SITUATION

In August 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 April 2018, an estimated 671,000 children, women and men have fled to Bangladesh to escape the violence. “They arrive exhausted, hungry and sick after walking for days through jungles, across mountains and rivers carrying what little they can bring from home.”

RESPONSE

Late last year, Lutheran Disaster Response has responded to this crisis through the ACT Forums in Myanmar and Bangladesh. In Bangladesh our support went towards food, winter clothes, hygiene kits and psychosocial support.

With steadily increasing numbers of refugees making their way to Bangladesh, Lutheran Disaster Response has provided additional support towards the ACT forum in Bangladesh to address the rising numbers. The response includes:

- Food for 5,100 families.
- Emergency shelter for 6,600 families.
- Warm clothes, blankets, etc. for 9,000 people.
- Hygiene kits for 61,200 families.
- Access to water for 1,500 families.
- Latrines for 3,000 families.
- Emergency medical centers and safe hygiene training for 108,000 people.
- Psychosocial support to 12,100 people.

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1 https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/rohingya/