

# BURMA AND BANGLADESH

## REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JUNE 23, 2020

### NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**985,658**

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma  
UN – December 2019

**105,522**

IDPs in Burma's Kachin and Northern Shan  
UN – April 30, 2020

**130,886**

IDPs in Burma's Rakhine IDP Sites<sup>4</sup>  
UN – December 2019

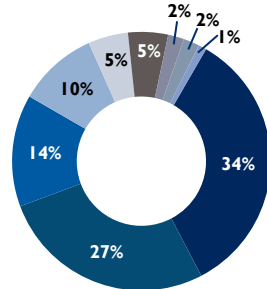
**860,243**

Total Number of Refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar  
UNHCR – May 31, 2020

**711,364**

People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017  
UNHCR – May 31, 2020

### USAID/BHA NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2020



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (34%)
- Shelter & Settlements (27%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (14%)
- Protection (10%)
- Health (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (5%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (2%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (2%)
- Other (1%)

### USAID/BHA FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2020



- Food Vouchers (60%)
- Local, Regional, and International Procurement (24%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (13%)
- Complementary Services (3%)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Escalating conflict, access restrictions exacerbate humanitarian needs in western Burma
- UN reports 45 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps as of June 22
- USG partners adapt programming to COVID-19 needs and risks, provide dedicated funding to respond to the outbreak and related humanitarian need

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2020

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>           | \$107,221,812 |
| State/PRM <sup>2</sup>           | \$138,052,628 |
| <b>\$245,274,440<sup>3</sup></b> |               |

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has presented new challenges for existing humanitarian response operations in Burma and in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District due to COVID-related access restrictions and the vulnerability of IDPs in Burma, as well as refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar. As armed clashes intensify in Burma's Chin and Rakhine states, COVID-19-related restrictions have further reduced humanitarian access to IDP sites, and humanitarian staff in Burma have expressed concern regarding insufficient COVID-19 preparedness and response capacity in conflict-affected states.
- As of June 23, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$245 million in FY 2020 funding to continue the response to humanitarian needs of crisis-affected populations in Burma and Bangladesh, including COVID-19-specific funding, and USG partners have adapted existing programming to incorporate COVID-19 mitigation measures to ensure the continued provision of critical assistance.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA); total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) funding includes additional regional contributions to UN and international organization partners supporting those most in need in the region, including ongoing programs for Burmese refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), while USAID funding includes new and ongoing activities in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, as well as in Bangladesh.

<sup>3</sup> This total includes more than \$26 million in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

<sup>4</sup> This number reflects the number of IDPs in sites in central Rakhine State created after the outbreak of violence in Rakhine in 2012. It does not include the sites and settlements in Rakhine where people displaced by the recent clashes in the state are currently hosted.

