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Country Sheet

Bangladesh





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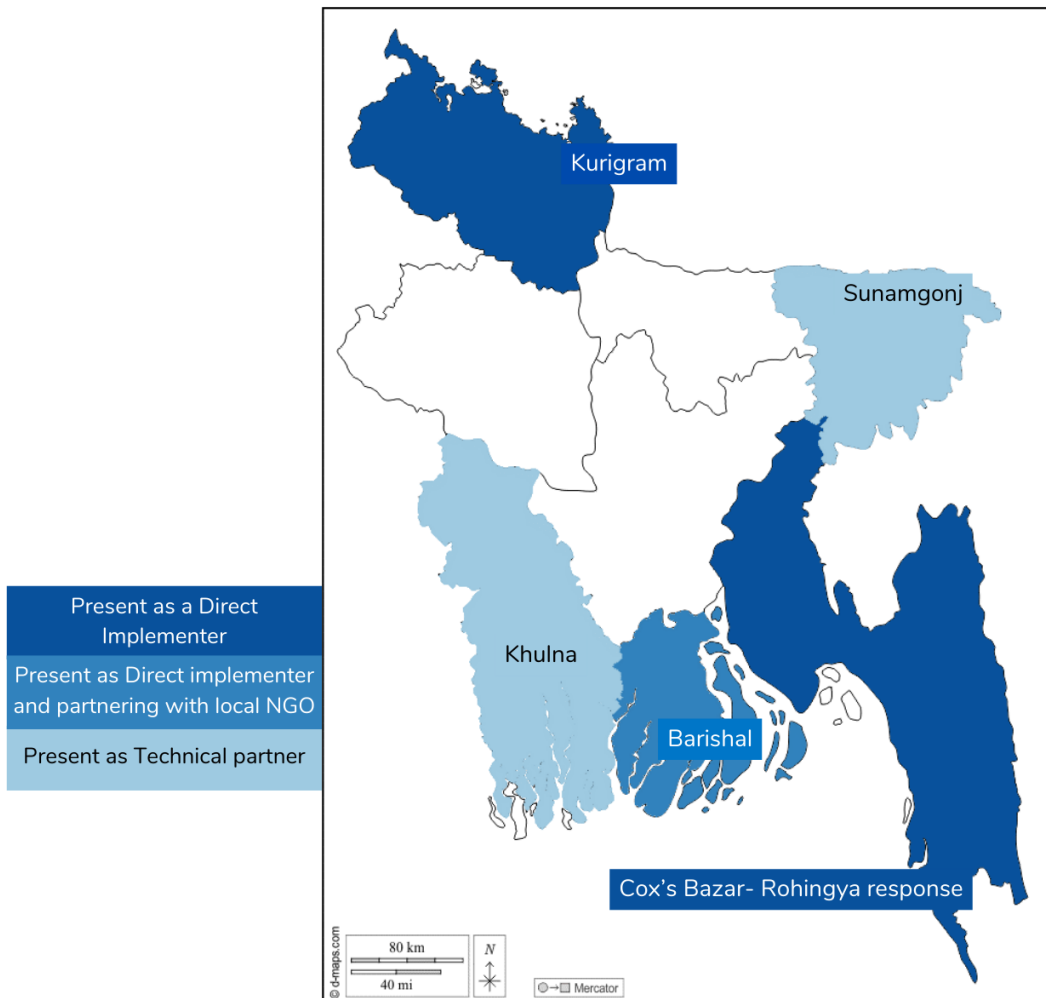
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HI Team and intervention areas

HI Bangladesh, in the South Asia Regional Program has 356 staff members. M. 241, F. 115 and persons with disabilities 9).

This map shows division-wise presence of HI in Bangladesh.





