



# BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## RAKHINE CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

### NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**619,594**

People Newly Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh  
ISCG – November 2017

**212,518**

Burmese Refugees in Bangladesh Prior to August 2017  
ISCG – November 2017

**800,000**

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

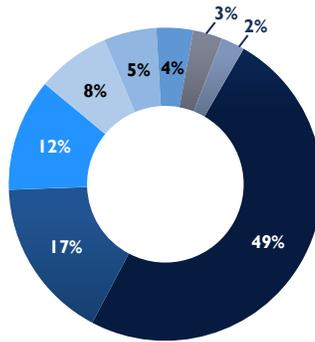
**176,129**

Rohingya Remaining in Northern Rakhine  
UN – November 2017

**120,000**

IDPs in Rakhine State Prior to August 25, 2017  
UN – October 2017

### USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> Funding By Sector in FY 2017-2018



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (49%)
- Protection (17%)
- Health (12%)
- Nutrition (8%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (4%)
- Shelter & Settlements (3%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (2%)

### USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017-2018



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (54%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (35%)
- RUTF (6%)
- Logistics Support (5%)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing violence and insecurity in Rakhine State displaces nearly 620,000 people to Bangladesh
- Humanitarian access constraints impede delivery of relief assistance to affected populations in Rakhine
- USG announces more than \$47 million in additional assistance for the Rakhine crisis

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017-2018<sup>3</sup>

USAID/OFDA	\$7,725,661
USAID/FFP	\$20,285,924
STATE/PRM <sup>4</sup>	\$123,102,484
<b>\$151,114,069</b>	

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Insecurity in northern areas of Burma’s Rakhine State, including attacks on checkpoints and police posts in northern Rakhine and subsequent military operations, has prompted nearly 620,000 people to flee Burma to neighboring Bangladesh since late August, according to the Bangladesh-based UN Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian response coordinating body, comprising UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and other stakeholders.
- Access constraints, including Government of Burma (GoB) restrictions and insecurity, have limited or prevented relief actors from accessing affected populations in central and northern Rakhine, particularly in northern Rakhine’s Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships, the UN reports.
- On November 15, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson announced an additional \$47 million in U.S. Government (USG) funding from State/PRM to respond to the crisis in Rakhine and related humanitarian needs in Burma and Bangladesh.

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> Funding includes all humanitarian complex emergency response funds for Burma

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## DISPLACEMENT AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

- Insecurity and violence, sparked by attacks on checkpoints and police posts in northern Rakhine and intensified by subsequent military operations, prompted nearly 620,000 people to flee Burma to Bangladesh from August 25 to November 15, ISCG reports. The new arrivals join an estimated 212,000 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 more than 832,000 people, according to ISCG.
- Given ongoing population movements, limited access to affected populations, and the lack of official estimates of the scale of Rohingya internal displacement, the total number of people displaced in northern Rakhine since August remains unknown. However, the UN estimates that approximately 176,000 of the 800,000 Rohingya living in northern Rakhine before October 2016 remained in the state as of early November. In addition, the GoB and the UN estimate that the conflict initially displaced approximately 26,700 ethnic Rakhine and other minorities from northern Rakhine, including more than 3,300 people who remained displaced as of early November.
- Humanitarian access to northern Rakhine remains severely limited, with only Red Cross organizations securing regular access to the area. Despite access challenges, Red Cross agencies provided food assistance to more than 72,500 people, cash grants to more than 12,100 people, and nearly 109,000 liters of safe drinking water to affected communities in Rakhine from August 25 to November 10. In addition, access constraints, including bureaucratic impediments, have limited the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations in central Rakhine. The majority of active humanitarian organizations in central Rakhine report relying on camp-based staff or volunteers to implement activities, reducing the impact of increased humanitarian access constraints.
- On October 26, the GoB released plans to open two border crossings with Bangladesh and establish a temporary resettlement camp in Maungdaw, where returning refugees will receive health care services and national verification cards. However, humanitarian organizations in Burma do not anticipate that voluntary returns will begin in the near future due to insecurity in Rakhine and safety concerns among Burmese refugees in Bangladesh.
- Population movements in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District remain highly fluid, with as many as 4,000 Rohingya refugees arriving from November 9–12, ISCG reports. Refugees continue to move among displacement sites, complicating the consistent delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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## PROTECTION AND SHELTER

