

# Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 13

## Situation Report 2

As of 28 May 2024



### Situation Overview

After the fire on 24 May 2024 swept through Camp 13 in Ukhiya Cox's Bazar on Friday, approximately 1,100 Rohingyas were affected by shelter damage as well as camp infrastructure damage. In addition to the fire response, Cyclone Remal made landfall on 27 May and though not directly hitting the camps, it caused complications in responding to those affected by the fire. After the passage of the cyclone, heavy rainfall continued on 27 and 28 May, following which a fuller assessment of damage can take place.

Under the leadership of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office and in coordination with the Camp-in-Charge (CiC), partners have been responding to assist the refugees in both the fire and cyclone response. Regular emergency coordination meetings are being held under the leadership of the CiC, and partners and service providers across Camp 13 have been ensuring immediate life-saving assistance is available. Below is an update as of 28 May 2024 on the fire response in Camp 13.



Installation of temporary shelters by volunteers. © Chris Dagnall

## Inter-Sector Response



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

### Impact

- As of 27 May, 196 shelters have been confirmed as eligible for shelter assistance, affecting approximately 1,100 individuals. Those affected are temporarily displaced and living in communal facilities and shelters of relatives and neighbours.
- Some households are taking shelter in the emergency shelters which have been distributed and installed in response to the fire outbreak.

## Response

- IOM’s disaster management trained volunteers mobilized to support immediate relocation from emergency shelters due to the heavy wind and rain caused by Cyclone Remal. Volunteers were engaged to clear the debris from the fire to improve mobility and access to the fire-affected area and to prepare the site for shelter reconstruction. The area has now been cleared of debris.
- IOM has completed its distribution of emergency shelter kits to the affected households and technical support has been provided to install emergency shelters. Non-Food Items (NFIs) have been distributed, including blankets, floor mats, mosquito nets, and portable solar lights.
- IOM plans to distribute the full LPG package, kitchen sets, and fire safety rings to all eligible households after the cyclone has passed, tentatively on 29 May 2024.
- A rapid joint needs assessment (JNA) was conducted by NPM on 25 May to identify the most pressing needs and priorities, access to basic services and available resources in the affected area.
- The Site Management and Site Development (SMSD) team emphasized the early warning messages for cyclone and the availability of communal shelters to the affected families for temporary relocation during the heavy wind and rainfall. A total of 124 cubic meters debris were removed, 208 meters of drains were cleaned, 228 square meters of roads, pathways and stairs were restored, and 225 plots were cleared since the start of the response.

## Partners

- IOM, Caritas, CARE, Save the Children



## Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

---

## Impact

- 221 households were in need of food assistance in the aftermath of the Camp 13 fire.

## Response

- On 27 May after 3 days of the rapid food assistance, IOM requested WFP to continue another three days of emergency support to the fire affected refugees.
- As of 28 May, WFP provided lunch and dinner to the fire affected refugees, distributing a total of 9,000 hot meal packages to 221 households from 24-28 May (for five days).

## Challenges and Needs

- Installation efforts to replace the burned down homes were stalled due to the passage of Cyclone Remal. WFP was required to extend the food assistance beyond the established protocol of three days, incurring additional cost while the Emergency Food Assistance programme is underfunded.

## Partners

- WFP



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

---

## Impact

- 27 latrines, eight bathing cubicles, 14 tube wells, three tap stands and 200m of faecal sludge transfer network were affected.

## Response

- 27 latrines, eight bathing cubicles, 13 tube wells, and 200m of faecal sludge transfer network have been repaired.
- 193 households received WASH emergency kits including menstrual hygiene management kits.
- Water supply continued through extending the tap stand from the adjacent block water network.
- Debris management in the affected area is ongoing.

## Partners

- SHED



## Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

---

## Impact

- Although the health facilities have not been directly affected, there have been several cases recorded requiring immediate health assistance and referral services. Furthermore, the fire incident impeded the movement and accessibility of individuals in needs, particularly vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women seeking healthcare services.

## Response

- Deployment of mobile medical teams to respond to the immediate needs of affected persons.
- Immediate on-site medical care for burns, smoke inhalation, and other injuries.
- Transport of severely injured individuals to hospitals or specialized burn units.
- Awareness messages to affected people, including information about available services and referral pathways.

## Challenges and Needs

- High levels of stress and trauma among camp residents can lead to mental health crises that are difficult to manage without adequate support. The health sector will coordinate with partners and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group (MHPSS WG) to assess the situation and mental health status of affected persons, especially vulnerable groups.
- Overcrowded and unsanitary conditions following a fire can result in outbreaks of infectious diseases and other public health risks.
- The potential impacts/aftermath of the Cyclone Remal may worsen the current public health conditions and increase the occurrence of waterborne and other infectious diseases. Additionally, complex disasters can cause greater displacement within the camp, disrupting health service delivery and complicating the delivery of health aid and services.

## Partners

- IOM, BRAC, HMBD, BDRCS



## Protection (including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence) Sector Lead Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA

---

## Impact

- The fire in Camp 13 led to significant loss of essential documents and property. Refugees are

feeling vulnerable and anxious. Protection activities have been strengthened to ensure the safety of people that were displaced by the fire, particularly children and pregnant women. Some refugees are facing heightened risks due to the temporary living conditions and there have been reports of potential cases of exploitation with the current security situation, particularly for adolescents and children at heightened risk of abduction.

- 25 children were injured but are now in good condition after receiving medical support.
- 20 children were separated but have since been reunited with their families.
- 600 children who lost their homes are now staying with neighbours and relatives.
- Camp 13 GBV Focal Point was in contact with all GBV actors and confirmed that no women and girls' safe spaces (WGSS), women friendly spaces (WFS), or other GBV facilities were damaged, and that regular service provision could continue. GBV staff and facilities remain positioned to respond to the emergency.

### **Response**

- Protection sector partners (UNHCR, BRAC, BDRCS, and IOM) delivered psychosocial support to 425 refugees, including 263 males and 162 females, and protection support to 129 refugees, including 87 males and 42 females.
- The PERU members and volunteers collaborated with protection partners in the affected area, making 12 referrals to Complaints Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM) desks and child protection services for cases related to lost documents and missing children.
- Community-Based Protection has made 20 referrals to the Site Management Support, WFP, and the Health Sector. UNHCR will launch registration activities this week, though due to Cyclone Remal, the registration and replacement of lost documents has been delayed.
- NRC continued to support in receiving complaints for protection and other concerns, including lost documents, along with establishing CFRM desks in the affected area. The agency will also provide support to resolve housing, land, and property issues during and after the reconstruction of shelters and facilities.
- 450 children have received psychosocial support and 605 Psychological First Aid interventions to children support by many CP actors.
- 194 families and their children received NFI support, including clothes for 16 infants.
- Child Protection partners are sensitizing children not to collect debris from the affected area.
- GBV field coordinators attended a camp coordination meeting in Camp 13 and coordinated dignity kits distribution to fire affected families.
- GBV field coordinators called an immediate meeting with protection focal points, site management and GBV camp focal points regarding the distribution plan and assessment plan.
- Partners (including Mukti) will conduct a need assessment with 196 fire affected households (30 May) where two volunteers from Site Management will support and other volunteers/staff from GBV actors as needed, followed by the next round of dignity kits distribution.

### **Challenges**

- The affected people were observed to be afraid to take shelter in a learning centre and a community centre because they could lose possession of the lands to the host community and other refugees.
- There are child protection concerns, such as girls being at risk of sexual abuse due to the lack of street lighting, and boys collecting debris from the affected area.
- Some families with children are staying in the burnt area where their shelter was located.

### **Partners**

- BRAC, Caritas, DSS, IOM, IRC, Mukti, NGOF, NRC, UNFPA, UNHCR, SCI, and WVI.



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

---

### **Impact**

- The impact reported on 25 May for the Nutrition Sector remains the same.

### **Response**

- All affected beneficiaries (170) who were enrolled in the nutrition programme have been tracked.
- Screening of malnutrition for the most vulnerable group (Under 5 and Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women [PBW]) at the temporary shelter.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling to all affected PBW is ongoing.

### **Challenges/Needs**

- Due to the disruption of Cyclone Remal, affected families have not received LPG and kitchen sets, making it difficult to cook food, and putting children, pregnant women, and breast-feeding women at risk.

### **Partners**

- Concern Worldwide

### **Contact**

---

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

---

<https://rohingyaresponse.org/>