RCP Rohingya Coordination Platform | IOM UN MIGRATION | UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Emergency Communal Relocation Centres (ECRC)

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2026

A comprehensive assessment of emergency communal relocation centres across the Rohingya refugee camps, Cox's Bazar.

ASSESSMENT PERIOD
APRIL 2026

ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS
COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

NPM Needs and Population Monitoring
THE UN MIGRATION AGENCY

This report is prepared by NPM on behalf of the EPR Working Group.

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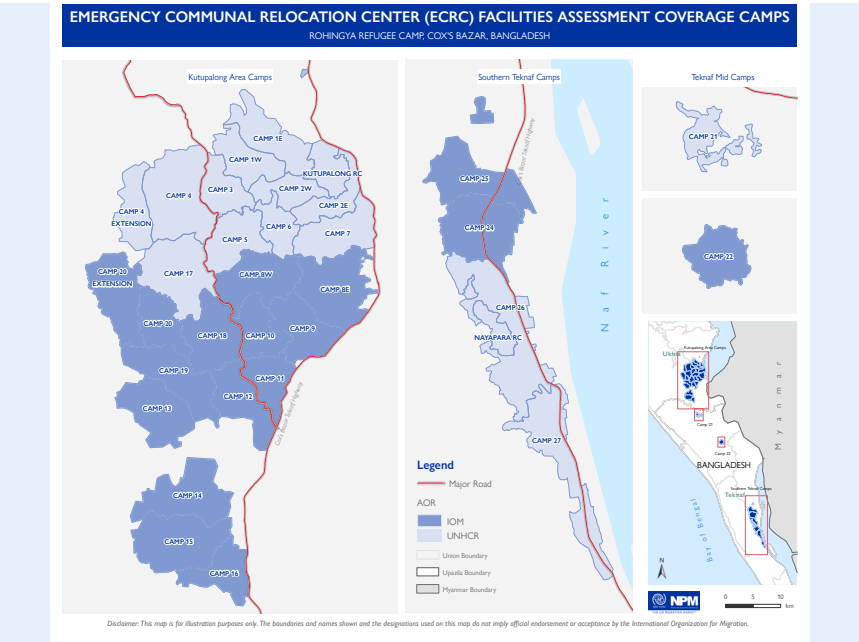
List of Acronyms

IOM	International Organization for Migration
NPM	Needs and Population Monitoring
ECRC	Emergency Communal Relocation Centers
CiC	Camp-in-Charge
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
AAP	Accountability to Affected Population
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
EVI	Extremely Vulnerable Individual
PSN	Persons with Specific Needs
GIS	Geographic Information System
AoR	Area of Responsibility
NFI	Non-food Item
LPG	Liquified Petroleum Gas
GPS	Global Positioning System
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
STW	Shallow Tube Wells
DTW	Deep Tube Wells
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh remains highly exposed to a range of natural hazards, particularly cyclones, heavy rainfall, landslides, and flooding during the monsoon season. These hazards pose significant risks to Rohingya refugees living in densely populated camps, where shelter conditions, challenging terrain, and limited safe spaces can increase vulnerability during emergencies. As part of broader preparedness and risk reduction efforts, Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs) have been identified to provide temporary refuge for affected populations when evacuation or relocation becomes necessary.

ECRCs are designated facilities that can be temporarily activated during emergencies to accommodate displaced households and individuals requiring immediate protection and assistance. These centers play a critical role in supporting emergency preparedness and response efforts by providing safe and dignified temporary shelter, while ensuring that the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) and Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), are adequately considered during emergency relocation operations.



Map1: Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs) in IOM and UNHCR Managed Camps

In 2025, a facility mapping exercise was conducted across the camps to identify and assess facilities that could potentially serve as ECRCs during emergency situations. Based on predefined selection criteria, a number of facilities were identified as suitable for temporary emergency relocation purposes. Following this initial assessment, a second-round assessment was undertaken prior to the onset of the 2026 monsoon and cyclone season to re-evaluate these pre-selected facilities and determine their current suitability for emergency use.

Not all facilities within the camps are considered suitable for emergency relocation purposes. Facilities that provide lifesaving services and emergency coordination or response functions are excluded to avoid disruption to essential services during emergencies. As such, hospitals, primary health centers, Camp-in-Charge (CiC) offices, community kitchens, warehouses, non-food item (NFI) distribution centers, LPG storage facilities, and other critical operational facilities are not designated as ECRCs. Instead, the assessment focuses on facilities that can be safely and effectively repurposed to provide temporary shelter and protection to affected and displaced populations during emergency events.

The findings of this assessment provide an updated overview of the readiness and suitability of identified ECRCs across the camps ahead of the monsoon and cyclone season and are intended to support preparedness planning and emergency response efforts.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the second-round Emergency Communal Relocation Center (ECRC) assessment was to evaluate the current readiness and suitability of previously identified facilities for use as temporary relocation centers during emergencies. The assessment examined key aspects of each facility, including structural condition, operational functionality, accessibility, available capacity, and overall preparedness to accommodate affected populations during hazard events.

A secondary objective was to validate and update information collected during the initial ECRC identification exercise by assessing the current status of the selected facilities ahead of the monsoon and cyclone season. This included identifying infrastructure gaps, safety concerns, accessibility constraints, and other factors that may affect the activation and effective use of the facilities during emergencies.

The assessment also sought to generate an evidence base to support preparedness planning and emergency response decision-making by providing updated information on the condition, capacity, and operational readiness of identified ECRCs across the camps.

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

The second-round Emergency Communal Relocation Center (ECRC) assessment was jointly conducted by the Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) Unit of IOM and UNHCR in coordination with the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Working Group. The assessment was undertaken in response to a request from the EPR Working Group to re-evaluate previously identified Emergency Communal Relocation Centers ahead of the monsoon and cyclone season.

A standardized assessment tool developed and refined by the EPR Working Group, in consultation with relevant sectors, was used to collect data on facility characteristics and emergency preparedness indicators. Data collection was conducted between 26 and 30 April 2026 across all 33 Rohingya refugee camps, covering approximately 2,777 pre-identified facilities assessed for their suitability as ECRCs. Of these, approximately 1,882 facilities were located within the 17 camps managed by IOM and 895 facilities were located within the 16 camps managed by UNHCR.

In the IOM-managed camps, data collection was carried out by the IOM Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) Unit. In the UNHCR-managed camps, data collection was coordinated by UNHCR and implemented by its partner ACTED using the same standardized assessment methodology and tools. A total of 47 enumerators (24 male and 23 female) were deployed across both operational areas to conduct the assessments. Prior to data collection, all enumerators received training on assessment methodology, data collection procedures, and the use of digital data collection tools.

Following data collection, the validated dataset from the UNHCR-managed camps was subsequently shared with the NPM Unit, where it was integrated with the IOM-managed camp dataset to produce a consolidated analysis and reporting of findings across all 33 refugee camps.

Key Highlight (Overall)

2,657 (ECRC Facilities) IOM - 1797, UNHCR-860

1,640 (62%) Solar Light

1,168 (44%) Health Facility (in 100m)

594 (22%) Child-Friendly Space

2,080 (78%) Latrine Access

655 (25%) Emergency Exit

1,437 (54%) Water Access

1,801 (68%) Disability Access

296 (11%) Breastfeeding Space

120 (5%) Livestock Provision

867,028 (72%) Population Coverage (Short Term Capacity)

1,518 (57%) Gender Access

Photo: Enumerators are Collecting ECRC Data

ECRC SELECTION CRITERIA AND LIMITATIONS

The selection of Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs) in Cox's Bazar is guided by criteria to ensure that facilities provide safe, accessible, and dignified temporary shelter during emergencies. Priority is given to facilities that are located close to camp populations, can be accessed through safe evacuation routes, and are situated away from known hazard-prone areas. Facilities are also assessed for their structural integrity and overall condition to ensure their suitability and resilience during emergency events.

