**Highlights**

- As of 30 April, no confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been identified in the Rohingya refugee camps. 24 COVID-19 positive cases had been reported in Cox’s Bazar District, according to IEDCR. From 8 April, only critical services were being delivered in the camps, to minimize the risk of spreading the virus within the camp setting. Physical distancing measures continued to be implemented in the camps.

- Urgent priorities are construction of Severe Acute Respiratory isolation and treatment centres, intensified hygiene promotion activities, two-way community engagement and training of health care workers and refugee and host community volunteers. The humanitarian community provided support to District health facilities in Ramu, Chakaria, the Sadar Hospital and the Upazila Health Complexes. Click here to see the latest ISCG COVID-19 weekly update.

- Cyclone and monsoon preparedness also gained momentum in April, with the first cyclone season approaching.

- On 15 April, a boat carrying some 400 Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshis disembarked after spending more than two months at sea. Rescued survivors were provided life-saving assistance and services by UN and NGO partners at established quarantine sites. Dangerous onward movement, including anti-trafficking and smuggling, continued to pose serious protection risks for both refugee and host communities.

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**1.3M PEOPLE TOTAL TARGETED IN JRP 2020**

**POPULATION KEY FIGURE**

- **860K** Rohingya Refugees
  - 27.3% Boys
  - 26.2% Girls
  - 20.1% Men
  - 28.8% Women

- **444K** Host Communities
  - 33% Boys
  - 30% Girls
  - 18.5% Men
  - 18.5% Women

**FUNDING OVERVIEW**

- **$877M** total requirement
- **160** projects
- **117** project partners

**FUNDING FOR JOINT RESPONSE PLAN 2019**

- **$147M** received
  - Protection: 14% $12M
  - Food Security: 2% $6M
  - Education: 2% $2M
  - Health: 2% $2M
  - Nutrition: 10% $12M
  - Shelter and NFI: 4% $3M
  - WASH: $0M
  - CwC: $0M
  - Logistics: $0M
  - ETS: $0M

Funding figures are in USD and were extracted from FTS as of 30 April 2020. Total funds received under the JRP2020 includes funding not yet allocated to a specific sector.

Protection Sector funding level is sub-divided into General Protection (GP) and the respective Sub-Sectors: Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
SPOTLIGHT ON: WOMEN AS FIRST RESPONDERS

Rohingya and host community women are playing a critical role as first responders to address COVID-19. Women are leading and engaged in mask production, community outreach and engagement efforts through awareness and consultation sessions. They are critical health workers, Gender Based Violence case workers, primary caregivers of the elderly, sick and children, and community mobilizers through Civil Society networks.

Women take on these roles despite gender barriers and risks they continue to face, which are exacerbated by the new context, including women’s disproportionate care roles, an increase in gender-based violence, limited menstrual hygiene management, little access to economic activities, as well as to information, services such as WASH and health, and decision-making overall. Rohingya and host community women must continue to be engaged across all levels, dimensions and stages of the COVID-19 response, in ways that they deem safe, appropriate and in line with their demands and preferences.

SECTOR INTERVENTION: ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGES & GAPS

Achievements in April

- Food assistance was provided to 185,320 refugee households (858,401 individuals) in all 34 camps and Konopara.
- 49,935 households received complementary food voucher assistance.
- 14,385 households transitioned to e-voucher assistance from in-kind assistance, increasing the total number of e-voucher beneficiaries to 146,689 households, or 80% of all refugee households.
- 17 e-voucher outlets were operational in April after the opening of a new outlet. E-voucher outlets are now providing pre-packaged rations of 12 food items through commodity vouchers.
- The first round of household distribution of both general food items and e-voucher assistance was carried out, as part of COVID-19 prevention measures. Additional porters were engaged to transport food items to households.
- Sensitization on changes to assistance were communicated to refugees through audio messaging at all food assistance facilities and through loudspeakers on tomtoms to avoid house-to-house visits.
- 102 refugee households received cash-for-work entitlements by four partners to produce cloth masks.
- In collaboration with respective departments of the Government of Bangladesh and partners, SOPs are being developed to implement essential activities such as agriculture and livelihood initiatives to support the health response in host communities, with mask-making projects in the camps. The Livelihoods Working Group is coordinating among partners producing cloth masks to support the health response and the distribution of cloth masks. See a factsheet here.

Host community response achievements in April

- 31,419 households received food assistance, 922 households received a multi-purpose cash grant, 15,100 households received agricultural inputs, and 3,020 households received training in agriculture or cloth mask production from a total of 18 partners.

