



# Bangladesh: Responding to the Forcibly Displaced Rohingya Orphan Crisis

Social Protection and Forced Displacement

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# The Crisis

- Since late August 2017, more than 650,000 people from Myanmar's Rakhine State were estimated to have crossed into Bangladesh – joining the previous 200,000 that had fled in earlier waves of displacement.
- The majority of refugees are women and girls (65%) and more than half are children.
- Settlement areas are among the poorest in Bangladesh: the recent influx is adversely affecting the food and nutrition situation and leading to an increase in the price of basic food and non-food items.
- The speed and scale of the crisis has resulted in a critical humanitarian emergency.
- With the population of the sub-district tripling in the space of four weeks, there has been an immense strain on infrastructure, services and the host population.



# The Response

Government has triggered Ministry-wide response to cater to immediate needs:

- Distribution of **emergency shelter and food**.
- **Essential health services** provided at the community and sub-district levels for the injured and wounded, including rape survivors, and support to pregnant and lactating women.
- **Immunization campaigns** carried out.
- Emergency **water supply** and **construction of latrines**.
- **Biometric registration** of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN).
- Registering and **rehabilitation of up to 36,000 Rohingya orphans**.
- Allocation of 3,000 acres of land for **establishment of new camp** with emergency **road communication and electricity supply**



# Challenges and Opportunities



8 March 2018

Photo: EPA/Abir Abdullah

## Vulnerability



Many children have lost one or both parents: some are with relatives, some are with strangers or alone.

Unaccompanied children and orphans are more vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse, isolation and psychosocial distress.

## Health & Nutrition



Lack of physical and economic access to food

Poor living conditions in camps and settlements increases risks of public and individual health.

High levels of undernutrition observed among the Rohingya (Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence of 24.3%, compared to WHO emergency threshold level of 15%).

**Reaching unaccompanied children with health and protection services remains a challenge and priority**

Photo: Reuters

# Ministry of Social Welfare

Identification and enlisting of unaccompanied/separated/orphan and those in single-parent households to take necessary steps for their welfare.

- **36,373 orphans** - of which 8,882 have lost both parents - have been registered

The Ministry is working to improve the overall access to multi-sectoral prevention and response services by providing targeted support and linkages to the national child protection system and in accordance with children's best interests.

Orphan Registration			
Age	Boys	Girls	Total
0-5	6,224	6,413	12,637 (35%)
6-10	7,168	7,816	14,985 (41%)
11-15	3,530	3,939	7,469 (21%)
16-18	448	834	1,282 (4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,370</b>	<b>19,003</b>	<b>36,373</b>



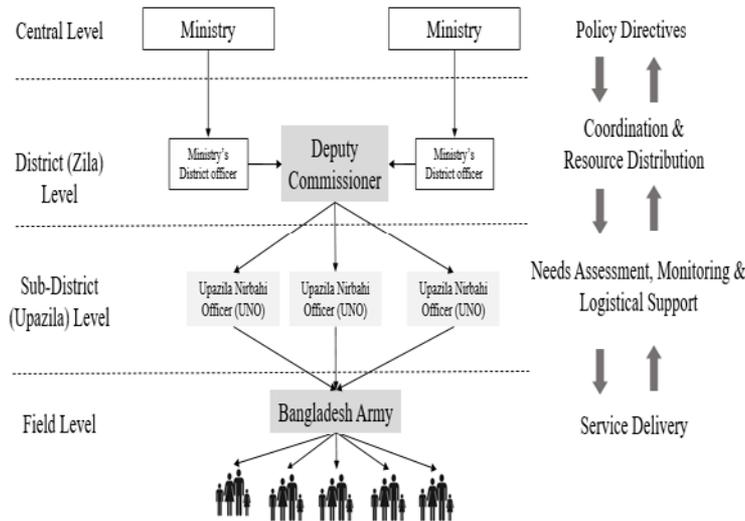
Emphasis on **family and community-based care** to ensure the child's physical and cognitive development, as well as for the development of his/her **cultural and social identity**.

- Family Tracing Program and Foster Family Finding Program
  - **Cash transfer** for the foster family
- Information Centre and referral services
  - Forming **child protection committees** to assist in preventing violence, abuse and exploitation and refer children in need of services
  - Strengthening case management and providing capacity development support for social workers
- Child Friendly Spaces for **recreational activities and ensuring access to learning opportunities**
- Youth programs on **life skills, vocational training, and basic literacy and numeracy**



# Coordination Efforts

## Institutional Arrangements



*A District-based coordination/distribution model allows for more timely response, dynamic communication and better adaptation to a continuously changing situation.*

Bangladesh has long history of responding to and managing disasters, which has served it well in responding to the ongoing crisis.

Coordination under the National Task Force to establish an **effective service delivery platform using experienced agencies and platforms**

- Government efforts have been complemented and supported by immediate response from humanitarian agencies.
- MoSW has taken initiatives to involve the UN organizations like UNICEF and UNHCR to address the vulnerability of Rohingya orphans

**Collaboration between different agencies and partners** –Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP and other related ministry and agencies – to incorporate Rohingya registration, family and orphan counting database and biometric registration into a **unified platform**.



# Moving Forward

Memorandum of Understanding (Ministry of Social Welfare and UNICEF & UNHCR) to ensure safety, security and development of children who have lost their parents or without any lawful guardian.

- Continuous efforts to make best use of support and cooperation by different agencies
- Database and smartcard for all orphan children
- Regular cash transfer for fostering families
- Social protection from child trafficking and sexual abuse
- Health and nutrition facilities
- Supervision and monitoring for better service delivery





Photo: Associated Press/AFP/Getty Images