

# Bangladesh: Cyclone Hamoon Humanitarian Response

## Flash Update

As of 25 October 2023

### Situation Overview



#### Situation Update

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Cyclonic Storm “Hamoon” struck the coastline of Cox’s Bazar after 7pm on 24 October 2023, bringing strong winds and heavy rainfall. By mid-day on 25 October, the cyclonic storm had moved North-Westwards and completed crossing the coast.

More than 60 mm of rainfall was recorded with wind speeds ranging from 120 km/h to 155 km/h on 24 October 2023. The latest advisory from the Bangladeshi Meteorological Department has advised the maritime ports of Chattagram, Cox’s Bazar, Mogla, and Payra have been advised to lower the signal. All fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay have been advised to remain in shelter.

The Bangladesh Government implemented comprehensive measures to prepare and respond to the cyclonic storm in accordance with the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD), with the support of the humanitarian community in the camps and neighbouring Bangladeshi communities. Bangladeshi and Rohingya volunteers, including Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) volunteers were engaged throughout. Coordination meetings have taken place on 24 and 25 October and Disaster Management Committees were activated inside and outside the camps. Over 40,000 vulnerable Bangladeshis were relocated to cyclone shelters and preventative relocations also took place in the Rohingya camps. The number of casualties remains to be confirmed by the Government.

While the impact of the storm appears limited, assessments are ongoing impeded by a severe break in the mobile phone network in Cox’s Bazar and a power outage. A significant number of trees have been uprooted causing damage to houses, infrastructure and road blockages across the District.

Bhasan Char has not been affected by the Cyclone Hamoon and no damages were observed.

### Rohingya Refugee Response: Cox’s Bazar



#### Shelter and CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

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##### Preparedness

- In collaboration with government authorities (CiCs), shelter partners, and impacted refugees, cyclone preparedness initiatives were carried out within the camps: early warning and public awareness campaigns, community engagement, the distribution of shelter tie-down kits, and assistance to vulnerable families in relocating to safer communal shelters.
- Disaster Management Unit (DMU) and Safety Unit Volunteers (SUV) provided the following

**support to families:**

- Installing red flags in risk zones.
- Temporarily relocating families living in landslide-risk areas to communal shelter.
- Clearing accumulated soil from landslide areas.
- Door to door messaging.
- Shelter tie-down support.

**Impact**

- Several essential infrastructures and shelters in the camps have sustained partial damage, with damage verification still ongoing. As of the reporting time, it is noted that 508 shelters were affected (8 fully damaged and 500 partially damaged), impacting at least 2,438 individuals. Infrastructure damage reported including latrines, stair and retaining wall and pathway damage with verification on-going.
- Slope failures and trees uprooted reported in 14 camps with assessments on-going.

**Response**

- Response Teams are in the camps in both Ukhiya and Teknaf undertaking minor repairs and detailed technical assessments on the extent of damage and are meeting with CiCs, partners in the camps and conducting field visits at the blocks to monitor the situation.

**Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: WFP and FAO**

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**Preparedness**

- WFP pre-positioned fortified biscuits for emergency food assistance and volunteers and engineer team were on standby for non-food support.

**Response**

- WFP distributed 134 cartons of High Energy Biscuit (HEB) to 662 people and 97 meals to 23 households. WFP volunteers (79) supported in recovery activities.

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

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**Preparedness**

- Key preparedness recommendation have been disseminated to all WASH partners.
- Emergency contact list along with contingency plan for all camps are in place. All partners are ready with contingency stock and rapid assessment and response tools.
- Camp level coordination mechanism is in place through the Disaster Management Committee (DMC) and WASH Emergency Response Team (ERT).

**Impact**

- A total of 172 latrines and 59 bathing cubicles have been affected.
- 2 water networks, 2 surface water reservoirs and 1 hand pump have been affected.
- A water embankment (covering the camp 22 surface water treatment plant) has been completely washed away at Mirzachara.