In addition to physical safety considerations, selected facilities should have adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, sufficient space to accommodate displaced populations, and the capacity to support essential services during emergency activation. Consideration is also given to the availability of backup power or alternative energy sources where feasible.

Particular attention is paid to the needs of vulnerable groups, including Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) and Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs). Facilities should be accessible and provide safe, appropriate spaces for individuals requiring additional support during displacement.

Operational considerations are also considered during the selection process. Facilities that provide critical life-saving, health services and coordination or emergency response services are generally excluded to avoid disruption to essential services during emergencies. Preference is given to facilities that have previously been used as temporary shelters or emergency relocation sites, as their suitability has already been demonstrated. In all cases, formal authorization for emergency use is required to ensure that facilities can be activated rapidly when needed.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FACILITIES IDENTIFIED AS ECRCS

Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs) across the camps are intended to provide safe, dignified, and functional temporary shelter for populations affected by emergencies such as cyclones, floods, landslides, fires, and other hazard events. To be considered suitable for emergency activation, facilities must meet a set of minimum requirements related to safety, accessibility, capacity, protection, and service provision.

Facilities should be structurally safe and accessible, with clearly identifiable entry and exit routes, adequate internal circulation space, appropriate lighting, and fire safety considerations to minimize risks during emergency occupancy. Available space should be sufficient to accommodate displaced populations in accordance with agreed emergency shelter standards. For short-term emergency sheltering during the events, facilities should provide a minimum of 0.28 m^2 per person. Where displacement is expected to extend beyond 24 hours, decongestion measures and alternative relocation arrangements should be coordinated to ensure adequate living conditions, with priority given to Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) and Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs).

Adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities are essential and should include access to safe water, functional toilets, bathing facilities, handwashing stations, and waste management arrangements. Facilities should also provide appropriate privacy, gender-sensitive arrangements, and accessibility features to ensure that the needs of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups are adequately addressed.

Additional considerations include the availability of space for camp management and information dissemination, temporary storage of relief supplies, food preparation and distribution where required, and access to nearby health services. Dedicated spaces for breastfeeding mothers and other vulnerable groups should be considered where feasible. Coordination arrangements with relevant camp management and humanitarian actors should be established in advance to facilitate rapid activation and effective management of the facility during emergencies.

LIMITATION

The findings presented in this report reflect the condition and operational status of assessed facilities at the time of data collection and should be interpreted accordingly. As facility conditions, infrastructure, accessibility, and service availability may change over time due to maintenance activities, environmental factors, operational adjustments, or the impacts of future hazard events, the readiness status of individual facilities may differ at the time of emergency activation. Moreover, whereas non-MPSC (Multi-purpose service center) ECRCs are structurally stronger than standard shelters, they do not provide a guaranteed level of safety against medium- to large-scale cyclones and may be susceptible to significant damage during severe events.

The assessment was primarily designed to evaluate the suitability and preparedness of facilities for potential use as Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs) based on predefined criteria. It did not include simulation exercises or actual emergency activation scenarios to test the operational performance of facilities under emergency conditions.

In addition, while efforts were made to verify information through direct observation and consultation with facility focal points and camp stakeholders, some information was based on conditions observed at the time of assessment and may be subject to change. Despite these limitations, the assessment provides a comprehensive overview of the current readiness and suitability of identified facilities to support preparedness and emergency planning efforts across the camps.

KEY FINDINGS

General Information

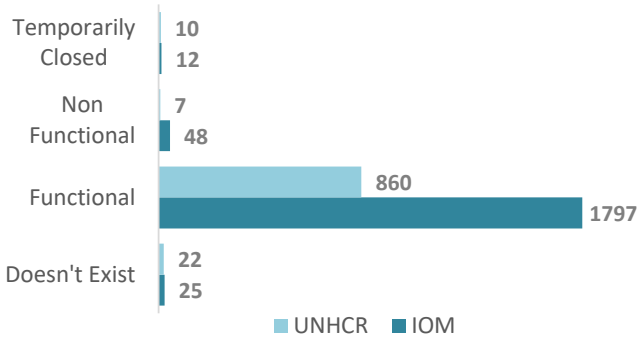


Figure 1: Status of Facility

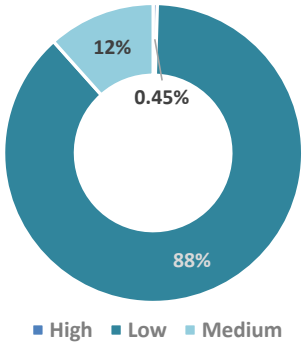


Figure 2: Service Disruption Risk (within 1 year)

The graph (figure 1) presents the operational status of Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs) in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, covering a total of 2,777 facilities. Status of Facility indicates that out of 2,777 ECRCs, a dominant 95.5% (2,657 facilities) are functional, with only small shares being non-functional (55, 2%), temporarily closed (22, 0.8%), or non-existent (47, 1.7%), reflecting a high level of operational availability across both IOM and UNHCR-managed sites. Complementing this, Service Disruption Risk shows strong operational resilience (figure 2), as 88% of functional facilities fall under low risk, while 12% are at medium risk and only 0.45% at high risk, indicating that most centers are not only operational but also unlikely to face major service interruptions in the near future, though a small proportion may still require monitoring and preventive measures.

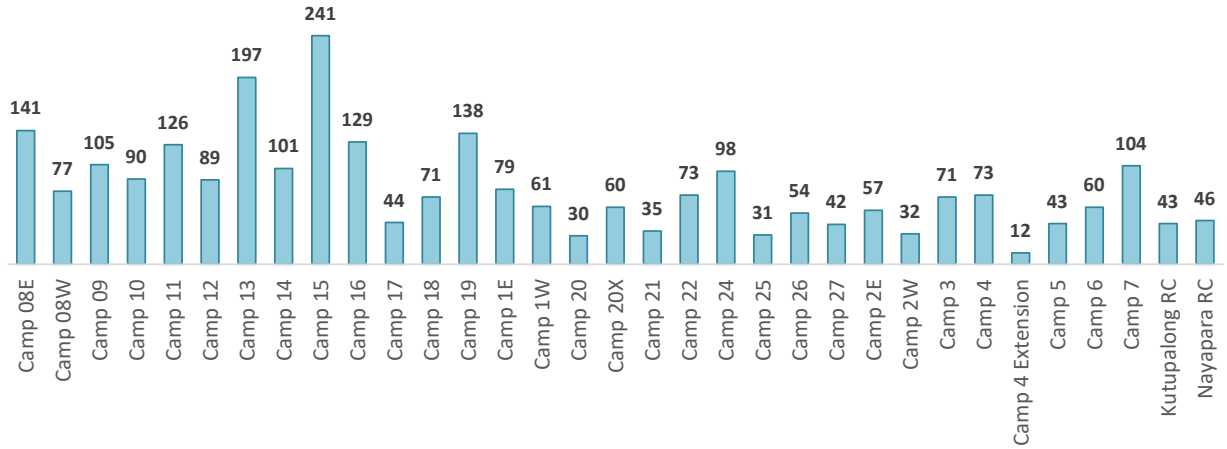


Figure 3: Functional Facility in Camps

The chart (figure 3) shows a distinctly uneven distribution of functional ECRCs across camps, with a small number of camps holding the highest concentration of facilities while a few others remain significantly underserved. Among all locations, the top three camps are Camp 15 (241 facilities), Camp 13 (197), and Camp 08E (141), indicating that these camps function as major hubs with stronger infrastructure capacity. In contrast, the lowest three are Camp 4 Extension (12 facilities), Camp 20 (30), and Camp 25 (31), reflecting very limited coverage and potentially lower preparedness. This clear gap between camps highlights an imbalance in facility distribution. Overall, the distribution suggests a concentration of functional facilities for ECRCs in certain high-density camps, while others maintain relatively fewer facilities.

