

Bangladesh: Cyclone Mocha Humanitarian Response

Situation Report

As of 16 May 2023

Situation Overview

429,377 Bangladeshi nationals

- Affected in Cox’s Bazar, Chattogram, Noakhali and Feni

930,292 Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar

- All 33 refugee camps affected by Cyclone Mocha
- 30,000 individuals with destroyed or damaged shelter
- Damage to learning centres impacting 15,000 children
- Women, boys and girls, persons with disabilities disproportionately affected



Situation Update

- Cyclone Mocha completed its crossing over the Cox’s Bazar coast on 14 May evening, leaving considerable damage in its path.
- Rohingya refugees in the camps in Teknaf and neighbouring Bangladeshi communities were most affected, with thousands of shelters and service facilities destroyed, putting families at greater risk for the upcoming monsoon season. Initial Government reports indicate no loss of life.
- The capacity to respond now and to prepare for the upcoming monsoon season is heavily strained given the current funding levels of the [2023 Appeal](#) for the Rohingya Refugee Response in Bangladesh.
- On Bhasan Char, no casualties or damage to shelters or facilities was reported after authorities announced the evacuation of around 30,000 refugees to 53 cyclone shelters as a precautionary measure. Most reportedly returned to their homes after the cyclone passed.



Coordination & Government Relations

- The Government led preparedness and response efforts, with the support of emergency humanitarian teams and volunteers, both Rohingya refugee and Bangladeshi, who were the first responders in their community. More details on preparedness efforts in Cox’s Bazar in the lead up to the cyclone in the 13 May [Flash Update](#).



Access

- Following road access go-clear from UN Security, humanitarian teams began post-disaster assessments on 15 May to identify the intensity of the damage and needs on the ground, including a Joint Needs Assessment completed on 16 May.



External Relations

- Selected media reflections regarding the cyclone response:
 - *National*: [Prothom Alo](#); [Daily Star](#).
 - *International*: BBC World: [Johannes Van Der Klaauw, UNHCR](#); CGTN: [Johannes Van Der Klaauw, UNHCR](#); BBC: [Sayed Ezatullah Majeed, UNICEF](#); [UN Multimedia](#).
- [Press Release](#) from the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh.

Rohingya Refugee Response: Cox's Bazar



Shelter and CCCM

Impact

- 5,823 shelters were damaged (412 fully destroyed and another 5,411 partially damaged), negatively impacting 27,950 Rohingya refugees.
- 120 landslides and soil erosions were detected, damaging shelters.
- 82 solar panels were damaged.

Response

- Ahead of the cyclone, over 10,000 individuals (2,600 households) were supported to relocate from risky areas to temporal communal shelters, as well as to relatives or local host communities.
- Families with fully damaged shelters and extremely vulnerable households have been prioritized for support.
- Volunteers were mobilized across the camps for rapid damage assessment and community mobilization. Shelter volunteers continued working with refugees to reinforce the most vulnerable shelters. A technical team of volunteers has also started to remove collapsed trees and other debris to pave the way for shelter reconstruction. Women committee members also took part of the awareness raising and key message dissemination before the cyclone and on the day of the response supporting the damage assessment and reaching out to other women members from the community.
- Feedback and Information Centres were established to collect immediate complaints and issues from the community in the camps.
- Site Development damage assessment was conducted in all camps and priority works, such as slope stabilization repairs and erosion mitigation works, started to ensure safe access and community safety.

Challenges and Needs

- Access has been impeded by trees falling on roads, shelters, and facilities.

Partners

- BDRCS, HEKS, CARITAS, IOM, UNHCR, CARE, DRC, NOUZUWAN, SHUSHILAN, BRAC, ACTED, AAB, NGOF, TURKISH GROUP, GUSS, ASEAB.



Food Security

Impact

- Preliminary field data indicates the cyclone has affected homes of at least 337 Bangladeshi livelihoods programme participants (80 homes severely damaged), and at least 134 basic structures used for group meetings and trainings (84 sites severely damaged), as well as vegetable plots, both mostly in Teknaf.
- No damages to biscuit cartons - secured prior to the cyclone - have been reported so far.

Response

- On 16 May, 1,750 Rohingya refugees were unable to return to their shelters to cook and received instead hot meals.
- Biscuit distributions to refugee children under the school feeding programme resumed at those learning centres which reopened today in the camps. Distributions also recommenced in the host community.

Challenges and Needs

- Joint assessments of food security needs in the camps and surrounding Bangladeshi communities began on 16 May. Results are anticipated by early next week.

