



MYANMAR REFUGEES
IN BANGLADESH

ONE
YEAR

CARE INTERVENTIONS

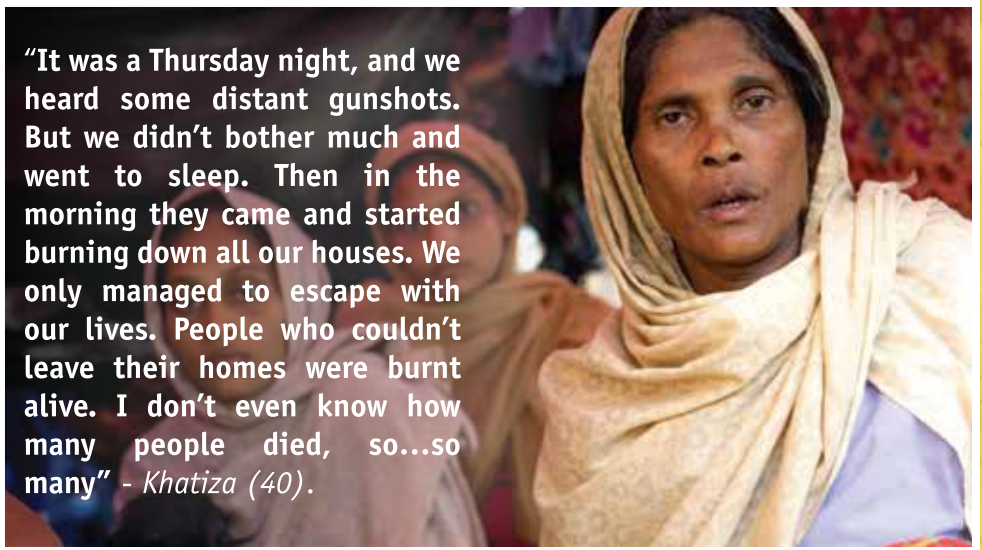
Between 25 August 2017 and now, over **700,000** people from Myanmar have fled to Bangladesh (ISCG Report, July 19, 2018), following an escalation of violence in the Northern Rakhine State from 25 August onwards. Over **900,000** refugees are now living in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, close to the Myanmar border. Prior to this influx, a large number of Myanmar nationals were already living in Bangladesh who fled the earlier waves of violence over the last three decades.



Most of the refugee left their homes and belongings never to look back again. They only managed to save their lives. Walking for days and in some cases, even weeks, they were finally able to reach the Myanmar border and cross over to Bangladesh, by boat or by walking. The journey was riddled with danger and fear for life. Even after coming to Bangladesh, the refugees were uncertain whether they would be able to live here; whether they would receive aid or simply perish for lack of food and shelter.



"It was a Thursday night, and we heard some distant gunshots. But we didn't bother much and went to sleep. Then in the morning they came and started burning down all our houses. We only managed to escape with our lives. People who couldn't leave their homes were burnt alive. I don't even know how many people died, so...so many" - Khatiza (40).



This was the situation a year ago. In the past 12 months, things have changed; the refugees have received food, shelter, health and nutrition services, water, sanitation and hygiene related support and other basic life-saving amenities. Over 300 non-government organizations (national and international), voluntary organizations and individuals came forward since early September 2017 to support this large scale humanitarian crisis. CARE was one of the very first agencies to step forward in aiding the refugees in the very early phase of the crisis.



The Government of Bangladesh played a crucial role in supporting the crisis and coordinating the efforts of the working agencies so that the refugees received basic services without delay. For most of the refugees, this was a transformational experience; many went to school for the first time, many visited a health center and received maternal care for the first time; many women experienced freedom and empowerment for the first time in their lives.

Noor (25), calls the CARE operated Women Friendly Space (WFS), a Shantir Ghor (house of peace).

“Life is not easy in the camps. It is hot, we worry about our safety, and we have to go to collect rations, cook and look after children. But when I am here in the WFS, sewing, I forget all my worries, all my losses. I feel happy.” – Noor (25).



The past year, despite being challenging, has been good for many refugees for various reasons. Most of them appreciate the access to health, education and basic amenities that they never had access to back home. A lot of them enjoy the new found freedom of being able to roam around the camps without restrictions. Some are just happy to be alive despite numerous challenges!



