

Summary of Humanitarian Access and Service Delivery

Daily Updates – 7 August 2024

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



Situation Overview

Following the telecommunications shutdown that began on 18 July 2024, and the nationwide curfew announced on 19 July, the Rohingya refugee response in Cox's Bazar, was constrained to only essential lifesaving activities. This resulted in a period from 21 July to 23 July, where only critical missions were authorized by the RRRC's Office, with a convoy led by the APBn. Daily situation reports were [published](#) at the time to share updates on the humanitarian access and service delivery in the camps. The Internet was restored shortly thereafter, and normal service delivery resumed from 24 July to 3 August.

Despite a brief resumption of activities, the situation across the country continued to evolve with rising unrest in the capital and other cities, and on 3 August UNSS advised that field missions to the Rohingya refugee camps be limited to lifesaving activities from 4 August. As anticipated, on 4 August the situation escalated countrywide and an indefinite curfew was declared from 6pm, as well as three days of national holidays. On 5 August, humanitarian staff movements to the Rohingya refugee camps were impacted and the internet and mobile networks were disrupted. By the afternoon, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced her resignation, with the formation of an interim government to follow.

On 6 August, the curfew was lifted from 6am and telecommunications were functioning normally. The earlier declared public holidays were rescinded. On 7 August, across sectors, all actors are reporting safety and security concerns on behalf of partners and refugees. Staff that did work in the camps are reportedly moving with caution and were required to work shorter than usual working hours. The absence of authorities is having a direct impact on the functioning of regular activities and the overall safety and security situation.

Sector Updates: 7 August



Shelter-CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

Impact/Response

- On 7 August, UN movement from Cox's Bazar to Ukhiya and Teknaf was not possible due to a UNSS security advisory which was also followed by nearly all SCCCM partners. Core critical activities were carried out in the camps through some partners with reduced staffing or by refugee volunteers. Many SCCCM partners continued to monitor activities remotely.
- SCCCM critical and non-critical activities were disrupted to a degree, including disaster risk management, site improvement, emergency and regular shelter repair and maintenance, emergency non-food item (NFI) distribution, and site management.
- Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) distribution was partially disrupted, while LPG and NFI distribution continued in some camps.

- Site management activities such as service monitoring, complaints, feedback and response desks, and emergency relocations, were conducted by volunteers. There was increased presence of shelter partners in some camps. Shelter kit distribution, shelter verification, shelter construction for extremely vulnerable individuals, desilting and debris removal activities, and minor repairs of pathways, were undertaken in some camps mainly through volunteers.
- Reforestation and plantation activities in the camps have been impacted, delaying the already timebound interventions dependent on the monsoon season.
- Care and maintenance of plantation sites is being affected – however in some instances, environmental volunteer groups have taken proactive measures to work at the plantation sites to mitigate the impact of the heavy rainfall, including spreading tarpaulins in landslide risk areas, replanting damaged trees, and reconstructing fences.

Challenges

- Continued movement restrictions significantly impacted operational camp presence and service delivery of all SCCCM activities for UN agencies and SCCCM partners. Lack of APBn presence in the camps increased risks to volunteers covering remote areas of the camp.
- Critical activities requiring technical supervision and support were on hold due to staff absence.
- Due to the uncertain security situation, partners who could access the camps had to leave the camps in the early afternoon, impacting the quantity of delivery.



Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

Impact/Response

- Lifesaving food assistance was fully operational on 7 August, with general food assistance conducted through e-vouchers and vulnerable household fresh food voucher distributions taking place. All 19 outlets were open, operated by WFP's Cooperating Partners CODEC, WVI, SHED, RIC and YPSA, using the online modality. Today, 11,773 households received a full transfer value ration of US \$12.50 bringing the total refugee caseload reached for August to 13%.
- Resilience building activities (homestead gardening, fishponds, cash for work) remain halted although selected essential tasks were carried-out to support the current beneficiaries.
- Work modalities between FSS partners varied on 7 August. Some partners instructed staff to work from home, while for others all staff were required to go to the office. In terms of access, there were no restrictions for entering and operating in the camps. However, partners that went to the camps noted a general lack of security and felt unsafe.
- Partners are staying in continuous and open communication with their volunteers by telephone and guiding them through tasks to maintain a degree of continuity in operations.
- *Update:* While the offline e-voucher system was referenced yesterday, there was network connectivity, so the normal online distribution was able to take place at the regular pace.

Challenges

- Movement clearance to the camps is being reviewed on a daily basis.
- Volunteers are helpful for a short period, but technical staff are still needed.
- The movement restrictions are negatively affecting follow-up on regular seasonal homestead gardening activities, including the seed germination process, use of nutrient solutions for plants, and structure maintenance.