General data of the country

General data

DATA	Bangladesh	India	Belgium
Population	172.954.319	1.428.627.663	11.8
IHDI	0.47	0.444	0.878
SIGI Score	49.3	43	7.4
Maternal mortality	123	103	5
GINI Index	33,4	32.8	26.6
Population within UNHCR mandate	984.671	269.924	22.589
INFORM RISK	5.8	5.4	2.1
Fragile State Index	85.9	72.3	30.3
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	22.5	24.4	100
Net official development assistance received	5.192,8	2.831,2	0

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian Law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Ratified 06/09/2000
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Non-Signatory
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified 30/11/2007 Optional Protocol Accessed 12/05/2008
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Ratified 6/12/1994
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CDC)	Ratified 03/08/1990



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Ratified 1990
International Convention on Enforced Disappearances	29/08/2024

Geopolitical analysis

1. Social/cultural/demographic context

Bangladesh ("The Land of Bengal"), officially the People's Republic of Bangladesh, shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Most of the country is dominated by the fertile Ganges-Brahmaputra delta; the north-western and central parts of the country are formed by the Madhupur and Barind plateaus. Bangladesh is predominantly a rich, fertile plain. Most of the country is less than 12m above sea level, and it is estimated that about 10% of the land would be submerged by a 1m rise in sea level. 17% of the country is covered by forests and 12% by hill systems. Bangladesh is the eighth most populous country in the world, with 98% of the population being Bengali.

2. Political context

The Constitution of Bangladesh establishes a unitary, Westminster-style parliamentary republic with universal suffrage. The Prime Minister is supported by a parliamentary majority (usually the leader of the largest party). Parliamentary elections are held every five years. Bangladeshi politics is dominated by two political parties: the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by Ziaur Rahman's widow, Khaleda Zia, and the Bangladesh Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughter, Sheikh Hasina. Since independence in 1971, there have been regular military coups, the most recent in 2014. The last general elections were held in January 2024, granting a fourth consecutive mandate to the Awami League government led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. While the elections were largely peaceful, they were boycotted by the opposition, which raised accusations regarding their independence. The last general elections were held in January 2024, granting a fourth consecutive mandate to the Awami League government led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. While the elections were largely peaceful, they were boycotted by the opposition, which raised accusations regarding their independence. The political landscape shifted dramatically following massive student-led protests that escalated into a political uprising in July and August 2024, resulting in the resignation and ouster of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024. An interim government, led by Dr. Yunus and supported by 21 advisors, was formed on August 8, 2024. The tenure of this interim government is limited,



and there is no clarity on when new elections will be held to establish a democratically elected government.

Even after the interim government's formation, largely peaceful protests continue, with various groups raising multiple demands. The interim administration has reversed many decisions made by the previous government and replaced officials across all departments, impacting the functionality of key government services, including law enforcement agencies.

Moreover, many individuals—including former ministers, members of parliament, and Awami League functionaries—are being arrested and face multiple lawsuits.

3. Economic context

As of 2023, Bangladesh is estimated to have a PPP (purchasing power parity) adjusted GDP per capita of \$8,171 and is classified as a lower middle-income country. Bangladesh met the UN criteria to graduate from the category of Least Developed Countries in February 2021. Macroeconomic policies in recent years have been successful in keeping inflation stable, debt-to-GDP low, and external buffers adequate. Bangladesh experienced GDP growth rates of 7.32% and 7.88% in 2018 and 2019. Due to the impact of COVID19, the country's GDP growth rate was only 3.45% in 2020 but increased to 6.94% in 2021. The main drivers of the country's GDP growth include its exports of ready-made garments, remittances and the domestic agricultural sector.

Bangladesh is a great producer of gas and coal and exports a lot of jute, tea, leather goods, textile, fish and sea food. The pharmaceutical industry meets 97% of domestic demand, and exports to different countries. Shipbuilding has grown rapidly, with exports to Europe.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI launched its programme in Bangladesh in 1997 to promote the long-term rights and social inclusion of people with disabilities. Bangladesh, Nepal and India have developed Community Approaches to Handicap in Development (CAHD) in partnership with the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and the Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM).