Interrelated Function, Type, Structural Characteristics and ECRC availability

Overall the analysis shows that (table 1) the 2,653 functional ECRCs are highly concentrated in Religious (47%) and Education (41%) sectors, which together account for 88% of facilities which includes Learning Centers (40%, 1070), Mosques (33%, 888), and Hafezkhana (8%, 216) dominate, making up over 81% of all sites, while other sectors and facility types remain minimal. Structurally, the pattern is consistent, with 96% of facilities being single-storied and only 4% multi-storied, aligning with the prevalence of simple education and religious structures. Overall, ECRCs are predominantly basic, ground-level facilities focused on community and learning functions, reflecting both program priorities and practical construction approaches.

Table 1: Top 15 Facilities That Identified For ECRC

Type of Facilityies (Top 15)	Count of Facilities
Learning Center	1070
Mosque	888
Hafezkhana	216
Madrasah	129
Safe Space for Women and Girls (SSWG)	48
Multi-purpose Protection Center (MPC)	46
Child Friendly Space (CFS)	38
Organization Office	28
Community Center	23
Multi-purpose Protection Center & Adolscent Club (MPCAC)	20
SM Agency Office	18
Legal Counselling Center	15
Multi-purpose service centre (MPSC)	16
Adolescent Club	13
Elevated Water Tank with Basement	11

The analysis (figure 4)indicates that a substantial majority approximately 77% (2,032 facilities) of ECRCs have not yet been used as temporary shelters, while a smaller proportion of 23% (621 facilities) have previously served this purpose. Encouragingly, among the facilities that have not been utilized so far, a large share of facilities about 83% (1,692 facilities) are considered suitable for future use as temporary shelters, demonstrating strong potential for adaptability and preparedness (figure 5). In contrast, only 17% (340 facilities) are currently assessed as not suitable for such use. Overall, these findings suggest a generally positive level of readiness, resilience, and flexibility within the facilities, despite some existing limitations that may require further attention.

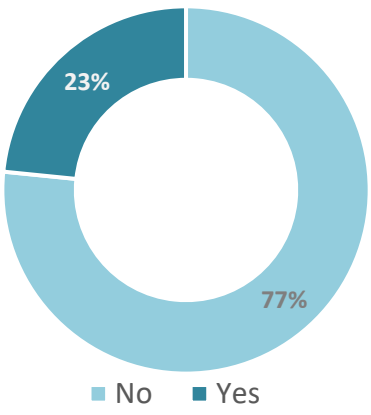


Figure 4: Facilities used as the temporary shelter in the past

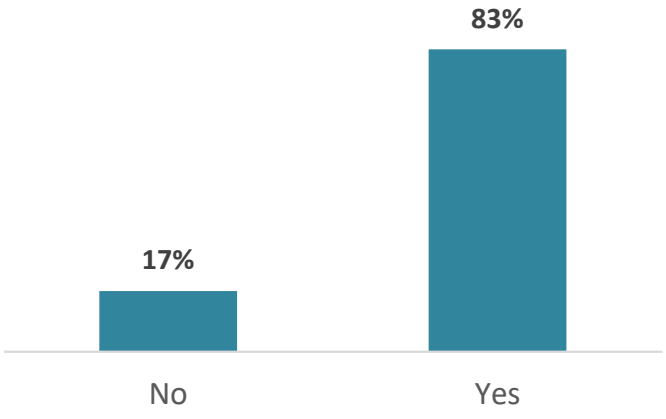


Figure 5: Facilities that can be used as a temporary shelter during any emergency

Physical Characteristics

Table 2: Definition of Diffrent Types of Foundation

Type of Foundation	Type of Super Structure/ Frame of body
Temporary (natural formation - earth/raised/hard soil)	Temporary (tarpaulin/bamboo/wooden)
Semi-Strong FD (Isolated spread Footing/Stilt)	Transitional (Pre-cast/Light Steal/iron sheet/Flex.Bracing/part of brick)
Stable FD (Wall, Strap, Combined footing)	Durable (Concrete/Steal frame/F-Slab/Rigid bracing/Brick & Plaster)

The graph (figure 6) presents the distribution of ECRCs based on the type and condition of foundation used in their construction. Most ECRCs (83%) are built on semi-strong foundations, indicating moderate stability across the majority of facilities. Only 9% have strong, more durable foundations, while 8% rely on temporary foundations, making them more vulnerable. Overall, the infrastructure is largely stable but with some limitations in long-term resilience.

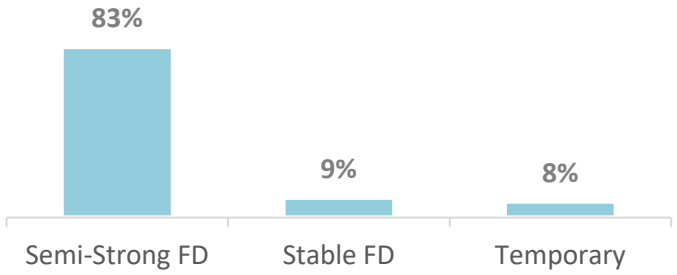


Figure 6: Type of Foundation

The chart (figure 7) shows a clear dominance of transitional construction across all ECRC building components, reflecting a strong preference for semi-permanent solutions. Core structural elements such as Building/Structure (84%), Superstructure (80%), and Wall materials (81%) are largely transitional, with minimal durable use (7–8%), indicating a consistent vertical construction approach. Roofing stands out with lower transitional (64%) and higher temporary use (32%), highlighting greater reliance on short-term solutions. In contrast, Flooring (74% transitional) includes a relatively higher durable share (19%), suggesting a focus on longevity in high-use areas. Fittings & finishers show the highest transitional share (85%). Overall, while transitional methods dominate, durable construction remains limited, except in flooring, indicating a balance between immediate needs and selective long-term investment.

