

Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 13

Situation Report 3

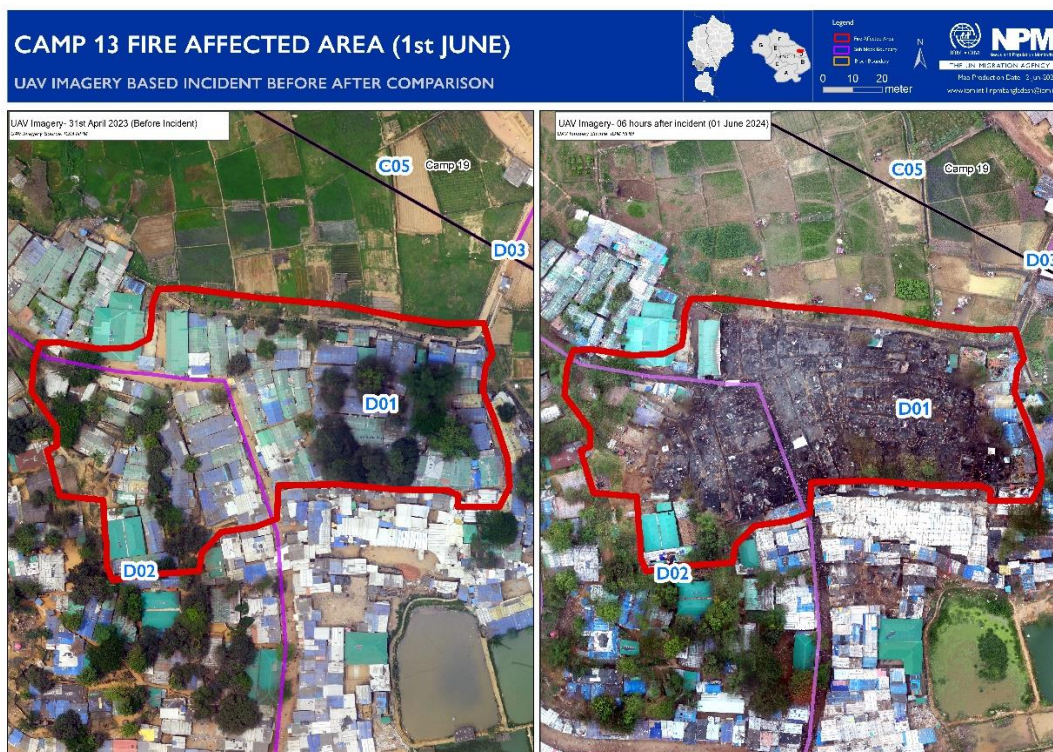
As of 2 June 2024



Situation Overview

On Saturday 1 June 2024 a fire tore through Camp 13 at 12:42pm, the second fire in Camp 13 within eight days. Over 800 Rohingya refugees have been affected with destruction of shelters and loss of belongings, as well as destruction of camp infrastructure. IOM as the Area of Responsibility (AoR) agency was able to quickly respond. Under the leadership of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Office and in coordination with the Camp-in-Charge (CiC), IOM immediately mobilized its disaster management unit (DMU) volunteers to assist the refugees and bring the situation under control with the Fire Service and Civil Defense. So far, no casualties have been reported.

Partners have conducted a preliminary assessment of the situation and needs of the affected people. Around 164 shelters were either destroyed or partially damaged, as well as dozens of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. One learning centre (LC) was also completely burnt and another three LCs have been affected. The households affected are temporarily displaced and living in communal facilities and shelters of relatives and neighbours. The area is being cleared of debris to allow safe access and mobility. Distribution of essential items, including emergency shelter/Non-Food Items (NFIs), WASH and dignity packages, was underway within a few hours of controlling the fire.



Inter-Sector Response



Shelter-CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

Impact

- As of 1 June, around 164 shelters were either destroyed or partially damaged and approximately 820 individuals were affected.
- The fire also damaged 40 site development works and 14 solar streetlights.

