

Bangladesh: Cyclone Mocha Humanitarian Response

Situation Report

As of 14 May 2023

Situation Overview

2.3M

Total population in the impact area
(Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugees)

1,342,126

Bangladeshi nationals
in Cox's Bazar, Bandarban,
and Rangamati

960,128

Rohingya refugees
in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan
Char



Situation Update

- Cyclone Mocha has hit the coastal areas along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border on 14 May at around 15:00 hrs, bringing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and causing landslides in some areas. As of 20:00 hrs on 14 May, the Government of Bangladesh had lowered the warning signal for maritime ports in Cox's Bazar from ten to three as the storm moved inwards and weakened.
- The Bangladesh government implemented comprehensive measures to prepare and respond to the approaching Cyclone Mocha in accordance with the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD).
- Tens of thousands of families have been affected and homes and key facilities have been destroyed, especially in the Rohingya camps in Teknaf and neighbouring Bangladeshi communities.
- The following report includes non-exhaustive and very initial reports as rapid assessments are ongoing and planned for 15 May. More will be known in the next 24 hours.
- Bhasan Char experienced winds and rainfall as the cyclone landfall process began. Authorities have suspended the operation of all sea transportation on Bhasan Char-Chittagong route from 10 May due to the rough sea conditions. Signal flags were hoisted at eight different locations on Bhasan Char and steps were taken to inform refugees about the danger signal through loudspeakers. In the evening of 13 May, as the alert was raised to signal 8, government authorities on Bhasan Char announced evacuation of around 30,000 refugees to 53 cyclone shelters which have been prepared by all actors in anticipation for the cyclone. No loss of life or property was reported.



Coordination & Government Relations

- The Bangladesh government demonstrated preparedness in the face of Cyclone Mocha by evacuating over 750,000 people to safety in Cox's Bazar and other areas.
- To accommodate those evacuated, 565 cyclone centres were prepared in Cox's Bazar, and 11 cyclone shelters were prepared in the Patuakhali district. Upazila level cyclone shelters were stocked with 14 tonnes of dry food and 200 tonnes of rice.

- To support the government's efforts, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) advised a "great danger signal no. 10" for maritime ports and islands in Cox's Bazar and "great danger signal no. 8" for 11 other coastal districts and provided early warning messages and special weather bulletins.
- The Government kept 150 fire stations on standby in the coastal areas to respond to any situation.
- In coordination with the Government, 16,500 volunteers worked to help people in the Chattogram district, and 100 Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) volunteers were engaged for each refugee camp in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazila.
- Coordination with the authorities including the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the police, and the military took place throughout the storm.
- At Bhasan Char Inter-agency coordination led by UNHCR and comprised of eight sectors led by UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP supported the quick scale-up of the collective action that contributed to the robust, government-led preparedness and response through its Disaster Management Committee. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) was the primary national NGO leading the disaster preparedness and response.
- The humanitarian community and the Government will continue to work closely in the coming days to conduct the initial assessments of damage, building on the collaboration around preparedness efforts in the past days.



Access

- River traffic in coastal areas and flight operations in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar were suspended.
- Educational institutions in the coastal districts were ordered to remain closed.
- The local administration, army, police, navy, BGB, Ansars, and coastguards joined in evacuating people from the most vulnerable areas.
- Access to and movement within the camps remained limited on 14 May as humanitarian staff and volunteers were asked to stop work and remain sheltered during the storm.
- Immediate clearance of debris on the roads started following the storm.
- A UN Security Assessment will take place on 15 May in the morning to review access to the camps (Ukhiya and Teknaf) in collaboration with Government security counterparts. Field missions are expected to subsequently resume.
- Humanitarian partners were able to access refugees to provide humanitarian assistance.



