

Rohingya in Myanmar are one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. The majorities are not considered to be citizens by the Myanmar Government, and live in a condition of statelessness. Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority situated primarily in Myanmar's western Rakhine State and are estimated at 1 million people. They have been fleeing Myanmar in large numbers, often to nearby developing countries, particularly to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to avoid conflict and persecution. Amid a dramatic increase in the number of refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar's Northern Rakhine state, MERCY Malaysia continues to express its deep concern over the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar and continues to call for urgent action to provide relief on the ground.



## **Rohingya Crisis** 2017 **in Cox's Bazar**

# Trapped in Statelessness: Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

The Rohingya people are one of the most ill-treated and persecuted refugee groups in the world, having lived in a realm of statelessness for over six generations, and who are still doing so. In recent years, more than 500,000 Rohingyas fled from Myanmar to neighboring countries including the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. A total of 33,131 registered Rohingya refugees are living in two registered camps in Cox's Bazar, and up to 80,000 additional refugees are housed in nearby makeshift camps<sup>1</sup>.

Overall, the living conditions of Rohingya refugees inside the overcrowded camps remain dismal. Mental health is poor, proper hygiene conditions are lacking, malnutrition is endemic, and physical/sexual abuse is high. New refugees arrivals are hosted in existing, overcrowded makeshift settlements and camps for registered refugees, including in schools, community centres, religious buildings and with local families.

New clusters of settlements have also been set up and continue to expand. New arrivals seem to be moving between locations once crossing the border, in search of shelter and services.

Bangladesh is now hosting over 600,000 Rohingya refugees in total and the number is growing fast. MERCY Malaysia has identified immediate needs on grounds as well as mid-term and long-term assistance required to lessen the humanitarian burden in Cox's Bazar. Amid a dramatic increase in the number of refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar's Northern Rakhine state, MERCY Malaysia continues to express its deep concern over the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar and continues to call for urgent action to provide relief on the ground.

With the increasing number of displaced people and lack of space in safe locations, ensuring access to food, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), healthcare and hygiene kits, as well as non-food items such as blankets and so forth are much needed. MERCY Malaysia's team has been on site since 9 September 2017.

👉 **2** *refugees camps*

**13,820** *Kutupalong camp, Ukhiya*

**19,311** *Nayapara camp, Teknaf*

👉 **80,000** *in nearby makeshift camps additional refugees*

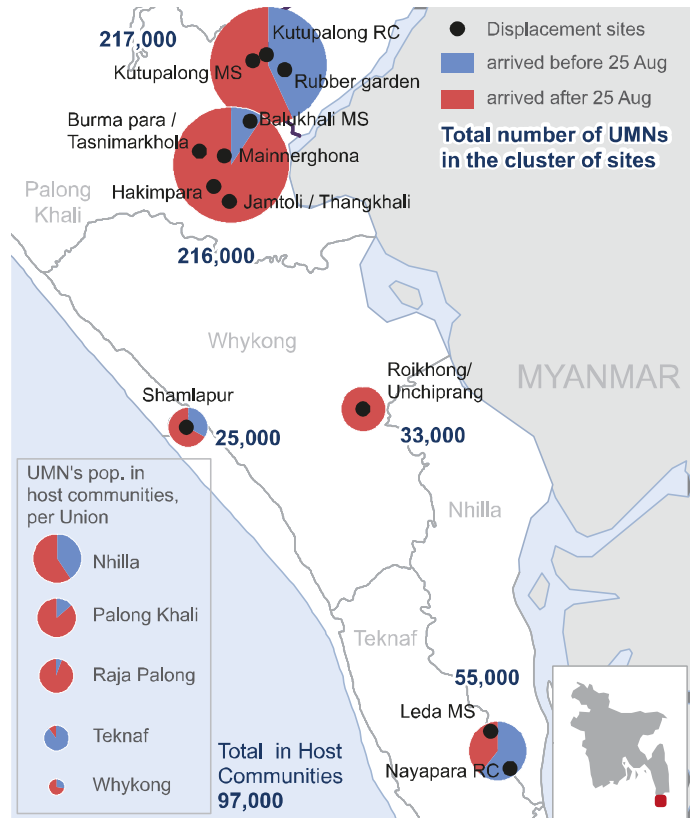
👉 **Close to 500,000** *unregistered Rohingya refugees fled Myanmar to other countries*

