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Bangladesh

Rohingya Camp Fire Situation Report No. 3

31 March 2021



Highlights

- According to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) report, 48,300 individuals were directly affected by the fire and 37,078 individuals temporarily displaced with 10,100 households without shelters.
- UNICEF-supported two Integrated Nutrition facilities (INFs) completely damaged by the fire have been made functional with the concerned services being provided under tents by 46 staff and 109 volunteers including treatment of children with acute malnutrition.
- 23,200 people have been provided access to 464 emergency latrines (gender-segregated) installed by UNICEF in Camp 8E and 8W.
- A UNICEF-supported Primary Health Centre (PHC) which was partially damaged by fire provided medical services to 550 patients in the affected camps.
- UNICEF has established 11 temporary Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in the affected camps. 825 children are being reached with psychosocial support (PSS) each day. 390 children have been successfully reunited with their parents or primary caregivers since the incident.
- Three Emergency Information and Feedback Centres were established in the affected camps and received and recorded a total of 231 queries on shelter, non-food item (NFI), protection, food, health and wash facilities.

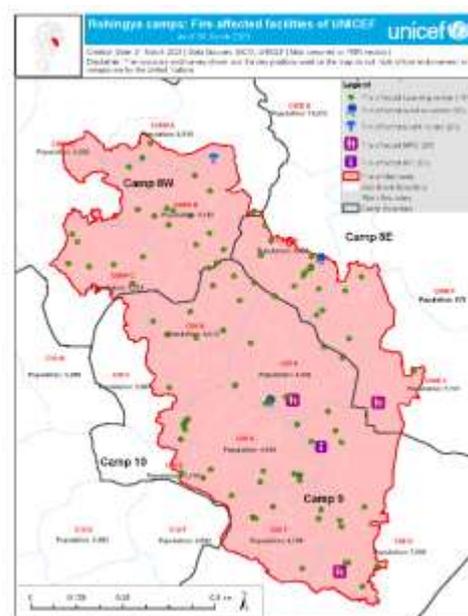
Situation in Numbers

-  **877,710**
Rohingya refugees
(UNHCR, 28 February 2021)
-  **456,409**
Rohingya refugee children
-  **37,078**
people displaced by the first 24 hours of the fire incident
With more than half of them are children (ISCG Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) 2021)

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

A massive fire broke out in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar District on 22 March 2021 around 3.30pm local time. The fire started in Camp 8W and rapidly spread to Camps 9 and 8E. As a result, 37,078 people across three camps were temporarily displaced. Refugees displaced by the fire moved to the adjacent camps where they congregated in open spaces. Some shifted to the Learning Centres (LCs) or stayed in the houses of other family members or friends. According to the reports of the Office of Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in charge of the coordination of humanitarian actors for Rohingya refugees, at least 11 people died including three children. UNICEF partners have reported that 24 children (13 girls and 11 boys) had been injured. The concerned government authorities and aid agencies have been working since Day 1 to help those who were affected.

A number of essential facilities and services have been impacted by the fire including health centres, clinics, hospitals, distribution points, markets, police posts and LCs. Those facilities supported by UNICEF which were either damaged or completely destroyed by the fire include 142 LCs; one PHC; two Integrated Nutrition Facilities (INF); three Multi-Purpose Centres (MPC); six water supply networks; 763 latrines; and 280 bathing spaces. According to Education Sector, approximately 13,166 children has been affected.



Education Sector, approximately 13,166 children has been affected.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

UNICEF-supported PHC at Camp 8W which was partially damaged by the fire is now open and providing services. For the period of 25 to 30 March, the centre provided treatment to a total of 550 patients (169 females, 168 males and 213 children [79 girls and 132 boys including two children with disability]). Patients sought treatment for burn and cut injuries in the early days but later they came with cold and cough, fever and diarrhoea among others. The fire also destroyed the houses and other belonging of 43 Rohingya who are working for the PHC. The affected personnel took shelter in the PHC premises and the concerned UNICEF implementing partners provided food, clothes and cooking utensils for 48 hours; disbursed their remuneration in advance; and delivered tarpaulin for making temporary sheds. They all vacated PHC premises within two days and moved to their temporary shelters. Five babies (two girls) were born in the centre last week. The services which were disrupted on the day of the fire were resumed on next day (23 March). Two newborn babies received care to maintain their body temperature with the radiant warmer on 26 and 27 March (one girl and one boy). A dedicated corner was established inside the PHC to provide breastfeeding support to lactating mothers along with IYCF counselling. This helped them to recover from trauma, take rest and feed their children. From 27 March, an additional IYCF counsellor was deployed to the same PHC from other facilities to support the team.