A Rohingya woman makes masks in a UN Women- BRAC Multi-Purpose Women’s Centre, April 2020. Photo: UN Women/Nadira Islam.
Achievements in April

- The Sector delivered key hygiene promotion messages to 326,090 refugees. 65,218 households received soap and 41,581 households received family hygiene kits as part of regular distribution.
- The Sector and partners have positioned 10,102 hand washing stations in households, near latrines or public buildings, and at camp entry points. Some 32,600 public and/or WASH facilities are disinfected each week in both camps and the host community.
- The Sector constructed 75 new latrines, of which 54 are disabled-friendly, and an additional 16,648 latrines were desludged or maintained, out of a total of 61,587 existing latrines. 48 new bathing facilities were constructed, and 1,511 bathing facilities were repaired, out of 19,534 existing facilities.
- 9,600 people in camps (mainly in Teknaf) benefitted from trucking of safe water for domestic purposes.
- 133 new water points were constructed in the camps, strengthening the capacity of existing small water networks which cover 54% of the camps. Construction of small water networks for a further 36% of the camps is ongoing, with coverage for the remaining 10% of the camps yet to commence.

Host community response achievements in April

- The Sector is supporting seven government health facilities in the host community with water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- 206 new latrines were constructed, of which 179 were disabled-friendly. An additional 669 latrines were desludged or maintained.
- 501 tube-wells with hand-pumps were constructed to ensure safe water service.
- 614 households received hygiene items supplies.

Sector Gaps/Constraints in April

- Procurement of technical equipment (e.g. water pumps) has been challenging due to the national lockdown. As a result, some activities have had to be put on hold (such analysis of water or sludge).
- Teknaf continues to face a critical water shortage following the dry season and the Sector is limited in its capacity to ensure sufficient trucking of safe water to Teknaf.
**Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Sector**

**Sector Coordinator:**

**Co-Coordinator:**

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**Achievements in April**

- More than 135,000 households were provided tie-down kits which were distributed jointly with non-food items (NFI) kits, soap or Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG).
- Prior to the shift to critical services only, 2,769 households were supported with repair and maintenance activities in April (of a total of 85,732 households supported since February 2019) and a further 33 households were supported with mid-term shelter.
- 190,313 refugee households are receiving LPG refills. Since the beginning of the program in April 2019, 1,932,273 refills have been provided.
- In April, 1,774 shelters were damaged, with 1,773 shelters receiving emergency shelter response.
- Safety recommendations for construction during COVID-19 were developed to support construction of new medical facilities.

**Host community response achievements in April**

- In total, 31,298 host community households are receiving LPG refills; 2,170 new households were enrolled in April.

**Sector Gaps/Constraints in April**

- As regular upgrading/improvement of many shelters was not finished prior to the shift to critical services on 8 April, an increasing number of shelters were damaged by bad weather during the month. Emergency shelter response teams responded where possible.

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**Site Management Site Development (SMSD) Sector**

**Sector Coordinator** Kerry McBroom **smcxb.coord@gmail.com**

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**Achievements in April**

- Rohingya and host community volunteers worked on urgent and essential infrastructure projects to support health facilities, including road access, construction of a new quarantine facility and triage spaces, and construction and maintenance of two graveyards.
- SMSD partners provided information on COVID-19 awareness and prevention throughout the camps, including training 110 Rohingya Women's Committee leaders. More than 48,250 men, women, boys, girls, imams, and leaders received COVID-19-related messaging.
- To open space in new quarantine sites, SMSD teams relocated 120 households within a camp, in coordination with the Shelter/NFI Sector. During the relocation all families received food, LPG and NFI kits and the WASH Sector provided temporary hand-washing stations.
- All partners have launched a remote management system pilot in all camps to track services and challenges.
- For cyclone and monsoon season, SMSD Disaster Management Unit (DMUs) volunteers have installed over 30 red flags in landslide risk areas, signalling risks to households and disaster risk reduction teams. In a camp with a COVID-19 case identified in the nearby host community, the Camp-in-Charge (CIC) and SMSD mobilized DMUs to limit movement in the camp.
Sector Gaps/Constraints in April

- Rumours and misunderstanding about COVID-19, quarantine, Rohingya returnees who had disembarked from boats, and humanitarian assistance create challenges for site managers coordinating across camps.

