Joint Response Plan: March – December 2018

Under the guidance of the Government of Bangladesh, the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis Joint Response Plan was developed for March - December 2018.

Together with the RRRC, the DC, and with line Ministries working alongside the Sectors, strategic planning took place from December 2017 – February 2018.

The plan was endorsed by the National Taskforce prior to its release on 16 March 2018.

The plan is an appeal to the international donor community for funds for national NGOs, international NGOs, and UN agencies to assist in covering identified needs of refugees and host communities, in support of the Government of Bangladesh. It is not a guarantee of funding: it is a tool for fundraising.

- **The plan is clearly prioritized**, identifying activities that are critical to saving lives and maintaining social cohesion and protection.

- **The Plan has two tracks**: covering the needs of refugees, as well as the humanitarian needs of directly affected host communities.

- **The Plan includes emergency preparedness and response**, anticipating spikes of acute emergency within a protracted crisis.
Under the guidance of the Government of Bangladesh, and based on needs assessments, the Plan was collaboratively developed by all participating INGOs, NNGOs, and UN agencies.

A sector-based coordination structure is in place to facilitate the strategic and operational decision making and planning for the humanitarian response, from Dhaka to camp level, in support of the Government of Bangladesh.

Government counterparts guide across the technical Sectors. National NGOs participate at all levels.

The ISCG Secretariat supports this coordination structure, and through it all the operational actors in the response, in order to meet the protection and assistance needs of Rohingya and host communities.

National NGOs in the coordination structure

- The Strategic Executive Group in Dhaka includes a national NGO seat, nominated by the national NGO community in Cox’s Bazar. Currently, Coast Trust holds this seat. The Strategic Executive Group is Co-Chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the Chief of Mission of IOM, and the Representative of UNHCR.

- The Heads of Sub-Offices group in Cox’s Bazar includes national NGO seats, and is currently regularly attended by BRAC and BDRCS.

- National NGOs currently Co-Chair:
  - Shelter and Non-Food Items Sector is Co-Chaired by Caritas Bangladesh, with IOM, under the guidance of RRRC;
  - Food Security Sector is Co-Chaired by Mukti, with WFP, under the guidance of RRRC;
  - Communications with Communities Working Group is Co-Chaired by the CSO Forum, with IOM, under the guidance of RRRC.

- The ISCG Secretariat established an NGO Support Cell early in the influx, which supported local and international NGOs to participate in the coordination of the response by sharing information and raising concerns. Now, independent NGO coordination has strengthened: going forward, the ISCG Secretariat will liaise closely with and support both INGO and NNGO/CSO coordination forums.

- National NGOs regularly attend and actively participate as key partners in all sector meetings. Barriers to participation such as language, and awareness of the coordination structure, need to be actively addressed.

- Enhanced, meaningful participation and inclusion is a core goal, with a view to increasing localization of the response, in line with Grand Bargain commitments. Localization is a key principle of the Joint Response Plan.
Joint Response Plan
Strategic Objectives

1. Provide timely lifesaving assistance and protection, as well as improve the living conditions of Rohingya refugees* and affected host communities.

2. Ensure well-being and dignity of Rohingya refugees* and the affected host communities.


4. Building confidence and resilience of Rohingya refugees* and the affected host communities.

People In Need and Requirements

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

1.3 Million

**ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS (US$)**

950.8 Million

- **Rohingya in Cox’s Bazar.** More than 900,000 refugees have been assessed as of 21 January. Numbers will be aligned and adjusted: the goal of a unified database for assistance delivery is key part of the plan.

- **Directly impacted Bangladeshi host communities.** 336,000 Bangladeshi host communities are targeted. Response under the JRP will focus on Unions with highest numbers of refugees in Ukhia and Teknaf, and on support to public services at District level.

- **Contingency for cyclone/monsoon.** The cyclone/monsoon season will affect both Rohingya and host communities.
Key Principles

- Protection and gender mainstreaming
- Accountability to affected populations
- Localization, including two-way capacity building
- Environmental sustainability
- Assistance based on humanitarian need
Localization

Together with the Government of Bangladesh, we are working towards:

- A complete and coherent picture: together with the RRRC and DC, capturing the full scale and scope of national NGO contributions to the response, and linking national NGOs to the coordination mechanisms.

- Diversified partnerships with INGOs and UN agencies: ensuring strategic, inclusive partnerships, that recognize, foster and maximise local capacities.

- Two-way capacity building to pave the way to a localized response: building a capacity building strategy that facilitates meaningful exchange of knowledge and resources between international and national humanitarian actors, allowing for innovation, and paving the way to a localized response. To better understand the needs, constraints and opportunities of both national NGOs and Government counterparts a survey is currently underway.

39 national NGOs are included in the Joint Response Plan, as partners or with independent projects. Many more are active in the response.

- At least 31 national NGOs are currently in partnerships with INGOs and UN agencies.
- 13 national NGOs are currently reporting independent project implementation to the 4Ws.
- Many more have received FD7s for independent project implementation, and are liaising directly with the DC and RRRC.

Priority Activities

Priority activities are those which will:

- Address the highest risks that would trigger rising rates of mortality and morbidity. Disease outbreak; cyclone and monsoon impact.

- Address the highest risks to protection and social cohesion. Deterioration of refugees hosting conditions; increase of negative coping mechanisms and risks of exploitation.
Bangladeshi Host Communities

Approximately one quarter of planned activities and requested funds will be targeted to Bangladeshi host communities directly impacted by the crisis.

The objectives of supporting directly impacted Bangladeshi host communities will be:
• To mitigate the impacts of the refugee influx on host communities and the local economy.
• Strengthen resilience of host communities and government service delivery to cope with the influx.
• Mitigate tensions with host communities through social cohesion and programming to facilitate peaceful co-existence.

Activities will focus on:
• Environment and eco-system rehabilitation
• Agriculture, markets and livelihoods support
• Community and public infrastructure (including water)
• Health and education

Institutional support to core Government functions in the management of the crisis, according to need and request, will underpin efforts.

Joint Response Plan: next steps

Ongoing implementation, monitoring, and advocacy (for funds, and for course correction)

Review and revision at the mid-point of the Plan, in July 2018

Needs assessment and strategic planning for 2019