



ASIAN RESOURCE FOUNDATION (ARF)

RHOINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS IN BANGLADESH HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE BY ARF



ARF was established in 1996 as an Asian initiative to respond to the needs of vulnerable communities. ARF was also conceived as a mechanism to mobilize human and financial resources to respond to the emergency needs of the people affected by natural disaster and conflict which include emergency relief and reconstruction programs. Through its partners, country offices and alumni network, ARF delivers life-saving aid to the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach people impacted by humanitarian crises.

How many Rohingya refugees are in Bangladesh now?

Bangladesh has been hosting Rohingya refugees for more than three decades in varying numbers depending on the level of oppression in Rakhine State of Myanmar. The recent influx of Rohingya refugees fleeing mass atrocities in Myanmar since late August 2017 broke all previous records, led to tripling in the number of refugee population in Bangladesh. There are currently over 1 million Rohingya refugees living in an extremely limited space in Bangladesh's coastal district of Cox's Bazar. Given the scale of Rohingya influx, UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi called it the "fastest and most urgent refugee emergency in the world". All refugee camps are overcrowded, needs are immediate and enormous, and resources are stretched.



How ARF responds to the Rohingya humanitarian crisis?

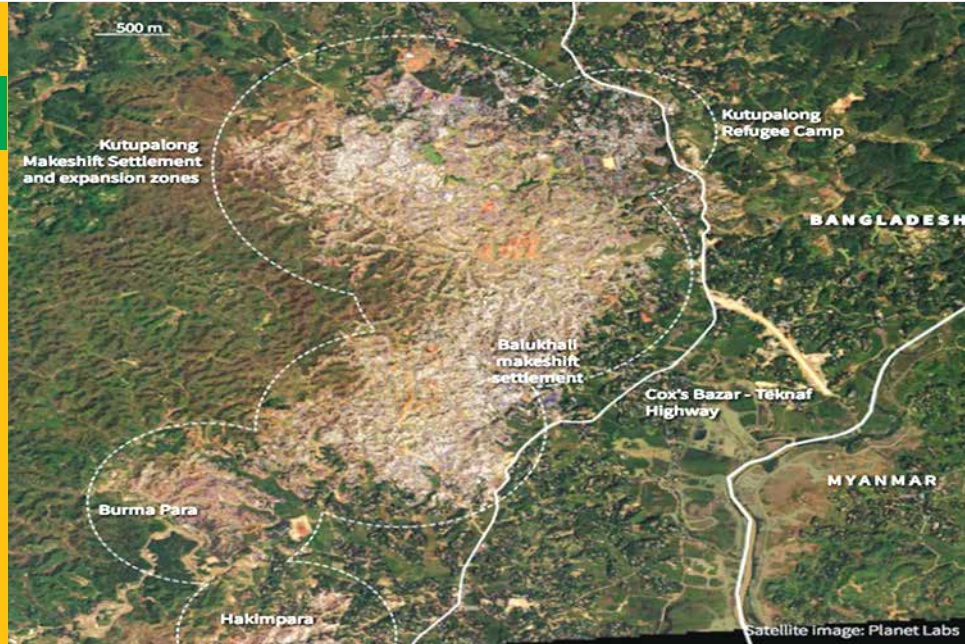
In response to the current massive humanitarian crisis, ARF, funded and partnered by muslimehafen Germany, Lorraine Robinson & Maeve Coughlan Education Trust (LOMEF), Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support (Shapla Neer), The United Church of Canada (UCC), Social Trust Fund (STF) UNI Jakarta, Excel Pipes Sdn. Bhd and FAWCO Foundation has provided food, clothes and shelter assistance along with clean water, household goods, basic baby kits, safe stoves and firewood for cooking to nearly 150,000 refugees through its local partner organizations, namely Nomijan-Aftabi Foundation (NAF) and Social Aid Cox's Bazar.

ARF is one of the few international organizations that immediately responded with relief materials at the start of the latest influx. More than 20,000 newly arrived refugees received dry food packs and new clothes within the first four weeks of the crisis. We also managed to distribute dry food among 2,400 stranded refugees at the no man's land between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Besides, ARF delivered dry food packs to 560 Hindu refugees who also fled violence in Myanmar and took refuge in a Hindu temple near Kutupalang settlement of Cox's Bazar.



