



A PRACTITIONER'S VIEW ON BEST VALUE OF PEOPLE'S MONEY (AID)

ROHINGYA RESPONSE: WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH (WOSA) & ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSE

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THE SITUATION - 1

- 700,000 new Rohingya arrived since August 2017 added to existing 300,000. It is almost 1 million. Still coming but at a decreasing rate. In fact due to ethnic cleansing genocide by Myanmar junta.
- World's largest refugee camp in Kutuplanog, with 608,000 refugees living in the most congested area of only 19 sq ft/person while the acceptable area is min 35 sq ft/ person.
- Demographic imbalance in the locality, population has increased 44%, while national increase rate is 13%. Locals became minority.



THE SITUATION - 2

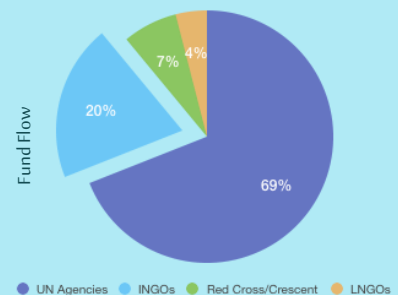
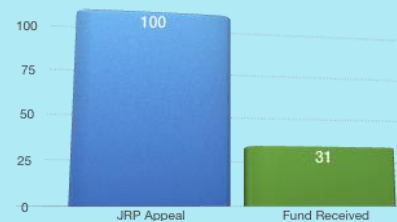
- Bubble up local economy, price has increased by 10% but day labor wage dropped down to 50%. Depleted natural resources in alarming level, especially the forest (6000 acres of natural forest withered away worth \$400 millions) and ground water level (availability has dropped down to 1,500 feet which was initially found within 200 feet)
- Initially the local community and NGOs responded to the needs of refugees, but now they are replaced by round 100 NGOs (mostly international) IFRCs and UN agencies, the second influx of aid workers. There are around 1,300 expatriates, around 800-900 with UN agencies and 400-500 with INGOs.



SITUATION 3

- Dwindling aid situation. Only 31% of JRP (Joint Response Planning March to December 2018) appeal has been raised so far out of \$951 million.
- Most of the aid channeled through UN agencies and INGOs. A study (December 2017, When Rubbers Hits the Road, Humanitarian Advisory Group and NIRAPOD) showed that 69% through UN agencies, INGOs 20%, Red Cross/ Red Crescent 7%, NGOs 4%.
- Through the monitoring of GoB (Government of Bangladesh) and NGOAB (NGO Affairs Bureau) one can track the money handled by NGO/ INGO. However, GoB hardly has any monitoring and control over UN agency fund.

JRP Appeal and Fund Received %



SITUATION 4

- Since 90s IoM has been in the lead of Refugee operation in Cox's Bazar as GoB has not signed with 1951 Geneva convention. However, due to the recent influx and local civil society pressure and mobilization, GoB signed an agreement with UNHCR to lead and coordinate the refugee operation through ISCG (Inter Sector Coordination Group) with the guidance of RRRC (Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner) .
- Government of Bangladesh spend around \$15.4 million per year for Refugee management. Bangladesh Government Approved \$280 million and spent already around \$224 million in preparing Bashan char to shelter to 100,000 Rohingya refugees.



MY PREMISE OF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Grand Bargain agreement (May 2016, Istanbul) as an outcome of UN led worldwide WHS discourse (2014 to 2016), signed by all UN agencies, almost all major donor-countries and INGO networks. Elaborated with 10 streams and 51 indicators. A major thrust is Localization.

- Primacy and shifting role to the local organization and communities for sustainability of the effort;
- accountability to the affected communities;
- Reducing transaction cost with the highest level of coordination and minimizing monitoring and reporting requirement.

