

## UNDERSTANDING THE ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS<sup>1</sup> : OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2020 SUMMARY SHEET



This Summary Sheet<sup>2</sup> is produced by TorqAid – [www.torqaid.com](http://www.torqaid.com) for people wanting to better understand the Rohingya crisis, as this affects the Rohingya in Myanmar and Bangladesh, and host communities in the latter country. It is regularly updated and can be accessed from the TorqAid website on <http://www.torqaid.com/understanding-rohingya-crisis>.

### Target Audience

The intended audience of this Summary Sheet on ‘Understanding the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis’ includes Global Development or Humanitarian Practitioners; tertiary and secondary students; and volunteers or individuals interested in the Rohingya crisis.

### Overall Humanitarian Situation for Rohingya in Bangladesh

#### *Background Information to Rohingya Crisis*

Since August 2017, a total of over 745, 000 Rohingya refugees, or what the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) call ‘Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals’<sup>3</sup>, have fled from mainly northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, into Cox’s Bazar (CXB) District in Bangladesh. Together with earlier Rohingya arrivals, this means there are around 860,000 Rohingya<sup>4</sup>, these mainly grouped in 34 formally established camps in extremely congested conditions. The largest concentration of refugees (see map at Appendix A) is at Kutupalong, which is home to just over 630,000 people.

The GoB and Government of Myanmar (GoM) signed a repatriation agreement in November 2017, on the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of displaced persons back into North Rakhine State. This was complemented by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 between the GoM and the United Nations (specifically UNHCR and UNDP) on assistance to facilitate this process. The GoB and UNHCR have for months been carrying out a Joint Verification Exercise, registering Rohingya refugees, and providing individual documentation for them. The reasons behind the forced displacement of Rohingya from their homes in mainly north Rakhine State are complex. The 2017 Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State<sup>5</sup>, gives a good overview of this. In September 2018 the UN Human Rights Council publicised its report on the independent fact-finding mission to Myanmar<sup>6</sup>, this covering the situations in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states since 2011. In September 2018 also, Ware and Laoutides also released their publication entitled ‘Myanmar’s Rohingya’ Conflict<sup>7</sup>, which in turn presents a detailed, clear and nuanced analysis of this complex scenario.

<sup>1</sup> A link to this can also be found at <http://www.torqaid.com/understanding-rohingya-crisis>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.torqaid.com/bangla-boat> for an explanation of this Bangladeshi fishing boat

<sup>3</sup> Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan prior to 1971) is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention

<sup>4</sup> See the Inter Sector Coordination group (ISCG) Situation Report dated July 2020 (see p.3 of this Sheet)

<sup>5</sup> Note this reference at the end of this Summary Sheet

<sup>6</sup> For reference, see page 3 of this Summary Sheet

<sup>7</sup> Again, see page 3 for this reference

### *Humanitarian Operations in Bangladesh*

The United Nations (UN) released in February 2020, a Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis covering the period January-December 2020. The 2020 JRP focuses on providing humanitarian assistance for 1,300,000 people in need, these including 860,000 Rohingya refugees, and 444,000 Bangladeshi host community individuals. Since the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, a further 509,000 Bangladeshi host population has been added, giving a total of 1.8 million people in Cox's Bazar requiring assistance. There are four overarching Strategic Objectives for JRP 2020, as indicated below.

- SO 1: Strengthen the protection of Rohingya refugee women, men, girls and boys
- SO 2: Deliver quality, life-giving assistance to populations in need
- SO 3: Foster the well-being of communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upizilas
- SO 4: Work towards achieving sustainable solutions in Myanmar

The original 2020 JRP had a budget of USD 877 million. A further USD 181 million was later allocated for COVID-19 support, giving a grand total of USD 1,058 million. By the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 this had been funded to the tune of 44%<sup>8</sup>. To implement this overall large-scale humanitarian program, the international community, led by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), is working in close cooperation with key Government of Bangladesh (GoB) stakeholders. These include the Cox's Bazar District level Deputy Commissioner (DC); the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC); relevant national line ministries and departments; and the Bangladesh military.

