

# ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH

# THE CRISIS IN NUMBERS



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# Rohingyas in Bangladesh: The Crisis in Numbers

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# Introduction

Bangladesh has been hosting Rohingyas, a minority ethnic group from Myanmar, for nearly three decades. The latest exodus began on 25 August 2017, when violence broke out in Myanmar's Rakhine State, driving more than 725,000 to seek refuge in Bangladesh. Most arrived in the first three months of the crisis. An estimated 14,922 Rohingyas arrived Bangladesh since January 2018. The vast majority reaching Bangladesh are women and children, and more than 40 per cent are under age 12. Coupled with who were already in Bangladesh from previous spates of violence, the number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh currently stands around 1.1 million.

Bangladesh, with its limited resources, has been trying its best to accommodate this persecuted group. For this humanitarian role, the Government of Bangladesh, especially Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has won international praise and applause. In this endeavour, Bangladesh has partnered up with various international organizations, especially the relevant agencies of the United Nations. But to keep on supporting them for an indefinite period without any lasting solution to the crisis in Rakhine, Myanmar would be asking too much of a country which has its own domestic development targets to achieve with limited resources. Under this circumstances, the Prime Minister underscored the need for addressing the root causes of the forced displacement and urged the international community to intensify its efforts in resolving the protracted crises. To that end, the international community, especially the countries with the most global influence must keep on supporting Bangladesh and strive towards achieving the safe and dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas to their homeland.



## 01 The Displaced Rohingyas



**725,000**

Rohingyas Sheltered Since August 2017



**1.1 Million**

Rohingyas Currently Sheltered in Bangladesh



That is more than the entire population of San Francisco

## 02 Rohingya Mothers and Children



**39,841**

Orphaned Rohingya Children in the Camps



**34,338**

Pregnant Rohingya Women Identified and Cared For



**3,554**

Rohingya Children Born Under Supervised Conditions till January 2019





**212,607**

Temporary  
Shelters  
Being Built



**100,000**

Rohingyas to be  
Moved to Custom  
Built Bhashan  
Island



**6,000**

Acres Land  
Allocated for  
Shelter Camps

Bigger Than Size of  
Entire City of Nashville



**30**

Shelter Camps for  
Displaced Rohingyas

Initially, Bangladesh aimed for 84,000 shelters and 20 camps for the displaced Rohingyas, but given the sheer numbers of those who entered, subsequently the targets were increased to the above levels. In this regard, Bangladesh is working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other NGOs. A civil servant from the Ministry of Public Administration, Bangladesh, supervises each camp.





## 03 Food and Necessities

The Government of Bangladesh has partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) to undertake the mammoth task of distributing food and necessities to around 876,682 displaced Rohingyas. There are now four categories: families with 1-3 members, 4-7 members, 8-10 members and families with more than 11 members. Ration sizes are adjusted for each category. Each family of 1-3 members receives 30 KG rice, 9 KG lentil, and 3 Litres of cooking oil for one month. The foods are being distributed in two rounds every month. There have been 24 rounds of distribution till mid-January 2019. Private donations and relief materials are distributed with the help of Bangladesh Army. Around 196,000 children under five years and 40,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women received assistance through malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes across 35 nutrition centers in the camps. Moreover, there are school feeding activities in the refugee camps to over 1,700 learning centers and reached more than 175,000 children with locally produced micronutrient fortified biscuits.



**876,682**

Rohingyas Receiving  
Food Assistance



**12,200**

Metric Tons of Food Are  
Required Every Month



**42,000**

Families Receiving Assistance  
Through E-vouchers



**175,000**

Children Receiving  
Micronutrient Fortified Biscuits



**21**

Foods and Grains  
Warehouses Built





## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Helping the Rohingyas



*Our houses were also burnt down in 1971. Our people fled to India when they had nowhere to go. So, we are doing everything in our power to help the Rohingyas.*

*I appeal to the world to stand solidly beside the forcibly deported Rohingyas in safeguarding their dignity and security.*

Her three recommendations for resolution of longstanding Rohingya crisis:

First, Myanmar must abolish discriminatory laws, policies and practices against Rohingyas and address the root causes of forced displacement in a genuine and timely manner.

Second, Myanmar must create a conducive environment by building trust and guaranteeing protection, rights and pathway to citizenship for all Rohingyas. If needed, create a “safe zone” inside Myanmar to protect all civilians.