Other UNICEF Implementing partners continued the deployment of mobile medical teams (MMT) to the affected areas at Camp 9 until 27 March and provided medical services to 545 patients (134 females, 286 males and 125 children (34 girls, 91 boys). A few days after the fire incident, many patients reported having suffered from burn and cut injuries, but in the later days, many of them came with diarrhoea. Patients with COVID-19 symptoms were referred to other clinics which has proper isolation arrangement. Diarrhea cases have been reported not only from UNICEF-supported MMT but also from other health centres. Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) is in place to capture any event-based alert/clustering along with weekly aggregated numbers.

Nutrition

The two Integrated Nutrition facilities (INFs) completely damaged by the fire have been made functional by using tents on the cleaned areas. UNICEF and partners had mobilized 46 staff and 109 volunteers to provide emergency nutrition services including treatment of children with acute malnutrition. As of 30 March, 6,731 children (51 per cent girls) were screened for acute malnutrition and 122 children (75 girls and 47 boys) were identified as severe acute malnutrition cases, and Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) was given to them. Two breastfeeding corners were established and supported 1,089 mothers to safely breastfeed their babies. UNICEF also provided IYCF counseling and psychosocial supports to 140 mothers to help them over their mental trauma and continue breastfeeding. Two Early Child Care and Development (ECCD) corners were established to support child wellbeing, and over 2,307 children (1,130 girls) benefitted from playing in the play area.

To ensure that all admitted children admitted to the INFs received the required nutrition services, UNICEF initiated steps to track the relocated children. 32 children were identified in the relocated camps and were referred to the nearby INF to continue with the treatment. UNICEF, in collaboration with WFP, provided urgent complementary feeding and caring services. Since the incident, 1,475 children aged 6 to 23 months were provided with complementary foods and 4,165 children aged 24 to 59 months were provided supplementary food. Moreover, 551 pregnant and lactating women were provided with porridge from the General Food Assistance points. When asked, caregivers expressed satisfaction for the food support which was very much needed. During monitoring visits, water was identified as one of the urgent basic needs. UNICEF initiated steps to provide support for providing safe drinking water to the fire affected communities. Destroyed two tube-wells located in the INFs were repaired and drinking water was distributed to 3,472 families.

Child Protection

Since the fire incident, 390 children (250 girls and 140 boys) have been successfully reunited with their parents or primary caregivers. With the fire having destroyed three Multi-Purpose Centres (MPC) in Camp 8E and 9 which were serving approximately 3,000 children, UNICEF and partners promptly established 11 temporary Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and four Child Protection Help Desks to maintain the continuity of services. The CFS is a safe space where children can access psychological first aid and psychosocial support (PSS). They also serve as nodes for case management. Approximately 825 children are being reached with PSS each day, with each CFS holding three sessions per day for 25 children. Help Desks consolidated and provided information that is essential to family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children.

Case management for children remains a priority. Approximately 22 per cent of key informants in Camp 8W and 12 per cent in Camp 9 cite children's separation from families as a significant concern, and 10 per cent of respondents in Camp 9 are worried about child trafficking¹. In coordination with the Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS), partners deployed case workers to the affected camps from other camps for a certain number of hours per week. While this may leave a temporary service gap in the unaffected camps, it is critical that information on unaccompanied and separated children is verified immediately and that family tracing and reunification is properly monitored and followed up.

UNICEF and partners in affected areas are mapping the number of children and adolescents who have migrated to unaffected camps; who have moved within their original camps; and who have remained with caregivers in spaces rebuilt with NFI on the same plot. This will help UNICEF in arranging for critical required support such as dignity kits, food, water and clothing.

Education



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A total of 150 education facilities have been damaged, including 142 Learning Centres (LCs), two Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) and six other related education facilities such as resource centres and project offices. UNICEF has been working with Education Sector partners to restore the damages to the facilities and trauma to the beneficiaries. UNICEF is also extending support to children, adolescents and affected family members through psychosocial support sessions in LCs and MPCs to overcome the shock and trauma. Further, UNICEF is working closely with other humanitarian actors and the concerned government authorities to ensure the continuity of care-giver-led home-based learning for children affected by the fire and preparation for the reopening of schools now planned to start on 24 May 2021. There has also been discussion among the concerned actors to address education-related

cross-sectoral issues such as how to secure land to rebuild new facilities and the identification of water points for WASH facilities for education-related facilities.

