



Initial Findings: Impact on the Host Communities Affected by the Rohingya Crisis

IC Net Limited
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Who We Are

IC Net Limited (“IC Net”), a leading development consulting firm in Japan, has engaged globally in socio-economic development in sectors including health, education, governance, agriculture, fisheries, rural development, gender, and peacebuilding. In Bangladesh, IC Net has implemented technical assistance, which has been mainly funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in such fields as local governance, public investment, and rural development.

Background of the Survey

Since August 25, 2017, over 656,000 Rohingya people in Myanmar have fled to Bangladesh to escape violence. Bangladesh has kept its borders open, offering safety and shelter to them. Meanwhile, the host communities (HCs) in Cox's Bazar are overwhelmed by the influx of the Rohingya, and the number of Rohingya in shelter camps has exceeded the total population of the main HCs of Ukhiya and Teknaf. The estimated combined population of Ukhiya and Teknaf is around 500,000, which is about three-fifths of the number of the Rohingya.

Objectives/Scope of the Survey

Against such backdrop, IC Net began a survey composed of basic and detailed ones to assess the impact of the Rohingya crisis on public service, infrastructure, and other socio-economic aspects of the Rohingya camps and HCs. The major purpose is to identify areas of possible assistance to which IC Net can contribute based on its technical resources, experiences and global and local networks. The survey looks into both immediate needs and mid/long-term implications of the crisis. It pays close attention to sectors including education, health, nutrition, livelihood, environment, as well as crosscutting issues such as gender and peacebuilding.

Key Indicators



212,000

Estimated number of Rohingya in Cox's Bazar before the August influx

656,000

New arrivals as of 31 December 2017

868,000

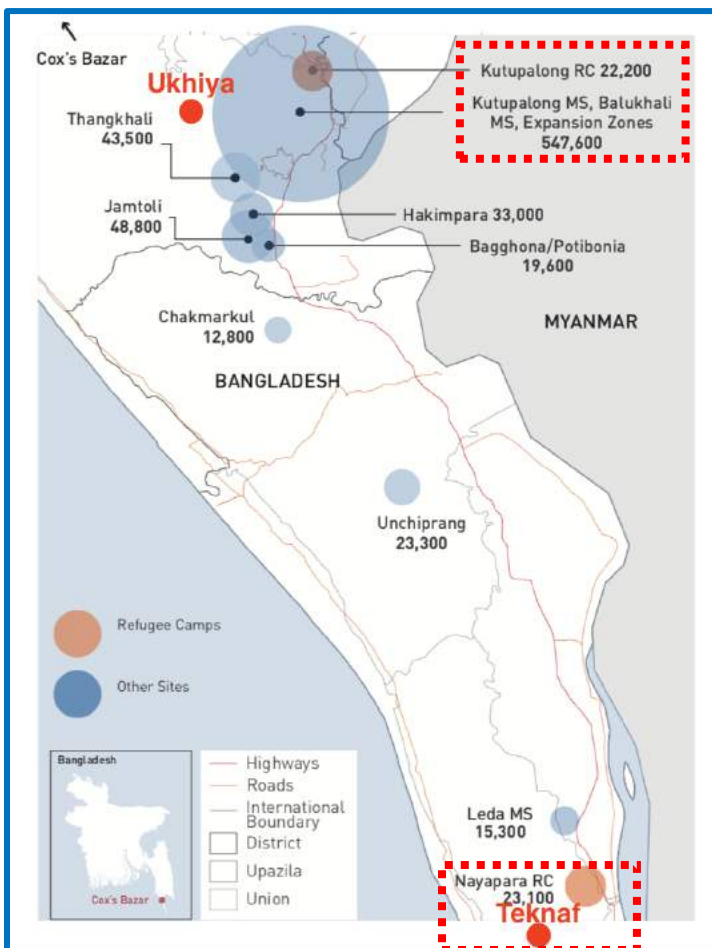
Total number of Rohingya in Cox's Bazar as of January 2018

Source: "Bangladesh: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Bi-Weekly Snapshot - 31 December 2017" https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20171231_biweekly_snapshot_a4.pdf
http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.cfm?doc_id=796 (Retrieved January 4, 2018)

Survey Area

In December 2017, the first basic survey was done in both Dhaka and Cox's Bazar including the HCs of Ukhiya and Teknaf, the Rohingya camps, and nearby communities.

