

BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

RAKHINE CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

JANUARY 26, 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

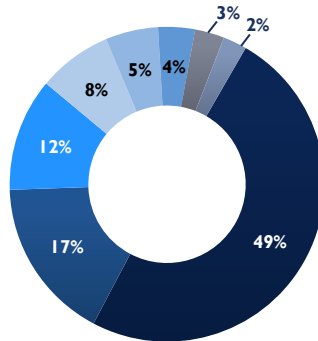
Estimated Rohingya Remaining in Northern Rakhine
UN – November 2017

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



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (47%)
- Complementary Services (20%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (13%)
- Food Vouchers (11%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (9%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian access to northern Rakhine remains limited; insecurity and intercommunal tensions persist
- Approximately 900,500 people displaced from Burma to Bangladesh need assistance
- FFP contributes \$18.4 million to WFP to support vulnerable populations in Bangladesh

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018³

USAID/OFDA	\$7,725,661
USAID/FFP	\$46,248,798
STATE/PRM ⁴	\$123,102,484

\$177,076,943

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Insecurity and military operations in Burma’s Rakhine State have prompted approximately 688,000 people, primarily Rohingya Muslims, to flee from Burma to Bangladesh since August 25, according to the Bangladesh-based UN Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian response coordinating body, comprising UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.
- While the flow of refugees across the Bangladesh–Burma border decreased significantly in December and January, insecurity and intercommunal tensions in Rakhine are ongoing. As the governments of Bangladesh and Burma continue to plan for repatriation of refugees, humanitarian agencies report that conditions in Rakhine are not conducive for return.
- In January, USAID/FFP announced \$18.4 million in FY 2018 funding to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to support vulnerable refugees and host communities in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District with emergency food and nutrition assistance.

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

- Insecurity and acts of violence continue to affect populations across Rakhine, with media reporting at least two attacks during the month of January. On January 5, members of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA)—the armed group that claimed responsibility for the coordinated attacks on checkpoints and police posts in northern Rakhine in late August—launched an attack on Government of Burma security forces in northern Rakhine’s Maungdaw Township, resulting in at least three injuries. Separately, police violence during a January 16 protest, led by ethnic Rakhine, against Government of Burma restrictions resulted in at least seven deaths in central Rakhine’s Mrauk-U Township, international media report.
- The governments of Bangladesh and Burma continue to plan for the repatriation of Burmese refugees sheltering in Bangladesh. The two governments signed a repatriation agreement on November 23 and finalized an agreement on January 16 to facilitate refugee returns; the agreement emphasizes that the repatriation process should span two years, with the Government of Burma working to abate the flow of people from Burma into Bangladesh, according to the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- In January, the Government of Burma announced plans to establish a temporary camp to accommodate up to 30,000 returnees before facilitating their permanent return to areas of origin or resettlement in other areas, according to local media. Humanitarian actors have expressed concerns that conditions in Rakhine more broadly are not conducive for safe and sustainable returns.
- The Government of Bangladesh is expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) outlining the role of UNHCR and operational details of a voluntary repatriation process, according to the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bangladesh

- Between August 25 and January 21, approximately 688,000 people fled from Rakhine to Cox’s Bazar, bringing the total number of Burmese refugees in Bangladesh to approximately 900,500 people, ISCG reports. Refugee arrivals have slowed significantly since the peak of the influx in September 2017.
- State/PRM partner UNHCR is facilitating the voluntary relocation of 9,400 refugees from Bandarban Province in an area along the Bangladesh–Burma border with limited access to basic services and humanitarian assistance to the Kutupalong displacement site in Cox’s Bazar, UNHCR reports. The relocation of the refugees will occur gradually over the coming weeks, with an average of 600 refugees relocated every day.

