BRAC has worked in Cox’s Bazar for the last 37 years with host communities and the Rohingya population from previous influxes. The Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme was initiated to provide emergency services to the most recent influx of people which began on 25 August, 2017.

BRAC’s work began with a focus on life-saving interventions. As the situation evolved, we incorporated interventions to support everyone affected by the crisis, in both camps and host communities, to build skills, resilience and knowledge. We serve more than 700,000 people in the Cox’s Bazar area, with the broadest programming portfolio of any responder.

OCTOBER UPDATES

- Planning for 2020 has been finalised, after significant consultation. Plans have now been shared with a number of partners for further consultation.

- BRAC was elected as a Strategic Advisory Group member in the Connecting with Communities working group.

- 37 students living with disabilities in Cox’s Bazar were equipped with assistive devices by the sub-district executive officer (UNO) and BRAC.

- Work on providing and maintaining safe shelters started in 4 new camps.

- World Handwashing Day was marked with a demonstration and discussion in Camp 24 with a number of families, the Assistant Camp-In-Charge and other NGOs working in the area.

- A campaign to prevent Acute Watery Diarrhea was inaugurated by the Camp-In-Charge in Camp 26.
Sayanti applied to work in the men and boys engagement programme in Cox’s Bazar because she wanted a challenge. She started by sitting at the awareness sessions, observing people and having casual conversations with them to build rapport. Technical training and tools from UNHCR and BRAC then helped her to start facilitating discussions.

“I explain concepts logically and respect different cultures and beliefs, and my messages are received well” Sayanti said.

Sayanti now has many people who listen to her, and call her Boro apa (elder sister).

Last week she led a discussion with a group of men and boys on whether women can drive auto-rickshaws. Almost every invitee was engaged, and the conversation went for much longer than the scheduled time. Participants discussed the root causes of the barriers they had about women driving and finally agreed that there is nothing wrong with it. They agreed that they need to overcome their own mental barriers, and vowed to work towards it.

“I feel proud when the role model boys and men who we are training overcome their own mental barriers and then share their knowledge with others. I feel that, slowly, there is a lot of positive change - and we are learning valuable lessons that can be scaled in other contexts." said Sayanti.

The engaging men and boys programme is a collaboration between UNHCR and BRAC and has enrolled number of participants so far.

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Can a woman drive an auto rickshaw?

Sayanti Barua is a businesswoman. She has built her career in the corporate sector and is familiar with seeing women driving vehicles and holding senior positions.

For her, there is no question that women can drive anything they want to.

(Left) Sayanti conducting training

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Simulating a cyclone in Cox’s Bazar

A simulation exercise was undertaken in Ukhya on 28 October with 1,200 people to enhance knowledge on cyclone preparedness.

Cyclone Preparedness Programme volunteers played roles as early warning disseminators motivating people to evacuate and also as first responders rescuing victims and providing first aid. Fire Service and Civil Defense also took part in the simulation.

This simulation was funded by Semnani Family Foundation.

(Left) Warning flags being raised during the cyclone simulation exercise
### SECTOR-WISE SNAPSHOT: Host communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,129</td>
<td>children learning in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,633</td>
<td>total children registered in learning centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37,865</td>
<td>household hygiene sessions conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>448</td>
<td>life skill training sessions given on different trades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>693</td>
<td>women-led network meetings (polli shamaj) held in Cox’s Bazar and Teknaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54,788</td>
<td>households visited and provided with hands-on coaching and awareness (with recurrence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,508</td>
<td>households provided with vegetable seeds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our support to host communities consists of targeted, multi-sectoral assistance to vulnerable households, including:

- **Learning centres** offering non-formal education programmes. We are also developing the capacity of mainstream schools through engagement with teachers, students and community leaders.
- **Child-friendly spaces** implementing our Humanitarian Play Lab model.
- **WASH interventions** supporting over 80,000 households, including construction and maintenance of deep tube wells, piped water supply networks, and latrines, hygiene sessions conducted with men, women, boys and girls in schools, tea stalls, and formation of village WASH committees.
- **Diagnosis and treatment of communicable diseases**, including TB and malaria.
- **Disaster risk reduction**, including quick evacuation schemes, retrofitting, renovating and repairing cyclone shelters.
- **Agriculture and environment rehabilitation** including planting trees to mitigate deforestation, and improving agricultural practices and home gardening, and vocational skills through distribution of agricultural inputs.
- **Ultra-Poor Graduation Programmes** providing interest-free loans, particle grants, combined with classroom-based and hands-on training to create pathways out of poverty.
- **Alternative Learning Programmes** providing apprenticeship-based training and life skills to out-of-school youth.
- **Customised microfinance products**, including micro-loans and small enterprise loans.
- **Cash-based interventions** supporting households with cash distributions per household every month for four months.

(Right) 56 young people from camps and host communities graduate from a peace and civic learning course organised by BRAC University’s Centre for Peace and Justice in Ukhya, Cox’s Bazar on 31 October 2019.

Click here to learn more: response.brac.net
## SECTOR-WISE SNAPSHOT: Camps

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

| 20,857 | latrines constructed |
| 6,636 | bathing cubicles built |
| 137 | dumping stations built |

We support almost 700,000 people through integrated WaSH interventions in camps. This includes construction and maintenance of deep tube wells, piped water supply networks, latrines and handwashing stations and hygiene promotion.

