

Rohingya Crises in Cox's Bazar COAST's Observation, Rapid Assessment and Action Plan

According to a latest UNHCR statement published on 5th September, during the last 11 days some 1.23 lakh Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh. Some sources claim the number as not less than 1.80 lakh. COAST Trust has so far involved its Cox's Bazar team with the local administration and local elected bodies to observe the situation, to have a very initial assessment and to place some recommendations.

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.

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 is needed. Basic education services can help both the refugees in the long run and it will also help Bangladesh to keep on the track.

Some NGOs and local people are providing some food, but almost all of these initiatives are going on in a scattered way.



Influx of Rohingya People from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Photo: Zahangir Alam, COAST Trust

Coming from Myanmar Rohingya people have recently set up four camps, one camp 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

So far, COAST has observed that, 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.

Bangladesh Border Guards are providing some medicines. Local community people is also providing supports with dry foods, bamboo for making shelter etc. They are also helping them to reach the nearby shelters. Government and local union parishad have so far set up nine tube well 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.

Government Responses

Government has already taken plan to build one new camps 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



Rohingya People are looking for shelters in Cox's Bazar. **Photo:** Zahangir Alam, COAST Trust

the unregistered Rohingya camps in Kutupalong and Balukhali of Ukha, and in Noyapara and Leda of Teknaf.

We have observed that, 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 HELP 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 HELP and SHED are also distributing dry foods.



COAST staff talking with some refugees

COAST Action Plan

COAST has already made a rapid assessment and based on the assessment we have taken action plan for two types of support or intervention. As short term, immediate response we have identified that, the need for water and sanitation and essential health services. We have taken plan to set up tube well to ensure safe drinking water. We will install cube around the tube wells so that women can feel comfort using these. To ensure proper sanitation, COAST is going to build some sanitary toilets near the shelters. We will also provide regular health services.

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.



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