

Report on  
**'Relief for the Rohingyas' 2017**



Implemented by  
**Center for Zakat Management (CZM)**

Hashim Tower (6<sup>th</sup> Floor)

205/1A, Gulshan-Tejgaon Link Road, Tejgaon I/A,

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Phone: +880 2 9848 255

Website: [www.czm-bd.org](http://www.czm-bd.org)

## Summary

Bangladesh is seeing one of the largest and fastest human migration of the century since more than 4 lakh people of the Rohingya ethnicity of Rakhine State at Myanmar that consists half of the entire Rohingya population have entered into Bangladesh crossing the border at Cox's Bazar following the military crackdown began on August 25. The UN in a statement expressed that the number might reach to 1 million by the end of this month. Considering the humanitarian crisis, the Government of Bangladesh took immediate steps and invited local and international organizations to come forward to provide emergency humanitarian support to the Rohingya refugees.



1: A collage of CZM activities for the Rohingya refugees at Cox's Bazar

Center for Zakat Management (CZM), an organization dedicated for the development of the ultra-poor and poor community with Zakat fund and other Islamic charities, came forward to stand by the Rohingya Muslims immediately and launched 'Relief for the Rohingyas' program. Responding to the invitation of CZM, many of its regular donors and well-wishers joined the program with donation and other logistical support. A team of CZM officials and volunteers led by GM (Program) of CZM went to Ukha of Cox's Bazar on 9 September to implement the relief distribution program with the support of local administration. During the last three weeks, the CZM team had completed the following:

- a) Distribution of food relief to 4900 families
- b) Distribution of synthetic tarpaulin to 3000 families
- c) Distribution of synthetic floor mat to 3000 families
- d) Setting up two primary health camps equipped with four experienced MBBS physicians, six paramedics and medical supplies
- e) More than 12000 patients, including 11 pregnant mothers, have been provided primary healthcare and medicines
- f) Setting up 10 sanitary latrines and 8 tube-wells in the refugee area.
- g) Distribution of 6900 pieces of men's and women's clothes

CZM will continue the relief distribution and health camps for at least one month. This report will give a detail description of the activities done to implement the 'Relief for the Rohingyas' program.

## Preface

The Rohingya are stateless Indo-Aryan people living in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. The majority of the Rohingya people are Muslim where a minority are Hindu. They are one of the most persecuted minorities of the world, stated by UN in 2013, since they are denied citizenship under the 1982 Myanmar Nationality Law. They are restricted from freedom of movement, education and civil service jobs in Myanmar.



2: The Rohingya people watch their village burning (Photo: Hindustan Times)

Since the independence in 1948, the Myanmar government tried several times to evict the Rohingyas from their native land and the latest was made on 25 August 2017 when a military crackdown took place in the villages of Rakhine state, Myanmar. The Army along with local associates burned villages after villages and killed hundreds of people irrespective of gender and age. The Rohingya Muslims, around half a million in number, are forced to cross the border leaving their dead kinsfolks and everything they had and take shelter under the open sky in Bangladesh. The vast number of people are suffering much since they don't have any food to eat, clothes to wear, place to take shelter from the scorching sun and the rain. Moreover, they need access to sanitation and healthcare since many of them are injured and started suffering from diseases of various kinds. In this scenario, CZM decided to take an initiative to launch the 'Relief for the Rohingyas' program in order to provide emergency relief and other supports to the Rohingyas.

## Call for Emergency Support

All praise to Almighty Allah SWT that CZM has a pool of well-wishers who always step forward with frank suggestion and donation, from a tiny amount to the large, when invited to participate in any kind of initiative. As soon as CZM decided to work for the Rohingya refugees, it invited cooperation from its pool of Zakat payers, donors and well-wishers via emails, phone calls and SMS. It got an overwhelming response immediately and been able to gather a big amount of donation overnight. Also, different pharmaceutical manufacturing organizations were contacted seeking free and discounted medicines for the refugees. A few of them committed to provide medicines free of cost.

