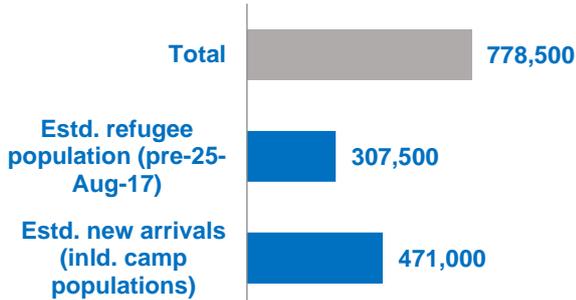


# SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL - MYANMAR REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH

September 2017 – February 2018

Myanmar refugee caseload in Bangladesh



UNHCR presence

49 existing staff

48 emergency staff deployed or pending deployment

Offices in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar

Additional financial requirements

\$26.4 million  
Jan - Feb 2018  
Additional requirements



\$57.3 million  
Sep - Dec 2017  
Additional requirements

## Highlights of the planned response

Protection	Basic needs and services	Camp management	Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance
			
Access to protection services, prevention and response to SGBV, registration	Providing shelter, NFIs, health, water, and food	Supporting the authorities in establishing and running new sites, upgrading infrastructure	Strengthen local capacity to host refugees, promote peaceful coexistence

## MAP OF THE AREA COVERED BY THIS APPEAL



## I. SUMMARY

The security operations in Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar in response to the attacks on police and military posts launched on 25 August 2017 by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) triggered the largest and swiftest refugee exodus witnessed in the region in recent decades. With numbers at times reaching 20,000 people per day, 471,000 Rohingyas are estimate to have, as of the date of issuance of this appeal, sought safety in Bangladesh, principally in Cox's Bazar District. There, they have joined 33,000 Rohingyas registered as refugees in the camps in Kutupalong and Nayapar, as well as an estimated 274,500 others, mainly in so-called makeshift camps, and who are denoted as "undocumented Myanmar nationals".

UNHCR has declared a "Level 3 Emergency" for this refugee crisis. This Appeal presents UNHCR's financial requirements for its response, for which it is seeking \$83.7 million in urgent additional requirements from September 2017 through to February 2018.<sup>1</sup> The UNHCR response and requirements build on the respective elements of the "Preliminary Response Plan for the Influx into Cox's Bazar" initially drawn up by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), of which UNHCR is a member, and which was issued on 7 September 2017 to appeal for \$77 million for the response. This inter-agency plan is presently under revision. The UNHCR requirements presented in this Supplementary Appeal will be reflected in, and aligned with, the respective components of that revised appeal.

## II. RESPONSE AND REQUIREMENTS

The exodus is accompanied by compelling protection and humanitarian features:

- There is a large number of children, many of them separated from family members.
- There is also a large number of women, many of them single heads of households, as well as many elderly and persons living with disability.
- Many of the new arrivals are visibly traumatized and disoriented as a result of suffering from extreme violence and sexual abuse; from the loss of family members, relatives, and property; and from the ordeal of displacement they have endured.
- Some are ill, including those with injuries and other trauma.
- The camps and sites are saturated and available basic services stretched to the very limit.
- Problems of law and order and/or tensions within the refugee groups or with the host community are liable to occur at any moment.

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<sup>1</sup> The ExCom-approved annual programme budgets for the UNHCR Bangladesh country operation for 2017 was \$14.1 million, and for 2018 is \$14.5 million

The Government and agency actors, including UNHCR, are rapidly mounting a response. Basic needs, including food and health care are being provided. Further to tarpaulins already being provided to the refugees, the Government has designated 2,000 acres of land near the existing Kutupalong site and called on UNHCR, IOM, WFP and other agencies to build 14,000 shelters and establish other services there as a matter of urgency. Government security personnel are being deployed to ensure law and order.

Yet, as the flow of arrivals continues unabated, congestion is becoming ever more acute and water, sanitation, health and shelter services are over-whelmed. The race to prevent a health epidemic, what would be an emergency within an emergency, is an urgent and overriding imperative.

