

Rohingya problem world's fastest-growing crisis: EU



A Rohingya refugee woman washes clothes in a stream at Palong Khali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. Reuters file photo
UNB, Dhaka

European Union Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides today described the Rohingya crisis as the fastest-growing crisis in the world saying the EU has decisively stepped up its aid to Rohingya communities.

"The Rohingya people aren't alone in these difficult times. We commend and support the generous approach of the Bangladeshi authorities," said Stylianides who started a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

The EU Commissioner is in Bangladesh to assess the situation on the ground and visit EU aid projects that are addressing the Rohingya refugee crisis.

His visit comes a week after the EU and its member states pledged more than 50 percent of the USD 344 million total funding raised at the international Conference on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis held in Geneva.

"Here in Bangladesh the scale of this emergency is painfully clear to see," he said.

At the same time, the EU continues to insist on full aid access in Myanmar and is working to address the situation in Northern Rakhine state.

"Beyond aid, it's crucial that every refugee is registered properly and that Myanmar takes all the necessary steps to allow them a voluntary and dignified return in secure conditions," said Commissioner Stylianides.

Commissioner Stylianides visited the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar area on Tuesday, where an EU-funded project is helping over 100,000 people, mostly vulnerable children and women, gain access to essential services.

The commissioner will also hold meetings with government officials of

Bangladesh and humanitarian partners to discuss the international community's response to the crisis and Bangladesh's needs moving forwards.

The visit follows that of the commissioner to Myanmar in May earlier this year.

On October 23, the European Union co-hosted the Pledging Conference on the Rohingya Crisis, with Kuwait, in Geneva, in partnership with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

International donors made pledges for more than US\$ 344 million to urgently scale up the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to both Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-crisis/myanmar-rohingya-problem-worlds-fastest-growing-crisis-bangladesh-european-union-1484512>

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