In response to the influx of hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas fleeing neighbouring Myanmar since August 2017, HI is providing assistance to people living in extreme precarity. Our teams deliver rehabilitation care, mental health and psychosocial support, protection and sexual and reproductive health research (SRH) support to thousands of people. HI has also



set up a logistics platform with humanitarian aid storage facilities and a fleet of lorries that transport humanitarian aid for HI and other organisations.

HI encourages the inclusion of the most vulnerable by supporting their access to services, such as rehabilitation and inclusive employment, and their participation in society.

The organisation also improves access to education for all children, including children with disabilities, developmental delays and psychological disorders in camps for Rohingya refugees. Our teams train teachers to include children with disabilities in the classroom, organise rehabilitation sessions for children with disabilities to facilitate their access to school and raises community awareness of their right to education.

HI also takes action to ensure that people with disabilities have access to a source of income, giving them financial independence and improving their acceptance by their communities.

HI works with most vulnerable communities, especially persons with disabilities living in disaster prone and environmentally fragile areas to include them in disaster risk reduction plannings and to build their capacities to deal with disasters.

Areas of intervention:

- Functional Rehabilitation
- Logistics
- Inclusive DRR and CCA
- Inclusive Education
- Economic Inclusion
- Inclusive Health
- Inclusive Humanitarian Action
- Protection Against Violence and Abuse



Overview on ongoing projects

Project title and main sectors of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners
Inclusive specialized services for vulnerable persons including persons with disabilities in Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps and host communities (Phase 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi sectoral response in camps and host communities through providing direct services including Rehabilitation, Hearing and Vision care, Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, inclusive Sexual Reproductive Health services including basic nursing care at camp levels: static point and home based.• Provision of physical and functional rehabilitation services and assistive device provision camp and host communities (including Government hospitals).• Capacity development of different stakeholders on emergency, preventive and post - operative functional rehabilitation care, disability identification, basic screening, referral and inclusive DRR.• Inclusive Humanitarian Action- Advocacy for humanitarian stakeholders at national and local levels.	181,666 individuals	Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)



<p>Provision of integrated comprehensive support to persons with disabilities and other vulnerable people while strengthening the Capacities of humanitarian actors through inclusive humanitarian action and coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi sectoral response in camps and host communities through providing direct services • Stimulation therapy • Capacity building of organization of persons with disabilities (OPD), humanitarian actors and volunteers on Inter agency standing committee guidelines and Inclusive Humanitarian Action. • Community led action on inclusion through Self Help Groups members • Inclusive Humanitarian Action- Advocacy for humanitarian stakeholders at national and local levels. 	<p>37,765 individuals</p>	<p>Centre for Disabilityin Development (CDD)</p>
<p>Enhancing the well-being of refugees and the underprivileged host communities in Cox's Bazar through inclusive and complementary protection, health, education, and advocacy interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi sectoral response in camps and host community providing direct Services • Inclusive Humanitarian Action • Promoting and strengthening inclusion through peer support groups and organization of persons with disabilities in camps and host communities. 	<p>14,702 individuals</p>	<p>Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [Consortium lead]</p> <p>Protibondhi Narider Jatio Parisad-NCDW [Operational Partner]</p>



Rohingya Response and National Resilience Programme (RRNRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi sectoral response in camps and host community providing direct • Inclusive Humanitarian Action • Promoting and strengthening inclusion through peer support groups and organization of persons with disabilities in camps and host communities. 	13,000 individuals	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [Consortium lead]
Inclusive Emergency Assistance to Crisis Affected Populations in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi sectoral response in camps and host community providing direct Services • Provide training on Disability Inclusion, Inclusive DRR and low-cost assistive devices for Community volunteers from CBP partner, CCP & SMS team and community people. • Review, Adapt, and Action Learning Laboratory (RAAL-Lab) workshop: 3 UNHCR implementing partners • Form and mobilize Disability Inclusion Promotion Groups. 	7,068 individuals	Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)
Enhancing Logistics Capacity of Humanitarian Actors And Building Resilience Of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a free of cost mutualized transport and storage services in Cox's Bazar district with focus on national and local organizations. • Capacity building program for humanitarian stakeholders in Cox's Bazar district and Barishal district • Training on inclusive search and rescue through simulations / drills for 	1,567 individuals	Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)



