriation as the only solution, is limiting longer-term planning and infrastructural investment. Rohingya refugees lack freedom of movement outside the refugee camps in Cox's

Bazar and on Bhasan Char and have limited access to fulfilment of their rights to basic services and livelihood opportunities. There has been some progress in the lengthy advocacy work in improving rights to education and skills development opportunities. However, the Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-7) report indicates that 97 per cent of all Rohingya households are moderately to highly vulnerable and remain entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance. The most commonly reported needs for Bangladeshi host communities around the camps in Cox's Bazar include shelter materials, income-generating activities and employment and healthcare. Other priority needs among the host community include cooking fuel, access to safe and functional latrines and clean drinking water.

Despite escalating violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar, the government maintains its 'closed border' policy, denying access to safety in Bangladesh, with reports of thousands of incidents of refoulement in recent months. Meanwhile, tens of thousands have managed to flee into Bangladesh and although the government has authorized a headcount (totalling nearly 65,000 individuals) they have not yet allowed for biometrics or registration of new arrivals, obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Forceful repatriation to Myanmar is a constant threat and it remains to be seen whether the interim government of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus will change government policies towards Rohingya refugees. The international community maintains its firm position that conditions need to be conducive for repatriation to take place and that repatriation needs to be voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable. Until such conditions are met, the Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh will need to be provided with humanitarian and development assistance to ensure their protection and basic needs are met.

### 3. The humanitarian response

The humanitarian responses in Bangladesh are coordinated through two separate structures, both co-led by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). The humanitarian response outside of the Rohingya response is mostly related to climate disasters and is planned and coordinated through the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), which is co-led by the UN RC and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). The HCTT develops Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) for specific humanitarian crises, mostly natural disasters, and has recently done so in the form of the Cyclone and Monsoon Floods Humanitarian Response Plan (June 2024-March 2025). Out of 18.4 million people affected, including 6.4 million people in need of assistance, the HRP targets 2.5 million people with a funding requirement of \$134 million. As of end of November, the HRP is funded at 27.6 per cent and Sweden is the fourth largest contributor (after Central Emergency Response Fund CERF, Canada and Japan). Sector and cluster leads are working closely with authorities and local organisations in assessing needs and coordinating the response. Waterlogged areas and the recent government ouster, and the subsequent changes to leaders in both national and local government authorities, might have a negative impact on the efficiency of the humanitarian response.

Rohingya crisis response: The Rohingya crisis response is planned in the annual Joint Response Plan (JRP) and led by the Strategic Executive Group (SEG), chaired by the UN RC, UNHCR and IOM, which liaises with Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). The current UN-led Joint Response Plan (JRP) 2025 for the Rohingya response targets 1.48 million people, including both Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities. The 2025 JRP (launched in March 2025) is currently funded at 12.5 per cent. Because of persistent underfunding, WFP was in 2023 forced to introduce a 33 per cent food ration cut for the Rohingya population, while soap distribution was reduced by half and cooking gas distribution cycles were lengthened. As it stands, WFP can maintain full rations (i.e. 12 USD per person per month) until the end of August 2025. The largest donors to the Rohingya refugee response used to be the US (58 per cent of the JRP). It is now the EU (including ECHO), Australia, UK, Korea, Japan, Sweden and Canada. Swedish funding represents around 2 per cent of total funding against the JRP. Main donor priorities include multi-sector programming focused on basic needs of the Rohingya refugee population and a number of donors complement their humanitarian funding with resilience and development/nexus support. Switzerland, Norway and Germany are likeminded donors to Sweden, providing flexible and unearmarked core funds to UN agencies.

The global freeze and scale-back of US humanitarian funding announced in January 2025 is having major consequences on aid operations and the funding of the two response plans in Bangladesh. The RC and the HCTT are adapting the responses in light of the new funding landscape.

In 2022, the humanitarian community finalised a set of principles of rationalisation that aim to ensure that all Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have equitable access to all basic services in a predictable, efficient, and timely manner, and that the humanitarian community is transparent and accountable in its interventions. Rationalisation and streamlining efforts have continued throughout 2024. In addition, a further prioritisation of activities identifying those that are “firewalled” as life-saving and should be funded first was introduced in 2023. The first Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA) in four years was also completed in 2023 and has allowed for a review of prioritised needs.

## 4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

The focus of Sida's humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh in 2025 is two-fold. The first priority is to address acute and life-saving needs and support advocacy for dignity in the humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar, including access to livelihoods and education. Secondly, Sida will prioritise the response to acute food insecurity for the most vulnerable households and IPC 4 hotspots in the country and has through flexible funding prioritised the populations most affected by natural disasters.

Given the protracted nature of the Rohingya crisis, Sweden will prioritise support to partners who play a key role in coordination, dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh and have a

strong operative presence, provide protection interventions while building local capacity and provide skills development and livelihood interventions.

To address food insecurity in IPC 4 hotspots, Sida will prioritise an integrated approach by providing for example food assistance through cash provision, WASH, health, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), GBV, protection services, and livelihood support to disaster-vulnerable communities.

Quality funding through a Programme-Based Approach (PBA) will provide partners with flexibility in both the Rohingya refugee response and other IPC 4 hotspots across the country. The PBA will also allow for monitoring of natural disasters and humanitarian response when climate-related disasters arise.

| INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)        |                                                                                   |                    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| PARTNER                         | SECTOR                                                                            | INITIAL ALLOCATION |
| Action Against Hunger (AAH)     | Food assistance, WASH, Health, Nutrition, MHPSS, GBV, Protection                  | 13,000,000         |
| Islamic Relief                  | Food security & livelihoods, WASH, Protection                                     | 17,000,000         |
| Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | ICLA, Education, Shelter, WASH, Coordination                                      | 11,500,000         |
| Save the Children               | Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Child protection, Food security & livelihoods | 10,000,000         |
| IRC                             | Protection, GBV, Health, Food Security & livelihoods                              | 10,000,000         |
| WFP                             | Food Security, Nutrition                                                          | 25,000,000         |
| UNHCR                           | Multi-sector                                                                      | 34,500,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    |                                                                                   | <b>121,00,000</b>  |

| FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS (SEK) |                  |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| PARTNER                                         | FLEXIBLE FUNDING | ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION |
| Start Fund Bangladesh                           | 7,000,000        | -                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>7,000,000</b> | <b>-</b>              |

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<sup>i</sup> The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.