

Deadly Flood and Landslides in Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh



URGENT APPEAL

At the beginning of July, relentless rainfall flooded large sections of the refugee camps. Water entered homes built from bamboo and tarpaulins, roads disappeared beneath muddy floodwater, and families struggled to protect their few belongings. The temporary shelters were never built to withstand repeated natural disasters. Families who have already survived violence and forced displacement must now face another battle—this time against nature.

20,000 refugees were affected, and 2000 shelters were damaged or destroyed by the flooding and landslides. Parts of some of the camps, which house more than one million refugees, were completely under water!

With recent cuts in funding, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is unable to provide adequate relief for the displaced refugees, who were already struggling with lack of food and health services. BRM is asking for donations, which can be channeled through an NGO working directly in the camps. Please help save lives and offer some hope to these suffering refugees, who are struggling against disasters, both manmade and natural.



The deadliest single incident occurred on July 8, when monsoon rains triggered a landslide that tore through a girls' school. Students had been getting ready for class when part of the structure suddenly caved in. "Those of us who were on the western side managed to get out," a teacher said, "but everyone on the eastern side was buried under the debris." Residents of the camp began pulling survivors from the rubble. Emergency personnel later took over rescue operations, treating the injured and recovering the bodies. The search was officially called off that evening. Six girls were killed.



The Rohingya are a Muslim minority who have been living in Rakhine State, Myanmar, for many centuries. Successive governmental regimes, claiming that they are migrants from Bangladesh, have not recognized them as an indigenous ethnic group. They have been severely discriminated against by Bamar and Rakhine Buddhists. In 2017, the current Myanmar government instigated a military campaign against this community, which rapidly developed into a concerted genocide, displacing more than one million Rohingya, most of whom escaped across the Naf River into Bangladeshi refugee camps. Entire villages were burned, and thousands of Rohingya were killed.



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