SHELTER AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Rakhine State

- Since August, Government of Burma authorities have severely restricted humanitarian access to northern Rakhine. Although the authorities have permitted some assistance from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement—comprising the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies—and WFP, most relief organizations are unable to resume activities or assess conditions in the area, the UN reports. While humanitarian access to central Rakhine has improved, cumbersome procedures for applying for travel authorization continue to hinder access to the area.
- As of December, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement organizations had reached nearly 186,000 people in Rakhine with emergency food assistance. In addition, 107,400 people received emergency relief commodities, including agricultural inputs, blankets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, oral rehydration salts, and plastic sheeting.

Bangladesh

- The majority of refugees in Cox’s Bazar are sheltering in informal settlements, with approximately 44,000 of the approximately 900,500 refugees residing in the formal Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee camps, according to ISCG. The largest group of refugees—nearly 548,000 people—are sheltering in informal settlements in the Kutupalong-

Balukhali area. Informal settlements are overcrowded and lack adequate shelter and sufficient access to basic services, the UN reports.

- As of mid-January, relief organizations were targeting the entire refugee population in Cox's Bazar with emergency shelter assistance. Shelter organizations report that improvements to shelters and living conditions for refugees in displacement sites are necessary before the beginning of the June-to-October monsoon season. High shelter density in informal settlements is the primary challenge to shelter upgrades, ISCG reports.
- Relief actors continue to provide winter assistance to affected populations, distributing blankets to more than 266,000 households, sleeping mats to more than 182,000 households, and children's winter clothing to nearly 121,000 households as of January 14.
- To ensure refugees have access to shelter and essential services, State/PRM partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR continue to collaborate with the Government of Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) in Cox's Bazar to improve displacement site management and planning, particularly in the Kutupalong expansion site. With IOM and UNHCR support, the RRRC developed a Macro Settlement Development Plan for Kutupalong to identify response gaps and address potential duplication of services.
- With State/PRM assistance, UNHCR supported the RRRC and the Armed Forces of Bangladesh to construct a 3.7-mile road linking the northern and southern areas of the Kutupalong displacement site. The new road, along with additional pathways, bamboo bridges, and public lighting, is intended to improve refugees' access to humanitarian services. Completion of additional road improvements—including drainage features, retaining structures, and paving—is expected by the start of the 2018 monsoon season in June.

PROTECTION

Bangladesh

- As of mid-January, the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR had surveyed more than 178,000 refugee households—approximately 770,000 individuals—in Cox's Bazar. Survey results highlight significant vulnerabilities and protection concerns among new arrivals, ISCG reports. The survey identified more than 30 percent of households as vulnerable due to being headed by a single mother, single father, older person, or child, or because the household included at least one person with a serious medical condition or disability. In addition, approximately 55 percent of surveyed people were children younger than 18 years of age.
- Humanitarian actors continue to report protection concerns among refugees in Cox's Bazar, with overcrowding, insufficient lighting, and shortage of private spaces for bathing increasing the risk of incidents of gender-based violence. More than 5,500 incidents of gender-based violence have been reported in Cox's Bazar since August 25, according to ISCG
- In a recent survey conducted by IOM, refugees in more than 70 percent of surveyed displacement sites in Cox's Bazar reported that inadequate livelihood opportunities had resulted in the use of negative coping mechanisms, including engaging in child labor, incurring debt, and reducing food intake.
- UNHCR identified approximately 5,370 unaccompanied and separated children among newly arrived Burmese refugees in Bangladesh between August 25 and December 6, raising concerns of increased risks of early and forced marriage and child labor. In response, ISCG protection actors have developed a coordinated referral system for child protection case management, including designating more than 30 locations for referral services. In addition, ISCG partners reached nearly 121,000 vulnerable children with support services, including child-friendly spaces, between August 25 and January 14.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Rakhine State

- Vulnerable populations in Rakhine—including Rohingya remaining in central and northern Rakhine—continue to require emergency food assistance, although lack of access to many areas of northern Rakhine continues to impede relief actors' assessments of humanitarian need. From December–January, WFP reached approximately 63,600 people with

food assistance in northern Rakhine, including an estimated 9,000 children younger than five years of age and 2,100 pregnant and lactating women. In central Rakhine, WFP reached 114,000 beneficiaries—including 17,700 children younger than five years of age and 5,900 pregnant and lactating women—with food assistance in December.