## **BURMA**

### **COVID-19 Situation, Preparedness, and Response**

- The Government of Burma had reported 291 confirmed COVID-19 cases and six related deaths in the country as of June 23, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Humanitarian actors continue to express concern regarding insufficient contingency planning for the COVID-19 response in IDP camp settings, noting that overcrowding and limited access to health care and basic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services—including seasonal water shortages—may exacerbate transmission risks for IDPs in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, relief actors have noted gaps in COVID-19 preparedness and response activities in conflict-affected areas with already limited health services, including parts of Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, and Shan states.
- On May 4, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the COVID-19 Addendum to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Burma. The addendum reflects the expansion and re-orientation of existing humanitarian programming in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as new programming for implementation between April and June 2020, requesting an additional \$46 million to provide COVID-19 specific support for approximately 905,000 people for three months. Combined with the original HRP request of \$216.3 million, the Addendum of \$46 million brings the total estimated funding requirements to respond to humanitarian needs of conflict- and disaster-affected populations in Burma to \$262.3 million.
- USAID/BHA partners are adapting existing programming in coordination with local authorities to conduct COVID-19 preparedness and response activities among at-risk populations. For example, USAID/BHA partner Save the Children Federation (SCF) and other humanitarian organizations are organizing COVID-19 hygiene promotion and risk communication activities in Rakhine. SCF is also providing larger cash transfers to beneficiaries at each distribution and has reduced the frequency of distributions from monthly to every two months in order to reduce contact requirements, as well as transitioned cash-for-work programming to unconditional cash transfers to reduce the risk of COVID-19. In Kachin, USAID/BHA partner Metta Foundation is delivering relief items—including hygiene supplies—to individuals in nearly 40 preventative quarantine centers, including 15 quarantine centers in IDP camps, with a combined capacity to host nearly 1,300 people. In addition, USAID/BHA partner Solidarités International has scaled up distributions of hygiene supplies and safe drinking water to IDPs in Kachin and Rakhine. USAID/BHA partners the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Food Program (WFP) have also incorporated increased hygiene measures and COVID-19 messaging into programming, and WFP has shifted from monthly distributions to providing 2–3 months of food rations or value in cash vouchers to beneficiaries at each distribution.
- State/PRM has provided more than \$2 million to support the preliminary appeal by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its global COVID-19 response efforts, including in Burma. This assistance helps support vital health infrastructure, ensure that communities have access to clean water and hygiene practices, prevent the spread of disease in places of detention, provide forensics guidance, facilitate collaboration with International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners to contribute to global and local COVID-19 response, and sustain activities that build resilience for vulnerable people and communities.

### **Conflict, Displacement, and Humanitarian Access**

- Several attacks on humanitarian vehicles in recent months have further complicated efforts to reach populations in need in western Burma. On April 29, armed actors attacked WFP vehicles transporting rice and other staple foods to Chin’s Paletwa township, injuring one person, according to the Government of Burma. In a separate incident, on April 20, unknown armed actors attacked a WHO vehicle transporting COVID-19 test samples in Rakhine’s Minbya Township, resulting in the death of a WHO staff member and seriously injuring a Government of Burma health care worker. On April 21, UN Secretary-General (UNSG) António Guterres condemned the attack and called for a full and transparent investigation. The Government of Burma released a statement the same day pledging to investigate the incident and work closely with the UN on COVID-19 response efforts. On April 22, the USG also issued a statement condemning the attack and urging Government of Burma authorities to investigate the incident.
- On April 21, 16 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) released a joint statement calling on all armed actors in Burma to agree to an immediate cessation in fighting and grant relief organizations unrestricted access to conflict-affected communities across the country. The statement followed March appeals by UNSG Guterres and the

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) advocating a global cessation of hostilities to support the international effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. In addition, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Burma Ola Almgren issued an April 27 statement calling for all parties to cease fighting, highlighting that continued conflict is a major impediment to the COVID-19 response. On May 9, the Government of Burma announced a four-month cessation of hostilities with armed groups, citing the need to prioritize the COVID-19 response effort. However, the measure, which began May 10 and is scheduled to remain in effect until August 31, does not apply to parts of Chin and northern Rakhine where Government of Burma security forces continue to engage in armed clashes with the Arakan Army (AA) armed group, local media report.