Third, prevent atrocity crimes against Rohingyas in Myanmar by bringing accountability and justice, particularly in light of the recommendations of the Fact-Finding Mission of the UN Human Rights Council.

## 04 Water and Sanitation

Ensuring clean drinking water and hygienic sanitation for around a million people has been a challenging aspect of sheltering the displaced Rohingyas, especially with the risk of any outbreak of water-borne diseases. With the help of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNICEF, International Organization for Migration (IoM), the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has so far commissioned 6,007 shallow tube-wells, 3,632 deep tube wells, and 11 wells. Work to set up a 1,400 feet deep tube-well to provide safe water to 30,000 people is at its final stage. There are also 11 water reservoirs, 2 mobile water treatment plants and 2 mobile water carriers in operation. To date, 165,484 top-up hygiene kits and 25,290,672 Aquatabs have been distributed to Rohingya households through different agencies. Apart from building more than 50,000 sanitary latrines, the Government of Bangladesh, with its partners, has also decommissioned 7,353 inactive and unfit latrines to ensure maximum hygiene. Medium and small scale 'Fecal Sludge Management' (FCM) has been introduced.



**55,189**

Million Litres of Safe Water Needed Everyday



**8,771**

Drinking Wells Set Up



**56,400**

Latrines Built



**15,566**

Bathing Points Set Up



**55,189**

kilometres of Drainage Pipes Added



## 05 Infrastructure



**17 KM**

Electricity Transmission Lines Being Set Up



**30 KM**

Approach Roads Connecting City With Camps



**30 KM**

New Water Canals Being Dug in Camp Areas



**2.3 KM**

of Bridges Have Been Built



With financial help of UNHCR, the Government of Bangladesh has already built 13 km of electricity transmission lines of the targeted 17km. 50 street lights, 10 flood lights, and 2,019 solar lights are lighting up the camps and keeping them secure. With the help of UNHCR, IOM, and WFP, the work of digging new 20 km new water canals is ongoing, of which 10 km work has already been completed.

## 06 Healthcare

**4.5 Million**

Individual Healthcare Services Provided

**4 Million**

Vaccination and Vitamin Shots Given

**1,36,882**

Under-5 Children Given Nutrition Intervention

**83,145**

Pregnant and Adult Women Given Nutrition Intervention

**162**

Primary Healthcare Centers Set Up

**124**

Agencies Engaged in Healthcare

**12**

Maternal and Child Health Centers

**7**

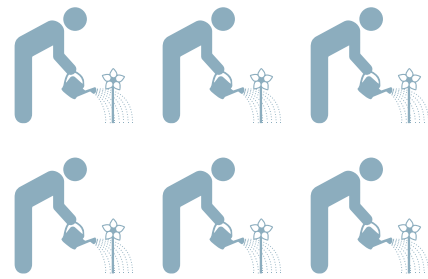
Field Hospitals Working Round the Clock

Efforts by the Government of Bangladesh and humanitarian partners have contributed to stabilising the health status of population living in camps. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Refugee Health Unit (RHU) of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), and partners have been working to strengthen health infrastructure and providing healthcare service for refugees. Curative, preventive and promotive health services are provided through 22 health facilities and more than 300 Community Health Workers (CHWs). A 24/7 referral system through ambulances enables access to hospital services outside the camps for the care of critically ill patients. In one of the largest vaccination programmes ever seen in any displacement situations, the Government of Bangladesh, has provided vaccinations to the Rohingyas for MR, OPV, Vitamin A, Cholera and Diphtheria.



## 07 Disaster Preparedness

The displaced Rohingyas are quite vulnerable to the risks posed by Mother Nature, in particular, landslides and mudslides in monsoon and cyclones. The GoB is not sitting idle. With help from UNHCR and IoM, vulnerable populations were moved elsewhere and camps were extended in the safer sides to help mitigate the risks posed by landslides and mudslides in monsoon. Families were being provided with materials to reinforce their shelters to protect them from the risks posed by cyclones. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities for cyclone preparedness are also ongoing. WFP is doing rehabilitation work on 40 cyclone shelters. Refugees and members of the host community participate in DRR activities in exchange for remuneration. To help avert any death or injuries from wild elephants passing by, the GoB is working now with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



