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 (ICSG 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).

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.

“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

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