

Highlights

The humanitarian community and Government of Bangladesh are working closely in COVID-19 preparedness and response in 34 camps and for vulnerable Bangladeshis across the District, including through:

- delivery of **critical assistance and services**;
- dissemination of COVID-19 messages by **over 2,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi volunteers**;
- establishment of **Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centres (SARI ITCs)** and support to District facilities in Ramu, Chakaria, the Sadar Hospital and the Upazila health complexes.



Orientation of Rohingya community leaders on proper use of masks. Photo: IOM

Key challenges continue to be limited testing, intensive care capacity, skilled medical staff, and supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), restricted telecommunications in the camps and nearby host communities, and maintaining social distancing in the densely populated camps. A **new challenge** is the rise of rental fees and eviction threats due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on both Rohingya and host communities.

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confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Rohingya refugee camps. 39 confirmed cases in the District – see [IEDCR](#)

118,342

individuals in the camps and host community participated in community engagement activities on COVID-19

3,587

older persons and 380 persons living with disabilities in the camps participated in COVID-19 awareness sessions

2,560

COVID-19 awareness leaflets were distributed in the host community through the Out-of-School Children Program

90%

of nutrition frontline workers and volunteers in the camps and host community were trained on COVID-19

30 April

Health Sector completed training of the first batch of IPC Master Trainers from SARI ITC partners, Sadar Hospital and Sub-District (Upazila) health complexes

Sector Preparedness and Response

Health Sector

On 30 April, Health Sector completed **training of the first batch of IPC Master Trainers** with 19 participants from SARI ITC partners, Sadar Hospital and Sub-District (Upazila) health complexes. Participants drafted action plans as part of quality assurance for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in their facilities. WHO completed training of 27 government and INGO/NNGO staff in the **first training of trainers in clinical case management for COVID-19 in Cox's Bazar**. WHO assembled **more than 30 trainees of its Mental Health Gap Action Programme** to build a pool of critical human resources to support stress management and psychosocial first aid which is a much-needed component of the current COVID-19 pandemic response for health care workers and patients in Cox's Bazar. Health Sector shared key documents on COVID-19 with its partners, including on quarantine, handwashing and temperature screening.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector

WASH Sector partners reached **116,457 individuals** with approved COVID-19 messages through a neighborhood-based approach, and **396,559 individuals** through mass media in Cox's Bazar District, including host and refugee communities. Additionally in the camps, WASH Sector partners provided **soap to 26,525 households** and **family**

hygiene kits to 7,881 households; and installed 8,554 hand-washing stations in public places, at household level and near toilets, as well as at entry points to the camps. In the host community and camps, WASH Sector partners disinfected 42,936 WASH facilities and public buildings, and supported a total of 11 health centers with sanitation facilities, water supply, and WASH packages.



Communication with Communities Working Group (CwC WG)

CwC WG with support of WASH and Health sectors issued a [Risk Communication and Community Engagement \(RCCE\) operational guidance](#), which helps partners to identify which communication modality should be used/prioritized for which area and at which point, and whom to target. CwC WG partners organized **15 cascade training sessions** on COVID-19 with 364 staff and volunteers. CwC WG partners reached **118,342 people in the camps and host community through community engagement activities on COVID-19**; reached **64,957 Rohingya refugees with COVID-19 messages** through 29,302 neighborhood-based sessions; consulted **24,306 Rohingya refugees on COVID-19 key messages** through 5,229 community meetings; and organised **323 listener group sessions with 3,826 Rohingya community members** and **231 video/film show sessions on COVID-19**. CwC WG partners also organized announcements on COVID-19 awareness via loudspeakers and megaphones on CNG/Tomtom/auto-rickshaws in 34 camps, and in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Pekua, Maheskhali and Kutubdia. Religious leaders conducted 3,757 sessions, reaching **15,361 Rohingya refugees with COVID-19 messages**. In the **camps**, **60 information service centers and 24 help desks** operated to receive feedback and complaints. In the **host community**, CwC WG partners reached **5,653 Bangladeshi people** through 1,521 community awareness sessions on COVID-19; and **1 information service center** operated to receive feedback and complaints. BBC Media Action published its ["What Matters?" bulletin \(Issue 36\)](#) that focuses on COVID-19 and the role of religion and community leaders; and produced new content for both Rohingya and host communities, including a [podcast](#) on rumors/misinformation and audio content [explaining quarantine and isolation](#). UNICEF and partners produced new [COVID-19 audio-visual materials](#). Islamic Foundation developed key messages on [Ramadan Safe Practices during COVID-19](#), which UNICEF and Translators Without Borders (TWB) translated into English and Burmese; and developed PSA and audio materials on these key messages together with Bangladesh Betar and TWB. ACAPS and IOM published a report on ["Safe and Dignified Burials"](#) to support humanitarian responders in understanding the current traditional burial practices of Rohingya Muslims with current government guidance on burials for COVID-19 deaths. CwC WG published the [4th COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement Update](#). CwC WG partners developed [5 audio messages and 4 posters and leaflets on COVID 19](#).

Nutrition Sector

Nutrition Sector COVID-19 Master Trainers oriented **90% of the nutrition frontline workers and volunteers** on COVID-19 in the camps and host community; and **counseled 700 beneficiaries on COVID-19 in the host community**. Nutrition Sector partners **trained over 5,000 mothers in the camps** on how to check nutritional status of children using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes that were provided to all. CARE **trained 128 Nutrition Sector partner staff on mobile nutrition and COVID-19**. Nutrition Sector partners delivered critical nutrition services following the recent issuance of [guidelines on critical services for community-based management of acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding in the COVID-19 context](#).