**204,300**

Trees Being Planted in  
the Camp Areas



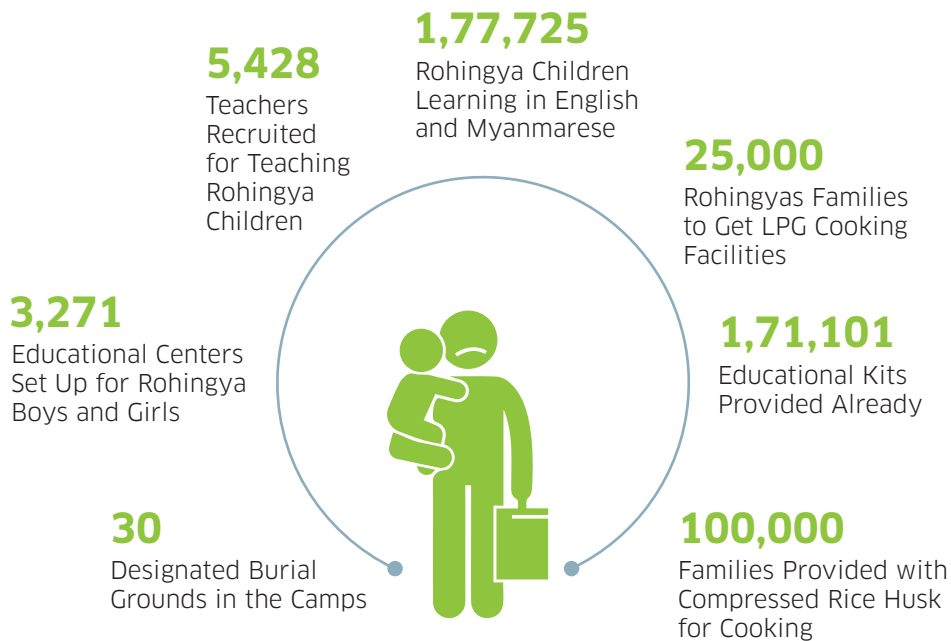
**190,926**

Families Provided With  
Cyclone Protection Materials





## 08 Civic Services for the Displaced



## 09 Challenges Ahead

The government of Bangladesh received about one million displaced Rohingyas with great deal of sympathy and provided all form of support including relief, shelter, food, medical care including health and sanitation affairs. Since there is no imminent possibility of repatriation to their homeland, Bangladesh will continue to respond to humanitarian needs of this huge population. With the help of UN agencies and other stakeholders, the GoB has formulated the 2019 Joint Response Plan which seeks to raise some \$920 million to continue meeting the basic needs of Rohingya refugees and the communities hosting them. So, a significant challenge in the days ahead would be keeping the international funding flowing into Bangladesh for assistance of the forcibly displaced people.

## Relocation Plan

Bangladesh is spending \$280 million transforming Bhashan Char, an islet that emerged from the sea two decades ago, into a camp for some of the refugees. Government of Bangladesh has completed the project, with the navy fast-tracking construction of shelters (440 buildings) and evacuation centers. The living conditions on the islet will be better than the conditions of the camps. A newly-constructed three-metre embankment around the islet will keep out tidal surges in the event of a cyclone. Children will be able to have primary education, there will be health facilities, livelihood opportunities including fishing and farming, and freedom of movement on the island.

### Bhashan Char Relocation

**\$280**

Million  
Project

**100,000**

Rohingyas to get  
Accommodation

**Protection**

from Cyclones  
and Flooding

**440**

Shelter  
Buildings



## End Note

Apart from the obvious economic losses, Bangladesh is also paying a high social and environmental cost for sheltering a million displaced people. Till now, 500 acres of forests land has been razed to the ground for meeting the energy needs of the displaced Rohingyas. Tourism in Cox's Bazar, which boasts the world's longest natural sea beach and is the main attraction for tourists coming into Bangladesh, has also taken a hit.

While Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the GoB and the people of Bangladesh continue to stand by these distressed people, the situation on the ground, and especially given the magnitude of the responsibility, dictates that the status quo cannot, and should not continue indefinitely.

The GoB and most of the countries of the world that have stood by the Rohingyas are seeking a speedy resolution to the crisis. The current state of affairs, if left without resolution indefinitely, can also have serious domestic political and regional security implications. It is therefore, in everyone's interests, especially that of the Rohingyas, that a speedy resolution is reached to the crisis and the forcibly displaced people can once again go to their homeland in Myanmar in a safe and dignified manner.

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