



The Embassy of the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia
Washington, DC

FACTSHEET: U.S. & Saudi Governments Partner to Provide Aid to Rohingya Refugees

On Thursday, November 12, 2020, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through its humanitarian relief agency KSRelief, signed a joint statement with USAID to co-fund a UN World Food Program project to aid 860,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The project will develop and strengthen cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar as well as increase protections against the COVID-19 virus. USAID's Acting Deputy Administrator also personally recognized the agency's long history of collaboration with KSRelief.

USAID Statement on the Project

USAID SIGNS JOINT STATEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA'S HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AGENCY TO CO-FUND A PROJECT OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

For Immediate Release

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Office of Press Relations
press@usaid.gov

Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) signed a joint statement expressing shared commitment to provide \$1 million each to a program managed by the World Food Programme (WFP) to rehabilitate cyclone shelters and reduce the risk of disasters in Cox's Bazar, in the Republic of Bangladesh.

Participating in the virtual signing ceremony were USAID Acting Deputy Administrator John Barsa; KSRelief Supervisor General Dr. Abullah Al Rabeeah; U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia John Abizaid, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ambassador to the United States HRH Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud.

During his remarks, Acting Deputy Administrator Barsa reiterated the commitment of the United States to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable Bangladeshi host communities in Cox's Bazar that host over 860,000 Rohingya refugees, including in the world's largest refugee camp, while facing compounding shocks, including extreme weather and the pandemic of COVID-19. The Acting Deputy Administrator also recognized USAID's long-standing collaboration with KSRelief and commended the agency for joining USAID as a leading donor of needs-based humanitarian assistance to the world's most vulnerable. In addition, the Acting Deputy Administrator thanked WFP for its partnership with USAID to combat global hunger and respond to the Rohingya crisis and other humanitarian emergencies around the world.

These materials are distributed by LS2group on behalf of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.



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Senior U.S. Officials Tout USAID Partnership with KSRelief



John Barsa, Acting Administrator - USAID

“I would like to start by thanking both KSRelief and WFP for your partnership in Bangladesh and around the world. More than three years since the mass displacement of Rohingya in Myanmar, we are here today to reiterate our shared commitment to support Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi community that generously hosts them.”

“On behalf of USAID,” he added, “I’m very proud today to announce our additional support alongside KSRelief for WFP’s project on cyclone shelter rehabilitation and strengthening disaster readiness. With over 860,000 refugees in one the world’s largest refugee camps, Cox’s Bazar is facing several compounding shocks, from extreme weather to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“I couldn’t be more thrilled that KSRelief is joining us. In just five years, KSRelief has expanded into an organization with more than 300 staff and a sophisticated volunteer program. KSRelief has responded to some of the most complex humanitarian crisis and disasters in more than 50 countries, and has provided more than USD 4 billion in humanitarian aid across every sector.”



John Abizaid, U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

Ambassador John Abizaid said that the United States was “proud to join hands with Saudi Arabia in providing humanitarian assistance. Our partnership on the project is a manifestation of the broad and enduring American partnership with Saudi Arabia. That relationship, which began 75 years ago in a shipboard meeting between King Abdulaziz and President Roosevelt, works to provide not only life-sustaining assistance, but to support peace and stability in the region and beyond.”

“Today’s agreement,” Ambassador Abizaid continued, “is not the first time we have worked side-by-side to deliver critical assistance to the people who need it most. In Yemen, the United States and Saudi Arabia are working to provide life-saving aid to a society ravaged by conflict. In Syria, the United States and Saudi Arabia have been working to address the needs of internally displaced and other vulnerable people, today numbering over 12 million Syrians. Through USAID, the United States provides emergency food, health, water, and sanitation assistance, while KSRelief is at the forefront of the education sector, helping meet the needs of Syria’s ‘lost generation’ of youth with supplies and services to over 100,000 needy schoolchildren.”

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Ambassador Reema on USAID and KSRelief's Partnership

HRH Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud - “KSRelief has played an instrumental role in the region and beyond, and stands as one of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s most visible and effective humanitarian relief organizations. It has worked in more than 50 countries, participated in more than 1,300 international projects, and provided more than USD 4.6 billion in humanitarian relief assistance.”

“Today, KSRelief is pleased to join with the USAID to jointly assist WFP’s efforts in Cox’s Bazar. This joint effort is a testament to what our enduring partnership with the United States can achieve. Our combined efforts to achieve peace, security and prosperity in the region and around the world also extend to helping those in need, as we are discussing here today. This project will improve the health, safety and living conditions of Rohingya refugees dislocated in Bangladesh, through an effort to rehabilitate local housing and shelters, enabling these accommodations to provide necessary protection during disasters.”

“KSRelief and the Kingdom welcome this opportunity to coordinate our relief efforts with the United States and the WFP by providing this USD 1 million humanitarian assistance award. Over the past two decades, Saudi Arabia has provided more than USD 15 billion in humanitarian relief assistance for global refugees, and just last month, participated in the UN Donors Conference for the Rohingya cause. The Kingdom currently hosts more than 270,000 Rohingya refugees, providing them with free health care, education and employment opportunities.”

Reema Bandar Al-Saud @rbalsaud · Nov 12

I want to thank H.E Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah as well as H.E Mr. John Barsa, the acting @USAID Deputy Administrator, and H.E Ambassador John Abizaid @USAinKSA for participating in today's event.

KSrelief @KSRelief_EN · Nov 12

#KSrelief and @USAID join efforts to support #Rohingya refugees in #Bangladesh

1:40 | 42.9K views

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Reema Bandar Al-Saud @rbalsaud · Nov 12

This joint effort is a testament to what our enduring partnership with the United States can achieve. Our combined efforts to achieve peace, security and prosperity in the region and around the world also extends to helping those in need 🇸🇦 🇺🇸

KSrelief @KSRelief_EN · Nov 12

#KSrelief signed a joint statement with @USAID to support @WFP for improving community resilience to disasters and rehabilitate multi-purpose cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar, #Bangladesh

to improve community resilience to disasters and rehabilitate multi-purpose cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar

World Food Programme

Total Cost

2,000,000 USD

Joint contribution between KSrelief and USAID

87,165 beneficiaries

Beneficiary Areas:

Cox's Bazar Bangladesh

Moheshkhali Kutubdia Dakua Taknaf Ibbia

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