Camp 20 Extension comes to life as 100 Rohingya families relocate to new shelters in the recently developed site

Fleeing Rakhine State in 1991, Ms. Rahman and her family had been living in congested settlements in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps for nearly two decades. During this time, the nature of the camps and Rohingya response has greatly evolved, and in September 2019, Ms. Rahman and her family were moved to the Ghumdum Transit Camp as part of a broader IOM effort to provide Rohingya refugees more resilient and safer housing.

The Rahman family are some of the first to move into Camp 20 Extension, a newly developed site where IOM and partners have constructed planned settlements, featuring leveled land and stronger shelters.

“I found the shelter in the camp to be very good. My home is bigger and my kids have more space to grow up. We can breath easy now,” said Ms. Rahman after moving into her new shelter on November 21, 2019. Her husband also expressed relief, observing a significant improvement in his family’s living conditions.

Similar to the Rahmans, an additional 99 families have been relocated to the newly constructed mid-term shelters in the 20 Extension site. IOM’s Site Management team, ensuring beneficiaries’ wellbeing and safety, carried out these 100 relocations over the course of two consecutive days.

Mini-busses transported the 100 families, comprising roughly 500 individuals, first to the Transit Camp and eventually onward to Camp 20 Extension; the families’ belongings, meanwhile, shortly followed via trucks. Eight dedicated IOM staff posted in Camp 20 Extension, along with 20 IOM Volunteers and 70 workers effectively facilitated the relocations without a hitch.

On the day of relocation, families at the Transit Camp were provided a half-day meal and water by Action Contre la Faim (ACF). The World Food Programme (WFP) also supported, providing refugees High Energy Biscuits and water. IOM and partners, meanwhile, ensured the distribution of 12 types of hygiene kits and other non-food items to support beneficiaries as they habituate into their new community.

A beneficiary of these relocations, Ms. Khatun reflects: “Now we have good privacy, enough space for living and protected areas for our livelihoods. I hope my family can have a better lifestyle here.”

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Over 60,000 Outpatient Consultations provided and emergency medical referrals continue for the month of November

In November, IOM and its partners ensured access to emergency lifesaving primary health care services through operation and management of 30 Primary Health facilities within both the camps and host communities. Through these centers, 61,118 patients received curative outpatient consultations, of which 30% were with children under 5 years of age. The most common morbidity was Upper Respiratory Tract Infections, causing 19% of cases.

Meanwhile, a total of 204 critically ill patients were referred and received comprehensive care at secondary and tertiary health facilities in Cox’s Bazar (83%) and Chittagong (17%). The main reason for referral was related to maternal health which comprised 20% of all emergencies. Other common ailments were road traffic accidents, fractures, cardiovascular disease, and strokes.

IOM responds to rise in Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) incidence

In response to the rising incidence of Acute Watery Diarrhea, IOM is operating four Oral Rehydration Points (ORP) and inpatient isolations in four of its Primary Health Centers (PHC). At the ORPs, 376 AWD cases were treated and 123 Rapid Diagnostic Tests were carried out. Meanwhile, active case search, risk communication, and distribution of oral saline (ORS) through community health workers has been intensified, especially in affected camps. A total of 88 clinic staff of IOM facilities were trained on case management and surveillance of Acute Watery Diarrhea through six health facility-level trainings.

Leading the Mobile Medical Team Working Group (MMT WG), 22 MMTs operating under different partners were on standby across the health sector. Additionally, IOM and its partner agencies have seven MMTs on standby. All health facilities were prepositioned with essential medical commodities, and four Primary Health Centers were equipped with Mass Casualty Incidence (MCI) management items. Rapid orientations were conducted for all medical staff, MMT staff, hotline operators, and Community Health Workers.

MHPSS services and activities address beneficiary concerns

Through a series of 25 community-based activities, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programme reached 797 beneficiaries (436 men and 361 women). Activities focused on helping affected communities to cope with concerns, such as isolation and community conflicts. Children and youth were assisted in developing skills on conflict mediation and accessing safe spaces for communal sharing and entertainment through sports and play activities such as carom, drawing, henna painting, ludo, and a traditional game known as chin lone. Collective kitchens were also conducted to enhance healthy relationships among the community, reducing feelings of isolation.