“(In Myanmar) we couldn’t move freely, we had difficulty going to the market for basic supplies even. Life is not easy here, but at least we have peace here (in Bangladesh). We are able to move freely, go to other camps, and get medicines and treatment easily.” - Elias (22).

Aside from day-to-day challenges living in refugee camps, dealing with the severe monsoons in temporary shelters has been particularly difficult. Lack of earning further aggravated the situation as the Myanmar nationals are not allowed to work.

Since the onset of the monsoons in May, Inter Sector Coordination Group reports , a total of 49,600 refugees have been affected by weather related incidents including 6,007 refugees who have been displaced from their shelters with another 43,600 refugee shelters sustaining partial damage, flooding or hosting other displaced refugees. Thus far, 40 refugees have been injured, and one died due to a landslide. By now, 23,206 refugees living in high risk areas have been relocated. As the muds thicken and infrastructures weaken the probability of landslides and flooding increases, leaving approximately 246,600 at serious risk.

The situation is somewhat better at Camp 16, Potibonia which is managed by CARE. While no injuries were reported, nine shelters got badly damaged and the families had to be relocated. Additionally, some more shelters, footpaths, and latrines were also affected.

As the rains have eased, the CARE site management, shelter, and WASH teams have been working closely with partners to undertake the required repairs. Sandbags have been placed throughout the camp to strengthen paths and staircases. Drains have been cleared and installed to decrease waterlogging. New bamboo railings and bridges have been constructed to support accessibility and the street lights have been fixed. Structure



specific and camp wide repairs are underway to mitigate against the impacts of future storms.

Earlier, to counter the monsoons, CARE distributed shelter kits (bamboo, tarpaulin, and rope) and toolkits to over **5,000** households, reaching **22,000+** people and relocated 461 households (HHs) from high risk areas to safety. In addition, over 5,000 HHs were educated on safer shelter erection and best utilization of relief items.

One of the prevailing concerns amidst the aid agencies is the refugees' safe repatriation and supporting them with better living conditions until they leave.



"Since my husband is not alive, life will be very difficult. There (in Myanmar), I won't be allowed to work and it will be very difficult for me to support my children." - *Tosmin (30)*.

"We will go back if our homes are rebuild like they used to be before they were burned down; if we are given citizen rights as Rohingyas and as Muslims, and if we are given the freedom of movement." - *Omar (22)*.



Taking this into account, CARE has been on the ground since September 2017 and by now reached nearly **250,000** people through health and nutrition services, water, sanitation and hygiene interventions, protection of women and girls and management of Gender-Based Violence shelter upgradation, and distribution of food and non-food items (NFI). Also, as part of a consortium, CARE is providing nutrition support to children with malnutrition.

By Feb 2019, CARE aims to reach over 300,000 people. CARE's fundraising target is 12 million USD to meet the requirements to maintain these programs between March 2018 and February 2019.

“CARE responds in any emergency with a specific focus on women and girls. We provide customized solutions to the unique and diverse needs of women of all ages -menstruating, pregnant, breastfeeding, younger or simply older and frail.”



Zia Choudhury

Country Director, CARE Bangladesh



SITE COORDINATION

Location: Camp 16, Potibunia (Moynarghona/Shafiullah kata)

Inter-agency coordination, avoiding duplication of required services, identification of existing gaps in services, site improvement such as building/ renovating infrastructure like roads within and between camps, garbage management, preparation of household database, collection of list of beneficiary and community leaders (Majhi).

5,000 trees planted to reduce the environmental damage caused due to massive deforestation.

22,000+ people getting better and coordinated multi-sectoral support.

07 information centers set up.

23 camp coordination and 26 block coordination meeting conducted.

91 Focused Group Discussions conducted to track service gaps and challenges where 37% female were present.



SHELTER

Provision of emergency shelter and non-food items (NFIs), training and demonstrating shelter-building technical skills, upgrading existing shelters, and supporting more resilient shelters for monsoon and cyclone season.



5,000+ households (HH) / **22, 000+** people received shelter kits (tarp, mat, rope, kitchen set), toolbox to build/renovate shelters and training on how to build better and stronger shelters to withstand heavy rains and landslides. CARE also focused on upgrading shelters and improving living conditions before the upcoming monsoon season.

5,000+ households (HH) educated on safer shelter erection and best utilization of relief items.

461 households (HHs) from high risk areas have been relocated to safer areas.