Where ARF Works in Cox's Bazar?

Our humanitarian work is mostly concentrated in Kutupalang makeshift camp and surrounding camps at Balukhali and Ghumdhum. These camps shelter about 700,000 Rohingya refugees.



What ARF has done for the Rohingya Refugees?

Since the start of the Rohingya influx in late August of 2017, ARF has so far:

- Delivered food packages to over 60,000 refugees in Kutupalang, Balukhali and Ghumdhum refugee camps.
- Provided meat packs among 5,400 families in Kutupalang, Balukhali and Ghumdhum refugee camps, which covered about 27,000 refugees.
- Helped 15,000 refugees to build their shelters with tarpaulins/ plastic sheets in Balukhali and Ghumdhum settlements.
- Installed 08 deep tube-wells (700 feet) in Ghumdhum refugee camp and 02 tube-wells in the host community. Each tube well provides daily access to clean and safe water for 40 refugee families.
- Distributed new clothes to 15,900 refugees in Kutupalang, Balukhali and Moynarguna refugee camps on the occasion of Eid.
- Supplied essential non-food item kits such as mosquito nets, sandals, coconut oil, body soaps and shampoo packs to more than 15,000 refugees in Balukhali and Ghumdhum refugee camps. In addition, fuel-efficient stoves and cooking fuel in the form of compressed rice husks were supplied to 1,925 families in Ghumdhum refugee camp.
- Provided 8,000 refugees with warm clothes during the winter months in Balukhali and Ghumdhum refugee camps
- Distributed 25,500 starter kits to 1,700 newborn babies and new mothers in Balukhali and Jamtoli refugee camps.



muslimehelfen Germany: US\$ 522,833.05

LOMEF: US\$ 15,000

The United Church of Canada (UCC): US\$ 4,000

Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support -Shapla Neer: US\$ 8,875

Excel Pipes Sdn. Bhd: US\$ 12,290

Social Trust Fund (STF): US\$ 4,000

FAWCO Foundation: US\$ 4,450

Mr. Anthony Coughlan & Ms. Kathleen Coughlan: US\$ 25,000

Others/ individuals: USD 4,500

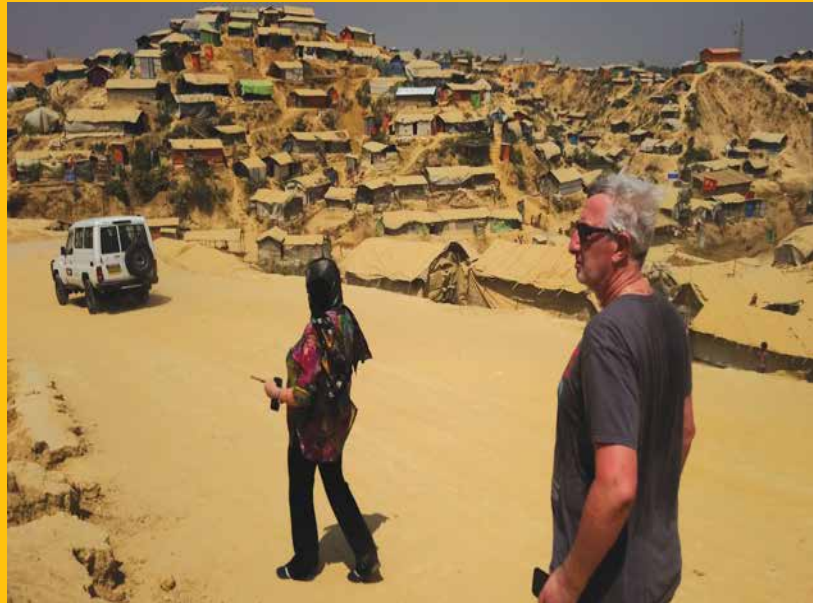
**Total fund
received till
August 2018
US\$ 600,998.05**

Does ARF facilitate project visits of its donors and supporters to Rohingya Refugee camps?

Yes, we do. A foreigner requires proper visa for traveling to Bangladesh and needs to obtain special permission from RRRC office in Cox's Bazar to enter the refugee camps. Over the last one year, we have facilitated visits of our donors and supporters to the Rohingya refugee camps. They visited our project activities and assessed the ground reality and the further needs of refugees.



