

Bangladesh - Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2024

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

BGD_2024_SENS_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2024

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Bangladesh	BGD

STUDY TYPE

Other Household Survey [hh/oth]

SERIES INFORMATION

The Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) is a series of survey methodologies developed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and specifically designed to consider the factors that are most relevant to refugees. SENS measures not only nutritional status data but also measures relevant other data related to household composition, anaemia, measles vaccination, vitamin A supplementation, diarrhoea and other health-related indicators, infant and young child feeding practices, food availability, drinking water, hygiene, latrine usage and mosquito nets at the household-level. By collecting all this data, SENS studies provide a detailed snapshot of the nutritional health of a refugee population at a given point in time.

ABSTRACT

The Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) 2024 was conducted among Rohingya refugees residing on Bhasan Char Island, Bangladesh. The survey aimed to assess the health and nutrition status of the population and inform targeted interventions. At the time of data collection (between 18 and 24 September 2024), approximately 35 454 individuals had been relocated to the island from the Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

Led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and implemented in collaboration with Concern Worldwide, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), BRAC, Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), Research, Training and Management International (RTMI), and Friendship, the survey used SENS Version 3 tools based on the Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) methodology.

Findings indicated a medium prevalence of acute malnutrition (GAM: 8.8 percent) and critical levels of stunting (34.7 percent) among children under five. Anemia remained a major concern, affecting 40.3 percent of children and 24.1 percent of women of reproductive age. Improvements were observed in key infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices and treatment coverage, though challenges persisted in water access and mosquito net coverage. The results support evidence-based planning and monitoring of health and nutrition programs for refugees on Bhasan Char.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Households

Scope

NOTES

The scope includes:

- Demographic profile
- Mortality
- Anthropometric and child health indicators
- Anaemia among children and women
- Infant and young child feeding practices
- Food consumption and coping strategies
- In-kind food assistance

- Ownership and use of mosquito nets
- Access to WASH services and hygiene products

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Health and Nutrition
Water Sanitation Hygiene
Malaria Prevention and Control

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The study covered Bhasan Char Island, located in Hatiya Upazila, Noakhali District, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh.

UNIVERSE

The population group covered in the study was all Rohingya refugee households residing on Bhasan Char Island at the time of the survey in September 2024.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

PRODUCERS

Name
Concern Worldwide
National Nutrition Services (NNS)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
World Food Programme (WFP)
BRAC
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)
Training and Management International (RTMI)
Friendship
CartONG

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The survey used simple random sampling to select households from the UNHCR ProGres registration database. The defined address system on Bhasan Char facilitated accurate household identification.

WEIGHTING

No sampling weights were applied. All selected households were considered self-weighted due to the simple random sampling design.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2024-09-18	2024-09-24

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Data was collected via face-to-face interviews using electronic tablets running the ODK application. The standard SENS version 3 questionnaire was used, adapted with technical support from CartONG. Community health and nutrition workers supported the identification of sampled households. Enumerators received daily feedback and supervision, and anthropometric data was validated using the Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) software for SMART.

DATA COLLECTORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Concern Worldwide
National Nutrition Services (NNS)
World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
BRAC
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)
Training and Management International (RTMI)
Friendship

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The standard version 3 of the SENS questionnaires was used, which includes demographic, health, nutrition, food security, infant and young child feeding, mosquito net, and WASH modules.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Curation team	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	dencomdl@unhcr.org	Link

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2025). Bangladesh: Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS). Accessed from: <https://microdata.unhcr.org>

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_BGD_2024_SENS_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	United Nations	Metadata producer
Statistics Division	DECDG	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata adapted for FAM

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
Children module This file contains the children module data dictionary.	0	105
Demographics & Mortality This file contains the Demographics & Mortality module data dictionary.	0	30
Food Security, Mosquito Net & WASH This file contains the Food Security, Mosquito Net & WASH module data dictionary.	0	40
Women Module This file contains the women module data dictionary.	0	14