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) scaled up through new facilities, trainings, and coordination

During the month of November, IOM completed the construction of a 24/7 safe delivery service facility in Camp 15 (Jaintoli). Under SRH efforts, IOM conducted 251 facility-based deliveries while 3,666 expectant mothers received ante-natal care (ANC) services and 836 followed up with Postnatal Care. Working towards goals to operationalize the global Gender Based Violence in Conflict (GBVIC) Operational Framework, the SRH Team continued community engagement for promotion of Sexual Reproductive Health support, targeting adolescents, community leaders and beneficiaries at Women and Girls’ Safe Spaces (WGSS) and other adolescent spaces in Camps 9, 15, 18, 23 and 24 in collaboration with the GBV and MHPSS teams. Meanwhile, capacity amongst SRH actors was built as twelve participants attended the Kangaroo Mother Care training and 100 Traditional Birth Attendants were oriented to support the timely referral of pregnant mothers to health facilities for delivery. Lastly, as a key member of the Cox’s Bazar SRH Working Group, IOM was chosen as the Chair for the Cox’s Bazar Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Technical Group.
NPM rolls out info packs, providing consolidated data resource of the response

During the reporting period, NPM published information packages that included a variety of information resources such as datasets, thematic maps, site profiles, block mapping, UAV imagery atlases, and IOM NPM’s Site Assessment Round 16. This assessment covered all 34 camps and Rohingya populations dispersed throughout the host communities and compares multi-sectoral reporting of male and female Key Informants.

Partners and NPM collaborate to ensure nuanced, informed programming

In early November, NPM provided operational support to partner Ground Truth Solutions. NPM enumerators carried out a household level survey on needs, perceptions of Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi communities, information used by Ground Truth Solutions to provide key analysis that could ensure IOM’s humanitarian programmes are informed by and can adapt to the views, perceptions, and priorities of affected populations.

IOM NPM also provided data collection and GIS support to the District Development Plan Process. The initial support was provided through the mapping of infrastructure in Ramu Upazila. A data collection exercise for Ramu was then carried out in collaboration with UNOPS and UNDP. UNOPS utilized their “FieldSite” platform to host the data and conducted trainings for IOM enumerators. NPM enumerators then conducted data collection, resulting in assessing and capturing geo referenced information for over 1,000 health clinics, schools, roads and other facilities. Findings from the pilot assessment were presented to the District Commissioner at a workshop on December 1st.

Data analysis strengthened around gender and children the response

In November, the ACAPS-NPM Analysis Hub finalized and published a technical note on how to strengthen gender analysis in the response. The report received positive feedback from the Gender Hub.

The Hub also finalized and published a Secondary Data Review (SDR) that focuses on children and child-related programming activities. This was upon request of Save the Children in support of their upcoming children’s consultations. ACAPS helped to identify information gaps that would inform the design of their assessment to ensure that assessments target the right areas. ACAPS supported a Save the Children workshop to discuss information gaps.
General Protection supports in camp relocations

IOM Protection was involved in conducting pre-relocation assessments for 100 households at the Transit Center. All the households were scheduled to be relocated to Camp 20Ext. The assessment team, comprised of staff from IOM Site Management and General Protection, interviewed all Households and established their preparedness to relocate. Considerations included looking into beneficiaries’ level of access to information regarding the camp of destination and knowledge of services available there. Considerations also included efforts to identify Extremely Vulnerable Individuals that would require mobility or porter support during the relocation process. A total of 100 Households were relocated to camp 20Ext in the course of two days. This accounted for 376 individuals and the identification of 39 Households as EVI.

