

# Reset Rohingya Response

## Engage Local NGOs for Low-Cost Management

### Key Highlights

- 38% funding requirement met as of September 18, 2025.
- US Govt. reduced 72% and similarly, UK Govt. 48% in 2025.
- Management and soft services cost around 70%.
- The Government of Bangladesh increased funding by 263% than 2024.
- International NGOs hold 63.6% whereas local NGOs hold only 2.5% of fund.

### Background

Bangladesh is hosting 1,156,001 Rohingya refugees who fled their country to escape from genocide by the Myanmar Military. Local people of Cox's Bazar, Local Government Institutions, local, national and International NGOs came to assist the affected populations. In 8th years of the Rohingya crisis, funds have become one of the major challenges. It has a huge impact on the US government funding cuts on lifesaving assistance among Rohingya communities and others. Besides, Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher called for Humanitarian Resets, indicating to prioritize local and national partners for funding. But the local NGOs are experiencing the opposite one.

### Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to know the localization of aid and partnership types in Rohingya refugee response and know the program and operational cost.

### Methodology of the study

This study follows mix qualitative and quantitative method for analyzing the data. Survey method has used for collecting data from the Rohingya refugee households. This study was conducted from July to September 2025.

### Limitation

It was not possible to consider some cost like Rohingya refugee receiving continuous services like education cost for their children, all kind of site development works like road, infrastructures cost and operation and management cost.

### Findings of the study

**Significant Funding Declined:** The study analyses the funding flow since 2017 to as of 18 September 2025. Only 38% funding requirement met as of September 18, 2025. This indicates a severe financial crisis for the response.

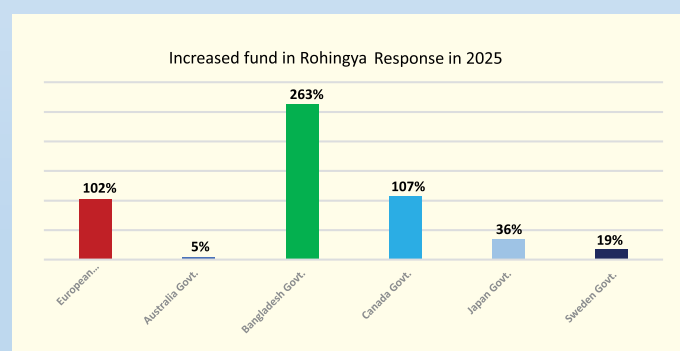
### Largest Sources of Coordinated Plan Funding

Top Donors in Rohingya Response	Coordinated fund (US\$) in 2025	%
Government of United States of America	85.28	24%
European Commission	66.62	19%
Government of Australia	47.93	14%
Government of Bangladesh	39.98	11%
Government of United Kingdom	24.00	7%
Government of Canada	16.94	5%
Government of Japan	16.31	5%
Government of Sweden	12.33	4%

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The study indicates that the Government of the United States of America is still the biggest donor in Rohingya response, contributing \$85.28 million (24%) of all reported coordinated funding. The most dramatic reduction comes from the **Government of the United States of America, which cut its funding by 72%**. Similarly, the **Government of the United Kingdom has reduced its commitment by 48%**.

According to the UN, out of the \$852.4 million required for the Rohingya in 2024, the US contributed \$301 million—55 percent of the total \$548.9 million provided by foreign donors last year. Therefore, its suspension of funding is bound to have disastrous consequences.



## Bangladesh Government Hugely Increased Response Cost

Top Donors in Rohingya Response	Funding for coordinated plan (US\$) in 2025	Coordinated Funding in 2024	Increased fund in 2025
European Commission	66.62	33.0	102%
Australia Govt.	47.93	45.8	5%
Bangladesh Govt.	39.98	11.0	263%
Canada Govt.	16.94	8.2	107%
Japan Govt.	16.31	12.0	36%
Sweden Govt.	12.33	10.4	19%

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The **Government of Bangladesh** increased its funding by a massive **263%** than the funding scale in 2024. This amount came by taking loan from World Bank. Bangladesh Govt. took 400 USD million loan from WB to maintain the costs for in-kind support, security, and infrastructure within the camps.

Rohingya Families yearly humanitarian assistance materials and relief items received from humanitarian agencies.

### High Management Cost

COAST conducted an in-depth observation study among Rohingya families in different camps in last six-months (January to June 2025) what kind of services they received. It has found that per Rohingya household received food items through e-voucher which is equivalent \$12 (per person) from WFP. That means every Rohingya received \$72 equivalent food assistance from humanitarian agencies in last six months.

Areas	Fund received in 2025	Received	%
Fund came Per Rohingya family	\$1473	\$374	26%
Per Rohingya refugee	\$307	\$91	30%

Sources: Analysis of FTS data and COAST analysis

**So, management cost around 70% whereas program cost is only 30%.** Most of the local NGOs have lost their funding and are now almost dire but they are low in management cost.

Projects has approved from Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Office and started in last three months for Rohingya camps. A total of 63 projects have been approved and initiated in the Rohingya camps within the last three months June to August 2025. Seen the dominance of the International NGOs (44.40%) and National NGOs (50.80%) but very few 4.8% of local NGOs.

## Funding Size approved hold by Actors in last three months for Rohingya camps (million BDT.)

Types of Actors in Camps	Funding Size (million BDT.)	Percentage of funding size
International NGO	330	63.6%
National NGO	176	33.9%
Local NGO	13	2.5%
Total	519	100%

Source: COAST Study, September 2025

A total of BDT. 519 million projects have been approved and initiated in the Rohingya camps within the last three months June to August 2025. Seen the significant dominance of the International NGOs (63.6%) and National NGOs (33.9%) and very few 2.5% of local NGOs in terms of funding size.

This analysis examines the distribution of financial resources among different types of actors implementing projects in the Rohingya camps over the last three months. The data reveals a significant disparity between the number of projects and the volume of funding allocated to each actor type.

A total of 519 million BDT has been approved for humanitarian projects in the Rohingya camps within the last three months. The major portion of the fund belongs to International NGOs.

**International NGOs Dominance: 44.4% of projects with 63.6% fund.**

**National NGOs: Projects 50.8% but funding 33.9%**

**Local NGOs: Severely Underfunded, projects 4.8% but fund only 2.5%.**

This severe underfunding highlights a critical challenge: Local NGOs face significant barriers in accessing major funding streams, which limits their capacity to scale up operations and potentially hinders the effectiveness of hyper-local, community-driven aid.

### Recommendation

- ◆ Need to Reset the system in Rohingya Response.
- ◆ No direct implementation by UN agencies and INGOs.
- ◆ At least 50% Direct funding to Local NGO/actors
- ◆ Appoint local staff and use local resources (salt, dry fish, cloths, other available goods).
- ◆ INGO and UN Offices should be revised and squeezes from Cox's Bazar to reduce management cost.
- ◆ Need comprehensive dashboard for funding mechanism in Rohingya response.
- ◆ The pooled fund should be managed by a consortium of local NGO, not by a locally originated so-called international NGO. There should not be any intermediaries in this fund management.