## Relief for the Rohingyas

In order to execute the 'Relief for the Rohingyas' program, a team of CZM officials along with the volunteers under leadership of Dr. Mohammad Ayub Miah, CEO was formed and an action plan was formed. It was decided to distribute the following:

- a) Food packages containing basic food items
- b) Synthetic tarpaulin and floor mats
- c) Primary Healthcare, water and sanitation

A team of CZM officials led by Khondoker Zakaria Ahmed, GM of CZM went to Cox's Bazar and visited the refugee camps to identify their needs. Following their recommendation, a decision to set up health camps at the refugee areas was made. The procurement of the required items was started immediately.

## Working Area

In order to identify the working area for the relief distribution program, the CZM team contacted with the local administration and gathered information regarding the location of camps, number of refugees etc. Based on the information, Thaing Khali of Ukhia, Cox's Bazar has been identified as the working area for the relief distribution program.



3: Working area of CZM's Relief distribution program

## Assistance of Local Administration

Working among the Rohingya refugees without the support of the local administration was impossible. So it was decided to take support of the local administration including Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Civil Surgeon Office and district rover scout to ensure smooth distribution of the relief to the needy Rohingyas. Mr. Md. Ali Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Civil Surgeon of Cox's Bazar, Engr. Mosleh Uddin, Executive Engineer of DPHE provided full support to implement the relief distribution program. In addition, Major Mahmud Un Nabi, in-charge of Bangladesh Army at Balukhali Refugee Camp provided assistance in executing the program.

## Food Distribution

The refugees have come to Bangladesh in bare hand. They don't have food to eat and money to buy food. Although local people as well as organizations have come forward to provide food relief among them, many lack the capacity to handle such a larger group of people. As a result, the stronger and luckier people were able to manage food for their family.



CZM brought distinction in this scenario.

Firstly, the CZM team identified the needs of basic foods and other items. Then it contacted the supplier of that items and ordered for a big bulk of that product. Secondly, a team of volunteers and labors packaged the items. Each packet contained the following items:

Items Per Package	Amount
Rice	5 Kgs
Pulse	1 Kg
Soya bean Oil	1 Ltr
Potato	2 Kgs
Onion	1 Kg
Milk powder	500 gms
Salt	1 Kg
Flattened Rice	1 Kg
Sugar	1 Kg
Suji	1 Kg

However, the items and amount varied in different times depending on the request of the donors. For example, in the food packages of 500 families that were distributed on 28 September included mosquito nets, glass, plates, spoons, soap and tooth powder along with the mentioned items.

Prior to distribution, a team of CZM officials visited the families of the camps and distributed tickets to be shown to collect food packages. On 16<sup>th</sup> September, the first phase of food distribution took place. A team of local police led by Mr. Ikhtiar Uddin Arafat, Magistrate provided assistance to ensure the smooth distribution of the food packages.



4: Dr. Mohammad Ayub Miah, CEO distributing food relief among the Rohingya refugees

A total of 4900 families have been provided with food packages up to date. The details are given below:

Date	Location	No of Families
16 September 2017	Thaing Khali High School	1400
17 September 2017	Thaing Khali High School	600

18 September 2017	Camp no 6, Thaing Khali	1000
19 September 2017	Camp no 6, Thaing Khali	1000
24 September 2017	Thaing Khali High School	400
28 September 2017	Camp no 6, Thaing Khali	500
<b>Total</b>		<b>4900</b>



5: Distribution of food relief with the assistance of the BGB

### Tarpaulin and Floor Mat Distribution



6 Mr. Ikhtiar Uddin Arafat, Magistrate was present during the distribution of synthetic tarpaulins

The refugees took shelter in the open fields, roads and hills. Sky is their roof and ground is their bed. Rain adds to their woes. People of all ages, infant to old, were suffering for not having anything to

make a temporary tent. Realizing the situation, CZM decided to distribute tarpaulins and floor mats to the refugees. M/S. Rainbow Limited, an importer and supplier of tarpaulins and other construction materials at Nawabpur Road, Dhaka had been contacted and ordered for 3000 pieces of best quality tarpaulins and 3000 pieces of floor mats. The prepared tents and floor mats were taken to Cox’s Bazar on a covered van. The distribution was done on 18 and 25 September 2017. The details are below:

