

# FLASH UPDATE #4 ON MONSOON RESPONSE OF 11 August 2021

Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh (Report reflects cumulative information since 27 July unless otherwise specified)

Since 27 July, heavy monsoon rains have been lashing Cox’s Bazar district in Bangladesh leading to flash floods, waterlogging and landslides across the Rohingya refugee camp and surrounding Bangladeshi communities. Rains have also impacted segments of the highway leading to the camps. Between the period 27 July-10 August 2021, the total rainfall has been approximately 957mm in Cox’s Bazar. Light to medium rainfall is expected in the week ahead.

<b>80,912</b> refugees affected	<b>25,281</b> refugees displaced	<b>8</b> refugee fatalities*
------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------

\*5 due to landslides, 2 due to drowning, 1 due to an accident in a well.

## IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

- Site Management and Site Development:** 400 monsoon-related incidents have been recorded in the camps during 26 July-8 August. More than half were related to windstorm, while others largely consisted of flooding and slope failures. The assessment of camp infrastructure damaged by the recent heavy rains, including those that underwent urgent repairs, is complete. 1,111 bridges, 65,136 metres of access roads /pathways, 5,096 metres of stairs, 18,406 square metres of slopes requiring stabilization and 6,727 metres of drainage which need repairs were assessed through this exercise.
- Shelter/Non-Food Items:** Of the 8,695 damaged shelters, 6,796 were assisted with emergency shelter kits while 1,899 were not eligible for assistance. Many of the shelters were damaged by windstorm while others were impacted by landslides and flooding. Refugees continue to be provided with materials (bamboo, tarpaulins, rope, jute bags) to help with shelter repairs according to the level of damage.

<b>2,577</b> refugee shelters were partially moderately damaged	<b>2,404</b> refugee shelters were partially severely damaged	<b>1,809</b> refugee shelters were fully damaged	<b>6</b> refugee shelters were completely destroyed
--	--	---	--

- Health:** All health service points are now functional. 12 mobile medical teams remain on standby to respond, if needed.
- Food:** Rapid food assistance continues to be provided to affected families. 5,753 households received fortified biscuits, 140,717 cooked meals have been distributed, and 122 households benefitted from a one-off distribution of dry food rations in 31 camps. In the host communities, 552 cartons of fortified biscuits and 13,120 cooked meals were delivered in Government evacuation centres across 14 locations in the Teknaf Upazila. Cooked meals were complemented at evacuation centres with dry snacks.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** In the camps, some 2,739,800 Aqua Tabs have been distributed to supplement available chlorinated networks as well as 16,478 water containers. Soap has been distributed to 43,387 households. In the host communities, 464 tube wells, 826 latrines and 112 bathing spaces contaminated by the monsoons have been disinfected, while 5,000 Aqua Tabs were distributed to 500 families. Volunteers continue to promote good hygiene practices in the camps and host communities, to mitigate the risk of water borne diseases.
- Protection including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Protection response teams, including refugee volunteers, have reached 8,638 individuals across 32 camps, through assistance to vulnerable individuals, counselling and psychological first aid, and support to persons with disabilities Over 6,200 refugees, mainly women and girls, have been reached by volunteers through door to door awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence issues while 5,226 women and adolescent girls have received dignity kits. 644 refugees, mostly women, identified as particularly vulnerable were provided safe shelter, referred to mental health and psychosocial support services or provided with food and non-food items. Based on assessed needs, 3,345 items

including menstrual hygiene management kits, sanitary napkins and hygiene packages were distributed among women and girls in the camps. Meanwhile 11,297 children and caregivers have been reached through awareness raising on monsoon related risks to children while 5,221 girls and boys have received psychosocial support and psychological first aid. The rapid deployment of child protection mobile teams, swift dissemination of standardized messages and other efforts resulted in a lower rate of family separation and faster family reunifications when compared with previous emergencies. Child protection volunteers played a key role in these efforts.

- **Communication with Communities:** Existing materials and mechanisms, such as PSAs, radio broadcasts, miking and community mobilization through religious leaders, continue to be utilized to raise awareness about services among monsoon affected refugee families. Meanwhile awareness raising among refugees on the ongoing COVID-19 refugee vaccination in the camps dominated the work of the community volunteers in the past week
- **Education:** 67 learning centres across seven camps are being used to temporarily shelter monsoon affected refugee families. 4,103 families taking temporarily shelter in these learning centres have received relief items such as masks and sanitizers. 2,616 families with children have been reached through psychosocial support. An assessment of 96 monsoon-hit learning centres is ongoing, within COVID-19 restrictions, to ascertain the extent of the damage.



*A refugee volunteer rescuing a child from floodwaters in a Rohingya refugee camp  
© Din Islam/ refugee volunteer/ August 2021*

- **Logistics:** Transportation services remain on standby. Storage space is available at Madhuchara and Teknaf Logistics Hubs, as well as a contingency stock of equipment. Physical access constraints continue to be updated in [Logistics Information Exchange \(LOG IE\)](#).
- **Gender in Humanitarian Action:** Relief items such as floor mats, clothing and sandals were provided to women and girls in 150 families impacted by the monsoons.

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Monsoon recovery efforts in the camps continue to be hampered by ongoing restrictions to staff entering the camps. The reconstruction of access roads and community facilities is urgently needed to ensure refugees, particularly the vulnerable including women and girls and persons with disabilities, are safe and can be reached through response efforts. Slope stabilization is urgently needed to prevent future water logging and slope failures.
- Access to repair damaged child protection facilities will help mitigate a potential increase in child protection risks. An increase in child labour is being seen in the camps and longer-term case management is also needed to address this and other child protection issues.
- Assessments so far show that over 4,540 latrines, 1,547 bathing cubicles, 769 tube wells and 201 tap stands have been damaged or contaminated due to monsoon related incidents across the camps. Following urgent repair work, focus is now on facilities that have been significantly damaged or are linked to other aspects of recovery, such as slope stabilizing, and therefore will take a longer to repair.
- Sustained efforts must continue in the camps and host communities to mitigate health risks related to the monsoons such as the spread of water borne diseases and dengue, as well as curb the spread of COVID-19. Aid agencies together with the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) are also carrying out assessments to ascertain the full extent of the impact of the monsoons on the WASH facilities in the host communities

