

# IOM Bangladesh: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Response External Update

16—22 February 2018



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

## 900,000

Rohingya Population in Cox's Bazar District

## 688,000

New Rohingya Arrivals since 25 August 2017 in Cox's Bazar

## 1.2 Million

People in Need in Cox's Bazar



An IOM shelter trainer demonstrates to Rohingya refugees how to improve shelters during a hands-on learning session. ©IOM 2018/Keisuke Kamiya

## Key Highlights

- ◆ **IOM and the Government of Bangladesh's Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)** are exploring the options to expand the current partnership. IOM and CPP are working together on preparedness training, early warning systems, evacuation, search and rescue, sheltering, and first aid.
- ◆ This week, **IOM distributed 8,000 Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs)** in Zones JJ, LL, SS, and XX (Camps 8W, 9, 10, and 18). Since the beginning of February, **11,195 households have benefitted from USKs**. The USKs include materials and tools to **carry out simple shelter upgrades and household level site improvements** such as soil stabilization, slope protection, and drainage improvements. Shelter Mobile Teams (SMTs) have been established to provide **technical support to the families receiving USKs**.
- ◆ IOM is currently finalizing an **assessment of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services** and **planning a more comprehensive assessment of local capacities for psychosocial and mental health services** through the MHPSS Working Group.





## Situation Overview

Since 25 August 2017, an estimated **688,000** Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh fleeing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, increasing the total Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar to over **900,000**. New arrivals are living in spontaneous settlements with an increasing need of humanitarian assistance—including shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation.

Additionally, with the rainy season fast approaching, there is an urgent need to continue **strengthening preparedness**

**measures and raising awareness among the refugee population regarding potential landslide and flood risks.**

In order to respond to these risks collectively and comprehensively, **IOM continues to work closely with the Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian community.** IOM and its partners continue to scale up operations to respond to the needs of new arrivals, existing Rohingya, and affected host communities.

## IOM Response

### Shelter/Non Food Items (NFIs)

IOM is coordinating the Shelter/NFI Sector

IOM continues its shelter upgrade activities to reduce disaster risks and to improve overall living conditions in the camps and makeshift settlements.

During the reporting period, **IOM distributed 8,000 Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs)** in Zones JJ, LL, SS, and XX (Camps 8W, 9, 10, and 18). Since the beginning of February, 11,195 households have benefitted from USKs. The USKs include materials and tools to **carry out simple shelter upgrades and household level site improvements** such as soil stabilization, slope protection, and drainage improvements.

Shelter Mobile Teams (SMTs) have also been established to provide **technical support to families receiving USKs.** **Over 200 families started upgrading their shelters** using USKs and the technical skills acquired during the orientation sessions.

A **Training of Trainers (ToT) on basic guidance for shelter upgrades and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** was organized from 18 to 20 February for 20 IOM and partner agency staff. Shelter/DRR orientations will continue to be delivered among 200 households per day.



Shelter roof raising using USKs. ©IOM 2018



## Site Management & Site Development

IOM is coordinating the Site Management and Site Development Sector

In anticipation of the rainy season, IOM will **relocate over one thousand households identified to be in high-risk areas** in Teknaf. The relevant technical teams started assessing the areas, with community consultations and social preparation carried out through the Para Development Committees (PDCs).

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IOM has established Youth Safety & Security Committees within each PDC and trained the members to build the **capacity of the community to respond to emergencies**. Following fire incidents in Leda and Shamlapur, IOM has installed firefighting tools and trained community members to prevent new incidents. This is done in partnership with Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD).

A total of 121 community meetings on **waste management, fire safety, flood preparation, landslides, cyclones** and other urgent concerns in the community were organized in Camp 9.

**Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)** across three sites in Teknaf have started, benefitting both refugees and host communities. The PDCs mobilized a total of **780 Cash for Work (CfW) labourers**, with half of them refugees and the

other half members of host communities. Additionally, in Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site (Camp 9), 81 Rohingya refugees were engaged in CfW for improving drainages, assisting newly arrived families, and relocations of households.



Plot preparation in Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site. ©IOM 2018

A total of **450 plots have been cleared and levelled in preparation for households to be relocated** from the Extension of Football Field Road (Camp 10). Further **Road demarcation work** is ongoing. A reconnaissance survey for NN road was conducted to explore possible and suitable alignment, the number and location of culverts, and identifying shelters, public infrastructure, and WASH facilities affected by the road alignment.



PDC meeting in Leda. ©IOM 2018

### What is a PDC?

PDCs are **community platforms** in which both the refugees and host communities have a chance to participate more meaningfully in defining solutions to identified needs and gaps.





## Health

IOM works with the Health Sector and the Ministry of Health to strengthen primary healthcare services

11 IOM medical clinics and nine IOM-supported Government healthcare facilities continue reporting through the Early Warning, Alert, and Response System (EWARS) online platform. EWARS is designed to **improve disease outbreak detection in emergency settings**.

The cumulative number of consultations from **25 August 2017 to 17 February 2018** is **231,472** (**135,059** in Ukhiya and **96,413** in Teknaf). From **4 to 17 February 2018**, **12,240** consultations took place (**7,640** in Ukhiya and **4,600** in Teknaf).

IOM is currently finalizing **an assessment of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services** and planning a more comprehensive assessment of local capacities for psychosocial and mental health services through the MHPSS Working Group. **Over 1,300 children have received psychosocial support from IOM** in Cox's Bazar since the current influx began.

