
Report To:	Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee	Date:	1 November 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	RMcG/LP/089/17
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Oxfam Scotland and Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in Scotland: Rohingya Crisis Appeal – Request by Councillor McCabe		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of a request received from Councillor McCabe in relation to the Oxfam Scotland Rohingya Crisis Appeal and the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in Scotland emergency appeal for people fleeing Myanmar launched on 4 October.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Oxfam and the DEC in Scotland have contacted Councillor McCabe seeking support for appeals for the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State, Myanmar as described within the appendix.
- 2.2 The Oxfam and DEC appeals are seeking support from Councils in Scotland by means of financial donation and the DEC is also seeking support for promotional activities.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee considers the request by Councillor McCabe.

APPENDIX

Dear Cllr. McCabe

I wanted to update you on Oxfam's response to a humanitarian crisis that unfortunately has worsened in recent weeks.

Sadly, we are now witnessing an unprecedented number of refugees arriving from Myanmar in to Bangladesh. Half a million people have crossed in to Bangladesh since August, creating a large scale and escalating humanitarian crisis. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are living in terrible conditions, more than 70% of new arrivals have no shelter and only 50% have access to safe drinking water.

Our emergency teams are on the ground right now, providing clean drinking water, portable toilets and sanitation facilities, plastic sheeting for shelters and other essential supplies. But we urgently need support to scale up this response.

Oxfam and other humanitarian agencies are appealing to the international community - governments and other institutional funders - for immediate action, but less than a third of the funds needed to support the refugees for their short-term needs has been secured so far. We expect a **Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal** to be launched imminently, due to the severity of the crisis.

I attach a proposal here for your consideration, which gives more information about how Oxfam is assisting families affected by the crisis. We have valued your support in previous large scale emergencies, particularly the way you have used Inverclyde Council's profile to inspire the Scottish public to donate to those in need.

As always - don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions about Oxfam's response in this crisis, or would like more information.

Best wishes

Peppy

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**EMERGENCY APPEAL
EAST AFRICA
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ROHINGYA CRISIS APPEAL

October 2017

“Women, children, older people and persons with disabilities are among those taking shelter over the border in Bangladesh. A significant number were wounded while crossing the border, are physically and emotionally traumatized, and are in urgent need of life-saving humanitarian assistance.”

Lan Mercado, Oxfam International Regional Director for Asia

Since violence broke out in Rakhine State, Myanmar, on the 25th August, more than 500,000 people have fled, crossing into Bangladesh. This figure is expected to rise.

The current influx adds to the existing population of people who have fled to Bangladesh and has brought the total number closer to 900,000. Humanitarian needs are growing and largely unmet. Existing infrastructure in Bangladesh is insufficient for the needs of the refugees, and new-comers are in dire need of support. There is a high potential for outbreaks of communicable and water-borne diseases in camps and informal settings.

The UN conducted a joint assessment in Myanmar and Bangladesh on 6/7th of September. The camps set up by UNHCR in Kotupalong, Nayapare and the Government of Bangladesh camps in Potubumia and Teknaf are overcrowded, and are struggling to adequately meet people's needs. Children are turning up with no clothes, having had to flee immediately. There is a large gap in water and sanitation assistance which Oxfam is starting to fill and a large need for food and shelter. Over 140,000 people are living with host communities or pitching camps wherever they can find a space on roads or in forests, with no shelter or facilities.

Bangladesh has been affected by severe floods over the past few months: a large number of people have lost houses and assets, casualties have been reported and there has been widespread destruction in the most impacted areas. The general context is one of poverty, exacerbated by the recent floods. Increasing social instability has been fuelled by this significant influx of people, and while the local governments are generally favourable towards humanitarian intervention, the deep sensitivity of the situation has the potential to generate additional tension.

The monsoon season is far from over, and while the recent flooding has slightly receded in some of the areas most impacted, additional floods are still a possibility.



Many of those fleeing are staying in the forests and roadside places with limited or no shelter. For people residing in the border area, Teknaf Shawporir Dwip and Sabrang, access to safe water and sanitation facilities, and other basic services, is virtually non-existent.

Photo: Oxfam

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Oxfam's Response

Oxfam is responding now and we have already reached nearly 100,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh by providing clean drinking water, food, portable toilets and sanitation facilities, plastic sheets, and other essential supplies. In total, we are planning to reach more than 200,000 people, primarily new arrivals, but also Rohingya who have been in Bangladesh longer and are also in need of support.

We are also working with the Bangladesh government and other agencies to make sure that new refugee camps being set up meet humanitarian standards for the delivery of aid.

Oxfam staff are severely stretched responding to the ongoing Bangladesh floods in the North East of the country. Therefore we are setting up an office in Cox's Bazaar and additional specialist staff are urgently being drafted in from outside Bangladesh, including water engineers, health promotion staff and protection experts, in order to support this response.



Photo: Oxfam

How you can help

Project Activity	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Provide a family with a toilet	400 families	£25 per family	£10,000
Provide a family of five with food for a week (including rice, lentils, oil, salt and sugar)	3,000 families	£5 per family	£15,000
Provide a family of five with clean, drinkable water for a week	4,000 families	£5 per family	£20,000

*Costs are indicative. A small percentage of your donation is retained for essential governance, management and financial control (10%).

PLEASE DONATE TODAY TO HELP PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FLEE TO BANGLADESH.

Registered charity in England and Wales (202918) and Scotland (SC039042). Oxfam GB is a member of Oxfam International. All information correct at time of going to print. Costs are estimates based on contingency plans and programme budgets.



We are contacting you on behalf of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in Scotland in relation to the **Emergency appeal for people fleeing Myanmar**.

Launched today (Wednesday October 4th), the Appeal comes as more than 500,000 people, mostly women and children, are in urgent need of shelter, medical care, water and food as they arrive exhausted and traumatised in overflowing camps and settlements in Bangladesh.

The humanitarian crisis caused by violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state is creating suffering on a catastrophic scale. Since August 25, more than half a million people, have fled across the border into Bangladesh seeking refuge – it is one of the fastest movements of people in decades. A further 400,000 people remain in conflict zones on the Myanmar side of the border, where the full scale of need is unknown.

Urgent emergency relief is needed to provide shelter, clean water and washing facilities, as well as food and basic supplies for people who have fled their homes with nothing. We estimate that more than 350,000 people need shelter and about 240,000 people have no access to clean water.

We are confident the Scottish public will respond generously to this Appeal. We are grateful that individual councils have offered welcome support to previous DEC Appeals – including financial donations and promotional activities. As the leader of the Council, we would urge you to consider what support you can offer to this Appeal.

Donations can be made: online www.dec.org.uk; via the 24 hour hotline on 0370 60 60 610. People can also donate £5 by texting the word SUPPORT to 70000. The full £5 will go to the DEC Emergency appeal for people fleeing Myanmar.

The crisis has put immense pressure on an already poor and highly populated area of Bangladesh. Basic services, such as water systems, are stretched to breaking point and there are no large hospitals nearby to treat the injured or those suffering from fever, diarrhoea and skin diseases.

Given this, DEC members are already responding in Bangladesh by providing temporary shelter, emergency healthcare, food, clean drinking water and sanitation services, such as latrines and hygiene kits.

DEC agencies are ready to scale up their emergency response to help those who have fled with nothing, as well as providing basic services to families in Bangladesh who have opened their homes and communities to new arrivals. Our experienced teams in Bangladesh, are already working with our partners to ensure that new camps meet humanitarian standards with rain-resistant shelters, water systems and washing units.

We strongly welcome the Scottish Government's activation of the Humanitarian Emergency Fund, and the release of £120,000 for the emergency response.

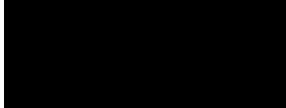
We hope you will also appreciate the urgent assistance the people who are fleeing Myanmar need and help us to promote the Appeal whilst considering making your own financial contribution to

support the work of the DEC's 13 members:

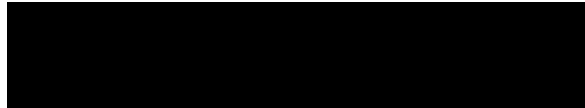
- £30 can provide emergency shelter for one family;
- £50 can provide 10 families with hygiene essentials / hygiene kits;
- £100 can provide food for two families for a month;
- £5 can provide a family with clean water for a week.

Thank you for doing all you can to promote (especially through your social media platform) and support this Appeal and please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,



Jamie Livingstone
Convenor, DEC Scotland
Head of Oxfam Scotland



Marie Hayes
Scotland Chair, Appeal
Director of the British Red Cross in Scotland

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