

**SITUATION**

On the morning of Friday the 25 August 2017, the state of Rakhine in Myanmar, conflict broke out disproportionately affecting the minority Rohingya community as a result of operations of the Myanmar military and other non state actors in response to attacks on three border posts on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh allegedly by a group of Islamic militants leading to the death of nine policemen. The extent and degree of implications and sufferings of people fleeing the ongoing violence still remains uncertain. Though incidents of violence against the Rohingya community are being constantly reported by the media and other sources, the Myanmar government officially have denied such events. To date, estimations based on consolidated field reports of the agencies working in Cox's Bazar are that 370,000 people are estimated to have crossed the border into Bangladesh seeking refuge from the violence of Myanmar military and local Rakhine communities. In a statement issued on 13 Sept 2017, Wednesday, the 15-member UN Security Council acknowledged the initial attacks on Myanmar security forces but "condemned the subsequent violence," and called for "immediate steps to end the violence in Rakhine, de-escalate the situation, re-establish law and order, and ensure the protection of civilians." The UN Secretary General labelled the current crisis as 'Catastrophic' (CNN report on 14 Sept 2017 <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/13/asia/rohingya-un-guterres/index.html>). Additionally, the Myanmar army deployed land mines on the tracks and several land mine explosions and injury have been reported as well (by BBC <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41238180>).

NEEDS

The conflict has put the region in a state of crisis. The conflict affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs. They are in desperate need of all types of survival necessities as they had to flee from their locality and homes with nothing. Their needs include: sufficient food, safe shelter and basic non-food items, access to basic health services and facilities, safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, access to livelihood activities, protection services and adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the conflict affected people with vulnerabilities more specifically for woman and girls who are the majority among the refugees. Many news sources quoted these women having witnessed the killing of their husbands and male children. They have reported horrible violence against women and girls including molestation, rape and killing. These refugee women and girls now fear risk of protection and further violence against them. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:
National government:

- The Bangladesh government has declared allocation of about 2,000 acres of land for the refuge Rohingya settlement/camps. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh has visited the Kutupalong camp, one of the official camps to understand firsthand the sufferings of the refugees and officially urged Myanmar to take back hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled violence in Rakhine state.
- The agencies in Bangladesh for the response are the Home Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Disaster, Management and Relief (MoDMR), District Administration of Cox's Bazar (Biometric registration and organisation)
- IOM is coordinating the UN response and other UN agencies responding include UNICEF and WFP
- INGOs which are Save the Children, MSF, Solidaites, ACF, Handicap International, and national NGOs which are Caritas Bangladesh, CCDB, Coast Trust, Mukti are closely monitoring the situation.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by IOM and Bangladesh government. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Sector Groups/Clusters have been established to co-ordinate the various sector activities) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance has been working in Bangladesh since 2004, and is now helping people affected by the conflict. ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the conflict, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand

the needs and vulnerabilities. In addition, The ACT Bangladesh Forum is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Bangladesh forum has identified a gap in emergency food, NFI, WASH, basic health, temporary shelter and long-term Food & Nutrition support and psychosocial support and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

The ACT Bangladesh forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide basic emergency and long-term rehabilitation support to ensure that the conflict affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to emergency food, NFI, WASH, basic health, temporary shelter and long-term Food & Nutrition needs and psychosocial care. ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing food, WASH, basic healthcare services, temporary shelter and psychosocial support to 5,000 affected households in the coming months.

Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the conflict are amplified.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

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