UNHCR will continue to coordinate and work closely with the Government of Bangladesh and all agency partners to realize the most effective delivery of services and outcomes for refugees, and avoid overlaps, slippages and gaps. All the key sectors of UNHCR's interventions will be assessed for the prospect of using cash as the modality for achieving programme objectives. UNHCR's emergency response priorities are outlined in Part IV. Its highlights include:

- Continuation of UNHCR's support to the Government initially to carry out essential biometric registration of all the new arrivals as soon as possible and further elaborate the process to include all family members, vulnerability and socio-economic assessment, profiling and other disaggregated data fields that would help optimize protection and assistance delivery and medium to long-term programme objectives including solutions.
- Core protection response including through community outreach, especially to address SGBV, support survivors, ensure child protection and foster peaceful co-existence among the refugees themselves and with the host communities.
- Providing life-saving support and sustainably meeting basic needs from supplementary feeding programmes to shelter, water, sanitation, and health, to camp and site preparation and management in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps, through which new arrivals are transiting and being registered, and in the new site.

UNHCR has so far organized four airlifts. The first two delivered core relief items (CRIs) for 3,500 families, and 1,700 family tents. The third airlift contained CRIs and a rub hall, and the most recent delivered 25,000 plastic tarpaulins. Two more airlifts are being planned as of the issuance of this appeal. In addition to the 49 staff who were working in Bangladesh at the time of the crisis, it has deployed or is deploying 48 more. These are relief specialists to deal with specific elements of the response such as supporting the Government with registration, or to support or manage other life-saving interventions. The Office will continue to expand its presence, staff and operations as is necessary to match the scale and complexity of this still very fluid and evolving refugee crisis.

### **III COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS RESPONSE**

Both the ISCG and UNHCR plans and appeals have been elaborated under the thus far existing coordination arrangements according to which UNHCR has been limited to registering and extending protection and assistance to only the refugees in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps in Cox's Bazar. Those arrangements were established pursuant to the "National Strategy on Registered Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals" issued in 2013 under which the Government tasked IOM to coordinate humanitarian activities for what the Strategy termed "Undocumented Myanmar Nationals" outside official refugee camps, a population estimated to be around 200,000. In April 2017, the ISCG brought together all the agencies engaged in assisting the refugees.

Faced with what is manifestly a refugee emergency with striking and complex protection and solutions features, and as the operational response is becoming and must be delivered in an undifferentiated manner, UNHCR is in discussion with the Bangladeshi authorities, IOM and other players on arrangements that will allow it fully to engage its mandate for the most comprehensive protection and solutions-oriented response including support to host communities and local infrastructure.

UNHCR considers it vital for the response to already at this stage reflect mid- to long-term aspects while at the same time ensuring that voluntary return of refugees in safety, dignity and sustainability to Myanmar remains a viable option and, as feasible, worked for within an overall regional approach that also takes into account refugee populations from Myanmar in other countries. In this connection, UNHCR's presence and engagement in those countries with the refugees concerned and its long-term presence in Northern Rakhine itself offer unique and veritable assets and advantages for leveraging long-term solutions including, particularly, voluntary repatriation.

## IV. KEY PRIORITIES

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### Protection

UNHCR's strategy will focus on registration, facilitate access to protection services, prevention and respond to SGBV and addressing the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children and other key vulnerabilities. UNHCR will:

- Support for the Government in building an effective registration system through which all new arrivals and refugees and their family members can ultimately be comprehensively registered and key vulnerabilities, protection needs and other disaggregated data field collected to support effective protection, assistance and solutions interventions.
- Conduct protection monitoring and outreach across the country, including through community engagement and liaise and work with the local authorities to address and respond to identified protection needs, problems and challenges.
- Ensure child protection, including establishment of child friendly and safe spaces, special support to unaccompanied and separated children and psychosocial and recreational support.
- Ensure prevention of and response to SGBV, including specialized services and support for survivors.
- Identify survivors of trauma and other psychological vulnerabilities and extend psychosocial counselling, pertinent referral and appropriate support including, but not limited, to cash-based interventions.
- Distribute dignity and sanitary supplies to women and girls.
- Support the capacity of the Government to manage and respond to refugee matters at large and protection in particular including through training, provision of relevant technical and material support and advisory and functional support towards policy, legal, institutional, administrative and systemic development or reform.