Cox's Bazar (Bengali: কক্সবাজার জেলা) is a district in the Chittagong Division of Bangladesh. Located 150 km (93 miles) south of Chittagong, it has eight upazilas.



Source: "Bangladesh: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Bi-Weekly Snapshot - 31 December 2017" https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20171231_biweekly_snapshot_a4.pdf http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.cfm?doc_id=796 (Retrieved January 4, 2018)

Current Situation in the HCs

The crisis has caused colossal losses, deprivations, and sufferings of the Rohingya. It has also posed an unprecedented burden on the HCs, particularly the upazilas of Ukhiya and Teknaf, which have already been among the poorest upazilas in Bangladesh (Source: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2016/11/10/bangladesh-poverty-maps>). The crisis has generated acute problems on livelihoods, employment, the environment, sanitation, healthcare, roads, communications, waste management, and education. It has not only disrupted the social structure of the HCs but also caused psychological problems. The impacts of the Rohingya crisis are both visible and invisible.

The local people affected by the Rohingya crisis in HCs have started voicing their grievances and concerns. To address them, a few international organizations and local NGOs have come up with a tentative proposal to support the HCs but have yet to submit any comprehensive plan.

In view of the evolving needs and emerging problems of the HCs, it is time to start an initiative to help the HCs pay heed to their woes and try to redress them. The press in Bangladesh has indicated the urgency of such initiative: a national newspaper gave extensive coverage to IC Net's survey on the HCs. (Source: <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2017/12/27/582246> (in Bengali), Dec. 27, 2017)



The basic survey was conducted in cooperation with Mr. Ali Imam Majumder, a former Cabinet Secretary, and Mr. Md. Shafi-UL-Alam, a former Member Directing Staff (Research and Consultancy) at BPATC, both in the Government of Bangladesh.

Health



Shortfall of Resources and Concerns on Outbreak of Infectious Diseases

- Since the massive inflows of Rohingya, the Upazila Health Complex (UHC) and Cox's Bazar District Hospitals have sustained a tremendous pressure to render healthcare services to Rohingya patients with injuries and multiple diseases.
- Owing to the onrush of Rohingya patients, most residents of the HCs are deprived of healthcare facilities in the local hospitals and community clinics.
- Measures have been taken against diphtheria in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO); the Civil Surgeon of Cox's Bazar is coordinating the interventions against the disease. However, excessively crowded habitats of the Rohingya people in the camps pose a serious risk of an outbreak of such diseases as diphtheria, cholera, and measles. In addition, around 100 HIV patients have been detected.
- Doctors from various districts of Chittagong Division have been posted for a short period to work in the hospitals and community clinics of Cox's Bazar; 74 small clinics are currently operating in the Rohingya camps to render immediate healthcare services. However, almost 50% of the sanctioned posts remain vacant in most of the public hospitals in Cox's Bazar.
- More medicines and vaccinations are needed for preventive and curative interventions against diphtheria and measles. In addition, it is necessary to provide technical assistance in such areas as organizing training and other capacity development programs for the doctors and medical personnel.
- The Rohingya are provided with medicines free of charge while the local people must pay for them.



Vaccine carriers for the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) are returned to the UHC in Ukhia.



At the UHC in Ukhia, a Rohingya mother awaits the treatment for her child's pneumonia.

Sanitation



Filthy Condition in the Camps and Drawdown of Tube Wells

- The Rohingya people living in the highly crowded shelter camps are extremely vulnerable to an outbreak of diseases such as diphtheria, measles, and cholera.
- As many as 2,614 shallow tube wells are installed in the shelter camp areas and nearby HCs. As a result, the water level in the wells has lowered by 40 to 60 feet, causing inadequate or lack of supply of drinking water.
- About 5,000 sanitary latrines are installed in and around the camps. Almost all of them are unhygienic as no proper sewerage system has been developed.

Upper right: In the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhiya, an unsanitary toilet causes unsafe management of wastewater and excreta.



Deforestation of the HCs in the nearby Narapaya Rohingya camp in Teknaf



Lumber from the forests of the HCs is sold in the camps.