- Fighting and insecurity related to the ongoing conflict between the AA and Government of Burma security forces in Chin and Rakhine has resulted in food, health care, water, and shelter shortages for IDPs, humanitarian actors report. The conflict had displaced more than 78,000 people in Chin and Rakhine as of mid-June, according to the UN. The conflict has impacted transport routes connecting townships and villages in Rakhine, resulting in disruptions to supply chains for key commodities and interruption of livelihoods activities, OCHA reports. In addition, in most sites hosting IDPs from the AA–Government of Burma conflict, IDPs are housed in collective shelters that do not meet SPHERE<sup>5</sup> standards, according to relief actors.
- As of mid-May, the UN and USG partners reported that the conflict continued to escalate, further impacting provision of assistance to IDPs in affected areas. International relief organizations continue to face significant challenges accessing conflict-affected communities in Rakhine; as of April 13, relief actors were able to access only 87 of the 140 IDP sites sheltering civilians displaced by the AA–Government of Burma conflict due to Rakhine State Government access restrictions. In addition, international relief organizations that are granted access to communities sheltering IDPs are seldom allotted sufficient time to provide quality programming and are prevented from providing critical services such as health care, shelter, and WASH assistance.
- The Government of Burma is continuing plans to close Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp—currently hosting nearly 1,000 Kaman and Rohingya IDPs—in Rakhine’s Kyaukpyu Township and relocate the IDPs to a potentially flood-prone area nearby, as a first step in implementing the Government of Burma’s national camp closure strategy, according to April reporting by the Burma Humanitarian Country Team Protection Sector. IDPs are not being consulted on the planned relocation site and freedom of movement restrictions continue, raising concerns that relocation may not be voluntary, according to the Protection Sector. The Government of Burma is reportedly continuing construction of the relocation site, despite the concerns and opposition of IDPs and humanitarian organizations.
- The Government of Burma continues to restrict mobile internet access in conflict-affected areas of Chin and Rakhine, impacting more than 1 million people, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW). On June 19, HRW called for the lifting of all restrictions, noting that the mobile internet shutdown, combined with existing restrictions on humanitarian access, had resulted in some communities being unaware of the COVID-19 outbreak; numerous other humanitarian organizations have also called on the Government of Burma to lift the restrictions.

## Food Security and WASH

- Recent clashes between the AA and Government of Burma security forces in Chin and Rakhine have disrupted local transportation, delaying food distributions and key relief commodity shipments to communities across the states, the UN reports. Relief actors report deteriorating food security conditions in Rakhine’s Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, and Paletwa townships and food price increases of up to 75 percent in other affected areas in recent months. In response, USG partners ICRC and WFP are coordinating the delivery of food assistance and relief commodities to affected populations.
- Following the April 29 attack on WFP vehicles in Chin, the UN agency was able to transport the food commodities through southern Chin by boat and successfully delivered more than 800 sacks of rice and other staple foods—benefitting approximately 3,700 conflict-affected people—to Paletwa on May 2. Southern Chin has faced persistent food shortages since January due to the ongoing AA–Government of Burma conflict, and the food shipment was the first to arrive in Paletwa following several weeks of negotiations, WFP reports.

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<sup>5</sup> The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the ICRC, UN, NGOs, 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.

- In response to acute water shortages, USAID/BHA partners Solidarités International and UNICEF continue to supply several IDP camps in central Rakhine's Pauktaw Township with safe drinking water through water boating operations. Rainwater harvesting ponds—the only water source IDPs are allowed to access—run dry at these sites every year, and water shortages in 2020 began earlier than expected, USAID/BHA partners report. The Pauktaw camps have housed Rohingya IDPs since 2012. In previous years, water shortages have increased tensions within the camps as IDPs have had to restrict their water usage. Relief organizations continue to advocate for local authorities to provide minimum services at the camps and identify durable solutions for Pauktaw IDPs. In April, UNICEF also installed six water tanks in two Pauktaw IDP camps for water storage prior to treatment and distribution.
- USAID/BHA partners also continued to respond to WASH needs across central and northern Rakhine. UNICEF is constructing nearly 100 latrine facilities in IDP sites hosting populations displaced by the AA–Government of Burma conflict. In addition, on April 8, UNICEF delivered 18 metric tons (MT) of soap—approximately 70,000 pieces—to support COVID-19 prevention, benefitting host communities, newly displaced populations, IDP camps, and quarantine facilities via WFP, the Rakhine State Health Department, and other WASH organizations.

