

COAST immediate Responses to the Rohingya Crises

Water, Food, Shelters and Medical are the Immediate Needs for their Survival

“In the last two weeks an estimated 270,000 Rohingya refugees have sought safety in Bangladesh. The limited shelter capacity is already exhausted. Refugees are now squatting in makeshift shelters that have mushroomed along the road and on available land in the Ukhiya and Teknaf areas. -UNHCR on 8th September, 2017”

Though UNHCR estimates the total number of Rohingya refugees fled to Bangladesh as about 270,000, the actual number is more than that. So far, COAST has learnt that, Rohingya people are coming to Bangladesh using at least 39 border points. Part of them have so far taken temporary shelters in different shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf and most of them have taken shelters in various villages nearby. COAST staff found many refugees in many areas of Teknaf like Kanjor Para, Naitongpara, Hoykong, Jadimora, Leda etc. Coming from Myanmar Rohingya people have recently set up four camps, one camps in Tombro union and another one in Gomdom Union under the Bandorban district. Other two camps have been built in Thankkali and balokali of Ukhiya.

Immediate needs, some local responses

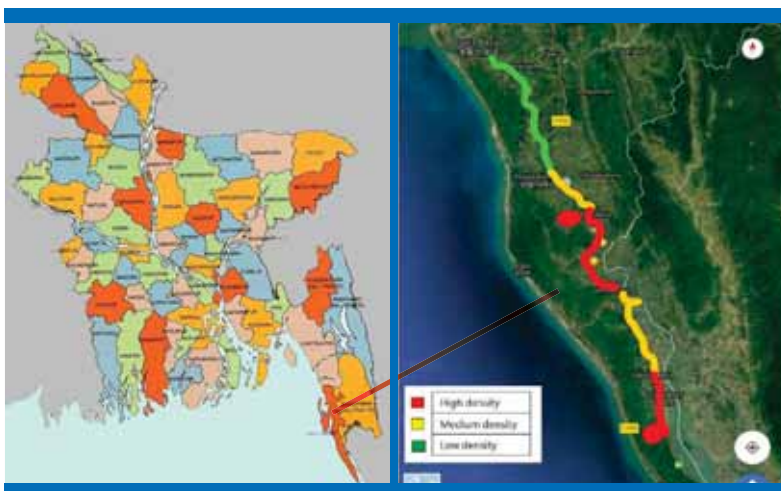
Main crises or suffering of the Rohingya people is lack of food. Many of them are still living under the open sky. There are scarcity of appropriate source of drinking water and also sanitation situation is in dire position. The Rohingya people have two types of needs:



Immediate Needs: They need food. They also need shelter as still many of them are living under the open sky. Water and sanitation are very much essential needs for them. Emergency medical and health services are dire need now. We have observed increased number of patients in the local medical centre in Ukhiya. Many Rohingya people are suffering from cold, cough, measles, fever, skin disease and diarrhea.

Long Term Needs: Regular health service is very much essential for them. As many children are there, child health care and child protection are needed. Protecting adolescent girls and women from harassment and violation is another priority issue for the future, therefore some initiatives in this regard are needed. Basic education services can help both the refugees in the long run and it will also help Bangladesh to keep on the track. There must be training and campaign on social harmony, peace and tranquility. This will ensure that they can't be involved with any anti social or illegal activities.

Some NGOs and local people are providing food, but almost all of these initiatives are going on in a scattered way. Bangladesh Border Guards are providing some medicines. Local community people are also providing supports with dry foods, bamboo for making shelters etc. They are also helping refugees to reach the nearby shelters. Government and local union parishad have so far set up nine tube wells in Gomdom Rohingya camp for providing drinking water. But these are not enough for these huge number of refugees. Immediate support for water supply is needed.



Areas in Cox's Bazar where the Rohingya influxes are taking place. Areas mark with red are with high density, yellow are with medium density and areas marked with green are with low density of refugees.



Government Responses

Initiatives of Bangladesh government for the Rohingya refugees have been so far appreciated worldwide. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed respective officials to consider the situation from the humanitarian aspects. Government has already taken plan to build one new camp to accommodate newly arrived Rohingya refugees. A database will also be prepared. The new camp will be built in Tyingkhali near the Bakukhali camp. If necessary, the government would also expand the unregistered Rohingya camps in Kutupalong and Balukhali of Ukhiya, and in Noyapara and Leda of Teknaf. Government should also take diplomatic and strategic initiatives to ensure that this humanitarian crisis must also be treated and political crises.

