

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written

135 – Budget Estimates

Topic: Rohingya crisis

Senator Mehreen Faruqi

Question

1. What is DFAT's latest assessment of any lives lost and the damage caused to temporary Rohingya camps in both Bangladesh and Myanmar due to Cyclone Mocha?
2. \$44 million has been allocated to Australian NGOs through the Phase III Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in Cox's Bazaar. This phase finishes in June 2023. How much will be provided for the next phase of AHP funding to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in Cox's Bazaar and over what period?

Answer

1. In the Bangladesh Rohingya camps, the United Nations (UN) reported no lives lost as a result of the cyclone, and partial or complete destruction of over 8,000 shelters as well as damage or destruction of education, nutrition, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Collecting accurate information on the impact of Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar remains difficult, due to the access restrictions imposed by the military regime. The UN has identified 1.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the areas impacted by Cyclone Mocha. They note that there has been significant damage to displacement camps, including to shelters, medical clinics, access bridges and water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure.

On 25 June 2023, Foreign Minister Wong and Minister for International Development and the Pacific Conroy announced that Australia will provide an additional \$12.5 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Bangladesh and Myanmar following Cyclone Mocha. This brings Australia's contribution towards the Tropical Cyclone Mocha relief efforts to \$13.5 million, following Australia's initial \$1 million contribution announced by the Foreign Minister on 18 May.

The additional contributions build on our ongoing support for the humanitarian response in Myanmar and Bangladesh, now totalling \$145 million in 2022-23. This builds on \$480 million provided since 2017 to people across Myanmar, and Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh.

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2. Australia has allocated \$16 million to Australian Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Phase IV for the period July 2023 – December 2025 (2.5 years).

Australia provided \$41.88 million to Australian NGOs to support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh through Phase III of the AHP, for the period January 2020 – September 2023 (3.75 years).