

2019
JOINT RESPONSE PLAN FOR ROHINGYA
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

JANUARY-DECEMBER



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For the purpose of the 2019 Joint Response Plan, the term ‘affected populations’ refers to the entire population impacted by the crisis, including host communities. People or populations ‘in need’ refer to a sub-set of the affected population who have been assessed to be in need of protection interventions or humanitarian assistance as a result of the crisis. ‘Target population’ refers to those people in need who are specifically targets of support interventions and assistance activities contained in this response plan.

The Government of Bangladesh refers to the Rohingya as “*Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals*”. The UN system refers to this population as Rohingya refugees, in line with the applicable international framework. In this Joint Response Plan document, both terms are used, as appropriate, to refer to the same population.

This document is produced on behalf of the Strategic Executive Group and partners.

This document provides the Strategic Executive Group’s shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Cover photo credit: UNFPA / Allison Joyce / 2018



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Population	NPM	Needs and Population Monitoring
AFD	Armed Forces Division	NTF	National Task Force
AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhoea	OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Programme
BSFP	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes	PERU	Protection Emergency Response Unit
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
CFS	Child Friendly Spaces	PSEA	Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
CIC	Camp-in-Charge	PSS	Psychosocial Support
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape	PWG	Protection Working Group / Sector
CP	Child Protection	RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System	REVA	Refugee influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme	RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
CwC	Communicating with Communities	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
DC	Deputy Commissioner	SEG	Strategic Executive Group
DG	Director General	SIMEX	Simulation Exercise
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering	SMEP	Site Management and Engineering Project
DRC	Danish Refugee Council	SMS	Site Management Support
DSS	Department of Social Services	SMSD	Site Management and Site Development
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector	SO	Strategic Objective
FCN	Family Counting Number	SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
FTS	Financial Tracking Service	SSWG	Safe Spaces for Women and Girls
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	TDK	Tie-Down Kits
GFD	General Food Distribution	TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action	UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
GoB	Government of Bangladesh	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IM	Information Management	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group	USK	Upgrade Shelter Kits
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	WBK	Wall-Bracing Kits
JRP	Joint Response Plan	WFP	World Food Programme
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department	WG	Working Group
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas	WHO	World Health Organization
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition		
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support		
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief		
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs		
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		
MoPME	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education		
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment		
NFI	Non-Food Items		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		
NGOAB	Non-Governmental Organization Affairs Bureau		

FOREWORD

CO-CHAIRS OF THE STRATEGIC EXECUTIVE GROUP

Since August 2017, under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, rapid and effective humanitarian action has saved many lives, met critical needs and protected nearly one million Rohingya refugees while also responding to impacts on affected host communities. While much has been achieved, the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh has not fully stabilized.

The Government and people of Bangladesh continue to demonstrate historic generosity in welcoming the Rohingya from Myanmar. The international community has also responded with extraordinary solidarity. This must continue. The 2019 Joint Response Plan will be the vehicle for mobilizing critically needed support for the humanitarian response for the Rohingya refugees.

The Joint Response Plan sets out a comprehensive programme shaped around three strategic objectives – deliver protection, provide life-saving assistance and foster social cohesion. The Plan covers all humanitarian sectors and addresses key cross-cutting issues, including protection and gender mainstreaming. The Plan will also strengthen emergency preparedness and response for weather-related risks and natural disasters, with a focus on community engagement.

Priorities for the coming year include supporting strengthened government leadership and accountability, including in the camps, and the effective participation of the refugee community in decisions affecting their lives. This calls for empowering women in leadership roles and an inclusive approach, bearing in mind the community includes many people with disabilities, mental health issues and other specific needs. Delivering on commitments to localization of the response through the strategic transfer of skills, capacities and resources in addition to relying on local capacities where they exist is also a priority.

In 2019, the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR will accelerate the ongoing joint verification exercise that will register the Rohingya and provide them with individual documentation, in many cases for the first time. More accurate data, disaggregated by age, sex, gender and other diversity factors, will facilitate planning and targeting of assistance and services, while biometric enrolment will strengthen the integrity of delivery.

The Rohingya refugee crisis is having important socio-economic consequences for nearby host communities, including rapid environmental degradation and the loss of forest resources, which has negatively affected livelihoods. The 2019 Joint Response Plan includes important activities to mitigate these impacts. The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and bilateral development actors have increased their programming significantly, although most interventions will only become visible to people living in the area in 2020.

The Rohingya in Bangladesh have faced systematic discrimination in Myanmar over several decades, including the denial of citizenship. They are now stateless refugees living in a congested, fragile area that is prone to natural disasters. They fled horrifying atrocities, which an independent United Nations fact-finding mission concluded were serious crimes under international law. Despite this, many Rohingya refugees see voluntary return to Myanmar, when the right conditions are in place, as the solution to their plight.