The Humanitarian Response in Bangladesh, together with the ReliefWeb Response in Bangladesh, websites<sup>9</sup>, provide a detailed picture of the humanitarian operations being carried out in Cox's Bazar District. ACAPS also produces regular, high quality, research material on the Rohingya response. The latest monthly ISCG Situation Report<sup>10</sup> provides an overview of the humanitarian situation in the Rohingya communities, outlining both highlights as well as gaps and constraints. It covers progress made by each of the main sectors and Working Groups (WGs)<sup>11</sup>, these including Inter-Sector Coordination; Emergency Preparedness & Response Task Force (EMPRTF): Protection; Shelter; Site Management; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene; Health; Food Security; Nutrition; Education; Logistics; Emergency Telecommunications; Child Protection; Gender Based Violence; Protection from Sexual Exploitation & Abuse (PSEA); Host Communities; Communications with Communities Working Group (CWC WG); Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG), and Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GIHA WG). The CwC WG produces, on the Shongjog website, a regular humanitarian feedback bulletin entitled 'What Matters?', which records the results of qualitative surveys with both Rohingya refugee and Bangladeshi host communities<sup>12</sup>. TorqAid (author Piper) produces an overview of the 'What Matters ?' reports.

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<sup>8</sup> See ISCG Situation report, July 2020 (page 3 of this Summary Sheet)

<sup>9</sup> The details of both of these are provided on page 3 of this Summary Sheet

<sup>10</sup> See the July 2020 Situation Report (page 3 of this Summary sheet)

<sup>11</sup> For a full list of these Sectors and Working Groups see also

[www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh)

<sup>12</sup> See Shongjog and Piper links on page 3 of this Summary Sheet

## Humanitarian Operations in Myanmar

Included at the end of this Summary Sheet are some key references relating to the humanitarian situation in Myanmar. These include ongoing operations by the Government of Myanmar (GoM), supported by the international community, in preparing for and responding to natural disasters, as well as material on the complex humanitarian emergency situations developing in some of the border areas. Within Australia, the Australian Myanmar Institute (AMI) – <http://aummi.edu.au> meets monthly in Melbourne to discuss a wide range of Myanmar-related issues and developments.

## References

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- Piper, C.A.H. (2018-20). *Understanding the Rohingya Crisis*, [www.torqaid.com/understanding-rohingya-crisis](http://www.torqaid.com/understanding-rohingya-crisis)
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### *Humanitarian & Development Operations in Myanmar*

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#### **Further Information/Training**

This 'Understanding the Rohingya Crisis' Summary Sheet<sup>13</sup> is produced by TorqAid<sup>14</sup>. TorqAid also produces a regularly updated summary of the 'What Matters?' humanitarian bulletins<sup>15</sup>.

TorqAid also facilitates an online Participatory Disaster Risk Management (PDRM) program – see [www.torqaid.com/online-pdrm-program](http://www.torqaid.com/online-pdrm-program). This comprises five modules, the first four of which have various references to the Rohingya situation.

For further information on Bangladesh/Rohingya related consultancy/advisory issues, training, or research, contact the TorqAid Director below.

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<sup>13</sup> A link to this can also be found at <http://www.torqaid.com/understanding-rohingya-crisis>.

