



**Rohingya Refugee Humanitarian Aid Assistance
Project Report – 2017-18**



Fastest Growing Refugee Crisis in the World - 860,000 Rohingya refugees and counting...

December 27th, 2017

The stateless Rohingya minority in Myanmar have been described by the United Nations as “the most persecuted people in the world.” The vast majority of Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh during this latest crisis are women and children, including newborn babies. Many others are elderly people requiring additional aid and protection. ¹



Rohingya Refugees

The United Nations described the military offensive in Rakhine state (Myanmar), which provoked the exodus, as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing”.

Rohingya: The Rohingya, who numbered around one million in Myanmar at the start of the year, are one of the many ethnic minorities in the country. Rohingya Muslims represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine state.

The latest exodus began on 25 August after Rohingya Arsa (Arakn Rohingya Salvation Army) militants attacked more than 30 police posts.

Amnesty International says the Myanmar military has killed hundreds of Rohingya and raped and abused. ²



Meals Served
1.05 Million

Destruction: At least 288 villages were partially or destroyed by fire in northern Rakhine state after August 2017, according to analysis of satellite imagery by Human Rights Watch. ³

Scale of Crisis: The UN says the Rohingya's situation is the "world's fastest-growing refugee crisis".⁴



Before August, there were already around 307,500 Rohingya refugees living in camps, makeshift settlements and with host communities. according to the UNHCR. ⁵

Most Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh - men, women and children with barely any belongings - have sought shelter in these areas, setting up camp wherever possible in the difficult terrain and with little access to aid, safe drinking water, food, shelter or healthcare.

Statistics:

Of the 537,000 refugees who have arrived since August 58% are children, while 60% of the adults are women.

Joint Operations by International Community:

- 720,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance, according to UNICEF. ⁶
- \$434m in funding needed for UN humanitarian response plans over the next six months.
- 900,000 doses of cholera vaccine mobilized for immunization campaign
- 10,000 latrines to be built by Bangladesh military to provide sanitation for 250,000 people
- 500 tons of aid has been delivered in five airlifts. ⁷

There has been widespread condemnation of the Myanmar government's actions but talk of sanctions has been more muted:

- The UN Security Council appealed to Myanmar to stop the violence, but no sanctions have been imposed.
- The US urged Myanmar's troops to "respect the rule of law, stop the violence and end the displacement of civilians from all communities"
- China says the international community "should support the efforts of Myanmar in safeguarding the stability of its national development"
- Bangladesh plans to build more shelters in the Cox's Bazar area but also wants to limit their travel to allocated areas.
- Myanmar urged displaced people to find refuge in temporary camps set up in Rakhine state but added that Myanmar would not be able to allow all those who fled to Bangladesh to return.
- The UK Disasters Emergency Committee launched an appeal for funds to help the refugees and their overstretched host communities.

Sikh Aid Team

UNITED SIKHS promotes and practices "Seva", selfless service in both natural and man-made disasters.

The Sikh Aid team provides non-partisan global humanitarian disaster relief services, which not only provide immediate aid but also rehabilitation help to the needy. The team also runs projects to help eradicate poverty and works towards creating a healthier and happier world. The Sikh Aid Directorate has expanded to include blood and health drives.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers overlooking the campsite.



Refugees arriving in the camp.



UNITED SIKHS Volunteers
identified more than
2000 patients



Meals Served
1.05 Million



UNITED SIKHS
Volunteers identified
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Medical Camps -
More than **36000**
Patients Treated &
Medical Aid Provided



Outreach more than
80% women and
children with our
program



Health Counselor
& Other Program
outreach **50000**
Refugees



More than
50 Workshops
conducted



Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) walk in to inspect the camp, L : UNITED SIKHS volunteer.

Rohingya Humanitarian crisis escalates, thousands await food, water, security:

In collaboration with the UN Shelter Cluster in Cox Bazaar, **UNITED SIKHS** is committed to provide necessary support to the 10,000 refugees who have found safe haven in Naikhogchari, Bangladesh, near the border of Myanmar.



Jatin Singh (center) volunteer distributing warm meals to the new arrivals.



Volunteers mobilizing Langar on the roads and at campsites.

As people walk closer to the camp, **UNITED SIKHS** volunteers are stationed at the entrance to meet the new arrivals with warm meals. Often, it is the first warm meal the people have received since beginning their arduous trek towards safety. For a small moment, hunched shoulders, burdened by the trauma of displacement, straighten and joy spreads as they share a warm meal.

“This is the world’s fastest-growing humanitarian crisis and they have fled unimaginable violence. The emotional toll has left people so fragile that they cannot survive without proper support. Imagine 14,500 people every day and 12 people every minute. These are the numbers arriving into the camps each day,” said Jatin Singh, UNITED SIKHS Lead Coordinator.