Return to Myanmar must be voluntary, safe, dignified and, importantly, sustainable, so that the decades-long cycle of displacement is finally broken. The Government of Myanmar has committed to creating conditions conducive for return, including through bilateral agreements with the Government of Bangladesh and under a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR and UNDP. These efforts are ongoing in Myanmar.

We are confident that the 2019 Joint Response Plan provides a solid framework for ensuring protection, delivering assistance effectively and building community cohesion, as well as the foundation for collaboration, coordination and synergies within the humanitarian community, with development partners and with the Government of Bangladesh.



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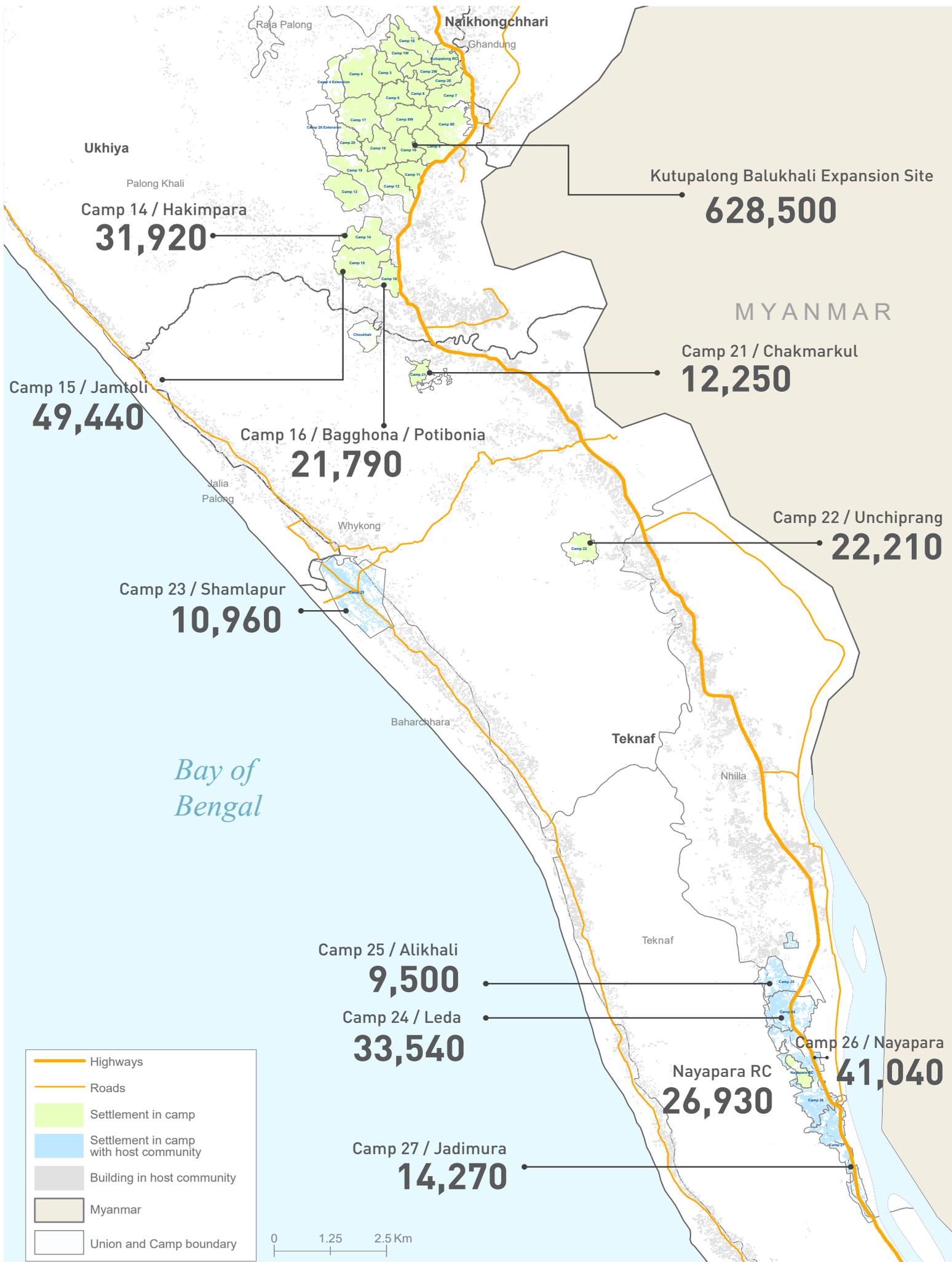


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BANGLADESH: COX'S BAZAR REFUGEE POPULATION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018



PART I: OVERVIEW AND 2019 RESPONSE STRATEGY



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