



BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

RAKHINE CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

FEBRUARY 23, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

688,000

Estimated People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25 ISCG – January 2018

212,500

Estimated Burmese Refugees in Bangladesh Prior to August 2017 ISCG – November 2017

800,000

Estimated Rohingya in Northern Rakhine Prior to October 2016 UN – October 2016

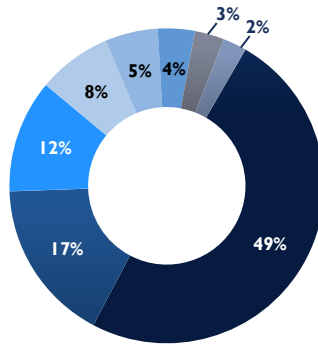
176,100

Estimated Rohingya Remaining in Northern Rakhine UN – November 2017

128,400

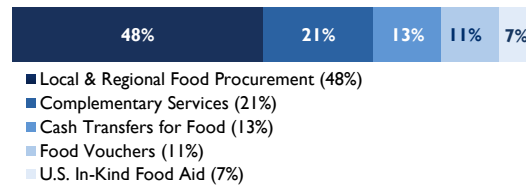
Estimated IDPs in Rakhine State UN – November 2017

USAID/OFDA¹ Funding By Sector in FY 2017-2018



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (49%)
- Protection (17%)
- Health (12%)
- Nutrition (8%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (4%)
- Shelter & Settlements (3%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (2%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017-2018



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Nearly 688,000 people—primarily Rohingya Muslims from Burma’s Rakhine State—fled from Burma to Bangladesh between August 25, 2017 and January 27, 2018, according to the Bangladesh-based UN Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian response coordinating body comprising UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.
- At least 200,000 individuals are living in flood and landslide-prone areas in the Kutupalong area of Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District and in need of relocation. Key infrastructure and services are also at risk of damage or destruction during the upcoming June-to-October monsoon season, according to a flood risk analysis conducted by State/PRM partners the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Relief actors have also highlighted concerns regarding the humanitarian impacts of the upcoming March-to-July cyclone season.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian access to northern Rakhine remains constrained, limiting relief actors’ ability to conduct needs assessments and implement activities.
- Preparations for refugee repatriation are ongoing, despite continued insecurity.
- Relief actors prepare for upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons in Cox’s Bazar.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018³

USAID/OFDA	\$7,725,661
USAID/FFP	\$46,248,844
STATE/PRM ⁴	\$123,102,484
Total	\$177,076,989

¹ USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ Funding includes all humanitarian complex emergency response funds for Burma

⁴ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

DISPLACEMENT AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

Rakhine State

- Populations continue to flee from Burma to Bangladesh due to fear of violence, insecurity, lack of access to income-generating opportunities, and concerns regarding the citizen verification process, according to the ISCG. Government of Bangladesh officials reported that more than 1,000 Rohingya Muslims crossed from Rakhine into Bangladesh during the first two weeks of February. In addition, as of February 5, an estimated 1,000–2,000 people were awaiting passage into Bangladesh from Rakhine’s Maungdaw Township, ISCG reports.
- The governments of Bangladesh and Burma continue to plan for the repatriation of Burmese refugees sheltering in Bangladesh, despite ongoing displacement, intercommunal tensions, and continued violence in Rakhine. On February 16, the Government of Bangladesh provided a list of more than 8,000 Rohingya refugees to the Government of Burma for verification of return eligibility; however, to date, no steps have been taken to move refugees. Bangladeshi authorities have stressed the importance of voluntary returns, as well as the need for secure conditions and established infrastructure to support refugee returns. The two governments signed a repatriation agreement on November 23 and on January 16 finalized a Physical Arrangements agreement to facilitate refugee returns.

Bangladesh

- Between August 25 and January 27, nearly 688,000 people fled from Rakhine to Cox’s Bazar, bringing the total number of Burmese refugees in Bangladesh to more than 900,000 people, ISCG reports. Refugee arrivals have slowed significantly since the peak of the influx in September when relief agencies reported flows of thousands of people per day crossing the Bangladesh–Burma border.
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SHELTER AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Rakhine State

- Government of Burma limitations on humanitarian access and bureaucratic constraints continue to hamper relief actors’ ability to assess and respond to ongoing needs in northern Rakhine. Only a limited number of UN and NGO actors are able to access the region to assess humanitarian needs or implement activities. UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations continue to report that conditions in northern Rakhine are not conducive to the return of refugees sheltering in Bangladesh. Humanitarian access and service provision in central Rakhine have largely resumed, although operations remain hampered by bureaucratic constraints and delays.