WASH

UNICEF has been focusing its WASH-related assistance on the provision of emergency water and sanitation services to 18,700 people (9,537 female, 935 PWD) from 4,022 households who have lost their homes and WASH facilities due to the fire in Camp 8E and 8W. In addition, UNICEF is supporting 1,000 people (54 per cent female) from the host communities living within the camp areas who have lost their homes and WASH facilities.

UNICEF have installed 464 emergency latrines² (gender segregated) in the two camps which can be utilized by 23,200 people in line with the SPHERE standard of 50 people per latrine during acute emergency. These emergency latrines have tarpaulin superstructures and are being used while efforts are made to make the fire-damaged latrines usable again. UNICEF has also installed 232 emergency bathing spaces out of 280 locations where bathing spaces were damaged by fire. In the same way as the emergency latrines, these emergency bathing spaces are using tarpaulins while make damaged bathing spaces usable again. Regarding 197 tube wells with hand pumps which were damaged, temporary repairs have been carried out to all of them to make them functional again. However, more work needs to be done to fully restore them. Concerning six solar-powered water networks that were damaged. UNICEF have temporarily repaired all of them by using portable generators and replacing the damaged solar panels. They are used to provide water to emergency water distribution points.



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Emergency Latrines with handwashing devices in camp 8W

1 Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) (2021), *Fire Incident: Initial Rapid Joint Needs Assessment Report*, ISCG, March 2021

2 A total of 763 latrines were damaged by the fire in Camp 8E and 8W.

All community structures established under the Clean Camp Campaign (people-led total hygiene approach) and associated personnel have been involved in these works from the onset of the emergency response. They include 113 community-based volunteers (CBV), 26 WASH Committees, and 35 Latrine and 21 Water User Groups. They proactively participated in the reparation of the concerned facilities by using the materials provided by UNICEF's implementing partners. Activities for hygiene promotion have been conducted with focus on ensuring hand washing for the prevention of COVID-19 as well as reducing the incidence of acute watery diarrhoea.

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) needs of affected women have been monitored and the materials for safe menstrual hygiene practices have been provided. CBVs are visiting households to collect feedback and information on additional needs from the female beneficiaries.

Communications for Development (C4D)

UNICEF and its implementing partners supported the establishment of three Emergency Information and Feedback Centre (EIFC) in the three fire-affected camps. These EIFCs received and recorded a total of 231 queries on shelter, food, non-food items, protection, health and wash facilities. Among them, quires related to primary health care topped the list with 41 queries. A total of 2,766 people (233 female) have been reached through inter-personal communication sessions with key messages on safety, protection and reunification and related information. Altogether 72,840 people have been reached through loudspeaker messages on the broader protection and service point-related issues in the affected camps. Two radio public service announcements on family reunification have been recorded and been broadcasted 110 times in two radio stations. One radio dialogue has brought together 40 people (12 female) including the government's Camp-in Charge, *Majhis* (community leaders), religious leaders, adolescents and experts on the issues faced by the affected population.



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Funding requirement

It is estimated that UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office requires approximately US\$ 3.9 million (US\$ 3,887,961) to reconstruct the facilities damaged or destroyed by the fire; restart the provision of life-saving services; and address the critical needs of the affected refugee children and their families in general. The following table shows the overall breakdown of this amount.

Programme areas	Funding needs	Funding identified	Funding gap
C4D	\$10,035	0	\$10,035
Child Protection	\$94,451	0	\$94,451
Education	\$813,876	0	\$813,876
Health	\$82,645	0	\$82,645
Nutrition	\$55,490	0	\$55,490
WASH	\$2,831,464	\$1,500,000	\$1,331,464
Grand total	\$3,887,961	\$1,500,000	\$2,387,961

Human Interest Stories and External Media

[Junaid was separated from his family when fleeing raging fire in Rohingya refugee camps | UNICEF Bangladesh](#)

The next Situation Report will be issued on 22 April 2021.

For general information regarding the actions being taken by UNICEF and other humanitarian community actors for Rohingya Refugee Emergency and the concerned resource requirements, please see the following documents.

- UNICEF Bangladesh [Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\)](#)
- UNICEF Bangladesh [Facebook page](#)
- Bangladesh [Rohingya Refugee Joint Response Plan 2020](#)
- UNICEF Response to the [COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh](#)

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