

# Myanmar Refugee Crisis

November, 2018



Since 25 August 2017, over **700,000** refugees from Myanmar have fled to Bangladesh. Over **900,000** refugees are now living in Cox's Bazar (ISCG Report, November 15, 2018), including those who arrived before the exodus. Women, children and infants make up over 70% of the refugees.

The scale of the refugee influx in Cox's Bazar is unprecedented and putting enormous pressure on the Bangladesh government, host communities and humanitarian agencies. The huge number of refugees need clean drinking water, food, medical help, protection and safe shelter. Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations are working to meet the needs of the millions.



"CARE calls out to all parties involved to ensure refugee returns are voluntary, informed, respectful, and conducted with safety and dignity. The key principle of 'non-refoulement' must be upheld and returns should commence only if there are no significant ongoing security risk in the area of return."

**Zia Choudhury** CARE Bangladesh Country Director

Photo: Michele Bornstein/CARE

**CARE's Response:** CARE has directly reached over 300,000 people through the distribution of food, non-food items (NFI), health support, shelter, protection, and water and sanitation services. Also, as part of a consortium, CARE is providing technical support to the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) project. CARE also introduced a pioneering host community project for the locals in Ukhiya, who are severely affected by the influx. The project will serve 38,200 locals by improving their disaster risk resilience capacities, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation and overall living conditions.

**CARE's aim was to reach a total of 300,000+ people by Feb 2019 which have already been achieved as of today.**

**HEALTH:** **4 health centers** offer primary and reproductive health services, free medicine, referrals to other hospitals, and ambulance services. So far, nearly **120,000** people served. CARE also started providing Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) to the refugee community in partnership with Bangladesh Government.

**PROTECTION & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE:** **7 women-friendly spaces** and **2 information booths** established offering refugee women a safe space to socialize and seek general and psychosocial counselling. To date, over **64,000 women and adolescents girls** have been reached. Also, **3,000** infant kits distributed to lactating and expecting mothers and **11,433 dignity kits** given to women and adolescent girls.

**SHELTER:** **183 households (HHs)** shifted to midterm shelters, work on-going for more (target 1260 HHs). During monsoon, **479 HHs** relocated from high risk areas. Distribution of shelter kits with bamboo, tarpaulins, floor mats, rope and toolkits continues to **22,000+ people, as and when required.**

**NUTRITION:** Through **34 nutrition centers**, children under-5 with malnutrition receiving treatment and services. Till now, CARE **trained 500+ staff** who working for the respective nutrition centers.

**SITE COORDINATION:** At Potibunia camp, CARE works with the government and other agencies so that 22,000+ refugees can access timely and effective services including improved roads and infrastructures, drainage systems etc.

**WASH:** **105 deep tube wells, 599 latrines, 673 handwashing facilities** and **736 women-only bathing cubicles** established to serve 50,000+ people. Also, Family Hygiene & Dignity Kits distributed to over **15,000 HHs**; hygiene sessions continues.

## OVERVIEW



Midterm shelters, resistant to adverse weather conditions and more spacious, are being built for **1,260 HHs**



**1.3 million** people in need are targeted, with **330,000** from host communities (as per 2018 Joint Response Plan)



More than half of CARE's funding requirement of USD **15 million** (till Feb '19) reached.