

## “Need Medium Term Planning for the Refugee Humanitarian Response and for Development Programs in Cox’s Bazar”



Brief note on the Information Sharing Meeting on JRP (Joint Response Plan) 2018 for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis and affected Host Communities

12th May 2018, Saturday, Uni Resort, Kolatoli, Cox’s Bazar

### Summary and Key Outcomes

The ISCG and CCNF have jointly organized a consultation on “Joint Response Planning (JRP) for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis and affected Host Communities” at the Hotel Uni Resort in Cox’s Bazar. The meeting was presided by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Cox’s Bazar, Mohammed Mahidur Rahman while the Chief Guest was Mohammed Abul Kalam, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). Ms. Sumbul Rizvi the Senior Coordinator ISCG gave the opening remarks and conclusion at the event. The key note presentation on the JRP was given by Ms. Margo Baars and Ms Rhonda Gossen of ISCG.

From the presentation, it is clear that the humanitarian community is paying attention to the needs and concerns of the host communities affected directly by the influx of refugees. While work is ongoing for refugees and affected host communities, discussions highlighted the following forward looking points:

- Recognition of the need for medium-term planning for the humanitarian response and for a complementary development response to the crisis for both refugees and affected host communities.
- The mid-year review of the JRP is an opportunity to strengthen parts of the JRP from a medium-term perspective.
- While there is considerable programming underway for host communities under the JRP, more needs to be done including by

development agencies who need to expand and scale up coverage to complement the JRP and prioritize the areas and issues impacted by the refugee crisis including investment in infrastructure.

- Next steps include a briefing for development donors in Dhaka and a detailed report by ISCG on host community activities and projects in the JRP.

The chief guest of the meeting, Mr. Mohammed Abul Kalam emphasized the importance of preparing for medium term planning combining the Rohingya humanitarian response and development plans for host communities in Cox’s Bazar. This was reiterated by Ms. Sumbul Rizvi, Senior Coordinator of ISCG, for effective and efficient response.

“This problem is not a creation of Bangladesh” said Mr. Abul Kalam. “We are the custodians until such time that these forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals can go home. There are increased tensions, boundaries between host community areas and camps are disappearing. Infrastructure that was meant to support 2000 people, is now supporting 30,000 people.”



**Welcome Remarks: Abu Murshed Chowdry, Co-Chair, CCNF**

*The main theme of today's meeting is the information sharing about the Joint Response Plan 2018 and what it includes for the host community, and what we can do to address this historical influx. We will share this with all the stakeholders involved in it including all the INGOs, local NGOs and the local government representatives present here.*

*ISCG (Inter Sector Coordination Group) is an umbrella secretariat coordinating 139 UN, INGO and NGO work and liaising with the government as well as the local NGOs working on the ground. CCNF is also an umbrella organization of 36 local organizations in Cox's Bazar and is working for the grand bargain process and peaceful cooperation.*



**Objectives of the meeting: Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Co-Chair, CCNF**

*The objectives of the meeting today are to (i) Inform key government officials, local government, national NGOs and community leaders on the key features and priorities of the 2018 Joint Response Plan (JRP) which is in implementation. (ii) Provide an overview of the JRP theme and approach to addressing negative impact on host communities due to influx of Rohingya refugees. (iii) Collecting feedback for improvisation and targeting of implementation and for future planning.*



**Role of ISCG: Sumbul Rizvi, Senior Coordinator, ISCG**

*Attention to the host community is necessary. The Government and people of Bangladesh have welcomed the Rohingya refugees forced to flee persecution. Support for the host communities affected by the crisis is critical to the Joint Response Plan. What is exceptional in the JRP is that approximately 25% of programming is allocated for the affected host community. Normally it doesn't happen in the first level of emergency response. Ms. Rizvi noted that implementation of host community programs depends upon timely support from donors and through integrated social cohesion activities. The JRP is an appeal and needs quick funding support.*



**Keynote Presentation on the JRP and Host Community Plans and Programs**

**Margo Baars, ISAC Secretariat Manager and Rhonda Gossen, Host Community Specialist, ISCG.**



A summary of JRP 2018 and host community strategy was presented. This prioritized plan is for an estimated 1.3 million people in need of which 336,000 are Bangladeshis residing in unions hosting refugees in Ukhia and Teknaf. Of the 101 JRP partners, 12 are UN agencies, 50 are international NGOs and 39 are national NGOs. Priority activities are those that address the highest risks that would trigger rising rates of mortality and morbidity and to protection and social cohesion.