External Relations

- As part of the integrated emergency communications plan, common UN messaging lines have been prepared and shared at Dhaka and Cox's Bazar levels.
- Selected media reflections regarding the cyclone response:
- National: Prothom Alo, 71 tv, Channel 24, Rising BD, Shomoy TV, NTV, Independent TV, Cox's Bazar News, DW, Dhaka Tribune, Samakal, Kaler Kantha.
- International: Channel 4; CBC; CNN International TV: Interview with Arjun Jain, ISCG Principal Coordinator; Al Jazeera English TV: [Interview with Johannes van der Klaauw, UNHCR Bangladesh](#); Al Jazeera English TV: [Interview with Abdusattor Esoev, IOM Bangladesh](#); CNN

news: [Bangladesh and Myanmar brace for the worst as Cyclone Mocha makes landfall](#); UN News: [UN agencies brace for disaster as Cyclone Mocha intensifies](#).

- Inter-agency coordination on Bhasan Char issued two information bulletins on Cyclone preparedness that was shared with Government, donors, and the humanitarian community.

Rohingya Refugee Response: Cox's Bazar



Shelter and CCCM

- The Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) colleagues working closely with the Sector, implemented the real-time online incident tracking dashboard to enable as close as possible real-time incident reporting during the cyclone landfall on Sunday 14 May in both Ukhiya and Teknaf camps. Information gathered will be reviewed, verified, and confirmed through the camp wide Joint Needs Assessment that will be conducted on Monday 15 May.



Food Security

- From 13 to 14 May, 3,060 Rohingya refugees had been reached with emergency rations of fortified biscuits.
- From 13 to 14 May, 5,601 Bangladeshi households in Teknaf were reached with BDT 4,100 (USD 39) each in advance of forecasted storm surge flooding. In coordination with local authorities, 138 Bangladeshi households each received BDT 4,500 (USD 42) as a multipurpose cash grant in Sabrang union, Teknaf. In addition, from 13 to 14 May, 2,500 dry food packages (incl. food and non-food items) were distributed in cyclone shelters in 5 sub-districts (Ramu, Chakaria, Pekua, Ukhiya and Teknaf) and a further 2,000 food items to authorities across 7 sub-districts (as above, plus Cox's Bazar Sadar and Moheshkhali).



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- While no field assessment was yet possible, remote monitoring has identified at least 90 latrines, 25 bathing facilities, 12 tubewells as damaged, and at least 5 water-networks, 1 fecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) and 2 material recovery facilities (MRFs) as partially damaged.



Health

- Preliminary reports do not indicate major infrastructural damages to health facilities, but more information will become available following assessment. One health facility in Camp 14 may have sustained partial damage from falling tree branches.
- All 33 Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs) are on standby. Activation of the MMTs will be informed by rapid assessment on accessibility.



Protection

- Protection services were put on hold due to heavy rainfall and gusts. Some Child Protection facilities, Women and Girls Safe Spaces as well as community-based protection facilities were reported as partially damaged. Full report on impact will be available on 15 May.

- More than 611 awareness sessions on cyclone preparedness and response were conducted by community-based protection staff and volunteers with over 5,221 people. Imams and female religious teachers conducted over 275 awareness sessions at Friday prayers and talim sessions, ensuring that community members were well informed of the situation. 7,150 community members were reached with child protection in emergencies messages. More than 200 staff members and 300 volunteers were actively engaged in awareness-raising and mobilizing communities (especially persons and children with disabilities and their caregivers) for relocation to identified safe areas in 26 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. This was done in close collaboration with Camp-in-Charges (CiCs) and site management teams.
- Community Centres were used as evacuation centres for people with disabilities and those at higher risks to take shelter. Around 900 people took shelter in community centres, including 112 people with disabilities. Child Protection facilities were used for shelter in different camps.
- Protection Help Desks were established throughout the camps. Community based child protection committees were vigilant in every camp and six emergency child protection information centres were operational. Community volunteers supported with child protection response in all camps.
- With the community-based approach, 1,070 children and 615 parents and caregivers received psychological first aid (PFA); while 256 children and 156 parents and caregivers received psychosocial support (PSS).
- Some refugees reported experiencing fear due to strong winds and rainfall since several shelters have been damaged by the storm, but some were resistant to evacuate and leave their shelters and belongings.
- Concerns include protection risks related to GBV and child protection incidents in safe communal shelters as some are overcrowded and with no available staff to address protection incidents.