**Response**

- Rapid assessments are on-going and a total of 35 latrines, 2 bathing cubicles and 1 water network

have been repaired.

### Partners

- 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**

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### Preparedness

- The ambulance directory was updated and Mobile Medical Teams were placed on standby.

### Impact

- No major damage reported and the health response is proceeding without impediments.



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

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### Preparedness

- Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams in all 33 camps were activated on 23 October.
- PERU teams, Community Outreach Members and Community Group Volunteers disseminated awareness messages at block and sub-block levels, including through the use of megaphones to help ensure all community members, including women, girls, men, boys, persons with disabilities, older persons and other persons at higher risk, were aware of the coming storm and preparedness measures.
- Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector (GBVSS) partners collectively prepositioned 13,600 Dignity Kits & Menstrual Health/Hygiene Kits (clothes, underwear, sandals, sanitary towels, soap etc) to be deployed for women and girls affected by the cyclone.
- Child Protection (CP) Focal Points, community volunteers and other Sub-Sector personnel were on-site to prevent family separation and link and facilitate access to alternative safe shelters if necessary.
- Community centers, MPCs (Multi-Purpose Centers), and CFS (Child-Friendly Spaces) were ready to receive families during emergencies. Community Centres designated as evacuation shelters were made ready, with community volunteers assigned to stay overnight in the shelters in order to receive evacuees if necessary.

### Impact

- Some facilities providing Protection, CP and GBV-related services were partially damaged or closed due to the cyclone, therefore delaying the life-saving service access.

### Response

- The First Onsite Response Team (FORT), composed of a multi-functional team (e.g., Protection, FSMU, shelter) has been called for duty. The team was deployed to the camps on 25 October.
- Protection facilities, Multi Purpose Centers, CP facilities and Women Friendly Spaces were provided as emergency shelters for households who sought temporary shelters.
- Protection, CP and GBV personnel assisted children and families with temporary relocation to safer areas, including coordinating with camp authorities and the disaster management committees.
- PFA (Psychological First Aid) and PSS (Psychosocial Support) were provided to individuals,

including children and their caregivers. In addition, Protection advice and counselling was provided, along with Information on available services.

### Challenges

- With interruptions in communication, life saving protection services may be affected, as calls have to be made to the referral focal person.
- Some families living at the top of the hill refused to go to communal shelters.

### Partners

- IOM, HI, AAB, Mukti Cox's Bazar, Pulse



**Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF**

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### Preparedness

- The Nutrition Sector (NS) updated its list of camp-level focal points and sufficient Nutrition Supplies were in stock and well positioned in critical warehouses.
- Mobile nutrition teams have recently completed refresher training were ready to be activated as needed. NS volunteers were standby to support.

### Impact

- Partial damage to facilities including one Integrated Nutriotion facility (INF) in Camp 12 and 1 stabilization center.

### Response

- Efforts to repair the damaged facilities are in progress.
- Tarpaulin was used to block the rainwater entering the INF and the food items and all documents were covered to minimize damage.

### Partners

- ACF, ESDO, CWW, GK, SARPV, SHED



**Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children**

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### Preparedness

- All learning centres (LCs) and training centres were made available to be used as Safe Havens/Emergency Shelters.
- Emergency Focal Persons and other volunteers from Education Sector supported SMS volunteer teams to disseminate emergency preparedness messages and other preparedness activities.
- Learning centres were tied down to prevent damage.
- in most camps, LCs were closed following CiC instructions as a precautionary measure.

### Impact

- No significant damages to LCs reported across all the camps, hence teaching and learning is able to continue normally.
- 1 LC in Camp 1W had its floor partially damaged due to the heavy rains but the LC is still useable. In Camp 9, 7 LC partial damaged and 2 LC closed due to roof damage.

### Response

- 4 LCs were reported being used as safe haven/emergency shelter by 6 families.
- The LC damaged in Camp 1W will be repaired within a week.

## Rohingya Refugee Response: Bhasan Char



**Site Management Support / Shelter / NFI Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR**

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### Preparedness

- CiC office control room became operational, and hotline activated. A communication tree was updated and available to all actors on the ground.
- CPP volunteers provided messages to the community and assisted in preparing cyclone shelters.
- Evacuation plan prepared. One BDRCS SMS partner staff along with one SMS/EPR volunteer were assigned for each cyclone shelter.
- Solar lamps and torchlights were prepositioned for each cyclone shelter. SMS worked closely with WASH sector to ensure storage of water and other essential items.
- 528 CPP volunteers along with 58 cluster focal points, 54 EPR volunteers and 57 SMS volunteers were on the ground providing primary support to the preparedness measures. 53 BDRCS staff were on the ground to support the preparation and response.

### 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 Sector Lead Agency: WFP**

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### Preparedness

- WFP prepared to provide 16.664MT of fortified biscuits which can support 30,000 refugees on Bhasan Char for two and a half days (two meals per day).
- WFP is coordinating closely with the ARRRRC on food rations, including handling and distribution.

### Actors

- BDRCS | Impact Initiative | Islamic Relief Bangladesh | MSI | Muslim Aid | Qatar Charity | VOSD-Magura | WFP | YPSA



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

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### Preparedness

- 454 WASH community volunteers were mobilized and engaged in preparedness.
- Cleaning of drainage and canals took place to allow seamless water flow.
- Sufficient WASH NFI contingency stock is available on Bhasan Char, including Jerrycan, Aquatab, bathing soap, MHM kit, bucket, emergency hygiene kit, and child potties.
- Six sets of dewatering pumps, two sets of submersible pumps, and 83 water tanks made available for emergency response.
- WASH partners prepositioned all required supplies in 53 cyclone shelters that have been designated for potential evacuation.
- Three dedicated WASH volunteers assigned for each cyclone shelter.

- Plastic bottles and polythene in the Solid Waste Management site and other open places have been covered by nets to prevent spreading of waste due to wind.

#### Actors

- ACLAB | BDRCS | BRAC | Caritas Bangladesh | GUSS | Islamic Relief Bangladesh | UNHCR | UNICEF | Uttaran | World Vision Bangladesh



#### Health and Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

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#### Preparedness

- Six medical teams (including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support) led by three team leaders were established and will be mobilized in case of severe damage that may result in injuries.
- The Ministry of Health 20-bed hospital will continue to serve as the primary referral center. If needed, other health partners will support.
- Medicine stocks and two ambulances available for support. Triage system will be activated, on a needs basis.
- Health communication focal points were designated.

#### Actors

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | BRAC | Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) | Friendship | Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) | HAEFA | IPAS | SARPV | PRANTIC | RTMI | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNFPA | WFP | WHO



#### Protection Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

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#### Preparedness

- Disaggregated statistical data per cluster made available to government and Sectors to support Sector mapping of response and distribution.
- Mapping of PSN/PWD and lists of individuals by cluster made available to concerned partners to support information awareness and support in the event of an evacuation. Home visits conducted to disseminate tailored messaging and support to PSNs/PWDs.
- Support to Sectors and sensitization on consideration of a rights based and an AGD approach in room allocation/equitable access/specialized support/evacuation/messaging.
- 150 Dignity kits made available by GBV partners.
- Constitution of a community-led emergency response team to be engaged in planning, discussions and feedback on community needs and priorities.
- Identification and referral of protection cases and those in need of various services and support referred to relevant sectors and partners, including MHPSS for those experiences anxiety in the emergency period.
- Protection Communication Tree (PCT) activated with partners and volunteers to immediately inform and refer individuals and areas at heightened risk.
- Protection facilities at shelters cleared, cleaned, and prepared to receive community in the event of evacuation.
- Protection communication group activated for information sharing and updates.

#### Impact

- No protection cases or incidents have been reported from protection monitoring or post-cyclone

protection assessment in the morning of 25 October. Partner activities have resumed and facilities operational.