A total of 110 persons received Protection referrals, including 21 EVIs and 89 non-EVI Rohingya refugees

Emergency preparedness capacity is built following Cyclone Bulbul

The IOM Protection team participated in IOM cyclone preparedness trainings organized in the aftermath of Cyclone Bulbul. Facilitators shared the unit’s cyclone emergency plan and sat in as participants while other units’ emergency plans and workflows were presented. The purpose of this session was to share the respective unit plans, strengthen understanding of the cyclone response within the organization and enhance internal coordination during emergencies.

Counter Trafficking efforts strengthened; victims identified and supported

During the month, a total of 399 awareness raising sessions were conducted, reaching 6,808 individuals with specific messages regarding counter trafficking. Additionally, 12 victims of trafficking were identified and assisted while eight Bangladeshi Victims of Trafficking received livelihood material so they could raise livestock, operate a grocery stand, and cultivate rice.

IOM presented at two trainings on building Counter Trafficking capacity, organized by UNDP for police officers. In collaboration with the government, three Counter Trafficking committee meetings were convened in Ukhia and Teknaf Upazila, and a capacity building workshop was organized with religious leaders. Additional programmes were organized in Moheshkhali where two street dramas and four community outreach sessions were organized.

Trainings improve understandings of Child Protection and families’ needs

IOM, amongst partners such as the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and UNHCR took part in a five-day training on “Child Counselling Skills” conducted by the Child MHPSS Working Group. The training was aimed at helping psychologists interact better with Rohingya Children and improve their understandings of families’ roles in supporting and caring for children in a camp context. Under this goal, the training covered a variety of topics, including mental health issues related to child development, case management, creative therapy, and the Caregiver’s Guide for Communication with Children. A discussion and roleplay allowed participants to practice new techniques offered by the training, working towards promoting children’s mental health wellbeing.

Women and girls help shape GBV response

During the reporting period, IOM conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in its Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS), during which participating women and girls identified risks in their communities. Avenues to enhance community, beneficiary and programing capacity to mitigate these risks were also identified. Participants highlighted pre-existing supportive networks amongst different age groups of Rohingya refugees that can be used to maximize awareness raising and support systems to counteract Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the camps.

Programme with religious leaders to combat human trafficking © IOM 2019
Women’s empowerment, awareness raising and legal support works towards making the camps a safer place

IOM continued its training for women on “Women’s Leadership, Empowerment and Participation” during the month of November. Under this effort, 20 women were trained to enhance and strengthen their leadership and decision-making skills at the individual, household and community level.

Meanwhile, BBC Media Action’s new audio drama series, Azra Kissa, “Our Story” was broadcast across all of IOM’s ten WGSS to increase awareness on intimate partner violence (IPV) and early marriage in the camps. This initiative has been informed by risk identification exercises such as FGDs carried out with female beneficiaries; through these approaches, IPV and early marriage have been identified as key GBV typologies for affected populations.

Lastly, IOM and partners conducted 16 programmes on Gender and GBV Orientations at schools across the Cox’s Bazar area. A total of 480 students, teachers and school, committee management personnel participated from the host community. Additionally, 24 legal awareness sessions were conducted by panel lawyers, reaching 480 women, men and adolescents.

IOM and partners reached 3,310 individuals by conducting outreach awareness sessions on hygiene, human trafficking and other Protection concerns. Communities, avenues to enhance community, beneficiary and programing capacity to mitigate these risks were also identified. Participants highlighted pre-existing supportive networks amongst different age groups of Rohingya refugees that can be used to maximize awareness raising and support systems to counteract Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the camps.

Protection efforts reach beyond the camps and to the global stage

IOM is contributing to the Global Compact on Refugees research led by UNHCR, the University of South Wales (UNSW) and BRAC University. Three IOM staff participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT) on “Refugee Women- Key to Global Compact on Refugees”. As part of the interagency research team, IOM is now conducting FGDs and consultations in the camps to identify barriers to participation and safety from sexual and Gender-Based Violence for women and girls.

Lastly, IOM has been participating the globally-recognized 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence during the November and into December. Women and girls have decorated all the Safe Spaces and are enjoying many competitive recreational activities like creative art therapy, sewing, make up, ludo, drama activities and basketball.

