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150,000 ROHINGYA FLEE TO BANGLADESH AMID RENEWED MYANMAR VIOLENCE

As armed clashes intensify and conditions worsen inside Myanmar, thousands continue to cross the border seeking safety in the overcrowded camps of Cox’s Bazar, where nearly one million Rohingya refugees already live in densely populated camps.

“This is the largest movement of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh since 2017,” said Babar Baloch, spokesperson for the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, briefing journalists in Geneva on Friday.

He clarified that unlike the mass influx in 2017, when some 750,000 Rohingya fled deadly violence in Rakhine state, this uptick in refugees has unfolded more gradually.

Advocating for asylum
UNHCR is working closely with local authorities to respond to urgent humanitarian needs.

“As the conflict in Myanmar continues unabated, we are advocating with the

Escalating conflict and targeted violence in Myanmar’s Rakhine state have forced some 150,000 Rohingya refugees to flee to Bangladesh over the past 18 months – the largest exodus to the neighbouring country in years.

Bangladeshi authorities to provide managed access to safety and asylum for civilians fleeing the conflict,” he said.

Bangladesh has long provided refuge to the Rohingya, a mostly Muslim minority community in Myanmar, which is mainly Buddhist.

The country currently hosts nearly one million people in the refugee camps and the recent arrivals – many of them women and children – are placing further strain on resources. Many are relying heavily on local solidarity and sharing limited resources with those already living in the camps.

Action needed now
Unless additional funds are secured, health services will be severely disrupted by September and essential cooking fuel – liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) – will run out by December. Food assistance will stop and education for some 230,000 Rohingya children, including 63,000 new arrivals, is in danger of being discontinued. Despite a strictly controlled and officially closed border, the Government of Bangladesh has allowed new arrivals to access emergency services in the camps. The UN agency expressed deep appreciation for this humanitarian gesture under highly challenging conditions. “We don’t have the resources to take care of the new arrivals and also those who were there before them,” said Mr. Baloch. “Everything will be impacted.”
As displacement from Rakhine state continues, UNHCR and its partners are urging the international community to act swiftly.

Source: news.un.org

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**ASEAN BACKS
MYANMAR PEACE
EFFORTS AND
ROHINGYA
REPATRIATION**

ASEAN Foreign Ministers have reaffirmed their support for Myanmar’s efforts to restore peace and stability in Rakhine State, while underscoring the importance of safe and voluntary repatriation of displaced persons.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the 58th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting here, on Friday, the bloc reiterated its commitment to promoting harmony and reconciliation among all communities in Rakhine, as well as ensuring safety and security for affected populations.

“We reaffirmed ASEAN’s continued support for Myanmar’s efforts to promote peace, stability, and the rule of law in Rakhine State.

The bloc welcomed the ongoing cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, including bilateral repatriation initiatives for verified displaced persons from Rakhine.

■ Source: thesun.my

**UN WARNS ESSENTIAL SERVICES
FOR ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH
ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE**

The United Nations (UN) refugee agency warned on Friday that essential services for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are on the brink of collapse, with its \$255 million appeal only 35% funded.

More than 1 million Rohingya have been crammed into the camps in southeastern Bangladesh, the world’s largest refugee settlement. Most fled a brutal crackdown by Myanmar’s military in 2017, although some have been there for longer.

“There is a huge gap in terms of what we need and what resources are available. These funding gaps will affect the daily living of Rohingya refugees as they depend on humanitarian support on a daily basis for food, health and education,” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees spokesperson Babar Baloch told reporters in Geneva.

Global Funding Crisis

The humanitarian sector has been roiled by funding reductions from major donors, led by the U.S. under President Donald Trump and other Western countries, as they

prioritise defence spending prompted by growing fears of Russia and China.

“With the acute global funding crisis, the critical needs of both newly arrived refugees and those already present will be unmet, and essential services for the whole Rohingya refugee population are at risk of collapsing unless additional funds are secured,” Baloch said. Health services would be severely disrupted by September, and by December, essential food assistance would stop, UNHCR said.

At least 150,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh in the last 18 months, according to UNHCR.

Violence and persecution against the Rohingya, a mostly Muslim minority in mainly Buddhist Myanmar’s western Rakhine state, have continued to force thousands to seek protection across the border in Bangladesh, it added.

■ Source: stratnewsglobal.com