

## Appeal for Water and Sanitation support to the Influx of Rohingya people from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar District

Estimated 429,000 individuals have crossed the border to Bangladesh since 25 August 2017. The overall population affected in Cox's Bazar district is estimated at about 640,831 including communities of refugees and undocumented Myanmar nationals that settled in the area before the current crisis. The new arriving displaced people are still facing challenge to access basic services i.e. food, shelter, safe water facilities. The majority of shelters in the low-lying land surrounding Balukhali were flooded as of 23 September 2017 due to heavy rain and the new arrivals are struggling to find dry places and shelter. Heavy rain with squally winds continue for the fifth day in the south with flood. More than 90 per cent of new arrivals do not have any form of shelter and are staying in the open air. Only around 30 per cent households have basic Non-Food Items such as cooking utensils, blankets and clothing. In some blocks, arrivals reported that they had not eaten for two days. 90 per cent of new arrivals reported that they only eating one meal a day. Almost 50 per cent of new arrivals do not have access to safe sources of water.

Basic services are now badly outstripped, including water, health, and particularly shelter and sanitation. Conditions in the settlements and camps are now so critical that disease outbreaks are a looming

Less than 25 per cent of new arrivals have access to sanitary latrine and washing spaces, with just 10 per cent of women having access to bathing facilities. "We need to provide safe drinking water and basic sanitation. We want to prevent the incidence of waterborne diseases," said Jean Lieby, chief of child protection, UNICEF Bangladesh. Some NGOs were coming with water lorries, but it was very insufficient in comparison with the huge number of people. "There is no arrangement for taking bath and using latrines. We have to go to the jungle at night." Sanjida Begum, a Rohingya woman in Balikhali Camp said. "We got some food as relief. We can drink from this canal as well. But we can't clean ourselves with this dirty water. Me and my five daughters haven't taken a bath in the last five days," she said. All the women and the children in the area were facing the same problem.



Photo left: Children are collecting water from an irrigation pump.

Photo right: Unauthorized shelter which is made by the Rohingya on forest land

Daily rain has flooded campsites and left pools of water, many of them contaminated with fecal matter. For many of the refugees, they are the only accessible water source, but pose a lethal threat of waterborne diseases like cholera. The Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), which is coordinating the emergency response and is hosted by IOM, says that approximately 59 million liters of safe water are now needed every day to meet the basic needs of the new arrivals.

Bangladesh POUSH appeals for water and sanitation assistance to serve the humanity!

Bangladesh POUSH

11/8 Iqbal Road, Block-A, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Phone: 88-01711531451, 01817538267

E-mail: sanowarpoush@gmail.com, asadpoush@gmail.com