

# Myanmar Refugee Crisis

April 2018



Since 25 August 2017, 671,500 refugees from Myanmar have fled to Bangladesh. Over 880,000 refugees are now living in Cox's Bazar (ISCG Report 25 Mar'18), including those who arrived before the exodus. The scale of the influx of refugees arriving in Cox's Bazar is unprecedented and putting enormous pressure on the Bangladesh government, host communities and humanitarian agencies.

Women, children and infants make up over 70 per cent of the refugees. They are in desperate need of clean drinking water, food, medical help, protection and safe places to sleep. Moreover, a large number of children have already been identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).



"The approach CARE takes to respond in any emergency is to focus particularly on women and girls. Whether they are menstruating, pregnant, breastfeeding, or simply older and more frail, they have specialized needs which require specialized solutions."

**Zia Choudhury** CARE Bangladesh Country Director

Photo: Kathleen Prior

**CARE's Response:** CARE has directly reached nearly **180,000** people through the distribution of food, non-food items (NFI), health and nutrition support, shelter, protection and water and sanitation services. Also, another **180,000** children were reached through the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) project for which CARE provides technical support to a consortium.

**By Feb 2019, CARE aims to reach a total of 250,000+ people.**

What CARE is doing:

- **HEALTH:** 4 health centers offer primary and reproductive health services, free medicine, referral other hospitals, and ambulance services. So far, **25,000+** people served.
- **PROTECTION & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE:** Two women-friendly spaces and information booths established offering refugee women a space to socialize and seek counselling. To date, **4,000+** women and adolescents girls reached.
- **SHELTER:** To rebuild and strengthen shelters bamboo, tarpaulins, floor mats, rope etc. and toolkits distributed to **22,000** people. Training was also given on building safer houses.
- **NUTRITION:** 16 nutrition centers (known as OTP) helped screen **180,000** children for malnutrition and offer treatment. CARE is working with a consortium.
- **SITE COORDINATION:** At Potibunia camp, coordinating with the government and service-providers to ensure improved roads, drainage system and proper infrastructure and various other services for 22,000 inhabitants of the camp.
- **WASH:** **27** deep tubewells, **210** latrines and handwashing facilities and **525** women-friendly bathing spaces constructed improving water and sanitation conditions Family Hygiene & Dignity Kits distributed to 5,700 HHs. Hygiene sessions on-going.
- **FOOD:** Distributed dry food to **100,000+** people, cooked food to **18,000+** people, and NFIs to **4,600** people, early in the crisis.

## OVERVIEW



Over 55% of all water sources are contaminated with high levels of bacteria, including E. Coli.



In the camps toilet facilities are not adequate, particularly for women and girls. Many refugees can not wash themselves for days.



More than half of CARE's funding requirement of USD 15 million (till Feb '19) reached.