Mr. Ahmad Von Denffer, CEO of muslimehelfen Germany, visited muslimehelfen-funded 'Water Well Project for Rohingya' in Ghumdhum refugee camp on March 13, 2018.



LOMEF Sponsors Mr. Anthony Coughlan & Ms. Kathleen Coughlan walked through the Thaingkhali refugee camp and saw the living conditions of refugees on March 19, 2018.



Prof. Ohashi Masaaki, University of the Sacred Heart (USH) & Mr. Nagai Tadashi, Program Coordinator of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) visited the Balukhali refugee camp on May 1, 2018.



Ms. Lut Adriaensens, Chairman of Education International Belgium (VZW) visited the new makeshift settlement at Balukhali to take a first hand look at the refugee crisis on August 28, 2017.



The Secretary General of ARF Mr. Abdus Sabur observed the installation of a deep tube-well (700 feet) in Ghumdhum refugee camp on January 31, 2018.



Ms. Chalalai Taesilapasathit, Lecturer in Psychology at Thammasat University, Bangkok visited refugee families assessing needs and resources for psychological support to traumatized women and children.

Among others who visited the refugee camps were Ms. Yukiko Fujisaki, Deputy Secretary General, Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support - Shapla Neer, Mr. Ali Ahmed, Country Representative of ARF-USA and Mr. Muhamad Yunus, Secretary General, Aksi Insan Nusantara (AIN) Foundation.

What are the current needs identified and future plans of ARF for Rohingya Refugees?

Based on prioritizing the needs of Rohingya refugees and our capacities, we will be able to deliver the following short and medium term projects in refugee camps over the next six months:

Monthly food assistance:

Food is one of the immediate needs of refugees. According to the information provided by our local partners, supply of food is now running low which affects the refugees.

The proposed project will provide food assistance to 3,000 refugee families in a month. A Food package costs US\$ 18 that contains 10 kg of rice, 2 liters of cooking oil, 1 kg of lentils, 1 kg of salt, 1 kg of dried fish, 2 kg of onions, 1 kg of garlic and 500 gm pack of chili powder and 500 gm pack of turmeric powder.



Shelter assistance:

Due to heavy rain, flooding, and landslides, hundreds of refugee shelters have been badly damaged which need to rebuild. ARF plans to build 300 shelters in the next six months which accommodate about 18,000 refugees. A shelter costs US\$ 300 for plastic sheets, bamboos and other materials.



Cooking fuel:

Shortage of cooking fuel is another crisis in the Rohingya refugee camps. The government of Bangladesh encourages the NGOs to provide cooking fuel (compressed rice husks) to the refugees to save forests in Cox's Bazar. Each refugee family needs 40 kg of cooking fuel (compressed rice husks) monthly which cost US\$ 09.



Winter Aid:

As winter is approaching, refugees need warm clothes for protection from the cold. A winter warmth pack costs about \$20-\$25 depending on the quality and size of the clothes. Each pack includes a blanket, two children's sweaters, one lady's shawl (coat sheet) and a floor quilt.



Household essentials:

Rohingya refugees also suffer from lack of household essentials such as antiseptic body soaps, sandals, shampoo, toothpaste, mosquito net, coconut hair oil, etc. A kit is filled with these household items costs US\$ 12



Primary healthcare - a mobile clinic:

The existing healthcare centers are overburdened with patients. There are many areas in the camps where refugees have no or limited access to health care. ARF plans to set up a mini clinic in one of those areas to provide primary healthcare support to the refugees. The cost of running a mini health clinic for six months is US\$ 45,000.

Informal learning center and mobile school:

In spite of existence over 1,000 child friendly spaces (CFS) and informal learning centers, thousands of refugee children in 23 camps and makeshifts of Cox's Bazar are missing out on an education. A total of US\$ 12,000 will be required for infrastructure, operations and maintenance of a learning center. It can accommodate around 90 children in three shifts daily (2 hours in each shift).