#### Actors

- ACLAB | BRAC | CODEC | Mukti Cox's Bazar | PARC | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR



**Education Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF**

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#### Preparedness

- Nine education partners closely coordinated preparedness actions. Education partners and refugee teachers worked to securely store education materials.
- All classrooms of 29 schools were prepared to be used for evacuation. Latrines will be kept clean and available water will be stored in buckets.
- Two teachers remained available at the school to coordinate and support SMS team and other sector volunteers. At least one person to stay in the school premise.
- Teachers and education volunteers maintained close communication with School Management Committees to provide updates.

#### Impact

- Schools will resume on 26 October to allow time to rearrange the classrooms on 25 October.

#### Actors

- ACLAB | BRAC | CODEC | Friendship | Mukti Cox's Bazar | Islamic Relief Bangladesh | PRANTIC | PULSE | SKUS | UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP



**Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR**

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#### Preparedness

- Matured vegetables were picked immediately, measures taken to drain stagnant water.
- No fish feeding activities in lakes or ponds was advised during the cyclone.
- Cyclone shelters currently used for skills development activities was made available for potential evacuation. All equipment has been assembled and stored.
- Poultry and livestock were relocated to safe areas in the cluster or in empty houses.
- LVH volunteers on stand-by to inform, coordinate and support on cyclone updates.

#### Partners

- **Co-coordinated by:** WFP, UNHCR, BRAC
- **Actors:** ACLAB | BRAC | Caritas Bangladesh | NGO Forum | UNFPA | Multi Surge International | PRANTIC | Protyashi | SKUS | SSS | IOM | UNHCR | WFP | IRB | SHED | Qatar Charity | WVI | Mukti

### Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) Cluster Response

- To prepare for the cyclone's impact, the anticipatory action working group HCTT initiated early warning messages, urging the community to seek safe shelter. Some people who sought shelter have now returned to their homes.
- Agencies took measures to protect ponds and fisheries. An estimated 3,400 beneficiaries have

benefited from these activities, which include safeguarding crops and aquatic resources.

- The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) mobilized volunteers to support the government's response efforts. They were coordinating with local partners and the District Commissioner's Office.
- UN agencies expressed their readiness to provide support to the government, particularly in terms of hygiene kits, medical teams, and dignity kits to assist in the relief efforts.
- An online Health coordination meeting on Cyclone Hamoon preparedness was held on 24 October under the leadership of Divisional Director (Health), Chattogram. Union-wise mobile medical teams were formed to provide first aid at the field level. In addition, 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.
- Emergency medical supplies and medicines including I/V saline, Water Purification Tablets, Anti Snake Venom are available at Upazila Complexes and district hospitals to provide post-cyclone health care services.
- Divisional Director (Health) Office formed 739 medical teams including 96 in Cox's Bazar District.
- Health education and promotion services have been strengthened.
- Disease surveillance will be continued.
- Emergency medical buffer stock has been replenished.
- The GBV cluster members have been kept informed on the situation updates of the Cyclone Hamoon.
- The UNFPA humanitarian preparedness and response team quickly reviewed the prepositioned supplies status for immediate lifesaving needs of women, girls and transgender. More than 3,000 stocks of Dignity Kits are ready to be deployed in affected areas.
- In Khulna and Rangamati, WFP field colleagues are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with the Government and NGO partners. In total, there are 156.15 MT of fortified biscuits – enough for 62,460 families (312,300 people) – that can be used during immediate response. WFP standby NGO partners – Shushilan, Caritas and Jago Nari – have warehouse in Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna districts for prepositioning this food stock.

## Contacts

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Rohingya refugee response: Cox's Bazar: [iscg@iscgcb.org](mailto:iscg@iscgcb.org).

Rohingya refugee response: Bhasan Char: [mosquerm@unhcr.org](mailto:mosquerm@unhcr.org) and [desclous@unhcr.org](mailto:desclous@unhcr.org).

Humanitarian country response: [valdes@un.org](mailto:valdes@un.org).

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