Bangladesh

- UNHCR and IOM report that approximately 200,000 people are living in areas of Kutupalong that are susceptible to floods and landslides. In addition, key infrastructure and services—including bridges, latrines, and primary health centers—are at risk during the upcoming June-to-October monsoon season. Several humanitarian organizations have also noted the potential humanitarian impacts of the upcoming March-to-July cyclone season. Overcrowding is hindering efforts to improve shelters and relocate vulnerable populations, ISCG reports.
- In preparation for the upcoming monsoon season, UNHCR has provided sandbags to secure infrastructure at risk from floods and landslides. Humanitarian organizations have also begun constructing retaining walls and drainage networks to minimize flood risks, UNHCR reports. Efforts are also underway to pre-position relief commodities, as well as to assess critical infrastructure and service points’ vulnerability to floods and landslides.
- The Food Security Sector Cluster (FSS)—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—is preparing seasonal hazard response activities for the upcoming March-to-July cyclone season and June-to-October monsoon season to ensure that vulnerable populations are able to access food rations. In addition, the Logistics Sector has procured 20 shipping containers through USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP); the containers will be available for organizations to store critical commodities during cyclone and monsoon seasons.

PROTECTION

Bangladesh

- Relief actors continue to report that overcrowded conditions in displacement sites and lack of basic infrastructure, including inadequate lighting and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, are exacerbating protection concerns in Cox's Bazar displacement sites. In response, UNHCR trained nearly 120 community outreach volunteers residing in Kutupalong on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response from January 16–22. In addition, UNHCR conducted six focus group discussions in four areas of Kutupalong settlement in mid-January to engage communities in the development of a strategy to address SGBV concerns. Communities emphasized the need to increase awareness-raising activities and engage religious and community leaders in SGBV prevention and response.
 - Since late August 2017, protection actors reached nearly 99,500 men, women, boys, and girls in Cox's Bazar with information on available SGBV services and provided 92,600 women and girls access to case management, emergency referral services, safe spaces, and peer support and recreation activities.
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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently stated that population displacement and lack of access to food and fuel have increased food insecurity in Burma and Bangladesh. FAO's Global Early Warning–Early Action Report on Food Security and Agriculture listed Burma and Bangladesh as high-risk countries, noting that refugees in Bangladesh have adopted negative coping mechanisms and that violence in Rakhine has resulted in insufficient access to food and income-generating opportunities for local populations.

Rakhine State

- The Government of Burma's Agricultural Mechanization Department had harvested approximately 9,500 acres of rice paddy, representing approximately 13 percent of available rice crops, in northern Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships as of January 18, according to the UNHCR-led Maungdaw Interagency Group. The majority of potential rice yields in northern Rakhine remained unharvested at the end of the harvest season due to the absence of Rohingya laborers, UNHCR reports.
- Burmese security forces have restricted Rohingya communities' access to food and income-generating opportunities by increasing restrictions on travel between villages, hindering access to rice fields and local markets, and stealing livestock, as well as limiting humanitarian assistance, according to a recent Amnesty International report.

Bangladesh

- During a January 26 to February 8 screening, humanitarian organizations identified approximately 2,020 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1,920 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in Cox's Bazar. In response, relief actors referred SAM and MAM cases to inpatient and outpatient treatment centers and enrolled patients in blanket supplementary feeding programs, as appropriate, the ISCG reports. WFP established an additional blanket supplementary feeding program site in December, increasing the total number of operational WFP-supported sites in Cox's Bazar to 17 facilities. WFP expects to support 21 feeding sites by the end of February. WFP had admitted more than 100,300 pregnant and lactating women and children ages five years and younger in blanket supplementary feeding programs as of February 8, according to ISCG.
- In addition, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided malnutrition treatment services for approximately 12,000 children experiencing SAM at 23 outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) sites in January. UNICEF plans to establish an additional seven OTP sites to meet the increasing nutrition needs among the refugee population.
- On February 4, the FSS launched the ninth round of general food distributions in Cox's Bazar to address ongoing food needs among refugees. To date, the FSS has reached an estimated 21,300 households with rice, lentils, and oil and plans to support approximately 192,000 households by late February.