Local administration requesting local people to help Rohingya people to reach to nearby camps or temporary shelters. We have observed some campaigns in this regard.

It is to be noted that, there are already two big camps for Rohingya in Cox's Bazar, they are known as Kutupalong and Nayapara camps.

Immediate Responses from Different Organizations

Some UN organizations, national and international NGOs are providing different immediate supports for the Rohingya refugees. International Organizations for Migrants (IOM), UNHCR, Action Against Hunger (ACF), Red crescent, local NGOs like HELP, PULSE Bangladesh and SHED are working in this regard. IOM and UNHCR are providing camp sheds, dry foods and drinking water. ACF is providing medicines. Red Crescent is providing drinking water. Local NGO's are also distributing dry foods. National NGOs working in Cox's Bazar, except COAST Trust, are still to be involved with any emergency relief support for the Rohingyas.

Short Term and Long Term Concerns

From the rapid assessment COAST has so far identified the following short term and long concerns over this recent Rohingya influx in Cox's Bazar, such as:

|| Since there is serious lack of sanitation facilities, refugees are using the open lands and places. The Teknaf and Ukhiya areas are already over populated. Thus, lack of sanitation facilities is causing various diseases like diarrhea, typhoid, fever and other water related diseases.

|| In future, it can be a threat to the security of Bangladesh. Already 20-25% of the population in the whole Cox's Bazar district are Rohingya.

|| Rohingya refugees can cause serious socio-economic problems in Bangladesh. As they are preparing their temporary shelters in different hills and forests, negative impact of their influx on the environment is already visible.

|| Rohingya people are creating problems for the local reading employment and for the labour market.

Some Recommendations

- || Rehabilitate them in some specific areas
- || Providing proper shelters
- || Providing food and water
- || Ensuring appropriate sanitation

COAST Immediate Responses

As a registered NGO, COAST has been working in Cox's Bazar since 2001. In Cox's Bazar it has 22 offices including a Regional Management Centre. As a fast responder to any humanitarian crises in its working areas, COAST has made some immediate responses for the Rohingya refugees recently fled from Myanmar. Immediately COAST made a rapid assessment on the situation and needs

of the refugees. Based on the assessment COAST started its support from 8th September 2017. COAST is providing cooked food, pure drinking water and health services to about 3000 people every day. To do this COAST is spending USD 1090.46 (BDT 88000, source: Bangladesh Bank as on 10th September) from its own fund every day. To run the immediate support for the Rohingya refugees COAST has established a Relief Operation Centre in Palongkhali area of Teknaf upazila. About 40 COAST staff are working to run the emergency support activities.

COAST supports are as follows:

- II Providing cooked food (hodgepodge), 2000 packets every day
- II Providing health care services to 2500 people every day from two medical camps
- II Providing 20 thousand liters of drinking water every day.

COAST has plan to continue this support for next few days. COAST will continue the support activities until all the refugees are taken to the government shelters/ camps/enclosures. COAST will also work to provide medicine supports in the camps.

For long term support, we have already taken action plan to work with the adolescent girls and boys, specially with the adolescent girls. Our main aim of that intervention will be to protect adolescent girls from

violation, child abuse. Girls education and skill development will be our another intervention area.

We will also seek support from different donors to enhance their support towards these Rohingya refugees.

Primary Calculation of Funds Needed for Short Term and Long Term Support

According to our primary calculation, to ensure food for all the new 270,000 Rohingya refugees BDT 10,867,500 (USD 131,186) will be needed every day. To meet the cost of food and primary health care for next 15 days total BDT 163,012,500 (USD 2,019,981) will be needed. The calculation includes BDT 34,000 for two times food per thousand people per day, BDT 337,500 for water supply and BDT 1,350,000 for medical services every day.

To provide some long term supports like sanitation, tube wells for drinking water, shelters with tarpaulin, to reach all the 270,000 new refugees and to complete the support works some staff will be needed. Thus, according to our primary calculation about BDT 114,878,400 (USD 1,423,524) will be needed to ensure permanent water sanitation and shelter facilities. This calculation includes BDT 22,500,000 for sanitation, 42,000,000 for installing deep be wells, BDT 45,000,000 for shelters, BDT 518,400 food for 35 staff and BDT 4,860,000 for staff salary.



Photos were taken during distribution of food, water and providing health care services from COAST on 8th, 9th and 10th September. Photos were taken by Zahangir Alam, Ziaul Karim Chowdhury, Firoj Alam



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