

Bangladesh: Cyclone Hamoon Humanitarian Response

Flash Update

As of 29 October 2023

Situation Overview

On the evening of October 24, 2023, Cyclonic Storm "Hamoon" made landfall along the Cox's Bazar and Chattogram coastline, unleashing powerful winds and torrential rain. By mid-day on October 25, the cyclonic storm had shifted its course northwestward and had fully crossed the coast.

Cox's Bazar encountered more than 60 mm of rainfall, accompanied by wind speeds ranging from 120 km/h to 155 km/h. A significant number of trees have been uprooted causing damage to houses, infrastructure and road blockages across the District, with most damage affecting close to 590,000 Bangladeshis in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram. Five casualties were reported and 85 injured across the cyclone affected area of Cox's Bazar and Chattogram. Close to 3,000 Rohingya refugees were impacted in the camps in Cox's Bazar, with over 1,000 shelters damaged.

As of 29 October, relocated vulnerable Bangladeshis had safely returned to their homes and response efforts are ongoing in the affected areas, including the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. The cyclonic storm in Cox's Bazar led to extensive power outages and mobile network disruptions. These issues are gradually being resolved by the respective Government departments. The storm's impact on Bhasan Char was limited, with no reported damage on the island.

The Flash Update of 25 October 2023 is available [here](#).

Rohingya Refugee Response: Cox's Bazar



Shelter and CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

Impact

- A cumulative total of 2,998 individuals, comprising 614 households, have reported being affected by the cyclone's aftermath.
- Out of the 151 families displaced by the cyclone, the majority have received assistance to return to their respective shelters, with only a small number remaining temporarily accommodated in community facilities.
- Across the camps, a total of 1,009 shelters were reported damaged due to the strong winds and rain experienced during the cyclone. Among these, 915 shelters were partially damaged while the remaining 94 shelters were completely damaged.
- In addition to shelter damage, there were additional reports of slope failures and other site infrastructure issues within the camps.

Response

- Coordination with the Government and partners in addressing the effects of the cyclone is ongoing in all camps. Post-cyclone monitoring by volunteers and technical assessments is ongoing, supported by technical staff from Camp-in-Charge (CiC) offices.

- Site Management Support partners have been making referrals to technical partners for shelter support, facility repair and site development. Efforts to maintain and repair partially damaged facilities are currently in progress and volunteers are persistently engaged in the removal of fallen trees across various camps.
- Shelter technical teams have been consistently verifying the reported cases of shelter damage, with 618 cases reviewed, out of which 404 have been deemed eligible for assistance. The distribution of shelter kits to assist households impacted by the cyclone has commenced in several camps. 231 households received emergency shelter repair materials that included tarpaulins, ropes, bamboo and wires. The prepositioned shelter materials will be enough to cover the reported needs so far.
- Communal facilities (such as community centres and learning centres) that were designated as cyclone shelters will resume usual services next week.
- Coordination is on-going with the Bangladesh Shelter Cluster regarding response to Host Community Shelter and NFI needs.

Challenges

- Technical assessments are taking longer than expected, reportedly due to limited staffing.
- Removal of some trees has been a challenge as partners do not have specialized equipment and rely on support from the Bangladeshi Forest Department.
- Lack of proper lighting when the cyclone struck at night posed safety challenges.
- Communication remains a challenge as the verification teams are unable to coordinate efficiently.



Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: WFP and FAO

Impact

- WFP infrastructure sustained damages to an e-voucher outlet and warehouse. FAO surveyed a sample of 150 (30 refugees / 120 HC) affected individuals by the cyclonic storm Hamoon. The survey revealed that 80% of those surveyed reported damage to agricultural land, forested areas, shelters, and crops. The estimated average cost of damage per affected household was USD 300 for host community members and USD 20 for refugees.

Response

- WFP provided 184 hot meals to the Refugees. A total of 121 communication with community volunteers (Female 61, Male 60) conducted recovery activities.

Challenges

- Needs in order of priority: HC agricultural inputs, shelter and tools; Refugees food, agricultural inputs, tools and shelter.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact

- A total of 178 latrines, 65 bathing cubicles and 1 Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) site have been affected; as well as a total of 3 water networks, 2 surface water embankments, 4 tap-stands and 1 hand pump.

Response

- All the damaged infrastructures have been repaired except 22 latrines and one water reservoir (partially repaired as water is running again).

Partners

- UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, World Vision, NGOF, CARE, BRAC, VERC, DSK, ACF, SHED, SHUSHILAN, TDH, ANANDO, BDRCS, CARITAS, GREEN HILL, IRB, NABOLOK, SCI



Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

Impact & Response

- No health facilities were affected/damaged. All 33 Mobile Medical Teams on standby prior to landfall have now been deactivated and health service delivery is continuing through the routine approaches.



