Girls Sold into Forced Labour Largest Group of Trafficking Victims Identified by IOM in Bangladesh Refugee Camps

Young girls sold into forced labour are the largest group of trafficking victims identified by the UN Migration Agency (IOM) in Bangladesh's Rohingya refugee camps.

IOM counter-trafficking experts warn that more than a year into a crisis that has seen the number of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar soar to almost a million, more desperate families are sending their young daughters off into dangerous work situations because most households have no other way to earn money in the camps.

“There is a very limited number of jobs in the camp and for women there is almost nothing. That’s why I went outside of the camp,” explained one young Rohingya woman, who ended up being forced to work extremely long hours for very little pay in the fish processing industry.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

Further information about IOM’s counter-trafficking activities and approaches are available [here](#).

CUMULATIVE CATEGORY 1 INCIDENTS

- **55,086** affected persons
- **748** reported incidents (landslide/erosion, water logging, extreme wind, lightning and flooding)

Source: Site Management Sector, Category 1 Incident Reports (Since 11 May 2018)

IOM FUNDING STATUS

- **$182.1 M** required in IOM Appeal
- **49%** funded
**PROTECTION**

Last week, IOM led a one-day workshop for 30 Site Management (SM) staff and key implementing partners on introductory protection concepts and tools to strengthen protection outcomes in Site Management responsibilities. The training covered a range of topics from: Extremely Vulnerable Individual (EVI) identification and safe referral; Do no Harm; Gender Based Violence (GBV) concepts and the survivor-centered approach; understanding trafficking risks and referral to services; and an overall overview to IOM’s methods. IOM will be organizing similar trainings until the end of the month to strengthen protection mainstreaming into SM and other sectors as well as expanding direct service support and community-based protection.

IOM, along with UNHCR, facilitated the visit of Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM) and held a briefing on protection with key researchers and policy specialists. The ADFM aims to support an analysis of trafficking dynamics in Cox’s Bazar that will serve as (1) a critical baseline to support ongoing initiatives to prevent and protect crisis affected populations against trafficking risks, (2) advocacy, (3) and to bolster IOM’s own efforts to raise awareness on human trafficking.

IOM Protection Field Teams continue to rollout community level risk mapping to support development of community level protection plans. A key contribution to the risk mapping will be to strengthen dialogue between affected communities, services providers, duty bearers and humanitarian actors in understanding how affected persons perceive different risks and threats and to understand entry points for safe interventions. The mapping has also identified gaps in services/coordination and recommendations have been shared with Site Management and coordination actors.

IOM’s implementing partner, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), conducted a few prevention activities through radio airing via 54 Public Service Announcements (PSA) and two talk shows. Participants of the talk show discussed how to prevent women and children from being trafficked. The PSA focused on unsafe sea route migration, types of human trafficking and how to prevent human trafficking.

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**IOM CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD**

This week IOM conducted different activities for International Day of the Girl Child. The theme this year was “With Her: A skilled girl force” to make a year long effort to bring together partners and key stakeholders to advocate for, and draw attention and investments to the most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability.

Along with other GBV actors, IOM conducted a series of envisioning exercises with girls in WGSS to explore and capture key markers of change that girls and adolescent girls would like to see in their communities, in the camp, and their visions for the future. The key component of this was to share and showcase the capacities and resources that girls and adolescent girls have in their communities.
NEEDS AND POPULATION MONITORING (NPM)

Last week NPM participated in a meeting with the Bangladesh Army on Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) tool which will be used in case of category 2 and/or category 3 events. In case category 2 and/or 3 events, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) will trigger a JNA and NPM will lead the primary data collection with its trained 18 JNA enumerators.

This week, NPM started receiving Site Assessment Round 12 data and checking missing points and drafting the new Majhee block boundaries upon new changes.

The NPM Information Management team has finalised Majhee block boundaries and started working with SM partners on drafting the borders of sub-blocks, by digitising the suggested boundaries and cross checking against the target population.

Finally, NPM continues to support the Site Management sector for the Category 1 Incident Report mechanism. In the past few days, heavy rainfall occurred in Cox’s Bazar as a consequence of the cyclone Titli hitting the Bay of Bengal. In total, over 2,300 individuals have been affected.

For an overview of incidents reported daily, link here.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WaSH)

In light of Global Handwashing Day (15 October) and Sanitation month (October), a sequence of activities has been organized and planned by IOM and its implementing partners in coordination with the WASH Sector and the Hygiene Promotion working group. The activities include rallies, awareness sessions, handwashing demonstrations, essay writing, art and quiz competitions in learning centers and other communal structures for both Rohingya and Host Community members.