The approach for host communities is threefold: **Operational Projects Across all Sectors** – implementing projects for refugees and host communities in partnership with national, international and local NGOs. **Engagement with Host Communities** and support for community to community engagement. Consultation with communities living on the edge of the camps and bringing the two groups together for dialogue. **Institutionalizing engagement through Government** – holding regular coordination and dialogue meetings with District, Upazila and Union level authorities and host community leaders.

**The key plans and activities** underway were outlined by sector. Approximately one fourth of planned activities and requested funds under the Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis are targeted for the Bangladeshi host communities (336,000 persons) in Teknaf and Ukhia directly impacted by the crisis as well as for district government institutions facilitating the response.

**Nine sector briefs on host community activities** in the JRP were prepared and are available on websites <http://coastbd.net/> and <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh/host-community-working-group>





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**1.** Provide timely lifesaving assistance and protection, as well as improve the living conditions of Rohingya refugees<sup>17</sup> and affected host communities.
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**2.** Ensure well-being and dignity of Rohingya refugees<sup>18</sup> and the affected host communities.
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**3.** Support environmentally sustainable solutions.
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**4.** Building confidence and resilience of Rohingya refugees<sup>19</sup> and the affected host communities.

A summary of activities by local and national NGOs was also presented.

**There are 101 projects**, targeting host communities, across 9 sectors ranging from Education, Food Security and Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation (WASH), Protection, and Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction. Currently, there are 20,250 families who receive livelihoods support; 15,415 involved in cash for work activities, 2,150 families and 500 farmers received agricultural inputs training and equipment.; 25,000 people are targeted to receive micro-gardening support; eight tons of medicines has been provided to the Civil Surgeon Office. 50 water points have been installed or repaired and a contingency water supply provided in Teknaf. Multiple sludge treatment units are being constructed. Capacity support is being provided to Cox’s Bazar district hospital and main health complexes in Ukhia and Teknaf and 52 outpatient care centers are treating and offering prevention

services for acute malnutrition.

An area where much more needs to be done is the **environment**. Forests shrank dramatically when the refugees began settling, wherever they could find land. But beginnings have been made. Nine grass nurseries have been established in Ukhia and Teknaf Upazilas for slope stabilization, Agencies are collaborating with the Forestry Department for production of planting materials for land stabilization works to be conducted in June and July (14 sites)

**In preparation for the monsoon**, 40 km of connecting roads in Ukhia and Teknaf has been repaired; 20 public buildings have been assessed for safe shelters and upgrading is ongoing. Main



**What has been done so far?  
Food Security, Livelihoods and Agriculture**

**Cash-for-work activities** for 15,415 people participating in C4W for small infrastructure repair. For example, almost 2,000 people recently rehabilitated damaged roads, dams and school grounds.

**4 microfinance branches** in Ukhia and Teknaf have been set up and support to women in Ukhia to produce handicrafts and embroidery

**School Feeding:** 144,022 students receiving fortified biscuits daily

waterways (canals) are being dredged to avoid overflow and flooding.

The keynote on JRP overview presented the coordination and consultation structure to implement and monitor the JRP and outlined its key principles:

- Protection and gender mainstreaming
- Accountability to affected populations
- Localization, including two-way capacity building
- Environmental sustainability
- Assistance based on humanitarian need.

#### **The strategy for localization of the response:**

Together with the RRRC and DC, ISCG is capturing the full scale and scope of national NGO contributions to the response, and linking national NGOs to the coordination mechanisms.

- Diversified partnerships with INGOs and UN agencies: ensuring strategic, inclusive partnerships, that recognize, foster and maximize local capacities.
- Two-way capacity building to pave the way to a localized response. 39 national NGOs are included in the Joint Response Plan, as partners or with independent projects.

While there is considerable programming underway for host communities under the JRP, more needs to be done including for the district of Cox's Bazar. Development agency programming is key to expand and scale up coverage to complement the JRP by prioritizing the areas and issues impacted by the refugee crisis and align with humanitarian programming. Assessments are underway with office of Deputy Commissioner to identify programs with a medium- term outlook.

#### **Participants and guest reflections**

##### **Sanjukta Sahany, IOM**

The community must be informed as the interventions and support for the host community is to help them for a sustainable recovery. Interventions should be taken in such way so that they can have effective transition and recovery process. That will help to establish stabilization and bring social cohesion.