Rohingya mothers and children maintain physical distancing at a nutrition facility. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Food Security Sector (FSS)

FSS published a [factsheet](#) on **livelihoods activities supporting the COVID-19 response**, highlighting cloth mask making initiatives in the host communities and refugee camps. FSS shared FAO's [SOP for distribution of agricultural inputs during lockdown](#) with partners to ensure close coordination with the Department of Agricultural Extension. In the host community, Oxfam distributed **food baskets to 1,300 households in Cox's Bazar Sadar and to 500 households in Ukhiya**. In the camps, UNHCR distributed **vegetable seeds to 170 households**. FSS continued to monitor its COVID-19 response in the host community through its [response tracker](#) and [dashboards](#). A recent [Cox's Bazar market monitoring report](#) issued by WFP has revealed that market prices, availability and stock/restocking capacity have been disrupted by the lockdown (for example the price of rice has increased by 20%).

Protection Sector

Protection Sector partners have started using the Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Technical Forum's **eviction incident monitoring tool** to assess the emerging protection risk of evictions and mitigate tensions between Rohingya and host communities. In line with the Government's public health guidelines, UNHCR established **two facilities in Teknaf and Ukhiya to quarantine for new arrivals** for a period of 14 days. At the quarantine facilities, new arrivals -including some 400 Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi migrants who landed near Shamlapur on the evening of 15 April, received healthcare, food, psychosocial support, counselling, and information on COVID-19. **Rohingya Community Outreach Members conducted 3,312 awareness sessions on COVID-19** reaching 17,461 refugees, including **3,587 older persons and 380 persons with disabilities**. Rohingya community groups reached **3,187 refugees including 39% women and girls** through 334 COVID-19 awareness raising sessions. Imams conducted 629 awareness sessions on COVID-19 reaching 9,638 refugees in 15 camps. Protection Emergency Response Unit members and Protection Sector partners in the camps also conducted awareness sessions, reaching 44,182 refugees. Child Protection Sub-Sector continued case management, including family tracing, with increased reliance on [remote case management](#); building capacity and mentoring volunteers; and increasing engagement of community leaders, adolescents and community members to ensure plans are in place at community level to prevent and respond to child protection impacts of COVID-19. GBV Sub-Sector partners continued with critical case management services including provision of Psychological First Aid and referrals; refreshed its staff and volunteers on the PSEA guidelines; and trained 2 Majhis and 17 Imams from 6 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf on key COVID-19 information, in addition to awareness raising one-to-one and in small groups with women leaders and volunteers.



Rohingya community outreach volunteers are oriented on COVID-19 in a Multi-Purpose Women Centre. Photo: UN Women

Education Sector

Education Sector partners reached **14,950 Rohingya refugees including 3,588 women in 20 camps with COVID-19 awareness messages**. **299 Burmese Language Instructors (BLI) shared COVID-19 education guidelines with 22,425 Rohingya caregivers** including 5,831 women. **77 BLI disseminated COVID-19 awareness messages to 1,694 Rohingya learner households**. Moreover on a daily basis, BLIs reached **8-10 households with animated videos** on COVID-19 awareness animated videos and **communicated with 10-12 learners** over the phone or in person while respecting physical distancing to ensure home learning. Education Sector partners **distributed 2,560 COVID-19 awareness leaflets through its Out-of-School Children Program in the host community**.

Site Management Site Development (SMSD) Sector

In the 17 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf, SMSD Sector partners reached **35,817 individuals including 15,746 women with key COVID-19 messages** through household visits, public audio forums, radio listening groups, community awareness sessions, and information boards. SMSD Sector partners together with WASH partners **installed 73 hand washing points for the Rohingya community**. Also in the camps, SMSD Sector partners **completed construction of three COVID-19 triage spaces**; prepared the area for two graveyards at the request of the Rohingya community and in coordination with local authorities; **relocated 120 households** to open up space for a new quarantine site; **distributed 12,840 tie down kits** for shelters, and **distributed 500 masks** to disaster management units, mahjhis, and imams with an orientation on its proper use.

Logistics Sector

Logistics Sector entered into a partnership with HI/ ATLAS Logistics through a WFP Memorandum of Understanding to **secure common storage in Cox's Bazar and local transport of medical materials to SARI ITCs**. The new common storage hub will be the 5th hub available to the humanitarian community, with existing hubs located in Madhu Chara, Balukhali, Teknaf, Unchiprang and Cox's Bazar. Logistics Sector partners **distributed 120 litres of hand sanitizer** to three organisations, to support staff hygiene. Logistics Sector provided **technical support to the military to setup a mobile storage unit and prefab** for the COVID-19 response.



Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) and Gender Hub

Across 20 camps and in the host community in Ukhiya and Teknaf, **6 CiC Gender Officers, 40 volunteers, and 42 women leaders including transgender networks and civil society organisations (CSO)** conducted COVID-19 awareness sessions and engaged in community consultations to identify community-based solutions to gender issues related to COVID-19, primarily targeting women and girls. Gender Hub developed an [advocacy brief called “Rohingya Women Speak Up: Concerns, Demands and Solutions”](#) based on consultations with Rohingya women leaders, CSOs and volunteers across 13 camps. GiHA WG developed [gender IEC materials](#) in English, Bangla and Rohingya on prevention of GBV and intimate partner violence, gendered impact of COVID-19 and promotion of gender-equal roles. GiHA WG completed a **mapping exercise of local women's/gender rights CSOs and networks that are active and present in Rohingya camps host communities in Cox's Bazar** to promote greater engagement of these in all response efforts across all sectors.

For more information:

Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)

E-mail: iscg@iscgcb.org.

Website: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh>

Social media:

