



Crisis Overview

Bangladesh has a long history of hosting the Rohingya people from the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar, with the earliest arrivals recorded as far back as 1948. But since 25 August 2017, due to fresh eruption of extreme violence in Rakhine, the Rohingya refugees started to stream into Bangladesh. According to UNHCR's population factsheet, as of 31 August 2018, the Rohingya population in Bangladesh stands at 891,878 or 205,456 families. While the Rohingya people are now staying in Bangladesh, there remain concerns around their security and needs in terms of access to food, protection, health, shelter and WASH services.

ActionAid Bangladesh Response

ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) has been responding to the Rohingya Crisis in Cox's Bazar since the very beginning of the influx. AAB is primarily working to ensure the protection of women, adolescent girls and children by establishing Women Safe Spaces (WSS) along with child-friendly corners as part of the WSS. The WSS works to ensure protection through preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and abuse by offering psycho-social support and counselling. The WSS are also providing need based first aid medical support as well as referral services. AAB is also responsible for the site management of Camps 11 and 12. AAB provides dignity kits, blanket, tents, solar lights, Compact Rice Husk (Alternative Cooking fuel) and WASH facilities through installation of tube-wells, toilets and bathing spaces. Most interventions are based on the demands of different women-led committees.

Key Interventions



Leading site management activities in Camps 11 and 12.



Supported the relocation of 2,394 people to safer areas to safeguard them from landslide and flood



Ensured safe drinking water by installing 43 tube-wells (25 Deep Tube-wells).



Built 57 emergency latrines and providing regular maintenance.



Installed 50 bathing spaces for the Rohingya women and girls.



Provided solar powered lights to 7,560 families.



Distributed 15,786 blankets to 7,893 families.



Distributed food packages (lentils, oil, salt and sugar) to 8,000 families. Distributed 6,650 supplementary food packages to 3,325 Rohingya households with two children each.



Facilitating 8 Women Safe Spaces (WSS) and provided services to 16,811 women and girls till date.



Provided sewing training to 420 Rohingya women and adolescent girls.



Distributed dignity kits to 40,466 Rohingya women and girls.



Provided emergency shelter tents to 90 families.

ActionAid Bangladesh Advocacy on Rohingya Crisis

In line with its core mandate, AAB is implementing a women-centred emergency response to support the Rohingya refugees. Our work is focused on the Protection rights of the women and girls. Adhering to international human rights law / humanitarian principles, we uphold the rights of the Rohingya for safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation as well as their right to adequate and appropriate humanitarian aid and assistance while in displacement. To this end, we have been focusing our advocacy efforts on identifying and communicating critical humanitarian needs with participation of the stakeholders. We are supporting humanitarian partners in this collective effort to strengthen the response mechanism. We are also capturing the knowledge and sharing the main concerns and circumstances of this crisis with the local, national and international audiences; for the benefit of all stakeholders. We hope that these efforts will contribute to sensitising the national and international decision-makers and the civil society to support this cause.

Key events/outputs

International Conference on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Towards Sustainable Solutions, Dhaka, April 2018.

Charter: Dhaka Declaration, April 2018.

International Seminar on Accountability: ICC and the Rohingya Crisis, Dhaka, June 2018.

Endorsement of a civil society-led petition to the ICC, June 2018.

Photo Exhibition and Photobook "Rohingya Exodus 2017", August 2018.

Compendium of Academic Papers, under publication.

A collection of Micro-narratives, under publication.



Challenges and Future Plan

Deep-rooted patriarchal values and religious conservatism hinder the Rohingya women and girls from accessing humanitarian aid. Lack of income increase the risks of the community's involvement in drug abuse and criminal activities such as violence and conflict. Tensions between the Rohingya population and the host community are still prevalent. In this context, AAB plans to strengthen **community-based protection**, to establish Women Friendly Space in the intervening camps and to facilitate economic empowerment and livelihood promoting intervention for the Rohingya Women. AAB also plans work with the host community in order to contribute to social cohesion.

Donors



actionaid



ActionAid
ROHINGYA RESPONSE