- The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports that access constraints since August have prevented the delivery of life-saving assistance for children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in northern Rakhine, where insecurity in late August prompted the closure of all 12 outpatient treatment centers and five primary health care centers operated by UNICEF and its implementing partners in the area. Prior to August 25, 4,800 children were receiving treatment for SAM in northern Rakhine.

Bangladesh

- Refugees in Cox’s Bazar lack livelihood opportunities and are highly vulnerable to food insecurity, with approximately 80 percent of refugees who arrived in Cox’s Bazar since August reliant on humanitarian assistance to meet minimum food requirements, according to a November–December Food Security Sector assessment. The influx of refugees has negatively impacted the food security of Cox’s Bazar host communities, according to the assessment. In addition, food security actors report a critical need for fresh food to promote dietary diversity among refugee populations, while newly-arrived households are in need of ready-to-eat emergency food distributions.
- In FY 2018, USAID/FFP contributed an additional \$18.4 million to WFP to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance for refugees and host community members, including pregnant and lactating women and children under five, in Cox’s Bazar. USAID/FFP-supported food and nutrition assistance includes peas, rice, and vegetable oil, in addition to specialized foods to prevent and treat malnutrition. USAID/FFP funding will also support livelihood interventions for host communities, as well as capacity building and logistics to enhance the scale-up humanitarian activities and coordination among response actors.
- Food security organizations provided emergency food assistance to more than 61,000 households, or approximately 305,300 people, in Cox’s Bazar from January 16–23. As of mid-January, ISCG food security partners had reached nearly 883,000 of the 974,000 refugees and host community members targeted for emergency food assistance between September and February. However, relief organizations report that frequent refugee movements are challenging efforts to coordinate emergency food distribution, citing a need for additional food distribution sites in newly populated areas of Cox’s Bazar.
- Responding to the need for dietary diversity among refugees in Cox’s Bazar, USAID/FFP partner WFP continues to implement an electronic voucher program to supplement in-kind distributions to refugees, the UN agency reports. Approximately 90,000 people are enrolled in the program, which provides refugees with monthly transfers to pre-paid debit cards that can be used to purchase a variety of foods in pre-approved shops. In addition, WFP continues to distribute in-kind food rations—comprising lentils, rice, and vegetable oil—to the new arrivals, however, the emergency ration lacks the dietary diversity enabled through the e-voucher program.
- Vulnerable populations in Cox’s Bazar, particularly children younger than five years of age and pregnant and lactating women, require continued nutrition assistance. Of the more than 127,000 children ages five years and younger screened for acute malnutrition in Cox’s Bazar in late December and early January, health actors identified nearly 1,950 children experiencing SAM and approximately 800 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), according to ISCG. Since August, humanitarian actors have admitted nearly 22,000 children younger than five years of age experiencing SAM to treatment centers and have referred children experiencing MAM for enrollment in blanket supplementary feeding programs or treatment centers, as appropriate.
- ISCG nutrition partners in Cox’s Bazar conducted a rapid assessment of nutrition centers in December to identify the total number of functional centers and service gaps. Of the 92 centers assessed, more than 90 percent were functional or partly functional. Most nutrition centers, however, were constructed for temporary use and therefore lack sufficient protection from rain and cold weather, ISCG reports.