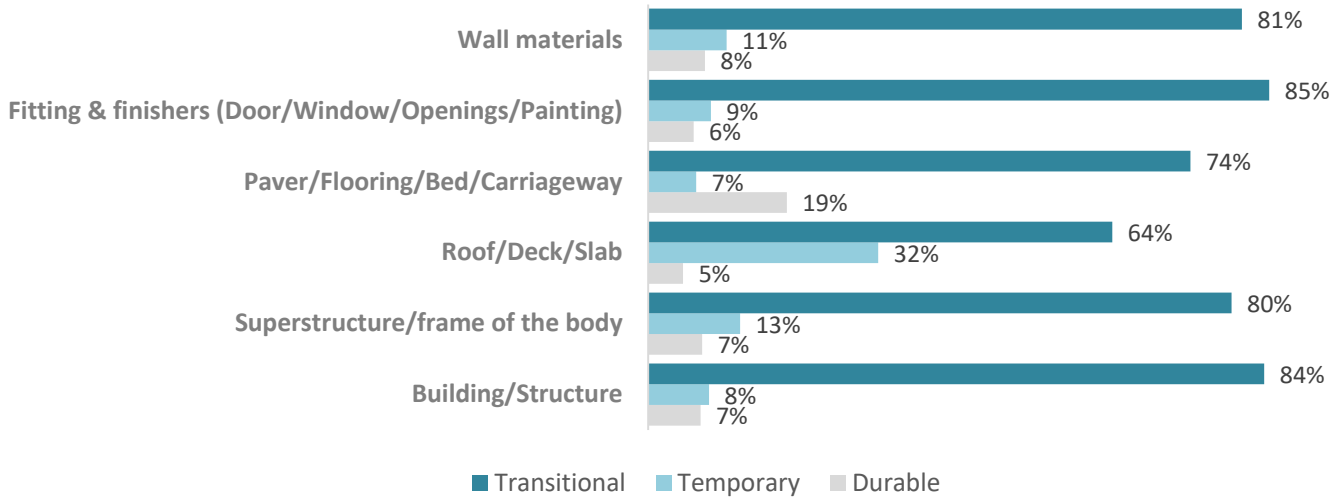


Figure 7: Type of Different Structures of Building

The graph (figure 8) presents the assessment findings of construction components condition within the Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRC) in the Rohingya Refugee Camp, Cox's Bazar, provides a comprehensive picture of the current structural and finishing conditions, highlighting both strengths and areas requiring urgent attention. The data shows that most ECRC components remain functional but not consistently strong across all elements. The foundation stands out as the most stable component, with the highest share in good condition (56%) and the lowest need for improvement (10%), indicating a

reliable structural base. In comparison, both the superstructure and fittings/finishers follow a similar pattern, where nearly half are good and the majority of the rest are moderate, with very limited need for repair, suggesting generally acceptable but not optimal conditions.

The condition starts to weaken in wall materials, where the share needing improvement rises to 14%, higher than most other components, pointing to emerging durability concerns. A similar but slightly better pattern is observed in flooring, which remains largely serviceable with only minimal repair needs. The most critical gap appears in the roof/deck/slab, which has the lowest proportion in good condition and the highest need for improvement (20%), making it the weakest component and a key concern for safety and protection. In summary, while most of the foundational and structural components perform relatively well, however, targeted interventions would therefore be essential for few components to enhance the overall resilience of the ECRC facilities.

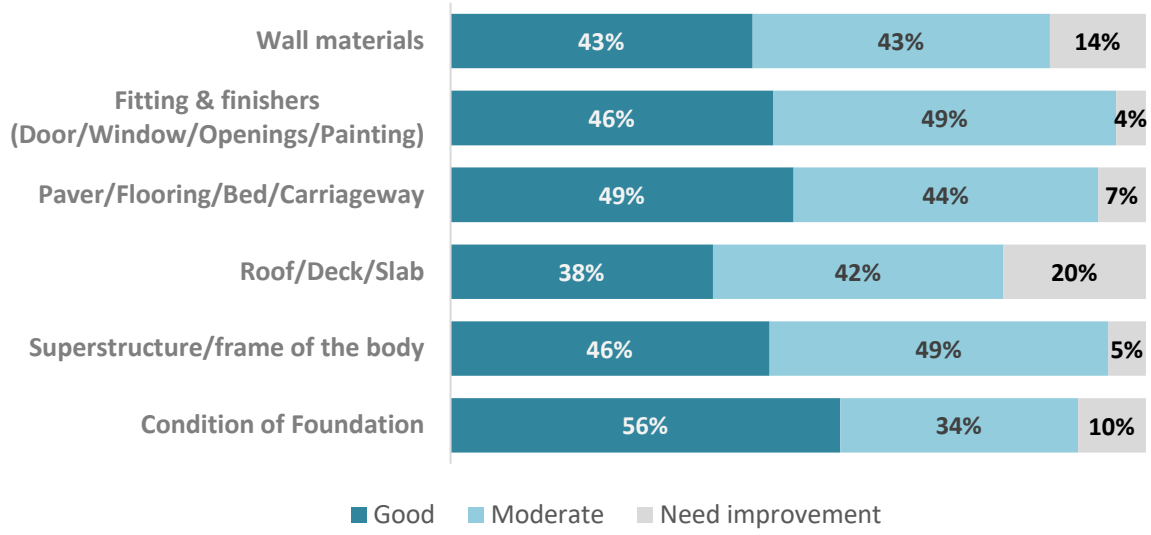


Figure 8: Condition of Different Structures of ECRC Building

Access

Among the assessed functional facilities for ECRC, the majority of facilities demonstrate the presence of disability access (figure 9). Specifically, 68% of the assessed facilities are structurally equipped with Disability Access features (such as accessible paths or entry arrangements) to accommodate elderly, aged, and physically challenged individuals. In contrast, a considerable proportion (32%) of facilities lack any basic structural considerations for persons with disabilities or mobility limitations, presenting a key target area for infrastructural retrofits. This highlighting a significant gap in inclusivity within nearly one-third of the functional centers. A very small fraction, 0.34%, falls under "Not Applicable," suggesting that almost all facilities were relevant for this assessment.

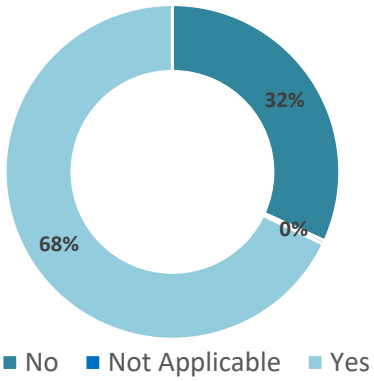


Figure 9: Disability Access to ECRC

The assessment of gender access in functional ECRC facilities indicates a moderate but inconsistent level of inclusion across both regular operations and emergency contexts. Overall, 57% (1,518) of facilities have gender access provisions (figure 10), while 37% (967) lack such arrangements and 6% fall under "Not Applicable," suggesting that although more than half of the centers incorporate gender-sensitive considerations which shows day-to-day inclusive gender access, besides, a significant gap remains affecting over one-third of sites. There is a slight improvement during emergency situations, with 59% of facilities have confirmed explicit protocols or separate structural setups to guarantee safe, private Gender Access During an Emergency that reflecting some level of preparedness in crisis response; however, a considerable 41% still do not ensure gender access during emergencies (figure 11). This highlight the need for more comprehensive and consistent integration of gender-sensitive measures across all ECRC facilities.