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ROHINGYA REFUGEE RELIEF

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Thousands of Rohingya refugees are displaced,
unable to return to their homes.
UNITED SIKHS have stepped in to help.
Help us to Help them!

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www.unitedsikhs.org e: contact@unitedsikhs.org

Ground Reality: Refugees pouring into Bangladesh have suffered through a devastating humanitarian crisis. Escaping genocide in Myanmar with nothing but the clothes on their back, the Rohingya face dire conditions in their journey to safety: more than 75% of the refugees lack secure shelter, often resorting to makeshift shelters scattered on rural roads, without drinking water, sanitation, and security. They have been uprooted from everything and anything they have ever known. The future of the Rohingya people remains uncertain.



Rohingya refugees ground reality, starving

UNITED SIKHS with their local coordinators have collected supplies for distribution at Naikhogchari in Bandarban district of Bangladesh. More than 50,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter as it is an area close to the border of Myanmar. As per Ronny Singh, the local UNITED SIKHS coordinator in Bangladesh, "There is a huge influx of refugees and UNITED SIKHS will stand as a buffer to this mass migration due to persecution".

Relief Efforts: UNITED SIKHS is providing emergency relief supplies such as - plastic sheets, water, food, jaggery, and vegetables to the Rohingyas. The Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) Chief of Naikhaongchari provided UNITED SIKHS the location where help is urgently needed. Our team has established a base camp and is collecting all the supplies to be distributed.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers unloading food material and supplies.



Medical Camps -
More than **36000 Patients**
Treated & Medical Aid Provided

To ramp up our efforts, waterproof tarps and corrugated metal sheathing are key materials our teams have implemented for temporary shelters. Clean water, adequate sanitation, and medicine are our focus for health and welfare. Although the UN WASH Initiative is helping build sanitation and hygiene facilities for the refugee camps, relief teams are wary of the upcoming monsoon season; the scarcity of supplies will leave the refugee camp and its inhabitants more vulnerable.

Serving Meals at camp: UNITED SIKHS have served more than **1.05 million** meals. “We found around 250 more Rohingyas few miles away from the Bahukhali campsite, they were starved because of the fear of being found,” said Gurbaksh Singh appalled by the state of humanity. Gurbaksh Singh and the Bangladesh team made a trek to the border of Myanmar through the jungles of Bangladesh, bringing warm meals and medicine to those in need.



UNITED SIKHS volunteer team preparing rice for distribution at the campsites with the help of the Rohingya refugees.



Harpreet Kaur, a nurse from Delhi serving food to the refugees



Volunteer making Langar at campsite.



UNITED SIKHS volunteer distributing meal to refugees.



UNITED SIKHS volunteer with refugee children

“We are serving three, hot meals each day to over one thousand refugees,” says UNITED SIKHS Global Director, Jatinder Singh, “and emergency relief to help rebuild the lives of the Rohingya refugees.” Many more new additional campsites have been added as refugees keep on pouring.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers serving meals at campsite.



Children enjoying meals.



Medical Aid: UNITED SIKHS team of trained medical volunteers recognized the escalating situation and were able to set up medical clinics and mental health counseling sessions all over the camp. As our team treats nearly **400+ patients** every day, the true aftermath of the crisis is revealed: some have suffered bullet wounds; many are dehydrated and malnourished; sexual violence against the Rohingya women is rampant.



Right: Dr. Rafiq treating the patient in the camp.



Left: UNITED SIKHS Medical Camp.

Most Rohingya refugees have suffered through tremendous physical trauma - bullet wounds, serious head injuries, malnourishment, amongst others. Several doctors and nurses, who comprised the UNITED SIKHS Medical Team, organized medical clinics around the campsite so that the refugees could receive care. In many cases, this was the first time since escaping Myanmar that some had received treatment for their wounds. The injured and malnourished refugees were also given prescription medicines when needed as well as first aid kits and basic medical essentials for daily functioning.



Dr. Harmeet Singh (left) & Dr. Rafiq (right) performing health checkups for the Rohingya refugees at the camp.



Doctor treating children at the camp.

“Our operations are making a difference and providing hope to many, ” says Dr.Harmeet Singh, a volunteer who has set up medical camps.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers distributing medical supplies & clothes at the campsite.



Outreach more than **80%**
women and children with
our program

Counselling & Workshops: UNITED SIKHS volunteers in refugee camps are experts in counseling the victims for physical and emotional abuse. With the help of counselors like Lakhwinder Kaur, they are able to overcome the trauma suffered.

