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Further Cuts to Rohingya Food Aid Will Devastate Refugees

London, UK - Rohingya refugees will face increased food insecurity as the World Food Program (WFP) issued further cuts to food rations for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, said Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN).

Refugees' food stipends were reduced significantly in March 2023, and further cuts were made starting 1 June. The cuts will reduce the value of rations provided to Rohingya refugees to US\$8 per month, or 27 cents per day. An earlier reduction was implemented in March 2023 from US\$12 per month to US\$10 per month.

"The food aid cuts are severely impacting refugees, many of whom are survivors of genocide in Burma and face hardships in Bangladesh," said BHRN's Executive Director, Kyaw Win. "Restrictions on refugees in Bangladesh and aid cuts may push Rohingya back to Burma. Repatriation at this time is dangerous, and there is still an ongoing genocide in Burma against the Rohingya. Donor governments must provide funding to meet the shortfalls in the humanitarian response in Bangladesh."

The <u>Rohingya Humanitarian Joint Response Plan</u> budget of US\$876 million remains underfunded. BHRN calls on donor governments to fund and develop a plan to reinstate full rations for refugees.

While funding shortages impact refugees worldwide, more must be done to counteract and prepare for them. The international community must develop a plan for the Rohingya that will ensure humanitarian assistance is not cut, including food aid.

Background on the Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)

Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN) is based in London and operates across Burma/Myanmar works for human rights, minority rights and religious freedom in Burma. BHRN has played a crucial role advocating for human rights and religious freedom with politicians and world leaders.

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