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

Impact/Response

- Limited staff worked in the field today, while others worked remotely, conducting monitoring activities through volunteers and ensuring the provision of WASH services in the camps.
- NFI (soap + menstrual health management kits) distribution was put on hold.
- The Joint Assessment and Response Team (JART) for cholera resumed its activities today.

Challenges

- The quality and quantity of work carried out by volunteers was limited without partner staff supervision.
- Regular activities were interrupted due to ongoing security concerns and limited staff movement.



Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

Impact/Response

- All 46 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) are functional with emergency, general outpatient consultation, and inpatient care services.
- Muslim Hands International closed two Health Posts in camps 8E and Nayapara RC.
- BRAC could not fully operate its health facilities due to the current situation.
- Friendship Maternity remained fully functional.
- Some health posts reduced service time from six hours to four or five hours (e.g. operational from 9am to 1pm) to avoid conflicts in Ukhiya and Teknaf while traveling to and from duty.
- Partners are focusing on providing priority services (e.g. emergency, delivery, stabilization and referral, and critical lab investigations).

Challenges

- Partners are facing security concerns regarding the mobility of staff in Ukhiya and Teknaf, and across camps.
- Due to the scale-down of the APBn presence at checkpoints and regular security patrolling, partners are worried about increased disorder.



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

Protection:

Impact/Response

- Overall, protection services in the camps remained disrupted. The operating environment has significantly deteriorated, impacting the delivery of essential protection services.
- The absence of APBn affected the overall camp stability and access to justice. Security personnel were scarce, particularly within the camps, with limited presence mainly at a few checkpoints. Some CiCs reported to work while some were observing the situation.
- While some international and local organizations have partially resumed on-site services, most continued to operate remotely or with limited staff in the field.

- Today, one organization attempted to increase its field presence by deploying 14 staff members to camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. However, the situation rapidly deteriorated due to a large political gathering in Court Bazar, forcing the team to return early.
- Legal assistance services were suspended until conditions improve.
- Community engagement and religious activities have been curtailed due to safety concerns and staff shortages.
- Protection facilities, including community centres and dedicated case management service points, remained operational but were entirely reliant on volunteers. Structured and comprehensive protection monitoring activities were suspended, and the capacity to support community groups in addressing evolving protection risks was significantly limited.
- Host community programmes were on hold until the safety of volunteers can be assured.
- Protection case workers continued to support referral processes remotely, connecting individuals in need with appropriate resources without delay.
- Community-based protection groups conducted awareness sessions in the camps, focusing on topics such as Emergency Response and Preparedness, Trafficking, and Referral Pathways.
- Protection monitoring teams received security observations from their volunteers to ensure real-time information and insights about the conditions and needs within the camps.
- Participants reported concerns about a potential increase in trafficking due to the absence of law enforcement, highlighting the need for enhanced protective measures and vigilance.

Challenges

- Since last evening, the inactivity of law enforcement agencies in the camps has increased tensions within the community. This concern is exacerbated by the reduced presence of CiC officials.
- New Rohingya arrivals, some with injuries, face challenges in receiving services, especially treatment, due to a lack of ID cards.
- There is a rising trend of BNP-affiliated groups seizing land and shops in Palongkhali Bazar, Ukhiya, with potential to spread to other areas, leading to conflict and violence.
- In the camps, due to the absence of specialized case management staff and key interlocutors in full capacity, e.g. legal actors and registration, follow-ups of ongoing cases and opening of new cases were on hold.
- Concerns related to safety and security, forced eviction, theft and coercion are on the rise due to absence of humanitarian workers and law enforcement.

Child Protection (CP)

Impact/Response

- Some partners remained closed, while most partner staff have begun delivering in-person services on a small scale.
- In Camps 4 Ext, 8E, 12, 14 and 19, Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) run by COAST were closed today due to staff security concerns. All other CP facilities, including MPCs, adolescent clubs, and child-friendly spaces, were open and functional, providing recreational services facilitated by staff and supported by volunteers.
- The continued delay of pre-scheduled activities is increasing the backlog.
- The high-risk CP cases are pending follow-ups from caseworkers and CP case management referral services have been delayed.
- Children, caregivers, volunteers, and staff were still experiencing stress and anxiety.
- Three missing children have been reported since 6 August, and one has been reunified.

- Session-based activities, such as life skills and psychosocial support, were suspended. Prevention activities are continuing, with some organizations resuming session-based activities on a smaller scale.
- Awareness messages on drowning, landslides, monsoons, dowry, and child marriage were disseminated in the camps and host communities.
- Partners identified two injured children who arrived recently from Myanmar in one family. The children were referred to CP Case Management.