“I had finally arrived to a refugee camp a few weeks ago. Two women from my neighborhood and I were captured by the Burmese army officers and raped several times,” said a dismayed Rohingya woman to Lakhwinder Kaur, a licensed counselor.

While the wounds of this forced migration are deep, our medical volunteers are ever ready to lend support. The counseling sessions have revealed many painful and gruesome stories of the hardships the Rohingya people have had to endure. These sessions are critical to helping the most vulnerable, women and children especially, heal from the violence they have suffered. “We are touching the lives of thousands of people every day”.



Licenced Counselor Lakhwinder Kaur conducting session with women.



Lakhwinder Kaur counsels a group of Rohingya refugees, who have endured unspeakable horrors.



Lakhwinder Kaur counseling the victims

At every step of the journey, UNITED SIKHS teams have conducted several workshops for refugees to counter the threat of starvation, poverty, violence and extreme emotional trauma.

Hygiene Awareness & Sanitation Efforts:

Health goes hand in hand with hygiene. The UNITED SIKHS team of trained medical volunteers are actively educating the Rohingyas about the importance of maintaining proper hygiene to ensure good health. Dr. Bhupinder Kaur and her team of nurses distributed soaps while talking to the adults and kids in the camp about washing hands before meals and keeping the camps clean. Additionally, the UNITED SIKHS team has now successfully erected **250+** toilets & around 56 hygiene stations for the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. These sanitation efforts will help prevent diseases like cholera as Bangladesh prepares for monsoon season.



Dr. Bhupinder Kaur distributing soaps and providing hygiene education to the kids and adults at the camp.



The UNITED SIKHS volunteers distributing soaps at the campsite as a part of the hygiene awareness initiative.



UNITED SIKHS Volunteers with the local support managed to erect toilets.

Faith & Spiritual Support:

Volunteers spent days distributing Qurans to the Rohingya refugees to help feed their aching souls in this time of need. Being able to pray freely in these difficult times has brought much-needed courage and strength to the Rohingya families. Moreover, our team has partnered with one of the local masjids (mosque) to provide food to the families who visit it. As the Sikh community celebrates (Nov, 2017) the legacy of the 9th Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji this year, our team has put the teachings of Oneness from the Guru into practice.



The UNITED SIKHS sevadars distributing Qurans to the Muslim Rohingya population at the campsite.



Right: Volunteer helping disabled man with the food.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers sharing a moment of joy with the children

Education & Activity: UNITED SIKHS volunteers engaging with children and feel incredible blessed to help them bring laughter and joy back into the lives of these refugee children.



More than
50 Workshops conducted



Children learning in the class



Volunteer Trainer involving children in physical activity.



Girl laughing and playing in the camp.



Trainer helping children to stretch & exercise.

The current reality of the Rohingya people is dire; their suffering is testimony to how man-made divisions and conflict can leave a person shattered and helpless. However, our team has seen incredible resilience in the eyes of the Rohingya people.

The lack of humanity that caused the refugees to flee their homes is being challenged every day by our volunteers - the Sevadaars are infusing every effort with the spirit of the Guru: to selflessly love and serve all fellow human beings. That spirit, in action, is truly remarkable and brings hope in dark times. It brings smiles back to people, whose smiles were robbed from them. Those moments are what motivates the UNITED SIKHS volunteers to go above and beyond their abilities, every day.



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Health Counselor &
Other Program outreach
50000 Refugees



Jatin Singh enjoying the popsicles with the ecstatic Rohingya kids.



Children enjoying movie at the camp.



Children studying & having fun with Lakhwinder kaur.

“A genocide occurring right before our eyes. The world can’t sit idle by while the world burns. We will not sit silent and we will not be mum. We will carry the legacy forth of our Gurus to provide for those in the direst of circumstance”, said UNITED SIKHS Sikh Aid Director Gurvinder Singh.



Our Volunteers could bring back smile on some of the faces of these children.

The refugees need stability and support immediately. Our team is rising to the challenge to provide aid in their journey. With the Guru's support, we can continue to save lives and empower them to live with dignity.

We can't do this without your help. Together, we can make a difference and combat the appalling conditions the Rohingya people endure.

View video to see our work in Bangladesh.

 <https://goo.gl/VLhRVd>

¹<https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/rohingya/>

²<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/02/myanmar-fresh-evidence-of-ongoing-ethnic-cleansing-as-military-starves-abducts-robs-rohingya/>

³<https://www.hrw.org/blog-feed/rohingya-crisis>

⁴<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2017/09/rohingya-crisis-explained-maps-170910140906580.html>

⁵<http://www.unhcr.org/ph/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2017/11/UNHCR-Bangladesh-Operational-Update-3NOV17.pdf>

⁶<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp>

⁷<https://www.unocha.org/rohingya-refugee-crisis>



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