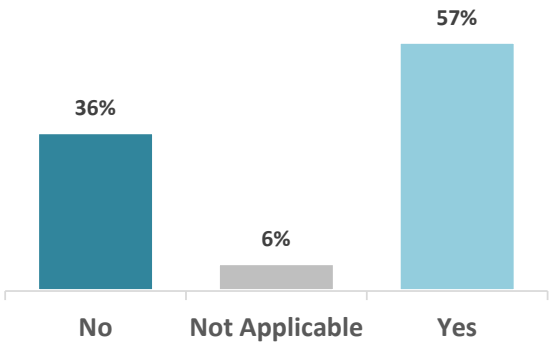


Figure 10: Regular Gender Access in Facilities

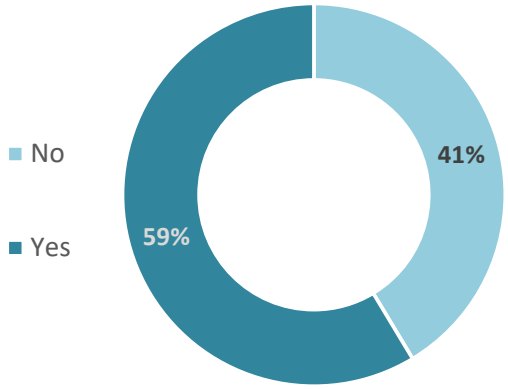


Figure 11: Gender access during an emergency

Activation Readiness

The chart (figure 12) presents key safety and accessibility features of Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs), the data shows a mixed situation based on the Yes (availability/presence) and No (absence/lack) responses. A majority of facilities (72%) have access roads that remain usable during heavy rain, indicating generally good physical accessibility, although 28% still face limitations under such conditions. In terms of environmental risk, only a small proportion of facilities are exposed, with 9% reporting landslide risk and 6% reporting flood risk, while the overwhelming majority (91% and 94%, reported No respectively) are not exposed, suggesting that most facilities are located in relatively safe areas. However, significant gaps exist in internal safety infrastructure. Only 30% of facilities have emergency fire exits, meaning 70% lack this critical feature, and similarly, just 25% have separate entry and exit points, while 75% do not. Overall, while accessibility and site safety in terms of hazard exposure are largely adequate, the low proportion of facilities with essential safety and evacuation features highlights serious shortcomings in preparedness that need urgent attention.

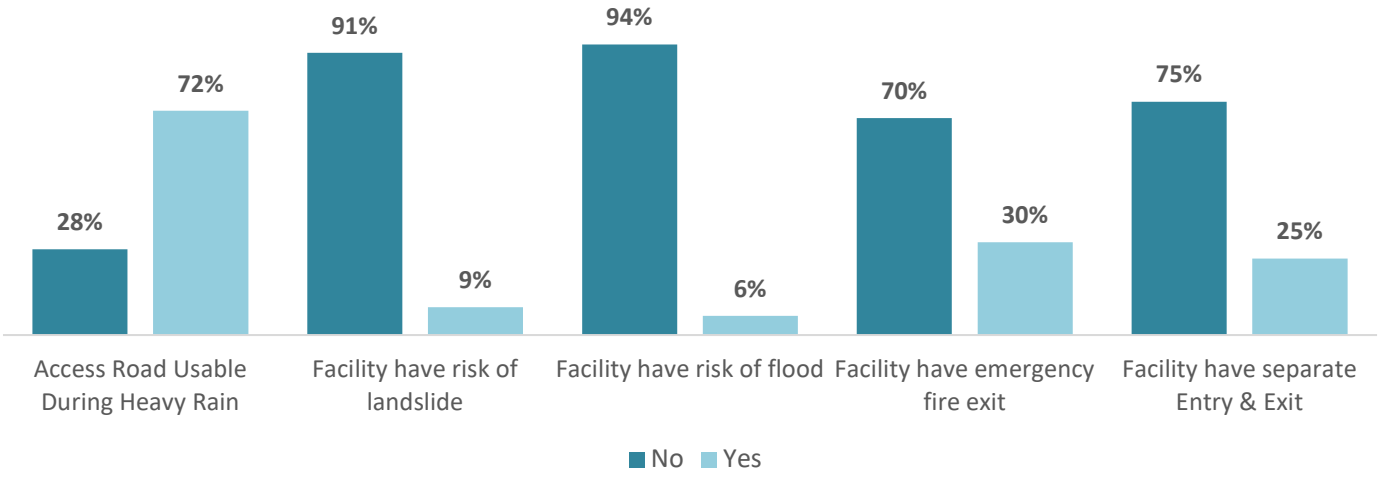


Figure 12: Safety and Accessibility Features of ECRCs for Activation Readiness

Power Provisions

The chart (figure 13) presents the availability of energy and lighting infrastructure across Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs), showing notable variation in access to different power sources. A large majority of facilities are not connected to nanogrid/minigrid systems (82%), with only 18% having such connections, indicating limited centralized electricity coverage. Similarly, 95% of facilities do not have generators, leaving only 5% with backup power options, which suggests a heavy reliance on alternative energy sources. In contrast, solar solutions appear widely adopted, as 83% of facilities report having functional solar lighting, and 62% have solar lights installed overall, compared to 38% without. This indicates that while conventional and backup power systems are largely absent, solar energy plays a critical role in meeting basic lighting and energy needs across the majority of ECRCs.

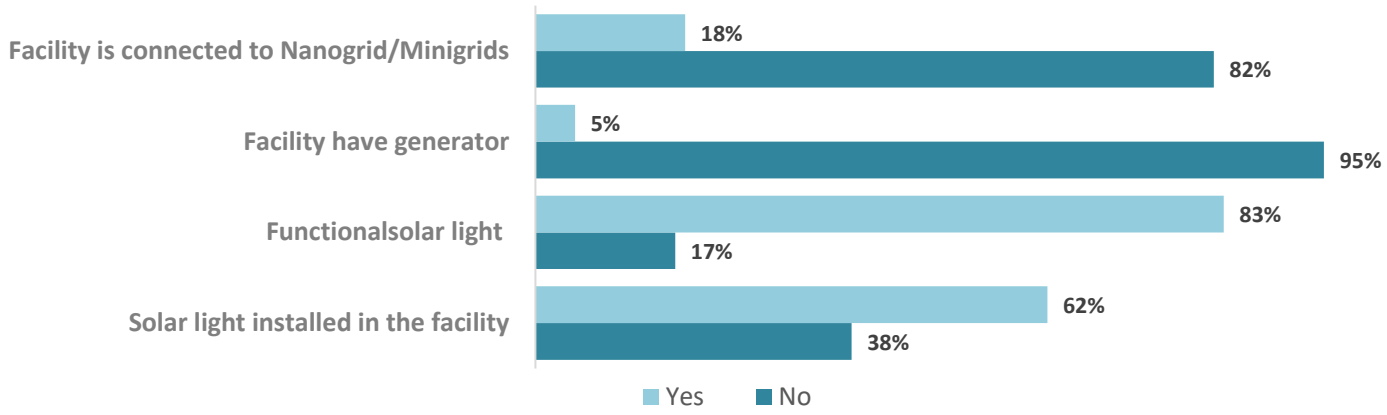


Figure 13: Power Provisions to ECRC Facilities

A strong majority of facilities are equipped with latrines (figure 14). The data indicates that 78% of the facilities have latrine facilities available, suggesting that most centers are able to provide basic sanitation services to users. Among the facilities that reported having latrines installed, the data (figure 15) shows that 51% of the facilities provide private or designated latrines, indicating a slight majority where users may have access to safer and comfortable sanitation arrangements. Meanwhile, 49% of the facilities rely on shared latrines, reflecting that nearly half of the centers depend on communal sanitation facilities. In contrast, 22% of the facilities do not have latrines signifies the lack of access to essential sanitation infrastructure.

