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Bangladesh

Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis 2019



to assist

110 000 people



FAO requires

USD 4.7 million



period

January–December 2019

The crisis has had a large environmental impact, leading to loss of agricultural land, reduced water supply, deforestation and reduction of agricultural production. It is critical to focus on environmental rehabilitation to build resilience and support the livelihoods of refugees and vulnerable host families.

Since August 2017, approximately 730 000 Rohingya refugees, including more than 400 000 children, have fled into Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh following violence in Myanmar.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Sector to:

- Enhance the livelihoods and resilience of Rohingya refugees and host communities to support social cohesion.
- Address and mitigate environmental impacts caused by Rohingya refugee influx through the restoration of the natural resource base.

Activities



Support livelihoods to enhance food security and nutrition

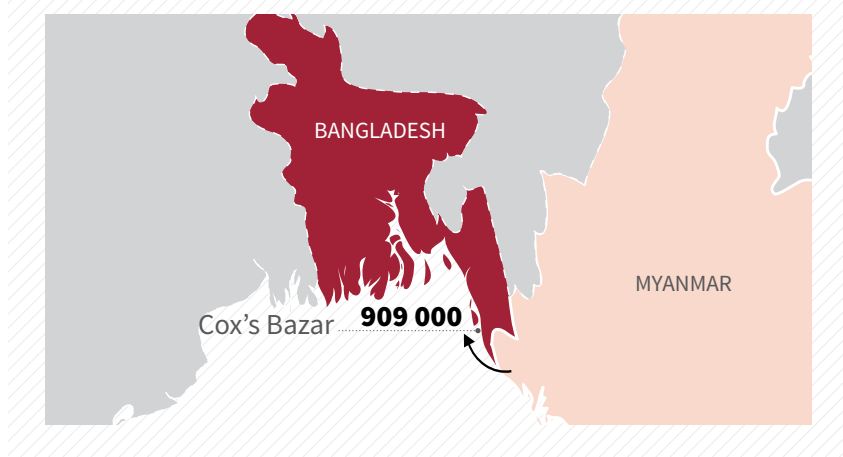
household micro-gardening kits | agricultural group production support | market linkages | training on nutrition and dietary diversity | micro-irrigation and conservation agriculture



Environmental rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction



landslide and flash flood mitigation measures | nursery establishment and reforestation | water management and conservation | cash for work | capacity building for resource management

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh as of 9 January 2019



Source: Inter Sector Coordination Group Update: Rohingya Refugee Crisis, 10 January 2019

Situation analysis

-  **695 000** people severely food insecure
-  **909 000** Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar
-  **67 200** households (refugees and host communities) require livelihoods support
-  **1 500 ha** of land require environmental restoration

Impact on food security

More than a year after the crisis began, the situation in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh has gradually stabilized due to the well-coordinated humanitarian response. However, Rohingya refugees in the country are fully reliant on humanitarian support and remain in an extremely precarious situation with compounding vulnerabilities. This is due to several factors, including the lack of opportunity for refugees to produce their own food, limited financial and physical access to diverse food, and limited access to cooking fuel and sources of energy. The total population in some areas of Cox's Bazar has almost tripled, affecting the livelihood activities of half a million Bangladeshi residing in host communities. The influx of refugees has increased inflation and led to a sharp drop in daily wages due to the higher supply of unskilled labour, causing intercommunal conflicts.

There have also been significant negative impacts on the environment, including deforestation and unsustainable growing demands on natural resources, leading many host families to lose access to previously farmed lands (often government forestland). The area is also prone to natural disasters and has two cyclone seasons per year, along with frequent floods and landslides, causing further displacement and relocation of both Rohingya refugees and host communities. The district is also vulnerable to worsening seasonal droughts and climate change.

The loss of livelihoods, coupled with environmental damage, has reduced agricultural production in Cox's Bazar and has led vulnerable households to adopt negative coping mechanisms to meet basic food needs. Improving the nutrition of both populations is a major focus for FAO and partners.

To strengthen the livelihoods and resilience of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, it is critical to increase their self-reliance, while also managing the environmental impact of the refugee influx, focusing on natural resource rehabilitation and management.

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