



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO UNDOCUMENTED MYANMAR NATIONALS IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Situation Report 5 January - 28 February 2017



### Highlights

A group of newly arrived Myanmar Nationals living without any shelter in Cox's Bazar. © IOM 2016 (Photo: Sk. Sabbir Hossain)

- Approximately 74,000 Rohingyas/ Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs) from Rakhine State have crossed the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh as of 23 February, 2017.
- New families were spotted in Balukhali, Teknaf and Ukiya host villages. The new arrivals are highly mobile and were reported to be moving between makeshift settlements, upazila and district centres.
- No official decision from the GOB to grant new land for establishing makeshift settlements (MS) has created a concern. Hundreds of unplanned huts are being built around the MS.

### Situation Overview

Within the framework of the 'National Strategy on Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh', the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been tasked by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to coordinate the humanitarian services to the Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs) and vulnerable host communities in Bangladesh's south-eastern district of Cox's Bazar. It is estimated that over 60,000 UMNs are residing in the Makeshift Settlements (MS) in Kutupalong and Leda.

Following an outbreak of violence on the October 9, 2016 in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, thousands of the Rohingyas<sup>1</sup> have fled to Bangladesh. As of 23 February 2017, it is estimated that approximately over 74,000 Rohingyas from Rakhine State have crossed the border and are residing in the registered camps, makeshift settlements, Cox's Bazar city and in the host villages of Teknaf and Ukhiya districts. Some new families were spotted in Balukhali, Teknaf and Ukhiya host villages. This newly arrived population is highly mobile and moving from the host villages to the makeshift settlements to have access to basic humanitarian services provided by the actors on the ground, which is already creating pressure on resources and other humanitarian needs.

The influx has resulted in construction of new temporary shelters in the Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement (KMS) and in Balukhali village, including on top and at the base of hills in these areas. The new arrivals are in need of basic humanitarian assistance, such as health, water, food, sanitation, shelter and protection against violence in the expanded areas of Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement (KMS), Leda Makeshift Settlement (LMS) and the newly built temporary settlements in Balukhali. The agencies are unable to make a site plan for shelter construction as the decision from the Government of Bangladesh has not formally allocated new land, which has resulted in construction of unplanned huts.

The Government of Bangladesh published and made public statements concerning relocation of the Rohingyas to Thenga Char, which has raised concerns among the UMNs and the refugees. However, the UN country team has agreed to continue the humanitarian assistance as before while monitoring further developments in the Government assessment and planning.

*<sup>1</sup>The largest Muslim group within Rakhine State self-identify under the term "Rohingya," a designation that is not accepted by the majority of the ethnic Rakhine population, and is not recognized by the central Government of Myanmar as one of the 135 official nationalities in the country. In order to preserve neutrality on the issue, IOM Myanmar alternatively refers to this group as "Muslim minority of Rakhine State." In line with the National Strategy of the Government of Bangladesh, IOM Bangladesh refers to unregistered members of this minority group as "Undocumented Myanmar Nationals."*

## IOM's Response in Bangladesh



### Coordination & CWC

IOM has been working very closely with the Government of Bangladesh, humanitarian partners, and local NGOs to respond to the emergency in Cox's Bazar. Emergency coordination meetings are held regularly in both Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, with agencies providing information on the scope and reach of the provided assistance. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), IOM, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Handicap International (HI), Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Save the Children, Solidarites International (SI), Bangla German Sompriti (BGS), Mukti Cox's Bazar, NGO Forum (NGOF), Research Training and Management International (RTMI), and Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED) attend the meeting. Agencies contributing to regular data gathering include ACF, HI, IOM, SI, WFP, MSF, UNFPA, UNHCR, Mukti, and BGS.



A newly arrived Myanmar National with NFI kits provided by IOM Cox's Bazar © IOM 2016 (Photo: Saikat Biswas)

During this reporting period IOM has coordinated several visits of for high level dignitaries including the visits of the Nordic Ambassador, American Ambassador, the Rakhine Advisory Commission also known as Kofi Annan Commission, High Commissioners from Canada, UK and Australia. Furthermore, Professor Yanghee Lee, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

In order to have a unified information sharing mechanism in place, the agencies proposed IOM to coordinate with the DC office and share the consolidated information gathered from the DC office to

the partners.



IOM staff members at the Port of Chittagong in a discussion with BDRCS prior to distribution. © IOM 2016 (Photo: Saikat Biswas)

A group of NGOs from Malaysia in coordination with the Government of Malaysia sent food flotilla for Rohingyas in Myanmar and Bangladesh. Upon request by the Government of Bangladesh, IOM coordinated the transfer of the flotilla from the Chittagong port to Cox's Bazar. The flotilla was handed over to the Government of Bangladesh. In coordination with IOM, BDRS is distributing the flotilla items among the new influx population, existing UMNs and to the host communities. The distribution of emergency relief items from the flotilla to the affected population began on 23 February 2017. As of 28 February 2017, the Malaysian relief items have been distributed among 8,210 households, including 300 households in KMS and LMS.



