



Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Dining for Women and UNICEF USA Continue to Join Forces to Empower Refugee Women

Background

For many years, Bangladesh has experienced an influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. In August 2017, violence erupted in Rakhine State in Myanmar, targeting Rohingya people, a stateless Muslim minority and one of the world's most persecuted minorities. In total, there are now 1.3 million Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh in need of humanitarian assistance.

The new influx of refugees is creating immense pressure on the entire district's health system, which impacts public health for both refugees and host communities. Women face social and safety barriers to accessing health care clinics that are not gender-segregated: lack of decision-making power within the home and security restrictions at night pose challenges to continuous access to health care and service delivery. Poor access to health care increases maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality rates.

Project

Dining for Women's \$100,000 partnership grant will contribute to improving the maternal and newborn health of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar as part of the overall UNICEF Bangladesh Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) project.

The project will help **strengthen referral systems to improve access to health centers and district hospitals for pregnant Rohingya women and babies.** It also will help improve the **quality of newborn care and safe delivery practices at 19 primary and three secondary health care facilities.** Lastly, improving cold chain management systems, which ensures vaccines are kept at



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the proper temperature throughout their transit, will **help prevent potential disease outbreaks.**

Projected Impact

The Dining for Women (DFW) and UNICEF partnership will make a difference in the health care and long-term well-being of more than **700,000 children** currently needing humanitarian assistance and approximately **72,500 pregnant and lactating women** who have arrived at the refugee camps.

This partnership can help these women and children while also strengthening systems to help thousands more in the future. ●

About UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization, by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more.

About Dining for Women

Through collective giving circles, Dining for Women inspires, educates and engages people to invest in grassroots programs that make a meaningful difference for women and girls living in extreme poverty in developing countries.

To learn more, contact Veena Khandke, DFW Director of Grants and Partnerships, at veena@diningforwomen.org or visit diningforwomen.org.