- Continued population movements in Cox's Bazar have resulted in increasingly overcrowded camps and informal settlements, prompting the Government of Bangladesh to allocate more than 3,000 acres for a new expansion site near the informal Kutupalong camp. Of the 620,000 new arrivals in Bangladesh since late August, approximately 351,000 people were sheltering in the Kutupalong refugee camp and expansion site, 223,000 people were sheltering in other established camps or temporary settlements, and 46,000 people were sheltering in host communities as of November 15.
- Humanitarian actors report numerous protection concerns for Rohingya women and girls in Bangladesh, including lack of income opportunities, overcrowded refugee settlements, security risks while collecting firewood, insufficient lighting in camps, and unsafe aid distribution points. According to ISCG protection partners, more than 220 survivors—75 percent of whom received emergency medical referral and support—reported gender-based violence (GBV) incidents from November 5–9. In total, protection actors had recorded approximately 2,200 GBV incidents as of November 9. Humanitarian protection partners provided case management, GBV referrals, peer support, and safe spaces to approximately 4,600 women and girls from November 5–9.
- With support from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Government of Bangladesh Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission surveyed nearly 103,000 households in Cox's Bazar from October 4–30 to identify refugees with special protection needs. Among surveyed households, 70 percent of refugees fled from Maungdaw and 54 percent of refugees are ages 18 years and younger. UNHCR identified 30 percent of households as vulnerable—meaning the household is headed by a single mother, single father, elderly person, or child; the household contains at least one person with a serious medical condition or disability; or the household consists of a separated or unaccompanied child.
- On November 15, Secretary Tillerson announced more than \$47 million in additional USG funding through State/PRM to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of affected populations in Bangladesh. Through the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other partners, State/PRM aims to provide

protection and shelter services, as well as health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, to more than 1 million displaced persons and affected communities in Burma and Bangladesh.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- With USAID/FFP support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) procures local and regional food for in-kind food distributions and provides cash transfers for the purchase of food in Rakhine. On October 26, the GoB granted WFP permission to resume food distributions in northern Rakhine, following the suspension of activities since late August. WFP plans to provide emergency food assistance to 36,000 people in northern Rakhine in November, reaching a total of 136,000 people in conjunction with Red Cross agencies. In addition, with State/RPM support, Red Cross agencies plan to reach 180,000 people in Rakhine with food assistance and other services through December.
- Despite access constraints in central Rakhine, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided emergency food assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable populations in seven central Rakhine townships in October, reaching approximately 118,000 people—including 24,000 children ages five years and younger, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)—from October 9–23.
- In FY 2017, USAID/FFP supported UNICEF to dispatch 200 metric tons of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) to people in Rakhine. UNICEF is also establishing integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programs in six states, including Rakhine, with the aim to reach approximately 16,000 children ages 6–59 months experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Through IMAM programs, UNICEF aims to improve screening of children for acute malnutrition and build the capacity of communities and local health authorities to address malnutrition.
- In Bangladesh, many new arrivals are reliant on humanitarian organizations for food assistance and other basic needs, ISCG reports. As of November 9, all new arrivals required emergency food assistance, while more than 144,000 children ages five years and younger and PLW required supplementary feeding, according to ISCG. Humanitarian actors in Cox’s Bazar report that additional food distributions and improved monitoring of distributions are needed. In addition, an estimated 564,000 Rohingya refugees and host community members—including 240,000 children ages 6–59 months, 204,000 adolescent girls, and 120,000 PLW—residing in southeastern Bangladesh required nutrition assistance as of November 9, according to the ISCG.
- ISCG nutrition partners identified nearly 1,550 SAM cases and more than 930 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases among the nearly 44,300 children ages five years and younger screened for acute malnutrition in Cox’s Bazar from November 5–9. Since late August, partners have admitted approximately 8,900 SAM cases and 5,800 MAM cases to inpatient and outpatient facilities for treatment. ISCG nutrition partners also established more than 65 outpatient therapeutic programs and four stabilization centers to address nutrition needs among displaced populations from October 22–28.
- The malnutrition rates among registered Rohingya refugee children and new arrivals in camp-based settings continue to increase. Preliminary findings from a joint Action Against Hunger–UNICEF nutrition assessment conducted in Kutupalong from October 22–28 indicate a 7.5 percent prevalence of SAM among children ages 6–59 months; the level is more than twice that observed among Rohingya refugee children in May 2017. The assessment also recorded a global acute malnutrition prevalence of 24 percent among children residing in Kutupalong, where insufficient access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and lack of nutrition treatment services are further exacerbating malnutrition levels.
- WFP is scaling up its blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) program, which provides additional food rations to children and PLW to prevent acute malnutrition, in Cox’s Bazar. WFP has operated two BSF centers in the Kutupalong and Leda displacement sites since October 2016.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- Many INGOs and UN agencies suspended health and WASH activities in central and northern Rakhine in late August due to insecurity and GoB restrictions. Although relief actors have since resumed some activities in central Rakhine, safety concerns and travel restrictions have hindered international and national staff from fully resuming services.