A Humanitarian Action Review workshop was organised this week by the Global WASH cluster with the support and collaboration of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and the National WASH Cluster. Key deliverables and action points were discussed and agreed by the different stakeholders for the coming year response period.

IOM has been installing solar street lights to mitigate risks and enhance safe sanitation in Camp 24 (Leda Makeshift Settlement and expansion). IOM is also managing both solid waste and fecal sludge management systems. When selecting the site for the non-organic waste management system, the main challenge is to ensure electricity and adequate water supply. Also, to respond the water scarcity in Leda Extension, IOM is installing pipe water systems to provide approximately 4,000L/day through pumping, treating and supply from drilled borehole.

To date, 161,122 hygiene top-up kits and 24,753,432 Aquatabs has been distributed from the WaSH common pipeline to Rohingya refugees through the signed agencies.
TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

580 beneficiaries from host communities have received cooking kit and LPG cylinder since August 2018 and 3,000 refugee households are receiving LPG refills

50,500 beneficiaries have received micro-gardening kits and food storage since March 2018 (25,000 Rohingya refugees and 25,500 host community members)

IOM facilitated the United Nations (UN) Day Celebration at Cox’s Bazar Government College with an essay competition in which 60 students participated. The Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police planted trees on the college premises. IOM, ISCG and UN Communications and Advocacy Group (UNCAG) representatives were present. IOM also organised UN Day celebration in Ukhiya and Teknaf with drawing competitions for children.

Children participating in a drawing competition at Inani Primary School for the UN Day celebration. ©IOM 2018/Asish Kabir

RESILIENCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

Structural renovation works have started in ten out of 12 Government Primary Schools serving as Cyclone Shelters in Teknaf (Whykong, Bahachhora, Hnila, Sabrang, Teknaf Sadar and Saint Martin Unions) and seven out of eight Cyclone Shelters in Ukhiya (Palong Khali, Jaliapalong, Haldia Palong and Raja Palong Unions).

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) was celebrated in Sabrang Government Primary School and Cyclone Shelter in Sabrang Union. A total of around 150 members participated, including members of the Cyclone Shelter Management Committee, school teachers, elected members of Sabrang Union parishad and students of Sabrang Government Primary School.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

This week, 720 Rohingya households from Camp 8E received their first Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) refills.

IOM and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) continue the study on Monitoring Environmental Changes in Cox’s Bazar following the Rohingya Influx (MECCRI). Water samples were collected for October and a workplan for the collection of air samples was finalized.

The IOM and ICCCAD study aims to undertake an in-depth environmental monitoring programme to identify predicted and unanticipated changes to the environment due to the concentration of the Rohingya camps in the area, and thereby contribute to building evidence-based options to prevent further degradation and if possible restore environmental quality.

LPG refills distribution to households in living in Camp 8E. ©IOM 2018
**SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)**

IOM is coordinating the Shelter/NFI Sector

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44,584 households have received Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs) since February 2018

44,430 households have received Tie Down Kits (TDKs) since May 2018

1,536 Robust Emergency Shelters constructed for monsoon relocation in Camp 20 Extension and Unchiprang

4,949 extremely vulnerable households supported with material transportation and shelter construction since February 2018, engaging 51,778 cash-for-work laborers

58 community shelters upgraded

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Following this week’s heavy rainfall, IOM has provided emergency shelter assistance to 51 affected households.

A bamboo treatment facility is being constructed at IOM logistics base, to treat bamboos by defusing in a mix of Borax and Boracic acid. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of October and IOM will commence bamboo treatment for shelter improvement and site maintenance works. By providing treated bamboos, technical supports, and monetary inputs, IOM aims to facilitate shelter transition by beneficiary driven improvement works.

While, IOM is continuing building Robust Emergency Shelters to support relocation of families in hazardous areas. This week, 21 shelters were constructed in Camp 20 extension and Unchiprang. As of today, 1,371 shelters have been built through cash-for-work programming in Camp 20 Extension and 165 in Unchiprang.

Upgradation of community shelters is ongoing in Camps 9 and 20. A total of 58 mosques have been upgraded to date, to serve as temporary communal shelters while repairing or rebuilding family shelters affected by weather events or other incidents.

NFIs gap analysis and distribution is in progress in Camps 18, 20, 24, and 25. Following the gap analysis, 26,089 solar lights, 4,943 blankets, 8,101 floor mats and 20,102 kitchen sets have been distributed. IOM is also assessing vulnerability within host communities. Basic household items will be distributed to the most vulnerable Bangladeshi families.

