



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



©FAO/Sergio Rivera

# Bangladesh

## Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan March – December 2018

Since 25 August 2017, 688 000 Rohingya refugees escaping violence and persecution in Myanmar have settled in camps, settlements and within host communities in Cox’s Bazar district, Bangladesh, bringing the total number of refugees in the area to more than 900 300.

### Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Sector to:

- Ensure and sustain timely provision of life-saving and life-sustaining assistance for Rohingya refugees and host communities.
- Promote, enhance and strengthen livelihoods and self-reliance opportunities of local host communities and Rohingya refugees through social and economic empowerment, including strengthening of community-based infrastructures such as markets.



to assist

**485 000 people**



FAO requires

**USD 22.4 million**



period

**March – December 2018**

### Activities



#### Mitigate environmental impacts and reduce disaster risk

community-based disaster risk reduction | climate change adaptation and mitigation | natural resource conservation and management (incorporation of energy-saving and green interventions) | water management | safe access to alternative cooking fuel



#### Support livelihoods and markets

farmer field schools | market development | cash for work | small-scale livestock rearing and production | training and market linkages for farmer and fisher groups | training in post-harvest food processing and value-added production | food, grain and seed safe storage facilities | agricultural production support | microgardening kits



#### Strengthen food security coordination

chairing technical working groups in energy and environment, livelihoods and food security needs assessments | capacity development plans with government partners

The large number of new arrivals has placed extensive pressure on the environment and on local services, and increased the need for emergency food and nutrition support for refugees and host communities.

## Situation analysis



**1.2 million people**

in need of food security and livelihoods assistance



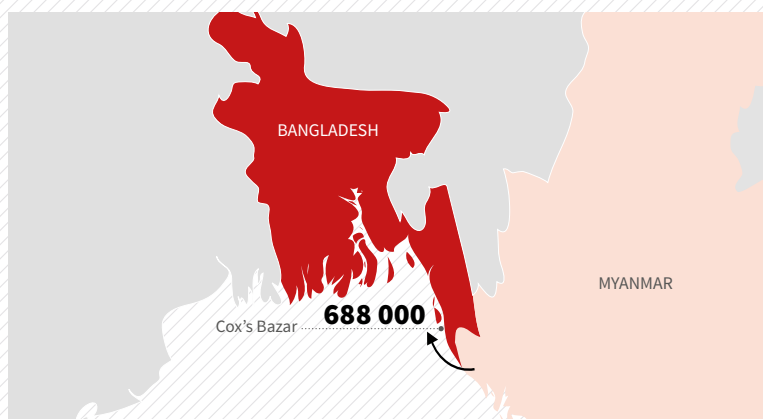
**900 300 refugees**

in Cox's Bazar



**57%** of host community population are food insecure

## New refugee arrivals in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017



Source: Inter Sector Coordination Group, Situation Update: Rohingya Refugee Crisis, 21 January 2018

## Impact on food security

New Rohingya arrivals – mostly women and children – since August 2017 have joined refugees escaping previous waves of violence, quadrupling the population in highly impoverished Cox's Bazar and surrounds. This places a strain on host communities' limited resources, infrastructure and services. Some 1.2 million people need food security and livelihoods assistance.

Host communities – among the poorest in Bangladesh and now the minority in the region – have experienced dramatic inflation, a highly competitive labour market with drastically lower wages, loss of the natural resource base and severe challenges in accessing sufficient food, with 57 percent of the population food insecure. Approximately 30–35 percent of the population in Cox's Bazar are severely food insecure, with 38 percent of children underweight.

The food security situation for refugees in makeshift settlements is highly vulnerable, with up to 90 percent of new arrivals eating just one meal a day. Chronically food-insecure households are affected by high dependency on inadequately diversified diets and a lack of access to cooking fuel.

The ecologically fragile area is on the brink of an environmental disaster. Cutting down trees for cooking fuel and the installation of shallow wells damages the ecosystem. Up to 86 percent of the newly installed wells are contaminated with E. coli. As a result of extreme deforestation, the threat of landslides and flash floods has increased. The onset of the summer monsoon in May with sustained heavy rainfall is likely to cause extensive landslip on the denuded slopes.

In 2018, an immediate and comprehensive scale-up in support is required to save lives, protect livelihoods and build resilience, with urgent needs in food security for both refugees and host communities.

## CONTACTS

David Doolan | FAO Representative *a.i.* | Dhaka, Bangladesh | [FAO-BD@fao.org](mailto:FAO-BD@fao.org)

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience | Rome, Italy | [TCE-Director@fao.org](mailto:TCE-Director@fao.org)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations