

Problems Related to Refuge Provided in Bangladesh to Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (Rohingya)

An Assessment of Governance Challenges



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Problems Related to Refuge Provided in Bangladesh to Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (Rohingya): An Assessment of Governance Challenges

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Preface

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) works with a vision of Bangladesh where government, politics, businesses, civil society and people's lives will be free from the influence of corruption, and all government, private and non-governmental organisations will run their operations with transparency, accountability and integrity. TIB is committed to build a strong and effective social movement to prevent corruption and ensure good governance in the country by undertaking research, advocacy and civic engagement initiatives in selected sectors, areas and institutions of public interest.

This study titled 'Problems Related to Refuge Provided in Bangladesh to Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (Rohingya): An Assessment of Governance Challenges' is aimed at identifying governance challenges for Bangladesh arising from the massive influx of the hundreds of thousands of victims of pre-planned operations for ethnic cleansing and crime against humanity conducted by the Myanmar military. The atrocities and violence perpetrated by the Myanmar authorities on their own nationals of the Rakhaine state have been so brutal that in the short period since the last week of August 2017 over half a million of these expelled Rohingyas took refuge in Bangladesh. The influx continued and was most likely to continue unabated well into the foreseeable future.

The height of the tragedy of the forcibly displaced and traumatized people has been matched by the extraordinarily humanitarian and open-armed stance of the people and Government of Bangladesh to welcome and extend all support. Although extremely disproportionate to the capacity of any country of the world, not to speak of Bangladesh overwhelmed by challenges and resource constraints of its own, collective efforts of the Government, local communities, national and international organizations made it possible to manage the immediate crisis. Unsustainable as such relief operations are, Bangladesh is clearly confronted with a likelihood being forced to cope with this humanitarian crisis for an unpredictable period of time with all its consequences on the society, economy and polity, which has prompted TIB to undertake this rapid assessment of the problem from a governance perspective.

The study provides an assessment of the many positive aspects of management of challenges thrust upon Bangladesh by the influx. It also identifies some deficits and potential governance challenges that may be in the offing. We also propose some recommendations for consideration of the Government and other stakeholders. While Kofi Anan Commission package provides a potential roadmap, nothing short of specifically designed measures to create conditions in Myanmar conducive to earliest possible return of all the Myanmar nationals can be an option for Bangladesh.

Rohingya problem is an international problem. Long years of deliberate negligence of the issue by the key actors of the international community including regional powers like India, China and some of Southeast Asian governments with tacit or active support by the so-called big powers guided by their respective strategic interests have provided incentives to the Myanmar

regime to design and implement the strategy of ethnic cleansing without any qualms. It is incumbent upon the same actors in the international community to explore a set of practical means to turn around now and apply all their leverages on the Myanmar regime to agree to abandon the path of atrocity and brutality and create the necessary conditions for the return of everyone of their own nationals. Diplomatic efforts need to be coupled with specific targeted sanctions in the areas of business, trade, investment, aid, defence and security relationships.

Just because Bangladesh has been constrained to provide temporary refuge to the Rohingya people on humanitarian grounds cannot be allowed to justify their continued stay in this country. While diplomatic and political efforts continue to ensure their return, the Government should undertake a comprehensive assessment of direct and indirect cost, both financial and non-financial, including opportunity costs in terms of public services and overall administrative, law enforcement, security burdens and risks. Relevant independent experts may be involved in such assessment. Active diplomatic initiatives must be undertaken to ensure international support to cover such costs.

We are grateful to the relevant stakeholders in the Government, especially the District Commissioner's Office of Cox's Bazar, international agencies and national and international NGOs who helped us by providing information used in this assessment. Our special word of gratitude is due to Rohingya people and members of the affected communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf for agreeing to be interviewed for the study despite adverse circumstances.

The study was conducted by my colleagues Gulam Mohiuddin, Zafar Shadeq Chowdhury, Md. Razu Ahmed Masum and Md. Jashim Uddin. I commend their efforts and thank other colleagues who provided valuable guidance and assistance, particularly Prof. Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Mohammad Rafiqul Hasan, M. Rezwan ul-Alam and M. Zakir Hossain Khan.

We hope that concerned authorities and other stakeholders would find this study useful. Any suggestions and feedback are warmly welcome.

Iftekharuzzaman

Executive Director

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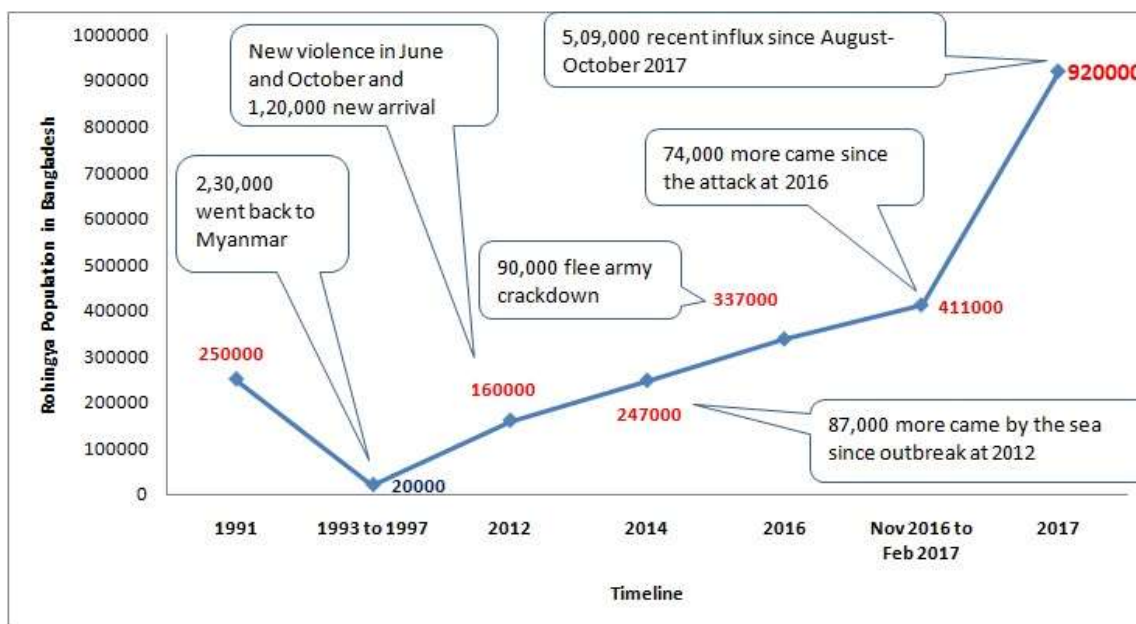
1. Background and rationale

Rohingya issue is a historical crisis which can be traced back to colonial period (The Wall Street Journal, 2016)ⁱ. Since the recent influx starting at 25 August 2017, more than 5,09,000 new arrivals are reported as of 03 October (Inter Sector Coordination Group, October 2017)ⁱⁱ those are residing in 02 registered camps, 03 makeshift camps and in 07 spontaneous locations in Ukhia, Tecknaf and Bandarbands along with the existing Rohingyas in Bangladesh who came since 1991(ISCG, October 2017)ⁱⁱⁱ.

