

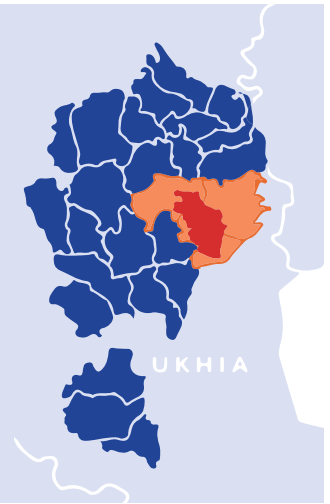
ONE MONTH LATER

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since March 22, IOM has been responding to the massive fire that broke out in three IOM-managed camps (9, 8W, 8E) in the Kutupalong area in Cox’s Bazar. According to the Rapid Joint Needs Assessment, the disaster affected 48,267 individuals, including 24,809 women and girls.

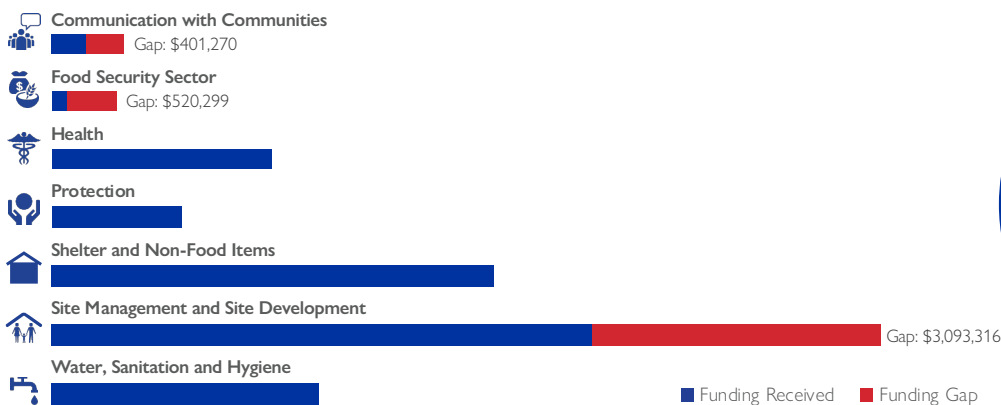
IOM continues to assist affected refugees and host community members with their immediate needs. Since day one, refugees have been able to access live-saving services, such as food, water, protection and health services, emergency shelters and non-food items. Nonetheless, IOM is now focused on the long-term needs of those affected. Rebuilding efforts have already started, access roads have been cleared, some facilities rehabilitated and services reinstated.

Efforts to protect those affected are ongoing and coordination with other humanitarian actors is continuously strengthened to ensure a coherent response. Despite these efforts, with the monsoon season ahead, significant challenges remain. IOM is mobilizing all its resources to ensure the urgent and long-term needs of all those affected are met, and that fire preparedness mechanisms are in place to prevent and mitigate similar incidents.

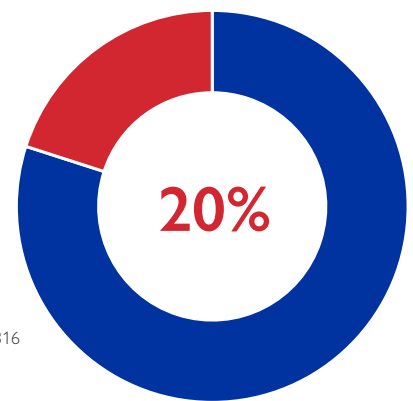


One month later, with access roads cleared and facilities rehabilitated, rebuilding efforts are already noticeable. ©IOM2021