Protection (PWG)

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Achievements in April

- As traffickers and smugglers continue to prey on socio-economic vulnerabilities exacerbated by the COVID-19 situation, the Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG) conducted awareness raising sessions for 1,679 people on the dangers of onward movement. The ATWG is developing anti-trafficking messaging.
- 415 community outreach members disseminated key protection messages on COVID-19 to 39,853 individuals, including older persons and persons living with disabilities. Through close engagement with Imams, a further 202,481 individuals were also reached.
- Protection Emergency Response Units (PERU) continued to be active in all camps, working closely with Protection Focal Points and service providers in the identification and referral of urgent protection cases. PERU teams conducted awareness sessions reaching some 44,000 individuals. Community groups and Protection volunteers working with partners contributed to awareness raising efforts reaching 54,178 individuals.
- 1,695 individuals at heightened protection risk were identified and supported through protection case management (not including CP and GBV). Out of the individuals supported, 1,151 were extremely vulnerable individuals provided with services and referrals. The Sector, in collaboration with community-based protection colleagues and the Age and Disability Working Group (ADWG), organized two online training sessions for Protection Focal Points and PERU team leaders working in all 34 camps to build their capacity to identify/address risks faced by Persons with Specific Needs.
- 2,474 community-led initiatives were supported by protection actors in order to continue strengthening community-based structures in the camps; ensuring the resilience and ability of communities to recover post-COVID-19.

Host community response achievements in April

- ADWG partners provided hand sanitizers and disinfectant materials for 1,369 older people and reached 2,417 individuals with COVID-19 messaging. 320 older individuals were supported with Income-Generating Activities in order to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and reduce vulnerabilities.
- ADWG partners reached 981 individuals (402 men, 396 women, 102 boys and 81 girls) with awareness messages on trafficking and smuggling which were delivered in small groups, with physical distancing observed.

Sector Gaps/Constraints in April

- Restricted access to host communities due to COVID-19 movement restrictions has presented challenges in the delivery of services to older persons and persons living with disabilities. The reduced protection footprint continues to pose challenges in addressing urgent protection needs.
Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS)

Achievements in April
- Child Protection Focal Points in the camps were provided with support to ensure daily presence to strengthen referrals, monitor child protection trends and coordinate with other actors. Interim guidance was developed for Focal Points and daily communication with the CPSS was ensured.
- Child protection partners supported individual case management to 423 children, through both case worker support and remote support to volunteers. The Case Management Technical Working Group developed Cox’s Bazar Remote Case Management Guidance to ensure continuity of care in the COVID-19 context. Furthermore, 10 children were reunified through family tracing and reunification efforts.
- Community Based Child Protection mechanisms, including committees and volunteers, were engaged in small groups to raise awareness to 19,368 people on COVID-19 and related child protection issues for children and caregivers, including messaging on positive parenting.
- Volunteers provided psychosocial support to 2,621 to children, adolescents and parents/caregivers, individually and in small groups. CPSS partners have adapted games from their social emotional curriculum games bank which aim at providing psychosocial support to children.
- CPSS partners conducted PSEA training with volunteers and community-based child protection actors to ensure a protective environment for children.

Host community response achievements in April
- CPSS partners continued to disseminate information on COVID-19, case management services, psychosocial support (primarily for adults) as well as counselling in host communities. Delivery of awareness raising for adults on COVID-19 by community-based child protection committee members continued.
- 125 adolescents received individual awareness sessions and animators continued to provide life skill sessions on personal hygiene and COVID-19 awareness.

Sector Gaps/Constraints in April
- The closure of facilities and suspension of protection activities has been extremely challenging in ensuring a continued life-saving child protection response in a context where child protection concerns are exacerbated.
- Reduced humanitarian presence caused difficulties when referring individuals to services. Limited and/or delayed referral opportunities for case management caused beneficiaries to lose trust in the child protection service system.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector (GBVSS)

Achievements in April
- GBV SS continued to provide individual psychosocial support services and case management services in all 34 camps, including referring vulnerable families including older persons and persons with disabilities to appropriate services.
- GBVSS partners provided remote GBV case management service to ensure survivors had an alternative way to contact a GBV caseworker. Furthermore, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Service (MHPSS) support for humanitarian staff remained available through MHPSS experts, in both Bangla and English languages.
- Partners launched cloth face mask making activities for women and girls in 18 Women Friendly Spaces.
- Partners met with Mahjis in the camps to identify referral channels for GBV cases which need to be referred to case workers. Staff, volunteers and service providers continued to be oriented on the existing
referral pathways to mitigate the risks of GBV and PSEA.

- Partners conducted facility assessments in five camps as part of emergency preparedness ahead of the cyclone monsoon season.
- Community awareness on personal hygiene and GBV risk mitigation measures is ongoing, conducted by volunteers, community watch groups and women leadership groups. Rohingya men and boys conducted awareness sessions to 4,368 male community members on the importance of equitable gender roles and PSEA. A further 2,108 individuals were reached with key protection and COVID-19 messages during the month.

**Host community response achievements in April**

- Partners continued to provide individual psychosocial and case management services in 11 host community locations, including referrals of vulnerable families, including older persons and persons with disabilities.
- GBV SS partners conducted assessments at seven facilities in the host community as part of emergency preparedness ahead of the cyclone monsoon season.
- At community level, awareness on COVID-19, personal hygiene and GBV risk mitigation and prevention by volunteers and members of community watch groups and women leadership groups is ongoing and has included the dissemination of precautionary messages by teams of males who conduct outreach to, and engage with, communities.
- 14 sessions on COVID-19 prevention and GBV mitigation were conducted by community watch groups and women leadership groups for 289 individuals in four unions of Ukhiya and Teknaf.

**Sector Gaps Constraints in April**

- Partners are reporting that in some camps volunteers faced challenges while conducting awareness sessions due to community perception that Bangladeshi staff volunteers may be vectors of COVID-19.
- Female volunteers reported increased incidents of harassment by the community and feeling unsafe working in the camps due to reduced presence of other humanitarian actors.
- Referrals for legal services in several camps were more challenging in April as services were not readily available.

**Health Sector**

**Achievements in April**

- Training on Contact Tracing and Go.data Apps were conducted with a total of 38 participants. Trained personnel are responsible for case investigations, contact tracing activities and data management.
- The Health Sector provided support to the IEDCR laboratory in Cox’s Bazar, including transportation of samples from the camps to the facility.
- The Sector developed a concept note for a Dispatch and Referral Unit, which will oversee the coordination of ambulances during the COVID-19 response.
- The Sector organized multiple field visits in quarantine locations to speak to those quarantined and provide support to manage the stress that isolation can cause.
- Supervision visits were carried out to two BRAC laboratories to provide technical support especially for ensuring quality on Tuberculosis diagnoses.
- Number of measles cases have been consistently decreasing following the Measles Rubella campaign. A total of 38 suspected measles cases were reported from 23 March to 19 April 2020.

**Host community response achievements in April**

- The Sector supported the Teknaf Upazila Health Complex to conduct 88 x-ray examinations (60% of which were chest x-rays) for Bangladeshi patients with COVID-19 symptoms who were referred to the health complex.

**Sector Gaps Constraints in April**

- Use of health services by Rohingya has decreased in April with a total of 159,069 outpatient department consultations compared to 287,738 in March. This is likely due to restricted movement and the community’s perception that only essential visits to the health centre are necessary.
- Outreach immunization sessions have temporarily stopped, in light of COVID-19. Limited health facility-based immunization sessions continue. A revised routine immunization strategy for Rohingya in COVID-19 is being drafted.
### Education Sector

**Achievements in April**
- 299 Burmese Language Instructors shared COVID-19 education guidelines with 22,425 Rohingya caregivers, including 5,831 women.
- 298 teachers and 77 Burmese Language Instructors reached 27,932 Rohingya learners’ households in the camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf with information on how to ensure cleanliness and protection from COVID-19.
- 1,135 learning materials for children were distributed at the household level for children to work on while temporary learning centres remain closed.
- 25 banners, 64 posters, 14,134 leaflets, 13 hand microphones, and 4,577 smartphones with audio clips were used to disseminate information on COVID-19.

**Host community response achievements in April**
- 2,560 COVID-19 awareness leaflets were distributed through the Out-of-School Children Program in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- 150 government teachers were oriented on how to engage parents on COVID-19 awareness.
- 77 staff and teachers were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, including masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers.

**Sector Gaps/Constraints in April**
- Ongoing inter-sector collaboration to reach every learner at home is required due to continued closure of Temporary Learning Centres.
- Low education attendance rate of adolescent girls.

### Nutrition Sector

**Achievements in April**
- 12,493 malnourished boys and girls under five, pregnant and lactating women were admitted to nutrition treatment and preventive services during April 2020. Of this figure, 21 percent were Severely Acutely Malnourished children, 18 percent were Moderately Acutely Malnourished (MAM) children and 8 percent were MAM pregnant and lactating women.
- 178,989 boys and girls aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women reached with Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme.
- 12,577 new pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children were reached by Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling and participated in IYCF group sessions.
- Partners used the COVID-19-modified nutrition service operational guideline to enrol children, pregnant and lactating women in accordance with the updated malnutrition diagnosis cut-offs.

