



ADRA Statement  
of Operational Intent

# ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

2017

# ADRA Statement of Operational Intent

## Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh 2017

### Context

In the month following August 25, 2017 more than 510 000 Rohingya refugees crossed the border from Rakhine state, Myanmar to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh following renewed conflict in the area.

Many of the new arrivals are staying in spontaneous settlements or among local Bangladeshi host communities. Existing basic services are now strained, and aid agencies are struggling to cope with the rising needs. The spontaneous settlements in Cox's Bazar require proper planning to ensure basic shelter, safety and hygiene standards. With limited resources, the refugees urgently need food security, emergency shelter, water and sanitation facilities, medical assistance and psychosocial support. The Rohingya refugee population is highly vulnerable, living in cramped conditions, exposed to the elements and with little opportunity to gain an income. Women and children make up the majority of new arrivals to the camps and settlements. Most left their homes in Myanmar with only a few portable possessions, and have nothing to re-build or restart their life in Bangladesh. They are facing challenges with food security and shelter, made worse by the current heavy rains along the coast of Bangladesh.

The Government of Bangladesh and the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), led by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), along with more than 35 international NGOs are responding to this humanitarian crisis. The ISCG has developed a six month response plan to coordinate the activities of all humanitarian actors and is encouraging a 2-5 year transition to community empowerment and self-reliance.



## ADRA's Capacity

### Local Capacity – ADRA Bangladesh

ADRA Bangladesh is working with the global ADRA Network partners to respond to the Rohingya refugee crisis. Established in 1981, ADRA Bangladesh serves people without regard to ethnic, political and religious association and supports the development of local capacities through learning and partnership with communities, government and civil societies at grassroots level. ADRA has been working in Bangladesh for 35 years with more than 8 years of recent experience in disaster risk reduction and disaster response management.

ADRA Bangladesh has developed expertise in women empowerment, food security, childhood development and disaster risk reduction activities. The team of experienced staff include a medical consultant, nurses and midwives, agronomist educators, a public health officer, business development officer and small monitoring and evaluation team. The administrative team includes a country director, finance director, program director, human Resources/Emergency Management Officer; Program Officer; Project Managers; and Senior Accountant.

The major donors to ADRA Bangladesh include ADRA Sweden, Läkarmissionen, ADRA New Zealand, KOICA through ADRA Korea, ADRA Netherlands, ADRA Italy, ADRA Czech Republic and ADRA International via the global network of partner offices.

### Regional Capacity – ADRA Asia

The regional ADRA Asia office, based in Bangkok, provides technical support and guidance to 18 ADRA country offices across Asia. In the event of a large-scale disaster, the regional office can mobilize an Emergency Response Team (ERT) to support the affected Country Office directly with surge capacity, or indirectly through technical assistance. The ERT is a global response mechanism that is highly trained and ready to deploy at short notice.

ADRA Asia deployed the ERT to Bangladesh in the first month following the recent refugee influx. The team includes planning, coordination, finance and communication/marketing capabilities. The ERT will play a role to establish the initial global response, but more importantly to build the capacity and capability of ADRA Bangladesh to sustain the activities during the emergency response phase, and longer term with a transition to recovery. A blend of ERT and ADRA Bangladesh staff are now stationed in Cox's Bazar and are actively engaged in supporting the local office. ERT members are attending Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and cluster meetings, coordination with UNHCR and other agencies, and also working on program development and planning for the effective response.

## **Global Capacity – The ADRA Network**

The ADRA global network has a presence in more than 130 countries. Through this network, ADRA has strong connections with governments, donor organisations, key partners and stakeholders and private donors. This includes global arrangements with WFP, UNHCR and partnerships with other NGOs and numerous government funding departments. ADRA is also a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has a proud history of meeting the high standards of both project and financial management required for disaster management funding. In addition, a wealth of expertise and knowledge is available to ADRA Bangladesh through the ADRA network. This global reach provides a strong platform for well-considered and sustained response. The ADRA Network has the capacity to deploy an international ERT to provide support and additional specialist capacity to ADRA Bangladesh.

## **ADRA's response**

### **Staffing structure**

The deployed Emergency Response Team was established to ensure the timely and effective delivery of aid, surge capacity to ADRA Bangladesh to scale-up planning and funding to the response and early recovery activities. The Emergency Response Team is comprised of local and international staff, operating under ADRA Bangladesh.

As operations transition to early recovery, the management and implementation of operations will be covered by project budgets. These budgets will include additional local and expat staffing as appropriate. The experienced country office team are practiced in assisting communities with responses similar to those outlined in this document and will provide support to any new staff. Additionally, the global ADRA network is prepositioned to provide additional surge capacity across all operational and support functions as needed.