FIRE RESPONSE: FUNDING RECEIVED



FUNDING GAP

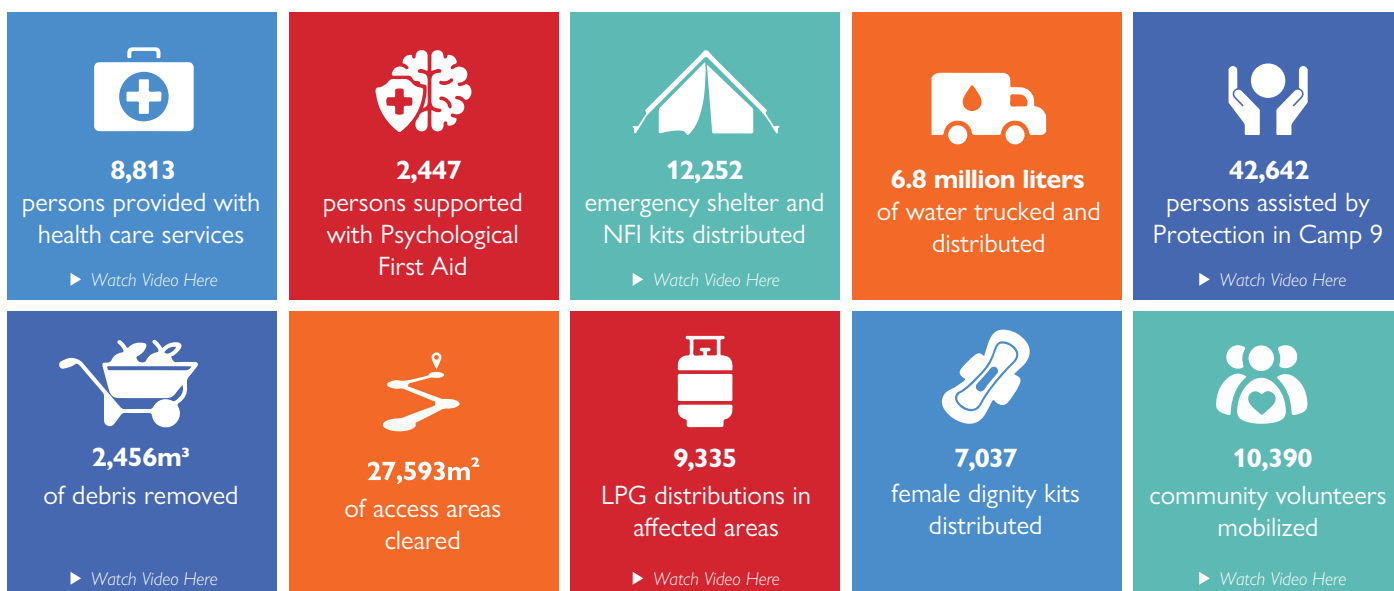


IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Prior to the fire, IOM had projected a total of USD 139 million as its Humanitarian Needs for 2021. This new tragedy brings a considerable increase in costs for IOM’s operations for 2021 as more than USD 20 million had to be allocated to the fire response. While donors quickly provided support to address immediate needs, 20% of the requested amount has not been funded yet.

The remaining funds urgently needed will be directed at mobilizing additional staff, community mobilizers and volunteers to support the response and rebuild the camp from the ground up. IOM also aims to engage community members, particularly women, in several livelihoods projects that will give them access to tailored income-generating activities.

IOM RESPONSE



Since the fire, IOM has deployed 69 Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs), including midwives and Mental Health and Psychosocial (MHPSS) staff and volunteers. The team also set up a temporary health post in the place of the damaged Primary Healthcare Centre in Camp 9. To date, 8,813 affected people have been assisted with healthcare services, 530 people suffering from injuries or burns in relation to the fire have been treated, and 19,856 risk communication and community engagement activities have been conducted.

As the Protection lead in Camp 9, IOM is coordinating other protection actors, forming mobile teams comprised of Rohingya volunteers and staff specialized to support in General Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection and Counter-Trafficking. Since the incident, IOM and the integrated inter-agency protection teams have assisted 42,642 people.

Responding to the most urgent needs, Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI) teams have distributed 12,252 emergency shelter and NFI kits, and 9,335 LPG cylinders and stoves to replace the ones lost. In coordination with WFP, IOM launched the distribution of SCOPE cards so affected individuals could access NFIs according to their needs.

After assessing the damage, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) teams distributed 8,103 hygiene kits and 7,099 menstrual hygiene management kits, repaired 1,391 critical WASH facilities such as water points and latrines, installed nine water bladders and 6.8 million liters of water trucked and distributed.

The Site Maintenance and Engineering Project has been leading the cleaning campaign in fire-affected areas unblocking drains and roads. A total of 5,034 days of work have been paid through Cash-for-Work (CfW) activities, and 17,143m² of drainage, 24,995m² of ground and 978m³ of garbage have been cleared. Site Management and Site Development teams have in turn focused their efforts on coordinating the partners on the ground, mobilizing 1,765 staff and 10,390 community volunteers, as well as 22,294 laborers for CfW activities.

In response to the fire, Transition and Recovery teams of IOM immediately mobilized its resources to assist 149 host community households with emergency shelter and NFI kits. Extending its assistance, the teams also distributed 61,700 masks, 2,000 hand sanitizers, 400 goggles, 209 vests, 209 helmets, 209 pairs of gumboots, 1,500 gloves, and four fire extinguishers.

Under the coordination of the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the Needs and Population Monitoring team conducted a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment. In coordination with WFP and TRD, the team conducted surveys with host community households affected by the fire, which provided an overview of the needs of host communities.

Voices from the Field: Mohammad Alam, Rohingya Volunteer

"It seems that the Rohingya community who was trying to forget the traumas of the past has once again being traumatized. I never thought that I was going to be faced such horrific incidents as the 2017 violence in Myanmar. People are grieving – for their loved ones, for their possessions, for their lives back home.

When we first came here, the camp wasn't as structured as it is now so I am hopeful that these efforts can now be replicated for the fire response. People and humanitarian organizations are now aware what the needs are and how to respond to them. You can already see the immense progress that has been done in just under a month."

Mohammad Alam is a Rohingya volunteer working with IOM's Communication with Communities (CwC) team in Cox's Bazar. These volunteers are essential in supporting aid agencies to disseminate key information to refugees. Since the fire, CwC partners have reached over 111,000 refugees and host community members through awareness-raising activities.



The continuity of life-saving services for the Rohingya refugees affected by the fire on March 2021 is currently possible thanks to the support of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UNCERF), the EU Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Government of the Republic of Korea, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).