The United Nations has called the Rohingya the world's most persecuted minority group and described the atrocities by Myanmar's authorities as "ethnic cleansing" (The Conversation, September 2017)^{iv}. Amnesty International has described it as 'crime against humanity'^v.

The Rohingya influx in a noticeable volume started at 1978 where 2,00,000 of them came to Bangladesh. Among them 1,80,000 returned through bi-lateral discussion and repatriation and 10,000 died and 10,000 remain missing (Human Rights Watch, 2000)^{vi}.

Since 1991 the influx started when 2,50,000 Rohingyas came to Bangladesh. The influxes continued and more Rohingyas came at 2012, 2014 and 2016. However, since last August 2017, recent influx was massive in volume and sudden one (graph-1).



Graph-1: Rohingya influxes in Bangladesh (1991-2017)

About 80% of those fleeing are women and children and there are babies being born along the way (the guardian, September 2017)^{vii}. Management of this huge and sudden

influx has become a logistical nightmare for the local administration and organizations. However, collective efforts are put from the government, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and lots of personal and Community Based Organization's initiative which is helping the process.

Despite collective efforts to manage the overall situation, there might be governance challenges considering the suddenness and volume of this recent influx. Also, chance of abuse, exploitation, violence, irregularities and corruption normally increase in such type of emergency situation. Besides, when so many stakeholders are working together from different kind of entities, struggle in coordination is common.

In this backdrop, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has undertaken this study to explore the governance challenges in the situation and overall management. Recommendations are drawn to address the identified challenges aiming different stakeholders.

2. Aim and Objective

The aim of this study was to make a rapid assessment over the relief response for the Forcedly Displaced Myanmar Nationals

. The specific objectives were:

- A brief review of related stakeholders and the coordination mechanism among them
- A brief review of the provisions and arrangement including the relief management for the Rohingyas
- Identifying governance challenges and generating recommendations

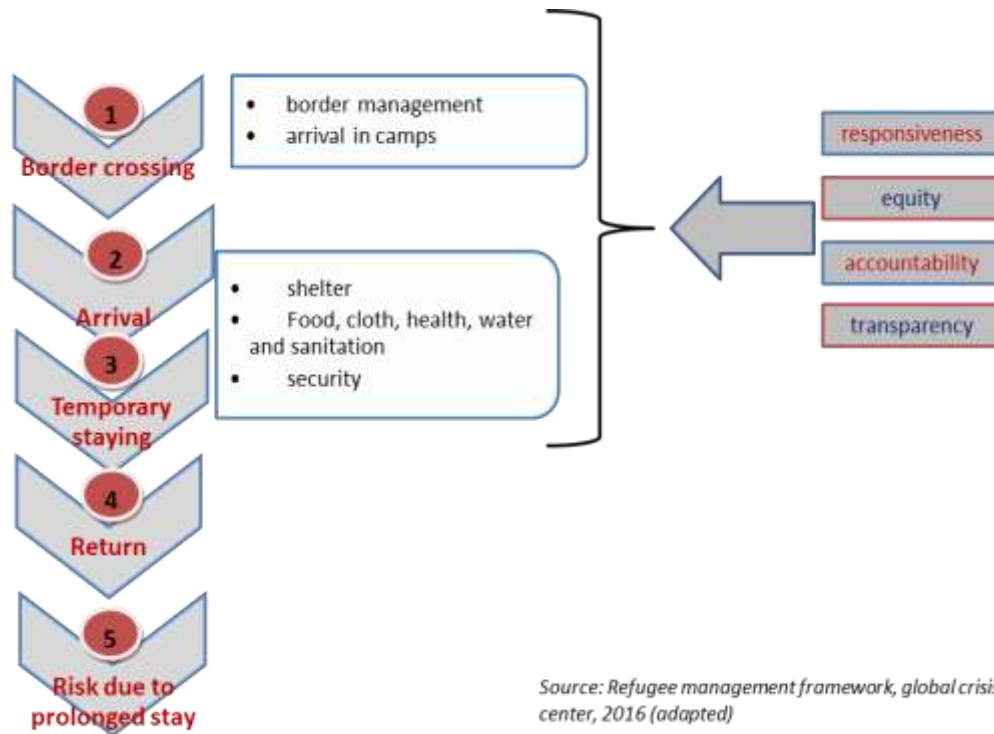
3. Scope of the study

The assessment covered the following issues like- Placement of the refugees, arrangement of basic needs, documentation and registration, exposure to risk of crime and abuse, relief management. The assessment focused focus on adequacy, method of distribution, coordination, accountability measures instead of numbers. The primary data used in research is collected from 26 September to 10 October 2017 and where secondary data was used the time is mentioned accordingly.

4. Sources of data and data collection method

This is a qualitative study and data were collected on the selected issue till data saturation was reached. Data were collected and analyzed in the light of selected governance indicators- Transparency, Accountability, Equity and Responsiveness. The field collection was done a 4 member core team from TIB staffs who stayed at field level for 14 days. Two local youths were recruited to provide support for language barrier in interviewing Rohingyas. A detailed check list was developed and thorough training was provided on the objective of the research, data collection methods and tools.

Analytical framework

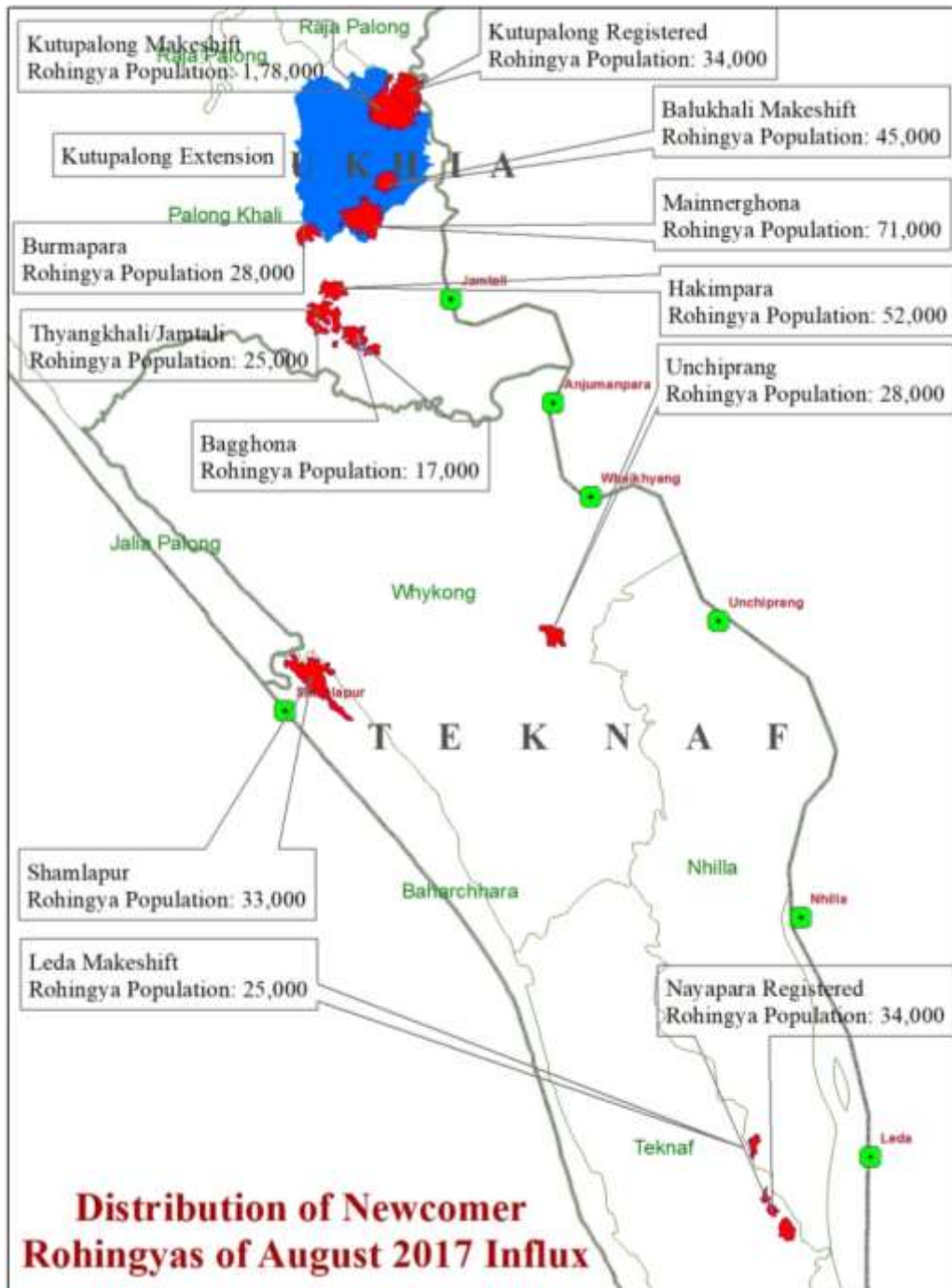


Key Informant's Interview (KII) and Observation was the primary method of data collection along with related literature review. KII was conducted with all major stakeholders working there including Government agencies, International Aid Agencies, Non-Government Organizations, Private Sector and Rohingyas.

Data validation: Standard methods like triangulation, cross checking, collecting same information from more than one source and getting back to same KI for completing data were applied to ensure validity of data.

5. Research Findings

The Rohingyas came through recent influx has settled in different areas of Teknaf and Ukhia. Along with two registration camps in KUtupaong and Nayapara, there are several makeshifts and spontaneous locations where they have settled (Map-1).



Map-1: Distribution of Rohingyas of August 2017 influx

5.1 Stakeholders: Role and Coordination

Valiant efforts are being putted on by all relevant stakeholders after this recent Rohingya influx. A wide range of stakeholders from Government, UN Bodies, Aid agencies, INGOs, NGOs along with the local inhabitants and volunteers are working and supporting the management of the overall situation. The collective effort has contributed positively on getting the situation at present condition. A brief on the stakeholders and their roles is given below (Table-1).

Table-1: List of stakeholders and their role in brief

	Stakeholder	Role in brief
Government		
1	National Task Force (NTF)	Chaired by the Foreign Secretary with participation from 22 Ministries and Agencies is monitoring the implementation of the national strategy and remains in place to oversee overall influx response.
2	District Task Force (DTF)	Monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the strategy on the ground, led by the office of the Deputy Commissioner.
3	District Commissioner's Office	Coordinating and supervising the overall field activity including relief management.
4	Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC)	Coordinating the repatriation from government's end
5	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	Coordinate the work of preparing warehouse for relief, Relief storage and distribution, Assesse need of relief and shelter.
6	Armed Forces Division (AFD)	Transportation and storage and distribution of relief, Road construction, Maintaining Security Checkpoint to control movement of Rohingya, Water Supply.
7	Department of Health Services	Established satellite medical center in different camp, provide health care services.
8	Department of Family Planning	Provide family planning services.
9	NGO Affairs Bureau	Facilitate emergency project (FD-7) approval and need base project approval.
10	Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE)	Coordinating Water Supply and Sanitation Services along with implementation.
11	Local Government And Engineering Department (LGED)	10 road construction for emergency response in Ukhia and Teknaf.
12	Department of Social	Registering the information of orphan children.

	Service	
13	Police	Look after law and order situation, maintaining check post to restrict Myanmar national movement to other places.
14	BGB	Looking after border security, maintaining check post to restrict Myanmar national movement to other places.
15	Department of Passport	Providing biometric ID card to Myanmar Nationals through registration
16	Rural Electrification Board	Building 10 distribution line for 10 different spot to ensuring electric supply.
17	Department of Food	Storage relief in government warehouses (LSD, CSD).
Inter Sector Coordination Group		
18	Inter Sector Coordination Group	Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanisms at National and Sub-National level. Evolving needs, a growth in response and a plethora of coordination meetings at field level have overwhelmed existing mechanisms thus leading to a new inter sector coordination approach. This approach is perceived by all stakeholders as necessary to respond to the scale of needs and to meet the level of coordination required. To achieve joint programming and a timely response that is needs based oriented and based on evidence, the sectorial coordination approach acts as an overarching structure to ensure the humanitarian needs of all targeted populations are addressed. https://cxbcoordination.org/about/
19	UNICEF	Provide education facility, nutritional development, child protection center, develop water supply and sanitation facility to the targeted people with the assistance of its partners.
20	World Food Program (WFP)	Ensuring food security, logistic, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).
21	World Health Organization (WHO)	Coordinate health related services.
22	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Coordinate shelter management services. Communication With Community (CWC)
23	Action Contre La Faim (ACF)	Develop water supply and sanitation facility to the targeted people with the assistance of its partners.
24	Save the Children International	Provide education Services. joint lead agency of education component of ISCG.
I/NGOs		
25	Oxfam, Concern Worldwide, Water Aid, Handicap International, Christian Aid, Care	Work with different component with the coordination of ISCG.

	Bangladesh, Action Aid	
26	MSF	Provide Health Care Support.
Others		
27	CODEC, PULSE Bangladesh, SARPV, MUKTI, COAST, SHED, VERC, YPSA, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, BRC	Work with different component with the coordination of ISCG.

Inter Sector Coordination Group is mainly coordinating the whole process with involvement of respective government department. According to the sectors like food security, health etc. there is a lead agency for each component with respective partners

Table-2: Sector wise lead agencies and other stakeholders involved

Sector	Lead agency	Non-UN Operational Partners
Education	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39 International Agencies 16 National Non-Government Organizations
	SCI	
Food Security	WFP	
Health	IOM, WHO	
Nutrition	UNICEF	
Safety, Dignity and Respect for Individual Rights	UNHCR	
<i>Child Centred Care</i>	UNICEF	
<i>Gender Based Violation</i>	UNFPA	
Refugee Response (Multi-Sector)	UNHCR	
Shelter/NFI	IOM	
Site Management	IOM	
WASH	UNICEF	
	ACF	

The coordination meetings are held spontaneously and need basis. Representatives from all major stakeholders remain present in coordination meetings.

5.2 Crossing the border and reaching the camps

Rohingyas are crossing the border through several points that includes both land and water ways. Major border points for Rohingya incoming in Teknaf are Shah Porir Dwip, Shamlapur, Hnila, Whykhong Kanjar Para, Leda, Unchiprang. In case of Ukhia the major points are Anjumanpara and Jamtoli. Rohingyas are also incoming using the land border of Tombru at Ghumdhum Union and Naikkhongchari.

The people crossing the land border are using local transport to reach the nearby camps. The transportation system and duration of journey depend on the border point they have crossed and which camp they want to go. Those coming through crossing the Naf River, have a different way and process to come. At first they cross the river by boat and then they come to land border of Bangladesh. Then they are directed by the Border



Photo-1: Newcomer Rohingyas going towards Teknaf relief camp

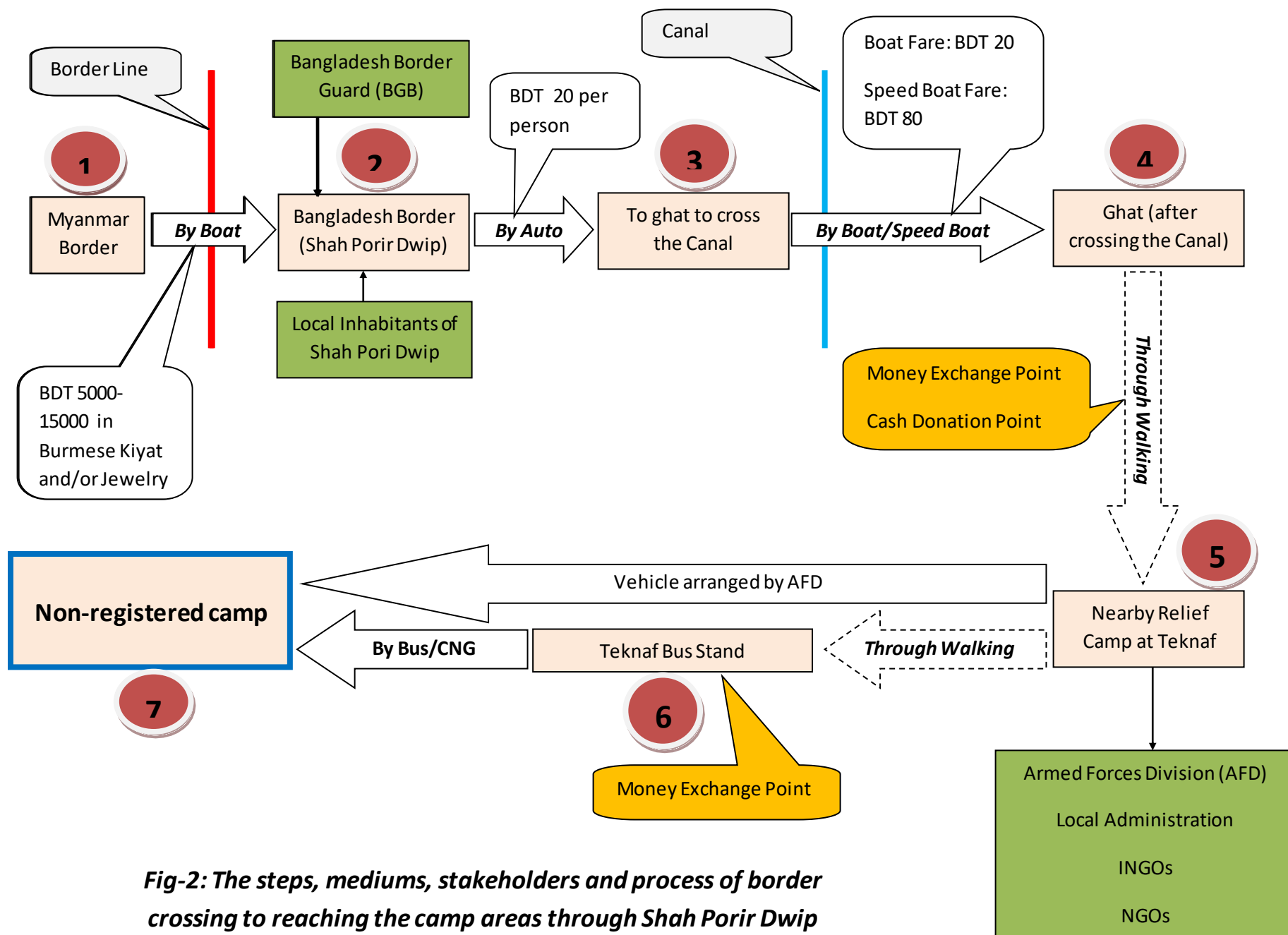


Photo-2: Cash donation through personal initiatives

Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local inhabitants towards the camps using local transports. There is no formal process of receiving them at border or any initial enlisting process. Recently, a different process is observed in the Shah Porir Dwip route. Recently, it was noticed that different 'Faith-based' groups are working together through a local Madrasa to bring the Rohingyas. These groups generate their own fund from donations (both local and international) and hire boat to bring the Rohingyas in Bangladesh border during night. They also give them initial food and shelter support upon arrival. At morning they direct them to camps. Detail border crossing process along with detail steps is narrated using Shah Porir Dwip as an example (Fig-1).

Case Study: Shah Porir Dwip Point

Rohingyas are crossings the Naf river through fishing boats and other vessels. They usually cross the river at night and they are still coming from the other side of the river. Rohingya cross the river then they stay at Shah Porir Dwip through the night. At morning they cross the Shah Porir Canal with the guidance of local people mostly and BGB. After crossing the canal, they reach the nearby Relief camp in Teakhnaf walking. This is a short distance and few people were donating cash (BDT) to the Rohingya's here, particularly those who do not have any money left. In the nearby camp, Medical Team is working from Bangladesh Army and they are coordinating the relief distribution.



5.3 Finding the place of shelter and building the shelter

Most of the Rohingya settlements are built in the hilly land where bamboos are used for framing the shelter structures which are then covered by polythene papers. Hills were dug to make the place suitable for building a shelter (Photo-3,4). The shelters are typically built on a land size of 12x18 ft.. There is no formal process of allotting the place for staying or taking shelters. Newcomer Rohingyas find a place besides the existing shelters or they build their shelters through digging and leveling new spot on hill. Palli Biddut (Rural Electrification Board) has started working to provide electricity supply and they are going to complete distribution line to 10 distribution spots where RRRC is coordinating the process. Interestingly, many Rohingya families have come with a solar panel and arranged lights at their shelters with their own arrangement.



Photo-3: Shelters built digging hilly areas



Photo-4: Shelters are made of bamboo and plastic cover

5.4 Relief Management and basic support (Food, cloth, health and water and sanitation)

At the earlier days of influx there was hardly any management of the relief, understandably. Then the ISCG started working there along with the government counterpart and situation got improved. However, since the Armed Forces Division (AFD) was deployed discipline was established and the overall process has a structural condition now.



Photo-5: Relief distribution center

Several stakeholders are involved in the overall relief management process on the basis of different sources of relief materials (Fig-3).

The sources of reliefs are respectively foreign aid (govt. to govt.), national aid (Bangladesh govt.), NGOs, ISCG (mostly UN agencies), personal initiatives and others (different informal/formal organizations apart from NGOs). Foreign aid is mostly stored in the government storage except the perishable items and emergency needs. District administration receives the aid and Armed Forces Division (AFD) helps in transporting and arranging the security of the process. Aid from Bangladesh

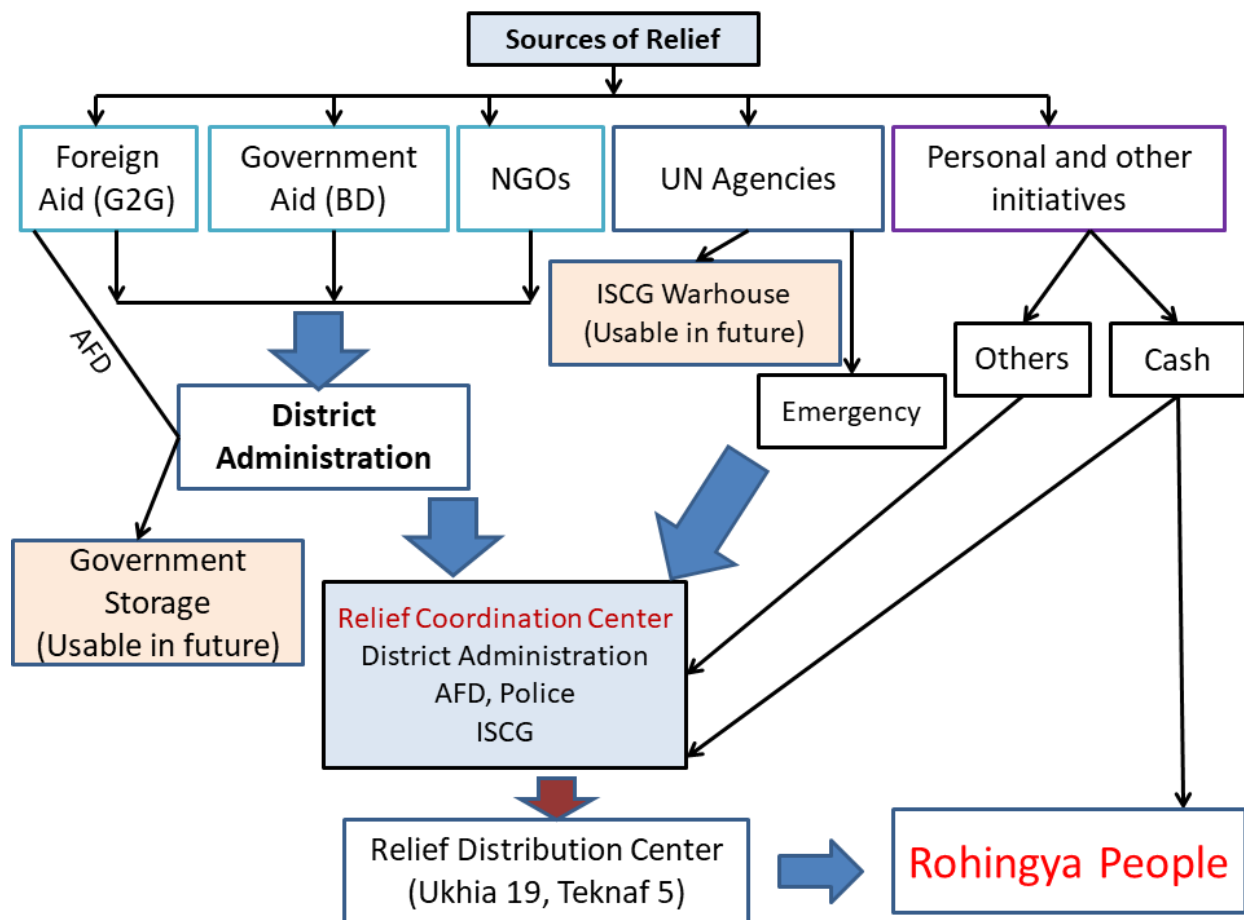


Fig-3: Relief sources and management process

Government and NGOs are also locally received by District Administration. District administration forwards them to the relief coordination center established in Ukhia. The relief coordination center is maintained by AFD and consists of representative from the District and Upazilla Administration, ISCG and Police force. This coordination center determines where the relief will go for distribution. There are 24 distribution points in

the overall area of Rohingya settlements and among them 19 is located in Ukhia and 05 in Teknaf (photo-5).

Relief of UN agencies also being stored in different warehouse located in field areas for future use apart from those are perishable items and emergency. There are a great deal of relief is being provided by personal initiatives and different informal and formal organizations (not NGOs). Apart from scattered cash donations personally all the reliefs are being coordinated and distributed by the Relief Coordination Center.

World Food Program (WFP) is leading the food providing activities along with other partner organizations like ACF, SHED, Redcross, PULSE Bangladesh etc. In the beginning of influx cooked food were distributed where nowadays the food items are normally provided in the form of reliefs. According to the latest ISCG report everyone is being provided food now. Quarterly food security, livelihood and risk assessment is planned in upcoming months.

Table-4: Sector wise situation update

Secotr	Types of service	Service provided	Present total demand
Food security	Emergency Food (till 15 October, 2017)	5,36,000	5,36,000
Nutrition	Pregnant Women (till 15 October, 2017)	12,662	55,000
	Under five Children (till 15 October, 2017)	49,306	1,50,000
Water and Sanitation	Tubewell (till 29 October, 2017)	4,370	25,000
	Temporary sanitary Latrine (till 29 October, 2017)	24,773	38,000
	Total population covered by water and sanitation service (till 29 October, 2017)	5,30,000	11,66,000
Health	Rubella vaccine for the children range from 9 months to 15 years (till 15 October, 2017)	1,35,519	-*
	Polio vaccine and vitamin A capsule for children ranged 0-5 years (till 15 October, 2017)	72,334	1,50,000
	Sexual and reproductive health service(till 15 October, 2017)	76,931	-*
	Mental and psychological support (till 15 October, 2017)	84,643	-*

* Present total demand is not yet determined

Rohingya people prefers to wear their own cultural dress and this is why lots of provided cloths were wasted away (particularly the used cloths) in the early days. A total number of 21 organizations are working in water and sanitation sector under coordination of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE). UNICEF and ACF are leading the overall



Photo-6: latrines

operation on water and sanitation. The need assessment regarding the water and sanitation has started. World Health Organization (WHO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) is leading the health sector with coordination of Civil Surgeon of Cox's Bazar.

Arrangement for people with special needs

No significant arrangement has been initiated yet for the Rohingyas with disability. However, though there is no structured initiative, Bangladesh government has planned to shift Rohingya disable children to a separate camp location. Besides that, the Ministry of Social Welfare has identified 18,449 orphans as of October 20, 2017 and enlisted specific categorized children who have lost their both parents (both father and mother) or father only, orphans (having no guardian), lost children, and physically challenged ones. Also, the UNICEF and its partner organizations have established some child center where each center can accommodate 25 children on an average.



Photo-7: Child center

5.5 Safety and security

Police has taken an initiative to raise local awareness to control any chance of human trafficking at community level with the community leaders including elected public representatives, EMAM (religious leaders) and local elites. To maintain the social harmony, police has formed a community level protection committee under the coordination of different religious leaders including Muslim, Hindus, Buddhist and Christians. Police has started to give a security assurance in different minority populated areas and communities over the district including religious places like Temples and Pagodas.

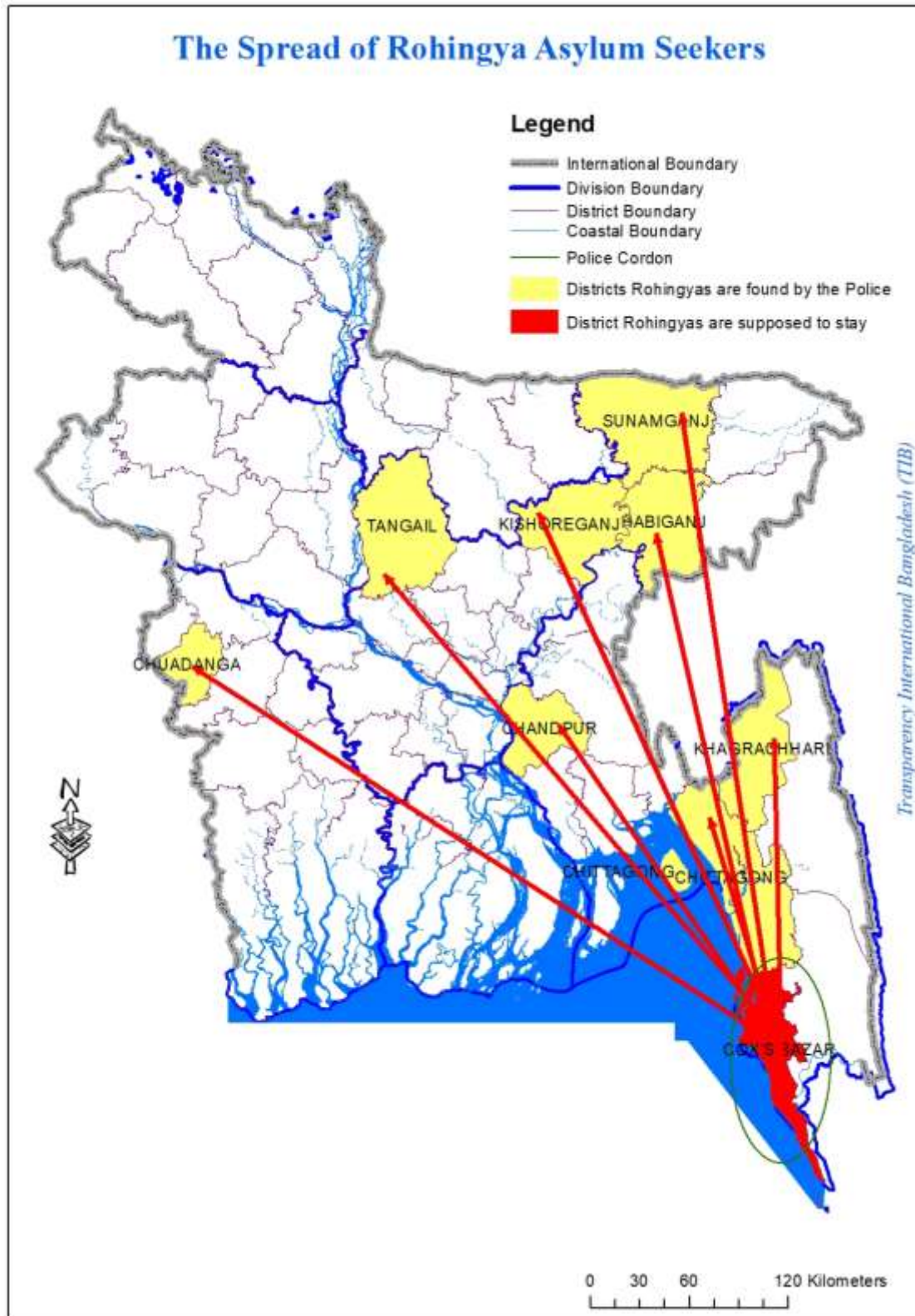
Police has acknowledged that the arrangement of security measures within the camp areas, especially makeshift camps, is inadequate at this moment. But they are putting their efforts by deploying force in uniforms and civil both. The intelligence force is also working there but their number was not shared by the police; understandably.

There are 11 checkpoints over the Cox's Bazaar District to control the Rohingya movement around the national boundaries. 4, 3, 3 and 1 checkpoints are established respectively at Ramu, Ukhiya, Tecknaf and Cox's Bazaar. Cox's Bazaar district police arrested about 24,880 Rohingyas as of 03 October 2017 who has tried to travel other parts of the Bangladesh from Cox's Bazaar. Upon the arrest they have been sent back to camp areas. Also, Bangladesh police has arrested 690 Rohingyas from different districts of the country (Map-1). Normally Rohingyas tried to stay within Chittagong due to language and cultural similarities.

Within the Chittagong area Police can identify Rohingyas on the basis of clothing patters and their use of language which is a slight different from the local dialects in Chittagong.

Along with 1600 regular Police Force at Chittagong 667 additional policemen are deployed in Cox's Bazaar are from Chittagong range to help this overwhelmed crisis.

Police also has notified the government authorities to be careful about providing passport and birth certificates after the Rohingya influx and they are operating mobile courts to control illegal mobile Sim-card sellers and giving them a six months jail penalty.



Map-2: The spread of Rohingya Asylum Seekers identified by the Police

5.6 Registration and documentation process

Bio-metric registration is started recently which is coordinated by Passport Office. For There are seven registration camps for the biometric registration of Rohingyas in Ukhiya and Tekhnaf. UNHCR, District Authority, IOM and other organizations are working on field to mobilize and forward the refugees to the registration centers. Passport Office takes over from there. Each center has a computer, biometric machine, printer and a laminating machine.



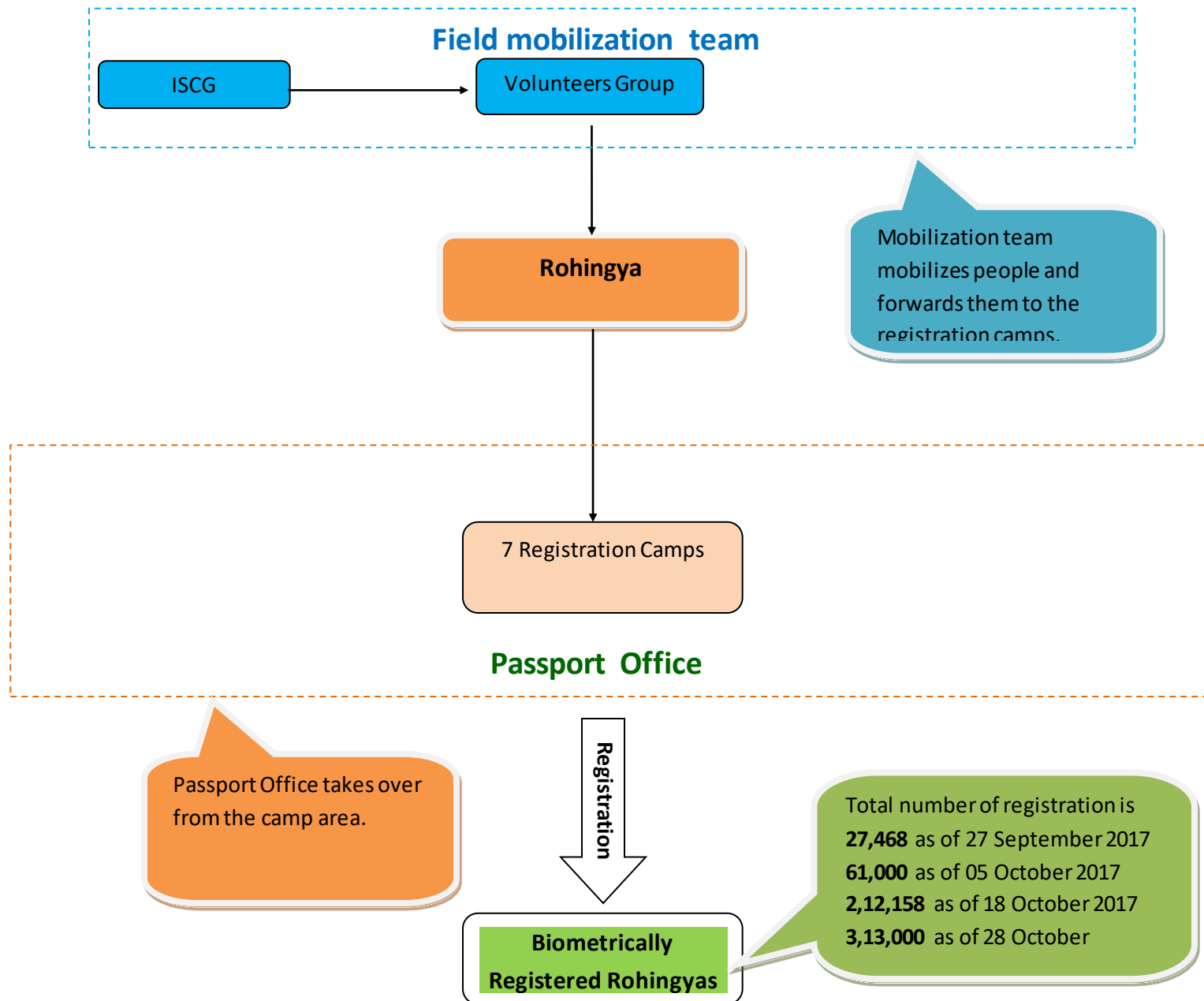
Photo-8: Registration process ongoing in a registration camp



Photo-9: Family member checking the registration card after receiving

Bio-metric database are not disclosed due to security reasons but the update on the registration is available on camps and shared in coordination meetings. In total 3,13,000 Rohingyas were registered as of 28 October. Old and newcomer Rohingyas both will be registered through this biometric registration operation.

Biometric registration process, stakeholders, challenges and progress



6. Strong points

Despite this massive and sudden influx and shortage of necessary supplies, collective efforts from all related stakeholders is visible and bringing positive results. Here are the following strong points of the overall management those were found during the study:

- Sincere efforts have been provided by all related stakeholders; especially District Commissioner (Cox's Bazar) and his team have played a significant role in overall coordination. Government organizations are deploying additional manpower require basis.
- Field visits have been conducted from Prime Minister's Office, related ministries and departments to oversee the ongoing activities
- ISCG and partner organizations are putting valiant efforts and taking different initiatives as required.
- Considering the emergency situation, coordination among the stakeholders (Govt. Organizations, International Agencies, NGOs and others) is satisfactory.
- Rohingyas staying scattered all over are being brought together in camp areas
- All stakeholders are responsive towards the Rohingyas
- Information regarding foreign aid (Govt. to Govt.) and relief provided by the NGOs are disclosed by the District Administration
- ISCG is providing situation report periodically about the overall activities and progress in different sectors
- Local inhabitants and people from all over Bangladesh has come forward with adi and other supports to address this sudden and massive challenge
- UNICEF and partner organizations are building some child centred places. Though the number is inadequate in terms of need but the quality of the built infrastructures are good

7. Challenges:

Border crossing, currency exchange, finding a place to build shelter

- No formal and definite arrangement exists in the border points. No security check was done during the influx to avoid trafficking of illegal drug and firearms. No provision of emergency support also is there for the wounded people.

- Rohingyas were exploited and subject to extortion in different steps of their journey starting at border crossing and reaching one of the camp areas and finding a place to build the shelter. Such as, those who crossed the border by boat had to pay 5,000-15,000 BDT equivalents money in Burmese Kiyat and/or gold jewelries where the actual boat fare is supposed to be 200-250 BDT according to local people. Taking the advantage of the absence of any formal money exchange system, 'Dalals' are exploiting the Rohingyas badly during money exchange. Where standard rate is 6000 BDT for 1,00,000 Burmese Kiyat, Rohingyas are getting 2000-4500 BDT out of it. Since they do not understand the value of Bangladeshi currency they often had to provide more fare during use of local transport. Though the place they are staying and building the temporary houses belongs to Forest Department a local syndicate is taking 2000-5000 BDT from each family. This syndicate is consists of local UP members, local political leaders and some of the Rohingya 'Majhi' as several stakeholder mentioned.
- The tents received from the foreign aid are suitable for cold weather mostly hence during summer they are not usable. Rohingyas preferred to stay in their self-made shelter houses made of bamboo and plastic
- The shelters they are staying are not disaster resistant. Moreover, shelters are located very close to each other which has created a potential risk of fire hazard

Relief management and basic supports (Food, Cloth, Health, Water and Sanitation)

- Since there is no complete list of Rohingyas yet equity was not possible to ensure in relief distribution and other supports.
- In some cases, complain was found in irregularities and corruption conducted by the 'Rohingya Majhis' which include selling the relief token, embezzlement of relief material, taking bribe from Rohingyas to provide the relief token etc.
- Absence of inadequate cloths for the winter and rainy season is a potential health risk; especially to the children and pregnant women
- There is a huge deficiency in arrangement of water and sanitation. Moreover, the infrastructures were built in this regard (tube-well and latrine) lacks proper maintenance and monitoring. 30% of the built tube-wells (photo-10) need immediate replacement/ maintenance and 36% of built temporary toilets (photo-11) will be filled and unusable in near future.



