

BURMA AND BANGLADESH

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

NOVEMBER 30, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

862,851

Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma
UN – November 2017

105,854

Estimated IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan
OCHA – October 2018

128,169

Estimated IDPs in Rakhine IDP Sites
UN – October 2018

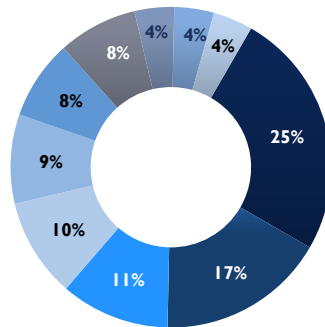
733,415

Estimated People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017
UNHCR – November 2018

212,500

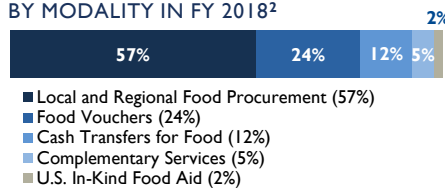
Estimated Burmese Refugees in Cox's Bazar Prior to August 2017
ISCG – November 2017

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2018



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (25%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Info Management (17%)
- Shelter & Settlements (11%)
- Health (10%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (9%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (8%)
- Protection (8%)
- Logistics Support and Relief Commodities (4%)
- Nutrition (4%)
- Other (4%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2018²



- Local and Regional Food Procurement (57%)
- Food Vouchers (24%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (12%)
- Complementary Services (5%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (2%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Attacks by Burmese security forces in 2017 and early 2018 damage nearly 40 percent of villages in northern Rakhine
- USAID/FFP partner WFP reaches 232,000 people in Rakhine with emergency assistance in October
- USG partners provide emergency food, health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH assistance to conflict-affected populations in Bangladesh and Burma

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018³

USAID/OFDA	\$24,792,879
USAID/FFP	\$121,912,904
STATE/PRM	\$249,763,648

\$396,469,431

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In mid-November, the Government of Bangladesh delayed plans to repatriate Rohingya refugees due to refugees' unwillingness to return to Burma. The UN and other relief agencies continue to emphasize that conditions in Rakhine State are un conducive to voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable returns, and that any returns should be fully voluntary.
- While overcrowding in and difficult road access to refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District remain a key humanitarian challenges, coordination efforts and food security conditions for refugee populations have improved in recent months, according to the recent mid-term review of the 2018 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis.
- To mitigate weather-related risks during the October-to-November cyclone season in Cox's Bazar, humanitarian actors—including U.S. Government (USG) partners—have provided wind-resistant shelter upgrades, repaired cyclone shelters, and raised awareness about cyclone preparedness measures in camps and host communities, as well as relocated refugees from areas at highest risk of flooding and landslides to safer locations.

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

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

³ 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 and internally displaced persons (IDPs), while USAID funding includes new and ongoing activities in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, as well as Bangladesh.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Regional

- The Government of Bangladesh has delayed plans to repatriate Rohingya refugees until early 2019, citing refugees' unwillingness to return to Burma, international media report. The governments of Bangladesh and Burma had previously planned to begin repatriating an initial group of 2,200 Rohingya refugees to Burma in mid-November. In a November 15 statement, the Government of Bangladesh affirmed its support for voluntary refugee returns to Burma. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released a subsequent statement in support of the Government of Bangladesh's decision to delay repatriation efforts, which called on the Government of Burma to create conditions conducive to voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable refugee returns.
- In the days preceding planned repatriation efforts, Rohingya refugees' fear of involuntary repatriation compromised their access to humanitarian assistance in Bangladesh, according to the UN Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian coordinating body comprising UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and other stakeholders. Relief actors report that refugees were increasingly unwilling to access services due to concerns of being linked by association to the repatriation process and forced to involuntarily return to Burma.
- Prior to the Government of Bangladesh's decision to delay repatriation efforts, more than 40 INGOs released a joint statement opposing the premature or involuntary return of Rohingya refugees to Burma, emphasizing the need for refugees to make free and informed choices about returning to areas of origin based on access to full and impartial information about conditions in Rakhine.

Rakhine State

- The UN Operational Satellite Applications Program (UNOSAT) reports that Government of Burma-led attacks from late August 2017 to mid-March 2018 damaged more than 390 of approximately 990 towns and villages—or nearly 40 percent of assessed settlements—in northern Rakhine, particularly in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships. Attacks affected nearly 70 percent of settlements in Maungdaw, while violence impacted 26 percent and 9 percent of settlements in Buthidaung and Rathedaung, respectively, according to preliminary UNOSAT analysis.
- On November 18, Government of Burma authorities raided central Rakhine's Ah Nauk Ye IDP site, shooting and injuring four IDPs, international media report. Authorities also reportedly detained two individuals accused of smuggling IDPs out of the camp. Following the incident, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, a.i., Knut Ostby expressed concern about the shooting and called for non-violence and restraint.

