



Breaking News

Response re-declared as CATIII Sustained Humanitarian Response

The Rohingya Refugee Response has been renamed and re-declared as a CATIII Sustained Humanitarian Response, following [an announcement](#) on 16 December by Cherian Thomas, Regional Leader, South Asia-Pacific.

An estimated 1 million Rohingya people continue to reside in the world's largest refugee camp more than two years after violence drove them from Myanmar. To meet the emergency and development needs of both refugee and host communities, World Vision has established a Cox's Bazar District Special Zone. Headed by Response Director Rachel Wolff, this innovative, efficient management structure will include grant-funded projects and two new Area Programmes.

Peace and joy: Children lead peace-building play date

Bangladeshi children living on the edge of the world's largest refugee camp met their Rohingya peers—many for the first time—during an innovative play date held on Human Rights Day.

Almost 200 Bangladeshi students from several primary schools and madrasas teamed up with Rohingya children from eight World Vision learning centres for a fun day of games, sports, an art competition and a discussion on child marriage, including girls and boys. The event was organized by some of the 5,000 refugee children and adolescents who participate in 38 World Vision Peace Building Clubs in the camps.

The goal was to nurture understanding and ease tension between the two communities. Local residents have suffered economically as wages fall and prices rise following the influx of 1 million refugees two years ago.

They now compete with refugees for casual labour jobs and natural resources. Children from both groups have been injured in fights over precious firewood.

“The day was a tremendous success and we hope that it's the first of many,” says James Kamira, Child Protection and Education Lead.



Government gives green light

The Government of Bangladesh gave full approval on 16 December for World Vision's refugee humanitarian work in 2020. Officials were pleased that our camp projects are complemented by deep investment and extensive long-term development work in host communities. “We are celebrating this highly anticipated approval,” says Response Director Rachel Wolff. “It allows us to expand our scope and reach even more children and families.”

RD wins new role on NGO Platform

Rachel Wolff, Response Director, was voted on to the Steering Committee of the influential NGO Platform based in Cox's Bazar. The 134-member organization comprised of national and international NGOs works closely with UN agencies and government officials to ensure humanitarian access and advocate for protection of refugee rights, in addition to other critical activities.

News



Cash assistance gives seniors, widows and disabled the power of choice:

Sahara, 71, (above) is one of almost 17,000 vulnerable people chosen by their communities to benefit from a social safety-net programme run by World Vision, in partnership with UNHCR and the local government of Cox's Bazar district.

To date, USD1.3 million has been dispersed to vulnerable people in the host communities of Teknaf and Ukhiya to help offset the socio-economic impact of the refugee influx in these two sub-districts. Sahara recently received her funds during an inauguration event attended by Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, Kamal Hossain (above, far left) and UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly Clements (centre).

WVUS CEO, first private supporters visit response

Edgar Sandoval, WVUS President and CEO, and Doug Truff, WVUS CFO, visited World Vision Bangladesh programmes, including the Rohingya Refugee Response and the renowned USAID-funded Noba Jotra maternal and child health project, from 14-19 November. The Response also hosted 11 American Vision Trip guests—the first private supporters to visit the camps. Extremely moved by the determined, resilient refugee children and parents whom they met, these long-term donors committed to raising significant funds and awareness in 2020.



Edgar Sandoval, WVUS President and CEO, met Rohingya refugee children during his recent visit.

We welcome your feedback on our newsletter!
Please send your comments and suggestions to Rachel Wolff, Response Director, rachel_wolff@wvi.org
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Recommended Resources

[“Are We Not Human?”: Denial of Education for Rohingya Refugee Children in Bangladesh](#)
Human Rights Watch, December 2019

Response Overview Fact Sheet

<https://www.wvi.org/publications/infographic/myanmar-bangladesh-refugee-crisis/refugee-crisis-response-fact-sheet>

Two Years On Report

<https://www.wvi.org/publications/annual-report/myanmar-bangladesh-refugee-crisis/two-years-supporting-resilience-better>

FY20 fundraising target

US\$35.3 million: Cash (USD17.3M); GIK (USD18M)

Sector focus:

- (1) Cash, Food Security and Livelihoods
- (2) WASH
- (3) Nutrition
- (4) Protection-Gender-based Violence
- (5) Child Protection
- (6) Education

New initiatives:

Peace-building activities targeting youth, faith leaders, and local NGO volunteers.

FY20 donors, UN partners:

DFAT, DFID/UNOPS, GAC, JPF, MFAT, UNHCR, UNICEF USAID/Food for Peace, WFP