

# Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 5

Situation Report  
As of 9 January 2024

## **i** Situation Overview

On 7 January 2024 around 1:00 am, a devastating fire broke out in Rohingya refugee Camp 5. The fire spread out through blocks A, B, C and D in Camp 5, and was stopped by fire breaks or open corridors between the camps before it could spread into Camps 6 and 8W. Immediately after the fire incident, Rohingya refugee safety unit volunteers (SUVs), local firefighters, Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD), Armed Police Battalion (APBn), and authorities controlled the situation by 4:00 am. UNHCR deployed 26 three-wheeler Mobile Firefighting Units (MFFUs) from different camps to the hilly, hard-reach-area, while IOM was on standby with 18 additional MFFUs. Under the leadership of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), humanitarian partners immediately arrived on the spot to assess the damage and established a harmonized response.

About 900 households were affected by the fire, comprising around 5,000 refugees who were displaced due to the fire incident, including 3,500 children. 976 shelters were fully or partially damaged. Displaced households have sought temporary shelter in the homes of relatives or other community members, or in community facilities in Camp 5 and adjacent camps. A displacement tracker was activated on Day 1, in coordination with the SCCCCM Sector, to track where people affected by the fire are temporarily staying, to ensure identification and provision of necessary support.

On 9 January, an initial site plan to rebuild the fire-affected blocks, developed by a multisectoral team led by UNHCR, was presented to the Camp 5 Camp-in-Charge (CiC). Preliminary decisions were made by the CiC on the division of labour by partners and WASH and shelter activity targets.



## Inter-Sector Response



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

#### Impact

- About 900 refugee households (comprising 5,000 individuals) were displaced by the fire and sheltering across various camps.
- 976 shelters were affected, including 883 shelters fully damaged and 93 partially damaged.
- 31 communal facilities were damaged including:
  - 1 health facility (non-operational since March 2023)
  - 15 learning centres
  - 2 child friendly spaces
  - 13 mosques/religious schools
  - 1 mobile firefighting unit (MFFU) hub was damaged.
  - 55 solar streetlights were damaged.



Debris cleaning © BRAC/Hasnat Bashir Arnab

#### Response

- On 9 January, the distribution of non-food items (NFIs) commenced with 131 households receiving basic items including hygiene supplies and menstrual hygiene management kits (soap, jerrycans, dignity kits, blankets, sleeping mats and assorted clothes). UNHCR and partners are actively mobilizing additional NFIs to the camp level to ensure full coverage of the affected families.
- The site clearance and safe disposal of debris are fully complete. This facilitates safety and access to the reconstruction process and community mobilization activities.
- UNHCR and partners continued with community engagement and common messaging to affected families regarding planned assistance and response modalities.
- On 9 January, the initial site plan was presented to the CiC for input and endorsement. The proposed plan is the collaborative effort of an interagency and multisectoral response team to re-plan the fire-affected blocks, led by UNHCR. A revised site plan, incorporating feedback shared by the CiC, is to be presented to stakeholders by the CiC on 10 January.

#### Challenges and Needs

- Affected households have already started to construct temporary structures. This may cause challenges to site planning activity.
- Households are scattered across different camps and are collecting food from different sites, leading to difficulties in the distribution of hot meals.

#### Partners

- IFRC/BDRCS, Save the Children, AMAN, AFAD, NGO Forum, NRC, UNFPA, UNHCR.



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

#### Impact

- 4,000 individuals affected by the fire require emergency rapid food assistance.

## Response

- Through coordinated efforts, a total of 6,800 hot meal packs were handed out to the affected refugees on 9 January. These include:
  - Lunch packs to 2,500 individuals and dinner packs to 3,300 individuals, provided by WFP. Under the rapid food assistance intervention, WFP will continue hot meal distribution till 12 January for a total of a 6-day rapid food assistance intervention.
  - 1,000 hot meal packs including 500 each for lunch and dinner, provided by AMAN, who also plans to provide 1,000 hot meal packs per day to the affected refugees till 17 January.
- Since the onset of the emergency, a total of 18,393 hot meals were provided to the refugees affected by the fire.

## Challenges and Needs

- It is expected that the rebuilding of shelters will take at least one month. FSS/CiC/WFP will discuss how to meet the daily food needs of the affected refugees till kitchens are made available to cook their meals.

## Partners

- FSS partners operating in Camp 5: BRAC, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council, HSI, Save the Children, WFP.
- WFP implementing partners: CODEC, WVI.
- FSS partners implementing emergency rapid food assistance in Camp 5: WFP, CODEC, WVI, AMAN.



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

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### Impact

- A total of 82 latrines (major damage 68, partial damage 14), 76 bathing cubicles (major damage 74, partial damage 2), 4 tube wells (major damage), 9 tap stands (2 major damage, 7 partial damage), and 42 handwashing stations have been affected.
- No major damage to the water networks.

### Response

- The repairs and reconstruction of WASH facilities will commence upon approval of new site plans by the RRRC/CiC. The plans should be ready by this week – WASH partners are on standby to respond.
- Ongoing support for displaced families includes the distribution of hygiene kits with menstrual hygiene kits, jerricans and soap.
- Six mobile toilets have been mobilized, 4 tube wells and 9 tap stands have been repaired.

### Challenges and Needs

- As part of the rationalization process, a new partner has recently taken over this camp from the previous partner, so the transitional phase is critical for smooth response operation.

### Partners

- BRAC, DSK, JSK, NGO Forum.



## Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

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### Impact

- No currently operational health facilities were affected. A non-operational former health facility (closed since March 2023) was damaged.

### Response

- On 9 January, two Primary Health Care (PHC) centres in Camp 5 continued to provide support, along with the deployment of one Mobile Medical Team (MMT) and community health workers to the site. The second MMT is closed.
- Since the onset of the fire incident, 222 individuals were screened by the MMTs, and 25 individuals were referred to Camp 5 PHC for treatment.
- 106 individuals were referred for further medical treatment to the PHC centres.
- The PHC treated 51 patients in total (16 burns and 35 injuries) and was fully ready to provide any urgent support in case of casualties. The PHC provided psychological first aid to 26 affected people.
- 2,376 people were reached with awareness messages delivered by community health workers regarding fire safety.
- 190 individuals received first aid kits.
- These actions highlight a comprehensive coordination approach to respond to the affected people, including screenings, awareness campaigns, distribution of first aid kits, and referrals for further medical attention.

### Challenges and Needs

- Extra load of patients to the PHCs especially with some health posts closed.

### Partners

- RTMI, IOM, FH, UNHCR



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

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### Impact

- Increased fear due to inadequate clothing and open sleeping conditions, leading to higher instances of sexual harassment, especially at night.
- Loss of privacy at shelters and WASH facilities, causing a loss of dignity.
- People are reluctant to seek help as they do not want to leave their temporary shelters unattended, highlighting the need for mobile services.
- Vulnerable groups at the highest risk include adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, gender-diverse individuals, widows, the elderly, and female-headed households, including single mothers and divorced women.

### Response

- Rapid assessments by Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector (GBVSS) partners have been completed.
- Distribution of dignity kits by GBVSS partners: 171 distributed, 1,329 available for distribution.
- Dignity kits, recreational materials, winter clothes, and blankets are planned to be distributed to affected children by UNICEF and SCI from available stocks.
- Coordination with security groups to address safety concerns, including patrols and watch groups involving various stakeholders.

- Women's Market and Multipurpose Centre in Camp 5 continue to provide secure shelter, WASH facilities, bathing facilities, a playground, and healthcare services.
- UNHCR's Protection camp focal point and Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) team continue protection monitoring, identification of vulnerable cases, and addressing protection needs.
- Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) partner TdH mobilized volunteers and provided various services to affected children.
- Psychosocial support (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) services provided to affected refugees.
- Community initiatives have been taken to support each other, including resource-sharing, night patrols, and temporary shelter construction.
- Messaging elaborated by all Protection actors and focal points towards communities in collaboration with UNHCR Field and Site Management Unit (FSMU) as below:
  - Persons who are coming from other camps just to watch, take video and photos of fire affected area have been kindly requested to remain out of the camp before all issues are settled. This gathering hampers the delivery of assistance.
  - If affected people face any protection concerns, they can approach the protection teams available in the blocks or reach out to the Camp 5 SMS office. Alternatively, they can call the UNHCR toll free helpline number at 16670.

### **Challenges and Needs**

- Many volunteers expressed concerns over the worsening safety and security situations in the camps when carrying out relief activities.

### **Partners**

- DSS, BRAC, SCI, WVI, Caritas, BLAST, TdH, IRC, IOM, UNICEF, UN Women.



### **Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF**

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### **Impact**

- There is no reported damage to any integrated nutrition facility (INF).

### **Response**

- A total of 21 under-five children with severe acute malnutrition whose parents lost shelters and nutrition supplies have now been identified and provided with replacement nutrition supplies.
- Nutrition services at the INF including outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP), targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP), blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), etc. are ongoing and improving.
- Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) cards are being provided during service delivery at the INF, to those who lost them.

### **Challenges and Needs**

- 9 out of 20 refugee nutrition volunteers remain affected, impacting routine nutrition outreach activities.

### **Partners**

- World Vision Bangladesh, UNICEF, WFP





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

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### Impact

- A total of 20 learning facilities, including 14 learning centres (LCs) and 6 community-based learning facilities (CBLF) are fully damaged. In addition, 1 LC is partially damaged.
- 11 individual packets of fortified biscuits in the affected LCs were burnt.
- 1,838 (female: 838) learners are directly impacted.
- Learning materials from four LCs are lost.

### Response

- Communication with the CiC has been made through partners, to install tents as temporary learning centre (TLC) to continue learning activities. JCF engineers and programme team are assessing the sites to reconstruct 11 LCs affected by the fire.
- JCF will start setting up the TLC from 10 January. UNICEF has provided TLC materials and other education supplies including tents.
- Host community and Rohingya teachers and volunteers are communicating with affected learners and providing psychological support (PSS) as needed.
- The 6 damaged CBLFs are reported to the CiC, SCCCM Sector and donor as these facilities are community houses which Education partners cannot reconstruct.

### Challenges and Needs

- Reconstruction needed for 14 completely burnt LCs.
- Teaching materials (including solar panel, light, fan, etc.) needed for 25 LFs.
- Learning materials (including notebooks, bags, textbooks, etc.) for 1,838 learners are required.
- Accommodating all learners in the nearest LFs is a challenge due to space shortage and distance from learners' shelters.

### Partners

- Mukti Cox's Bazar, JCF, UNICEF, WFP.



## Livelihoods and Skill Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

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### Impact

- There has been no report so far of LSDS assets or facilities being affected.

### Response

- The Sector is in close contact with Camp focal points and partners to identify any subsequent issues/needs.

### Partners

- UN Women, DRC, UNHCR, NGO Forum, BRAC.

### Contact

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