Shan State

- From July–September, heightened military operations in northern Shan displaced approximately 4,900 people, UNHCR reports. Additionally, UNHCR identified nearly 60 protection-related incidents affecting 4,280 people in northern Shan during the same period, an increase from approximately 30 incidents that affected 840 people from April–June.

Bangladesh

- During the week of October 8, ISCG published the mid-term review of the 2018 JRP, outlining key challenges and developments in the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar from March–August. The report noted progress in strengthening humanitarian coordination efforts and diversifying funding sources for the response and highlighted that overall food security conditions for refugee populations have improved since late 2017, likely due to improvements in general food distribution programs. However, overcrowding and poor road access in Cox's Bazar remain key challenges and limit the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver basic services, according to the report. Bangladesh's May-to-September monsoon season also limited humanitarian access to camps, restricted the mobility of refugee populations, and hindered the transportation of food supplies.

RELIEF COMMODITIES, SHELTER, AND SEASONAL RESPONSE

Bangladesh

- To mitigate risks associated with the October-to-November cyclone season in Cox's Bazar, humanitarian actors, including USG partners, had provided nearly 164,840 households in the district with tie-down kits to help shelters resist high winds as of November 12, ISCG reports. Additionally, USAID/OFDA partners have conducted crucial repairs to cyclone shelters, such as fixing broken walls and windows, cleaning access pathways, and restoring water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facility functionality. With State/PRM and USAID/OFDA support, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN World Food Program (WFP) have rehabilitated 40 shelters in Cox's Bazar. With USG and other donor support, relief organizations are also upgrading shelters to protect households from heavy rains and strong winds, as well as repairing and constructing new latrines and other WASH facilities in Cox's Bazar refugee camps and host communities.
- The Logistics Sector, led by USAID partner WFP, continues to provide free common storage services at the Madhu Chara Logistics and Engineering Hub and the Teknaf Logistics Hub for humanitarian actors, according to ISCG. Approximately 20 storage units in seven locations in Cox's Bazar are available to relief agencies to pre-position supplies for cyclone-related response efforts.
- In early October, State/PRM partner UNHCR supported refugee volunteers in Cox's Bazar to raise awareness on cyclone preparedness and response activities. Volunteers provided briefings on the early warning flag system used by the Government of Bangladesh, as well as guidance on the proper storage of emergency supplies. From October 1–15, UNHCR also supported information sessions on cyclone preparedness at 10 displacement sites in Cox's Bazar, reaching approximately 20,000 individuals.
- According to ISCG, approximately 770 severe weather incidents displaced more than 6,200 individuals and affected approximately 55,300 people in Cox's Bazar between May 11 and November 4. The incidents, in order of frequency, included landslides and erosion, strong winds and storms, floods, and fires.
- In coordination with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, UNHCR recently distributed nearly 19,170 family kits—each consisting of a bucket, rope, wire, plastic tarpaulin, and two sleeping mats—to local monsoon-affected households in Cox's Bazar. As of mid-October, UNHCR had planned to distribute a total of 30,000 family kits to vulnerable host community households.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Burma

- In September, USG partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided basic preventive nutrition services, including distributing micronutrient supplements and providing infant and young child feeding counseling, to more than 2,200 pregnant and lactating women and nearly 1,500 children ages five years and younger in Kachin and Rakhine, the UN agency reports.
- During October, USAID/FFP supported WFP to provide emergency food assistance to an estimated 96,000 conflict-affected people—including 2,900 pregnant and lactating women and 14,400 children ages five years and younger—across more than 240 villages in northern Rakhine's Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. Additionally, WFP reached 136,000 people in central Rakhine with emergency relief and nutrition assistance in October, according to the UN agency.
- In addition to assisting vulnerable populations in Rakhine, WFP provided emergency cash-for-food assistance to approximately 47,000 IDPs in Kachin in October. WFP also reached 7,200 people across 20 camps in northern Shan and 9,000 conflict-affected people in Shan's Kokang Self-Administered Zone with emergency assistance during the month.
- June–October monsoon rains were adequate throughout Burma, benefitting crop development, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO forecasts that rice paddy output will reach 30.4 million tons by the end of 2018—up from the 2017 total output of 29.5 million tons. However, final 2018 output figures are dependent on weather conditions and the outcomes of secondary crops, which are planted in November.

Bangladesh

- From October 30–November 12, Food Security Sector organizations, including USAID/FFP partners, reached more than 952,700 refugees in Cox’s Bazar with emergency food assistance through in-kind food distributions and electronic and paper food vouchers, ISCG reports. During the same period, Nutrition Sector organizations, including USG partners, screened more than 187,000 children ages five years and younger for acute malnutrition, admitting more than 1,200 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to treatment programs and referring nearly 2,300 children ages 6–59 months experiencing moderate acute malnutrition to supplementary feeding programs.

