

## Postgraduate Fellowship in Refugee and Migrant Health

### What is the PGF?

The Postgraduate Fellowship (PGF) in Migrant and Refugee Health is a 13-week medical education programme designed to **strengthen the capacity of local Bangladeshi doctors** responding to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh. The PGF training programme consists of 7 medical modules developed and put together by **over 50 medical and humanitarian experts from Doctors Worldwide**, including doctors from Bangladesh to ensure contextual application of knowledge and learning, international and nationally recognised standards, as well as local customs and culture. Topics include: *Health in Humanitarian Emergencies, Triage and Acute Care Management, Communicable Diseases, Non-Communicable Diseases and Palliative Care, Mental Health in Humanitarian Emergencies, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Family Planning and Gender-Based Violence, Clinical Assessment, Professional Practice, and Communication Skills.*



When the concept of the Postgraduate Fellowship in Migrant and Refugee Health was put to me back in late 2017, its potential impact was clearly evident, not just in the case of the Rohingya crisis, but across the world. This was capacity building, systems strengthening and a sustainable solution all rolled into one. As with all projects of this scale, there have been ups and downs, periods of uncertainty and last minute rushes to meet deadlines, but the ethos of the entire team behind the project was that even if we managed to train one doctor effectively, it would all be worth it. As we wrap up the fourth cohort, having trained 99 doctors, the legacy that each and every one of them will leave behind has definitely made it all worth while!

Dr Mir Saaduddin Ahmad, Training Director for PGF

### Training Results

The doctors have reported:

**Increased** confidence in patient management from real-time clinical shadowing

**Improved** patient experience, diagnosis, and treatment through national and international medical standards of teaching

**Demonstrated** leadership in the clinics they serve e.g. introducing and teaching triage to their clinical team

Overall, this long-term, comprehensive training has:

**Increased** the skills & knowledge of local doctors who make up the majority of the doctors in the camps

**Given** access to international standards and best practice

**Enabled** primary care doctors, i.e. frontline responders (who are almost always the local host community) to manage and respond to the crisis