Environment



Serious Deforestation and Poor Waste Disposal

- Deforestation, caused by cutting plants and trees for firewood and removing surface vegetation, has led to environmental hazards. Heavy rainfalls may cause massive soil erosion and landslides with devastating consequences.
- The 3,000-acre plantations provided to Rohingya people, existing wetlands, and nearly 3 km² of forests are massively destroyed.
- Waste management for nearly 1 million Rohingya people has become increasingly difficult.
- Biodiversity is disrupted: wild animals such as elephants are endangered.
- The trees and plants under a social afforestation project are widely damaged.



Damage to paddy fields due to the influx of Rohingya in the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukha

Agriculture



Stagnation of Local Agriculture

- The influx of the Rohingya caused destruction of nearly 30% of seasonal vegetables and standing crops including unripe paddy and seed beds.
- Irrigation facilities for the farmers of the HCs are severely disrupted and seeds have become scarce.
- The crops have been damaged after the destruction of the fields. If the fields cannot be repaired before the next monsoon, then cultivation will not be possible.
- Many of the agricultural cooperative societies cannot pay back the loans disbursed to them.
- The Rohingya crisis has rendered many of the local agricultural and other laborers jobless.
- Many orchards, betel leaf gardens, and shrimp farms are closed, and salt processing lands are destroyed or damaged.

Fisheries



Serious Economic Losses of Local Fisheries

- For security reasons, law enforcement agencies and the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) barred local fishermen from catching fish in the Naaf river.
- No compensation has been provided to the fishermen who are left without any income to survive.

Upper right: The fishing industry in the HCs is destroyed because of the restrictions on fishing due to the Rohingya influx.

Lower right: Derelict boats in Naaf river in Teknaf

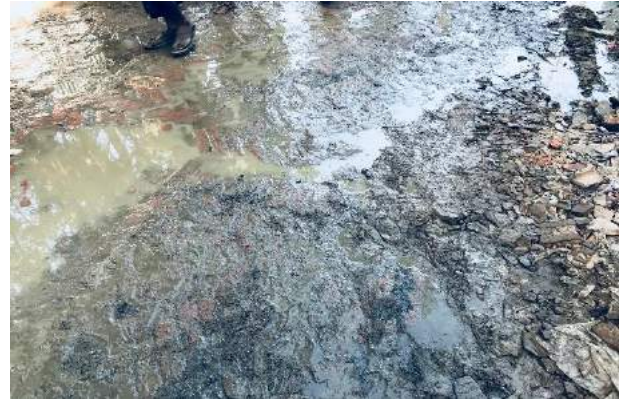


Infrastructure



Serious Damage on Basic Infrastructure

- Roads, culverts, protection, embankments, and bridges are damaged by overuse and heavy trucks and lorries carrying relief materials. Infrastructures were made to withstand 100 vehicles moving per day; now 100 vehicles are moving per hour.



Roads damaged by overuse and heavy trucks in the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhia

Economy



Tremendous Shock on Local Livelihood

- Local workers earn less and stand to lose their jobs because of the easy availability and cheaper wages of Rohingya workers. Where the average daily wage was 500 BDT per day before the crisis, Rohingya people are offered jobs at a wage of 100 to 200 BDT per day while receiving various relief supplies.
- The movement of vehicles has been disrupted. The local markets face a crisis because the supply chain has collapsed and the prices of essential commodities have soared and exceeded by a large margin the purchasing capacity of the local people.
- Most NGOs prefer to recruit human resources from districts other than the HCs. In addition, many educated local people did not hear from the NGOs although they had applied to posts in the organizations a long time ago.



Markets around the camps are vitalized, and some positive effects for the local economy are seen.



In the camps, some Rohingya have started small businesses such as selling vegetables.

Education



Loss of Educational Opportunities

- Many school buildings and playgrounds are occupied, and furniture and toilets in them are damaged or destroyed.
- The Rohingya and the members of the law enforcement agencies have occupied the school and college buildings. The schooling system has collapsed, and annual examinations have been widely disturbed.
- Concerned about the security in localities full of crowds, even guardians do not send their children to the schools.
- Students in the HCs suffer from a traumatic impact caused by the inflow of the Rohingya.
- The classes in the local college are supposed to start at 9 a.m. every day. However, students cannot reach the college before 11 a.m. or 12 noon because public vehicles are so crowded that their seats are too few to accommodate all passengers.



