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Stephen Twigg MP  
Chair  
International Development Committee

By email to: [indcom@parliament.uk](mailto:indcom@parliament.uk)

Our ref:

197793

19 September 2019

Dear Stephen,

I am writing to inform the committee of a new funding contribution of £87 million that DFID is providing to support the response to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh.

We have just passed the second year since the Rohingya escaped from the atrocities in Myanmar to safety in Bangladesh. The response to their immediate needs was swift and massive. The generosity of the Bangladesh Government and people has been an example to us all. The rapid response by the UN and local and international humanitarian agencies has been exceptional. It is hard to grasp the size of this humanitarian crisis - one of the largest in the world.

The UK has played its part. We have been a leading donor in this response. Our total support from the start of the crisis now reaches £226 million. Through this funding we have helped provide food, healthcare, water, sanitation, care and counselling for sexual violence survivors, and protection for vulnerable groups. The UK has contributed to improving shelters, emergency planning and infrastructure in the camps to reduce the impact of natural disasters, such as the monsoon or cyclones.

The long-term aim is for the voluntary and safe return of the refugees to Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar needs to take solid and constructive steps to create the conditions that will allow this. However, these do not currently exist and there is continued conflict in Rakhine State.

Our new funding in Bangladesh has three objectives. First, it will maintain the humanitarian operation, but with increased emphasis on helping the Rohingya lead more fulfilling and meaningful lives. Education and skills are a central part of this, which will help prepare them for their future lives. Second, it will increase investment in the communities of Cox's Bazar to reverse the impact of the refugee presence and improve social cohesion. This includes investing in basic services and livelihoods; and helping protect and rebuild the environment. And third, we will strive to find longer-term solutions for the Rohingya people.

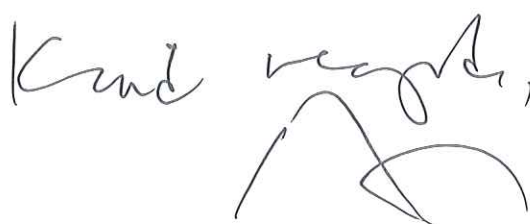


The expected results from this new funding are as follows:

- Over 75,000 children and adolescents from the refugee and surrounding host community can access improved education.
- Over 450,000 refugees will receive protection, including Rohingya women and girls, who have been subject to sexual violence, and children that have survived abduction and trafficking.
- Over 500,000 medical consultations will be provided through 27 primary health care and mobile clinics, along with the early warning system for disease outbreaks.
- Over 250,000 refugees and 50,000 people from the local community getting clean water and sanitation.
- Covering the basic food needs of 100,000 refugees for a whole year, and containers to protect the food of 150,000 families.
- Cooking gas for over 31,000 families, so helping to stop further forest destruction, which the UK is helping to replant.
- Over £20 million new support to the thousands of already vulnerable Bangladeshi families, who now have nearly a one million refugees living in their neighbourhood.

I hope you take some comfort from knowing that although this crisis remains drawn-out and complex, the UK is doing all it can to help the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya in urgent need of help.

I will place a copy of this letter in the House libraries for other Members to see.



**Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP**  
**Secretary of State**