

**142** INCIDENTS REPORTED

**81** INCIDENTS RESOLVED

**54** INCIDENTS ONGOING

**5** INCIDENTS IN PROGRESS

**2** INCIDENTS NOT RESOLVED

### ACCESS CONSTRAINTS FORCED 32% REDUCTION OF HUMANITARIAN SERVICE HOURS IN JULY – SEPTEMBER 2024

Curfew and forced public holidays declared by the Government of Bangladesh have compounded with civil disobedience protests by Bangladeshi citizens and an unsafe operating environment inside the Rohingya refugee camps. This has required the humanitarian community to reduce its presence in the camps by 32% in the past quarter (July-Sept). Specifically, there were 64 working days in the past quarter, excluding weekends and public holidays. Considering eight working hours per day, the humanitarian service delivery hours in the camps amounted to 512 hours, which is a reduction by 32%. The key constraints were:

Administrative (Curfew & holidays)	Civil Unrest	Roadblock by Host Community	Unsafe Operating Environment
14%	16%	1%	1%

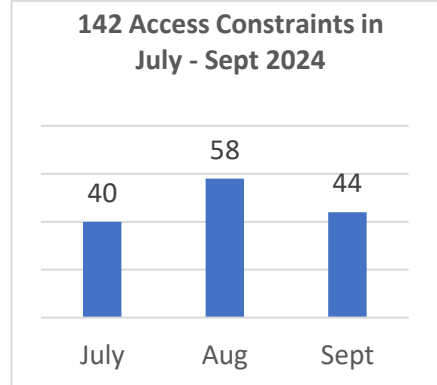
Since 18 July 2024 access to unimpeded humanitarian service delivery in the camps has faced constraints. A nationwide curfew and additional public holidays were declared, compounded by internet and mobile network blackouts. Below is a timeline of the key administrative constraints:

Access Constraints	Timeline
Internet Blackout	18-24 July & 5 August
Social Media Block	17- 28 July, 2 & 5 August
Curfew	19 July – 5 August 2024 (incl. curfew breaks)
Public Holiday	21-23 July & 5 August

To facilitate access and information flow, the Access Working Group (AWG) has worked in close coordination with Government Departments, Ministries, Law Enforcement Agencies and Civil Administration at Dhaka level and Cox’s Bazar level. During the curfew, only critical/lifesaving missions were authorized by the RRRC’s Office through a convoy by the APBn. On 21 and 22 July, only UN vehicles were authorized to join the convoy. On 23 and 24 July, the convoy was extended to NGOs who provide lifesaving activities. Additionally, AWG had a verbal agreement with the DC Office that humanitarian movement were allowed with official vehicles, identifiable stickers and staff IDs.

### NEW TRENDS: OCCUPYING STREETS AND WORK STRIKES

Following the major political events that took place in Bangladesh in the first week of August, culminating in the resignation of the Prime Minister on 5 August and the subsequent formation of an Interim Government on 8 August, humanitarian access continued to face constraints. New trends have included aggrieved groups occupying the streets and blocking regular movements. Related to this, the humanitarian operation in Cox’s Bazar had to suspend activities for two and half days in the Teknaf camps. APBn who are responsible for managing security in the camps went on strike on 6 August leaving the camps unguarded and creating an unsafe operating environment. As well, from 15 September, 4,000 teaching volunteers went on strike for ten days. In the last two months, 48 access constraints involving roadblocks or vandalism of facilities were reported. Additionally, at least two NGO offices, several shops and one Camp in Charge (CiC) office experienced vandalism.



### FLASH UPDATES

**New DIG-APBn:** Proloy Chisim is the new Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) for APBn.

**New NSI Additional Director:** Mr. Alamgir Hossain has taken over responsibilities as a new Additional Director of NSI in Cox’s Bazar.

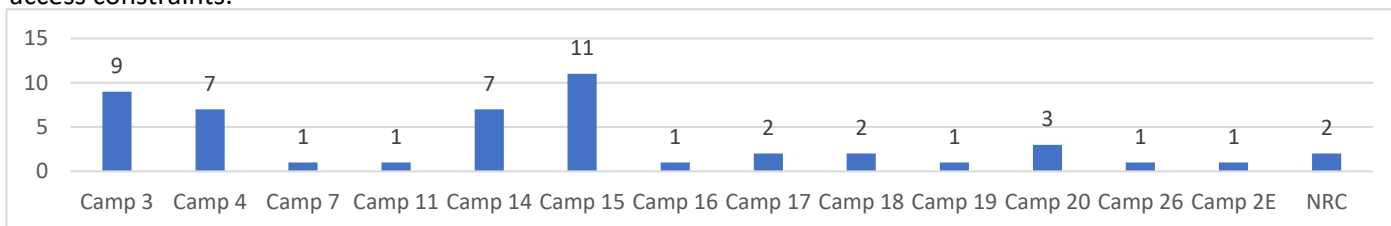
**New FSCD In-Charge:** Mr. Tanharul Islam has taken over responsibilities as a new Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Service & Civil Defense in Cox’s Bazar.