Response

- IOM teams are on the ground assisting the affected population. Two temporary feedback and information desks have been established at the fire-affected area.
- IOM and CARE, IOM's implementing partner in Camp 13, together with 370 DMU and community volunteers and 79 staff were among the first to respond to the fire. IOM mobilized its DMU volunteers with 19 mobile fire-fighting units and created fire breaks to stop the spread and to mitigate the loss of life and property.
- IOM and its common pipeline partner Caritas are distributing emergency shelter kits to affected households and providing technical support for installing them. Emergency shelter kits have been distributed to 130 households so far.
- NFIs have also been distributed to 130 households, including blankets, floor mats, mosquito nets and portable solar lights.
- Save the Children have distributed clothing to affected families on 2 June. IOM and Caritas have provided technical support and coordinated with site management support (SMS) in Camp 13 for community mobilization and clothing distribution efforts.
- IOM will distribute LPG packages, kitchen sets and fire safety rings once the temporary shelters are installed.
- A total of 807 refugees were engaged through the cash-for-work modality to do debris removal and clearing of walkways and other facilities to improve access through the affected area. The debris and plot clearance work has been completed for the families to install emergency shelters. 37 linear metres of drainages and 121 square metres of pathway have been cleared and 146 cubic metres of debris have been removed.

Partners: IOM, CARE, Caritas, Save the Children.



Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

Impact

- 804 individuals were in need of food assistance in the aftermath of the fire in Camp 13 on 1 June.

Response

- On 1 June WFP distributed fortified biscuits (0.905mt) to 181 households at the onset of the fire.
- On 2 June WFP provided 804 hot meal packages for lunch to the affected refugees. The same amount is provided by the NGO AMAN for dinner.
- The hot meal distribution to those affected will continue as needed.

Challenges

- The Emergency Food Rapid Response activity is underfunded. With four emergencies already since the beginning of the year, depleted funding is a challenge.

Partners

- WFP, AMAN.



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

Impact

- A total of 16 latrines (seven fully, nine partially), nine bathing cubicles (five fully, four partially), one faecal sludge transfer network (fully) and 12 handpump tubewells (partially) have been affected.
- There was no major damage to the water networks.

Response

- 150 households received menstrual hygiene management kits, jerry cans (10 L), soap (5 pcs), buckets and aquatabs (120 pcs).
- Debris cleaning is ongoing with support from Site Management.
- Seven latrines, two bathing cubicles, and seven handpump tubewells have been repaired.

Challenges and Needs

- Debris/garbage collection from the fire affected area is a challenge.

Partners

- IOM, SHED.



Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

Impact

- No health facilities have been damaged and all remain operational (three health posts, two PHCs, and one specialized NCD and PPC clinic) with need-based support extended and referrals being received. The Camp 13 CiC requested all health actors to remain alert and continue providing support for medical emergencies.

Response

- Two Mobile Medical Teams (MMT) were deployed from IOM and BRAC respectively. 176 patients received treatment from these MMTs (153 by IOM MMT and 23 by BRAC MMT). Among these 176 patients, eight patients were referred to higher level care (seven to IOM Camp 13 PHC and one to MSF KTP Field Hospital) and the rest were given basic first aid support.
- The IOM MMT also provided psychological first aid (PFA) and emotional support to 44 patients (24 female and 20 male). The total number of patients with burns is 15 (three female and 12 male). Other injuries include cut injuries, heat-related injuries, COPD exacerbation, pin prick injury, deep cut injury, ankle sprain, etc.
- Community Health Workers (CHWs) played a crucial role in supporting the affected community. UNHCR-led community health working group partners (BRAC, Mukti, PHD) immediately deployed over 50 CHWs.

Challenges and Needs

- The fire incident has led to a surge in patients requiring immediate medical attention, including burn injuries, cut injuries, and other trauma-related conditions.
- The need to refer patients to higher levels of care could strain the referral system.
- There is a need to ensure adequate supplies and resources, such as medical equipment, medications, and first aid supplies.

Partners: IOM, BRAC, Mukti, PHD, BDRCS, HMBDF, MSF, UNHCR, WHO.



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

Impact

- Over 800 people lost their shelters and valuables, including critical documents (such as Family Attestation Cards, ID cards, and Food Assistance cards (SCOPE) needed for humanitarian aid).
- Refugees are observed to be distressed, panicked, and traumatized by the repeated fire incidents.
- This incident has heightened existing security concerns in the camps, where increased abductions and forced recruitments further endanger the affected refugees.
- While 10-15 children initially sustained injuries, all have received primary treatment. No further injuries have been reported.
- Pregnant women, children and adolescents, persons with disabilities and adolescents are at high risk and feel insecure and afraid.
- Lactating mothers are experiencing a lack of privacy in feeding their children.
- Women and girls feel confined due to inadequate living space and are scared due to ongoing safety and security concerns.