IOM continues to train MHPSS staff and partners, and organize **trainings for psychosocial support workers, medical officers, and nurses on psychological first aid, caring for SGBV patients, and disseminating self-care skills**.

In preparation for the rainy season, IOM is planning to



*PSS activities with children. ©IOM 2018*

conduct **first aid trainings for all Majhis** and distribute **first aid kits**.

All health centres require retrofitting with **weather-resistant facilities** in preparation for the rainy season (e.g. improvements to WASH facilities, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), and waste management).



## Resilience and Environment Management

The recently established Resilience and Environment Management (REM) Unit oversees longer-term programming to complement the humanitarian response.

The REM Unit is currently working on a livelihoods project jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that aims to **improve food and nutrition security for host community and refugee populations** in Cox's Bazar. To date, **500 farmers received agricultural training**. These 500 farmers are also part of the **newly formed Farmer Field School (FFS)**, a group-based learning system that brings together concepts and methods of agroecology, experimental cropping, and community development.

Members of the FFS are divided into groups consisting of 5 to 10 farmers who meet weekly under the guidance of one of the 32 trained facilitators. The FFS groups will soon receive 72 mini-tillers, 72 high-efficiency irrigation pumps, and government-provided inputs (e.g. seeds, fertilizers).

In coordination with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) office, 25,000 refugee households were selected to receive **micro-gardening kits**. Another 25,000 kit recipients have been identified in the host communities through Community Agriculture Rehabilitation and Implementation Committees, using vulnerability as a criteria for final selection.



## Protection

In Cox's Bazar, IOM is responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP), Counter Trafficking (CT), and general Protection issues.

This week, a Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training was organized for 90% of the field staff from the Site Management and Site Development Unit.

IOM is currently finalizing the drawing and messaging of a comic, which will be used as a tool to **raise awareness on Trafficking in Persons (TiP)**.

To date, a total of **15,203** Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) have been identified, **4,307 individuals have been provided with Psychological First Aid**, 1,868 individuals were facilitated with Health Referrals, and **37 Victims of Trafficking have been identified and assisted**.

A lack of suitably qualified national female staff in Cox's Bazar is hindering a gender-balanced working environment. A qualified female national staff was hired to a core position recently, and the management continues to actively redress this in the Protection and all other teams.



55% of Rohingya refugees are children or youths with specific protection needs. ©IOM 2017/Olivia Headon

## Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation

**110 Deep Tube Wells (DTWs)** have been completed to date since the influx began, serving an estimated **110,000 users**. The construction and installation of 136 DTWs is ongoing in Zones MM, NN, SS, XX, WW, JJ, TT, and ZZ, and construction of 43 is ongoing in host villages Chapotkhali, Dhakkin Pannasia, and Tolatoli.

**1,949 emergency latrines and mobile toilets** have been constructed to date, serving approximately **97,450 individuals** in Zones BB, SS, XX, WW, MM, RR, LL, QQ, AA, EE, Unchprang, Shamlapur, and Hindu Para. The construction of

549 household and 27 community latrines is ongoing.

**112 wash rooms have been constructed to date and are ready to use**, with 12 more currently under construction.

To enhance good hygiene practices, **28,881 Hygiene Kits, 13,665 Jerry cans**, and **220,021 bars of soap** have been distributed to date.

The drilling of pilot boreholes in Leda is ongoing under the supervision of Groundwater Relief. A second borehole drilling has reached a depth of 150 meters, and the drilling rig for a third borehole has been installed.



## Inter-Sector Coordination Group



IOM is hosting the sector based coordination structure for the Rohingya Crisis Response

The Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), hosted by IOM, is coordinating the overall Rohingya Refugee Crisis. ISCG facilitates timely, coordinated, needs-based, and evidence-driven humanitarian assistance for efficient use of resources and to avoid duplication, and produces regular Situation [Reports](#) and [4W maps and data](#). ISCG is working closely with the Sector lead agencies to finalize the Joint Response Plan 2018, expected to be released on 1 March 2018.

## Resources

IOM Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) is pleased to share its latest Geographic Information System (GIS) products including maps, drone imagery, Shapefiles, etc.) and other tools created by the NPM unit. All of these products are available for download [here](#).

These are also available on [HDX](#), and [humanitarianresponse.info](#) for public access.

## IOM in the news

### Rohingya Children Draw Their Dreams: And It Looks Like Home...

IOM (16 February 2018)

**Cox's Bazar** – When 10-year-old Ansarullah was asked to draw his dream and greatest wish, he drew a house. So did almost every other of the 25 Rohingya refugee children who took part in a recent drawing activity session run by IOM's psychosocial support team in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Click [here](#) for the full article.



## IOM Contacts

### IOM HQ GENEVA

Preparedness and Response Division

✉ [prd@iom.int](mailto:prd@iom.int)

Donor Relations Division

✉ [drd@iom.int](mailto:drd@iom.int)

Follow us on:



[www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

### IOM BANGLADESH

Manuel Marques Pereira

✉ [mpereira@iom.int](mailto:mpereira@iom.int)

Abdusattor Esoev

✉ [aesoev@iom.int](mailto:aesoev@iom.int)

Peppi Siddiq

✉ [pksiddiq@iom.int](mailto:pksiddiq@iom.int)

Programme Support Unit CXB

✉ [cxbpsu@iom.int](mailto:cxbpsu@iom.int)

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