

Side event of the 68th session of the Executive Committee

Briefing on the Myanmar refugee emergency in Bangladesh

Speakers:

Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR

Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, Director, Regional Bureau for the Asia and Pacific, UNHCR



Since 25 August 2017, over half a million refugees – up to 22,000 people per day - have fled violence in Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar into Bangladesh, making it one of the fastest growing refugee crises in the world. They are joining an estimated 300,000 already in the country. Many of the new arrivals are single women, separated or unaccompanied children, elderly, disabled, sick or wounded. The Government and people of Bangladesh continue to receive the refugees and, along with several humanitarian agencies, are extending significant support. The influx nevertheless remains overwhelming. Congestion is massive and needs, including food, shelter, water, sanitation, health, as well as land to accommodate the refugees, and maintaining law and order, have overstretched available response capacity and services to a near tipping point.

In this side event, UNHCR will describe how, together with the Government and other humanitarian actors, it is scaling up its response to deliver core protection and basic human assistance following its declaration of a "level-3 emergency". The event will also review and share experiences and perspectives on the immediate life-saving imperatives but also the medium to long-term aspects of the response.

Tuesday, 3 October 2017

9:00-10:00

Palais des Nations – Room XII