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“**Weaving is one of my hobbies, but without proper lighting in our shelter, it was difficult to do. Now that we have a solar light, I can weave my fishing nets after sunset.**”

— Noor Sabo, an IOM beneficiary who received NFIs during the recent distributions, including a solar light.
HEALTH

Over the reporting week, 14,342 outpatient health care consultations were conducted in IOM health facilities, bringing the cumulative number of outpatient consultations to 666,698 since 25 August 2017. Of these consultation, 23% of beneficiaries were from the host community and 77% from the Rohingya community.

In collaboration with IOM’s Leda Health Clinic (LHC) team, the Malaysian Field Hospital medical team screened LHC’s non-emergency surgical cases this week and gave registration numbers to beneficiaries requiring subsequent surgical treatment at the Malaysian field hospital. IOM is supporting this medical campaign through organization of screenings and provision of logistical support to the Malaysian Field Hospital, including distribution of Hygiene kits to the community participating in the campaign. This campaign will continue until December once every week in different camps.

As part of cyclone preparedness activities, Interagency Emergency Health kits (IEHK), Rapid Diagnostic Test (RTD) for vector borne diseases and some medical tents have been collected from the World Health Organization (WHO) and prepositioned in strategic locations.

64 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea were treated this week at IOM Health Care facilities Kutupalong Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) and Leda PHCC. One stool sample has been collected by the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) from Kutupalong D4 Oral Rehydration Points (ORP) for RTD and culture.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES (MHPSS)

A total of 816 people were assisted this week in Ukhiya and Teknaf as part of direct MHPSS service provision. The prevailing MHPSS concerns of the community continue to be problems sleeping, sadness, fear and anxiety, irritation and feeling worthless.

Last week, as a part of community awareness campaign, the IOM-MHPSS unit observed World Mental Health day in different parts of Ukhiya and Teknaf and involving different stakeholders in the program. Through rally’s, open discussions and art activities, awareness around mental health and psychosocial wellbeing through supporting each other was shared with community members.
**Weekly Updates**

Last week, in preparation for the depression in the Bay of Bengal, the *Cyclone Preparedness (CPP)* volunteers raised flags and conducted awareness campaigns across all camps.

131 new lampposts have been installed in Camp 10 during the reporting week (198 out of 200 installed in total).

*Tree plantation* continues in all camps, including identification of new sites for tree plantation. The tree and grass plantation (total areas covered – 1,230 square meters) was completed in Camp 12.

*Outreach activities* were carried out across all camps – 101 Sensitization Campaigns, 98 Focus Group Discussions/Key Informant Interviews and 7,693 Door-to-Door visits.

*Community Feedback Response Mechanisms (CFRM)* have been running as planned but with a decrease number of complaints (614). 275 complaints have been addressed, and the rest were referred.

*Site Development (SD) Activities* include 15 new bridges constructed and 147.5m of repair and reinforcement; 3 new drains constructed and 516m of repair done as well as 273m of road constructed.

*CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)* training for Site Management and Site Development staff from IOM and implementing partners is ongoing.

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**Challenges**

*Safety and security issues* continue to arise in all camps.

Due to cyclone season, the additional risk of landslides is a concern for numerous learning centers and latrines located in at risk areas.

Refugees and host community members dump garbage in the drain, which are getting blocked.

The lack of cooking fuel remains a challenge for the community.
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.

IOM IN THE NEWS

IOM: COMMITTEE EMPOWERS ROHINGYA REFUGEE WOMEN IN PURSUIT OF AID

VOA (14 October 2018)

GENEVA — The International Organization for Migration reports some Rohingya refugee women in Cox’s Bazar have formed a committee that will enable them to present their concerns and needs to U.N. camp managers directly, without having to go through a man.

More than 100 Rohingya women have formed this first-of-a-kind committee. These women represent only a minuscule fraction of the nearly one million refugees who have fled to Cox’s Bazar to escape violence and persecution in Myanmar.

Nevertheless, the committee is seen as a ground-breaking achievement. In Cox’s Bazar, as in most refugee settings, men dominate. Women live in the shadows while the male members of their families decide on aid, work, and living priorities.

The International Organization for Migration says this first-ever all-female committee will flip this scenario around. IOM spokesman, Joel Millman said men are not always aware of the issues women consider to be of utmost importance. He said the women in the committee will be able to raise and pursue these issues themselves with U.N. staff who are in a position to help.

“They point out that two of the goals in the near term are to bring concerns of gender violence, improving lighting for example around latrines and places that are often risk centers for sexual harassment and abuse. But, also to discourage or at least to advise people on what IOM is referring to as forced or early child marriage,” he said.

Click here to listen to the full story.

DONORS TO IOM’S RESPONSE PLAN

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