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## **BANGLADESH**

### **COVID-19 Situation, Preparedness and Response**

- On May 14, the Government of Bangladesh reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, where approximately 860,000 refugees reside. As of June 22, WHO had reported 45 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Rohingya refugee camps, including three deaths, in addition to cases in nearby host communities. Following confirmation in a Government of Bangladesh field laboratory in Cox's Bazar, response teams are activated to investigate cases, isolate and treat patients, and trace, quarantine, and test contacts, per WHO guidelines.
- Refugee camp populations are especially vulnerable to contracting and spreading the disease due to a variety of risk factors, including a poor baseline health status among camp residents, limited access to health care, overburdened health infrastructure, and limited access to information about the disease. The morbidity and mortality risks associated with COVID-19 for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar would likely surpass global averages, according to the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS).
- Beginning in March, the Government of Bangladesh, in consultation with the UN and humanitarian organizations, introduced restrictions on relief activities in the camps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. On April 8, the Government of Bangladesh Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner issued a directive further restricting activities to only critical services, including family tracing, food and fuel distribution, health care, logistics, nutrition, site management, and WASH assistance; restrictions and lockdown measures remained in place as of mid-June, international media report.
- During a joint mission to Cox's Bazar in early April, representatives from USG partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP met with Government of Bangladesh authorities and NGO partners to discuss COVID-19 preparedness measures and procedures to sustain critical relief activities. As of mid-June, humanitarian agencies and working groups in Cox's Bazar are making progress on agreed-upon COVID-19 prevention and preparedness plans in camps and host communities despite movement restrictions.
- On April 15, approximately 25 humanitarian NGOs—including USG partner Action contre la Faim (ACF) and USAID partner World Vision—signed a joint statement urging the Government of Bangladesh to restore full mobile data and telecommunications functionality in and around the Cox's Bazar's refugee camps to ensure that refugees and nearby host communities can access life-saving information about COVID-19. The Government of Bangladesh prohibits Rohingya refugees from acquiring SIM cards and has restricted telecommunications capacities in the camps since September 2019. NGOs and UN agencies state that effective telecommunications channels are required to combat misinformation about COVID-19 and widely disseminate critical preparedness and response messaging to limit the disease's spread.
- In April, USG partner IOM began using pre-positioned USAID plastic sheeting for the construction of temporary COVID-19 isolation and treatment centers and upgrades to existing health facilities in host communities and refugee camps, increasing local capacity to isolate and treat vulnerable patients exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. As of April 15, IOM supported 35 health facilities in the district. IOM also assigned two ambulances to support the referral of

potential COVID-19 cases and activated a hotline to serve as a dispatch and referral unit for the ambulances. State/PRM partner UNHCR continues to prepare COVID-19 response facilities in Cox's Bazar; as of May 31, four UNHCR-supported quarantine facilities and two isolation and treatment centers were operational; UNHCR also supported local authorities to establish an intensive care unit in the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, inaugurated on June 20. To support COVID-19 preparedness and response measures, UNHCR also provided medical supplies and equipment to Cox's Bazar's Civil Surgeon's Office and Sadar Hospital in mid-April.

- Proactive measures aimed at addressing COVID-19 fears and misperceptions, as well as community-led communication strategies that engage the Rohingya community, are critical to controlling an outbreak of the virus in Cox's Bazar, ACAPS reports. As such, USG assistance supports organizations engaging community workers and volunteers to share critical messages related to COVID-19. As of mid-April, UNHCR had trained nearly 130 community health worker supervisors as trainers on COVID-19 risk communication. Altogether, nearly 1,600 community health workers and more than 800 volunteers from other humanitarian sectors had conducted nearly 43,800 household visits in Cox's Bazar, directly reaching nearly 90,000 people with information on COVID-19 symptoms, prevention, and response as of April 15. In addition, UNHCR trained 45 psychologists on COVID-19-related psychosocial care and 250 community psychosocial and outreach volunteers received training on awareness-raising related to the COVID-19 response and reached nearly 12,400 refugees with relevant information.