The mobile school is an extendable blackboard on wheels that comes with more than 300 educational panels. The educational panels can be easily attached on the mobile blackboard with plastic screws before being taken to the refugee camps for non-formal and educational sessions. The educational materials are divided into eight categories: (1) Basic Education: basic literacy – reading, writing skills, (2) Numeracy – basic mathematical insights, calculations, (3) Creative Therapy, (4) Healthcare Education, (5) Life Skills, (6) Children's rights, (7) Basic stimulation, (8) Game education

Required Fund for Planned Projects (November 2018 - April 2019)

Sl.	PROJECT	TARGET	UNIT PRICE (US\$)	AMOUNT (US\$)
1.	Monthly food assistance	18,000 families	\$ 18.00	\$ 324,000.00
2.	Shelter assistance	300 shelters	\$ 300.00	\$ 90,000.00
3.	Cooking fuel	18,000 families	\$ 09.00	\$ 162,000.00
4.	Winter aid	12,000 individuals	\$ 05.00	\$ 60,000.00
5.	Household essentials	18,000 families	\$ 12.00	\$ 216,000.00
5.	Primary healthcare – mobile clinic	01	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
6.	Informal learning center	02	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
7.	Mobile school project	01	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Total			US\$ 941,000



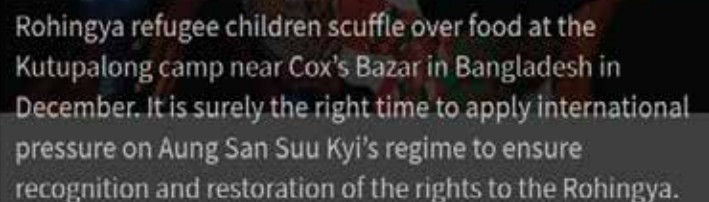
Ekraj Sabur, a director at the Asian Resource Foundation (ARF)'s International Institute of Peace and Development Studies, has helped with humanitarian aid work and researched the Rohingya crisis since the world first heard of their predicament in 2012.

Apart from humanitarian support, the Muslim scholar said, the Rohingya crisis has escalated to the point that it urgently requires Asian countries to play a greater role in remedying the discord.

NEW
STRAITS TIMES

Rohingya genocide must end

JANUARY 3, 2018 @ 9:19AM
BY ISHAK MIA SOHEL



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backgrounds, found Myanmar guilty of the crime of genocide against the Rohingya after hearings took place in Kuala Lumpur from Sept 18 to 22 last year.

It is surely the right time to apply international pressure on Aung San Suu Kyi's regime to ensure recognition and restoration of the rights to the Rohingya.

Analysts say the international community will not intervene now because they are afraid of losing their possible investment in Myanmar's oil and gas sectors.

There is only one recourse: to raise global awareness of the citizenship rights and basic human rights of the Rohingya. This may influence the international community, especially the US and EU, to put an end to the Rohingya crisis.

Ishak Mia Sohel currently works as a regional coordinator for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance at the Asian Resource Foundation, Thailand, and occasionally teaches



ข้อมูลล่าสุดจากมูลนิธิทรัพยากรเอเชีย (Asian Resource Foundation) ซึ่งเป็นองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชนของไทยที่ดำเนินการให้ความช่วยเหลือด้านมนุษยธรรมในค่ายผู้ลี้ภัย พบว่ามีจำนวนชาวโรฮิงญาอพยพเข้ามาอาศัยอยู่ในค่ายผู้ลี้ภัยชกเคนี้กว่า 1,400,000 คนแล้ว โดยส่วนใหญ่เป็นผู้หญิงและเด็ก ทุกวันยังคงมีชาวโรฮิงญาข้ามแดนเข้ามาลี้ภัยเพิ่มขึ้นร้อยคนต่อวัน การอพยพเข้ามาเพิ่มของพวกเขาทำให้รัฐบาลบังกลาเทศต้องขยายเขตแดนของค่ายใหม่ไปในพื้นที่ป่าสงวน ซึ่งทำให้เกิดเหตุการณ์ผู้ลี้ภัยถูกสัตว์ป่าฆ่าตายแล้วอย่างน้อยกว่า 10 ราย นับตั้งแต่เดือนกันยายน พ.ศ. 2560



ARF is grateful for the financial support of muslimehelfen Germany, the United Church of Canada (UCC), Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support -Shapla Neer, Social Trust Fund (STF) UNI Jakarta, Excel Pipes Sdn. Bhd, FAWCO Foundation and some individuals - such as LOMEF Sponsors Mr. Anthony Coughlan and Ms. Kathleen Coughlan. We are thankful to Nomijan-Aftabi Foundation (NAF) and Social Aid Cox's Bazar for being great local partners in Bangladesh.



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