Please note that, during 2005–2006 IFRC led a worldwide discourse on GHP (Global Humanitarian Partnership) which concluded with Principles of Partnership, e.g., Equality, Transparency, Result-oriented approach, Responsibility, Complementarity

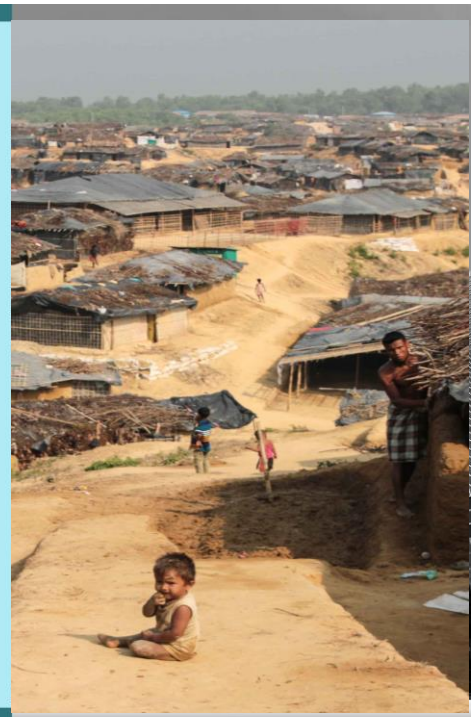


MY PREMISE OF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Charter for Changes by Major INGOs (2015) emphasizing localization or shifting role to the local organization. (MSF is not signatory of C4C, we expect that MSF should consider it or consider to give emphasize on localization).
- New Way of Working (NWoW) by present UNSGs since 2016. The QCPR (Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review) of UN to assess effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and impact of UN operational activities for development. UN General Assembly Resolution 71/243 December 2016.
 - The double vs. triple nexus, humanitarian, development and peace
 - The UN vs. Whole of Society Approach (WOSA).

KEY OBSERVATION

- UN agencies including **UNHCR and IoM brought new international NGOs for sub-contracting** their operation, while Bangladesh has prominent and vibrant growth of humanitarian professionals and NGOs.
- **Rampant staff poaching by INGOs and UN agencies without adhering the minimum ethics of taking consent from local organizations.** Approximately 30% of staff of local organizations (e.g., COAST and MUKTI who are working in Cox's Bazar for more than 3 decades for sustainable development) has been taken away by UN agencies and INGOs.
- **Sudden surge in staff salary up to 200% compared to the pre-August 2017 level,** house rent in Cox's Bazar and Ukhiya has gone up to 300% while other costs gone up to 60% because of the high level of competition of INGOs and UN agencies. These are hardly sustainable in this dwindling aid situation and will hardly support sustainable development effort in future.



KEY OBSERVATION

- **1,300 expatriates: demand driven and supply driven?** while Bangladesh has prominent growth of humanitarian professionals/ NGO. Most of these expatriates get salaries in their home country account, which is it depriving Bangladesh of hard currencies and taxes. It's also a security burden to the country.
- **Most of the INGOs hardly interested in addressing root causes,** e.g., activities or campaign at international level to hold the Myanmar junta accountable for genocide, rape and arson for ethnic cleansing. They are more interested on humanitarian rescue activities.
- **Government is slow in respect of giving space for education and income generation/ employment activities for Rohingyas** as because of local political pressure and afraid of integration.
- **Little space for Local NGOs in ISCG / the coordination mechanism,** e.g., out of all leadership in different groups there is only 1 co-leading position to the local NGOs.



What the local organizations did for localization and WOSA and to build human right and refugee right sensitive Cox's Bazar society:

Our alliance Cox's Bazar CSO NGO Forum (CCNF), www.cxb-cso-ngo.org

- Four day observation events in the area focusing human rights, refugee rights, secularism etc.
- Three press conferences including demand to place UNHCR in leading position including in Dhaka.
- Six memorandum submissions including to UNSG and UN Security council delegation for localization and WOSA.
- Five public events including in Dhaka along with all possible stakeholders for developing understanding and bridging the gap between governments, locals and internationals actors.
- Five publications, including a study on impact on the host community as requested by government