**Repatriation of 129 Myanmar Nationals:** 129 Myanmar personnel that included Tatmadaw, (MM), Border Guard Police (BGP) and immigration members who had taken refuge in Bangladesh were repatriated on 29 September. On the same day, 85 Bangladeshis who were illegally staying in Myanmar arrived in Bangladesh.

**Assessment on Security Capacity** A concept note was finalized, following the ISCG-led workshop in March 2024 to assess the security capacity in the camps aiming to identify gaps in terms of training, equipment and logistical support. The assessment will be carried out in collaboration with relevant interlocutors including APBn and the RRRC.

### HOTSPOTS: UNSAFE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

49 security incidents related to active shooting and exchange of fire were recorded in the past quarter within the Rohingya camps. Camp 15 was the leading hotspot with 11 incidents reported. Below are the camp-wise security access constraints.



### TEACHING VOLUNTEERS STRIKE

Unprecedentedly, over 4,000 host community teaching volunteers went on a work strike for ten days from 15 September demanding an increase in their incentives, festival bonus, maternity leave and abolishment of the cluster system. They created barriers at camp entrances, sat in demonstration at NGO offices and finally occupied the RRRC Office. The ISCG, Access Working Group, Education Sector, UNICEF, and the RRRC, negotiated with the volunteers and brought them back to work from 26 September with the commitment that the ISCG will lead consultations on the Volunteer Guidelines in 2025 to identify potential revisions in consideration of the demands raised by the host community teaching volunteers.

### ONGOING ADVOCACY

#### i. Advocacy on multi-year JRP:

The ISCG is continuing to advocate with MoFA for a multi-year Joint Response Plan (JRP) covering 2025 and 2026. This approach would better enable the mobilization of multi-year funding. Over time, other key stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), the Chief Adviser's Office, and other national-level interlocutors, will be involved.

#### iii. Build-Back-Better Fire and Weather Resistant Shelter Approval:

Four fire and weather resistant shelter designs, along with a detailed concept note, have been submitted to the Government. Following this, several technical and advocacy-level consultations were held with the MoDMR. As a result of the advocacy efforts, the MoDMR granted approval to install the pilot shelters in the camps. The ISCG is coordinating with concerned partners and Area of Responsibility (AoR) agencies to ensure the completion of these shelter pilots. Upon completion, the RRRC office will review the shelters and submit a report to the MoDMR.

#### iii. Removing the Mandatory Provision of 25% Host Community Funding for NGOs:

On 15 July 2019, the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) issued an ad-hoc circular instructing NGOs to allocate 25-30% of donor funds to the host community. This directive has created significant challenges in obtaining project completion certificates. This issue has already been raised before the NGOAB, and its pros and cons were explained. The NGOAB understands the challenges and has agreed to work further on the matter. However, the NGOAB cannot revoke this provision without official consent from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) or the Chief Adviser's Office. The new Principal Secretary (PS) has just taken office in the PMO/Chief Adviser's Office. The ISCG will raise the issue with the PS, as the NGOAB operates under the supervision of the PMO/Chief Adviser's Office.

#### iv. Bhasan Char Medical Evacuation SoP:

On 20 November 2022, the UN submitted a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to endorse a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for medical evacuations (Medivac) concerning UN staff stationed at the refugee camp on Bhasan Char. Despite multiple efforts, this advocacy has not yet been successful. Recently, discussions have resumed, with the first meeting held between the UN and the new Director General of MoFA's Myanmar wing. MoFA has agreed to convene a meeting with key government stakeholders for further discussions. Follow-up efforts with MoFA are ongoing.

### UPCOMING PRIORITIES

1. Development of a Humanitarian Access Strategy.
2. Development of SoPs for the Humanitarian Access Working Group (AWG) on negotiations in restricted situations.
3. Production of heatmaps to identify access hotspots.
4. Harmonized SoPs for all humanitarian actors on field movements and activity implementation in the camps.
5. Advocacy on public transport inside the Rohingya camps.