## **Cyclone and Monsoon Preparedness and Response**

- Tropical Cyclone Amphan made landfall near the India–Bangladesh border on May 20, bringing high winds and heavy rainfall to coastal areas. In Bangladesh, the most significant impacts of the storm, including at least 25 deaths, were reported in southwestern coastal areas of the country. In Cox's Bazar, there were no reported deaths or injuries resulting from the cyclone, although the storm destroyed nearly 120 refugee shelters and damaged approximately 1,420 refugee shelters, affecting more than 7,000 refugees, according to UNHCR. Humanitarian agencies in Cox's Bazar supported preparations and evacuations in advance of the storm, implementing handwashing and physical distancing measures to mitigate COVID-19 risks, the UN reports.
- While the effects of Tropical Cyclone Amphan in Cox's Bazar were relatively limited, a cyclone directly impacting Cox's Bazar would likely intensify the current humanitarian crisis and the impacts of COVID-19, particularly in the refugee camps where temporary shelters are vulnerable to severe storms. The Government of Bangladesh and humanitarian organizations, including USAID/BHA disaster risk reduction (DRR) partners, are incorporating COVID-19 mitigation and risk prevention measures into this season's cyclone and monsoon preparedness planning. In addition to maintaining the 72-hour response plan and pre-positioning of emergency items, humanitarian organizations are prioritizing only critical activities—including infection prevention and control training for staff and beneficiaries and risk communication activities—and are utilizing trained host community and refugee volunteer first responders to minimize the movement of humanitarian personnel around the district.
- IOM also maintains stocks of USAID plastic sheeting for disaster preparedness efforts, cyclone or monsoon response, and repairs to damaged host community or refugee shelters and emergency facilities in Cox's Bazar. With USAID/BHA support, IOM also coordinated with Government of Bangladesh authorities to train nearly 190 people in five local disaster management committees on Government of Bangladesh disaster response plans in April.

## **Protection**

- As of April 16, in coordination with partner relief organizations, UNHCR had provided medical assistance and shelter to nearly 400 Rohingya refugees—mostly women and children—who arrived in Cox's Bazar after being refused entry into other countries in the region and spending nearly two months aboard a boat in the Bay of Bengal. In line with Government of Bangladesh COVID-19 preparedness and response measures, UNHCR helped move the refugees to isolation facilities in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-districts, where they received medical evaluations and spent 14 days in quarantine.
- As of late May, however, the Government of Bangladesh had quarantined 306 additional Rohingya from such vessels on Bhasan Char Island, UN partners report. Bhasan Char is a remote, low-lying island west of Chittagong city, the capital of Chittagong Division, which includes both Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts. The Government of Bangladesh had



previously constructed facilities for Rohingya refugees on the island, but this represents the first use of the island to house refugees, according to HRW; humanitarian agencies have expressed concerns about potentially unsuitable living conditions on the island, which is vulnerable to the effects of cyclones and monsoon season rainfall. The Government of Bangladesh continues to refuse to allow vessels carrying Rohingya refugees to land in Bangladesh, citing already overpopulated camps in Cox's Bazar, as well as overburdened public health infrastructure as authorities implement COVID-19 preparedness and response measures, media report. As of June 22, there were no boats reported in or near Bangladesh's territorial waters.

- As the Government of Bangladesh increased efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the end of March, tensions between Cox's Bazar host communities and refugees—commonly cited by humanitarian organizations operating in Cox's Bazar—and reports of discrimination against refugees increased, with host community members urging authorities to further restrict access to the refugee camps, according to the UN Development Program. Relief actors are working to mitigate tensions by continuing to support both host community and refugee populations with USG-funded humanitarian assistance in Cox's Bazar.