**October update:** WASH committees have been formed and volunteer training completed in 13 camps. Functionality assessment of all WASH infrastructure has begun, which will inform the 2020 activity plan.

### Shelter and non-food items

| 23,052 | shelter material distributed |
| 11,460 | shelters repaired |
| 57,594 | metres of drainage built |

We support 167,000 people with secure shelters in camps, continual site improvements such as bridges and roads, and distribution of non-food items. Our work also includes gas-equipped community kitchens, transitional shelter options and the first large scale bamboo treatment plant in Cox’s Bazar.

**October update:** 75 shops have been completed in order to support the development of markets, funded by UNHCR. These will now be handed over to the community.

### Education

| 61,185 | children and adolescents registered in learning centres |
| 759 | learning centres operating |
| 8,718 | community meetings conducted by learning centre management committees |

We are the largest education provider in the response. We are operating learning centres, developing learning centre framework and approach materials and running learning centre management committees. 19 multipurpose centres are being used to deliver sessions to 580 adolescents and 6 new adolescent centres opened to cater to an additional 357.

**October update:** 302 parents meetings have been conducted this month. A train the trainer session on Humanitarian Play Labs was completed with 22 staff members as attendees.

### Agriculture and environment

| 110,276 | households received vegetable seeds |
| 6.2M | vetiver slips (grass) planted |

Our agriculture and environment projects work to restore the living environment and promote sustainable agricultural practices across 9 camps, through planting and distributing agricultural input packages and training.

**October update:** Fish harvests were conducted in Camp 4, 5 and Camp 8 West. 174 kg fish was harvested and distributed among 68 families.

**Learn more:** response.brac.net
Protection

**We support over 50,000 people in vulnerable situations**, through psychotherapeutic activities, skills development, psychosocial counseling, case management, legal aid, awareness training, dignity kit distribution, referral services and women’s leadership training. Services are offered through 9 women friendly spaces, 9 information points, 10 community centres, 1 skills development centre, 28 community protection groups and a community outreach network.

**October update:** Supervisors and officers were provided with training on fraud prevention, reporting and response.

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Child Protection

**We support over 100,000 children** through child-friendly spaces (CFSs) implementing BRAC’s Humanitarian Play Lab model. We also reach adolescent boys and girls through 900 pocket-based interventions.

**October update:** 40 children have been newly registered in the mobile and static child-friendly spaces implementing the Humanitarian Play Lab model.

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Communication for Development

**We bring information to 100,000 households in 34 camps through 1,000 Rohingya volunteers (84% female).** In emergencies, we intensify our efforts to reach 500,000 people. Messages are reinforced through 3,000 community and religious leaders and 3,000 adolescent boys and girls, and 1,440 community action plans ensure access to services for all.

**October update:** 124 imams, 114 majhis (Rohingya community leaders) and 11 teachers were engaged through 27 advocacy meetings.

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Health and communicable diseases

**We are the largest primary health care provider in the camps, providing essential and life-saving health and nutrition services, including prevention and treatment of communicable diseases.** We have provided 1 million+ basic health services in the community via our health network of 24/7 primary health centres, health posts, community health outlets and community health worker network.

**October update:** 2-day refresher training on diagnosis and treatment was held in Cox’s Bazar.

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Click here to learn more: response.brac.net
Livelihoods & food security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Supported</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>208,438</td>
<td>people received food support</td>
<td>We support people through providing technical and life skills which increase confidence, capacity, and opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,016</td>
<td>life skills training sessions provided</td>
<td>October update: 800,465 metric tons of commodities were distributed in the 47th round of food distribution.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nutrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Provided</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37,279</td>
<td>supplementary food delivered to pregnant and lactating women via the blanket supplementary feeding programme</td>
<td>We provide knowledge and nutrition supplements for women and children in the camps through a community-based approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47,345</td>
<td>Children, pregnant and lactating women reached with supplementary food in the targeted supplementary feeding programme</td>
<td>Members of the community are engaged in awareness sessions to improve their understanding about the importance of nutrition, their nutrition sources and how to preserve nutrition during cooking processes. They are then provided with supplements as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52,525</td>
<td>community sensitisation meetings held with community leaders</td>
<td>October update: 13,644 children were screened for nutritional needs through the mid-upper arm circumference measurement process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Site management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,809</td>
<td>community awareness meetings held</td>
<td>We support over 165,000 people in 7 camps with site management support focusing on 8 key areas; support to government officials in charge of camps, community governance and participation mechanisms, protection mainstreaming, care and maintenance, information management, emergency preparedness and response, relocations, and capacity building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>shelters relocation</td>
<td>October update: 1,367 gaps have been identified this month and relevant actors have been notified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>protection cases referred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ayesha Abed Foundation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>316</td>
<td>trainees enrolled in camps</td>
<td>We operate 8 sub-centres in the camps and 6 sub-centres in the host community, as well as 1 production centre, training women in artisan embroidery techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>286</td>
<td>trainees enrolled in host communities</td>
<td>October update: Delicate products such as Endi cotton shirts and Addi Panjabi (long shirt) are being now produced in the centres in Cox’s Bazar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>trainees enrolled in main production centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click here to learn more: response.brac.net
PROFILE ON THE GROUND

2,556 total BRAC staff providing critical services in camps and host communities

5,054 BRAC volunteers from both host and FDMN communities

53% of BRAC staff members are female

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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