



Food for the Hungry Provides Aid as Monsoon Rains Hit Rohingya Refugee Camp

Global nonprofit partners with Medical Teams International (MTI) to build clinics & to provide medical care & education

PHOENIX, ARIZ. (June 10, 2018) – In light of monsoon season, Phoenix-based, international non-profit [Food for the Hungry](#) (FH) has partnered with Medical Teams International (MTI) to provide medical care and hygiene education to Rohingya refugees who are at risk for malaria, cholera, and diphtheria due to unsanitary conditions.

As of August 2017, over 800,000 Rohingya Muslims are now living in Bangladesh after fleeing persecution in Myanmar. The refugees are living in temporary shelters in or near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on muddy hillsides or in the bottom of valleys. As of Sunday morning, the first rains of the season have hit, causing landslides and dangerous travel conditions. The anticipated increasing rainfall will increase the likelihood of floods, disease and landslides in the overcrowded camp.

While UN agencies work to move some residents from the most dangerous areas, the vast majority of refugees could be in danger. To provide much-needed care to the refugees who are suffering under unimaginable circumstances, FH and MTI are doubling medical efforts in the rainy season, and working to build and operate six primary healthcare clinics under a partnership called the Joint Rohingya Response Program (JRRP). To date, four completed clinics serve over 800 people each week, with two additional clinics under construction. In addition, the JRRP has trained over 60 Community Health Workers (CHWs), who are teaching vital health and hygiene practices to refugees, while identifying people within camps who need to be referred to the health clinics.

“Our number one priority is to keep the Rohingya people safe,” said Gary Edmonds, president and CEO of Food for the Hungry. “As the rainy season hits Cox's Bazar, we are both treating patients and reinforcing medical efforts to combat the increased risk of infectious, waterborne diseases. We are grateful for the support of the UNHCR, the government of Bangladesh, and all of the individuals who are working tirelessly on the ground to assist a people that have come to a foreign land with next to nothing, seeking the most basic human right: freedom.”

The Buddhist-majority country of Myanmar, also known as Burma, sees the Rohingya people as illegal immigrants and thus denies them access to education, citizenship, employment and healthcare. Over 200 Rohingya villages in northern Rakhine state, Myanmar have been destroyed by fire, set by Myanmar Security Forces since August 2017, according to Human Rights Watch.

“Education and access to proper, quality healthcare are absolutely essential in the camps, as basic resources are scarce. The people have endured great violence in their home state, as well as a long, difficult journey to safety,” said Maye Saephanh, Chief of Party for the JRRP.

Those wishing to help Rohingya refugees can make a financial donation to “Rohingya Refugee Crisis” at fh.org/give. Contributions will be used to purchase basic hygiene items, support the Community Health Worker program, and fund the ongoing construction of primary healthcare clinics.

About Food for the Hungry

Founded in 1971, Food for the Hungry provides emergency relief and long-term development programs with operations in more than 20 countries, seeking to end all forms of human poverty. Using solutions that are innovative and community-specific to the complex view of poverty, Food for the Hungry contributes to community-owned transformations that empower children, families and communities to invest in their own development.

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