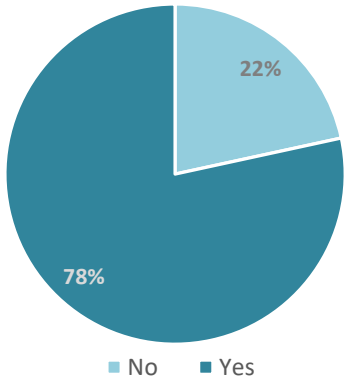


Figure 14: Latrine Availability in ECRC Facilities

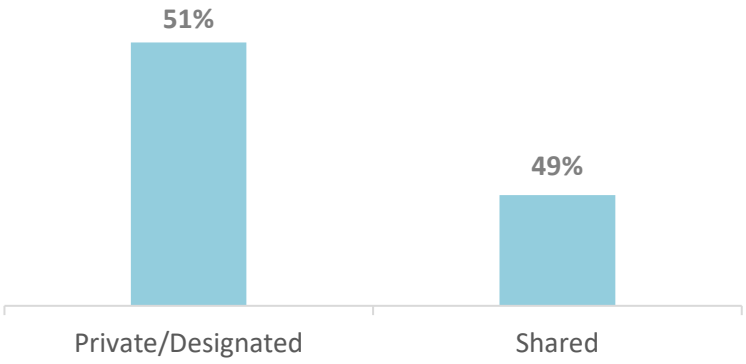


Figure 15: Type of Latrine Availability in ECRC Facilities

Among the functional facilities, the availability of water sources is relatively limited, with only a slight majority of facilities having access. The data (figure 16) indicates that 54% of the facilities have a water source, suggesting that just over half of the centers are equipped to meet basic water needs. In contrast, a substantial proportion, 46%, of facilities do not have any water source, which reflects a critical gap in basic service provision and nearly half of the centers may face significant challenges in ensuring water availability for drinking, sanitation, and other essential uses.

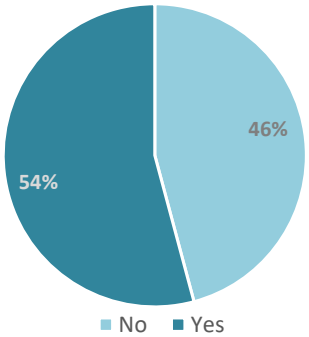


Figure 16: Provision of water sources

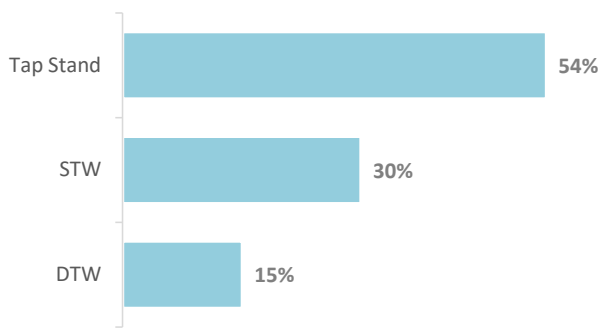


Figure 17: Type of water sources

Among the reported water sources (figure 17), the data indicates that 54% of the facilities rely on tap stands, making it the most commonly used water source and accounting for more than half of all available sources. This is followed by 30% of facilities using shallow tube wells (STW), representing a significant secondary source of water supply. In contrast, only 15% of the facilities depend on deep tube wells (DTW), making it the least utilized option among the three categories.

Site Governance & Coordination

The assessment of Site Governance & Coordination spaces in ECRCs highlights (figure 18) a consistent gap in the availability of dedicated functional areas across all categories. A majority of sites lack key spaces, with 62% missing Camp Management Desk, Community Help Desk/AAP, and Service Mapping display areas, while only 38% have these facilities, indicating limited support for core administrative and accountability functions. Slightly better conditions are observed for community engagement spaces, where 42% of sites have spaces for community representation meetings and 41% have information board locations, though the majority still lack them (58% and 59%, respectively). Overall, the findings show that more than half of ECRC sites are missing essential governance and coordination infrastructure, pointing to significant gaps in effective management, communication, and community participation.

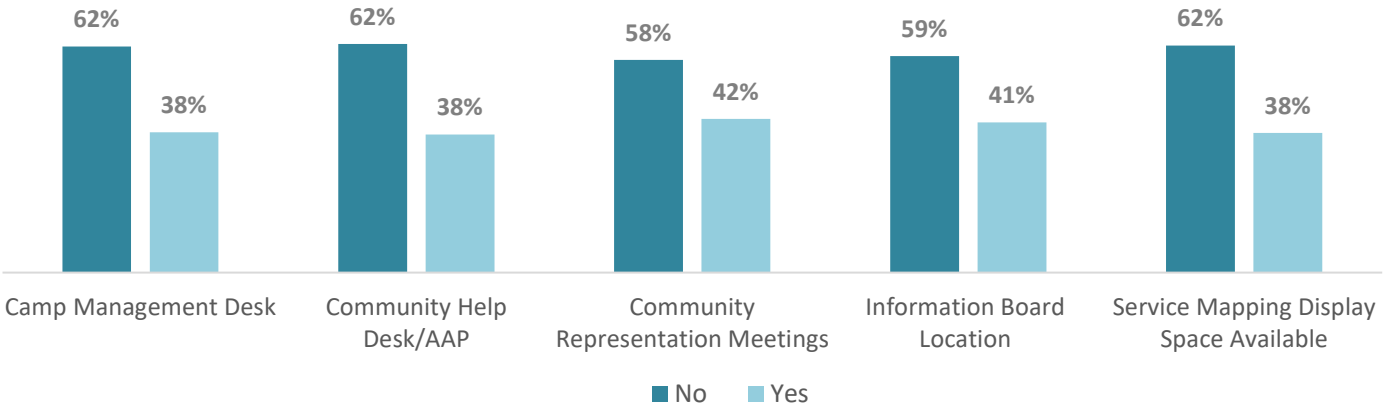


Figure 18: Site Governance & Coordination

Service Accessibility

The chart (figure 19) illustrates key service and facility readiness indicators, showing considerable variation across different services through Yes (availability) and No (absence) responses. Access to nearby health services is moderate, with 44% indicating facilities located within 100 meters of a health facility, while 56% lack this proximity. In contrast, access to functional water points is relatively strong, as 84% of facilities have a functional water point within 50 meters, and only 16% do not. However, space for emergency latrine expansion is limited, with just 46% having adequate space and 54% lacking it. Similarly, availability of laundry space within 50 meters is low, with only 22% compared to a high 78% that have no access, indicating a significant service gap. Provision for livestock and domestic animals is extremely limited, with only 5% and an overwhelming 95%, showing this aspect is largely unmet. Solid waste collection shows moderate availability, with 45% and 55%, suggesting that waste management systems are present in less than half of the facilities. Overall, while water access is a key strength, gaps in sanitation, hygiene facilities, and animal support highlight important areas for improvement.