Photo-10: tubewell

- Health service is also inadequate in terms of demand and possible risk of waterborne-disease and contagious diseases are high. Moreover, HIV affected Rohingyas have been identified which might turn into a national health hazard
- Though periodically situation report is published by the ISCG but organization wise detail information of ongoing activities in different sectors (except WASH) is not open yet
- District Authority use a substantial time in providing protocol to the visiting guests and VIPs (both national and international) which is a obstacle for them to monitor the overall relief management



Photo-11: temporary latrines

Security, Registration and Grievance Redress Mechanism

- The link roads are not completed to the camps yet. Hence, the security arrangement is not adequate at the moment. Particularly, during night Police is struggling in patrolling the camp areas
- There is no grievance redress mechanism established. Also, the legal procedure to mitigate the criminal offenses within Rohingya community (except homicide) is not yet decided.
- There are lacking in manpower and registration centers for bio-metric registration of Rohingyas which is making the overall progress slow. Rohingyas have mixed perception about this registration. In some cases it was found that they have negative and wrong perception about this registration and there are some allegations that they are being discouraged by some of the NGOs working there.
- A portion of the Rohingya people, especially Majhis, are using mobile phone and robi sim-cards which is illegal

Environmental impact and degradation

- During building the shelters hills and local forestry were cut down which is affecting the local environment and biodiversity. For instance, some shelters are located in the elephant trail and few times they were attacked by elephants
- The firewood for daily cooking of food is collected from natural sources which is a huge burden to the local forestry



Photo-11: Environmental Degradation

- There is no program of Department of Environment to address this environmental degradation yet

8. Immediate and long term impacts

Relief and basic supports (Food, Cloth, Water and Sanitation)

- In long term it will be uncertain to provide adequate basic supports to Rohingyas by Bangladesh without continuous and adequate flow of relief and other supports from the international community
- There is a risk of miss-management of the whole situation unless biometric registration is completed urgently and using the list equity is ensured in proving relief and other supports

Security

- If security arrangement is insufficient there is potential risk of increasing the crime and violence (especially against women and children). Different interest groups might utilize this probable messy condition to use the Rohingyas for different crimes (such as murder, robbery, drug peddling etc.) to meet their own interests
- This Rohingya crisis might be a potential risk for the entire Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) areas in terms of terrorism and religious and ethnic minorities might be victim of it
- If law enforcement agencies fail to stop the spreading of Rohingyas in all over the country it will create a long term multipurpose risk in terms of social, economic and national security
- There is a organizational power structure emerging within the Rohingya community which might result in a complex long term problem unless dealt in-time and properly

- During the influx the border points were relaxed and the risk of drug and human trafficking has increased noticeably using this opportunity

Environment

- Massive cutting down of hill, destruction of forests and inadequate sanitation system has created a long term risk for the environment and biodiversity of the area

Impact on local inhabitants/community

- Since the influx, local communities of Ukhia and Teknaf is impacted due to increased price of the goods, reduced employment opportunity, increased transportation cost, stagnation of the different basic services (e.g. education, health), reduced quality of services and accessibility. Besides, local inhabitants in Ukhia and Teknaf are now less than half of Rohingya people staying there (local inhabitants are 4,75,000 where number of Rohingyas is about 1,000,000). In long term this situation might affect the overall quality of life and development badly

Impact on national development

- This Rohingya crisis is a sudden and additional pressure to the both government and development organizations which has created an additional risk for the development and rehabilitation programs of other affected people in the country (affected people in haor area and northern part due to recent flood)
- The national cost to address this crisis is going to impact the national economy and development
- This crisis will also affect the tourism of the Cox's Bazar area

9. Recommendations:

For Government of Bangladesh:

1. Government should invest its best diplomatic efforts involving all related stakeholders to mount pressure on Myanmar government so that this emerged Rohingya crisis is not prolonged and return of Rohingyas is ensure within a shortest possible time
2. The national multipurpose cost in addressing this Rohingya crisis should be properly estimated and initiatives should be taken to ensure reimbursement of this cost. Relevant experts should be involved in this estimation process and overall administrative, legal and different service cost should be considered

For International Agencies, States and Donor Agencies:

3. This Rohingya crisis is an international crisis. Though, Bangladesh has provided them temporary shelter considering the humanitarian aspect, all related stakeholders and parties (especially, India, China and all other countries who has diplomatic, business, investment, economic and defense deals with Myanmar; and other international agencies and UN agencies) should come forward to mitigate this crisis. Besides providing the relief, collective diplomatic pressure should be put on Myanmar so that they take their citizens back immediately

For related government and non-government organizations in Rohingya management:

4. The biometric registration should be completed with urgency and priority deploying adequate manpower. If needed, necessary incentives should be provided such as- to receive relief one must complete the registration
5. A complete need and risk assessment by the related stakeholders and experts should be conducted and equity and adequacy should be ensured in providing the relief and other supports
6. The syndicate that is exploiting Rohingya people in different steps like border crossing, currency exchange, and finding a place for building makeshift shelter should be identified through proper investigation and legal steps should be taken immediately
7. The overall monitoring process of the respective assigned organizations should be increased and periodical monitoring reports should be prepared and published
8. An integrated website including all kinds of information regarding Rohingya management should be established and updated periodically
9. An effective grievance redress mechanism should be established including all stakeholders
10. The enlisting of person with disabilities and orphans should be completed with urgency and necessary especial measures should be taken for them
11. To protect the environment, forest and biodiversity of the area a strategic planning should be done and necessary interventions should be taken including all related stakeholders
12. A primary listing in the border points should be arranged and necessary measures should be taken to resist the trafficking of illegal drugs and other goods
13. Necessary measures should be taken to avoid irregularities in relief token distribution
14. The security arrangement should be strengthened in the camp areas (especially at night)

15. Special care like maternal and child health care should be ensured for pregnant mothers, infants and children along with encouraging the Rohingyas to adopt family planning methods
16. Needs of affected local inhabitants should be addressed and integrated into the overall response program

ⁱ <https://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2016/12/23/timeline-a-short-history-of-myanmars-rohingya-minority/>

ⁱⁱ Situation Update: Rohingya Crisis, Cox's Bazaar (5 October 2017), Inter Sector Coordination Group

ⁱⁱⁱ Humanitarian Response Plan, 2017,

^{iv} <https://theconversation.com/the-history-of-the-persecution-of-myanmars-rohingya-84040>

^v <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/10/myanmar-new-evidence-of-systematic-campaign-to-terrorize-and-drive-rohingya-out/>

^{vi} <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/burma/burm005-01.htm>

^{vii} <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/16/rohingya-babies-dying-refugee-aid-crisis-myanmar>