Date	Type	Place	No of Families
18 September 2017	Tent	Thaing Khali, Ukhia	1,545
	Floor Mats	Thaing Khali, Ukhia	120
25 September 2017	Tent	Thaing Khali, Ukhia	1,455
	Floor Mats	Thaing Khali, Ukhia	2,880
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,000</b>

## Health Camps

When CZM decided to intervene in the refugee camps at Cox’s Bazar, there were only a handful of primary healthcare services providers working in that area. Since one of the main programs of CZM is *Ferdousi – Women and Children Welfare program* under which primary healthcare services are provided to the Zakat beneficiaries, CZM decided to set up health camps in the refugee areas.

Two primary healthcare centers equipped with four expert physicians and six paramedics / health assistants have been set up in Thaing Khali and Tajnimarkhola of Ukhia, Cox’s Bazar on 13 and 16 September 2017. The rush of the patients started immediately. The team provided primary healthcare services to the patients and distributed medicines for free. The serious patients were referred to the district government hospitals.



7: The Rohingya people gather at a CZM healthcamp

Providing healthcare services to the pregnant and lactating mothers is a regular service of CZM healthcare team. A total of 3 successful deliveries of pregnant mothers were done in the health camps and 11 patients have been forwarded to the hospital up to date.



8: A volunteer of CZM is distributing free medicine

Besides providing healthcare services, the CZM team has set up 10 sanitary latrines and 8 tube-wells in the refugee camps. A total of 7250 patients have been treated so far. Details are below:

Date	No of Patients
13 September 2017	320
14 September 2017	550
15 September 2017	1000
16 September 2017	1300
17 September 2017	600
18 September 2017	700
19 September 2017	450
20 September 2017	560
21 September 2017	400
22 September 2017	700
23 September 2017	670
24 September 2017	600
25 September 2017	410
26 September 2017	484
27 September 2017	779
28 September 2017	600
29 September 2017	1236
30 September 2017	1282
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,641</b>



9: A tube-well set up by CZM for the refugees



10: Four of the Sanitary latrines set up by CZM

CZM's primary healthcare services have pleased both the refugees and the local administration. As a result, some physicians from abroad like Indonesia and Turkey had been deputed to CZM's health camp to provide services to the refugees.

### Clothes Distribution

Upon request to some donors, CZM has delivered clothes to the refugee areas. It has distributed Lungi (Men's clothing), Thami (Women's dress), Men's pants, Men's short pants, boy's pants and kid's pants among the refugees. The details are below:

Item name	Quantity
Lungi	1000 pcs
Thami	1000 pcs
Men's Pants	2600 pcs
Men's Short Pants	50 pcs
Boy's Pants	1000 pcs
Kid's Panths	1238 pcs

### Future Plan

Providing relief do not provide a permanent solution to the hardship of the refugees. It is a good news that many national and international organizations have come forward to work for the Rohingya refugees. On the contrary, CZM lacks manpower to carry on such activities. Therefore, CZM may not continue providing reliefs to the refugees for a longer period. However, CZM has decided to continue the health camps for at least a month and distribute food relief as long as it has fund. During the time, anyone can join by making donations to CZM.

### Thanksgiving and seeking Dua'a

Working in the refugee area is very difficult and risky. Hard work from dawn to dusk made the CZM team tired and exhausted. However, serving the poor for the sake of Allah SWT is CZM's mandate. The tiredness of the members of the CZM team vanishes as soon as they are able to bring a peace of smile in the face of a father who just received a food package or a mother who just got medicines for her infant.



It is our sincere gratitude that you have responded to our call and joined with the program with your donation, no matter how big or small it is, and the suggestions you made. We pray to almighty Allah SWT to give you bounty and grant you Jannah for your act and we sincerely seek your continuous support and Dua'a so that we can carry on our activities for the poor and the needy on your behalf.

May Allah SWT accept all of our deeds for His deen. Ameen.