- Through \$1.4 million in FY 2017 funding, USAID/OFDA supported an INGO to provide health, nutrition, and WASH assistance to IDPs and conflict-affected communities in central Rakhine's Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. The USAID/OFDA partner's programs included desludging of latrines, improving management of water points, and conducting hygiene promotion campaigns in IDP camps.
- In Bangladesh, the rapid influx of the 620,000 refugees from Burma has strained health and sanitation facilities, raising concerns among relief actors regarding increased risks of communicable disease outbreaks. In addition, low immunization rates in Cox's Bazar increase the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, polio, and rubella, according to ISCG. Of the nearly 327,000 medical consultations conducted from August 25 to November 9, approximately 29 percent of patients were diagnosed with acute respiratory infections, 28 percent with unexplained fever, and 21 percent with acute watery diarrhea (AWD), the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. WHO reported more than 140 deaths between August 15 and November 9, the majority due to acute respiratory infections.
- ISCG health partners note that nearly 1.2 million refugees and host community members—particularly those residing in new informal settlements and hard-to-reach areas—are in need of health assistance in Cox's Bazar, including improved access to inpatient and secondary health facilities, GBV services, mental health care, and maternal, child, and newborn health services. In response, ISCG health partners provided health services to more than 606,000 people between August 25 and November 9. In addition, health actors reached nearly 200,000 children ages 1–5 years with oral cholera vaccines and provided nearly 237,000 children ages five years and younger with oral polio vaccines from November 4–9. Relief organizations also vaccinated nearly 136,000 children ages 9 months–15 years against measles and rubella from August 25 to October 28.
- Increasingly overcrowded displacement sites in Bangladesh lack sufficient WASH facilities, prompting concerns of communicable disease outbreaks, particularly AWD. Limited road access continues to prevent the development of sufficient WASH facilities at new displacement sites, with only 27 percent of displacement sites accessible by vehicle as of late October. In response, humanitarian WASH actors have provided approximately 578,000 people with WASH assistance since late August by distributing hygiene kits, building more than 17,100 temporary latrines, and mobilizing six teams to test water quality at water points throughout Cox's Bazar.
- Approximately 80 percent of the 630 water sources and household water storage containers surveyed by WHO in Cox's Bazar tested positive for E. coli bacteria, ISCG reports, and among 30 displacement site in Cox's Bazar surveyed by IOM from September 30 to October 9, approximately 82 percent of households lacked sufficient potable water and nearly 75 percent reported incidents of diarrheal disease.
- State/PRM supports IOM and UNICEF to provide WASH assistance to displaced populations in Cox's Bazar, including the construction of nearly 5,600 emergency latrines, benefitting more than 270,000 people between August 25 and mid-November. IOM and UNICEF have also constructed nearly 20 deep tube wells and trucked approximately 800,000 liters of safe drinking water to Cox's Bazar for distribution to displaced populations.

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## **INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- The 2017 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requested \$150.3 million to address the needs of 525,000 conflict- and disaster-affected people between January and December 2017. As of mid-November, donors had provided more than 64 percent—\$96.8 million—of the funding.
- The 2017 Bangladesh HRP requested \$434 million to address the needs of 1.2 million people, including Burmese refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, through February 2018. As of mid-November, donors had contributed \$148 million—nearly 35 percent of the requested funds.

## CONTEXT

- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of August 2017, approximately 120,000 people remained displaced in central Rakhine, while other vulnerable populations lacked access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya—a minority group not formally recognized by the GoB and, therefore, effectively stateless 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, GoB security forces launched military operations in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung. Since August 25, insecurity and violence have prompted nearly 620,000 people to flee Burma to Bangladesh. These new arrivals join an estimated 212,000 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 more than 832,000 people.
- On October 18, 2017, U.S. Ambassador Scot A. Marciel reissued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA staff and State/PRM Regional Refugee Coordinators based in Bangkok, Thailand, remain in contact with humanitarian partners in Burma and Bangladesh and continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Rakhine to evaluate humanitarian conditions, identify relief gaps, and recommend response options.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
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
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,000,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$193,819
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$7,725,661</b>

<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNICEF	RUTF	Rakhine	\$1,166,924
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$4,604,924
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$7,395,076
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$2,500,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$3,500,000
	Logistics Support	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$20,166,924</b>

STATE/PRM <sup>4</sup>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$75,802,484</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>			<b>\$103,695,069</b>

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
CARE International	Food Commodities	Bangladesh	\$119,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$119,000</b>

STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$23,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$17,300,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$6,600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$47,300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$47,419,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018</b>			<b>\$151,114,069</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of November 17, 2017.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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](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) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>