

Summary of Humanitarian Access and Service Delivery

Daily Updates – 8 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.

While there was 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 UNDSS 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 by the GoB 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 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 The earlier declared public holidays were rescinded. From 7 August, all sectors reported safety and security concerns on behalf of partner staff and refugees. Staff that worked in the camps moved with caution and worked reduced hours out of safety concerns due to the drastically reduced APBn presence. On 8 August, the situation remained largely unchanged with a reduced presence of humanitarian workers in the camps, however the APBn increased its presence in the camps and was supported with patrolling by the army around and inside the camps, while Camp-in-Charges (CiCs) also mostly returned to duty.

Sector Updates: 8 August



Shelter-CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

Impact/Response

- There was a gradual increase in SCCC partner presence in many camps, but many critical and non-critical activities remained at least partially disrupted.
- LPG and NFI distribution continued in many camps.
- Site management and shelter activities were conducted in some camps by volunteers. Critical activities requiring technical supervision and support continued to be on hold.
- The Energy and Environment Network (EEN) has reported that plantation activities remain mostly non-operational, including supply and delivery of materials, site preparation, and care and maintenance. However, one partner resumed activities today.
- EEN also reported that heavy rainfall in the past few days has caused soil erosion and uprooted trees in the planted areas.



Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

Impact/Response

- On 8 August, lifesaving food assistance through full ration e-vouchers and additional vouchers to the most vulnerable refugees were delivered to 12,600 households reaching 19% of the total caseload for August.
- Partners reported an improved security situation on 8 August compared to yesterday with more APBn deployed and circulating in the camps.
- Due to the improved security situation, partner organizations allowed their staff to work in the camps today but still focused only on specific tasks that were considered critical.
- Despite a slight increase of partner organizations' staff presence in the camps, guidance to volunteers was primarily carried out by mobile phone communication.
- Partner's decisions on movements to the camps are being decided on a day-to-day basis.
- Food production resilience building activities of homestead gardening are not supported as usual at the moment. However, the damage to vegetable production is expected to be minimal given this is not the optimal growing season.



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

Impact/Response

- Basic water supply and sanitation services were provided without disruption.
- On 8 August, after three days' suspension, the Joint Assessment and Response Team (JART) for cholera (a joint WASH and Health Sector initiative) resumed its investigation and mitigation response to cholera cases in the camps.
- In some camps soap distribution has been disrupted and necessary adjustments were made to NFI distributions plans.
- WASH services are ensured through a combination of remote monitoring and the deployment of critical staff in the field.
- Due to limited access, the construction of new WASH infrastructure has been halted.
- There is a serious risk of theft from on-site stocks and warehouses.
- The prolonged absence of national staff may lead to a decline in service quality, potentially triggering new emergencies such as AWD.
- *Update:* on 7 August it was reported that soap distribution was put on hold, however in the UNHCR-managed camps, soap distribution continued without interruption, with 4,838 households receiving bathing and laundry soap yesterday.



Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

Impact/Response

- All 46 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) are fully operational, providing a comprehensive health service package that includes emergency services, general outpatient consultations, and inpatient care services.
- Out of a total of 57 Health Posts (HPs) registered on HeRAMS (health sector database), 54 are

currently operational. Three HPs operated by GK and supported by Malteser International in camps 1E, 11, and 22 are closed.

- While the Friendship Maternity and MSF hospitals are fully operational, the Field Turkish Hospital (AFAD) is partially operational and limited to emergency and inpatient services.
- Despite the partial disruption in provision of health services in a few camps, most health facilities continue to deliver basic and comprehensive health services.
- Together with the WASH Sector, the JART activities have resumed.



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

Protection:

Impact/Response

- As previously reported, the deteriorated security environment has left protection services in the camps only partly operational. Legal assistance centres were closed with staff and volunteers providing remote support; protection monitoring remained phone-based, amidst a surge in protection concerns such as day-light shootings, extortion, forced eviction and abductions. Case management services continued to be severely hindered without on-ground caseworkers, while religious engagement programmes remained suspended.
- Volunteers at protection facilities managed complaints and feedback and conducted reduced awareness-raising sessions (e.g. monsoon preparedness, child marriage, landslide safety, water safety). Awareness sessions ran at block-level (e.g. self-care training, identification of persons with specific needs, and case referrals).
- The safety of volunteers is a growing concern, with criminality continuing to pose a threat to volunteers and beneficiaries.
- EEN has reported thefts of 14 solar streetlights across 5 camps (2E, 7, 9, 11, 17), which has negative impacts on the safety of women and girls, in particular. In Camp 1E a host community member destroyed a solar light to make space for a shop. Nanogrid batteries (which power streetlights and facilities) were dumped and recovered from a stream in Camp 20/20E.