### Shelter and NFIs

Bearing in mind the parameters set by the Government, UNHCR will:

- Support the authorities in establishing and managing new camps or settlements in Cox's Bazar or elsewhere to accommodate newly arriving refugees.
- Prioritize the provision of emergency shelter to the most vulnerable through, among others, community-based shelter projects, family tents and pertinent core relief items.
- Likewise prioritize the establishment in the camps and settlements of public/communal water, sanitation and health facilities, accesses and other infrastructure.

- Support all other newly-arriving refugees to construct their own shelters and sanitation utilities.



### Health

UNHCR will strengthen, expand and support the national health services so as to meet the health needs of the refugees.

- Provide life-saving health staff, medicines, other means such as ambulances and support referral services and infrastructure.
- Support partners to deliver on-site access to primary health care and nutrition services, including infant and young child feeding.
- Provide safe and immediate access by the seriously injured or sick to medical facilities, and facilitate access by the new arrivals to information on humanitarian assistance and available services.
- Promote preventive health measures through awareness raising of refugees and communities.



### Food Security and Nutrition

UNHCR will support nutrition to minimize avoidable morbidity and mortality of refugees.

- Support community leaders in distributing food to the new arrivals.
- Provide supplementary food for vulnerable people to ensure an adequate nutritional intake.



### Water and Sanitation

UNHCR will support access by refugees to safe water, appropriate sanitation facilities and personal hygiene.

- Upgrade WASH facilities and increase community awareness with preventive health measures.
- Raise health and hygiene awareness among the refugee and host populations.



### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

UNHCR will strengthen the local capacity to host refugees and promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and with host communities. UNHCR will:

- Introduce as feasible, alongside the emergency response, elements addressing medium to long-term needs and objectives.
- Build up and enhance the medium to long-term elements of its response to the situation of the refugees at large including, on one hand, resolute pursuit of the right of the refugees to return home in safety, security, dignity and sustainability and, on the other hand, all opportunities for self-sufficiency and

realization in asylum including education for all the refugee children, access to employment and other self-sufficiency options.

- Support, including through multi-purpose cash-based interventions, vulnerable individual refugees and families.
- Support refugee and host communities in assisting new arrivals.



#### **Logistics and airlifts**

UNHCR will ensure timely provision of immediate life-saving needs and support effective sourcing, transportation, delivery, storage, distribution and accounting for assistance.

- Organize international and local transportation, storage, and distribution of relief items.
- Maintain a constant flow of relief supplies.
- Establish and maintain vehicle fleet adequate to the response.



#### **Establishment and management of camps and infrastructure**

UNHCR will support the Bangladeshi authorities in establishing new sites to accommodate newly arriving refugees and upgrade infrastructure.

- Support the concerned authorities in upgrading or establishing appropriate infrastructure for existing and new sites, and assist in the process of relocating refugees to safe locations.
- Support the authorities for coordination and management of those sites.

## V. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

As part of the Myanmar Situation, the additional financial requirements for the emergency in Bangladesh—for urgent activities to provide protection and life-saving assistance to refugees from Myanmar—amount to \$83.7 million over the six months between September 2017 and February 2018. The additional requirements for 2017 amount to \$57.3 million, and \$26.4 million for 2018. Taking into account the ExCom approved budgets for Bangladesh for 2017 (\$14.1 million) and 2018 (\$14.5 million<sup>2</sup>), total requirements come to \$112.5 million.

	<b>Additional requirements (USD)</b>
<b>Protection</b>	<b>7,700,000</b>
Registration and profiling	3,200,000
Protection outreach	1,000,000
Child protection	1,000,000
SGBV prevention and response	1,000,000
People with specific needs	1,500,000
<b>Basic needs and services</b>	<b>43,500,000</b>
Health	5,000,000
Nutrition	1,000,000
Water	2,500,000
Sanitation and hygiene	6,500,000
Shelter	12,500,000
Basic and domestic items	16,000,000
<b>Community Empowerment</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>
<b>Establishment and management of camps and infrastructure</b>	<b>10,500,000</b>
<b>Logistics and airlifts</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>
<b>Emergency staff deployment</b>	<b>2,600,000</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>78,300,000</b>
<b>Support costs (7 per cent)</b>	<b>5,481,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83,781,000</b>

<sup>2</sup> 2018 financial requirements subject to ExCom approval in early October 2017.



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#### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

© UNHCR / A. DEAN - Rohingya refugees disembark from a fishing boat as it nears the beach at Dakhinpara, Bangladesh, 14 September 2017