##### **Hiroki Watanabe, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)**

JICA is not a humanitarian support agency but a development agency. We are interested to work for the host community in response to the crisis. We have been working for coordination at the union and upazila level which is led by the Upazila Chairman and the UNO. I anticipate



*400 thousand Rohingyas have been previously living here and after 25 August the new arrival is more than 600 thousand. And We have been burdened with one million refugees and it is natural that it would create tension between the two communities. But we, the people of Ukhia and Teknaf, have been trying our best not create any tension.*



*Many NGOs and UN agencies are here and we hope the host communities will be able to mitigate their loss through the interventions as we have been listening about.*

##### **Zafor Ahmed** Upazila Chairman, Teknaf

*Law and order situation has deteriorated in both communities because of limited presence of the law enforcing agencies. We need more law enforcement for taking over the potential chaotic situation in both communities.*



*We also need to repair the cyclone shelters damaged by the influx and newly established few of them to face the upcoming rainy season and disaster.*

*Not the students, but the educated people from the host community should get jobs in the NGOs who are having projects in both community. Students who are already employed should have the chance to sit for exams otherwise it will be an unmeasurable loss for us.*

##### **Tahera Akhter Milli** Vice Chairman, Teknaf Upazila

*I have seen 4 names of the Unions in the JRP for DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) preparation interventions, except Whykong, though this union have hosted two big refugee camps and we are also regular victims of disasters.*

*Both the Ukhia and Teknaf Upazila Health Complexes are 25 to 30 km far from Whykong. We are in the middle. We have a community health clinic without a doctor. Establishing a hospital facility in Whykong could be very helpful for the local community.*



*We have learned from this meeting that plantation is taking place in different unions including us, but we don't know where it is going on. If we knew, we could help by providing more lands to do this.*

##### **Noor Ahmed Anwari** Chairman, Whykong union, Teknaf







*These Rohingya people are not habituated with crossing the highway and almost every day there are road accidents. Measures should be taken to impose more control particularly on the highway where the traffic is immensely increased.*

*Street lights are very necessary for the girls and women who get out to fetch water in the dark. Villages are not anymore like normal villages. It is so crowded now and that's why giving security for the young girls after dark is very difficult.*

*You are working on nutrition and we are happy to know that. But, until and unless the pollution is removed and the source of pollution is controlled, it is pointless to provide nutrition.*

**Morjina Akter Siddique**

*UP Member, Hnila Union*

*We understand that the Rohingya people have come here with everything lost and they need the humanitarian support. We, the host community, extended the support for them and our effort contributed to our Prime Minister to achieve the title 'Mother of Humanity'.*



*It has been already a long time that the huge number of refugees have been staying beside us and they have been doing everything through and beside us including their mobility, business and livelihood activities. So, naturally few clashes are arising.*

*NGOs have been taking initiatives for both the communities, this is good. But, only informing us about it is not enough. We, the local people's representatives as well as the local government should have been able to participate in the planning meetings to decide what interventions are necessary on the ground.*

**Mozaffar Ahmed**

*Chairman, Palongkhali Union*



*Most of the toilets in the camps are overflowing and normally there are no toilet maintenance and this creating a huge pollution which is also affecting the host communities living close to the camps. NGOs can employ volunteers to maintain the toilets and train the users.*

**Khurshida Begum**

*UP member, Rajapalong Union*



that the summary of this meeting will be shared in the next meeting at Upazila and Union coordination meeting.

**Davide Rossi, Sector Coordination, Food Security Sector**

We have conducted a vulnerability assessment with nearly 500 households and found that livelihood support is more important than the food support. Our findings are already incorporated in the JRP 2018. We also have seen research findings presentation by COAST Trust and there are more important findings that we need to take into account. So far only 9% of the JRP budget is received for livelihood support programs and if we want to make the best value of what we have we should focus more on the livelihoods programs instead of heavy food support which is going on now to avoid double counting.

**Andreu Ohrtom, Embassy of Sweden**

The embassy of Sweden is involved in several development sectors in Bangladesh. Responding to the crisis, the embassy has allocated 36 million USD for both Rohingya refugees and the host community and in the meantime 25 million USD is provided for the refugees.

The embassy is receiving many proposals to address the issues and it needs to be in a coordinated way. Trust funds may also be useful option for this issue.

The interventions need to focus on peaceful coexistence of both communities ensuring the livelihood in the congested area of Ukhiya and Teknaf.