(1) *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2017

## Mapping of Rohingya refugees influx to Cox's Bazar as per September 2017

Daily rain has flooded campsites and left pools of water, many of them contaminated with fecal matter. For many of the refugees, they are the only accessible water source, but pose a lethal threat of waterborne diseases like cholera. Approximately 59 million liters of safe water are now needed every day to meet the basic needs of the new arrivals. WASH infrastructure in the settlements is now under immense strain due to the massive population increase in all sites. MERCY Malaysia has identified immediate needs on grounds as well as mid-term and long-term assistance required to lessen the humanitarian burden in Cox's Bazar.

MERCY Malaysia focuses on highly needed humanitarian assistance, with intervention to be conducted at the Kutupalong refugee makeshift camps. The humanitarian assistance program to be conducted by MERCY Malaysia and its partner; Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) include:



**429,000**  
cumulative arrivals since 25 August

**145,000**  
arrivals in makeshift settlements/camps

**196,000**  
cumulative arrivals since 25 August

**88,000**  
arrivals in host communities

- **Primary health care services, which include:**
  1. Basic health screening / consultation.
  2. Supply of medicine.
  3. Referral system to nearest hospital for further medical treatment.
  4. Health campaign on vaccination, mother and child health care, oral rehydration solution (ORS) and nutrition.

- **Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**
  1. Sanitary and water sealed latrines in camps
  2. WASH campaign on personal hygiene, sanitation and environment cleanliness.

- **Non-food items**
  1. Tarpaulin sheets for shelter improvement
  2. Cooking utensils, clothing and blankets
  3. Dignity kits



Map source: International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), 2017



# **Proposed humanitarian assistance programs\* by MERCY Malaysia**

## **Primary Health Care (PHC)**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Result</b>
Basic health screening/consultation	Estimated 200 patients per day for an area with 20,000 refugees	Improved health conditions by ensuring emergency relief and medical support provided to affected population.
Supply of medicine		
Referral system to nearest hospital for further medical treatment	For 20,000 refugees, working closely with Ukhiya Upazilla Health and Family Planning Office (UHFPO)	
Health campaign on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccination</li> <li>• Mother and child health care</li> <li>• Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS)</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> </ul>		

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Result</b>
Setting up of sanitary and water sealed latrines	1000 families for an area with 20,000 refugees	Improved hygiene condition and practices through increased awareness of the affected population in reducing risk of disease outbreak.
WASH campaign on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal hygiene</li> <li>• Sanitation and environment cleanliness</li> </ul>		



## Non-Food Items (NFI)

Items	Beneficiaries	Result
Procurement and distribution of tarpaulin sheets for shelter improvements	1000 families for an area with 20,000 refugees	Improved human dignity and daily living condition of the affected population while lessening the humanitarian burden of the community and host country.
Cooking utensils, clothing and blankets		
Hygiene and dignity kits		

## Staff and Volunteer Deployments

Items	Beneficiaries	Result
Deployment of MERCY Malaysia's staffs - program officer, survey team, project manager	1000 families for an area with 20,000 refugees	Efficient and effective humanitarian services and project implementation
Deployment of MERCY Malaysia's volunteers: doctors, medical officers, nurses, technical teams		

*\* Project deliverables (types, units and locations) are subject to further changes based on updated needs and situation on site, and agreements with the local communities and leaders, local authorities, project donor and project implementer/partner. The proposed project is designed to be replicated and scaled-up when need arises.*





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