

# BURMA AND BANGLADESH

## REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

### NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**941,351**

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma  
UN – December 2018

**106,042**

IDPs in Kachin and was Northern Shan  
UN – December 2018

**128,141**

IDPs in Rakhine IDP Sites  
UN – December 2018

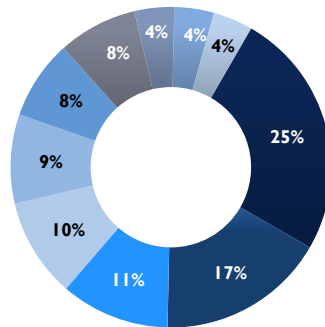
**740,476**

People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017  
UNHCR – February 2019

**212,500**

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

### USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> 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/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2018<sup>2</sup>



- 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

- Humanitarian access restrictions prevent at least 50,000 people from receiving assistance in Rakhine
- The 2019 JRP for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis requests \$920.5 million to meet the needs of 1.2 million people in Bangladesh
- USG announces \$60 million in humanitarian assistances towards the 2019 JRP

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019<sup>3</sup>

USAID/OFDA	\$24,792,879
USAID/FFP	\$121,912,904
STATE/PRM	\$309,763,648
<b>\$456,469,431</b>	

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since December, clashes between the Arakan Army (AA)—a Rakhine ethnic armed group that is unrelated to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army—and Government of Burma security forces have displaced more than 5,200 people in Burma's Chin and Rakhine states, the UN reports. Relief actors report that additional Government of Burma-imposed access restrictions in affected townships have hindered efforts to provide assistance to displaced populations and interrupted ongoing programs delivering services to people in need.
- The 2019 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, released on February 15, requests approximately \$920.5 million to meet the needs of more than 1.2 million people—including approximately 906,000 refugees and 336,000 host community members—in Bangladesh. The 2019 JRP prioritizes the provision of food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance.
- On February 15, State/PRM announced a \$60 million contribution towards the JRP to support the relief efforts of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 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> 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

### *Burma*

- Clashes between AA militants and Government of Burma security forces have displaced approximately 5,200 people in Chin and Rakhine since December, the UN reports. The fighting has also resulted in increased humanitarian access constraints in Chin and Rakhine. Although, State/PRM partner the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) were initially exempt from Government of Burma-imposed access constraints, the organizations have lacked access to Chin's Paletwa Township and Rakhine's upper Kyauktaw Township since January, hindering efforts to provide health and WASH assistance. Despite constraints, ICRC has provided blankets, food, hygiene kits, latrine construction materials, and water filters to approximately 5,000 of the newly displaced individuals sheltering in northern Rakhine.
- Nearly 20 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) released a joint statement on January 22 condemning the violence and calling for unhindered and sustained humanitarian access to all affected populations. The statement also highlighted concerns that existing relief efforts may be insufficient to address increased humanitarian needs as conflict continues to generate population displacement within Rakhine. The UN estimates that additional access restrictions imposed in January in five townships of Rakhine have prevented at least 50,000 people from receiving humanitarian and development assistance.
- In 2018, clashes in Kachin and northern Shan states temporarily displaced more than 43,000 people, many of them multiple times and nearly triple the number of temporary displacements recorded in 2017, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA reports that humanitarian actors have effective access to only 45 percent of the 106,000 IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan due to insecurity and government-imposed access restrictions.
- On November 29, 2018, the Government of Burma hosted a workshop with humanitarian organizations to develop a national strategy for the closure of IDP camps across Burma. The draft strategy primarily focuses on the institutional framework for camp closures; however, humanitarian actors remain concerned that the strategy will perpetuate inequities for the IDPs. Additionally, humanitarian actors emphasize the need to identify durable solutions to displacement, including freedom of movement, legal status, protection and security guarantees, and equitable access to services for Rohingya IDPs in Rakhine. Relief agencies have also cautioned that security conditions in Kachin and northern Shan are not conducive to large-scale returns.
- The 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for Burma, which aims to reach 941,000 people with assistance throughout the country, requests \$145.5 million—more than 70 percent of the \$202.2 million appeal—for relief efforts in Rakhine, prioritizing food security, health, protection, and WASH interventions. An estimated 715,000 people, including 128,000 IDPs, are expected to require humanitarian assistance in Rakhine in 2019, the UN reports. According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, conflict-affected populations in Rakhine are in most need of food, health, protection, and WASH assistance.

