

Bangladesh - Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2024 - Cox's Bazar

UNHCR, National Nutrition Services (NNS), WFP, UNICEF, Action Against Hunger (ACF), Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED)

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

BGD_2024_SENS_CXB_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) - 2024 - Cox's Bazar

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Bangladesh	BGD

STUDY TYPE

Sample Frame, Households [sf/hh]

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 (IYCF), food availability, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), 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 refugee households residing in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, between 1 and 21 December 2024. The survey aimed to assess the nutritional and public health status of refugees living in 33 camps and to inform evidence-based programming across health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and food security sectors. Using two-stage cluster sampling, 672 households were selected from 48 clusters with representation across both the Kutupalong Mega Camps and registered camps (Kutupalong RC and Nayapara RC). The sampling frame was based on UNHCR population estimates as of 30 September 2024. The assessment collected data across multiple modules, including household demographics, child and maternal nutrition, water and sanitation practices, mosquito net coverage, food security, and coping strategies. Results indicated a medium level of global acute malnutrition (cGAM) among children under five (9.1 percent), persistent stunting (40.7 percent), and maternal malnutrition. Improvements were noted in complementary feeding practices and health program coverage, though challenges remain in dietary diversity, exclusive breastfeeding, and malaria prevention. Households reported high access to protected water sources and soap, with average water collection per person per day reaching 29.9 liters, above the UNHCR post-emergency standard. However, only 59.2 percent of households met the standard using protected containers and treated sources exclusively.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Household

Scope

NOTES

The scope includes:

- Demographic profile
- Mortality
- Anthropometric and child health indicators
- Anaemia among children and women
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices
- Food consumption and coping strategies
- In-kind food assistance
- Ownership and use of mosquito nets

- Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and hygiene products

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Health and Nutrition
Water Sanitation Hygiene
Malaria Prevention and Control
Food Consumption

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The study covered the Kutupalong Mega Camps, Kutupalong Registered Camp, and Nayapara Registered Camp which are refugee camps located in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh.

UNIVERSE

All Rohingya refugee households residing in the 33 camps of Cox's Bazar as of 30 September 2024, including Mega Camps and registered camps (Kutupalong RC and Nayapara RC).

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
National Nutrition Services (NNS)
World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Action Against Hunger (ACF, Action contre la Faim)
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)
Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED)
World Vision (WV)
Save the Children International (SCI)
Concern Worldwide (CWW)

PRODUCERS

Name	Role
CartONG	Technical review and adaptation of questionnaire
Community Health and Nutrition Workers	Field support

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The survey was conducted using two-stage cluster sampling. In the first stage, 48 clusters were selected from blocks across all 33 camps using probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling based on UNHCR September 2024 population estimates. In the second stage, 14 households were randomly selected from updated household lists in each cluster, yielding a total of 672 households to be surveyed.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2024-12-01	2024-12-21

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Data collection was conducted using face-to-face interviews with 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 were validated using the Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) software for SMART.

DATA COLLECTORS

Name
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Concern Worldwide (CWW)
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 (IYCF), mosquito net, and water, sanitation and hygiene (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), National Nutrition Services (NNS), World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, Action contre la Faim (ACF), Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), SHED, World Vision (WV), Save the Children International (SCI), CWW (2025). Bangladesh: Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS). Accessed from: <https://microdata.unhcr.org>

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_BGD_2024_SENS_CXB_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	United Nations	Metadata producer
Statistics Division	ESS	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	107
Demographics & Mortality This file contains the Demographics & Mortality module data dictionary.	0	27
Food Security, Mosquito Net & WASH This file contains the Food Security, Mosquito Net & WASH module data dictionary.	0	68
Women Module This file contains the women module data dictionary.	0	27