### **Sector focus**

ADRA Bangladesh has existing and scalable emergency response capacity to work in the food security and shelter sectors. ADRA Bangladesh has strong capacity in the development space for child education, WASH and women's empowerment activities. These provide a strong platform to engage further in the emergency response and transition to longer term recovery.

## Goal:

The Inter Sector Coordination Group's six month response strategy provides a platform for ADRA Bangladesh to deliver a coordinated response and early recovery. These include:

1. Provide life-saving basic assistance in settlements, camps and host communities.
2. Improve conditions in and management of both existing and new settlements, including infrastructure and site planning.
3. Promote safety, dignity and respect for the individual rights of Rohingya refugees.



## Short term 1-3 Months: Initial Relief

The first phase will consist of life saving interventions across the sectors of food security and shelter. ADRA will work closely with the Clusters to ensure compliance with Sphere standards and the Core Humanitarian Standard on quality accountability. The Clusters have also agreed local sector standards for emergency relief to ensure uniform approach, and appropriate and timely assistance by all humanitarian actors. ADRA will provide complimentary household food packages once a fortnight for three months. The food package includes lentils, cooking oil, sugar and salt to complement the household rice provided by World Food Programme (WFP). Immediate shelter assistance would ensure provision of tarpaulins, bamboos and sisal rope. Initial response also needs to provide the most essential household non-food items (NFIs) such as water storage containers, basic kitchen utensils, blankets, mosquito nets and dignity kits.



## Short to Medium term 3- 6 months: Early Recovery

Following the initial relief phase, ADRA will remain engaged with the ISCG to identify needs and gaps as well as commence a coordinated program to upgrade shelters and other temporary facilities in the camps. At the time of writing, there is no certainty around the early repatriation of the Rohingya refugees. The situation and need may continue for some time. The Bangladesh Government is discouraging the construction of permanent structures in the camps but there will be a need to maintain and upgrade the integrity of existing shelters and vital camp services like access roads, latrines and water points.



**WASH:** Access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and personal hygiene facilities, specifically targeting women and children are a priority for ADRA. ADRA has capacity to scale up WASH assistance to refugees in camps and settlements. The possibility of disease outbreaks like diarrhoea and cholera due to poor sanitation and hygiene, are extremely high and humanitarian actors have been asked to remain vigilant against these when planning activities in the camps. Installation and repairing of tube wells, hand pumps with raised platforms and drainages; and the purification of existing water points can ensure improved access to safe water. The number of latrines are not adequate to cover the large number of people in the camps and settlements. The current ratio per latrine is 1:90 there are plans to reduce this to a more acceptable 1:20. ADRA has capacity to upgrade unimproved pit latrines to minimum standards, including community mobilisation to maintain these improved facilities.

**FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD:** Following the first three months of food distribution, ADRA will have improved capacity to sustain emergency food relief to the camps and settlements if still required by WFP and the food security cluster. ADRA will consider opportunities to work with other NGOs and the refugees to expand their access to sufficient food. Available agriculture land is extremely limited and ADRA would need to work with the food security cluster develop innovative approaches to small-scale kitchen gardens and livelihoods to assist these communities to move towards self-reliance. Emergency shelter tarpaulins and WASH facilities will require short to medium term upgrades, and this presents another livelihood opportunity for households through a possible Cash for Work (CFW) program in collaboration with camp management.

### **Medium to Long term 6- 12 Months: Recovery and Rehabilitation**

ADRA and the ISCG are anticipating long term coordination presence; covering the six month emergency response, a two year transition phase into protracted displacement. ADRA has existing capacity in disaster risk reduction including emergency response to natural disasters. In June 2017, ADRA responded in the Chittagong district following Tropical Cyclone Mora; providing emergency relief items and cash transfers. The Rohingya refugee camps and settlements present a major new risk, due to the high density and poor living conditions, in an area already prone to annual cyclones and monsoon. The need to upgrade temporary shelters ahead of the next tropical cyclone and monsoon season presents an opportunity for ADRA's continued engagement in this protracted Rohingya crisis.

**PROTECTION:** ADRA's existing experience with women's empowerment activities can be leveraged to scale up and support the protection sector. ADRA Bangladesh has a team capable of providing assistance to women and female headed households, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, with a focus on gender-based and domestic violence and abuse. Ideally, both women and men would be targeted through these activities to ensure a holistic approach to this rapidly emerging problem in the camps and settlements. ADRA is also exploring opportunities to provide psychosocial first aid to vulnerable groups, and work with UNHCR to monitor protection issues in the camp.

## Area of operations

**INITIAL RELIEF:** Food security and shelter distributions in Modhur chara (Kutapalong expansion), Jamtali and Roikhong/Unchiprang and Leda settlement areas, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh.