Person with Disability (PwD) inclusion at the forefront as IOM staff and Implementing Partners develop capacity to ensure appropriate and effective support

During the month of November, IOM hosted two trainings on support to Persons with Disabilities (PwD). The trainings covered topics ranging from Disability and Inclusion to Disability-Specific Data Collection, carried out with the support of the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and the Christian Blind Mission (CBM).

Participants included IOM staff from all units: Health, Protection Site Management and Site Development, Shelter, WASH, TRD, Programme Support, NPM, SMEP, and Communications. Also included were staff working with IOM Partners such as Terre des Hommes (TdH), the Danish Refugee Commission (DRC), CARE Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers’ Association (BNWLA), Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), and PULSE.

Major content of these trainings covered fundamental concepts of disability, diversity, vulnerability and inclusion, types of disabilities, disability models, accessibility and how to measure it, disability etiquette and the Humanitarian Inclusion standards (HIS) among others. Both trainings were offered in Bangla.
IOM's Bamboo Treatment Facility engages host community and donors alike

During the month of November, high officials from Australian Aid visited IOM’s Bamboo Treatment Facility to learn more about how resources are prepared to support IOM’s Midterm Shelter initiative.

Under this initiative, IOM’s Shelter team was proud to report 100 percent host community employment at this facility, which currently functions under IOM’s Cash-for-Work programme. Meanwhile, business as usual carried on at the Treatment facility, with 56,000 borak bamboo and 15,300 nulli bamboo treated during the month.

The first batch of Rohingya families relocated to IOM’s new Mid-term Shelters

During the month, a total of 100 Rohingya families were relocated to IOM’s prototype Mid-Term Shelters, newly constructed in Camp 20 Extension. These shelters represent the future of IOM’s Shelter response. As Transitional Shelter Assistance supports in upgrading pre-existing Rohingya shelters in the camps, Mid-Term Shelters will serve as more resilient and durable structures available to families in need of relocation due to safety reasons or critical infrastructure development.

This first batch of moved-in families are very excited about their new living quarters and Camp 20x is quickly taking on community life as its new residents settle in. Meanwhile, construction of an additional 76 shelters in Camp 20 extension has completed. The shelters are ready for the Site Management Site Development team to continue to continue the smooth relocation of households as and when required.

Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) and Emergency Shelter Support:

- A total of 7,324 households were oriented on ‘Shelter Upgrade and Maintenance’
- A total of 5,554 households received materials through voucher distribution (tarpaulin, muli bamboo, 3mm rope, tie wire, cement, jute bag & padlock with chain) in Camps 9, 10, 12, 18, 22, 24 and 25.
- A total of 6,986 households received shelter materials through in-kind distribution (6 borak, 9 metal footings & 6mm rope) in Camps 9, 10, 12, 18, 22, 24 and 25.
- A total of 672 households with Special Shelter Needs (HHSSN) supported in Camps 9, 10, 12, 18, 22, 24 and 25 with material transportation and shelter upgrade.
- Emergency shelter support provided to 49 households affected by weather events and other shocks.
- A total of 60 Rohingya from Camp 12 received carpenter trainings.

Community Shelter Upgrade (CSU) and Host Community Shelter Programme:

- A total of 8 mosque upgrades completed
- A total of 8 shelter upgrades completed in partnership with Shushilat/WorldFish, representing a pilot Shelter project for Host Communities in Teknaf.
November sees launch of SMEP Mechanical Gardens

The SMEP Mechanical Gardens (SMG) became fully operational on 13th November as the first Weekly Team Training was hosted at the site. SMEP’s Forward Operating Base (FOB) engineers, a foreman and a mechanical team have relocated to this station, placing them in the very heart of Kutupalong Extension Site in Camp BW. This project has been undertaken hand-in-hand with Bangladeshi government authorities presiding over the location. At its inauguration, both parties celebrated the facility, expressing excitement to see SMEP road safety and mechanical initiatives grow.