Schoolboys of the HCs in the nearby Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhia



In the Kutupalong camp in Ukhia, the public school was forced to close for providing cooking space for the Rohingya.



Schoolgirls of the HCs in the nearby Narapaya Rohingya camp in Teknaf

Peace and Order



Concerns on Sentiments of the People of HCs and Vulnerability to Social Disorder

- Wrath is growing in the HCs as their sacrifices and grievances are met with indifference.
- Adverse social impacts include increased addiction to drugs and human trafficking.
- Rohingya people are under constant watch to prevent them from getting involved in criminal or terrorist activities. They are also being watched for possibilities of radicalization.

Our Actions to Address the Rohingya Crisis

In committing ourselves to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) motto “leave no one behind” as well as our firm’s mission of “Uniting the world for a better tomorrow,” we at IC Net will further explore how we can strengthen resilience of the HCs, thereby not only mitigating the negative impact of the Rohingya crisis on the communities, but also building their capacities to support Rohingya people. Our actions in 2018 will include the following:

- **January:** Sharing the survey results and consultation with partners and stakeholders
- **February:** Deciding the scope of a project and dispatching relevant experts for a detailed survey
- **From March onwards:** Project design and establishing a partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, donors, international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector



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The Main Actors for Rohingya Relief Activities

Governmental Organizations

Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

The apex authority to administer overall control, monitoring and policy guidance in respect to all major national issues and highly sensitive matters like the Rohingya crisis. The PMO coordinates the actions of all the Ministries, Divisions, and their attached or subordinate offices, departments, agencies under directives, and decisions centrally communicated to them.

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

The MoDMR works to reduce the risks and effects of natural and human-induced disasters and manages relief operations and other emergency programs for food security and addressing the sufferings of victims including refugees.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC)

The main authority for coordinating work with other governmental, non-governmental, private, and civil society organizations, as well as other stakeholders at the district level. The office also maintains law and order in Rohingya-affected areas in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and security forces.

Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (RRRC)

As a senior representative of the MoDMR, the RRRRC organizes refugee management and relief activities for the camp sites. The RRRRC holds regular coordination meetings with all international organizations, government agencies, and local NGOs operating in Cox's Bazar, on such matters as health, sanitation, site management, and food aid. The RRRRC also stays in constant contact with the MoDMR and the heads of relevant government offices such as the Civil Surgeon for healthcare and the Executive Engineer of the public health department for sanitation.

International and Local Organizations

In the last several months, the Government of Bangladesh has partnered with many international and local organizations to aid Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. The following are the main organizations and their activities.

IOM

In addition to providing healthcare and sanitation, IOM is scaling up programs to protect girls, women and others vulnerable to trafficking.

WFP

WFP will continue to address food scarcity through subsidies in rice and nutritional powder.

UNHCR

In addition to distributing emergency aid and shelter materials, UNHCR gives protection and support to unaccompanied children, the elderly, and survivors of rape and trauma.

UNICEF

Prioritizing shelter, food and water in its efforts to protect children and women. In addition to distributing water daily, UNICEF plans to install water pumps and deep tube wells in the camps. Malnourished children are receiving therapeutic food and supplements.

Médecins Sans Frontières

At least 2,000 MSF personnel are treating ailments including severe dehydration, diarrheal diseases, violence-related injuries, and cases of sexual violence.

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The group focuses on health, education, and the protection of women and girls.

Save the Children

In addition to distributing essentials like tents, cooking kits and hygiene kits to the displaced Rohingya, Save the Children is paying special attention to helping children, particularly those who are not accompanied by family members.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Delivering hot meals and water. Health workers are treating malnourished children, while mental health counselors support people suffering from acute stress and trauma.

Situation in Rohingya Camps



Poor waste management in the nearby Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



A ladies' bathroom is constructed in the camp by the local community for ensuring women's privacy.



Newly arrived Rohingya wait for registration to settle in a camp.



A large amount of groundwater has been pumped out for the growing population in the camps.



Almost all Rohingya people have scars due to violence.



In a camp, a local NGO distributes medicine free of charge to Rohingya.



Landlords have been leasing to Rohingya prefabricated houses in HCs.



Development partners encourage employment creation for Rohingya in such tasks as soup making.



Relief provisions are distributed at several supply stations.