**EARLY RECOVERY:** To be determined in collaboration with the ISCG.

**RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION:** To be determined in collaboration with the ISCG.

## Number of Beneficiaries

Initial relief: 7500 households (45,000 people).

## Selection criteria

ADRA's operation will focus on the most vulnerable households in the identified settlements. The following sub-groups will be given priority as direct beneficiaries of the project along with vulnerable households.

- Widowed/women-headed households
- Women with minor children
- Families with members affected by a disability
- Families with members affected by chronic disease
- Elderly without support

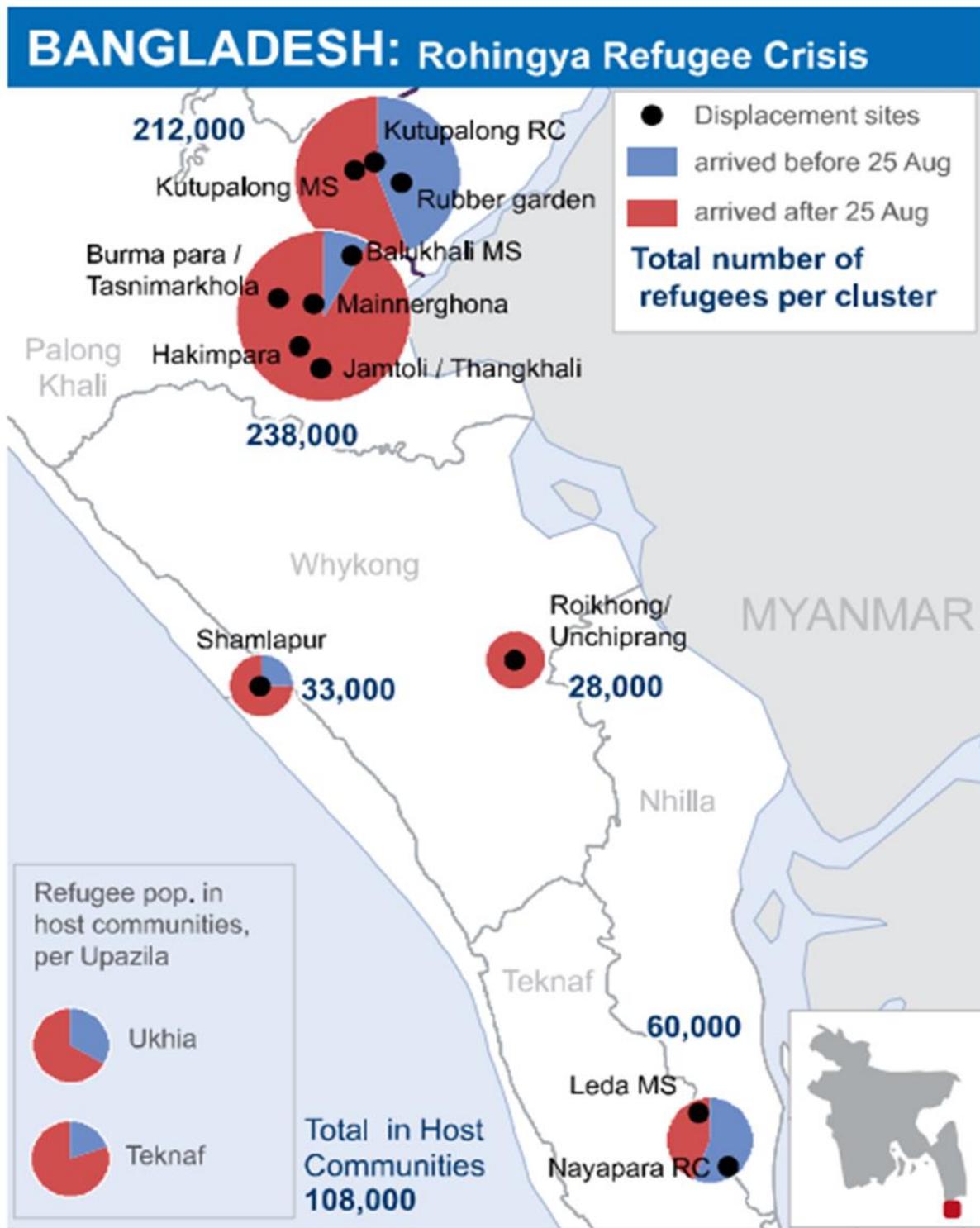
Efforts will be made to ensure considerations are also given towards potential social exclusion or marginalisation that may be present in the settlements.

## Cross Cutting Issues

In all planning and implementation operations, ADRA intentionally mainstreams cross cutting issues including gender, child protection and rights, disaster risk reduction, environment, elderly people and persons with disabilities or chronic disease.



## Annex A: Map



Map Sources: UNCS, ISCG. – UMN: Undocumented Myanmar National  
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 01 Oct, 2017