

Summary Update: Humanitarian Access and Service Delivery, 19-25 July 2024

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Issued on 25 July 2024

Rohingya
Refugee
Response
Bangladesh

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 were authorized to proceed. The curfew break in Cox's Bazar was extended to 0900 to 1800hrs on Wednesday, 24 July, facilitating movements within Cox's Bazar and to the camps. To facilitate access and information flow, ISCG has been in close coordination with Government Departments, Ministries, Law Enforcement Agencies and Civil Administration at Dhaka level and Cox's Bazar level.

During curfew, only critical/lifesaving missions were authorized by the RRRC's Office with a convoy by the APBn. On 21 and 22 July, only UN vehicles were authorized to join the convoy (4 vehicles and 6 vehicles respectively). On 23 and 24 July, the convoy was extended to NGOs who provide lifesaving activities, endorsed by the Sector Coordinators in consultation with Sector Lead Agencies – 8 UN vehicles and 4 NGO vehicles joined the convoy on 23 July, and 10 UN vehicles and 10 NGO vehicles joined on 24 July. From 25 July, missions to the camps have resumed to normal and no convoy was required. All in-person services have also resumed.

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), in close coordination with the Sectors, developed daily inter-Sector situation updates. From 21 to 23 July, service delivery in the camps has been focusing on essential lifesaving activities. On 24 July, with the eased curfew, normal services have gradually resumed.

Food Security

E-voucher outlets were closed for one day on 21 July and resumed on 22 July through 6 outlets. 80% of the July e-voucher distribution was completed by the previous week. On 23 July, 8 e-voucher outlets were processing monthly rations targeting 3,000 households. On 24 July, 25,000 individuals were targeted in 17 camps through 8 e-voucher outlets. All 19 outlets remained open throughout, operated by cooperating partners. The daily targets were not fully met due to the use of manual transaction entry slowing down the process. Despite this, WFP will complete July's monthly allocation by the end of the month. Fresh food supply chain can be a challenge if the curfew sustains, but dry food stocks will be sufficient. Food security resilience activities in the camps and livelihood activities with the host community were stopped and resumed partially on 24 July.

Shelter-CCCM

Due to the ongoing rains, shelter damage, minor landslides, and other incidents have been reported. Rapid damage verification resumed partially on 24 July. Emergency shelter kits distribution resumed on 24 July. 183 families were supported for temporary relocation between 22-24 July. LPG distribution took place in some Ukhiya camps on 21 July. It continued on 22 July in some Ukhiya and Teknaf camps (2,262 families served; 241 stoves repaired) and on 23 July, 9 LPG distribution points (out of 19) were functional (2,050 families served; 154 stoves repaired). On 24 July, LPG distribution took place in most camps with 7,309 families served. LPG distribution resumed in all camps as of 25 July.

Health

All 46 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) remained open, with 50%-70% fully functional and the rest providing limited emergency services. Among the 58 Health Posts (HPs), 14 have been functional on 23 July, compared with 9 on 21 July. Turkish Field Hospital has been providing emergency services only while Friendship Maternity remains fully functional. As of 23 July, all MSF camp facilities were operating. Due to curfew restrictions, ambulance fuel shipments have not come to Cox's Bazar. 13 new RDT-positive Cholera cases were reported, pending culture confirmation. Polio vaccination campaign has also been suspended by the Ministry of Health.

Nutrition

All integrated nutrition facilities (INFs) were closed on 21-22 July following Government instructions, stopping most activities including specialized food provision. 28 out of 45 INFs opened on 23 July with essential nutrition services, and all 45 opened on 24 July with full scale nutrition service provisions. All Stabilization Centres remained open and

operational since 21 July, providing lifesaving services. Door-to-door follow-up of SAM and MAM cases has been ongoing by community volunteers. Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (1,887 children under 5; and 130 pregnant and breastfeeding women) and Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (860 children) resumed on 23 July.

WASH

NFI distribution (soap and menstrual hygiene kits) was on hold and resumed on 24 July in some camps. Water is being supplied as usual in Teknaf camps but remains an issue in Ukhiya, with 1/4 of the water networks facing challenges. The Joint Assessment and Response Team of cholera resumed activities on 24 July, but partners are concerned about the ongoing cholera outbreak. In some areas, WASH services (solid waste collection, sludge management) were stopped or reduced. Nonetheless, for the most part WASH volunteers have worked to ensure continuity of key activities, including collection of household waste, desludging/maintaining latrines, and water production.

Protection (incl. CP and GBV)

Volunteers and partners have been able to run community centres in all 33 camps. From 24 July, some local NGOs and INGOs were able to be back in the camps during curfew break. Legal partners remained operational in most camps since 21 July. Refugee paralegal volunteers connected refugees seeking legal assistance with legal officers through phones. Protection monitoring continued remotely and community outreach activities were conducted. In-person case management resumed during curfew break. Registration colleagues made LPG distribution possible through 11 offline servers built to support the response during internet shutdown. A total of 7,245 households in Teknaf and Ukhiya were able to be served between 21 and 23 July.

Child Protection (CP) partners have maintained ongoing communication with camp focal points since 20 July. Some CP facilities have been functioning thanks to the CP community volunteers. Only two partners were able to operate in a few camps by means of CP parasocial workers and CP case management working over the phone. Partners mobilized community volunteers and Child Protection Committees (CBCPC) members through phone calls to monitor CP risks and maintain minimum preparedness for a possible monsoon response. On 19 July, the body of a murdered child was found in Camp 13, with signs of torture. On 20 July a 3-year-old girl was fatally shot in Camp 1W, and on 24 July a child nearly drowned in drainage but was rescued and is recovering. Child Rights monitoring has been challenged, but as needed incidents have been documented offline.

Most of the GBV service facilities across all camps and adjacent host communities remained partially operational on the first day of the curfew. GBV referrals and remote case management continued with support from the volunteers, who were trained to provide psychosocial first aid and referrals. Services required for the clinical management of rape and psychosocial support remained uninterrupted. During the second day of the curfew, challenges to remote GBV case management were noted and a monitoring visit of the camps on 22 July highlighted service gaps. On 23 July, implementing partners negotiated with the local government authorities to permit the movement of lifesaving GBV service providers from the neighboring areas of the camps. GBV facilities remained open on 23 July with critical service providers and on 24 July all facilities were fully operational. While some of the structured prevention interventions were on hold during the period, some awareness activities continued on a smaller scale.

The AAP TWG and Protection Sector including CPSS and GBVSS developed a common message (in English, Bangla, Rohingya and Burmese) on 23-24 July for dissemination with refugees in the camps, providing information on the current situation and service points to receive support/information.

Education

Education facilities remain closed in the camps and host community until 23 July, impacting year-end assessment scoring and analysis. All education facilities re-opened in all 33 camps on 24 July.

Livelihoods and Skills Development

In the camps: Activities have stopped, including vocational training (3,500+ beneficiaries), jute bag production for NFI and MHM kits (450 beneficiaries) and Accelerated Adult Literacy programming (AAL) (300+ beneficiaries), causing delays in expected targets. In the host community: Activities have stopped, including in-kind distributions to 300 beneficiaries to start their own businesses and post-distribution support to 400 other beneficiaries. Partners visited the camps on 24 July and will resume trainings and in-kind distributions from Sunday, 28 July.