Vulnerable Communities Of Cox's Bazar And Barishal District	<p>Disaster Management Committee (DMC) members and Cyclone Preparedness Plan (CPP) volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and support Disaster Management Committees (DMC) to establish community based accessible early warning system including community contingency plans • Community level awareness on: Risk, hazards and early warning system through developing inclusive IEC materials • Provision of emergency shelter support or reasonable accommodation to improve safety and accessibility. • Cyclone Remal response through multi purpose cash grants and AD provision. 		
Access to Education for Children with Disabilities in Rohingya Refugee Camps and Host Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building of education sector partner staff, volunteers and identified teachers including master trainers on inclusive education. - Provision of assistive devices to children with disabilities in 30 camps across Ukhiya and Teknaf. - Multi sector support to children with disabilities and their caregivers on functional rehabilitation, inclusive education and inclusive sports. 	<p>3,500 individuals</p>	<p>UNICEF Implementing Partners (8 organizations)</p>



Education for Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individualized functional rehabilitation, recreational, and education support to identified children with disabilities in camps and host community. - Capacity development of teachers, SMC members, volunteers, education actors' partners staff, and Self-Help Group on inclusive pedagogy, gender and inclusion, and safeguarding. 	1,770 individuals	Save the Children, [Consortium lead]
Socio-economic Empowerment of Extreme Poor and Poor People Living in Flood-prone District of Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community based rehabilitation and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. - Economic inclusion and connection with social protection schemes of most vulnerable including persons with disabilities - Promoting inclusion through trainings of gvt stakeholders and capacity development of youth, women and disabled persons organizations especially on social safety nets and inclusive DRR. - Community capacity development on inclusive DRR including early warning systems and response. 	779 individuals	None
Improved quality of life for women/girls and persons with disabilities in Kurigram District,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community based rehabilitation and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. - Economic inclusion of most vulnerable including persons with disabilities/caregivers - Promoting inclusion through peer support groups and collaboration with women and disabled persons organizations. 	898 Individuals	Association for Alternative Development (AFAD)










Bangladesh through poverty graduation and mainstreaming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability and inclusion trainings for rehabilitation (Rehabilitation Professional Association) and livelihood service providers. - Community awareness on protection, rehabilitation services, vocational education services, local market dynamics, and local financial services. - Local and national advocacy on inclusion 		
Adaptation in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh. Nature Based Adaptation towards Prosperous and Adept Lives & Livelihoods in Bangladesh (NABAPALLA B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barriers and Facilitators assessment - Technical Capacity enhancement of the participants on Disability Inclusion, Inclusive WASH, Inclusive Livelihood, Inclusive DRR &CCA - Develop evidence-based practices - Provide technical support to ensure inclusion in the interventions 	N/A	Care Bangladesh [Consortium lead]
Improving disability inclusion in the Rohingya and Host Communities Humanitarian Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification and assessment of person with disability at household level across all 33 camps and incorporating persons with disabilities data in UNHCR ProGres database. - Identification, referral and training of persons with disabilities and their groups on disability and inclusion, 	113,565 individuals	Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV)



	- Provide mobile campaign based rehabilitation services, prosthesis and orthosis services, Speech and Language Therapy Services and eye and hearing services.		
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Donors

<p>DFAT Australia</p>  <p>Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p>	<p>CDCS</p> <p>Avec la participation de</p>  <p>MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES</p> <p><i>Liberté Égalité Fraternité</i></p>	<p>UNHCR</p>  <p>UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency</p>
<p>FCDO</p>  <p>Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office</p>  <p>UKaid from the British people</p>	<p>MAE Luxembourg</p>  <p>LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>DG-ECHO</p>  <p>Funded by the European Union</p>



<p>BPRM</p> 	<p>BSRM</p> 	<p>Misereor</p> 
<p>ECW</p> 	<p>UNICEF</p> 	<p>GFFO</p> 