Situation Overview

Since 25 August 2017, an estimated 702,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh fleeing violence in Myanmar’s Rakhine State, increasing the total Rohingya population in Cox’s Bazar to over 915,000.

The advent of the monsoon and cyclone seasons is widely expected to exacerbate critical vulnerabilities already faced by populations in the refugee camp and host communities. Multiple hazards could gravely affect the safety, well-being and dignity of populations especially in terms of accessing critical services and specialised support, as well as maintaining physical safety. Moreover, given the scale and nature of the camps marked by high levels of congestion, poor road networks, harsh topography and significant risk of large scale flooding and landslides, humanitarian operations are expected to be seriously impacted during the rainy season.

In order to respond to these risks collectively and comprehensively, IOM works closely with the Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian community in preparation for the monsoon season.

Funding received to date for March to December 2018

$182.1 M required in IOM appeal

22% funded
IOM Response

Monsoon Preparation

As Bangladesh’s annual wet season approaches, IOM is also working to secure infrastructure and strengthen preparedness measures.

11,960 people were relocated – either because they were at serious risk of landslides and floods – or to allow for emergency access and other crucial infrastructure to be installed ahead of monsoon

40,552 families have received Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs)

40,750 households have received community training on shelter upgrade and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

30 field staff trained on cyclone season message delivery

650 refugees and local community members are being trained in first aid, search & rescue and fire safety via partnerships with the Bangladeshi Fire Service & Civil Defence (FSCD), American Red Cross and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)

5 mobile medical teams are being trained to provide primary lifesaving health care services to displaced populations during the monsoon season

20,000 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) kits, 73 million Aquatabs and 360,000 top up hygiene kits are prepositioned and being distributed through the WASH common pipeline

“Living on the Edge”

Click here to watch IOM short video on the monsoon preparation.

What is NPM?

Composed of several tools and processes, NPM regularly captures and analyzes multilayered data and disseminates information products that us help better understand the evolving needs of the displaced population, whether on site or en route.

Site Management Category 1

The reporting system is running and the response from both key informants and users is very positive. NPM in collaboration with Site Management sector developed this incident assessment form in case of emergency. This tool allows focal persons who are responsible for specific camps, to report directly to NPM in case of incidents.

Incidents are then visible on an online web map, also developed by NPM.

Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM)

This week, NPM released the its Site Assessment (SA) Round 10 report. This multi-sectoral needs assessment - designed in cooperation with ISCG and all sectors - provides an overview of the Rohingya refugee population's distribution, needs and access to services at the beginning of the monsoon season. The survey covered all locations hosting Rohingya population in Cox’s Bazar district in Bangladesh, both in collective and dispersed sites. A total of 1,930 locations were assessed through more than 1,930 face-to-face interviews with key informants, in addition to group interviews and direct observation.

In addition, NPM has been preparing a new atlas of all camps based on its latest drone flights and the Majhee blocks mapping based on its SA 10. The release is planned for the coming days and includes a full GIS packages for operational purposes. The Majhee block system represents an important aspect of communities within the Rohingya refugees, who are settled in collective or camp-like settings in Cox’s Bazar district.

This week, NPM also completed a number of drone flights at night in cooperation with Site Management and Site Development, with the purpose of observing the lightening of the camps.

Last, NPM has deployed a drone flight pilot, who will be supporting NPM with flying drone during the rainy season in the district of Cox’s Bazar, covering camps and camp-like settings. In case of emergency, the images will be used to give information about locations where access is limited. This information can be used to get an overall understanding of where assistance is urgently needed. Shamlapur, Leda, Nayapara, Jadimura and Unchiprang areas have been completed this week.

A Majhee is a community leader that belongs to the Rohingya refugee population, while the block represents the area for which he is responsible.
IOM is coordinating the Site Management and Site Development Sector

A total of 44 sessions were conducted by radio listening groups with a focus on cyclone preparedness.

Four Quick Impact Project (QIPs) are ongoing; construction of brick drainage in the relocation site, upgrading of the main distribution point, improvement of pathways and drainages and finally the construction of the Site Management office.

With the monsoon season coming, the need to rehabilitate roads and pathways is urgent but works are hampered due to the lack of bricks and bamboos.

