SITUATION

Between August 25 and 30, 2017, the predominantly Muslim villages in northern Rakhine state were burned down causing massive population displacement. It began on the evening of August 25th when the government of Myanmar claimed that the rebel group, Arakhine Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked three northern townships in Rakhine, and the government deployed military operations to arrest and detain people suspected of belonging to ARSA. The United Nations, international aid agencies, and the diplomatic missions have all made statements condemning the violent attacks and expressing sympathy for all those affected by the violence.

As of September 22, more than 430,000 people had crossed the border and entered the border of Bangladesh via Cox’s Bazar. Now, as of November 5th, 609,000 people have fled northern Rakhine state in Myanmar. The flow of Rohingya into Bangladesh continues to hover around 1,000 per day.

RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response has responded to this crisis through the ACT Forums in Myanmar and Bangladesh:

In Myanmar, our partners do specific activities that include food security, shelter repair and non-food item distribution, unconditional cash distribution, protection measures, psychosocial support, livelihood opportunities, and community resilience programs.

In Bangladesh, the activities include food distribution, specifically for infant and young children, cash for work and unconditional cash distribution, shelter materials, non-food items, medicine distribution, WASH, psychosocial care and counseling, and build awareness on trafficking and gender-based violence.

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