## **Food Security and Nutrition**

- On April 22, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released a report that examines the preliminary impact of COVID-19 on agriculture systems in Cox's Bazar. According to FAO, COVID-19 is negatively affecting nearly every stage of the food value chain—including disrupted harvesting due to a lack of seasonal labor; diminished crop yields due to an inadequate supply of farming inputs such as fertilizer; increased transportation costs that result in higher food prices; and decreased market activity because of social distancing measures. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic limits host community and refugee populations' access to basic food commodities, particularly eggs, meat, milk, poultry, and vegetables, FAO reports.
- In Cox's Bazar, USAID/BHA partner WFP continues to provide food assistance, both through in-kind food and electronic voucher (e-vouchers), to support vulnerable refugee populations to meet food and nutrition needs. In April, WFP assisted more than 684,000 refugees with e-vouchers and nearly 174,000 refugees with in-kind food distributions. In addition, in February, WFP opened the agency's fifteenth Cox's Bazar e-voucher shop, through which refugees can use e-vouchers to purchase up to 20 nutritious varieties of food. The new shop targets nearly 9,400 refugee households, or nearly 65,600 people, previously reached with in-kind food assistance.
- To promote social distancing measures among beneficiaries and relief workers in Cox's Bazar in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP recently modified the agency's e-voucher and in-kind food distribution cycle to once per month, rather than twice monthly, providing beneficiaries one month's supply of food commodities or credit per distribution. To limit the number of people at distribution points and e-voucher shops, WFP's COVID-19 prevention protocols permit only one member of each household to collect the monthly food assistance. WFP continues to provide daily food baskets to eligible refugees enrolled in the e-voucher program to ensure continued adequate nutrition, and has increased the nutritional value of food baskets by introducing chickpeas, salt, potatoes, and additional yellow split peas; the adjustment reflects reduced household opportunities to generate income and fewer nutritional choices.
- In May, WFP assistance designed to prevent and treat acute malnutrition reached more than 13,000 children and pregnant and lactating women in the Bangladesh host community. WFP continues to provide life-saving nutrition assistance to both refugees in Cox's Bazar and the Bangladesh host community amid the COVID-19 pandemic; the UN agency is adapting distributions to reduce the number of gatherings in the camps by providing beneficiaries rations sufficient for two months of nutrition support during each distribution.

## CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the Government of Burma and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) broke down when fighting between Government of Burma security forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin, resulting in population displacement. Conflict in Kachin and northern Shan among armed groups and Government of Burma forces continues to generate additional displacement and humanitarian needs. As of April 2020, nearly 106,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many IDPs residing in areas outside of Government of Burma control with limited humanitarian access.
- Since November 2018, escalating clashes between the AA and Government of Burma forces have displaced at least 77,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in Rakhine and Chin states. Government of Burma-imposed access restrictions beginning in January 2019 in affected areas are hindering efforts to provide assistance to displaced populations and interrupting ongoing programs that aim to support to approximately 100,000 people in need.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of December 2019, nearly 131,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes remained displaced. These displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, a minority group not recognized by the Government of Burma and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. As of December 2019, an estimated 600,000 ethnic Rohingya remained in Rakhine.
- Following attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army on northern Rakhine State checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017, Government of Burma forces launched military operations in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships. Since August 25, 2017, insecurity and violence have prompted more than 711,000 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh, the UN reports. The new wave of refugees joined an estimated 212,500 Rohingya refugees already in Cox's Bazar, having fled previous outbreaks of violence.
- UNHCR estimated that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps was more than 860,000 people as of May 2020, while other refugees are sheltering in host communities. Refugee populations largely rely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, including food, shelter, and WASH, and experience restrictions on education, freedom of movement, and livelihoods activities. Refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar are also vulnerable to natural hazards such as cyclones and flooding.
- On December 20, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Scot Marciel re-declared a disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- USAID/BHA and State/PRM staff are coordinating with humanitarian partners in Burma and Bangladesh to assess humanitarian conditions, identify response gaps, and recommend response priorities.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>1</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER  | ACTIVITY   | LOCATION              | AMOUNT      |
|---|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE<sup>2</sup></b> |  |                       |             |
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>  |  |                       |             |
| <b>Non-Food Assistance</b>  |  |                       |             |
| Danish Refugee Council (DRC)  | Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection  | Rakhine               | \$1,200,000 |
| OCHA  | Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management   | Countrywide           | \$400,000   |
| Relief International  | Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Rakhine, Shan         | \$1,200,000 |
| Solidarités International   | Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH  | Kachin, Rakhine       | \$2,500,000 |
| UNICEF  | Health, Protection, WASH   | Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$3,002,184 |

|  |  |   |                      |
|--|--|---|----------------------|
|  | Program Support  |   | \$25,000             |
| <b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>                             |  |   | <b>\$8,327,184</b>   |
| CARE   | Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Cox's Bazar                               | \$3,500,000          |
| Catholic Relief Services (CRS)   | Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements       | Bandarban District                        | \$4,194,628          |
| Implementing Partner   | Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements       | Cox's Bazar                               | \$1,000,000          |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>   |  |   | <b>\$8,694,628</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH</b>                                     |  |   | <b>\$17,021,812</b>  |
| <b>Food Assistance<sup>3</sup></b>   |  |   |                      |
| WFP  | Local, Regional, and International Procurement                     | Burma                                     | \$8,808,055          |
|  | Complementary Services   | Burma                                     | \$200,000            |
|  | Cash Transfers for Food  | Burma                                     | \$5,191,945          |
| <b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>                                 |  |   | <b>\$14,200,000</b>  |
| WFP  | Food Vouchers  | Bangladesh                                | \$53,950,000         |
|  | Local, Regional, and International Procurement                     | Bangladesh                                | \$12,200,000         |
|  | Complementary Services   | Bangladesh                                | \$2,850,000          |
|  | Cash Transfers for Food  | Bangladesh                                | \$6,000,000          |
| <b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ROHINGYA RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH</b>                         |  |   | <b>\$75,000,000</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH</b>                               |  |   | <b>\$89,200,000</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>   |  |   | <b>\$106,221,812</b> |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>   |  |   |                      |
| ICRC   | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Bangladesh                                | \$3,200,000          |
| ICRC   | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Burma                                     | \$6,900,000          |
| International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)                              | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Bangladesh                                | \$8,000,000          |
| International Rescue Committee (IRC)   | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Thailand                                  | \$19,406,311         |
| IOM  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Bangladesh                                | \$30,670,487         |
| UNHCR  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Bangladesh                                | \$21,875,000         |
| UNHCR  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Burma                                     | \$3,750,000          |
| UNHCR  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Regional                                  | \$3,075,000          |
| UNICEF   | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Bangladesh                                | \$13,900,000         |
| WHO  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                             | Bangladesh                                | \$1,999,830          |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>   |  |   | <b>\$112,776,628</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>            |  |   | <b>\$218,998,440</b> |
| <b>FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE<sup>4</sup></b> |  |   |                      |
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>   |  |   |                      |
| <b>Non-Food Assistance</b>   |  |   |                      |
| UNICEF   | Health, WASH   | Burma: Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan | \$1,000,000          |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>   |  |   | <b>\$1,000,000</b>   |



| STATE/PRM   |  |            |                      |
|---|--|------------|----------------------|
| UNHCR   | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                       | Bangladesh | \$5,197,000          |
| UNHCR   | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                       | Malaysia   | \$200,000            |
| ICRC  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                       | Bangladesh | \$2,745,000          |
| ICRC  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                       | Burma      | \$2,150,000          |
| IFRC  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                       | Bangladesh | \$1,724,000          |
| IOM   | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                       | Bangladesh | \$7,380,000          |
| IRC   | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Preparedness and Response | Thailand   | \$730,000            |
| UNICEF  | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector                       | Bangladesh | \$5,150,000          |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>  |  |            | <b>\$25,276,000</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2020</b> |  |            | <b>\$26,276,000</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2020</b>  |  |            | <b>\$107,221,812</b> |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2020</b>  |  |            | <b>\$138,052,628</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2020<sup>5</sup></b>                         |  |            | <b>\$245,274,440</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding includes funding for both Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma.

<sup>2</sup> USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of June 23, 2020.

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

<sup>4</sup> Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response as of June 23.

<sup>5</sup> Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals more than \$951 million—including nearly \$799 million in Bangladesh and nearly \$153 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes more than \$504 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$80 million in USAID/BHA non-food assistance funding, and nearly \$367 million in USAID/BHA food assistance funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine State and other vulnerable populations. The fact sheet total includes funding from October 1, 2018, through June 23, 2020.

## 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org).
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).