



**ADDITIONAL FINANCING TO HEALTH  
SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT**

ADDRESSING  
ESSENTIAL HEALTH  
**NEEDS OF ROHINGYA  
POPULATION**

**BASIC  
INFORMATION**

APPROVAL DATE:	END DATE:	TOTAL COMMITMENT:	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:
<b>February 21 2019</b>	<b>February 20 2022</b>	<b>\$41.67</b> million grant through the IDA18 Regional Sub-Window for Refugees and Host Communities and \$8.33 million from the Government of Canada	<b>WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and IOM will jointly support the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>

**OVERVIEW**

Since August 2017, more than 745,000 Rohingya fled violence in Myanmar and took shelter in the Teknaf and Ukhaia Upazila of Cox's Bazar district, according to UN estimates. This has been the largest refugee influx in modern times. More than half of them are women and are children. They live in extremely congested conditions in 34 camps; the mega camps are currently the world's largest refugee settlements. They have outnumbered the local population by almost three times.

The speed and scale of the influx resulted in a critical humanitarian emergency. Bangladesh has ably coordinated humanitarian support and provided for basic needs and humanitarian partners, both international and national, have responded rapidly to the needs of the displaced population.

Due to the poor immunization status of the Rohingya, an outbreak of diphtheria occurred shortly after arrival, and sporadic outbreaks of measles subsequently. A quick response by health agencies contained the outbreaks with low fatalities and raised immunization coverage among Rohingya children.

The World Bank is helping Bangladesh respond to the health, nutrition, and family planning needs of the displaced Rohingya population as well as strengthen the healthcare services in the Cox's Bazar.

## CHALLENGE

Health, nutrition and population (HNP) services are being provided through 190 health facilities in the camp areas with varying service provisions. Field hospitals in camps make referrals to the Ukhia and Teknaf Upazilla Health Complexes (UZHC) or District Hospital in Cox's Bazar. Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain:

- Risks of communicable diseases are very high in congested camps and so risks from physical, sexual and gender-based violence are substantial.
- Low exposure and lack of trust to health services in Myanmar led to less demand for services like immunization, contraceptives, antenatal care, safe delivery etc.
- Coordination among the four implementing UN agencies with the two government departments and across the levels of the government – ministry, directorates, district, upazillas and camps.
- Working with other agencies for ensuring other necessary requirements which determine health outcomes like water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management, environment, female empowerment etc.
- Managing host population expectations.

## APPROACH

The first of a series of assistance from the World Bank to help Bangladesh deal with the crisis, the grant to the ongoing Health Sector Support Project will help provide essential health and nutrition services to the Rohingya people.

The support follows the following principles: (1) Help strengthen the government's capacity to respond to HNP service needs of the Rohingya, (2) not replacing the existing humanitarian assistance for the refugees, (3) HNP services to Rohingya population will focus on essential services package and mental health including gender-based violence and (4) medium-term planning.

The government signed agreements with four UN agencies – WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and IOM for the implementation. The services will be delivered within the camps through community health volunteers, Health and Family Welfare Posts for outpatient services, Primary Health and Family Welfare Centers for basic emergency obstetrics care and outpatient services, and Women Friendly Spaces for counseling for sexual and gender-based violence.

It will also improve the capacity of the existing government facilities adjacent to the camps, including community clinics, Health and Family Welfare Centers, Union Sub-centers and Upazilla Health Complexes. The ongoing project will continue to serve the local population.

## TOWARDS THE FUTURE

The World Bank is exploring Cox's Bazar district-wide health system improvement initiative to benefit both the refugees and host communities.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

**86,571**  
Rohingya  
children (ages  
0-11 months)  
immunized

**19,005**  
births  
delivered  
in an HNP  
facility

**19** facilities  
providing an  
appropriate mix  
of family planning  
methods to the  
Rohingya

**22** facilities  
providing  
emergency  
obstetric care

**187,500** Rohingya women and  
adolescent girls received information  
on sexual and reproductive health  
rights and gender-based violence in  
each year for 3 years

Build government  
capacity for resilience and  
mitigate risks for localized  
outbreaks in Cox's Bazar