

BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

RAKHINE CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

APRIL 19, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

687,000

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

212,500

Estimated Burmese Refugees in Cox's Bazar Prior to August 2017
ISCG – November 2017

800,000

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

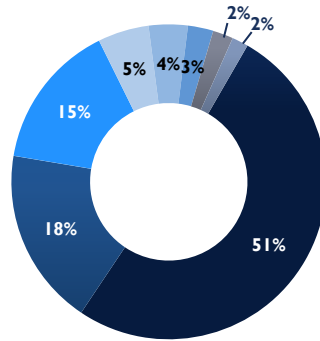
128,500

Estimated IDPs in Rakhine State
UN – February 2018

24,000

Estimated Refugees Residing in At-Risk Areas of Cox's Bazar
UNHCR – March 2018

USAID/OFDA¹ Funding By Sector in FY 2017-2018



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (51%)
- Protection (18%)
- Health (15%)
- Nutrition (5%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)
- Shelter & Settlements (2%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (2%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017-2018



- Local & Regional Procurement (55%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (24%)
- Complementary Services (21%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rohingya in Rakhine continue to experience difficulty accessing services and livelihood activities
- Relief actors are working to relocate refugees residing in at-risk areas of Cox's Bazar
- State/PRM provides an additional \$24.7 million to respond to the complex emergency in Burma

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017-2018³

USAID/OFDA	\$11,229,577
USAID/FFP	\$46,248,844
STATE/PRM ⁴	\$147,851,094
Total	\$205,329,515

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of April 19, State/PRM had provided more than \$24.7 million in additional funding to respond to needs generated by the complex emergency in Burma. The new funding brings the U.S. Government (USG) total for FY 2018 to more than \$101.6 million to address acute needs throughout Burma and the region.
- In coordination with the Government of Bangladesh, relief actors are working to relocate an initial 15,000 refugees who reside in areas of Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District identified as at risk of flooding and landslides before the April–October cyclone and monsoon seasons.
- Overcrowding and inadequate access to sanitation facilities in displacement sites have increased public health risks among refugee communities in Cox's Bazar. In addition, the upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons have raised concerns regarding disease outbreaks and disrupted access to services for vulnerable populations.

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 USG humanitarian funding for the Burma complex emergency, including the Rakhine crisis response

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

DISPLACEMENT AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

Rakhine State

- Rohingya populations continue to flee from Burma's Rakhine State to Bangladesh due to fear, insecurity, and lack of access to income-generating opportunities. However, refugee movements from Rakhine to Bangladesh have decreased significantly in recent months, with an estimated 7,500 new arrivals in Cox's Bazar from January–April, including nearly 90 arrivals in early April, 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. These figures compare to the nearly 583,000 people who arrived from September–December 2017.

Bangladesh

- The influx of approximately 687,000 refugees is straining the capacity of host communities throughout Cox's Bazar and resulting in deforestation, land degradation, and tensions between refugee and host communities. In particular, the need for firewood and shelter materials has led to the deforestation of approximately 2,500 acres in Cox's Bazar, according to an October 2017 UN estimate.
- On April 13, the Government of Bangladesh and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) finalized a Memorandum of Understanding for the voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees once security conditions in Burma are safe for return. UNHCR continues to stress the importance of ensuring that all returns are conducted in a safe, voluntary, and dignified manner.

SHELTER

Bangladesh

- Displacement sites in Cox's Bazar remain overcrowded and vulnerable to cyclones, fire, and heavy rainfall, according to the UN. The sites are primarily located in steep or low-lying areas prone to flooding and landslides—risks which are further exacerbated by the altering of terrain for shelters and clearing of vegetation. In addition, the majority of refugees reside in bamboo or tarpaulin shelters, with no access to cyclone shelters in the event of a disaster, and many health and sanitation facilities are located in areas at risk of flooding and landslides, ISCG reports. Further, the April–October cyclone and monsoon seasons are expected to increase the risks of disease outbreak, flooding, and landslides in these sites.
- UNHCR estimates that 24,000 people in Cox's Bazar reside in severely unstable areas and require immediate relocation before cyclone and monsoon seasons begin. Relief actors aim to relocate an initial 15,000 people in the coming weeks to new displacement sites in Cox's Bazar deemed safe from flooding and landslides. As of mid-April, State/PRM partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR had relocated more than 960 households—approximately 5,760 people—from severely unstable areas to new sites, with preparations for additional relocations underway.
- Between August 2017 and late March 2018, relief actors provided nearly 61,000 households with upgraded shelter kits, including bamboo poles, plastic sheeting, rope, and shelter tools. UNHCR and humanitarian partners are accelerating the distribution of shelter kits ahead of the cyclone and monsoon seasons, while concurrently providing biodegradable sandbags to vulnerable households to anchor structures.
- Lack of suitable land to construct additional shelters that meet the Sphere standard² for population density remains a challenge in Bangladesh. While the Sphere standard requires a minimum of 484 square feet of space per person, the UN estimates that the average amount of space per person in Cox's Bazar is 86 square feet. The Government of Bangladesh recently allocated more than 120 acres near Cox's Bazar's Kutupalong–Balukhali camp, where more than 604,000 refugees reside, for additional shelters. Relief actors are working to ensure the land is suitable for relocation,

² The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, 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

including by engaging refugee communities in cash-for-work programs to prepare the terrain for shelters and other infrastructure.

HEALTH AND WASH

Rakhine State

- Military checkpoints and movement restrictions in northern Rakhine continue to prevent many Rohingya from accessing Government of Burma-operated health clinics, as well as other essential services, the UN reports. In addition, government-imposed restrictions on humanitarian organizations and personnel have impeded regular access to internally displaced person (IDP) sites in central Rakhine, limiting their ability to assess shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions.