HEALTH AND WASH

Rakhine State

- While many health and WASH activities in Rakhine remain suspended due to lack of humanitarian access since late August, ICRC, working together with the Myanmar Red Cross Society and IFRC, continues to provide assistance to affected communities in Burma. Between August and December, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement organizations provided sanitation services to more than 8,300 people, and continued to support mobile clinics and 16 Government of Burma Ministry of Health and Sports facilities. In addition, the organizations distributed nearly 161,000 gallons of safe drinking water to vulnerable populations in Rakhine.
- UNICEF and the UN World Health Organization (WHO), in coordination with the Government of Burma, conducted a nationwide campaign to vaccinate 14 million children against Japanese Encephalitis—a mosquito-borne illness which can result in death or serious disability—in November and December. The campaign reached more than 200,000 children ages 9 months–5 years in Rakhine in December, according to Burmese media.

Bangladesh

- Overcrowded conditions and insufficient WASH services has led an outbreak of diphtheria—a highly contagious airborne infectious disease—among refugees in Cox’s Bazar displacement sites. The outbreak has spread rapidly since the first report of a suspected diphtheria case on November 10, according to WHO. Between November 8 and January 11, ISCG reported nearly 4,000 suspected cases of diphtheria and 31 related deaths in displacement sites throughout Cox’s Bazar.
- In response, the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, UNICEF, and WHO launched a diphtheria vaccination campaign, reaching more than 315,000 children younger than 15 years of age in Cox’s Bazar displacement sites as of December 31. In total, WHO and health partners plan to vaccinate more than 475,000 children in refugee camps, displacement sites, and host communities during the campaign.
- Health actors continue to record high rates of respiratory infections, skin disease, and acute watery diarrhea among refugees in Cox’s Bazar, WHO reports. Health actors identified approximately 2,090 suspected measles or rubella cases, 430 suspected jaundice cases, 320 confirmed malaria cases, and 20 suspected meningitis cases between November 5 and December 30, according to the UN agency.
- Relief agencies remain concerned about the lack of adequate health care services for vulnerable populations in Cox’s Bazar. Approximately 60 percent of ISCG implementing partners reported inability to provide sufficient basic health care services due to lack of capacity and limited overnight access to displacement sites as of January 14. Health organizations report that refugees are often unable to reach existing health facilities due to lack of roads, and nearly 70 percent of pregnant women in Cox’s Bazar lack access to gynecological and obstetrical care services. An estimated 58,700 pregnant women were sheltering in displacement sites in Cox’s Bazar as of December 30, ISCG reports.
- Preliminary results from the third round of water quality testing conducted by WHO in December indicate that as of December 17, more than 60 percent of water sources and approximately 90 percent of household-level samples tested were unsafe to drink, ISCG reports. In response, at least 12 relief actors were conducting hygiene promotion activities and seven relief actors were conducting household water treatment activities in Cox’s Bazar as of December 17.
- Relief agencies are working to address critical WASH needs in displacement sites across Cox’s Bazar. From December 15–21, UNICEF trained 70 people to conduct hygiene promotion sessions in displacement sites. In addition, IOM had delivered nearly 389,000 gallons of safe drinking water to displacement sites in Cox’s Bazar as of December 28 in order maintain the minimum Sphere standard for water supply of 7.5–15 liters, or approximately 2–4 gallons, per person per day.² Relief agencies also constructed approximately 31,100 emergency latrines and installed more than 4,580 wells in displacement sites throughout Cox’s Bazar from August 25–December 31, ISCG reports.

² The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the ICRC, UN, non-governmental organizations, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

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 mid-January, donors had contributed \$9.3 million toward the appeal, representing approximately 5 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 January 18, donors had contributed \$271 million—approximately 62 percent of the requested funds.

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 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 ARSA on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017, GoB security forces launched military operations in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships. 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 based in Bangkok, Thailand, 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	\$1,166,924

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	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$20,166,924
STATE/PRM⁴			
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 International	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$119,000
UNICEF	Complementary Services, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$4,926,540
	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$2,636,334
WFP	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$3,287,290
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$4,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$11,112,710
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$26,081,874
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			\$73,381,874
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018			\$177,076,943

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 January 26, 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.