Challenges

- Anti-social groups were active in Camp 17 due to the absence of the APBn.
- The CiC offices were not fully functional, which has halted administrative and coordination processes.
- Host community activities were severely impacted as most government offices were closed.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Impact/Response

- Most partners were working remotely and reported that CiCs advised the GBV service providers to leave the camp by midday.
- Compared to regular times, partners registered fewer GBV cases and referrals.
- The number of beneficiaries accessing Women Friendly Space (WFS) decreased significantly.
- Rohingya volunteers maintained their presence in the GBV facilities and avoided gatherings.
- In some camps, volunteers were instructed to limit their GBV awareness raising activities at the community level, especially home visits.
- Almost all Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) were operational supported by refugee volunteers.
- All One Stop Crisis Centre/Cells (OCC) were open, and staff were providing services, except the Ukhiya OCC due to clashes and the security situation.
- Remote GBV case management continued to be provided through the support of volunteers who facilitated telephone connection between survivors and GBV case managers.
- There was increased violence and harassment of women and female volunteers reported. There were also reported threats of sexual violence made by organized group members to women and girls while their male family members were conducting night patrol in Camps 3, 4, and 4Ext.

Challenges

- Beneficiaries and survivors received remote GBV case management services from the case workers/managers. However, in the longer term, this may hamper the quality of the services.
- GBV referral services were severely disrupted as there was limited access to services in both refugee camps and host communities, also increasing tensions among the community.
- More instances of gatherings involving violence were reported in the host community implementation locations, affecting participant, volunteer and staff safety.



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact/Response

- Although all partners provided full nutrition services in all 45 INFs, due to the security issues, partners reduced working hours by two hours so that they could return home safely.

- Activities of the World Breastfeeding Week have been postponed.

Challenge

- The staff were still not feeling secure because of the absence of APBn. It was also difficult for them to go to the camp because of lack of public transportation.
- There may be a nutrition supply break due to challenging transportation of food commodities.



Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

Impact/Response

- Partner presence was limited to the Rohingya volunteers only due to absence of APBn.
- Learning facilities in the Rohingya camps will remain closed due the end-of-year learning break and will reopen from 11 August with the start of a new academic year.
- Nonetheless, other preparatory activities for the new school calendar were hindered as partner staff could not carry out activities as planned due to the security concerns.
- Rohingya volunteers have continued with other preparatory activities, though the absence of APBn in the camps is hampering community mobilization and regular preparations for the new school year.



Livelihoods and Skill Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

Impact/Response

- Partners have maintained the work from home modality.
- All skills development training programmes and staff capacity programmes were postponed.
- Partners are planning to resume the skills development activities from Sunday 11 August, if conditions allow.
- Graduated beneficiaries are likely to be affected by fewer volunteering opportunities.

Cross-Cutting Updates: 7 August



Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Common messages on the reduced presence of APBn members in the camps and an advisory to stay indoors except for essential activities were disseminated to refugees through partner organizations and volunteers. Guidance on where to seek help during this time was also communicated. Refugees have expressed concerns for their own safety under the circumstances through volunteers.

Although hotlines remained operational, CFRM desks remained partially open, mostly with volunteers disseminating messages and referring cases to relevant service providers without opening new tickets. Outreach, engagement and awareness activities continued through volunteers and remote support from staff members, with increased emphasis on counselling. Radio programmes and announcements from mosques were carried out in a limited scale to disseminate precautionary messages.

The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network shared key PSEA messages with the network members for dissemination, translated into English, Burmese, Bangla, and Rohingya transliteration. The latest AAP common messages were also shared with the PSEA network members.



Humanitarian Access

As instructed by CiCs, all humanitarian partners closed facilities in the camps by midday on 7 August. CiC offices were also closed at 12pm, however CiCs have camp-based residences, so they were on standby and providing guidance by telephone. Notably, host community members went to most CiC offices and removed the photographs of the former Prime Minister and her father from the offices.

One national NGO office in Ukhiya was torched on the evening of 6 August. All their equipment was looted or burned. In a separate incident, a group of people vandalized some shops in Camp 15, near to the CiC office. The Army managed to prevent further disorder.



Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

There are no natural disaster/weather emergency forecasts currently, apart from the likelihood of slope failures due to the active monsoon season. The Disaster Management Unit's (DMU) First Aid training and the multi-hazard guidebook orientations have been suspended since last week. The Disaster Management Committee (DMC) meetings have also stopped at present.

FAO has been working on maintaining the functionality of weather stations and collecting landslide data from field visits, while also planning to deliver landslide search and rescue items. This was planned for 6 August but has now been postponed. Response is now limited to reporting, relying on camp volunteers. However, SKUS is conducting Disaster Risk Reduction-focused courtyard sessions led by volunteers.

Local staff staying near the camps are working to ensure EPR services. If a natural disaster were to occur, it would be challenging to deploy staff to the camps due to the ongoing unrest. Continuous rain since last week has also limited access for most technical staff, delaying repair and reconstruction activities.

Contact

Rohingya Refugee Response: Cox's Bazar: iscg@iscgxcb.org.

<https://rohingyaresponse.org/>