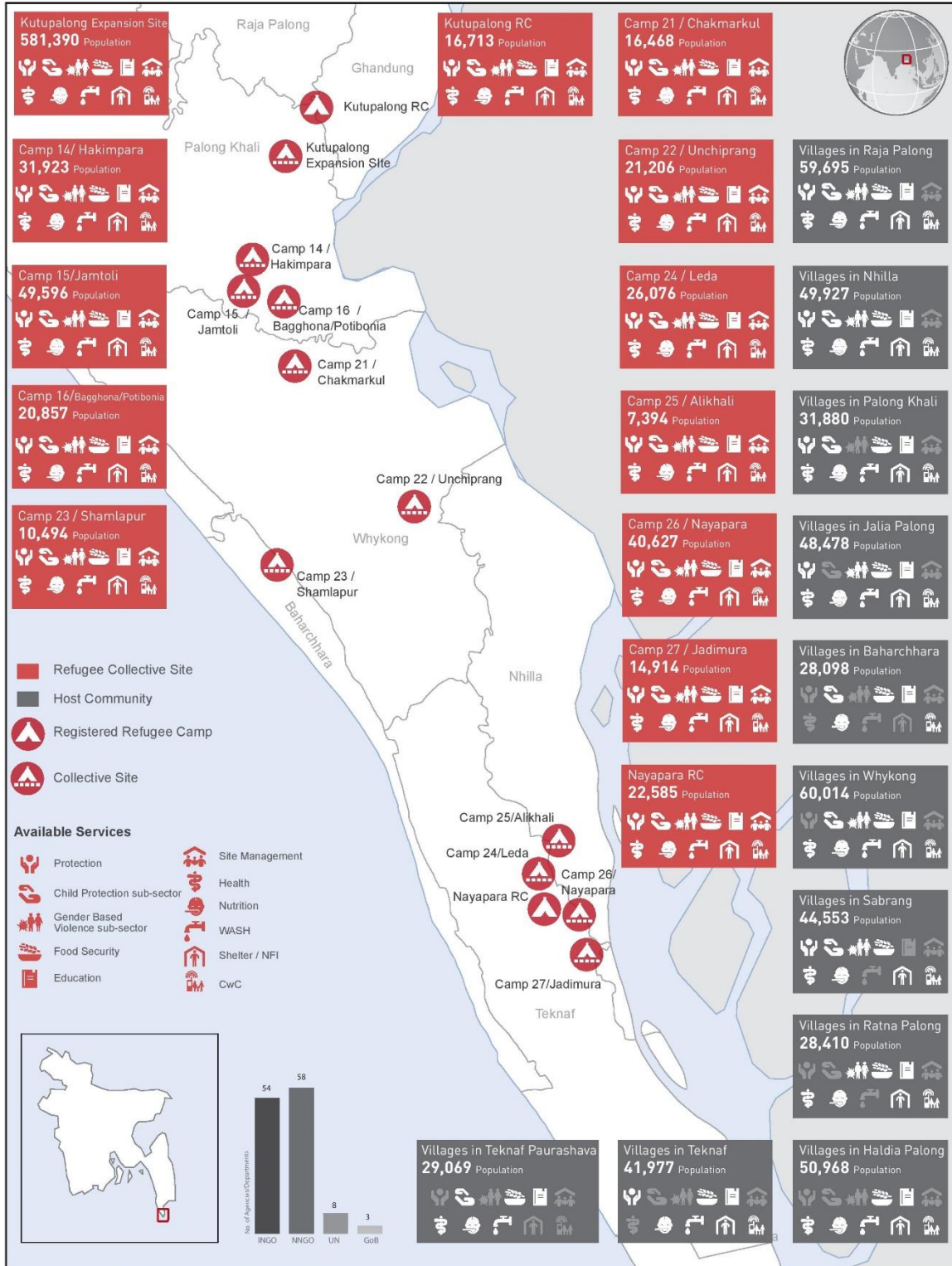
<sup>14</sup> An Australian based global humanitarian consultancy.

<sup>15</sup> See [www.torqaid.com/rohingya-what-matters](http://www.torqaid.com/rohingya-what-matters)

# APPENDIX A: COX'S BAZAR ROHINGYA SETTLEMENTS, MAY 2020

BANGLADESH: Cox's Bazar refugee response (4W) - as of May 2020

ISCG | INTER SECTOR COORDINATION GROUP



Map Sources: ISCG 4W, UNHCR FCN - Map created on 21 June 2020. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Product prepared with the 4W input by Sectors as of May 2020 and only intended as a representation of available data. The actual number of partners and activity in the field could be different than reported.



# APPENDIX B: MYANMAR, RAKHINE STATE, DISTRICT MAP



Myanmar Information Management Unit



## District Map - Rakhine State



Disclaimer: The names shown and the boundaries used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.