Partners

- In the camps: WFP, YPSA, BRAC, CODEC, World Vision, RIC and SHED.
- In the host community: Oxfam, BRAC, Mukti Cox's Bazar and YPSA.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Impact

- WASH assessments have completed in the camps and host community.
- In the camps, 1,730 WASH infrastructures have been damaged, including at least 1,152 latrines, 493 bathing facilities, 10 water networks, 19 boreholes, 37 faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs) and 19 material recovery facilities (MRFs).
- In the host community (mostly in Teknaf), 11,555 latrines and 266 water points have been damaged.
- The volume of solid waste increased due to debris, branches, and damaged camp infrastructure.

- The rain in Teknaf is providing enough water for one extra month of water supply.

Response

- In the camps, 418 latrines, 143 bathing facilities, five water networks, 15 boreholes, 10 FSTPs and 5 MRFs have been repaired. In the host community, 13 water points and 150 latrines have been repaired.
- Priority is also given to solid waste/debris cleaning by engaging additional volunteers.
- The regular monthly distribution of hygiene items (soap, menstrual hygiene management) will resume in the camps, but no specific post-cyclone emergency distribution is taking place (except in safe havens).

Challenges and Needs

- Considering the high number of WASH infrastructures damaged (and existing funding gaps), only quick repairs can be done while additional emergency funding would support more solid repairs.

Partners

- NGO, WV, VERC, BRAC, CARE, DSK, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, BDRCS, MSF, SHED, Shushilan, ACF, NABOLOK, ANONADO, TdH, SCI, Green Hill, Caritas.

Health

Impact

- The UNICEF/iccdr,b-supported Respiratory Hospital in Teknaf (host community) sustained multiple damages to about 75% of its units, with significant roof damage. However, most of the medical equipment was spared.
- The Sector has not observed a change in health status/needs due to the disaster.



The UNICEF/iccdr,b-supported Respiratory Hospital in Teknaf (host community) sustained multiple damages. © UNICEF

Response

- All other health facilities have resumed routine health service delivery in the camps.
- As such, Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs) were pulled back on 16 May.

Partners

- Health Sector Lead: WHO; Camp Health Focal Points: UNHCR/IOM; MMT/EPR Coordination: IOM/WHO; MMT contributing partners: IOM, Save the Children, FH, IRC, RI, HOPE, Prantic Unnayan, Friendship, BRAC, HMBD Foundation, BDRCS, UNFPA/RTMI, GK/UNHCR, and MSF.



Protection

Impact

- Seven Joint Government - UNHCR Registration Sites, three Women Led Community Centres, 18 Safe Spaces for Women and Girls, two Child friendly spaces, three multi-purpose centres and facilities including Community Centres and Information Service Centres have been damaged affecting the overall delivery of protection services to refugees.



Camp 8W: Community Outreach Member (COM) Mohammad Zakaria taking elderly sick person to health care after cyclone. © Mohammad Ayas, COMs team leader, Camp 8W

Response

- Three children were successfully reunified with their parents/caregivers.
- Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams supported 7,735 individuals, including 440 Persons with Disabilities to guarantee that assistance and timely referral to services was given after the aftermath of the cyclone.
- Community-based outreach teams and social workers assisted refugees by identifying persons with specific needs, extremely vulnerable individuals, female-headed households, and persons with disability through door-to-door visits and referred 447 Persons with specific needs to specialized services. An additional 243 individual were assisted to access services following cyclone-related complaints at Information Service Centres. 11 children were referred for medical services and seven for Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). Altogether 22 Child Protection Help desks and ECCC's are functional to date. 17 Community based child protection committees (340 members) are operational in the camps.
- Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support was provided to 2,523 affected refugees. Specific Child Protection Psychosocial Support benefitted 720 children and 445 parents and caregivers, with the aim of providing some relief from the trauma caused by the cyclone.
- 1,202 refugees, including 186 Persons with Disabilities were reached through counselling and awareness sessions. 730 Children and 1450 caregivers and community members reached with child protection awareness messages.
- Regular Child Protection activities resumed after Cyclone Mocha. Most of GBV services for women and girls have resumed in the Women Friendly Spaces and Multi-Purpose Women's centre.
- 491 women and girls aged 12 to 59 years received Dignity Kits.

Challenges and Needs

- Reports were received of household items being stolen when refugees were being relocated to safer shelters. Concerns have also been raised about criminal groups stealing streetlights after the cyclone.
- Concerns have been raised regarding some Majhis attempting to influence community and

volunteers on which refugees will be accommodated back to shelters.