Emergency Telecommunications (ETS)

- Further information on damage will be available post-assessment, with the identification of potentially down sites through the monitoring tool.
- ETS will establish a criticality list for service continuity with e-voucher facilities and LPG distribution points prioritized.
- Challenges faced include deploying standard towers instead of telescopic masts which are less capable of sustaining strong winds, as well as the need to establish a second connection for some critical sites where redundancy would help mitigating downtime.



Nutrition

- At least 15 integrated nutrition facilities (INFs) and 2 stabilization centres have been partially damaged due to strong wind and rainfall, and rainwater drained into the facility is damaging some nutrition supplies.
- For the host community, from 13 to 14 May, 3,360 hot meals were distributed to Bangladeshi families who took shelter in different cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf. 500 packets of dry food, 2,000 litres of drinking water (1L bottle), 22 backup lights, 22 torch lights, and 24 solar lamps were distributed to different cyclone shelters in Ukhiya.
- For refugees, advance dinner was provided to 1,200 refugees at the Kutupalong Transit Centre. 20kg dates, 40kg puffed rice, and 220 bottles (1L) of water were provided to refugees at the Camp 4 Extension Transit Centre as contingency.



Education

- Partners have been supporting overall efforts with the dissemination of messages.



Livelihoods and Skills Development

- All Sector activities have been halted until further notice. Partners have been supporting overall efforts with the dissemination of messages.

Cyclone Preparedness Programme volunteers taking NFI items to be repositioned in the cyclone shelters
©Kiri Atri



Rohingya Refugee Response: Bhasan Char

29,836

Rohingya refugees
on Bhasan Char



Site Management Support / Shelter / NFI

- After the government hosting the Signal 8, refugees in 59 clusters were evacuated and sheltered overnight into 53 cyclone shelters that housed 500-700 individuals. Over 29,000 refugees were temporary relocated from their houses for up to 12 hours.
- SMS supported the Disaster Management Committee in mobilization of inter-sector cyclone preparedness measures and evacuation of refugees to cyclone shelters.
- SMS led the coordination, preparation, communications with communities, mobilization, evacuation, monitoring and reporting of the cyclone humanitarian response.
- A control room consisting of representatives from ARRRC office, BDRCS-SMS, Security Agency, and NGOs, operated around the clock, upon declaration of signal 4 on 12 May.
- Essential supplies were prepositioned, and readiness assessed in all cyclone shelters in coordination with WASH and Food sectors. All cyclone shelters were equipped with fire extinguishers and solar lanterns.
- Site Management Support/Emergency Preparedness Response volunteers (2 per cluster) supported by Cyclone Preparedness Programme volunteers (20 per cluster) disseminated camp-wide community messaging and systematically supported the evacuation of refugees to their designated cyclone shelters.
- The evacuation of refugees to cyclone shelters after dark faced challenges due to lack of light particularly in shelters without power supply.
- Resources for the upkeep of the solar streetlights and cyclone shelter electrical systems are required to ensure operability in the event of an emergency.
- Advanced evacuation of refugees to the cyclone shelters (over 12 hours before the event) presented challenges to meet basic needs.
- Lack of essential emergency NFIs such as sleeping mats, blankets, sufficient glasses, and plates for an overnight stay in cyclone shelters.
- Lack of community willingness to stay in the shelters for an extended period, considering the weather conditions that did not deteriorate as forecasted.