HEALTH, PROTECTION, AND WASH

Burma

- With support from USAID/OFDA, UNICEF reached more than 4,700 people in Burma with basic health care services in September, including vaccinating more than 500 children ages 9–18 months against measles and providing referrals to patients requiring specialized care. USAID/OFDA also supported UNICEF to deliver critical WASH services to more than 16,600 people in central Rakhine IDP camps in September.
- USAID/OFDA partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is providing protection services to 53,000 IDPs in 29 camps in Kachin, including protection monitoring, camp-based protection support, and case management services. In response to the relocation of some IDPs to resettlement sites in Kachin, DRC had conducted information sessions in nearly 30 camps as of October to educate IDPs about return- and relocation-related rights.

Bangladesh

- In mid-November, the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare—with support from State/PRM partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and local health agencies—launched the fourth round of an oral cholera vaccination campaign targeting more than 328,000 refugees and host community members in Cox’s Bazar. The campaign, which is scheduled to conclude in mid-December, will utilize more than 100 mobile and fixed-site vaccination teams.
- With support from State/PRM, IOM has repurposed part of a primary health care center at Cox’s Bazar’s Leda refugee camp as an inpatient ward for the stabilization and treatment of SAM patients. Additionally, IOM is providing rapid diagnostic test kits for vector-borne diseases to all of its health facilities in Cox’s Bazar, enabling medical personnel to treat more than 80 cases of acute watery diarrhea from September 28–October 4. During the same period, IOM’s mental health and psychosocial support team provided services to nearly 450 people in Cox’s Bazar.
- As of October 8, State/PRM had supported UNICEF to complete the renovation and construction of water access points in Cox’s Bazar, improving access to safe drinking water for approximately 21,000 people at six displacement sites in the district. UNICEF also distributed more than 16,000 hygiene kits and opened three new safe spaces for women and girls from September 18–October 8, bringing the total number of UNICEF-supported safe spaces across Cox’s Bazar to 12 and reaching an estimated 3,000 people with psychosocial support activities.
- IOM recorded nearly 100 cases of human trafficking and exploitation in Cox’s Bazar between September 2017 and September 2018, including girls, women, boys, and men who faced abduction, abusive working conditions, debt bondage, forced labor, or sexual exploitation and abuse. According to IOM, the number of cases recorded is not representative of the full impact of human trafficking on vulnerable Burmese refugees and host community members in Cox’s Bazar due to underreporting and limited access to reliable data.
- In addition to raising awareness about human trafficking risks, IOM has assisted trafficking survivors with support, including case management and referrals, family tracking and reunification, legal counseling, and mental health and psychosocial support services, as well as the provision of emergency cash assistance and dignity kits. IOM is also working with local officials, community leaders, and other relief actors to establish and strengthen counter-trafficking committees and build law enforcement capacity to implement anti-trafficking measures.

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 security forces continue to generate additional displacement and humanitarian need. As of October 2018, an estimated 105,900 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many of the displaced residing in areas outside of Government of Burma control with limited humanitarian access.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of October 2018, more than 128,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes, as well as an unknown number of people affected by more recent violence, 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, 2017, insecurity and violence have prompted approximately 733,400 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh. The ISCG estimates that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox’s Bazar is approximately 901,300 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, USAID/FFP, 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 AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2018¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$817,486
DRC	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,000,000
IOM	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements	Rakhine	\$1,800,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$600,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$1,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Rakhine	\$580,267
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,434,292
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,503,916
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Burma	\$4,250,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Protection, WASH	Rakhine	\$747,112
TOTAL USAID/OFDA RESPONSE FUNDING FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN BURMA			\$18,233,073

CARE	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bangladesh	\$1,700,000
IOM	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$1,260,000
Relief International	Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Bangladesh	\$1,750,000
WFP	Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
	Logistics Support: Provision of Rolls of Plastic Sheeting	Bangladesh	\$823,167
	Program Support		\$26,639
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$6,559,806
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$2,090,886
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$189,000
	Complementary Services: Nutrition	Bangladesh	\$4,233,018
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Burma	\$8,260,275
	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$5,239,725
	Complementary Services: Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Burma	\$500,000
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$60,622,720
	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$9,654,542
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$29,447,883
	Complementary Services: Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, HCIM	Bangladesh	\$1,674,855
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$121,912,904
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,800,000
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$14,500,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$5,000,000
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$20,648,548
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$86,165,100
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$350,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$61,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma and Region	\$19,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$37,300,000
WHO	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$249,763,648
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$396,469,431
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018⁴			\$500,283,546

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents publicly announced funding as of September 24, 2018.

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

⁴ Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals nearly \$389 million since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$243 million in State/PRM funding, nearly \$128 million in USAID/FFP funding, and nearly \$18 million in USAID/OFDA funding.

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.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>