

Flash Update #1 on Monsoon Response of 5-6 August 2023¹ Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

7 August 2023

Situation Overview

9,237

Rohingya refugees affected
(Initial figure – subject to further ongoing verification)

1,192
refugees displaced

1,431
shelters damaged

33
facilities damaged

26
slope failure incident



Situation Update

Since 1 August 2023, Cox's Bazar has experienced more than 300 mm of rainfall. The current heavy rainfall forecasts indicate that on the week of 6 August 2023, Ukhiya & Teknaf Upazilas will receive rainfall ranging from 34 mm to 189 mm each day, with decreasing intensity by end of the week. Low-lying areas have already been flooded, with storm/wind hazards and slope failures observed.

As per the latest update from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla & Payra have been advised to keep local cautionary signal no. three (R) hoisted. Due to the heavy rainfall, there is a risk of landslides in several areas of Cox's Bazar, especially in Cox's Bazar Sadar, part of Hnila (Nayapara Registered Camp and adjacent areas), and Baharchara unions of Teknaf sub-district, Marine drive/Jaliapalong adjacent areas, Balukhali areas of Ukhiya sub-district.

Immediate Response and Needs



Shelter-CCCM

Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

On 5-6 August, 9,237 individuals in 33 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf have been impacted, with 1,192 individuals reported as displaced. Further verification is in progress, taking into account the challenging access to many impacted locations due to significant flooding. There are reports of 1,431 damaged shelters, with 85 verified as major or completely damaged and 314 with minor damage.

Verification is ongoing for shelter damages and damages to 33 facilities, 38 pathways, and 5 roads, along with 26 reported incidents of slope failure. The relocation of individuals to safer locations is currently underway, and 108 shelters have undergone essential repairs. Teams in the field are actively conducting rapid shelter damage verification and necessary repairs, with 47 Site Development responses already initiated. Shelter, Site Management, and Site Development teams are actively verifying the reported damages in all impacted camps.

¹ Report reflects cumulative information for 5-6 August 2023 unless otherwise specified.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Lead Agency: UNICEF

Currently, 155 latrines and 39 bathing facilities have been damaged (collapsed) and approximately 4% of the 43,490 latrines are flooded, posing the risk of outbreaks in the upcoming weeks. Presently, 7% of the 16,535 tube-wells with hand-pumps are underwater, leading to contamination. Furthermore, 2 Material Recovery Facilities are partially flooded, 1 water-network, and 2 Fecal Sludge Treatment Plants have been damaged or flooded, including 3 tube-wells which have suffered partial damage.

WASH actors are closing all submerged tube-wells due to contamination, which will undergo cleaning before reuse. 6,740 aquatabs have been distributed for household water treatment, and efforts are underway to reinforce key WASH infrastructures to minimize collapse risk. Message dissemination is ongoing to raise Acute Water Diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera awareness.



Food Security

Lead Agencies: WFP and FAO

The emergency rapid food assistance in 15 different camp locations is being led by WFP and its implementing partners (CODEC, RIC, SHED, WVI, YPSA). A total of 159 cartons (0.795 metric ton) of fortified biscuits and 700 hot meals (57 hot meals for lunch and 643 hot meals for dinner) have been distributed, reaching 71 households across the camps.



Protection including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

Lead Agency: UNHCR, Lead Agencies for Sub-Sectors: UNICEF, UNFPA

In the past weeks, Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams conducted 32 awareness sessions on monsoon response, reaching 143 individuals. As the rains intensified, they provided Psychological First Aid (PFA) to 145 individuals and Psychosocial Support (PSS) to 55 individuals. Overall, 1,249 refugees received protection assistance, including specific support for different age and gender groups: 106 girls (<18 years), 124 boys (<18 years), 371 women (18-59 years), 501 men (18-59 years), 70 elderly women (>59 years), 76 elderly men (>59 years) and 1 male person with disability.

Child Protection staff and volunteers are actively assisting families to move to safe spaces, conducting door-to-door awareness sessions to prevent risks, while Community-Based Child Protection Committees and other groups support children with referrals and safe shelter arrangements.

The UNFPA Adolescent & Youth Center in Camp 1W (A-8) provided shelter to 30 individuals, including 12 families, with designated accommodations for female refugees.

Due to heavy rains, certain areas in the camps are now inaccessible to protection actors, hindering assistance to all refugees in need. Damaged shelters may increase protection incidents, and 8 protection facilities have been reported as damaged. The heavy rain has made roads risky for children and restricted access to service facilities, requiring essential items like cloth and dignity kits, dry food, and other necessities for children's well-being. Camp 1W Adolescent & Youth Center, Camp 4, and Jaliapalong Women Friendly Space/Women & Girls Safe Space have been affected by the heavy rain, urgently necessitating dissemination of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on disaster,

dry food, water, training on women and disaster, dignity kits, shelter, umbrellas, clothes, hot meals, and baby food.



Nutrition

Lead Agency: UNICEF

Due to heavy rainfall, the bamboo fence is dripping rainwater, and small-scale landslides caused damage to the Integrated Nutrition Facility (INF) at Camp 9 site 2. Temporary repairs are underway, and tarpaulins are being used to prevent rainwater from entering the INF, and important documents are safely stored. The Mobile Nutrition Teams (MNT) are on standby to offer emergency support. The outreach team conducting screenings and disseminating risk/awareness messages has been provided with gumboots, raincoats, and umbrellas to facilitate beneficiary access to the INF.

Sector partners are fully prepared and have taken all precautions to minimize damage at the INFs as no major impact has been observed yet. There is a risk of submergence at Camp 4 Centre-1 warehouse due to potential overflow of water in the nearby drainage system. Additionally, both centers in Camp 3 require renovation due to water leakages observed in several corners of the infrastructures.



Education

Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

A total of 150 learning facilities have been affected and 10,283 children have been impacted by the situation. Additionally, 13 learning centers have been utilized as emergency shelters and safe havens.



Emergency Telecommunications

Lead Agency: WFP

Due to the lack of bright sunlight, the service in two locations powered by solar energy has affected the e-voucher outlets in Jadimura and Camp 4. To restore the service and ensure regular assistance delivery through digital tools, portable generators are being used to recharge the batteries and power the equipment as an immediate response.

If the current weather persists, there is a risk that more sites running on solar power might be affected.