

Summary of Humanitarian Access and Service Delivery Daily Updates – 22 July 2024 Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



Situation Overview

Since the evening of Thursday, 18 July 2024, **access to internet and communications has been restricted** across Bangladesh, including Cox's Bazar. A **nationwide curfew was declared** on Friday, 19 July, with a few hours break during daytime. As a result, services in the Rohingya refugee camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf have been hampered and only essential lifesaving activities have been authorized to proceed. During curfew, **only critical/lifesaving missions were authorized** by the RRRC's Office with a convoy by the APBn. The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), in close coordination with the Sectors, developed daily Inter-Sector situation updates. From 21 July, service delivery in the camps has been focusing on essential lifesaving activities. Below are updates by Sector as of **22 July 2024**.

Inter-Sector Updates: 22 July



Shelter-CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

Impact/ Response

- On 22 July, 17 minor landslides were reported in the camps.
- 314 shelters have experienced minor damage, and 2 shelters are fully damaged.
- Two pathways and five slope protection walls have been damaged.
- Four families have been relocated due to shelter damage.
- LPG distribution is taking place in some camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. A total of 2,262 households were served; 241 stove repairs were facilitated.
- Shelter distribution and verification did not take place on 22 July.
- Volunteers at the CFM desks are operational.
- Shelter and site management support (SMS) volunteers are active.

Challenges

- Severe movement restrictions continue to be in effect in Cox's Bazar as well as in Ukhiya and Teknaf camps. As a result, planned Shelter and NFI distributions were unable to take place.



Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

Impact/Response

- Monthly food assistance for July resumed on 22 July; but e-voucher outlets were closed on 21 July (80% of the July e-voucher distribution had already been completed).
- In the camps, resilience activities have halted.
- In the host community, key partners' livelihoods activities have resumed.



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

Impact/Response

- There is currently sparse NGO presence in the camps.
- Due to limited operation of the 298 water networks in the camps, many beneficiaries have reported collecting rainwater as a coping mechanism. An estimated one-third of the water network is not working properly across the camps, jeopardizing the fight against the present cholera outbreak.
- Most WASH volunteers are working to ensure continuity of main activities, including: 1) collection of household waste, 2) desludging/maintaining latrines and 3) water production.

Challenges

- Quality and quantity of work undertaken by WASH volunteers is affected by the limited NGO staff supervision.



Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

Impact/Response

- All 46 Primary Healthcare Clinics (PHCs) remained open, with 30 PHCs having full health service capacities.
- 16 PHCs have limited services including emergency department and existing in-patient department care with basic emergency obstetrics and neonatal care services.
- Out of 58 Health Posts only 10 were functional on 22 July.
- The Turkish Field Hospital is providing emergency services and in-patient department care.
- Friendship Maternity remains fully functional.

Challenges

- Three new RDT-positive Cholera cases were identified on 22 July (case investigation to be conducted on 23 July – culture is needed for confirmation).
- Due to the mandated holiday/curfew, the Ministry of Health has suspended the Polio vaccination campaign that had been running in the camps.



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

Protection:

Impact/Response

- Gap/delay in food support is still an issue of concern for refugees as well as LPG, causing distress and tension amongst the community.
- Community-Based Protection activities are continuing but case management support has been impacted as cases are not all being referred due to closure of services.

Challenges

- Absence of Camp in Charge (CiCs)/legal actors is giving space to organized groups to mediate disputes in some communities.
- Host volunteers are not working as they are under curfew.

Child Protection (CP):

Impact/Response

- CP services are available and case management volunteers are active in receiving and following up on emergency cases. SCI is keeping up communication through parasocial workers and Child Protection Committees (CBCPC) members on the ground using phones to provide emergency support remotely.
- There were no child protection incidents reported on 22 July.
- Due to closure of the CiC office in Camp 25, child registration has stopped which impacts upon food cards/assistance.

Challenges

- Volunteers from different actors are sometimes not reachable over phone.
- As there are many actors not working and APBn have been stationed at some points, the camps are falling silent at night. Volunteers feel uncomfortable and scared to move around.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Impact/Response

- Most agencies are hesitant to deploy staff given the government holidays and curfew in place. Volunteers are nonetheless present in many facilities and providing psychological first aid, referrals and conducting awareness sessions.
- Hotline numbers for remote case management are posted on the doors of service facilities. However, accessing services via phone has two challenges: 1) Many refugee women do not have phones, and 2) Volunteers feel their phone may be tracked and may breach survivor confidentiality.
- In some cases, volunteers are connecting people with psychosocial support needs to case workers and accompanying them when required during referrals. Community-based support groups are also sharing information on referrals.
- GBV actors are maintaining close connections with the CiC offices to ensure emergency referral service for those in need.
- Health services are open and in case of emergency referral to health services for CMR, the services are available.
- GBVSS will engage with ISCG to escalate the advocacy for GBV services as essential services, so that necessary permissions are granted through collaboration with the RRRC office.

Challenges

- GBV actors are expressing anxiety, fearing that the multi-sectoral services may remain unavailable for a long period of time. In some places the volunteers are expressing anxiety that with the government service providers and humanitarian actors' absence, the organized groups' activities are more frequent.
- GBV actors are worried that the multi-sectoral services may remain unavailable for a long period of time. In some places the volunteers fear that with the government service providers and humanitarian actors' absence, the organized groups' activities are more frequent.



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact/Response

- Most activities (including food provision) continue to be paused, including the Targeted and Basic Supplementary Feeding Program and Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP).
- Stabilization Centres remain open to support SAM children with complications.
- Outreach volunteers are conducting household visits to check on SAM and MAM children.

Challenges

- Partners intend to open tomorrow (23 July) for minimum service provision pending government approval.



Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

Impact/Response

- Education facilities have been closed during the two days of public holiday announced (21 and 22 July) in the camps and host communities.



Livelihoods and Skill Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

Impact/Response

- In the camps, activities have stopped, including vocational training (3,500+ beneficiaries), jute bag production for Non-Food Item (NFI) and Menstrual Health Management (MHM) kits (450 beneficiaries) and Accelerated Adult Literacy (AAL) programming (300+ beneficiaries).
- In the Host Community, activities have also stopped, including in-kind distributions to 300 beneficiaries to start their own businesses and post-distribution support to 400 other beneficiaries.

Challenges

- Partner staff cannot go to the field, and even when the situation normalizes, it may be more challenging to resume activities in the camps.
- Due to the disruption, the 3-month AAL program may take longer for refugees to complete.
- MHM annual production targets (2.7 million sanitary napkin and 700,000 underwear) may also need to be revised if the situation continues.
- Volunteer engagement and income generation opportunities for refugees will be reduced if there are further delays in training.

Contact

Rohingya refugee response: Cox's Bazar: iscg@iscgcb.org.