### *Bangladesh and India*

- The Government of Bangladesh and State/PRM partner UNHCR continue to conduct a joint population verification exercise for refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District to facilitate the provision of identification documents and improve access to humanitarian assistance. As of mid-January, the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR had verified the registrations of more than 35,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, approximately 4 percent of the total refugee population in the district. The new identification documents include areas of origin in Burma, which could facilitate voluntary repatriation based on refugees' informed consent if conditions in Burma are safe and conducive to returns.
- Up to 1,700 Rohingya refugees arrived in Bangladesh from India between May 2018 and January 2019, the UN reports. Many refugees report having departed India for Bangladesh to avoid possible deportation to Burma or to reunite with relatives, according to UNHCR.
- The Government of India estimates that 40,000 Burmese refugees were residing in India as of early February. To date, UNHCR has registered approximately 18,000 people from Burma as refugees or as asylum seekers in India.

## HEALTH, PROTECTION, AND WASH

### *Burma*

- More than 941,000 people in conflict-affected areas of Burma, including Rakhine, continue to experience challenges accessing health care services due to insecurity and movement restrictions, according to the UN. Additionally, limited humanitarian access in northern Rakhine prevents relief organizations from conducting health needs assessments and monitoring efforts, as well as preventing and responding to communicable disease outbreaks, according to the UN. In Kachin, Kayin, and Shan states, IDPs remain reliant on humanitarian support for health care services; however, access constraints limit the number of organizations able to provide services. Although Government of Burma-managed health facilities provide free health care services, transportation costs to the sites can be prohibitive, the UN reports.
- With USAID/OFDA funding, UNICEF supported the provision of child protection services in northern Rakhine during October. The services included youth development activities for more than 900 adolescents, psychosocial support services for nearly 700 children, and awareness sessions for approximately 130 beneficiaries on child protection topics, such as the prevention of child labor and trafficking.

### *Bangladesh*

- Approximately 25 percent of host community households in Bangladesh have utilized medical facilities built in response to the arrival of Rohingya refugees, according to the UN Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian coordinating body comprising UN agencies, international NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- With support from State/PRM partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO) and other health agencies, the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vaccinated more than 363,000 refugees and host community members in Cox's Bazar against cholera between November and December. The figure represents approximately 110 percent of the target population, WHO reports.
- Inadequate hygiene and sanitation conditions continue to pose health risks to vulnerable populations in Cox's Bazar. Nearly 30 percent and 25 percent of children in makeshift settlements and Nayapara camp, respectively, experienced diarrhea two weeks prior to an emergency assessment conducted by nutrition organizations from October–November.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

### *Burma*

- Conflict, intercommunal tensions, and recurrent climate-related shocks continue to undermine access to food in conflict-affected areas in Burma, the UN reports. Nearly 824,000 people were in need of food assistance in Kachin, Kayin, Shan, and Rakhine as of December 2018, according to the UN.
- Approximately 646,000 people in Rakhine are in need of food assistance, according to the UN. In central Rakhine, movement restrictions continue to limit access to food and income-generating opportunities among displaced populations, while vulnerable communities in northern Rakhine have incurred large crop and livelihood losses due in part to conflict, the UN reports. Ongoing insecurity, lack of access to services, and disruption of farming activities have negatively affected livelihoods in Rakhine, undermining access to food. Although ICRC, WFP, and local authorities provide food assistance to displaced populations in Rakhine, the assistance is insufficient to meet the needs of affected populations, according to Amnesty International.
- More than 181,000 people require life-saving nutrition services in Kachin, Kayin, Shan, and Rakhine, according to the UN. Movement restrictions have limited Rohingya populations' access to health and nutrition services, while restricted humanitarian access has hindered efforts to provide nutrition services, particularly in Rakhine. Despite access constraints, the Nutrition Sector treated nearly 3,700 children ages 6–59 months and 19,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) from January–December 2018, UNICEF reports.
- In December, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided emergency food assistance to more than 98,600 conflict-affected individuals in approximately 180 villages in northern Rakhine's Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships and nearly 113,000 food-insecure people in central Rakhine. Additionally, WFP treated approximately 18,200 children ages five years and younger and PLW experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in northern Rakhine, as well as an

estimated 22,800 children and more than 4,700 PLW in central Rakhine. In Kachin, WFP provided cash transfers for food to more than 47,000 IDPs, as well as nutrition support to 1,900 children ages 0–24 months and PLW residing in more than 100 camps in Kachin during the month. WFP also distributed emergency relief commodities to approximately 7,100 people in nearly 20 IDP camps in Shan and supported an estimated 8,200 people in conflict-affected villages in Shan’s KoKang Self-Administered Zone.