- Access of persons with disabilities to basic services including toilets was hampered as facilities and roads were damaged.
- As a result of damaged WASH facilities and solar lights, women and girls are more at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse especially during the night time; some women and girls refrain from going to latrines impacting their health and well-being. Damage in pathways and staircases has hampered service provision in various Women friendly spaces. Due to limited movement, attendance of women and girls in the Women Friendly Spaces and Multi-Purpose Centres has significantly reduced.



Awareness session with imam on cyclone at Camp 13, Block F by Boshir Ullah. © Saved Hossain, COM, Camp 13

- The lack of dedicated contingency funds for immediate response like food, clothes, shelter for children and children with special needs is a challenge. The need for psychosocial support for children, parents and caregivers found in distress or traumatised remains.

Partners

- Action Aid, ACTED, NGO Forum, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, BNPS, MUKTI CXB, WV, UN Women, Save the Children, IRC, DRC, DCA, CARE, SKUS, Good Neighbors BD, BLAST, BRAC, RI, TdH, SCI, PULSE, HI, SCI, BRCA, Plan International, DSS, CODEC, Coast Foundation, FIVDB, YPSA, BITA, PROTTYASHI, IPAS, MAISHA, BNKS and Agrajatra.

Emergency Telecommunications (ETS)

Impact

- Channel 7 at Shamlapur used for security communication is down. The coverage provided by this module is only for those crossing this area where there is no UN operation.

Response

- ETS is fixing the issue of Channel 7.
- Issues affecting the data network have been fixed, and it is now 100% recovered.

Partners

- UNHCR and UNDSS.



Nutrition

Impact

- The rapid needs and damage assessment indicates that a total of 16 integrated nutrition facilities (INFs) and two stabilization centres have been partially damaged.

Response

- All nutrition services have resumed within 24 hours of the Cyclone Mocha. Partners and volunteers communicated with beneficiaries on the resumption of nutrition services and ensured that they reach the nutrition facilities.
- Repair and maintenance works are ongoing in the affected integrated nutrition facilities and stabilization centre.

Partners

- ACF, CARE, Concern, ESDO, GK, RI, SARPV, SHED, SCI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP.



Education

Impact

- 158 learning centres, 66 community-based learning facilities (CBLFs) and seven¹ adolescent centres have been reported as damaged in the camps. There are also 17 CBLFs reported as damaged in the host community.
- 14,743 (7,064 girls and 7,679 boys, including 101 children with disabilities) learners enrolled in these learning facilities are being directly affected.
- 189 learning centres have been used as safe havens, where 617 families (2,629 people, including 1,480) have been sheltered in the last 48 hours.

Response

- Partners have started primary repair works at 12 learning centres.
- Psychosocial first aid (PFA) has been provided in 24 learning facilities by Save the Children.
- In 11 learning facilities, Community Education Support Group (CESG) members and mentors voluntarily supported the initial damage control to re-tie down and repair, and move learning material to safer places, etc.
- The Sector is in coordination with Camp-in Charges (CiCs) on reopening learning facilities and resumption of learning activities.

Challenges and Needs

- Emergency repair and refurbishment of damaged centres.
- 37 learning facilities need Education in Emergency (EiE) kits while 29 need learning materials.

¹ Corrigendum: Seven learning centres were classified as adolescent centres in the 15 May sitrep.

Partners

- IRC, PLAN, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, Educo, SCI, BRAC, COAST, CODEC, Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), FRIENDSHIP, JCF, Mukti, PROTTYASHI, SKUS, YPSA.

Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) Cluster Response

- Approximately 12,000 households face the risk of temporary displacement, requiring urgent assistance. Immediate priorities encompass essential provisions such as food, safe drinking water, primary healthcare, and clothing support. The Displacement Management Cluster (DMC) partners try to mobilize funding for housing repairs, aiming to provide longer-term support and restore stable living conditions for the affected households.
- The Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA) within the HCTT has developed advocacy messages based on the IASC Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action. Their goal is to ensure that gendered measures are integrated into emergency response initiatives. They acknowledge the significance of promoting gender equality and empowerment within the realm of humanitarian actions. Further details can be found at: <https://reliefweb.int/node/3962273>.
- The Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) cluster in Bangladesh has decided to support the government-led efforts, refraining from conducting a coordinated assessment and direct appeals to donors. This strategic approach aligns with their commitment to reinforce ongoing government initiatives and optimize resources through collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Contacts

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<https://rohingyaresponse.org/mocha>

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