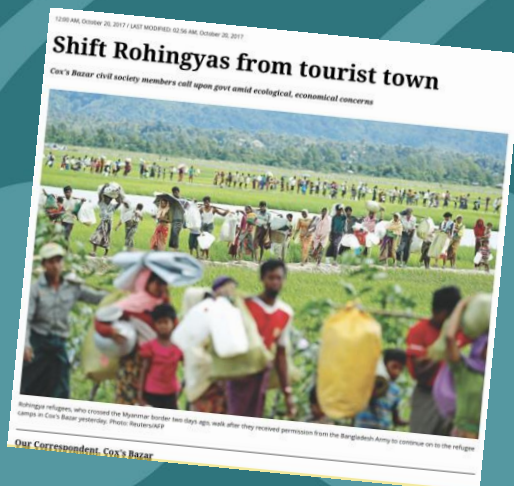


THE WAY FORWARD ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES AND WOSA / LOCALIZATION IN ROHINGYA RESPONSE



- INGOs who are working in Rohingya should organize campaign in their home country to **convince their government to hold Myanmar junta accountable** to justice to prove that they are simultaneously committed to address root causes. i.e., no more genocide case like Rwanda and Myanmar.
- INGOs and UN agencies **should roll back from field operation** and gradually hand it over to local (no national) NGOs and local governments.
- Introduction of **Bangla language at all field communication** involved in Rohingya response. **All expatriate must be trained** on local language, local culture and government structure.

THE WAY FORWARD ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES AND WOSA / LOCALIZATION IN ROHINGYA RESPONSE



- All UN agencies and INGOs must **public their aid data in view of IATI principles** especially with the categories of (i) management cost, (ii) expatriate cost, (iii) operation cost, (iv) input cost and (v) partnership with local NGOs cost.
- UN agencies, especially UNHCR, IoM and UNICEF **should initiate dedicated unit to develop local NGO-CSO capacities** in Rohingya response. A study should be done to identify the need in view of local perspectives. No more training business in the name of training, emphasize should be given on partnership process or on the job training.
- All donors should initiate two funds **(i) Relief pooled fund and (ii) Long term Environmental recovery fund** to support local NGO, local government and CSO initiatives.

THE WAY FORWARD ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES AND WOSA / LOCALIZATION IN ROHINGYA RESPONSE



- INGOs and UN agencies, who have signed Grand Bargain agreement and Charter for Change, must **educate their staff on this and prepare plan for its implementation.** All work and employment should be consistent with it.
- All agencies with the leadership of government should proceed for preparing **mid-term plan which embody both humanitarian and development** including both refugee and host community emphasizing greater development of Cox's Bazar focusing on creating economic and education opportunities.
- All **relocation and repatriation must be voluntary, including in Bhasanchar.** International community should realize the difficulties and other burdens of government of Bangladesh.

THE WAY FORWARD ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES AND WOSA / LOCALIZATION IN ROHINGYA RESPONSE

Put pressure on international community on Rohingya repatriation, demand civil society, NGOs

Star Online Report

Civil Society members and NGOs today demanded the government should continue pressure on international community to repatriate Rohingya refugees in Myanmar.

Addressing a human chain in front of juries here today, they urged government to give Rohingya refugees human dignity and to pressure the international community to ensure trial of Myanmar Army in international court.



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Stop harmful practices in partnership with local NGOs like, staff poaching, no overhead cost (e.g., UNHCR does not allocate overhead cost to local NGOs), no advance payment based on reimbursement, with holding final trench of payment, one sided evaluation and arbitrary decisions, lack of code of conduct from UN agencies / INGOs staff based on human rights and mutual dignity, no compensation to local NGO staff in case of accidental death, etc.

International community should support UNHCR prepared solidarity paper to support Bangladesh both in micro and macro level. GoB deserve support and assistance for in providing shelter Rohingyas and to recuperate economic and other losses.



LET'S DISCUSS!