**Support for Illegal Migrants Disembarking in Myanmar**

Background on illegal maritime movements

* On May 22, 150 people from the first boat discovered off the coast of Rakhine were repatriated on 8 June; 58 people from this boat remain in Rakhine, including 8 people who have been held in detention since then
* On May, 733 people were recovered off the coast of Ayeyarwady, including 40 women, 50 girls, and 95 boys
* All are being accommodated in two sites north of Maungdaw, very close to the border with Bangladesh
* In total, there are currently 788 people, including 219 under 18-years-of-age (18 under the age of five), staying at these two sites, where they are receiving assistance from authorities and international organizations
* Conditions are difficult, where people are living in old tents leftover from 2012 in flooded and unsanitary conditions
* After three months at sea, people, especially women and children, are understandably traumatized
* UNHCR are following up on Protection concerns and are advocating that people from Rakhine State be allowed to return to their homes as soon as possible; for people to be moved to a more suitable location as soon as possible; and for the process of repatriation to Bangladesh to be expedited
* Over 1,000 people are likely to have independently (via brokers) disembarked from boats in the Bay of Bengal between 9 and 21 May

Group Work

What factors drive women to leave Bangladesh and Myanmar illegally and in unsafe conditions?

What factors put women and children at risk of being smuggled by traffickers?

What type of assistance do women, girls and boys need once they are disembarked?

Given the current conditions in the sites where illegal migrants are disembarked, what are the distinct needs of women, girls and boys? Consider their urgent practical needs as well as their strategic needs. Think also about what might happen to those who run away from the camps.

What do you think will be the individual and social consequences for women, girls and boys who are return to their respective homes (in Myanmar or Bangladesh)?

Formulate 3 key recommendations to UNHCR and IOM about how to adapt their interventions in order to promote gender equality programming.