

Flash Update #3 on Landslides, Flooding, and Waterlogging Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Issued on 18 July 2024

Overview

16,749

Rohingya refugees temporarily displaced by monsoon rains (18 June – 13 July)

*Figures are subject to ongoing verification

9,179

Shelters fully and/or
partially damaged

2,164

households relocated

4,335 landslide
risk areas
identified

33 camps
affected by
slope failures,
windstorms, or floods



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Situation Overview

Seasonal monsoon rains have continued to hit the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar repeatedly over June and July 2024, resulting in landslides, flooding and waterlogging. With nearly one million people living across 33 camps, taking refuge in basic shelters made of tarpaulin and bamboo, the heavy

rainfall has been disastrous. On 19 June ISCG issued [Flash Update #1](#) reporting that 7,794 refugees had been affected by the heavy rains, 1,959 refugees had been temporarily displaced, and 1,191 shelters had been either fully or partially damaged. By 23 June, [Flash Update #2](#) on the landslides, flooding and waterlogging reported that 14,509 refugees had been affected across the 33 camps. A further heavy rainfall was experienced on 11 - 12 July. As a result of the monsoon season thus far, 12 Rohingya refugees have sadly died from landslides and four more individuals have reportedly drowned. Given the continued heavy rainfall, and the high levels of vulnerabilities in the camps, a third Flash Update is being released to share the impacts, response and challenges.

Immediate Needs and Response



Shelter-CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

- Since the initial heavy rainfall on 18 June, all 33 camps have been impacted by landslides, slope failures, windstorms, and flood incidents to varying degrees, and 16,749 individuals have been temporarily displaced as a result.
- A total of 8,927 shelters have been partially damaged and 252 have been fully damaged.
- 4,335 landslide risk areas have been identified. Alerting the community about the risk and mobilizing the households to move to communal shelters for their safety continues to be a priority activity for Site Management teams.
- 103 households (503 individuals) are yet to return to their shelters and are currently hosted in learning centres and or are staying with relatives.
- In response to the damage reported, shelter materials were distributed to 3,541 households. Partners have prepositioned shelter materials in their warehouses and will continue to distribute covering all eligible households.
- Extremely vulnerable households in need of shelter repairs continue to be prioritized for support, including shelter material transportation and labour support for reconstruction.
- 663 nos./6,629 meters slope stabilization responses have been initiated.
- Site development actors continue to have limited capacity to safeguard large-scale landslide-prone areas.
- Residents in landslide-prone areas remain hesitant to relocate to safer locations in the camps.



Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

- WFP has continued its emergency response due to households remaining at-risk of landslides and displacement.
- As reported in June, WFP provided cartons of fortified biscuits to 715 households, and a total of 8,403 hot meal packages, to affected households in 25 camps (from 19-22 June).
- Since then, due to the ongoing heavy rainfall, WFP has continued to provide food assistance to affected people with 33,874 hot meal packages prepared and distributed over 14 days of emergency food operations (from 23 June to 14 July).
- WFP has also provided fortified biscuits to 1,500 households in immediate need of food assistance between 23 June and 14 July.
- WFP continued with Cash for Work (CfW) activities providing direct cash to households as part of the food security resilience building interventions and assisting in the recovery during these weather events. The CfW activities are related to Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).



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

- WASH infrastructure has continued to be negatively impacted since the start of the monsoon rains, resulting in 1,257 latrines, 304 bathing facilities, 60 tapstands, and 63 hand-pump tubewells having undergone damage (mostly partial damage).
- Additionally, 14 major WASH infrastructures (Material Recovery Facilities, Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants) have been partially damaged.
- 70 water-tanks are at risk of collapsing in the camps. Unfortunately, capacity to secure them or space for relocation is lacking.
- At present, 62% of the small repairs have been carried out and regular repairs will continue throughout the rainy season. Major repairs will be completed in the coming weeks.
- Coordination and advocacy with the CiCs and SMSD are ongoing.
- Most of the fully damaged infrastructures have been damaged by landslides and require significant site protection work for recovery.
- Due to overcast weather, the quantity of supply water and desludging needed has increased, making regular activities difficult.
- Due to some facilities being damaged, beneficiaries are struggling to utilize them properly.



Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

- Following the 190 Learning Facilities that were reported as fully or partially damaged in June, in July an additional 198 Learning Facilities (197 Learning Centres and 1 Community-Based Learning Facility) have been fully or partially damaged due to rain, landslides and waterlogging in 17 camps (Camps 1W, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8E, 8W, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17,18, 20 Ext, 24, 25 and 27).
- 110 Learning Centres are currently being used as temporary shelters, an increase from the 64 reported in June, and 21 Learning Centres have experienced material damage.
- Approximately 15,780 learners have been affected due to the monsoon season.
- In response, staff of education partners, education camp focal points, Rohingya teachers and education volunteers have gathered information and maintained communication with the Education Sector, Site Management Services (SMS), and CiC officials.
- Rohingya teachers and volunteers have worked to reduce the damage by coordinating and supporting SMS volunteers to clear the waterlogged areas on the way to learning facilities and have worked to protect learning materials as much as possible.
- The Education Sector, together with sector lead agency UNICEF, other partners, and construction engineers, are continuing to assess the damage and prioritize learning facilities needing repairs, so that reconstruction and repair work can commence.
- UNICEF will support with the replacement of damaged teaching and learning materials.



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

Protection

- Coordination and collaboration across protection actors for a holistic approach and assistance is ongoing, including relocation of affected families to safer areas.
- Psychosocial support is being provided to families who have lost family members.
- Door-to-door sensitization of families in landslide-prone areas by volunteer site managers is ongoing, as well as awareness messaging to refugees in landslide-prone areas.
- All learning centres, offices, masjids and community centres are ready for emergency use.

Child Protection (CP)

- There has been an increased risk of drowning and injuries among children due to rising water levels and hazardous conditions.
- Adverse weather conditions and infrastructure damage is impeding the mobility and effectiveness of Child Protection services.
- Child Protection staff provided Psychological First Aid to affected children and their families and are available for further support as needed.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- Staff and volunteers have been on the ground providing services, including psychosocial support and referrals, and conducting outreach sensitization sessions in the affected areas.
- Despite damage to some, all Women and Girls' Safe Spaces remain functional. Response activities are ongoing to address the situation.
- Need-based Dignity kits have been provided to affected families.
- Reduced mobility due to the ongoing weather, landslides, and uprooted trees is a challenge, especially for those with disabilities, as well as pregnant women, adolescents, and children.



Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

- There has been no direct impact on the health services and the functionality of health facilities.
- As earlier reported, Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs) were deployed in three affected camps to conduct assessments, and all MMTs remain ready to deploy in accordance with the needs.
- Due to the heavy rainfall, Community Health Workers have been deployed for post-landslide awareness message dissemination and household visits as needed.
- Given the landslides, the movement and transportation of numerous cases for referral have been impeded by road blockages. Additionally, tracking displaced households for medical services and disseminating awareness messaging has proven challenging.



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

- The regular flow of beneficiaries at the Integrated Nutrition Facilities (INFs) has experienced a reduction, and the achievement of the Vitamin A capsule campaign was impeded by the heavy rainfall.
- Outreach volunteers actively covered the remaining beneficiaries of the Vitamin A capsule campaign by extending the outreach by two days.
- The walls of a few facilities located on hilltops were weakened due to the continuous rainfall.
- To prevent any potential damage to food items stored in warehouses, a few nutrition facilities had to layer extra pallets underneath food items. For the facilities at-risk of landslides, Nutrition partners sought support from SMT and CiCs.
- Since most of the solar systems of the INFs malfunctioned due to a lack of adequate sunlight, staff and volunteers have relied on candles and portable lights to deliver services, which has disrupted regular activities.
- Regular facilitation of outreach activities has been challenging for the outreach team given the weather conditions.

Key recommendations

Based on reoccurring emergencies in the Rohingya refugee camps and lessons learned, below are key recommendations to enhance effective emergency preparedness and response going forward.

- Conduct a comprehensive risk analysis (hazard, exposure, and vulnerability mapping) to enhance the shared understanding and preparedness among responders for effective disaster management initiatives, emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, and site development planning. This will ensure all actors are well informed and ready to face any potential disaster.
- Review slope stabilization strategies, building on the Blue Green network initiative, to find alternatives to nature-based solutions for the ongoing risk of landslides.
- Revisit the early warning system, ensuring effective alert communication and dissemination of advisories. This will provide a sense of security and reassurance to help inform decisions for timely relocation/evacuation of the most vulnerable populations.
- Increase awareness raising and community mobilization to adapt camp residents' behaviour around timely and voluntary relocation. This will empower the community to feel responsible for their own safety.
- Advocacy plays a pivotal role in addressing the need for landslide slope stabilization, repair, and maintenance, including the flexible use of funding.

Contact

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<https://rohingyareponse.org/>