**Abdus Salam, BRAC**

It is good to know that JRP has a total planned commitment of financing 951 million dollars. What if the total money is not available at the end and what will be our preparation for that?

Many young people are working here without any proper training on how to work in humanitarian response. We need to train them up for better result.

**Iftekhhar Ahmed Khan, ACF**

If we know how long the FDMN will stay here it will be helpful for us to plan. Host community and their needs are different from the refugees. Two separate communities should not be compared to each other while taking interventions for them.

### Mr. Tapan, ECHO

ECHO has provided around 50 million Euro for the humanitarian response here in Bangladesh. We are working with people not on their social status but on assessing their vulnerability.

There are some village mobilization development committee which has ability to reach up to grassroots level. Working there might help to make social unity.

### Khaleda Begum, YPSA

8 months have already gone and still we don't know when the repatriation will take place and how long the refugees will stay closely beside the host community. And that's why we need to facilitate programs to build mutual respect to each other and a social cohesion. Otherwise, it will be a problem.

### Bimol Dey Sarker, Chief Executive, Mukti

He presented the activities and projects being implementing in the host community by the members organizations of CCFN. At present 24 members of CCFN are implementing different projects in the host communities while 16 of them have projects for both host and FDMN communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

### Panel member response

Panelists praised the provisions under the JRP for host communities. Discussions focused on the need to ensure peaceful co-existence through targeted programs; increased livelihood programs especially for youth, infrastructure rehabilitation, greater participation of local communities and leaders in planning of projects and maintaining dialogue.

The Additional District Commissioner (General) ADC, called for agencies to fund existing channels: the social safety nets and the annual development plans to ensure coordination and minimize misuse of limited resources.

Recommendations were made on the use of existing local government administration systems for coordination of host community programming, particularly the district, Upazila and Union Development and Coordination committees. These forums, which include union members and line departments, can be informed on who is doing what and where needs/concerns can be raised by local people.

The contribution of local NGOs to the response was well noted and their participation in the ISCG coordination structure encouraged.



*Bangladesh Police is working in the refugee camps since day 1 and have been trying to establish the law and order peacefully and trying to build social harmony and mutual trust. Already 950 police are deployed in 5 police camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf along with one camp established in 1991 in the registered refugee camp. The police have plans to establish more police camps in Chakmarkul, Unchirprang and Leda.*



*In the last 8 months several incidents are reported to the police camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. 217 cases lodged in two police stations and 18 murders happened in the camps. There are incidents where both host and FDMN people fought each other and many Bangladeshi people, Rohingya people and even Police were injured. This is a big concern however security issue has not been included in JRP 2018.*

*The police have some limitation particularly of mobility given limited vehicles. Man power also needs to be increased to cover such a big population. ISCG, donor agencies could think about it as this is also an important requirement for the peaceful coexistence of both communities.*

### Chailau Marma

*Additional SP of Cox's Bazar*

*The health sector in Cox's Bazar is facing many problems including overcrowding of severe malnutrition and poorly immunized population. Many diseases are found among the refugees that are addressed by the government along with INGOs and local NGOs in cooperation with the Civil Surgeon's office in Cox's Bazar.*



*Government is now rebuilding the Upazila level health complex infrastructures to be able to accommodate the additional Rohingya people over the host community. Earlier these health complexes had only 30 beds and now it's being improved to 80 beds in Ukhiya. In Teknaf another infrastructure of 100 bed facility is on the way to completion. The district hospital is a 250-bed hospital but now have congestion with the refugee patients.*

*The district civil surgeon's office has lack of human resources and logistic to deal with the extra pressure of dealing with the one and half million people altogether. We need more ambulances and pathological equipment to provide the required services. A number of equipment is provided already but due to lack of coordination, there is some overlapping.*

### Dr. Abdus Salam

*Civil Surgeon, Cox's Bazar*





Day laborers have great problem due to 'refugee's entry into labor market. The refugees are working at a very low cost. On the other hand, people from host community used to depend on hill and forest and others resources that is occupied by the refugee camps.



Another issue is the infrastructure that was established for 200 people now is used by 20-30 thousand people. Those are running out of capacity.

The monsoon is coming to us. We are in the process of risk mitigation. There is possibilities of land slide and flood in this area. We have to think how we act if any disaster happens. Because a huge number of people are living in an area where the facilities we have only suffice for the host communities.