Partners

- **Sector lead agency:** UNHCR
- **Actors:** BDRCS | BRAC | Caritas Bangladesh | Coast Foundation | GUSS | Islamic Relief Bangladesh | Qatar Charity | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | Mukti Cox's Bazar | Uttaran | World Vision



Food Security

- In preparation, 18 metric tonnes of fortified biscuits and 34 metric tonnes of dry food items were prepositioned into cyclone shelters.
- 0.2 metric tonnes of fortified food biscuits were distributed to 1,400 refugees who stayed overnight in the cyclone shelters.
- Community kitchens were on standby to provide meals.

Partners

- **Sector lead agency:** World Food Programme (WFP)
- **Actors:** BDRCS | Impact Initiative | Islamic Relief Bangladesh | MSI | Muslim Aid | Qatar Charity | VOSS-Magura | WFP | YPSA



Logistics and Common Services

- Humanitarian presence was reduced to critical staff with the last ship leaving Bhasan Char on 10 May. Additional EPR and fuel stock prepositioned in temporary UN accommodation. Continuous internet connectivity was ensured during the cyclone to enable staff to stay connected and respond.

Partners

- **Sector lead agency:** World Food Programme (WFP)
- **Actors:** WFP



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- 450 community volunteers (32 women) mobilized households to stock clean drinking water for home use and helped to store adequate drinking water at the cyclone shelters.
- Pre-cyclone drains were cleared and WASH facility functionality was checked to ensure no blockages in drainage channels.
- Pre-cyclone, waste in solid waste management plant and markets places were covered.
- Each cyclone shelter was assigned two WASH volunteers for proper management.
- WASH supplies were prepositioned at 53 cyclone shelters and hospitals, and repair equipment was maintained in the warehouse for immediate response.
- Increased numbers of staff, toilet facilities at the cyclone shelters and prepositioned WASH supplies should be provided to address concerns, meet needs and ensure sanitary conditions during preparedness and response.

Partners

- Sector lead agency: UNICEF
- **Actors:** ACLAB | BDRCS | BRAC | Caritas Bangladesh | Coast Foundation | GUSS | Islamic Relief Bangladesh | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Bangladesh | Uttaran



Health and Nutrition

- Two public health centres, one hospital, six mobile medical teams and two ambulances were on standby.
- Post-evacuation, three medical teams were activated to monitor refugee health in the cyclone shelters. Medical support was given to 15 refugees.
- 12 pregnant women close-to-term were transferred to the hospital.
- 20 refugees were provided with first aid and nine with psychological first aid (PFA) training.
- Due to a driver shortage, supporting two ambulances at the same time was a challenge

Partners

- Sector lead agency: UNHCR
- **Actors:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | BRAC | Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) |

Friendship | Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) | HAEFA | Hope-87 | IPAS | SARPV| PRANTIC | RTMI | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNFPA | WFP | WHO | Dhaka Ahsania Mission



Protection

- The Protection Sector continues to support and coordinate with other Sectors in mainstreaming protection into planning and response, including sharing information on specific needs and population per cluster so that sectors can prepare assistance accordingly. An age, gender, and diversity approach has been considered when assigning rooms in the shelters to promote equitable access and targeted support.
- A two-day protection assessment on cyclone preparedness and awareness was conducted 9-10 May. Findings were positive: 93% of refugees said they are aware of the cyclone alert. 85% indicated awareness of what to do in the event of a cyclone. 70% indicated they have been reached by community messaging. Mapping of unreached clusters and requests from refugees for additional information have been shared with the DMC to be addressed in community messaging and engagement.
- Pre and post-evacuation protection monitoring was conducted in 59 clusters occupied by refugees by protection partners supported by refugee volunteers.
- Communications Centre was opened from 13th May till 14th May, where refugees could call to report any protection concerns or reported incidents.
- Refugee communities through community-based Child Protection Committee and Parents and Caregiver Committee members and home visits were sensitised on cyclone preparedness, responsibility to prevent family separation and any violence against children, and communication channels available to raise protection concerns.
- Psychosocial support was provided to refugees experiencing anxiety.
- No protection cases or incidents were reported during the monitoring period linked to the cyclone response. 73 issues raised by refugees were referred to the relevant Sectors for resolution.
- On 14 May, it was observed that the refugees began to return to their houses from 4.30 am onwards, fearing theft in their unattended houses, lack of hot meals at the cyclone and no supply of food for children, insufficient sanitation facilities, lack of water and electricity in the shelters.
- As of 3 pm on 14 May, all the 53 cyclone shelters used for evacuations were cleared with one shelter remaining partially occupied by 5 female headed households. The situation of these families continued to be monitored by the protection partners.
- Feedback from the communities shows that refugees wanted to have more information and clarity on the potential evacuation, be provided more advance notice to pack and organize their room prior to evacuation and have more information on how the arrangements in the cyclone shelters will be organized. Content, timing and communication methods could be further enhanced and elaborated as well as become part of regular communication with communities messages to strengthen knowledge and awareness for the next cyclone season.
- With the division and assignment to different shelters for some clusters, some families were assigned to different cyclone shelter than their relatives and social support structures and consequently refused to evacuate.
- There was a noticeable delayed response to incidents reported from the monitoring of shelters during the evacuation in the night-time, with a main concern being the delay in ambulance.
- While no protection incidents were reported in relation to evacuation, night-time exercise with short notice presented protection risks and fears of theft of property.