**Host community response achievements in April**
- 27,601 boys and girls were screened for malnutrition, of which 256 were SAM and MAM children under five.
- 298 pregnant and lactating women were screened for malnutrition and 36 MAM pregnant and lactating women were admitted for the first time to respective nutrition treatment facilities.
- 478 SAM and MAM children and PLW were successfully discharged from nutrition services.
Achievements in April

- 434,376 people were reached through 127,964 neighbourhood-based inter-personal communication sessions and an additional 341,799 people were reached through 37,681 awareness raising sessions. COVID-19 messages continued to be announced through loudspeaker and megaphone on CNG/Tomtom auto-rickshaw in and around all 34 camps.
- 23,127 people participated in 1,929 listener group sessions covering topics including COVID-19 awareness, hygiene practices, nutrition, psychosocial support, routine vaccinations and shelter preparedness ahead of monsoon/cyclone season. A further 12,584 people were reached through 689 thematic video screening sessions on topics including risks of trafficking and child marriage.
- 2,432 people were reached through 296 meetings with community level committees. Community feedback and complaints were received through 100 information service centres and help desks.
- 34 messages and 39 podcast programs were developed, sharing critical information on hygiene, physical distancing, use of masks, information on quarantine and isolation, changes to food/LPG distribution and precautions for vulnerable people.

Host community response achievements in April

- 59,637 people were reached through 13,400 COVID-19 awareness sessions. COVID-19 messages continued to be announced through loudspeaker and megaphones on CNG/Tomtom auto-rickshaw across 9 unions in Cox’s Bazar District.

Sector Gaps/Constraints in April

- Despite continuous awareness-raising on COVID-19, community gatherings in breach of physical distancing recommendations, continued.
- Reduced physical presence led to limited coverage of activities in the camps due to the shift to critical mode.

Achievements in April

- In April, a new arrival of 185 m3 of relief items were received into common storage, bringing the total storage of relief items to 3,399 m3. These items are stored on behalf of 18 organisations in three logistics hubs in Cox’s Bazar District.
- The Sector, in collaboration with WFP and ISCG Secretariat, launched the Humanitarian Access Project to support Government authorities, including military and police, to facilitate access to the camps for humanitarian agencies and organisations operating in critical mode. This is a fully digitized system which minimises delays and bottlenecks due to multiple vehicle checkpoints on the way to the camps.
- A total of 320 litres of hand sanitiser was distributed to 12 organisations including national and international NGOs and UN agencies to facilitate office hygiene and staff wellbeing in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Sector entered into a partnership with HI/ ATLAS Logistique, to provide common storage in Cox’s Bazar and local transport of medical materials to isolation and treatment centres. This service is expected to start by mid-May.
- The Sector provided technical support to the military to set up Mobile Storage Units and prefabricated buildings.
- The Sector shared contacts of oxygen suppliers and COVID-19 related items suppliers with partners.
Sector Gaps/Constraints in April

- Entry to the Kutupalong Camp through Foliopara road is temporarily closed for up to three months as it is under construction. This is causing heavy traffic congestion on alternate routes.
- The national and international market for COVID-19-related items remains overwhelmed.

Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA)

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Achievements in April

- An Advocacy Brief titled “Rohingya Women Speak Up: Concerns, Demands and Solutions” was prepared based on consultations with Rohingya women leaders, CSOs and volunteers across 13 camps.
- A Rapid Gender Analysis looking at the gendered implications of COVID-19 was developed to support gender mainstreaming in the COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plans.
- Gendered protection guidance, including a checklist as well as a behavioural protocol for staff for COVID-19 quarantine, isolation and treatment facilities, was developed. This guidance was put into use for assessment of facilities in camps through engagement of Rohingya women leaders and volunteers with support from CiC Gender Officers, to ensure facilities are appropriate and safe for women and girls.
- Gender inputs are continuously being provided to all sectors on their COVID-19 sector plans and strategies, including through gender sessions to over 200 sector members.
- 6 CiC Gender Officers and 100 volunteers, women’s leaders and civil society organisation (CSO) networks, in camps and host communities conducted COVID-19 awareness sessions and consultations across 20 camps and Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas, including to identity community-based solutions to gender issues related to COVID-19.
- Mapping was conducted of local women’s/gender rights CSOs and networks in camps host communities to strengthen engagement.

Sector Gaps/Constraints in April

- Community engagement on COVID-19 and response plans needs to target women, including women leaders and CSOs, and focus on how to address gender barriers and impacts including women’s disproportionate care roles, increase in gender-based violence, menstrual hygiene management, as well as women’s limited access to information.
- All isolation and treatment centres need to be assessed from a gender perspective, engaging women from communities, to ensure they are appropriately gender-segregated, safe and accessible for all women.

For more information:
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