



NGO Platform Joint Statement

No More Delays: Eight Years of Rohingya Displacement Demands Global Action

Cox's Bazar, 25 August 2025

Eight years after over 700,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh in 2017, the humanitarian situation in Cox's Bazar has reached a critical point. Today, more than one million Rohingya remain in Bangladesh without legal refugee status, access to formal education, or the right to work. Their survival depends entirely on humanitarian aid, which is rapidly shrinking. Meanwhile, prospects for safe, dignified and voluntary return remain bleak, with the root cause of displacement - the denial of Rohingya citizenship - still unresolved.

Escalating conflict and deepening humanitarian needs have made life increasingly untenable for Rohingya in their country of origin, prompting more to flee than at any time since 2017. Sustainable return requires fundamental changes: guaranteed security, full citizenship, and protection of rights.

Meanwhile, despite the extraordinary solidarity shown by the Government and people of Bangladesh in hosting Rohingya over the years, the conditions in the camps are rapidly deteriorating. The 2025 Joint Response Plan faces a funding gap of around \$500 million, with an additional \$84 million needed for the most recent 150,000 arrivals. This gap is forcing the humanitarian community to scale back critical, life-saving services for both refugee and host communities. The funding projections for 2026 are even more alarming.

Funding cuts have already caused severe disruptions. Health and nutrition services are scaling back, leaving thousands without essential care. Shortages in the supply of water and soap increase the risk of diseases, especially during the monsoon. Without immediate support, food assistance will end in December with an expected spike in malnutrition rates to follow. Safe spaces for women and girls are shrinking, reducing protection and support. Nearly 80% of learning centres may close permanently, putting over 227,000 children at risk of learning loss, child labour, child marriage, and unsafe work. As one 14-year-old said, *"Without study, I cannot do anything for my society."*

Protection conditions are deteriorating, especially for women, girls, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. Gender-based violence remains high, armed group activity is rising, and dwindling resources increase risks of trafficking and exploitation. Mental health services are vanishing, even as trauma persists. One Rohingya woman shared: *"I had no one to share my sadness with... now, where should I go if I feel tense again?"* Amid fear, stigma, and worsening camp conditions, many Rohingya are risking dangerous sea journeys in search of safety and dignity.

The camps are highly exposed to climate disasters - fires, floods, landslides, and heatwaves destroy shelters and displace families year after year. Host communities face the same risks while also bearing the strain of prolonged displacement. Without a shift from short-term humanitarian aid to long-term, sustainable solutions, conditions will continue to deteriorate - rapidly and irreversibly.

Eight years is too long to live in limbo with little hope for the future.

The NGO Platform is a joint effort for NGOs by NGOs established in 2018 in response to the large-scale forced displacement of Rohingya to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. It currently has 168 members: 31 local, 83 national and 54 international NGOs.

*For more information, please see: ngoplatform.net or contact:
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Despite immense challenges, innovative approaches like homestead food production, vertical gardening, and composting are strengthening resilience and supporting over 8,000 households. With the right support, Rohingya refugees can take on leading roles in designing, maintaining, and delivering essential services—driving solutions from within their communities. Building on these strengths offers a pathway to more sustainable responses, and now is the time to scale up initiatives that restore hope and dignity to Rohingya lives.

To this end, the NGO Platform urges the international community, UN Member States, the Government of Bangladesh, donors, and regional actors to:

Provide Urgent and Predictable Funding

- Ensure urgent, sustained, and long-term funding for uninterrupted access to lifesaving services - food, protection (including gender-based violence and mental health), shelter, education, WASH, health, and nutrition.
- Provide predictable, long-term funding to support inclusive, coordinated efforts toward durable solutions for Rohingya and host communities, including expanded access to livelihoods and education.
- Prioritize Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh's national development funding and directly support local actors, including women's and youth groups and organizations of persons with disabilities.

Strengthen Protection and Resilience

- Support peaceful coexistence of refugee and host communities by addressing environmental, economic, and infrastructure impacts of prolonged displacement, and through expanded access to livelihood and skills training for both Rohingya and host communities.
- Strengthen protection and justice systems to better prevent gender-based violence, support survivors and ensure accountability for organized crime. Ensure all interventions are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities.
- Accelerate climate adaptation and disaster preparedness in camps and host communities to reduce climate-related risks, including through investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, fire prevention, and drainage systems to protect lives from recurrent disasters.

Advance Durable Solutions

- Expand third-country resettlement options and complementary pathways (e.g. labour mobility, education, family reunification) and ensure Rohingya voices are central in all planning for their future.
- Implement coordinated regional strategies to protect Rohingya (e.g. Bali Process) through collaboration with ASEAN to ensure safe disembarkation of boats, access to humanitarian access and legal protections for Rohingya across the region.
- Reaffirm that conditions for the safe, sustainable, voluntary, and dignified return of Rohingya refugees cannot be realised until the root causes of displacement including denial of citizenship are addressed.

The Rohingya crisis is at risk of becoming a forgotten crisis. Let this eight-year mark serve as a wake-up call. Rohingya refugees deserve human rights, safety, dignity, and a future.

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