- The FSS is also doubling existing electronic voucher (e-voucher) activities to include an additional 90,000 refugees who arrived since August; the program currently supports 90,000 Rohingya refugees. In March, the FSS plans to construct 11 new shops to increase the number of locations where refugees can redeem e-vouchers for food.
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HEALTH AND WASH

Bangladesh

- Overcrowding and lack of access to sanitation facilities have increased public health risks among displaced populations in Cox's Bazar. Approximately 60 percent of drinking water in displacement sites is contaminated, and relief actors have reported more than 36,000 acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases—including 10 AWD-related deaths—in Bangladesh since August 25, according to FAO.
 - Health actors had identified approximately 5,510 suspected cases of diphtheria—a highly contagious airborne infectious disease—among refugees in Cox's Bazar as of February 8, ISCG reports. In coordination with the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, UNICEF and the UN World Health Organization completed a second round of vaccination for refugee children in Cox's Bazar displacement sites in response to the outbreak, reaching nearly 391,700 children from January 27–February 10 with a second dose of vaccine to increase immunity to diphtheria and prevent the spread of the disease, UNICEF reports. A third round of immunizations is planned in the coming weeks.
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INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The 2018 Interim Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Burma released in November requested \$183.4 million to address the needs of 832,000 conflict- and disaster-affected people in Burma between January and December 2018. As of late February, donors had contributed \$11 million towards the appeal, representing approximately 6 percent of the requested funding. In 2017, donors funded more than 70 percent of the annual HRP appeal, which requested approximately \$150 million.
- The 2017 Bangladesh HRP requested \$434 million to address the needs of 1.2 million people, including Burmese refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, through February 2018. As of February 21, donors had contributed \$300.6 million—approximately 69 percent of the requested funds. The UN plans to release a new response plan at the beginning of March for needs from March to December 2018.

CONTEXT

- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of August 2017, approximately 120,000 people remained displaced in central Rakhine, while other vulnerable populations lacked access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Rakhine are Rohingya—a minority group not formally recognized by the Government of Burma and, therefore, effectively stateless and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services.
- Following attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017, Government of Burma security forces launched military operations in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung. Since August 25, insecurity and violence have prompted approximately 688,000 people to flee Burma to Bangladesh. These new arrivals join an estimated 212,500 predominantly Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh who have fled outbreaks of violence in Burma since 2012, bringing the total number of Burmese refugees in Bangladesh to approximately 900,000 people.
- On October 18, 2017, U.S. Ambassador Scot A. Marciel reissued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA staff and State/PRM Regional Refugee Coordinators remain in contact with humanitarian partners in Burma and Bangladesh and continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Rakhine to evaluate humanitarian conditions, identify relief gaps, and recommend response options.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Danish Refugee Council	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$500,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$1,000,000
Save the Children/U.S.	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,431,842
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,600,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,000,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$193,819
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$7,725,661
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Rakhine	\$550,586
	Complementary Services: Nutrition Activities	Rakhine	\$616,338
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$4,604,924
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$7,395,076
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$1,500,000
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$3,500,000
	Complementary Services: Logistics and Humanitarian Coordination	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$20,166,924

STATE/PRM ⁴			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand	\$30,170,793
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,280,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Thailand	\$23,791,691
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,250,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$12,500,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Southeast Asia	\$4,810,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$75,802,484
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$103,695,069

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/FFP			
CARE	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$119,046
	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$2,636,334
UNICEF	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$189,000
	Complementary Services: Nutrition Activities	Bangladesh	\$4,737,540
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$11,112,710
WFP	Complementary Services: Cash Transfers for Livelihoods	Bangladesh	\$3,067,290
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$4,000,000
	Complementary Services: Logistics and Humanitarian Coordination	Bangladesh	\$220,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$26,081,920
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$23,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$17,300,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$6,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$47,300,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$73,381,920
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018			\$177,076,989

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of February 23, 2018.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change once purchased.

⁴ USAID/FFP and State/PRM funding includes funding for both Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space);

can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

• More information can be found at:

- USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.