Child Protection (CP)

Impact/Response

- While work modalities remained the same as yesterday, staff kept delivering in-person services on a small scale and returned early from the camps.
- Bangladeshi volunteers have been working in the camps, supporting different activities.
- All other response activities continued as yesterday: most Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) were open with limited staff and volunteers facilitating activities, small-scale session-based prevention activities and limited-scale outreach activities and home visits were ongoing.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Impact/Response

- Most partners continued to provide services remotely. Partners who provided GBV prevention and response services in the camps left early for safety reasons.
- With the return of some CiCs and APBn and the presence of the army, partners felt more secure than yesterday.

- Almost all Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) remained open in both the camps and host communities, but with decreased services, activities and visits. All but one One-Stop Crisis Centre/Cells (OCCs) remained operational.
- The provision of GBV case management remained remote over the phone through volunteers where appropriate. The number of reported GBV cases and referrals remains low, and unusually some facilities received no reports at all.
- Child marriage cases were reported and two were stopped, but this issue may increase.
- Volunteers conducted recreational activities for adolescent girls in the Women Friendly Space (WFS) and outreach activities to keep their spirits up.



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact/Response

- A few sites are experiencing a shortage of nutrition supplies due to transportation constraints.
- The shortage of nutrition supplies is being mitigated by redistributing available supplies from one Integrated Nutrition Facility (INF) to another INF meanwhile exploring how to transport supplies from Cox's Bazar as soon as possible to the camps.
- All partners provided full nutrition services in all 45 INFs with reduced working hours.
- An emergency nutrition meeting was conducted yesterday and postponement of a community screening for malnutrition and cooking demonstration at community level was agreed on considering the security situation and availability of staff on site.
- The activities of the World Breastfeeding Week have been postponed.



Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

Impact/Response

- Learning facilities in the Rohingya camps remain closed due to the end-of-year learning break.
- Preparatory activities for the new school calendar continued to be hindered; nonetheless, Rohingya volunteers continued with other preparatory activities.



Livelihoods and Skill Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

Impact/Response

- The assessments for beneficiaries that have completed Vocational Training have been disrupted in Camps 7, 16 and 25.
- BRAC's construction of the English Language Centre was disrupted, delaying the commencement of English language training. English language screening sessions were also paused.
- UNESCO could not deliver the planned 7 days of Training of Trainers (ToT) on basic and adult functional literacy for Accelerated Adult Learning (AAL).
- BRAC recently opened 19 skills development training centres across several camps. Field staff visited the centres to monitor and provide guidance with support from Cox's Bazar staff.
- BRAC has resumed AAL. 65 batches have continued sessions in 61 Adolescent Development Centres in Ukhiya and Teknaf camps which was carried out by the Rohingya facilitators.

Cross-Cutting Updates: 8 August



Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Common messages were prepared and circulated from the AAP Technical Working Group (TWG), in collaboration with Sectors and cross-cutting units, on the expected return of APBn in the camps, advising refugees to stay indoors for their safety except for essential activities, and sharing information on where to seek help. Messages were also circulated with partners on engaging volunteers during the current situation, duty of care, continuation of volunteer services to minimize essential service disruption while ensuring their safety and pausing payments temporarily to avoid risks.

Most Complaint Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM) channels remained at least partially open, thanks to the support of refugee volunteers. Concerns among refugees continued to be reported on confusion regarding the current situation in Bangladesh, fears for their own safety due to limited APBn presence, and fear related to a possible lack of support from the new government and increased risk of forced repatriation. The TWG is working on further understanding refugee concerns and strengthening communication with the communities.



Humanitarian Access

APBn officers are on duty in the camps, however frontline members are not performing their duties as usual, and humanitarian staff are reportedly feeling insecure. Advocacy with the army and other interlocutors is needed to ensure an adequate presence of army or Ansar-VDP (auxiliary force) in designated areas in the camps. The army is now patrolling in and around the camps, as well as support with check points on the highways and at the main camp entrance points. Ansar-VDP was on duty at one camp's entry checkpoint.



Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

Shelters in the camps have been affected by the recent monsoon rains, strong winds, and landslides. Households living in impacted shelters are awaiting verification to receive emergency shelter materials. There was minor damage to pathways and stairways across the camps due to slope failures and soil erosion caused by the rainfall. Blockages and silting in drainage systems have resulted in overflowing and flooding in some areas. In response, partners disseminated multi-hazard preparedness messages to the affected communities through volunteers and community-based protection committees.

Contact

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<https://rohingyaresponse.org/>