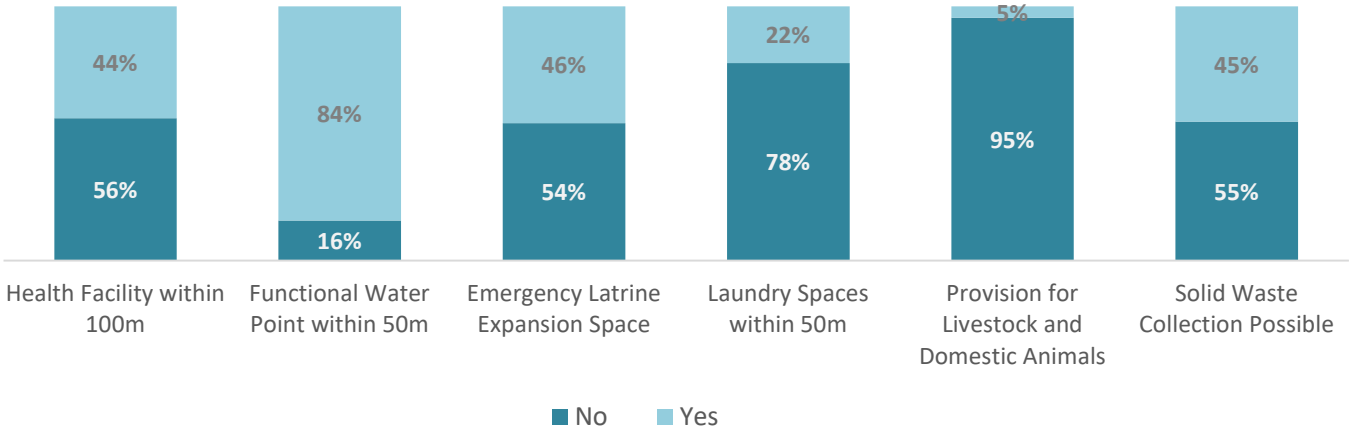


Figure 19: Service Accessibility in ECRC

Protection & Safety Conditions

The chart (figure 20) presents the availability of safety, protection, and inclusive facilities within ECRCs, revealing considerable gaps across most indicators. Facilities supporting vulnerable groups are particularly limited, as only 22% have the spatial or infrastructural capacity to support a dedicated Child-Friendly Safe Area during an emergency and just 11% currently feature a pre-designated or operational Breastfeeding Space, highlighting a vital protection gap for lactating mothers, leaving 78% and 89% without these critical services, respectively. Basic safety infrastructure is also inconsistent, with 66% having lockable and well-lit WASH facilities, yet 34% still lacking them, and only 47% equipped with fire extinguishers or related equipment, compared to 53% without. Other essential safety features remain weak, with just 33% of sites having safe internal circulation paths and 15% ensuring separate cooking areas, indicating widespread gaps in safe movement and living arrangements. Overall, the findings show that while some facilities meet minimum safety standards, the majority lack key protective and inclusive features, highlighting significant shortcomings in ensuring safety, dignity, and risk mitigation within ECRCs.

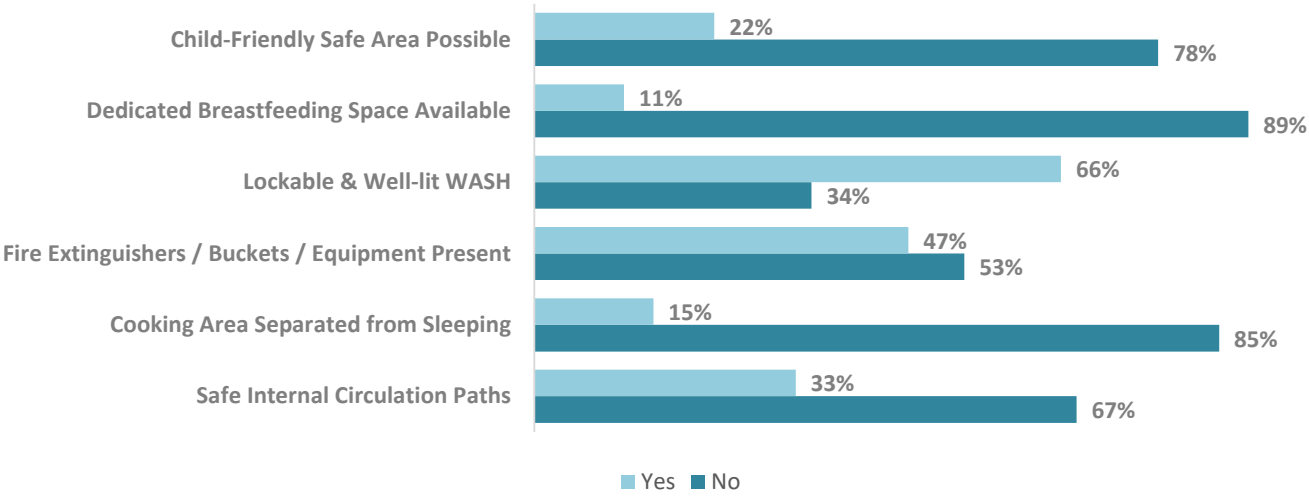


Figure 20: Protection & Safety Conditions of ECRC

Modify Existing Space/Capacity

The utilization of floor area across functional Emergency Communal Relocation Centers (ECRCs) demonstrates high structural efficiency, with 88% of facilities operating at moderate-to-high usability (66% exceeding 80% usable space and 22% within the 50–80% range). However, to ensure full regulatory compliance, safety, and humanitarian dignity, these spaces must be managed through the dual lens of current humanitarian criteria and the statutory standards of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Cyclone Shelter Policy 2011.

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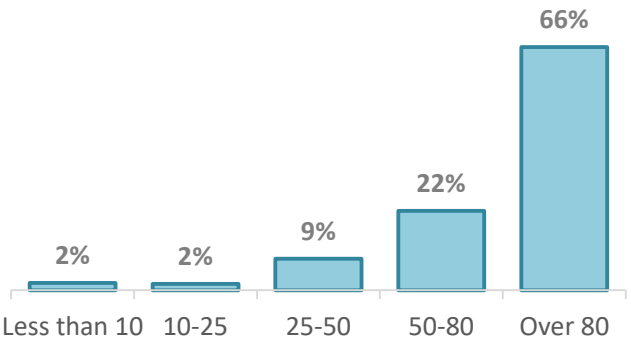

Figure 21: Usable Floor Area in Functional ECRCs

1. Space Allocation & Capacity Thresholds

The GoB Policy establishes baseline parameters through its standard multi-purpose shelter designs (Designs 1, 2, and 3), which implicitly require a space standard of approximately 0.27–0.30m2 per person for short-term emergency occupancy. This aligns directly with the current ECRC short-term emergency standard of 0.28m2/person.

When applying these mandated limits, the ECRC capacity thresholds scale as follows:

- Short-Term Emergency Capacity 0.28m2/person): Total camp capacity stands at 867,028 individuals. Accommodation is concentrated in major infrastructural hubs like Camp 15 (66,250), Camp 13 (48,051), and Camp 7 (38,433), while critical space constraints persist in Camp 4 Extension (11,196), Camp 25 (9,071), and Camp 20 (8,432). As of 30 June 2026, according to UNHCR population data, a total of 1,200,171 individuals are residing across all 33 camps. Of these, 72% (867,028 individuals) can be accommodated in Emergency Cyclone Response Centres (ECRCs) during an emergency.
- Extended Stay / Decongestion Standards (0.5m2 to 0.75m2/person): In line with the GoB policy clause designating these structures strictly for temporary emergency refuge (and explicitly prohibiting long-term displacement usage), any stay extending beyond 24 hours triggers mandatory decongestion. Increasing the footprint to 0.5m2 or 0.75m2 reduces total capacity to 483,919 (a 44% decline) and 322,613 (a 63% decline) respectively. This highlights the critical operational trade-off between maximizing immediate lifesaving intake and maintaining safe, hygienic conditions.

2. Mandatory Zoning and Policy Alignment Gaps

To bring the existing ECRC network into full alignment with the GoB 2011 Policy, the following spatial modifications and zoning rules must be enforced:

Table 3: Mandatory Zoning and Policy Alignment Gaps

GoB Policy 2011 Mandate	Current ECRC Status / Gaps	Required Spatial Modification
Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups: Mandates a reasonably sized, dedicated room reserved specifically for the disabled, helpless, and segregated women.	32% of centers lack disability access; only 11% have breastfeeding spaces, and 41% lack gender-segregated access during crises.	Repurpose existing rooms in learning/ religious centers to establish permanently partitioned, signposted zones for PWDs, EVIs, and lactating mothers.
Livestock & Domestic Animal Provision: Requires designated open areas (e.g., lower floors or platforms) to protect community livestock.	95% of assessed ECRCs completely lack provisions or space for domestic animals.	Formally map and designate the open perimeters or ground floor spaces of the 96% single-storied ECRCs strictly for livestock tethering to prevent mixing with human habitats.
Universal Access & RAMPs: Demands user-friendly RAMP facilities up to the first floor to aid women, children, the elderly, and PWDs.	32% lack basic disability access, and internal safety paths remain heavily restricted.	Retrofit transitional structures with standard grade wooden or bamboo ramps at entryways to ensure rapid, unhindered evacuation.