We should look into issues in priority:

1. Maintain peaceful coexistence of host and refugee communities through all programs, this have to be ensured.
2. We have to maintain equity for both community, and no one should be deprived from proportionate allocation.
3. Now it is time to pursue a development approach. We should not limit our activities only to emergency humanitarian support, rather we need to focus on a total development initiative.
4. Participatory framework should develop through equal participation of host community and Rohingya people. For planning and its implementation, equal participation has to be ensured.

Bangladesh is not responsible for this problem. This problem is not created in Bangladesh, nor by Bangladesh. We are just acting as a custodian for maintaining this huge influx population coming from Myanmar. It is really difficult for Bangladesh alone to shoulder it. It is the obligation of international community to stand by Bangladesh to enable delivery of life saving services and humanitarian support to the Rohingya population as well as much needed intervention for host community including livelihood options and other.

**Abdul Kalam ndc**  
(Additional Secretary), RRRC, Cox's Bazar



**Special Guests:** Md. Ali Kabir, Divisional Forest Officer Cox's Bazar; Mr. Chailau Marma, Additional Superintendent Police, Cox's Bazar; Dr. Abdus Salam, Civil Surgeon, Cox's Bazar;

**Chief Guest:**  
Mohammad Abul Kalam ndc, Additional Secretary, RRRC.



*More than 5,000 acres of forest land is occupied and already 8 months have gone. We have been seeing not enough fuel supplied for cooking and they are collecting firewood from the forest. If this rate of firewood collection continues and if we fail to supply alternative fuel for cooking then all the forest in Ukhia will lost by 2019. It is very important issue in the intervention of Rohingya response program.*



*The government is planning for 200 thousand planting and grass for the slope of the hills to protect the soil and forest with the support of World Bank and FAO. We are hopeful that we can do something to deploy the alternative fuel in this area to save the forest and we need cooperation of everyone.*

**Md. Ali Kabir**  
Divisional Forest Officer, Cox's Bazar



Photo: Dhrubo Das





The ultimate solution is how we all together can expedite the safe and voluntary repatriation, and all actors should contribute to that. He concluded the meeting proposing to create separate fund for host community development.



**Mahidur Rahman**

The Chair of the meeting, and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazar



But the people living here have to face another monsoon. The refugees have their own suffering and on the other hand the host communities limitation continues. And all this cannot be adequately addressed until we switch from emergency response to a medium term thinking approach.

We have to plan medium term. A lot of activities are outlined in the Joint Response Plan in January when it was drafted with the government. We need to ensure that donors and also those non traditional humanitarian donors contribute to the plan but there should also be development donors who should provide rapid funding. And not only the western donors but others part of the world who can contribute, especially the donors from this part of world who want to see the suffering ending. ASEAN and others should open their pockets to support this process. As Senior Coordinator of the refugee response in Cox's Bazar, I am pleased that we have a close partnership with the Government of Bangladesh.

**Conclusion and summary**

Ms. Sumbul Rizvi in concluding remarks emphasized that activity on host community programming is larger than what was presented and will be captured in a more detailed report. She requested local NGOs to join the coordination groups. She reminded all that development programs can complement and scale up programs that benefit both the host communities and refugees and bring a balanced development emphasis on the two Upazilas and district simultaneous and aligned to the humanitarian work for refugees and for affected host communities.

**Chair of the Meeting:**

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, Mohammed Mahidur Rahman

**M Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, the Co-chair of CCNF and ED of COAST**

During September, 2016 in the conference of "United Nations Summits for Refugees and Migrants" in New York, the honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh urged for a global compact on refugee and migration that, we believe in free movement of people in migration. History proved that this migrants/ refugees has great contribution in social development. Of course, this is an international responsibility, but Bangladesh is the nation of human rights, is the nation of secularism also. Our Prime Minister said that if we are able to feed 160 million people, we will be able to feed another 1 million people also. I hope Bangladeshi communities will create an example and our international friends will help us.

**Sumbul Rizvi, Senior Humanitarian Coordinator, ISCG**

Most importantly the activities you have heard about here today are only examples. There are many more that are being performed by different sectors. Many local organizations are participating in this meeting and those who have yet to register with ISCG, please actively join the sector coordination meetings and forum.

The cause of persecution is political, and a situation lies across the border. The international community is working to improve it and Bangladesh is key in ensuring the international community keeps pressure on Myanmar to solve it.

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Information sharing Meeting (12 May 2018, Cox's Bazar)  
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