

1. Summaryⁱ

16	16.3 million	68 MSEK	0 MSEK	0 MSEK	68 MSEK
Humanitarian crisis ranking (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱ	Number of people with humanitarian needs (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱⁱ	Initial allocation for 2026	Additional allocation in 2026	Flexible funding in 2026	Total Sida funding in 2026

The humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh is protracted, deeply influenced by multiple factors. The most prominent one is the long-standing plight of Rohingya refugees fleeing violence and persecution in neighbouring Rakhine State of Myanmar. There is currently no realistic prospect of safe return of the nearly 1.2 million Rohingya refugees sheltered in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, as conflict in Myanmar continues; some 140,000 fled to Bangladesh in the past year.¹ Bangladesh is also exposed to a variety of natural hazard-induced disasters including cyclones, floods, and earthquakes, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities among both refugees and the Bangladesh population.

Another significant driver is economic instability, which has led to persistent poverty and limited access to essential services, causing disruptions in livelihoods and access to food. As a result, in 2025, approximately 15.4 million people in Bangladesh were estimated to be facing severe food insecurity, with hotspots quickly erupting when emergency strikes.²

Sida will allocate an initial amount of SEK 68 million in 2026. The focus of Sweden's humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh in 2026, is to address acute and life-saving needs and support advocacy for dignity in the humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugees and host communities. Priority is given to partners who play a key role in coordination and dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh, and have a strong operational presence, providing protection interventions while building local capacity and supporting skills development and livelihood interventions.

¹ Rohingya Refugee Response Bangladesh, [2025-26 Joint Response Plan Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, January 2025 - December 2026 | UNHCR](#), April 2025 (Accessed 2026-03-02).

² IPC, [Bangladesh: Acute Food Insecurity Current Situation for April and Projection for May - December 2025 | IPC](#), June 2025 (Accessed 2025-12-08).

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Rohingya refugees remain highly vulnerable, living in overcrowded camps with limited access to food, sanitation, education, livelihoods and healthcare. Declining funding, overstretched agencies, aging infrastructure, insecurity, population growth and restricted movement have eroded services and increased negative coping. Vulnerable groups, youth, women and girls, older people, and persons with disabilities (9.2 per cent of the population with many needs of assistive devices), are disproportionately affected. Youth (approximately 32 per cent of the Rohingya population), face elevated risks of negative coping strategies, especially early marriage, early pregnancy, child trafficking and recruitment by organised groups. Women and girls experience reduced mobility, limited access to safe spaces, increased unpaid care burden and gender based violence (GBV), while older persons are among the most at-risk in emergency situations with limited preparedness support.

New Rohingya arrivals are significantly vulnerable across all sectors, with a notably reduced coverage of WASH and NFI support, acute shelter insecurity, and exposure to exploitation, debt and risks of GBV.³ 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.

The Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-8) report indicates that 95 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 the violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar, the Bangladesh Government maintains its 'closed border' policy, denying access to safety for the Rohingya in Bangladesh, with constant reports of incidents of refoulement. Nevertheless, more than 140,000 Rohingya have managed to flee into Bangladesh in 2025, increasing needs and pressure on essential services, adding to overcrowding in the camps, and exacerbating living conditions, protection risks and negative community dynamics.⁴ Forceful repatriation to Myanmar is a constant threat and it remains to be seen whether the new government (elected in February 2026) will change 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 Rohingya Refugee Response Bangladesh, [2025-26 Joint Response Plan Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis January 2025 - December 2026 | UNHCR](#), April 2025 (Accessed 2025-12-08).

⁴ Ibid.

Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh is also prone to seasonal flooding, landslides and cyclones, making the country one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change. While emergency preparedness and response mechanisms have saved lives before and during major disasters, climate change and environmental degradation are likely to worsen the frequency and intensity of these natural hazard-induced disasters, contributing to increasing humanitarian needs. Bangladesh experiences high levels of food insecurity, exacerbated by economic challenges and climate change, affecting both urban and rural populations. Access to basic services is severely limited in rural areas, with structural poverty and a lack of infrastructure exacerbating the needs of communities. Predictable shocks, including seasonal flooding and cyclones, necessitate consistent humanitarian response strategies to address recurring crises effectively.

3. The humanitarian response

Since 2017, the humanitarian responses in Bangladesh have been coordinated through two separate structures, both co-led by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). By the end of 2025, a leaner, more agile coordination structure was endorsed by partners and the Government of Bangladesh.

