

QUESTION ON NOTICE/ Written

072 – Supplementary Budget Estimates

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Topic: Rohingya

Senator Penny Wong

Question

- (1) Can the Department provide a breakdown of funding allocated to the current situation in Myanmar/Bangladesh by country, organisation and outcome?
- (2) How were the initial figures of \$5 million and the second figure of \$15 million determined by the Department?
- (3) Within Australia's ODA – does Australia's contribution fall within the Emergency Fund?
- (4) Has any funding toward the situation in Myanmar and Bangladesh been redirected from existing ODA programming?
- (5) The Humanitarian Response Plan for the Rohingya Crisis requires \$434 million to cover needs over the next 6 months. To date, this response plan is only 26.8 per cent funded. Will the Australian Government consider further contribution to the Humanitarian Response Plan?

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Answer

1. Can the Department provide a breakdown of funding allocated to the current situation in Myanmar/Bangladesh by country, organisation and outcome?

Since 25 August 2017, the Government has announced \$30 million in assistance to help address the humanitarian needs of Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh (\$10 million on 23 October, \$5 million on 9 September 2017, \$15 million on 19 September). Funds have been allocated as per the below table.

Partner	Supporting	Total
Funding allocated to Myanmar (Rakhine State)		
Red Cross movement	Food, shelter and healthcare in Rakhine State.	\$2 million
Funding allocated to Bangladesh		
UNHCR	Protection services, prevention and response to gender based violence, shelter, food, and support in establishing new sites to benefit 1.2 million displaced people and host communities, including upgrading infrastructure and building 8,000 latrines, delivered across Cox's Bazar.	\$0.5 million
WFP	Food and nutrition for people in Cox's Bazar and those affected by flooding across Bangladesh. Our assistance will support WFP reach up to 580,000 people with high-energy biscuits and rice.	\$8 million
IOM	Assistance to around 675,000 people in Cox's Bazar with shelter, clean water, psychological support for survivors of violence and access to education, as well as improved management of camps.	\$3 million
Australian NGOs	Save the Children and Oxfam (working with CARE), to provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene and other assistance in Cox's Bazaar. Includes tailored responses for women and girls, and children.	\$6 million
BRAC	Support to Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar, including providing shelter, health care, trauma counselling and clean water to over 415,000 people.	\$3 million
UNFPA	Services in Cox's Bazar to respond to violence against women (e.g. counselling, referrals, medical services and establishing 35 women friendly spaces) and provision of sexual and reproductive health, including pregnancy screening for over 60,000 women.	\$1.5 million
Civilian deployments	Surge capacity into humanitarian agencies to support response efforts in Bangladesh (and potentially Myanmar).	Up to \$1 million
Joint Appeal (country and partner allocation TBC)		
Joint Appeal	Australia is supporting a joint appeal with eight leading humanitarian agencies responding to this crisis. The Government will match donations to the Australian Red Cross and Australia for UNHCR up to a total of \$5 million.	Up to \$5 million
Total allocation		\$30 million

2. How were the initial figures of \$5 million and the second figure of \$15 million determined by the Department?

Australia's assistance has been determined based on assessments of needs and the capacity to deliver assistance on the ground, and taking into account contributions by other donors. The provision of funding across three tranches allowed for a rapid response to immediate needs, while giving time to assess the situation, review emerging needs and gaps in the response, and determine which partners were best placed to respond.

3. Within Australia's ODA – does Australia's contribution fall within the Emergency Fund?

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Of the total \$30 million committed by Australia, \$13 million will be allocated from the Emergency Fund.

- 4. Has any funding toward the situation in Myanmar and Bangladesh been redirected from existing ODA programming?**

No.

- 5. The Humanitarian Response Plan for the Rohingya Crisis requires \$434 million to cover needs over the next 6 months. To date, this response plan is only 26.8 per cent funded. Will the Australian Government consider further contribution to the Humanitarian Response Plan?**

As at 15 November, the Humanitarian Response for the Rohingya Crisis has received USD145.7 million, 34 percent of the USD434.1 million requested. However, at the 23 October Pledging Conference, donors pledged to provide over USD344 million. As these pledges are fulfilled, it is likely that the Response Plan will see a substantial increase in the proportion funded (however not all the amounts pledged were new funding, and some funding has been allocated outside of the UN co-ordinated Response Plan).

The Australian Government has committed \$30 million to help address the humanitarian needs of Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh since conflict and displacement escalated in August 2017. We will continue to monitor the situation, particularly as access constraints and humanitarian needs evolve, and will make a judgement about whether and when it would be appropriate to provide additional funds.