SMEP Machine Operations Team nearly doubles in size

During the month of November, SMEP’s Machine Operations Team nearly doubled in size as 11 new staff joined its operations, bringing the team to 25 members. Machine operators are licensed in heavy driving which provides the necessary foundation and certification for learning construction machine operations. Before being assigned a single machine to master, new team members will be trained on all equipment, including excavators, rollers and front-end loaders.

SMEP casting yards output increases, enabling road improvements across the camps

Three casting yards have increased production of curb and gutters to more than 100 units per day. This is to satisfy requests across the camps to widen roads and improve roadside drainage. Production of speed bumps has also spiked to meet requests from partner, the World Food Programme, to install across the camp. Prefabricated construction products offer various benefits including quality control and accelerated on-site installation. The casting yards form a key component of SMEP’s programme.
SITE MANAGEMENT AND SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)

New sites under development in Camp 20 Extension

As Shelter relocations are underway, the population in Camp 20 Extension is growing and the need for more land to accommodate this expanding community is increasing. IOM’s Site Planning team has developed layouts to support Site Development, Shelter and WASH teams in the preparation of several valley areas in Camp 20 Extension in order to accommodate relocation needs resulting from new road developments, households temporarily residing in transit centers, and other relocations that may be required for households living in hazard prone areas. As of the current reporting period, a total of 594 new shelter plots are expected to be complete by early 2020, of which 100 have already been put into use and recently inhabited. Meanwhile, 303 units are currently under construction and a remaining 191 units are in the planning phase.

- 2,069 m of road constructed/repaired
- 230 m of water crossings constructed/repaired
- 782 m of fencing constructed/repaired

Site Management (SM) teams mobilized in light of forming Cyclone Bulbul

SM teams were mobilized in all camps to address the cyclone warning rolled out as Cyclone Bulbul was forming over the Bay of Bengal. Prepositioning of emergency stock was ensured while IOM’s Communication with Communities (CwC) team developed and distributed messages regarding the cyclone response. In Shamlapur, a special focus was given to households residing near the mitigation site.

Lessons learned, best practices identified at Cyclone Response Workshop

IOM organized a three-day Cyclone Response Workshop following the passage of Cyclone Bulbul to reflect on best practices and lessons learned, increasing emergency preparedness for the future. A total of 220 participants attended the workshop from IOM SMSD, as well as partners working under SMSD, Shelter, WASH, NPM, Protection and Health. Representatives from UNHCR and UNICEF also participated in the workshops, increasing inter-agency cooperation under this initiative.
Site Management teams support in coordinating in Camp 20 Extension relocations

The Site Management team supported in the relocation of 100 households from the UNHCR Transit Center to Camp 20 Extension. Site Management assisted in arranging general food and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) distribution for beneficiaries along with other necessary services. Additionally, within the month of November, IOM reported 19 relocated households for family reunification and Protection reasons.

Inter-agency Site Management and Protection Capacity Built

Twenty-four SM staff from IOM, UNHCR, DRC, ACTED, and BRAC completed a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Site Management using a contextualised package of the Global CCCM Cluster training modules. The selected staff will be part of a pool of trainers for the Capacity Sharing trainings for the Refugee, Repatriation and Relief Commissioner (RRRC) Support Staff. Meanwhile, a total of 44 RRRC Support Staff across camps participated in two batches of five-day field-based trainings on Site Management held in Camp 2W and Camp 17 RCO. After completing the SM course, the first batch attended a four-day Protection and Communication with Communities (CWC) training facilitated by the Protection Sector and CWC Technical Working Group.

Mental Health and wellbeing integrated into Site Management response

A Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) “Mindfulness” training was also offered for 15 Disaster Management Unit (DMU) volunteers and 18 SM field teams. DMU volunteers selected from different camps in IOM’s Area of Responsibility completed four series of the Mindfulness training while the SM field teams, including both staff and volunteers, completed nine series of trainings. Both the DMU volunteers and SM teams appreciated the process and considered it a first for them to undergo a training which focused on their personal wellbeing and addressed different psycho-emotional issues such as self-regulation and self-care.