1.58 million	\$710.5 million	50%
People targeted in the updated response plan (JRP 2026)	Required to reach the target (JRP for 2026)	Of the funding secured (JRP 2025-2026)

In 2026, UNHCR will assume the coordination leadership function of the Rohingya response and establish a Rohingya Coordination Team (RCT). The over 150 UN and NGO partners contributing to the Government-led response will be coordinated in the Rohingya Coordination Platform (RCP). The UN RC, as the highest-ranking representative of the UN Development System in Bangladesh, will continue to chair the UN Country Team (UNCT) and a newly created Humanitarian Team (HT), comprised of UN agencies and representatives of donors, NGOs, international financial institutions and other key partners to provide regular national-level consultation on, and coordination of, overall humanitarian assistance in Bangladesh, including natural disasters.

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) when needed. Sector and cluster leads are working closely with authorities and local organisations in assessing needs and coordinating the response.

The Rohingya crisis response is planned in the bi-annual 2025/26 Joint Response Plan (JRP) as a two-year framework. While the context and response priorities set out in JRP 2025/26 remain valid, the profoundly challenging funding environment has necessitated a mid-term review of sector plans and a scaled-down and prioritized appeal of USD 710.5 million in the JRP Update for 2026 (26 per cent less than the total 2025 funding requirement of USD 965 million). The 2026 JRP targets 1.56 million individuals and aims to reach a population of 1.25 million Rohingya refugees and

approximately 307,000 host community members. Reducing the overall appeal for 2026 despite a growing Rohingya refugee population and increased needs comes at a steep cost, including a sharp decline in sector and partner capacity to respond to unforeseen emergencies, reduced staffing and monitoring capabilities, and significantly diminished assistance levels and coordination capacity. The consequences of reduced assistance in 2026 will reverberate across the entire response reinforcing the importance of prioritising a minimum assistance and service package for Rohingya refugees. Cuts in support fuel dangerous onward movements, destabilize camps, force families to sell their assets and non-food items, and erode the overall security environment, threatening social cohesion within and outside the camps. Promoting localisation through increasing the role of national NGOs, local civil society organisations and Rohingya communities in delivering frontline services will be vital in 2026 to ensure operational sustainability in a resource-constrained environment.

The largest donors to the JRP include the US, EU, Australia, UK, Korea, Japan, Canada and Sweden. 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.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

The focus of Sida's humanitarian support to Bangladesh in 2026 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. Given the protracted nature of the Rohingya crisis, Sweden will prioritise support to partners who play a key role in coordination and dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh, and have a strong operative presence, providing protection interventions while building local capacity and supporting skills development and self-reliance interventions.

Sida has selected partners that can deliver principled assistance, either directly or indirectly through local partnerships, and through a combination of direct service delivery, in-kind assistance, and both sectoral and multi-purpose cash assistance. Sida will provide support based on the Programme-Based Approach (PBA) to CSO partners, which offers flexibility in how funds are allocated to meet specific needs in line with Grand Bargain commitments, as well as unearmarked funding to UN partners.

In order to strengthen local and national actors in humanitarian action and to the Grand Bargain's overall efforts to improve and streamline aid, support was given to the locally led humanitarian pooled fund and organisation Start Fund Bangladesh (SFB, part of Start Network) for work 2025 and 2026 totalling SEK 18,1 million. The programme SFB has been assessed to have strong capacity to respond early to small and medium scale crises, particularly natural disasters. The SFB has been assessed to reach communities rapidly to alleviate human suffering, enhance resilience, reduce use of negative coping mechanisms, and minimise the loss of assets. As Bangladesh ranks high in terms of climate disaster risk and is prone to several types of recurrent extreme weather events and the

ability of this fund to release funding within 72 hours of a crisis alert, it fills a crucial gap in humanitarian funding in Bangladesh.

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	8,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	8,000,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	31,000,000
United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)	21,000,000
TOTAL	68,000,000

ⁱ The 2026 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.

ⁱⁱ Sida's initial allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each crisis-affected country: 1) magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs 2) capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to needs and 3) capacity of the crisis-affected country to respond to needs. The qualitative and quantitative analysis produces an index scoring for each country, where the highest ranked country is found to have the greatest proportion of unmet severe humanitarian needs globally, based on available data. Sida's initial allocation for 2026 includes a total of 25 countries with the highest scores. For more information please see Initial Allocation Methodology.

ⁱⁱⁱ Sida uses the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs which is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Bangladesh, the source is GHO 2026 complemented with IPC 2025 for people with humanitarian needs outside refugee-hosting areas.