## ***Bangladesh***

- Dietary diversity remains a challenge for both refugee and host community populations in Cox’s Bazar. In late 2018, nearly 90 percent of surveyed refugee households in Cox’s Bazar reported acceptable food consumption scores, indicating semi-regular or regular consumption of many or all food groups, an increase from approximately 70 percent in late 2017, WFP reports. The improvement was primarily due to the provision of emergency food assistance, according to the UN agency. However, only 20 percent of surveyed host community households reported acceptable food consumption scores from August–September, a nearly 50 percent decrease since late 2017, likely due to poor labor markets and decreased mobility during Bangladesh’s May-to-October monsoon season. Nearly 80 percent of surveyed host community households reported borderline food consumption scores, and the proportion of surveyed households reporting poor food consumption—eating only staple foods and vegetables—remained stable at 1 percent, WFP reports.
- Despite refugees’ reporting improved access to food in late 2018, refugee households in Cox’s Bazar have reportedly depleted savings, frequently sell assets for income, and are increasingly reliant on negative strategies—including child labor and collecting firewood to sell—to cope with limited livelihood opportunities, WFP reports. From August–September, nearly 70 percent of surveyed refugee households reported borrowing money to purchase food and 30 percent of surveyed refugee households reported selling relief commodities for income—an increase of approximately 40 percent and 2 percent, respectively, compared to late 2017. Meanwhile, surveyed host community households have not reported changes to livelihood coping mechanisms since the beginning of the refugee influx to Cox’s Bazar in August 2017, according to WFP.
- From October 20–November 8, 2018, nutrition organizations conducted a third-round emergency assessment evaluating the nutritional status of Rohingya children ages 6–59 months in Cox’s Bazar. Overall, findings indicated that conditions had slightly improved compared to the second-round assessment in April–May 2018. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children in makeshift settlements decreased from 12 percent to 11 percent, while GAM levels in Nayapara refugee camp declined from 13.6 percent to 12.1 percent; the WHO emergency threshold for GAM prevalence is 15 percent. Additionally, chronic malnutrition—commonly measured by stunting—among children ages 6–59 months in makeshift settlements declined from 37.7 percent to 26.9 percent, with a significant improvement in the nutritional status of children ages 24–59 months. However, stunting among children ages 6–59 months in Nayapara refugee camp remained near the 40 percent WHO critical threshold, decreasing from 40.4 percent in the April–May assessment to 38.3 percent in the October–November round.
- During the week of February 3, USAID/FFP partner WFP opened six new shops that accept electronic vouchers in Cox’s Bazar, providing an additional 70,000 refugee households—approximately 350,000 individuals—with access to WFP’s voucher program. The program, which reaches more than 560,000 refugees in Cox’s Bazar, allows participants to purchase food throughout the month, rather than on a specific distribution day.
- From December 11–January 7, WFP and other food security organizations distributed emergency food assistance to more than 907,000 refugees in Cox’s Bazar, ISCG reports. During the same period, nutrition actors, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, screened more than 232,000 children ages five years and younger for acute malnutrition, admitting nearly 1,400 children experiencing SAM to treatment programs and referring nearly 1,900 children ages 6–59 months experiencing MAM to supplementary feeding programs.
- In coordination with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and cooking sets to nearly 45,500 refugee households in Cox’s Bazar’s Kutupalong and Nayapara camps in early January. During the same period, UNHCR provided LPG refills to more than 30,200 households in the camps.

## 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 needs. As of December 2018, an estimated 106,000 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 December 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. These displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack 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 more than 740,000 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh. The ISCG estimates that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox’s Bazar is approximately 909,000 people.
- On December 27, 2018, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires George Sibley 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–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$817,486
Danish Refugee Council (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
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Burma	\$4,250,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,503,916
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Protection, WASH	Rakhine	\$747,112

<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA RESPONSE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$18,233,073</b>
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$6,559,806</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$2,090,886
	Local and Regional Procurement	Bangladesh	\$189,000
	Complementary Services: Nutrition	Bangladesh	\$4,233,018
WFP	Local and Regional 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 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; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Bangladesh	\$1,674,855
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$121,912,904</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,800,000
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$14,500,000
International Federation of the 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	\$100,165,100
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$350,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$92,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$19,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$52,300,000
WHO	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$309,763,648</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$456,469,431</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of February 15, 2019.

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

## **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).