



# Humanitarian Response for Displaced Persons from Myanmar

<b>Domain of intervention:</b>	Humanitarian Aid
<b>Implementation period:</b>	01.09.2017 – 31.12.2022
<b>Implementing partner:</b>	Multi-and Bilateral Partners / SDC self-implementation
<b>Phase Budget / SDC contribution:</b>	CHF 30 million (upto 31.12.2019)
<b>Modality:</b>	Financial contributions / Expertise / Direct Implementation

## General description

Following the outbreak of violence in 2017 in Myanmar's Rakhine State, more than 700,000 people have fled to and sought refuge in Bangladesh. In an effort to contribute to the alleviation of suffering, Switzerland has re-activated its humanitarian commitment in Bangladesh and contributed some CHF 30 million during September 2017 and December 2019. The humanitarian portfolio comprises of multi-and bilateral partnerships as well as in SDC's direct actions. Furthermore, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has seconded technical expert to international organisations to strengthen the humanitarian response and address more specific expertise. SDC links humanitarian and development approaches (nexus) through a joint analysis of the rapidly-changing situation on the ground, joint funding of medium-term activities, seeking for complementarities of the instruments through addressing the needs of both refugee and host population. Jointly financed projects in the past have addressed the needs of refugee and host communities in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), as well as in health.

## Objectives

SDC's humanitarian response aims at saving lives and alleviating suffering of the host and refugee communities in Cox's Bazar district. SDC's engagement follows the Joint Response Plans (JRP). The JRP 2019 set out a comprehensive programme shaped around three strategic objectives: deliver protection, provide life-saving assistance and foster social cohesion among Rohingya and Host Communities. For the 2020, SDC continues to follow the new JRP 2020 upon its release.

## Lines of action / components

- Switzerland contributes to UN and partner organisations, where majority of the contribution supports UN organisations (World Food Program WFP, International Organization for Migration IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF), the International Committee and the International Federation of the Red Cross (ICRC and IFRC). Around 30 % of the annual budget is allocated for International/Swiss NGOs (Action Contre la Faim, Solidarités International and Swiss Red Cross). These organisations work in the fields of food security and nutrition, safe drinking water, shelter, sanitation and hygiene, as well health and protection.
- SDC has provided in-kind contributions such as tents, tarpaulins, health equipment and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) material to the UN and NGO partners. Through its direct action in the Health Sector, Switzerland was able to improve the access to as well as the standard of the health services in the Cox's Bazar area through supplying medical equipment and enhancing blood-donation system and infrastructure. In collaboration with the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), SDC is contributing to the improvement of health conditions of vulnerable host communities and Rohingya refugees by empowering DPHE in its role to lead the WASH sector and manage the provision of drinking water supply, as well as waste water and solid waste management services.
- A total of nineteen experts from Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SHA) have dedicated their work to this crisis in site-planning of camps, in the improvement of the water and sanitation installations, regarding environmental questions and assessments of cash-based-transfer interventions. Four experts engaged for the SHA direct actions in the Health and the WASH Sector.



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**Intended impact**

With its engagement in the Rohingya Refugee Crisis, Switzerland is contributing to saving lives, alleviating suffering and promoting a life in safety and dignity for the people affected by the crisis.

Access to basic goods and services, with a focus on the Health, WASH, and protection will be enhanced due to SDC's contributions, expertise and direct engagements.

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**Intervention Target**

Despite progress, a voluntary return in safety and in dignity is not in sight for the majority of the refugees (there have been 2 attempts to repatriate the refugees, but refugees were unwilling to return unless their nationality, security, and freedom of movement was guaranteed in Myanmar). As the Rohingya and the host-communities remain vulnerable, further engagement of all actors is needed to cover the needs, to ensure safety and dignity of the conflict-affected population. Switzerland has contributed to the improvement of the living conditions, access to safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services, health and protection services for both, host and refugee communities.