In strict accordance with Section 2.1 of the National Policy, all ECRCs must maintain an emergency-activation-only status. They are to be opened immediately upon the issuance of Warning Signal No. 4 by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department and must be entirely vacated and sanitized once official warning signals are formally withdrawn. However, Camp DMC authority can alter the compliance scenarios in case of Camp Specific needs in other major disasters when needed.

Table 4: Existing Space/Population Accomodation Capacity

	Short Term Capacity (Considering 0.28m2/ Person) (considering 80%)	Decongested Capacity ($0.5m^2$) (For >24h stay) (considering 80%)	Decongested Capacity ($0.75m^2$) (For >24h stay) (considering 80%)
Camp 01E	29,746	16,675	11,117
Camp 01W	21,292	11,924	7,949
Camp 02E	24,591	13,771	9,181
Camp 02W	29,855	16,157	10,772
Camp 03	24,798	13,447	8,965
Camp 04	31,567	17,174	11,449
Camp 04 Extension	11,196	5,720	3,813
Camp 05	19,129	10,233	6,822
Camp 06	19,571	10,960	7,306
Camp 07	38,433	21,523	14,348
Camp 08E	34,993	19,596	13,064
Camp 08W	20,215	10,953	7,302
Camp 09	36,596	20,494	13,662
Camp 10	23,733	13,291	8,860
Camp 11	34,890	20,585	13,723
Camp 12	27,255	15,263	10,175
Camp 13	48,051	26,528	17,685
Camp 14	26,131	14,633	9,756
Camp 15	66,250	37,009	24,673
Camp 16	28,067	15,520	10,347
Camp 17	17,125	9,646	6,431
Camp 18	23,021	12,320	8,213
Camp 19	35,976	20,612	13,741
Camp 20	8,432	5,267	3,511
Camp 20X	16,492	9,391	6,261
Camp 21	15,298	8,567	5,711
Camp 22	18,459	10,337	6,891
Camp 24	28,860	16,162	10,774
Camp 25	9,071	5,320	3,547
Camp 26	34,269	19,191	12,794
Camp 27	18,276	10,234	6,823
Kutupalong RC	23,034	12,899	8,599
Nayapara RC	22,355	12,519	8,346
Grand Total	**867,028**	**483,919**	**322,613**

Overall ECRC Readiness

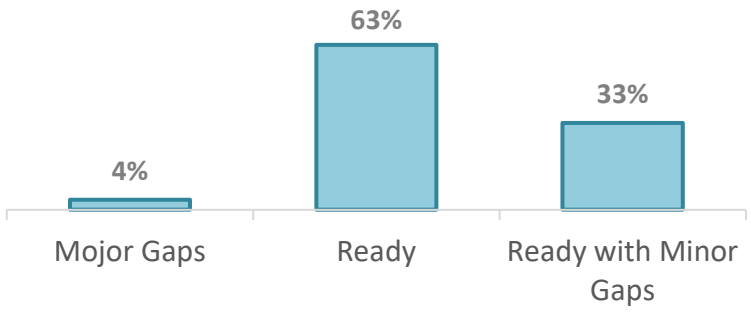

Figure 22: Overall Readiness of ECRCs

The overall readiness assessment shows (figure 22) a largely positive situation across ECRCs, with 63% of facilities fully ready and an additional 33% ready with minor gaps, meaning 96% are operational and capable of supporting emergency needs. Only a small share, 4% of facilities, fall under major gaps, indicating limited critical shortcomings. Overall, while most facilities are ready for use, a considerable portion still requires minor improvements to achieve full operational efficiency.

RECOMMENDATION

- The CiC office, in coordination with SMS, should be formally assigned to inspect, verify, and authorize each ECRC before use, confirming that all basic facilities are functional, safe, and accessible.
- SMS and CiC should conduct regular and periodic monitoring of each ECRC to assess functionality, identify gaps, and determine whether additional development or maintenance is required in line with the ECRC management guideline and minimum standards.
- SMS/CIC should undertake targeted advocacy and community outreach to ensure equitable entry and access for all populations, especially vulnerable groups, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, and children, so that minimum service requirements are met without discrimination.
- Sector focal points of each DMC member should identify and document the minimum sector-specific requirements for ECRC facilities, and these requirements should be integrated into planning, checking, and upgrading processes as guided by the ECRC management framework.
- The CiC should take the lead in forming and activating an ECRC management committee with clear roles, responsibilities, and reporting lines to support coordination, oversight, and accountability.
- SMS should classify ECRC spaces and facilities according to the needs of extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) and ensure gender-sensitive arrangements, including safe access, privacy, lighting, segregation where required, and appropriate protection measures.
- First responders should receive training and operational guidance on relocating populations, with special attention to EVIs, so that evacuation and movement are carried out safely, respectfully, and without unnecessary delay.
- A standardized ECRC checklist should be introduced for pre-authorization and routine inspections, covering safety, water, sanitation, accessibility, privacy, lighting, ventilation, and emergency preparedness.
- Clear thresholds for “usable,” “partially usable,” and “not usable” should be defined so that decisions on ECRC readiness are consistent across locations.
- A referral and escalation mechanism should be established so that facility deficiencies identified by CiC or SMS are quickly reported and addressed by the relevant authority.
- ECRC management should include feedback from the community and users, especially women, EVIs, and persons with disabilities, to improve relevance and usability of the facilities.
- A training and refresher plan should be developed for CiC staff, SMS staff, DMC focal points, and first responders on ECRC standards, protection principles, and emergency relocation procedures.
- Routine monitoring should be documented through simple reporting templates so that gaps, corrective actions, and follow-up status can be tracked over time.

CONCLUSION

The 2026 ECRC assessment indicates a generally strong level of preparedness across Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, with most facilities functional and operationally viable for emergency use. The high proportion of sites classified as fully ready or ready with minor gaps highlights the important role ECRCs can play in supporting emergency relocation. Additionally, the availability of usable space, functional solar lighting, and the adaptability of facilities not previously used as shelters further strengthen their potential for effective activation. However, several gaps may affect emergency response capacity. While accessibility during heavy rainfall is relatively good and most facilities are located outside major hazard zones, significant shortcomings exist in internal safety features, including limited availability of emergency fire exits and separate entry and exit points. Gaps in WASH services and water source availability persist, alongside uneven access to gender and disability-inclusive infrastructure. Structural weaknesses, particularly in roofing, and limited governance and coordination spaces further constrain effective use. Overall, while the ECRC network provides a solid foundation, targeted improvements are needed to enhance safety, inclusivity, and service readiness across all facilities.

ANNEX:

DASHBOARD LINK: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/377c424f656e48c395103d9f14b0ba26

CAMP-WISE MAP OF ECRC: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17e8CE55n2esTdTTe4SJaZrdZ5UeEJTp_/view?usp=sharing

LIST OF ECRC: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ymrjCDIv19RvF25jYK__nXSMp7UY8HwP/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104440974710571322522&rtpof=true&sd=true