### NFI and Shelter

IOM distributed 3,779 general Non-Food Item (NFI) kits in Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement and the Host Communities (HCs) as of 5 January 2017. Since the new influx peaked, IOM has distributed 13,195 blankets among already present UMNs and to the new arrivals. Another 4,000 NFI kits are in the procurement process, and IOM has a stock of 7,000 shelter material kits including tarpaulins and sleeping mats. As a result of the recent influx, thousands of newly built huts have appeared in the hills adjacent to KMS though forestry officials demolished 600-800 huts.



## IOM's Response in Bangladesh

Location	NFI Kits	Blankets
Shamlapur	1,678	3,469
Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement	1,659	7,669
Leda Makeshift Settlement	3,389	2,057
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,726</b>	<b>13,195</b>

Table: Distribution of NFI kits and Blankets from 5 January to 28 February 2017



Most of the newly arrived UMNs are living in temporary shelters Cox's Bazar © IOM 2016 (Photo: Sk. Sabbir Hossain)

### Health

IOM has been supporting seven government healthcare facilities in Teknaf and Ukhiya. In addition, IOM recently established a 10-bed healthcare facility near Leda Makeshift Settlement to meet strong and persistent healthcare needs of the UMNs and HCs in the surrounding area. The average number of cases treated in these eight facilities of Ukhiya and Teknaf exceeds 25,000 each month. After the influx, IOM treated over 3000 new arrivals at Kutupalong and Leda clinic.

A local NGO, Mukti with support from IOM, UNHCR, MSF launched a second immunization campaign on 18-19 February 2017, against measles and already immunized 4,409 children under the age of 5 in Kutupalong and Balukhali.

As the new influx is spread across Balukhali, IOM installed patient rehydration posts there and in the expanded areas of KMS. Similarly, emergency latrines were installed by IOM and ACF to cater the basic health needs of the new influx.

There is a health concern among the influx, Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases were observed in Balukhali, the number was over 500 from December to February 2017. IOM will soon be mobilizing its

medical team in Balukhali.



### WASH

IOM's WASH intervention focuses on developing Infrastructure to increase access to safe water and hygienic sanitation facilities to the UMN population in the Makeshift Settlements and the vulnerable communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf. With the new arrivals, there is an increase in demand for water and sanitation facilities; open defecation is frequently observed. During this reporting period IOM installed 634 household latrines in Ukhiya district. In addition, IOM along with the NGO partner SHED already installed 15 tube wells and is preparing to install 38 more tube wells in Ukhiya. In KMS, in the new block, IOM and ACF have started installing tube wells and 6 communal latrine blocks.

The NGO Forum has established 35 tube wells and 595 latrines at Shamlapur with support from IOM.

## IOM's Response in Bangladesh

The WASH situation is deteriorating in Balukhali. The WASH sub-cluster meeting was held on 23 January at the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) office. The meeting decided that the WASH interventions will also be targeted to the host communities in the adjacent villages next to the camp area. IOM will install 15 deep tube wells, 72 latrine cubicles (24 block), 30 cubicle bathing sheds (15 block) in Balukhali. In addition, ACF and SI installed 40 Emergency latrines with support from IOM.

ACF and IOM have disinfected all the tube wells in Balukhali since water samples collected from the tube wells were found to be contaminated with faecal coliform.



### Gender Based Violence (GBV)

The overall objective of IOM's GBV programme is to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV among UMN communities in Kutupalong, Leda and Shamlapur. IOM continued collaboration with local NGO HELP in GBV prevention program. GBV related issues were brainstormed during the awareness campaigns, workshops, information sessions, meetings and trainings with camp management committees, teachers and parents groups, religious leaders, women/girls and men/boys' groups as well as directly with the settlement population. IOM GBV staff also continued to provide direct GBV response to GBV survivors. 82 GBV cases have been assisted through PSS services or referred for relevant services including to health care services in IOM-supported government clinics.

