



Development  
and Peace  
CARITAS CANADA

# ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS

FACTSHEET – NOVEMBER 2017

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, violence erupted between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the Myanmar Army in Rakhine State, a northern region of Myanmar often prone to violence. Several hundreds of thousands of people from the Muslim Rohingya minority have been forced to flee their country to take refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh.

This massive influx of refugees has brought about a major humanitarian crisis. Nearly all of those who took part in this exodus left their villages with literally nothing and are living in terrible conditions, confronting an urgent need for food in overcrowded makeshift camps.

In addition to being physically and emotionally traumatized, many people have been separated from their loved ones, often without even knowing where they are.

Some 15,000 people are still waiting at the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh.



## URGENT NEEDS

The situation for Rohingya refugees is disastrous. Nearly all of those who took part in this exodus left their villages with literally nothing and are living in terrible conditions, confronting an urgent need for food in overcrowded makeshift camps. The most urgent needs are:



Access to water, hygiene, and sanitation to prevent the spread of disease;



Urgent food aid for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers;



Nutritional supplementation to prevent malnutrition in young children;



Temporary shelters.

## THE RESPONSE OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE – CARITAS CANADA

At the very beginning of the crisis, Development and Peace contributed \$50,000 toward food relief efforts for 25,000 people in Ukhia and Teknaf Upazilas in the district of Cox's Bazar in collaboration with Caritas Bangladesh.

Today, Development and Peace is mobilizing its network and has launched an appeal to the Canadian public to be generous so that aid for Rohingya refugees affected by this crisis can be reinforced. Donations will serve to provide water, hygiene and sanitation needs as well as food distributions and non-food items over the next few months in the district of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Within this program, we will continue to collaborate with Caritas Bangladesh, as well as with other local organizations.

**"We didn't bring a thing. I just grabbed the children and ran."**

– Dilda Begum, 38, from the village of Udong in the district of Mangdu in Burma.



### THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON BANGLADESH

Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, is a South Asian nation that is nearly completely bordered by India, except for a small border with Myanmar in the extreme South. Characterized by great inequalities within its own population, Bangladesh has also seen its economic growth slowed by many recurring natural disasters. In fact, the country is regularly struck by cyclones, and each year, more than half of its territory is submerged by waters that destroy crops in the countryside, engulf homes, and kill livestock.

It is estimated that about 300,000 Bangladeshis are living in the area around the border with Myanmar and are directly affected by the current crisis.

### KEY FACTS

- On There are an estimated one million Rohingyas living in Rhakine State in Northeast Myanmar.
- Of Muslim faith, the Rohingya live in a country where 90% of the 52 million inhabitants are Buddhist.
- A law passed in 1982 by the military dictatorship in place at the time rendered the Rohingya stateless. They were no longer recognized as one of the 135 official ethnic groups in the country
- On August 25th, 2017, ARSA rebels attacked close to 20 border controls killing 12 police officials.
- The ARSA attacks instigated reprisals by the army that led to 600,000 people fleeing into Bangladesh;
- Host communities in Bangladesh, a poor and densely populated country, are also severely impacted by this crisis.

The Canadian government announced on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 that it will match admissible donations made between August 25<sup>th</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup> to an eligible Canadian charitable organization, which includes Development and Peace. The matched funds will go into the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund.

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!  
Before November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**by telephone**

1 888 664-3387

**by internet**

devp.org

**by text message**

text PEACE to 45678 to make a donation of \$10

**by mail**

send a cheque made out to Development and Peace and marked *Rohingya Refugee Crisis* to  
1425, René-Lévesque Blvd. W.,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Montreal, Québec,  
H3G 1T7

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada has already supported 25,000 of the most vulnerable refugees. With your support, we can help at least 200,000 more.