Vetiver grass is being planted in Camp 18.

IOM has dispatched over 10,000 bundles of vetiver to implementing partners. This is covering an approximate area of 500,000 sqm planted by cash-for-work groups in the areas at risk of landslides, to stabilise the earth and reduce the risk of soil erosion and slope failure.

A total of 54 community meetings (emergency preparedness information campaign) were conducted with Majhees and safety volunteers in 27 blocks for both men and women. In addition, the measurement of six graveyards was completed.

Site Management and Protection units jointly organised, through the Para Development Committees, a workshop led by the CT team to determine the kind of vulnerabilities and risks community members are facing.

Moreover, backfilling works are completed at Hatkhulapara and 50 families have upgraded their shelters.

IOM met with health and shelter/NFIs partners to discuss provision of services in the newly allocated land.

Concrete pedestal is completed in Camp 10 to install containers with prepositioned material for the monsoon season.

Relocation site in Unchiprang is being prepared for installation of new shelters.

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IOM’s water supply project in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Bangladesh Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in Camp 12 aims at offering a safer and more reliable water access to 30,000 people. The borehole drilling has been completed and closed at a depth of 402m. After the pump testing of last week, water was sent out to a laboratory for testing.

IOM has established a WASH common pipeline that includes 360,000 top up hygiene kits and 73,000,000 Aquatabs. IOM continues to reach out to additional partners to join the WASH common pipeline while encouraging existing partners to request, collect and distribute top up hygiene kits to beneficiaries. So far, eight agencies have signed the pipeline agreement and a total of 72,733 kits have been distributed, reaching 363,665 beneficiaries.

The construction and installation of 64 DTWs is ongoing in Balukhali-Kutupalong Expansion Site (KBE) and in host villages Chapotkhali, Dhakkin Pannasia, and Tolatoli. The completed DTWs are serving approximately 133,500 beneficiaries.

A total of 606 wash rooms have been constructed to date in KBE and the Hindupara host community. The construction of an additional 62 wash rooms is ongoing KBE and in Shamlapur.

This week, IOM also donated 4 million Aquatabs to UNHCR to support their emergency preparedness activities (prepositioning of items in containers across KBE).

IOM completed a Post Distribution Monitoring survey for the top up hygiene kits in Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site, Leda, Shamlapur and host community sites of Dakkhin pannasiya, Shapotkhali and Monkhal. A total of 377 people interviewed, 80% from the Rohingya refugees and 20% from the host community. The results indicated that:

- **86%** of the respondents found the items **very useful** and **14% useful**: soap was identified as the most useful item and the toothbrush the least useful one.
- **Only 1%** of the respondents indicated **having sold** items to purchase food, household items or to pay for medical treatment.
- **88%** were fully satisfied with the **quality** of the items.
- **90%** of the respondents indicated that the distribution was **well organised**.
As part of a joint livelihoods and social cohesion project with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), that aims to improve food and nutrition security to host community and refugee populations in Cox’s Bazar, 2,850 beneficiaries received micro-gardening kits this week. The kits include vegetable seeds, spades, watering cans, ropes, vermicomposting and silos to help the beneficiaries increase food security for their households. Moreover, 80 rice thresher have been distributed among 40 Farmers Groups in Teknaf (1,000 farmers) and 20 farmers from Teknaf attended a capacity building training on organisational development and market linkage development. Finally, a workshop was organised in this week to validate the findings of a study on Water Resources and Irrigation Assessment in Ukhiya and Teknaf Sub District Area of Cox’s Bazar.

At Hnila and Baharchara Unions (Teknaf), four cyclone shelter were assessed during the reporting period.

In the coming weeks, IOM is planning the organisation of a training on Capacity Building for Environmental Protection during Humanitarian Assistance with the International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

Other future activities also include orientation sessions on basic DRR, Disaster Management (DM) legal framework and social safety net for Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) as well as orientation on DRR, Early Warning System and roles & responsibilities for Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers.
In Cox’s Bazar, IOM is responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP), Counter Trafficking (CT), and general protection issues.

This week, six people received Psychological First Aid (PFA) and ten people received Psychosocial Support (PSS) by trained case workers, 11 health referrals were made and five Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) were identified. In addition, three Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) were identified and assisted.