Partners

- Sector lead agency: UNHCR
- **Actors:** ACLAB | BRAC | CODEC | Mukti Cox's Bazar | PARC | CDD | HI | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR



Education

- All classrooms of 28 schools were made available as storm shelters for evacuated refugees.
- Teachers and sector partners were actively engaged in the preparation and mobilization of community members and parents
- Due to limited space available to store benches and education materials, clearing the classrooms for evacuation was difficult.

Partners

- Sector lead agency: UNICEF
- **Actors:** ACLAB | BRAC | CODEC | Friendship | Mukti Cox's Bazar | Islamic Relief Bangladesh | PARC | PRANTIC | PULSE | SKUS | UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP



Livelihoods and Skills Development

- Some damage was reported on summer vegetable planting.
- All agricultural structures and sheds were secured with rope.
- Drains were cleaned and some new drains were dug to prevent water logging.
- Livestock and poultry were secured in safe locations.
- Technical advice was given to agricultural farmers, particularly on aquaculture, livestock, and chicken breeding, to help them protect their agricultural resources.
- Equipment in the training centres were safely secured.
- Dykes of the aquatic pond were raised and repaired.
- Fruits and vegetables were harvest pre-cyclone.
- Capacity building for refugees and development partners is required to minimize agricultural resource damage and protect livestock during disaster.

Partners

- Sector lead agency: UNHCR
- Co-coordinated by: WFP, UNHCR, BRAC
- **Actors:** ACLAB | ASAAR | BRAC | Caritas Bangladesh | FAO | HOPE'87 | IUCN | Multi Surge International | PRANTIC | Protyashi | PULSE | SKUS | SSS | UNHCR | WFP



WASH Volunteers filling jerry cans to be prepositioned at the 53 cyclone shelters © Kiri Atri

Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) Cluster Response



Food Security

- 5601 households have received cash transfers as part of WFP's Anticipatory Action program. Islamic Relief (IRB) has also responded with an Anticipatory Action response worth 200,000 GBP.
- The Department of Livestock (DLS) is providing veterinary extension services in all Upazilas.
- The Department of Agriculture (DAE) has issued an agriculture advisory and communicated it to the community. They have also mobilized all available combined harvesters to harvest paddy from the fields.
- Food stock has been prepared for distribution according to the requirements of MoDMR.
- Food Security cluster partners such as WFP, Islamic Relief Bangladesh, World Vision, BRAC, and others partners are prepositioning Dry Food Packages and High Energy Biscuits (HEB). They are also trying to increase the stock. The FSC package, standards, and guidelines are supporting the partners.
- IRB, BDRCS, and WFP are prepared to provide hot meals to the affected population in line with cluster guidance.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- The following list of WASH in Emergency Supplies, prepared in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and Cluster Members, is ready for distribution in the potentially affected areas:
 - 5,000,000 Water Purification Tablets (WPTs)
 - 42,000 Jerrycans
 - 18,000 Hygiene Kits
 - 30 Water Treatment Plants (WTP)
 - 650 Tube-well Spare parts
 - 250 Temporary/Emergency Latrines
 - 5,000 Sanitary Napkins
- Some of the supply's items have already been moved to the sub-district level.