Bangladesh

- Overcrowding and inadequate access to sanitation facilities in displacement sites have increased public health risks among displaced populations in Cox's Bazar. More than 55 percent of all water sources in Cox's Bazar are contaminated with high levels of bacteria, including the *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria, according to relief actors. In addition, the upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons have raised concerns regarding water- and vector-borne disease outbreaks among refugee settlements, while flooding and landslides could damage and disrupt access to health care facilities.
 - Diphtheria—a preventable, highly infectious respiratory disease—continues to spread among refugees and host community members in Cox's Bazar; however, transmission rates are declining, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). WHO recorded more than 130 cases from March 17–24, representing a decrease from the nearly 200 cases recorded from March 10–17. Overall, health actors recorded 6,340 cases between November 8 and March 24. The third round of a diphtheria vaccination campaign in Cox's Bazar reached more than 431,000 children in late March, representing the highest recorded coverage of any diphtheria vaccination campaign to date.
 - The rapid influx of refugees challenged the construction of adequate water sources and sanitation facilities in many displacement sites in Cox's Bazar. In January, the UN estimated that more than 20 percent of the 5,700 tube wells constructed in displacement sites were in need of rehabilitation or replacement; the tube wells serve as the primary water source at many of these sites. In addition, more than 30 percent of latrines were located less than 33 feet from a water source, leading WASH actors to decommission more than 2,700 latrines that posed health risks or were located in high-risk areas, according to the UN.
 - The November–March dry season has depleted limited surface water sources and seasonal wells in Cox's Bazar, resulting in water shortages across several displacement sites, humanitarian actors report. To address immediate needs, UNHCR and partners plan to conduct water-trucking operations in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf sub-district, one of the worst affected areas. In addition, humanitarian organizations are implementing cash-for-work programs to improve water supply systems and boost livelihoods through the expansion of existing water reservoirs, among other activities.
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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Rakhine State

- Conflict-affected communities in Rakhine continue to experience difficulty accessing livelihood opportunities, including fishing and informal labor, resulting in continued reliance on humanitarian assistance to meet basic food needs. Despite ongoing access challenges due to frequently-changing Government of Burma travel authorization procedures, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food assistance to approximately 56,000 people in central Rakhine and 42,000 people in northern Rakhine's Maungdaw Township from March 1–23.
- Prior to August 2017, global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels in some areas of northern Rakhine were above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent, with a GAM prevalence of approximately 19 percent and 15.1 percent in northern Rakhine's Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, respectively. While relief actors' ability to conduct needs assessments is highly restricted, humanitarian organizations remain concerned about nutrition conditions in northern Rakhine due to the

lack of functioning outpatient therapeutic programs (OTP) sites or mobile clinics to provide screenings and treatment for individuals experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

Bangladesh

- USAID/FFP partner WFP is gradually transitioning Rohingya refugee food assistance to electronic vouchers (e-vouchers)—a type of cash-based transfer. More than 165,000 refugees received e-vouchers in March, representing an increase from the 89,000 refugees who received e-vouchers in January and February. WFP aims to reach 215,000 people with e-vouchers in April, with plans to transition all food assistance for Rohingya refugees to e-vouchers by late 2018. On average, WFP provides emergency food assistance to 800,000 refugees per month in Bangladesh. Cumulatively, the UN estimates that approximately 1.2 million people—including 884,000 refugees and 336,000 host community members—are in need of emergency food assistance.
- To improve food security and nutrition conditions among refugees and host community members, humanitarian organizations are distributing agricultural equipment and inputs to more than 28,900 host community households and 2,400 refugee households in Cox’s Bazar, ISCG reports. In addition, IOM and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization had distributed micro-gardening kits and food storage materials to 200 refugees and 680 host community members as of April 5.
- Nutrition actors have identified more than 4,200 children ages five years and younger experiencing SAM and more than 4,800 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) since August 2017, admitting SAM and MAM cases to therapeutic treatment centers or blanket supplementary feeding programs for treatment, ISCG reports. Cumulatively, relief organizations had established 46 OTP sites and seven nutrition stabilization sites in Cox’s Bazar as of March 5. The UN, however, estimates that approximately 100 nutrition centers are needed to treat Cox’s Bazar’s acutely malnourished population.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The 2018 Interim Humanitarian Response Plan 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-April, donors had contributed \$21.2 million towards the appeal, representing approximately 11.6 percent of the requested funding, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service (FTS).
- The 2018 Bangladesh Joint Response Plan, released in mid-March, requested \$950.8 million to address the needs of 1.3 million people, including Burmese refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, through December 2018. As of April 19, donors had contributed \$20.5 million—approximately 2.2 percent of the requested funding—towards the appeal, according to FTS.

CONTEXT

- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of February 2018, nearly 129,000 people remained displaced in 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 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 northern Rakhine’s Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships. Since August 25, insecurity and violence have prompted approximately 687,000 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 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 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 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
The UN Children’s Fund (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	Rakhine	\$616,338
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$4,604,924
	Local and Regional 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 Procurement	Bangladesh	\$3,500,000
	Complementary Services: Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	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 the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	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/OFDA			
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,503,916
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$3,503,916

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 Procurement	Bangladesh	\$189,000
	Complementary Services: Nutrition	Bangladesh	\$4,737,540
	Local and Regional Procurement	Bangladesh	\$11,112,710
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$3,067,290
WFP	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$4,000,000
	Complementary Services: Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Bangladesh	\$220,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$26,081,920

STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$17,648,610
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$23,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$17,300,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$6,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma and Region	\$7,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$72,048,610
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$101,634,446

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018			\$205,329,515
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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 March 22, 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.