In order to strengthen IOM emergency preparedness response, IOM Protection team along with Mercy Corps attended the roundtable to share approaches, tools and experiences for integrating community mobilisation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Different partner INGOs such as Oxfam, PLAN, Caritas presented their existing DRR tools. IOM Protection and Mercy Corps facilitated the discussion on DRR needs, gaps and opportunities.

IOM Headquarter also visited Cox’s Bazar to conduct a series of consultation with the different Program staff in relation to the IOM Institutional Framework on Gender-Based Violence in Crises (GBViC), which is currently being developed. The objective of these consultations is to ensure that the framework captures the diversity of IOM’s work to address GBV in crisis contexts, reflect best practices and address challenges raised by IOM staff at operational, strategic and policy levels.

Finally, community Mobilisers conducted sensitisation sessions about the Women and Girl Friendly Spaces (WGFS’s) reaching 43 men and 32 women during the reporting period. Sensitisation sessions serve to inform the community on the activities of the WGFS’s. Seven Community Safety Mappings were also conducted with women and girls across Camp 8W and Camp 9, to help identify and mitigate risks.

This week, 12,026 consultations took place in IOM health centers and IOM supported Government facilities. In terms of Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), IOM provided specialised psychological support (individual consultations) and/or case management services to 77 people this week.

This week, 778 Antenatal Care (ANC) sessions were conducted within IOM and IOM supported government facilities, in addition to 50 deliveries and 137 Post-Natal Care (PNC) sessions.

Two Oral Rehydration Points Plus (ORP+) are operational at Kutupalong Primary Healthcare Centre (PHCC) and Leda PHCC. A total of 114 Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) cases have been treated in the last week between these two ORPs (20 cases at D4 and 94 cases at Leda). One severely dehydrated cases was reported from Leda HC which was later referred for further management after stabilization.

Communicable disease triage and isolations are operational at Kutupalong PHCC and Leda Primary Health Care Center (PHCC). This week, the centers have triaged 281 cases, and diagnosed and isolated five suspected tuberculosis, 108 mumps, 19 chicken pox, one suspected Measles and 1 suspected Diphtheria cases.

Regarding emergency preparedness activities, meetings were held with health coordinators and health sector camp focal persons to orient them on the emergency preparedness plan of IOM and their responsibilities as well as with health coordinators and Mobile Medical Team (MMT) leaders. The roster of surge and supplementary teams to respond during an emergency has been finalized. Finally, an evacuation plan for IOM health facilities has been drafted and will be finalised by this week.
Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)
IOM is hosting the sector based coordination structure for the Rohingya

The overall humanitarian response for the Rohingya refugee crisis is facilitated by a sector-based coordination mechanism, the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG), established for refugee response in Cox’s Bazar. The ISCG is guided by Strategic Executive Group (SEG) that is designed to be an inclusive decision-making forum consisting of heads of international humanitarian organizations to ensure effective humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugee crisis.

ISCG facilitates timely, coordinated, needs-based, and evidence-driven humanitarian assistance for efficient use of resources and to avoid duplication, while producing regular Situation Reports and 4W maps and data. Over the past week, the ISCG met to discuss the harmonization of cash-for-work rates for both Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host communities amongst all partners. To date, rates for casual and unskilled labour have been agreed upon, and discussions will continue on sector-wide rates for semi-skilled and skilled labourers this week.

IOM in the news

United Nations says two lakh Rohingya refugees at risk from flooding, landslides
The New Indian Express (23 May 2018)

While Bangladesh has been dealing with monsoons annually and has developed some experience in these matters, the situation present in the refugee camps is unique in scope and volume.

Click here to read the full story.

Forgotten About the Rohingya? They Need Us Now More than Ever
Care2 (25 May 2018)

The Rohingya are still displaced, still in crisis and now they are facing a new threat: monsoon season. It’s estimated that there are now around one million Rohingya refugees who have fled the violence and persecution they faced in Myanmar to be housed in makeshift camps in Bangladesh. These camps are far from a safe haven, though. Despite health agencies and local officials working hard, providing food, water and basic sanitation is proving challenging.

Click here to read the full story.

Donors to IOMs Response Plan

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