



Contact: Suzanne Treviño
Gordon C. James Public Relations
Office: (602) 274-1988 Cell: (602) 618-7857

Phoenix-Based Food for the Hungry Assists with Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Nonprofit partners with Medical Teams International (MTI) to Build Clinics, Provide Medical Care & Education

PHOENIX, Ariz. (February 20, 2018) – Over 600,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh seeking safety and freedom after violence erupted in Rakhine State, Myanmar last August. Phoenix-based, international nonprofit [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 cholera, diphtheria and tetanus due to unsanitary conditions.

Food for the Hungry and Medical Teams International have established a Community Health Worker (CHW) program to help refugees learn about water purification, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and more. Both organizations are working to build primary healthcare clinics to meet immediate needs, while the goal of the CHW program is to provide long-term health to the community.

“Our number one priority is to keep the Rohingya people safe. We are grateful for the support of the UNHCR, the government of Bangladesh and all of the partners on the ground who are working tirelessly to assist a people that have come to a foreign land with next to nothing, seeking the most basic human right, freedom,” said Pete Howard, Chief International Operations Officer, Food for the Hungry.

Many of the refugees are living in temporary shelters in or near Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, on muddy hillsides. Upcoming monsoon rains will increase the likelihood of disease and landslides. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is currently working with 23 partners to provide upgraded shelter kits, including biodegradable sandbags, and to implement engineering projects such as: building bamboo-reinforced footpaths, brick/concrete retaining walls and drainage networks. Projects are also underway to reduce the steepness of the land.

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.

The best way to help Rohingya refugees is to make a financial donation at [fh.org](#). Contributions will be used to purchase basic hygiene items and will support the Community Health Worker program, as well as the 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.

Get Connected With Food for the Hungry

Website // [www.fh.org](#)