## The Background

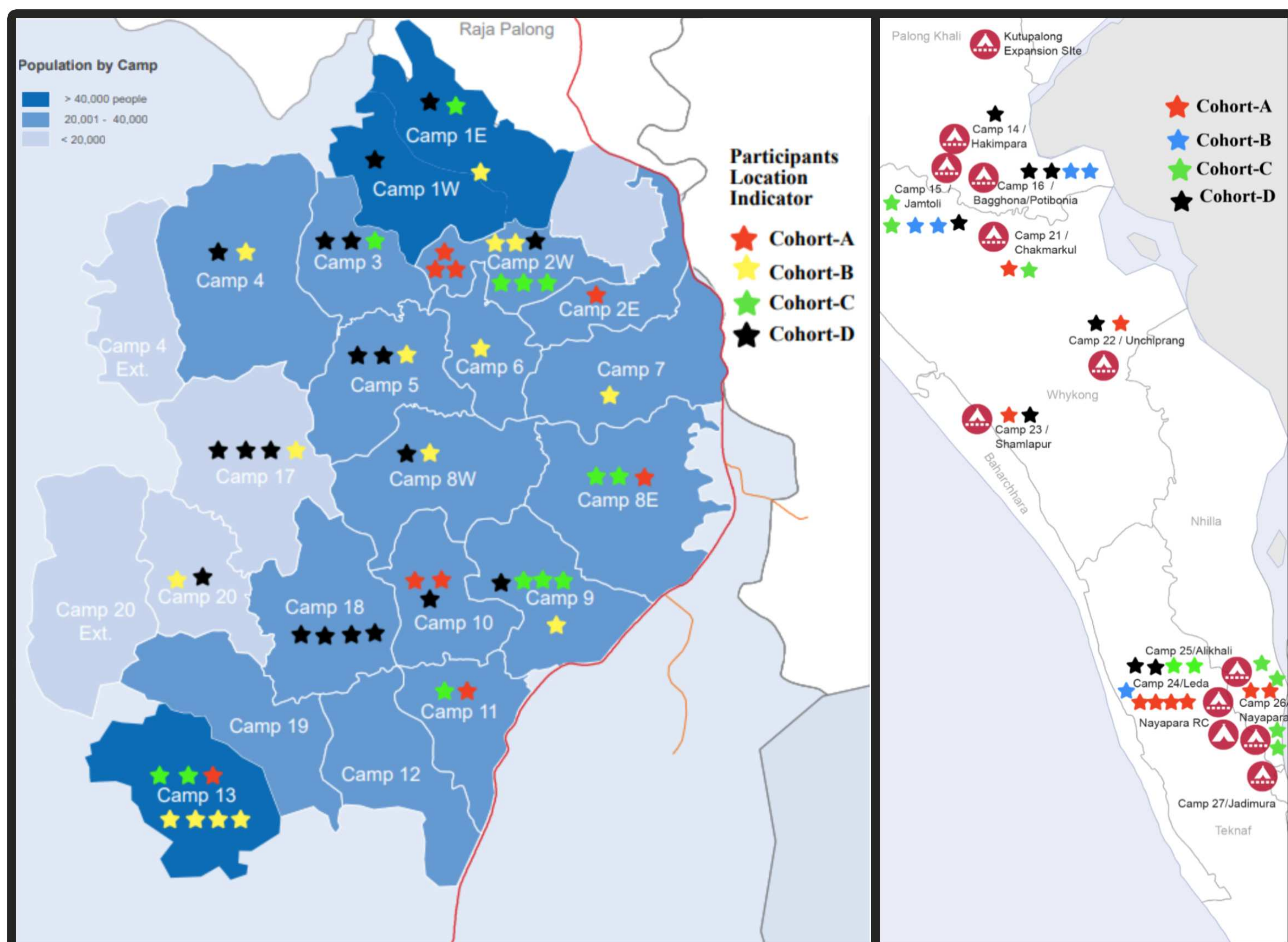
Since the Rohingya refugee crisis began in 2017, the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh has experienced an influx of nearly one million refugees escaping violence, discrimination, and statelessness in Myanmar. This has placed an unprecedented strain on the existing healthcare services in Cox's Bazar and surrounding areas which has resulted in a shortage of qualified healthcare personnel. Doctors Worldwide identified a critical need to invest in professional and sustainable training on humanitarian medicine for newly qualified/junior Bangladeshi doctors who are serving in the Rohingya camps and the local host communities. By supporting Bangladeshi doctors, we are investing in Bangladesh as the learning can be applied to improve the overall health system for the long term. Thanks to the determination and hard work of our medical faculty, the support of our partner the UN-IOM, and commitment from the local Bangladeshi doctors, together we are serving communities to build healthier, happier futures for themselves and their loved ones.

*"I came across a patient who was not breathing. I performed the head tilt and chin lift procedure that I was taught in one of the PGF practical sessions. I was able to help the patient breathe again. I felt so happy."*

Cohort C Participant, 2019

## Distribution of Trained Doctors

Distribution of Bangladeshi doctors trained by Doctors Worldwide across the Rohingya camp sites



Adapted from "Bangladesh Cox's Bazar refugee response by Camp (4W) - as of 07 Nov 2019" (Inter Sector Coordination Group, 2019). Retrieved from: [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/191107\\_4w\\_final\\_english.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/191107_4w_final_english.pdf)



## PGF Outcomes



Trained **99 medical doctors** over 4 cohorts representing nearly half of all the medical doctors in the Rohingya camps



Benefited over **900,000 patient consultations** with doctors trained through the PGF



**201 session (787 hours)** of clinical shadowing conducted by our medical faculty



**602 additional professional certificates** achieved including MISP for Reproductive Health, ETAT, BLS, and LSHTM Health in Humanitarian Crises (online)



Over **1,500 workplace-based assessments** recorded in personal logbooks including case-based discussions, directly observed procedural skills, mini-clinical evaluation exercises, and reflective practice with DWW medical faculty



**26 expert faculty of doctors** deployed from Doctors Worldwide including primary care, emergency medicine, paediatrics, OBGYN, mental health, and more



**36 NGOs, iNGOs and GOs** represented across trained cohorts



**138 sessions (423 hours)** of teaching conducted by our medical faculty



Over a **20% increase** from baseline knowledge demonstrated by each participant, on average



Creation of a clinical support group for **194 Bangladeshi doctors** run by Doctors Worldwide





# Doctors Worldwide

Save a Life. **Change a Life.**

Doctors Worldwide is a specialist medical charity based in the UK with a mission to support and collaborate with local communities to build and sustain quality healthcare services in both development and emergency settings. Access to quality healthcare is not a privilege, it is a human right, and we work towards making that a reality, especially for the most vulnerable communities.



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