Health

- Weather bulletins and awareness messages are being disseminated to all relevant stakeholders and the community to support preparedness activities for Cyclone Mocha.
- Mobile Medical Teams have been formed and deployed in the potentially affected areas, along with adequate medical logistics to respond to any emergency situations.
- Emergency medicine and medical supplies have been stockpiled in sufficient quantities at different levels of the health system.

- Health situation and preparedness activities are being monitored at different levels, from the National Health Emergency Operations Centre and Control Room at the national level to the Civil Surgeon at the district level.
- Emergency health cluster meetings have been held to assess the preparedness status and gather updates from partner agencies, and an emergency coordination meeting was held to evaluate preparedness activities and ensure a coordinated response to the impending cyclone.



Shelter

- A preparedness meeting was held on May 11, 2023, by Shelter Cluster Bangladesh, where they presented the cyclone MOCHA situation and discussed the partner's pre-positioning stock for emergency response.
- Shelter Cluster partners have pre-positioned stock of shelter and non-food items such as tarpaulins, shelter toolkits, family tents, sleeping mats, kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, buckets, and blankets. Based on the current pre-positioning of partners, assistance can be provided to around 33,653 households. Partners also have a contingency fund for emergency support.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- GBV risk mitigation supplies including more than 10,000 prepositioned lifesaving stocks of dignity kits and 2,500 stocks of menstrual hygiene management kits - for women and adolescent girls are available.
- Upazila level Women Affairs and Social Service officers, designated to ensure women and girls safety and security, are oriented on GBV in emergency, disability inclusion, survivor-centered approach, psychosocial support and GBV referral and principles of GBV case management.
- However, significant gaps in life-saving GBV response services (health, PSS, shelter, legal and other social services) both in terms of availability and accessibility, and response capacity exists in cyclone prone districts of Chattogram, Noakhali and the Hill districts, particularly Bandarban, which is one of the most vulnerable.



Nutrition

- Nutrition supplies, including therapeutic milk (F-75 and F-100) and nutrition kits (height-weight measurement scales, MUAC tapes feeding utensils, etc.), were made available at district and Upazila hospitals.
- The Nutrition Information and Planning Unit (NIPU)/National Nutrition Services (NNS) team followed up with CMSD to release allocated therapeutic milk for Chottogram, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, and Laxmipur districts (1486 pots of F-75 and 252 pots of F-100).



Education

- UNICEF had signed Contingency partnerships with two partners to ensure continued learning for children after the cyclone, covering the Chittagong division. A total of 14,300 children were targeted through these contingency partnerships.
- A total of 778 education in emergencies (EIE) kits, child-friendly space (CFS) kits, Mobile learning

kits were pre-positioned to support continuity of learning during and post-disaster in the affected areas.

- Partners worked with the learning facility authorities to protect facilities from the cyclone, supported learning centers authorities to keep all learning materials in a safe place, provided plastic bags to keep children's materials safe, and shared critical cyclone preparedness messages through parent meetings.
- For schools to be used as shelter centers, partners worked with school authorities to keep school-based learning materials in a safe place and well protected.

Contacts

Rohingya refugee response: Cox's Bazar: iscg@iscgxcb.org.

Rohingya refugee response: Bhasan Char: atri@unhcr.org; desclous@unhcr.org

Humanitarian country response: kazi.rahman2@un.org.

Website

<https://rohingyaresponse.org/mocha>

Website

<https://bangladesh.un.org/en>