Community Engagement and Communication with Communities (CWC) carried out through IDEAS-BOX launches

IDEAS-BOX Inauguration Programs were held in Camps 20 Extension, 23 and 24. The objective of the programme was to inform beneficiaries about activities offered by the IDEAS-BOX and how the initiative can serve them. Representatives from various agencies and sectors attended the sessions along with community leaders including Women’s Committees, Para Development Committees, Community Development Committees, Majhis, Imans, and Camps-in-Charge (CiCs).

During the inauguration programme, IDEAS-Box focal points explained the four pillars of the project: Social cohesion, Non-formal education, Individual and Collective Expression and Access to Information. The focal points also explained about the usage of different tools within the IDEAS-BOX -- laptops, tablets, televisions, books and materials for drawing pictures and making handicraft items.

Participants appreciated the activities of IDEAS-BOX as it provides them a wide range of resources to present their thoughts and express themselves. Additionally, the initiative provides beneficiaries the opportunity to revisit what they have learned back home.

In November a total of 14,246 complaints were received, among them 97% complaints were referred.

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790 Radio Listening Sessions conducted

15,798 beneficiaries attended radio listening sessions

14,246 complaints received 97% referred
Social cohesion and good fun promoted through IOM and government organized Rohingya-Host Community football tournament

A football tournament, inaugurated by the Cox's Bazar District Commissioner (DC) was organized during the month of November. The tournament was organized to enhance unity and peaceful coexistence amongst host and Rohingya populations and had an impressive turnout of government officials and members from both communities. The event was fully funded by IOM and organized in collaboration with the Upazila Parishad and was held at the Ukhya Government High School field. IOM’s Deputy Chief of Mission, the Ukhya Upazila Nirbahi Executive Officer (UNO), the Upazila Chairman, the Union Parishad Chairman and members of other unions were present during the inauguration ceremony.

During the match, a 19 year-old woman who works with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) performed as one of the tournament referees. Her participation at such a visible and popular event represents a promising sign of women’s empowerment in this rural community. A final match will be organized featuring players from both the host and Rohingya communities to continue the promotion of social cohesion in the area.

Livelihoods and skills trainings offered amongst host community

IOM organized seven batches of skills development training programmes on production and preservation of healthy and organic dried fish throughout the month of November in four different unions of Moheshkhali. In total, 140 fishermen participated in these training programmes, all of which were facilitated by researchers from the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI). The main purpose of these daylong comprehensive training was to raise awareness among the fishermen of Moheshkhali regarding the most advanced and organic ways of processing, preserving and packaging dried fish.

Using fish processing facilities, selected beneficiaries produced around 280KG of dried fish. Facility resources included 20 fish nets, covered elevated fish dryers and four polythene sheet-covered fish dryers. Apart from this, project team also has assisted the Agricultural Information and Communication Center (AICC) in organizing four Focus Group Discussion to raise awareness among local communities in general and farmers in particular regarding advanced technologies to cultivate crops.

IOM also distributed seed funds among nine selected young entrepreneurs from Moheshkhali to support them in sustainable ventures for selling dried fish. With this fund, the entrepreneurs have already procured around 200 KG of a variety of dried fish to sell on the premise of an e-business centre established by the project team, as well as via an online channel. One of the online channels is called Amar Desh Amar Gram and has already received an impressive number of orders.
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) inception meetings held during November

An Upazila-level inception meeting in Ukhiya, Teknaf and Moheshkhal was organized in November to share project activities and locations with the key stakeholders as well as to identify gaps and needs in DRR interventions in the host community. Upazila Nirbahi Executive Officer (UNO), Upazila Disaster Management Committee Members and other partners were present during the meeting. Similarly, a Union-level inception meeting and capacity mapping workshop was also organized in Matbari, Kutubjum and Jalia Palong Union where local Disaster Management Committee members and representatives from different development organizations attended.

Cyclone shelters upgraded and PwD resources enhanced under DRR efforts

The DRR team, in collaboration with the Engineering Department, has completed structural engineering assessment of 20 cyclone shelters out of 30 scale-up renovation activities in Ukhiya and Teknaf. The joint team has identified critical renovation schemes in terms of WASH facility, electrical wiring, windows/door repair, guide wall, waterproofing etc.

The DRR unit also provided wheelchairs to 19 IOM-targeted Cyclone Shelter Management Committees in Ukhiya and Teknaf. IOM provided each committee two wheelchairs to ensure the effective mobilization of vulnerable persons in case of disaster.

LPG distribution continues for the month

During the month of November, IOM has continued its distribution of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders, supporting in the protection of women from fetching firewood in the forest, decreasing rates of burning firewood, maintaining a clean kitchen environment, decreasing monthly expense for firewood, and improving social cohesion with host communities. Before receiving LPG kits, all beneficiary households are trained on fire safety, efficient cooking, and the importance of environmental management. LPG kits distribution is ongoing in different IOM-managed camps as well as in host areas; in this way the Energy and Environment (E&E) team is also filling gaps and covering outstanding beneficiaries through SCOPE lists in different camps. IOM is also providing porter support to Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI) to carry the LPG cylinders to their home.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

WASH team supports in AWD response

In November IOM responded to a rise of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) cases in Teknaf camps with increased coordination, partner support and monitoring measures. As part of response and prevention efforts, IOM coordinated with WASH partners to intensify hygiene promotion activities, household visits, disinfection of WASH facilities, water point chlorination, and increase clean water supplies in high-risk areas. IOM also participated in assessing new cases and case-cluster hotspots, as well as conducting regular camp-level coordination meetings to focus response activities where they are most needed.

IOM and Implementing Partners ensure hygiene kit distribution and promotion in the camps

.During November, IOM Implementing partners distributed hygiene items, including eight bars of bathing soap and seven bars of laundry soap in five camps. Meanwhile, Implementing Partner Shushilian distributed Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits to 8,097 beneficiary households in Camp 12. The distribution among the target beneficiaries was carried out following MHM-focused hygiene awareness sessions. For new arrivals to Camp 20 Extension, the IOM WASH team distributed 100 hygiene kits to Rohingya families that are new arrivals to Camp 20 Extension.

Besides hygiene item distribution, regular hygiene promotion activities (i.e. hygiene sessions, cleaning campaigns, handwashing demonstration, orientation on MHM) were organized by implementing NGO partners (Dushtha Shasthya Kendra Camps 18 and 19; SHED in Camps 2W, 20, 20E and 23; Practical Action in Camps 24 and 25; Shushilian in Camp 12 and BRAC in Camps 9, 10, 11 & 13) under the guidance and supervision of IOM WASH team. Over the past month, implementing partners have conducted 6,586 hygiene promotion sessions and reached 138,126 individuals.
Groundwater Monitoring efforts underway; network expanded and capacity built

IOM and Groundwater Relief (GWR) are currently installing the infrastructure for a groundwater monitoring network in the host community surrounding the Kutupalong-Balukhali camp. The drilling of 10 nested piezometers (two boreholes each) is ongoing to complement the existing groundwater monitoring network. Further, the installation of three surface water monitoring stations and two weather stations has begun to improve the district-wide groundwater model.

IOM, in partnership with Dhaka University (DU) and Ground Water Relief, organized a four-day Groundwater Model User Training course at Dhaka University, bringing together 30 participants from different government and non-government institutions. The course featured a presentation of the 3D groundwater model for Ukhiya and Teknaf, developed by IOM, GWR and DU, and trained potential users on understanding and using the model, as well as policy decision making related to groundwater management.

IOM and Groundwater Relief also organized a week-long training and practical experience workshop in the United Kingdom about Sustainable Groundwater Management using groundwater and hydrogeological models. The training was attended by relevant government decision makers from the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) Bangladesh, and featured visits and professional exchanges with UK-based public utilities and engineering firms.

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