

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar

1 March 2023

Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, by virtue of Human Rights Council resolution 49/23. I do so to urgently bring to your attention a disturbing development that will adversely impact nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who are now living in camps in Bangladesh after fleeing genocidal attacks by the Myanmar military.

The United Nations World Food Programme has announced that, beginning today, the already inadequate food rations that are provided to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh will be reduced due to a lack funding.¹ These cuts will be devastating for a traumatized population that is already suffering from widespread malnutrition. The numbers are disturbing: 40 percent of Rohingya children are suffering from stunted growth; 51 percent of Rohingya children and 40 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding Rohingya women are anemic; 45 percent of all Rohingya families in the camps are living with insufficient diets.²

Tragically, the World Food Programme has announced that today's cuts to already insufficient food rations will be only the first round of rations reductions if additional funding is not forthcoming. As of today, the value of the monthly food ration allocation for each Rohingya refugee in the Bangladesh camps will be reduced by 17 percent. If donations are not received, in the next two months these cuts could be even deeper, with food rations reduced by *a third*. That would mean that, on average, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh camps would need to try and survive on \$0.27 USD per day. The consequences of these additional cuts will be catastrophic for a population that has already been forced to endure immense suffering.

The World Food Programme has reported that \$125 million USD is needed immediately to stop these catastrophic cuts. Excellency, I therefore urgently request that your government make an immediate financial contribution to the World Food

¹<https://www.wfp.org/news/lack-funds-forces-wfp-cut-rations-rohingya-bangladesh>

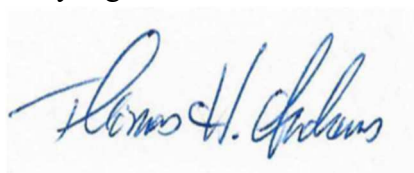
²<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/02/bangladesh-un-experts-appeal-immediate-funding-avert-food-ration-cuts>

Programme in Bangladesh in order to avoid the devastating impact that the rations reductions will have on the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The food crisis, however, is merely the tip of the iceberg, as the overall Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis Joint Response Plan (JRP) has been sorely underfunded for a number of years now and remains at risk of significant underfunding in 2023. I understand that the 2023 JRP will be published next week.

I will be monitoring closely all contributions to the JRP, in particular funding to address the urgent situation of food and nutrition, and how these amounts compare to previous years' contributions. I plan to provide regular updates to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on this matter and stand ready to assist you in any way.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Thomas Andrews

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar