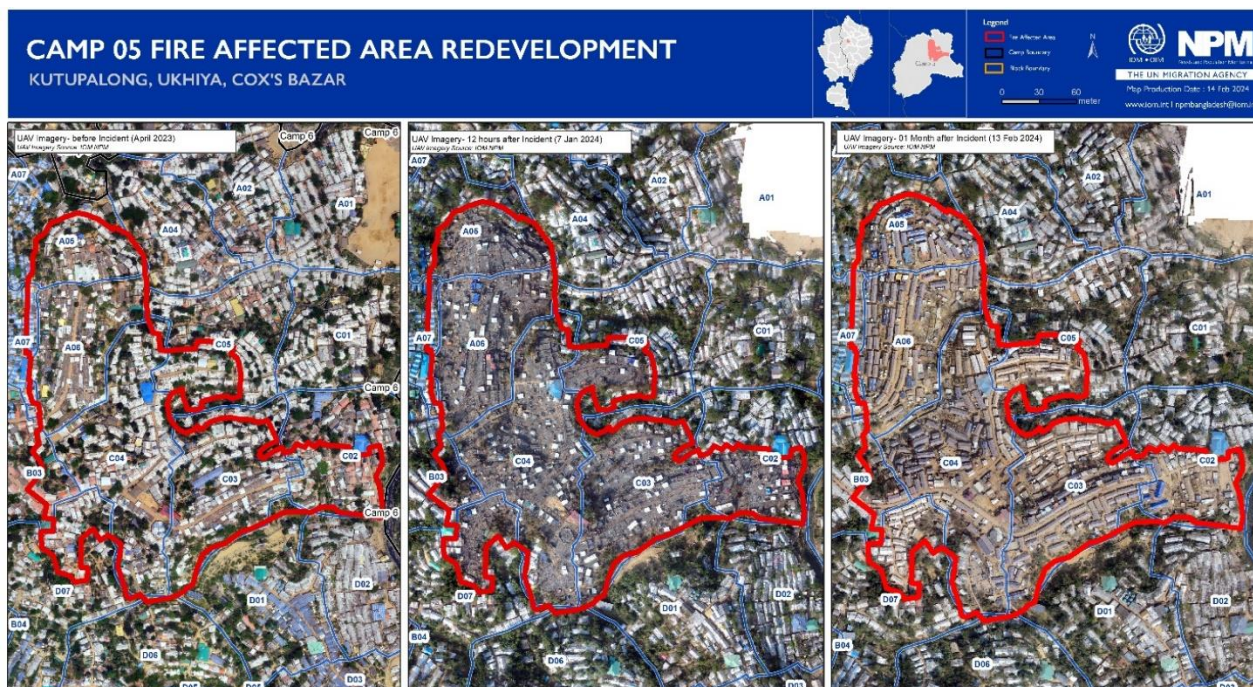


Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 5

Impact and Response Report for 7 January – 6 February 2024

14 February 2024



Overview

5,000 refugees affected	3,500 children displaced	976 shelters damaged	31 facilities damaged
-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------



Situation Update

Around 1 a.m. on 7 January 2024, a devastating fire occurred in Rohingya refugee Camp 5, affecting blocks A, B, C, and D. The fire was contained within the camp and prevented from spreading to camps 6 and 8W. Response efforts involved Rohingya refugee safety unit volunteers, local firefighters, Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD), Armed Police Battalion (APBn), and authorities, who controlled the situation by 4:00 a.m. UNHCR deployed Mobile Firefighting Units (MFFUs), and IOM had additional units on standby. Humanitarian partners, led by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), assessed the damage, and coordinated a harmonized response.

Around 5,000 refugees, including 3,500 children, were displaced, with 976 shelters fully or partially damaged. Displaced households found temporary shelter with relatives, community members, or in community facilities. A displacement tracker was activated to provide necessary support. On 9 January,

an initial site plan for rebuilding the affected blocks was presented to Camp 5's Camp-in-Charge (CiC), outlining division of labour and activity targets. UNHCR and partners have been actively mobilizing additional Non-Food Items (NFIs) at the camp level to ensure full coverage of the affected families. Situation reports #1-3 on the fire response as of 7, 8 and 9 January are accessible below.¹²³

Inter-Sector Response



Shelter-CCCM

Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

Impact Summary

- 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. Additionally, 31 communal facilities were affected by the fire.

Response

- On 9 January, the distribution of NFIs commenced with 131 households (HH) receiving basic items including hygiene supplies and menstrual hygiene management kits (soap, jerrycans, dignity kits, blankets, sleeping mats and assorted clothes). UNHCR and partners actively mobilized additional NFIs to the camp level to ensure full coverage of the affected families.
- The site clearance and safe disposal of debris are now 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.

Recovery

- On 9 January, the initial site plan was presented to the CiC for input and endorsement. The proposed plan is the result of a collaborative effort by an interagency and multisectoral response team, aimed at improving access and ensuring safety within the camp. After receiving endorsement, a few adjustments were made to the plan. Since then, site recovery has been progressing in accordance with the developed site plan.
- As of 6 February, 400 shelters had been constructed and 100% of the affected HH received NFIs.

¹ [Situation report # 1: Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 5](#)

² [Situation report # 2: Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 5](#)

³ [Situation report # 3: Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 5](#)



Rebuilding efforts following the fires in Rohingya refugee Camp 5 on 7 January 2024. Photo Credit: ISCG/Karem Issa



Food Security

Lead Agencies: WFP and FAO

Impact Summary

- About 774 refugee households (around 4,000 individuals) affected by the fire in Camp 5 required emergency rapid food assistance.

Response

- In coordination with the CiC, WFP responded immediately to the emergency with the distribution of High Energy Biscuits. In the onset, 774 HHs received one carton each of HEB. A total of 3.8mt was allocated to the affected refugees.
- A total of 86,168 hot meal packs were handed-out of which 10,000 by the NGO AMAN and the remaining by WFP through its collaborating partners CODEC and WVI, distributed twice daily to the affected refugees following the FSS Rapid Food Assistance Guidelines. In addition, the local NGO Jano Seba distributed 12,000 hot meal packs directly through the CiC.
- The food assistance response was coordinated by FSS assisted by its Focals and through the CiC.

- WFP phased out of the hot meal assistance and resumed its e-voucher distribution to the affected refugees on the 20 January 2024.

Recovery

- A number of 64 able unskilled WFP volunteers of which 3 females and 61 men were involved in Cash for Work cleaning activities in Camp 5. The removal of 93.24 cu meters of debris took 13 days equal to 731 days of labour.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact Summary

- A total of 82 latrines (68 major damage, 14 partial damage), 76 bathing cubicles (74 major damage, 2 partial damage), 4 tube wells (major damage), 9 tap stands (2 major damage, 7 partial damage), and 42 handwashing stations were affected.
- There was no significant damage to the major WASH infrastructures (such as water networks, material recovery facilities or fecal sludge sewerage network).

Response

- A total of 4 tube wells and 9 tap stands have been repaired to bring back the water supply.
- The reconstruction of 24 latrines and 6 bathing facilities has been completed; the damaged superstructures above ground are being replaced with temporary materials (tarpaulins) to increase latrine access, while partners work on improving materials.
- 2 waste bins have been distributed per family, promoting household waste segregation, and aiding with waste collection and transportation to the material recovery facilities or landfill, while reinforcing messaging.
- Ongoing support for displaced families includes the distribution of hygiene kits with menstrual hygiene kits, jerricans and soap.

Recovery

- An integrated WASH model is being implemented at the reconstruction site, ensuring accessibility for vulnerable groups through one WASH facility per 3-5 households within a shelter block.
- As part of the rationalization process, a new partner had recently taken over this camp in early January making the emergency response more challenging and highlighting the need for progressive transition between partners at camp level.
- UNHCR, with 7 WASH partners (NGOF, BRAC, DSK, SCI, IRB, NRC, DPHE), launched a joint effort to address WASH needs.



Protection including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

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

Impact Summary

- Reduced privacy at shelters and WASH facilities caused a loss of dignity. Households lost their belongings including identification documents as a result of the fire or due to theft.

- Among the affected, 47 pregnant women and 31 women who had recently given birth were displaced by the fire.
- Heightened protection risks were observed due to the lack of shelters, basic livelihoods and also challenges particularly for the single mothers, women-led households and persons with disabilities.

Response

- Basic first aid and search and rescue were provided by the interagency Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) activated on Day 1.
- PERU team members continue to conduct awareness-raising on the services through outreach. 63 households were reached in the reporting period. The messages include how and where refugees can report family separation incidents, incidents of lost and missing children, lost/burnt registration documents as well as information on health, GBV, food services, as well as assistance for persons with disabilities. In addition, UNHCR's Helpline number has been disseminated to those affected.
- A disability support static point was established in Camp 5, which avoided damage in the fire. Partners assessed and supported 80 persons with disabilities, including direct rehabilitation support to 38 individuals as well as psychosocial support.
- A community engagement plan was developed, and community-based protection partners conducted consultations with households in makeshift arrangements to understand and address their fears and needs.
- Immediate availability of alternative safe shelters and facilities was ensured for those whose shelters were lost.
- The Protection Sector coordinated with security agencies to address safety concerns, including patrols and watch groups involving various stakeholders.
- UNHCR's Registration teams received on average 50 families per day for the first few days following the fire. Under the leadership of UNHCR and the Protection Sector, partners supported the refugees by replacing burnt documents, including ID cards and family attestations.
- 132 children (60 girls, 72 boys) received psychological first aid (PFA). A total of 1,176 children received psychosocial support services, and 362 children benefited from PFA.
- Case workers and volunteers visited 489 children and caregivers through outreach, providing information and child protection messages. A total of 1,309 children were reached through outreach activities, and 224 of these children were referred to service providers for support.
- All identified unaccompanied and separated children (12 in total) have been successfully reunited with their families.
- 62 children received NFI material support in the form of winter kits, sandals, and floor mats from Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) partners.
- CPSS partners set up a help desk as a frontline desk to offer prompt child protection services and referrals to affected children.
- 3 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) actors in the camps engaged in a rapid GBV needs assessment, and the report was shared with protection partners to enhance the response.
- GBV partners distributed 4,497 dignity kits in Camp 5 and prepositioned post-rape kits for clinical management of rape in the two health facilities operating in the camps.
- Interventions were carried out to address increased vulnerability to GBV.

Recovery

- Protection partners continue to operate a helpdesk at the camp community centre, receiving feedback from affected persons and facilitating referrals to relevant service providers. A total of 182 cases related to the fire have been supported via the helpdesk with information on services, identification of specific needs, and referrals to appropriate services.



Health

Lead Agency: WHO

Impact Summary

- No major injuries and no casualties reported. No operational Health Facilities were affected. A non-operational former health facility (closed since March 2023) was damaged.

Response

- Two mobile medical teams were deployed immediately after the incident. They remained on the ground and were operational for 3 days from 7 to 9 January. Together they screened 222 affected people/patients, among them 112 came with injuries/burns; 11 patients were referred to the nearest Primary Health Centres (PHCs). In addition, 10 pregnant women and mothers were provided with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care, antenatal care (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC), and 67 other patients were treated. 82 patients were screened for mental health support.
- All the existent operational PHCs (FH and RTMI) in Camp 5 extended their support and were fully accessible and functioning. 19 fire-affected patients from the affected blocks received health services from these PHCs, among them 6 with minor burns and 13 with other injuries.
- Psychological first aid was provided with blanket coverage. Refugees with previous specific needs at risk of relapse and exacerbation were reached out to. 135 of them were directly affected by the fire and thus provided with the required specialized counselling along with their families.

Recovery

- Support was also provided through the community health outreach activities. 237 individuals were reached with fire safety messages, 190 individuals received basic first aid, and 1,254 individuals received psychological first aid, while 82 patients were referred. The mental health and psychosocial support response was integrated with the emergency health response through psychologists, community health workers, community para counsellors, and community psychosocial volunteers.
- The Health Sector planned and delivered some preventive measures such as sensitizing the community with fire safety messages to increase fire awareness, arranging “Training on Fire Safety and Clinical Care of Burns for Healthcare Workers”, etc.



Nutrition

Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact Summary

- A total of 1,094 children (568 girls) under 5 years of age and 383 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were affected as a result of loss of shelters for their households. The fire incident also impacted 13 refugee nutrition volunteers (7 female), affecting nutrition outreach activities and centre-level operations. Growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) cards, programme enrolment cards and nutrition supplies were lost due to the fire.

Response

- In response, a Mobile Nutrition Team was swiftly mobilized to provide malnutrition screening and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling to the affected beneficiaries. To encourage breastfeeding, a large tent has been set up for breastfeeding mothers with children 0 to 23 months age in the impacted area. In addition, all lost cards and nutrition supplies were promptly replenished to beneficiaries enrolled in all nutrition programmes.

Recovery

- Empowering and encouraging female community volunteers to support their community.
- Strengthening mother-to-mother support group network to promote and sustain the optimal IYCF practices during crisis.



Education

Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

Impact Summary

- A total of 20 learning facilities, including 14 learning centres (LCs) and 6 community-based learning facilities (CBLF), were completely damaged including all teaching and learning materials and another 1 LC was partially destroyed. In addition, 6 LCs had teaching materials stolen.
- A total of 1,838 (838 female) learners have been directly impacted as all of their learning materials including bags, books, notebooks, pens, pencils, etc., were burned in the fire.
- About 11 individual packets of fortified biscuits in the affected LCs were also destroyed.

Response

- Two tents were installed as Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) and are accommodating 160 learners. The rest of the learners continue to receive education through the home-based learning methodology.
- Textbooks and learning materials were distributed among 1,838 affected learners.
- Host and Rohingya teachers, volunteers and implementing partners' staff communicated with affected learners and provided psychological support as needed.
- Six completely destroyed CBLFs were reported to the CiC and the Shelter-CCCM Sector as these facilities are community houses and education partners cannot reconstruct those.
- Education Sector partners have submitted fire and weather resilient LC reconstruction plans to the RRRC for approval so that reconstruction can start as soon as possible.

Recovery

- All 1,838 (838 female) learners, who were directly impacted by the fire incident are receiving education services through TLCs and nearby learning facilities.
- The affected learners received learning materials, while the teachers received teaching guides.