Response

- The Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) members and volunteers worked along with the protection partners in the affected area and provided protection support to 22 refugees (female: 5, male: 13, boys: 4).
- NGO Forum worked closely during and after the fire incident. 25 Community Outreach Members (COMs) and community group volunteers have engaged in evacuating the affected people to safe locations. Awareness-raising has also been carried out on loudspeaker/mic to prevent people from unnecessary movements during the fire response and later during the cleaning work.
- The Protection Sector (IOM, BRAC, BDRCS, Mukti, and GUK) partners provided PFA to 184 refugees. Ten referrals have been made so far by Community-Based Protection (CBP) to the Site Management Support (SMS) and Health Sector.
- All Child Protection (CP) facilities were prepared to be used as temporary shelters. Many families also found refuge with neighbours or in temporary shelter centres. Case workers are monitoring women and children in these temporary locations.
- CP partners have provided Psychosocial Support (PSS) and PFA to children and their families. Two Social Workers (one female) and seven Community Volunteers are working closely to identify and refer children to service providers. Three children (two girls) have been supported with case management and two unaccompanied children (girls) reunified with caregivers. 17 children (nine girls) were referred to services following referral pathways, 45 children and caregivers (girls: 16,

boys: 5, female: 12, male: 12) received PSS, and 39 children and community members (girls: 10, boys: 18, female: 4, male: 7) have been reached with child protection and gender-based violence information and awareness messages.

- Two community-based child protection committees (CBCPC) with 30 members (12 female) are working closely with the partners as frontline workers.
- CP actors are closely monitoring the situation to ensure no child goes missing or becomes a victim of trafficking. Volunteers are working alongside staff to identify child protection concerns.
- CP partners are sensitizing children about the dangers of collecting debris and advising them to avoid gathering in affected areas.
- GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) has coordinated the dignity kits distribution with CiC staff.
- GBVSS called an immediate meeting with GBV actors of camp 13 where representatives of GUK, IRC, WVB, Mukti, Aid Comilla and BRAC discussed dignity kit stockpiles, needs assessment, and coordination.
- Mukti, BRAC and GUK provided PFA to people in need and referred individuals to basic services.

Challenges/Needs

- The affected people were observed to be afraid to leave the area and take shelter in the LC and community centre due to the risk of losing possession of the land to host community members or other refugees.
- The fire has created a vulnerable situation for children, increasing the risk of trafficking, exploitation, and other child protection concerns. Ongoing vigilance and monitoring are crucial.
- It is difficult to reach some affected populations and female volunteers are experiencing harassment and fear. Fear is also affecting access to service for adolescent girls and women.
- There are challenges in referral to safe shelters and in ensuring adequate WASH facilities and adequate menstrual hygiene management for women and girls.

Partners: UNHCR, IOM, BRAC, NGOF, SCI, WVI, DSS, Mukti, IRC, WVB, Aid Comilla, UNFPA, UNICEF.



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact

- Nutrition programme participants affected by the fire incident include:
 - Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Children (6-59m): 3
 - Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM): Children (6-59m): 12
 - Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM): Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW): 4
 - Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) Children (6-23m): 45
 - Nutrition Sensitive E-Voucher Program (NSEP) Children (6-59m): 101
 - BSFP PBW: 35

Response

- With the affected population living in temporary conditions, the Nutrition Sector partner (CWW) is tracking if programme participants (beneficiaries) need additional nutritional supplements to be replenished in case of burnt rations. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling and PFA support are also being provided to affected PBW.

Challenges/Needs

- There is a potential risk of increasing malnutrition due to lack of WASH facilities and food insecurity.
- The nutrition program participants are afraid and do not feel secure in these circumstances.

Partners: Concern Worldwide



Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

Impact

- One Learning Centre (LC) for Grade 1 belonging to UNICEF and implementing partner Friendship was fully burnt.
- Additionally, community members removed the side and roof fences along with LC education materials of three neighboring LCs to prevent the fire from spreading further.
- None of these four LCs are exam centres for the year-end assessment, so the fire should not significantly impact the assessments.

Response

- Partner staff, teachers, and volunteers with the help of community people relocated teaching and learning materials to a safer location.
- UNICEF is working with partners, including Friendship, to ensure that the burnt LC is reconstructed and repairs are carried out on the three damaged LCs.

Challenges/Needs

- UNICEF will seek to reconstruct the LC using more weather resilient materials.

Partners: UNICEF and Friendship.



Livelihoods and Skill Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

- No damage to livelihoods assets or facilities reported.

Partners: UNESCO, WFP (non-JRP) and NRC.

Contact

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