2,000+ people including single person families, elderlies and widows offered cash-for-work.

WASH

Prevent outbreak of waterborne diseases, ensure improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities with better hygienic practices.

50,000+ people benefitted from CARE's WASH interventions.

81 deep tube wells installed to ensure safe drinking water as many of the shallow wells, installed indiscriminately by others, are contaminated with e-coli, a direct result of having toilets close to wells.



549 latrines constructed.

466 handwashing facility built.

673 women-friendly bathing cubicles constructed.



840 latrines' desludging completed.

11,185 households (HH) received family hygiene and dignity kits (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, nail clipper, torch).

5,200 households (HH) received 624,000 water purifying tablets.



1,038 household hygiene promotion sessions conducted.

PROTECTION & GBV

Protection of women and girl refugees, including prevention and management of gender-based violence (GBV). Services include provision and referrals for critical and life-saving GBV services, psycho-social counselling, access to information and education, engaging men and boys in prevention strategies.



5 Women Friendly Space (WFS) created with an average visit of 30+ women everyday:

To offer private and confidential psycho-social counselling for the refugee women who experienced GBV and other forms of trauma.

To help women socialize, spend quality time by means of interactive games and activities.

To ensure referral support for day-to-day needs. For example, if required, women will be sent to hospitals with better, more specialist facilities outside the camps.

29,000+ women and adolescents reached across the 5 WFS.

13,000+ men and boys have been mobilized and oriented on GBV issues.

24 community watch groups formed, **2** information booths set up for information needs of women and girls.

150 solar lights for women-led HHs distributed and **17** solar street lights installed.

2 information booths set up to meet various information needs of women and girls.

HEALTH

Sexual, reproductive and maternal health services (SRMH), Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC), family planning, immunization, child health, general consultation, clinical management and referral services for GBV survivors, free medicines, ambulance service and outreach.



4 Health Centers

65,000+ people treated

NUTRITION

Identification and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) through Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach, along with capacity building and training of project and partner staff.

34 Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) centers

927,993 times treatment and services given to children under five with malnutrition

240+ partner staff who work in these nutrition centers trained by CARE

22, 631 children with SAM enrolled at OTPs

60,000+ children with MAM identified and referred to other centers

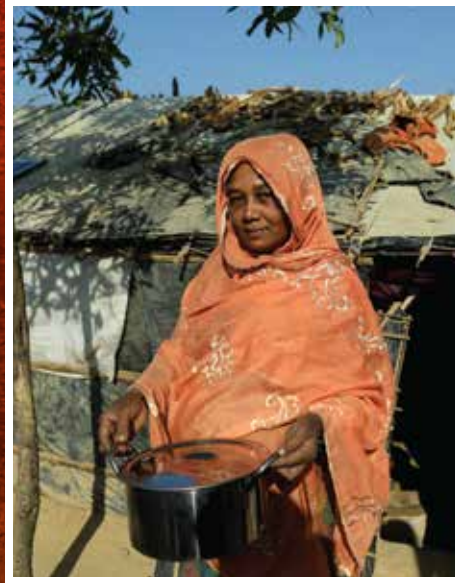
FOOD + (NFIs)

Provision of food to vulnerable new arrivals

Over **106,100** individuals received dry and supplementary food items (rice, potato, pulse, oil, onion, sugar, salt)

18,250 people served cooked food

4,600 people/family received NFIs including rice bowl and umbrella



“CARE calls out to all parties involved to ensure refugee returns are voluntary, informed, respectful, and conducted with safety and dignity. The key principle of ‘non-refoulement’ must be upheld and returns should commence only if there are no significant ongoing security risk in the area of return.”

Zia Choudhury

Country Director, CARE Bangladesh



As refugees from Myanmar complete one year in Bangladesh, their return to Myanmar with safety and dignity is a major concern for CARE and other humanitarian organizations. Until they return, CARE commits to serve the needs of the refugees and pledges to support their safe and voluntary repatriation to their homeland Myanmar.

THANK YOU

Our Donors

Australian Humanitarian Partnership, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, Disasters Emergency Committee, UK, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish Emergency Relief Fund, C & A Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline, Global Affairs Canada, International Organization for Migration, LDS Charities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan, PUBLIC Funds, SAFPAC, UNICEF, and generous support from CARE supporters globally

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