Protection (including GBV and CP) Sector Lead Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA

Impact

- Minor damages were identified in four registration centres and GBV facilities, but normal operations resumed in most centres.
- The cyclone and heavy rainfall affected 1,800 children through shelter damage, landslides, and waterlogging. Some Child and Adolescent Clubs, Multi-Purpose Centres (MPC), and Psychosocial support facilities were reported to have sustained minor damage, however most sites were operating as normal now. No children were reported as unaccompanied or separated during the cyclone, and no significant child protection cases were reported either.

Response

- Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams and Protection Focal Points in all camps mobilized Community Outreach volunteers (COMs) and Community Groups volunteers to identify vulnerable individuals, shelters and make community centres and spaces available for affected families.
- Community-Based Protection volunteers remained stationed overnight in centres during the storm to receive families.
- The Registration team remained vigilant to reprint documents that may have been lost or damaged in the storm.
- PERU teams and protection partners conducted 369 awareness sessions on cyclone preparedness and response reaching 4,301 individuals (Women 1,369, Men 1,705, Girls 544, Boys 609, and Persons with Disabilities 74).
- Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams and protection partners provided Psychological First Aid (PFA) to 358 individuals and Psychosocial Support (PSS) to 68 individuals.
- Emergency information, food, shelter, PFA were provided by case workers and outreach volunteers from GBV facilities to affected households.
- CP field staff facilitated the relocation of affected families to safer areas. Close coordination with camp authorities ensured timely support. Specific figures from the crisis response include- over 130 children, including those with disabilities, relocated due to landslide risks or partially fully damage of shelter. 350 children received PSS and 25 children received PFA, including children with disabilities.

Challenges

- Disruptions in telecommunication, electricity, and internet services hindered field-level coordination

and service.

Partners

- UNHCR, IOM, CARE, Mukti, AAB, UNICEF, UNHCR, SCI, Plan, IRC, TDH, BRAC, CODEC, COAST, ASD, WVI, GNB, FIVDB, DSS, IRC, DRC, WFP, JCF, CPP, AAB, TdH, UNFPA



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact & Response

- There was no major impact in the Integrated Nutrition Facilities (INFs). Partially damaged INF and stabilization centre have been repaired and are functional.

Partners

- ACF, Concern, ESDO, GK, SARPV, SHED, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP



Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

Response

- Four Learning Centres were used as Safe Haven/Emergency Shelters: two from UNHCR-BRAC, one from UNICEF-Mukti & one from UNICEF-SKUS.

Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) Cluster Response

Impact

- A total number of 588,367 people were affected (Cox's Bazar - 476,549 and Chattogram – 111,549). A total of 5 casualties were reported (Cox's Bazar - 3, Chattogram- 2) and 85 injured across the cyclone affected area of Cox's Bazar and Chattogram.
- In addition, the power sector took heavy impact from the cyclone. In Cox's Bazar district, 174 electric polls of 33 K.V. lines and 180 electric polls of 11 K.V. polls were damaged, alongside 23 transformers got damaged. In 496 spots, the electric wire got disconnected, which is interrupting the electricity services in the district.

Response

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has allocated Cash Support including Tarpaulin and Shelter Toolkit for 500 HHs while more support will be ensured shortly. Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) has also allocated shelter repair support for 450 HHs.
- UNICEF through Care Bangladesh has confirmed to provide USD 70,000 for cash-based intervention to support Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) and IGA for 1,800 beneficiary families.
- Field based WHO surveillance staffs i.e., Divisional Coordinators (DC) and Surveillance & Immunization Medical Officers (SIMO) are working with the local health officials (Civil Surgeon, Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer) closely to monitor health situation.
- Union-wise mobile medical teams have been formed to provide first aid at the field level. In addition to them, fixed medical team has been alerted at health facility level to move to the severely affected Union on an emergency basis.

- Chattogram Division Medical Sub-Depot (MSD) has an adequate supply of Emergency medicine (Supported by WHO) such as Cholera saline, ORS (Oral rehydration solution), antiseptic cream, water purifying tablet, Hartman's solution, etc.
- Health education and promotion services have been strengthened.
- Emergency medical buffer stock has been replenished.
- Continue to monitor the situation of women and children, support coordination efforts by the government, and provide the needed technical support and needs requested by government.

Contacts

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

Rohingya refugee response: Bhasan Char: mosquerm@unhcr.org and desclous@unhcr.org.

Humanitarian country response: valdes@un.org.

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