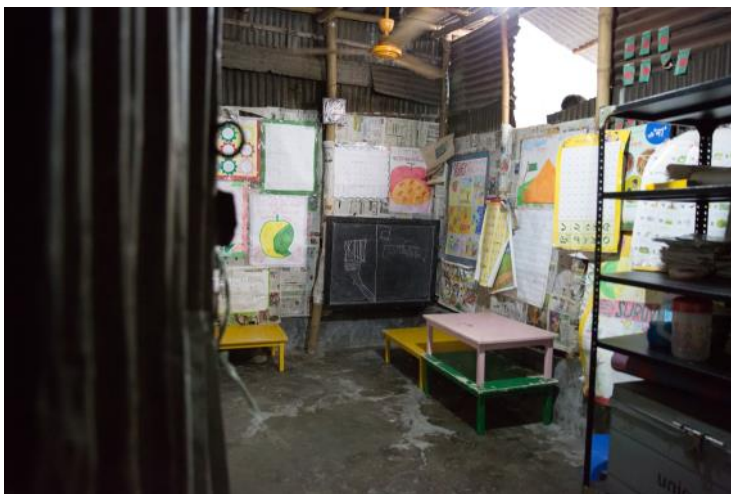


### Education

IOM and UNICEF are implementing a joint project on education to provide basic services to UMN children in KMS. The Learning centers and Child Friendly Spaces were formally inaugurated by the Chief of Mission of IOM, UNICEF Representative, and the Director of the Directorate of Primary Education's at KMS. Currently, there are 30 Learning Centers (15 pre-primary and 15 Cycle 1) are continuing to provide basic education services to around 910 children aged 4 -14 years in the KMS which aims to reach out to 20,000 children by the end of this year.

### Update on Influx

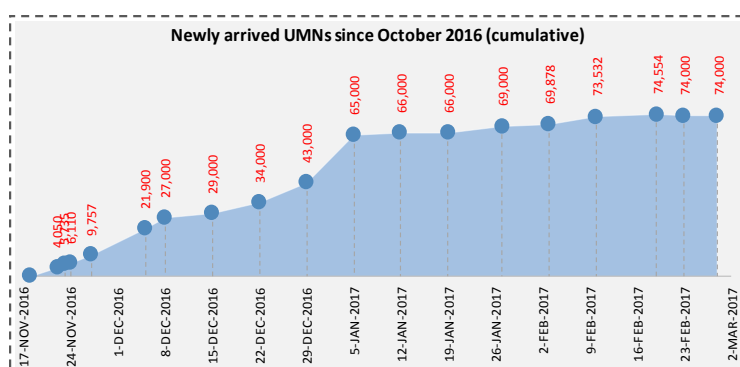
As of 28th February 2017 the humanitarian actors estimated approximately 74,000 individuals are residing in registered camps, makeshift settlements, Cox's Bazar city and in host villages of Teknaf and Ukhiya. The highest influx has been observed at Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement with 31,207 individuals. This estimate will be updated based on the



A learning center in Kutupalong Makeshift Settlement © IOM 2016  
(Photo: IOM HQ Communication Unit)

findings of the DTM pilot and the GOB UMN Census. The block management committee members (BMC) of the makeshifts have informed that some families have left the camps. Though it remains unclear whether the families have moved to new locations within Bangladesh or have returned to Myanmar.

IOM shared the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) concept to the members of the Interagency Coordination Committee and Emergency Coordination Meeting (ECM). The DTM is currently being piloted. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has extended the census of the UMN for an additional six months, which will estimate the data of the newly arrived Rohingyas as well.



### Contacts

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# IOM'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FOR THE UNDOCUMENTED MYANMAR NATIONALS IN BANGLADESH

## IOM's engagement over the years

- Sep 2013 Assigned by GoB to provide and coordinate humanitarian services for UMN's under the GoB's national strategy on Myanmar Refugees and UMN's.
- Sep 2013 IOM immediately starts providing health and WASH services in Kutupalong makeshift settlements and host communities. Further starts working with capacity building of local NGOs.
- Jan 2015 IOM starts working in Leda Makeshift Settlement.
- Mar 2015 IOM expands its operation to Shamlapur.
- Feb 2016 IOM facilitates the GoB in conducting census- one of the five main elements of the national strategy.
- Aug 2016 IOM takes coordination role in providing non formal education to UMN children aged between 4-14 years in the makeshifts and includes GBV to ensure protection of the UMN's.
- Oct 2016 A heavy influx observed in the makeshift settlements and host communities around Cox's Bazar area. As of 28 February 2017, Humanitarian actors estimates around 74,000 UMN's have arrived since October 2016.

IOM as the lead coordination agency has since then coordinated the emergency response to the new arrivals and further supported with providing 6,726 NFI kits and 13,195 blankets.



Supporting over  
**100,000**

Undocumented Myanmar Nationals  
in the makeshift settlements

## SERVICES PROVIDED

			
Water, Sanitation Hygiene	Health	Protection/GBV	Non Formal Education
			
Shelter	Coordination Capacity Building	Non-Food Item	

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

\$ 5.6*	\$ 19.4	\$ 25M
MILLION	MILLION	TOTAL REQUIREMENTS
RECEIVED	STILL REQUIRED	

\*Funds received since January 2017 for emergency response including ongoing projects for providing humanitarian assistance to the existing UMN population

IOM's humanitarian programming for Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh is supported by :

