

December 2019



FEMALE BENEFICIARIES TAKE PART IN A 16-DOA ACTIVITY IN A WOMAN AND GIRL'S SAFE SPACE IN ROHINGYA CAMPS © IOM 2019



719,920

Rohingya arrivals since 25 August 2017



932,940

Rohingya in Cox's Bazar



1.2 million

people in need

Refugees lead the way in marking 16 Days of Activism

IOM marked 16 Days of Activism (16 DoA) with a full slate of events, awareness raising activities, exhibitions and events as part of the global effort to challenge Gender-Based Violence (GBV) against women and girls. Female beneficiaries from both the Rohingya and host communities took a lead role in designing activities focused on women's empowerment and skills building, comprising an extension of the Women's Leadership Training of Trainers (ToT) programme.

Originating in 1991 by the first Women's Global Leadership Institute, 16 Days of Activism has since expanded, today observed by over 6,000 organisations across 187 countries. The campaign runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, until 10 December — International Human Rights Day. Each year a new theme is chosen to define the goals of the campaign. For 2019, countries and organizations across the world united under the commonly observed slogan: "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape!".

Key issues raised during 16 DoA include conflict-related sexual violence, campus violence, rape within homes, rape and sexual harassment in public spaces, and child marriage. The campaign also explores broader issues such as rape culture and

consent. As GBV is a sensitive subject, especially in more conservative or traditional cultures, 16-Days of Activism observance in Cox's Bazar prioritised open discussions and exchanges around these issues, emphasizing their relevance in both the refugee and host communities.

Responding to a clear and defined need, IOM has developed programmes to address Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) in response to refugee experiences back in Myanmar. CRSV Support Services and Mitigation in Cox's Bazar is being implemented within camps located in Ukihya and Teknaf, as well as across peripheral areas of mixed refugee and host communities in the Cox's Bazar District.

The effort focuses on mitigating risks and preventing GBV as well as improving the quality of health services for survivors. IOM's Protection GBV programme manager Megan Denise Smith explains that the 16 DoA events help to raise awareness around GBV in the local community: "The immediate needs of the refugees in terms of health and nutrition are being met, which creates space for us to address critical issues of rape and GBV. The event was well received and is having a real impact in generating open and meaningful discussions about an otherwise sensitive subject."

IN BRIEF

- Following heavy rains late in the monsoon season, a spike in Acute Watery Diarrhoea was localized in the southern camps and host communities. WASH and Health teams responded with both prevention and treatment efforts and by late December the situation was brought under control.
- IOM has stepped up its monitoring and exploration of underground water resources in and around the refugee camps. In cooperation with Dhaka University, the programme aims to measure and manage subterranean water resources currently used in water sources accessible to affected populations.
- The Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF) and 16 Days of Activism were impressive successes during the month. The GMFF attracted crowds of viewers to films that included a locally-produced documentary on the Rohingya. Around the same time, IOM Protection's 16 Days of Activism organized and oversaw a series of events widely observed across the camps to tackle gender-based violence.

HEALTH

Health consultations top 650,000

IOM Health rounded off 2019 marking 653,914 outpatient consultations for the year, with over 52,000 conducted during the month of December. A total of 13,223 children five years or younger (25% of the total) received treatment at health facilities. Upper respiratory tract infections continued to be the majority of the cases (20%) treated. IOM's sexual and reproductive health services supported 231 facility-based deliveries and 2,994 antenatal care sessions. From those cases, 693 received post-natal care. On December 1st, IOM celebrated World AIDS Day with Bangladesh's National AIDS and STD Programme (NASP). IOM was recognised for its counselling, testing and treatment services in the camps and its collaboration with the Ministry of Health to fill gaps in the provision of care for refugees living with HIV/AIDS.

Response and prevention for disease in the camps

A spike in Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) that begun in September 2019 and is now largely under control, with no cases detected since 14 December 2019. As a preventative measure, an oral cholera vaccine campaign was inaugurated on 8 December 2019 by the health sector in which 162,871 children were vaccinated camp-wide. IOM has contributed through community mobilisation, coordination and door-to-door vaccination of children by

health care workers, community health volunteers and camp health focal persons.

Health also detected 199 measles cases in IOM clinics across the camps in December and responded by strengthening case management at camp-level health facilities. A half-day training for 106 medical staff on measles management and surveillance was held, aimed at enhancing response capacity and skills. Meanwhile, 18 health facilities have been supplied with Vitamin A capsules for management of measles cases. A measles and rubella vaccination campaign is planned for January 2020 to cover all children living in and around the camps.

Beneficiaries access MHPSS services

During the month of December, IOM supported beneficiary mental health and wellbeing through the provision of counselling, group sessions, family support and awareness raising sessions to 164 men and 360 women hailing from the host and refugee communities. Meanwhile, an additional 1,136 beneficiaries were reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services.

MHPSS support for victims of gender-based violence continued by linking survivors to counselling, medical and legal support. IOM's Health team also observed 16 Days of Activism with activities focused on awareness and psychoeducation amongst women, key leaders and caregivers.



HEALTH COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
© IOM 2019

Total referral cases decrease for month of December

A total of 165 critically ill patients were referred for emergency health care at secondary and tertiary facilities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong. Patients received specialised care in Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital (CSH) while 12 more severe cases were referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Obstetrics and Gynaecological emergencies were the most common among all referrals, constituting 19% of all emergencies.

Compared to previous months, total referral cases were down although overall surgical cases remained constant. The ongoing restriction of 3G networks in the camps continued to hamper communication between care providers, referral teams and ambulance crews.

NEEDS AND POPULATION MONITORING (NPM)

NPM launches a Cyclone related Knowledge Attitudes and Practices Survey (KAP)

In late December, NPM was part of an inter-agency assessment which aimed to improve understanding of communities' current awareness of, experiences of, access to information about, and mitigation strategies against cyclones. It is being implemented in collaboration with NPM, Translators without Borders, REACH Initiative, UNDP, BDRCS, and IFRC. The exercise will collect 500 surveys from Rohingya refugees and 784 from the host community.

Data collection commenced on 29 December 2019 and will conclude in mid-January 2020. Cox's Bazar is located in one of the world's most storm-prone regions and IOM has prioritised cyclone risk

mitigation in both the refugee and host communities.

Political economy assessment improves understandings of local microeconomies

Between 1-15 December, NPM participated in a pilot Political Economy assessment in which enumerators collected information on markets within the local economy, conducting a micro-household economic study. Findings will be used to highlight trends in household economics including lending, borrowing and coping strategies.

Analysis hub maps findings

In December, the ACAPS/NPM Analysis hub created a database that compiles all metadata on the Rohingya crisis since 2017 for use in an "analysis eco-system" report. This effort will map findings in

Cox's Bazar in order to identify gaps, make recommendations, and produce relevant analysis. NPM is under the process of obtaining permission from the Ministry of Defence to use drones to collect high resolution imagery in the camps.



NPM DRONE IMAGERY FROM EARLY IN THE RESPONSE © IOM 2019

16 Days of Activism observed with events across Cox's Bazar

IOM marked 16 Days of Activism through events and awareness-raising activities focused on Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention at home, work, and in the community. Alongside ActionAid, UNICEF, UN Women, and World Vision, IOM organised a panel discussion on equitable access to GBV services. High-level representatives such as the Ambassador of Norway, heads of humanitarian agencies and the RRRC participated in the event, resulting in a localised GBV 'call to action'.

World Disability Day was also observed at the Leda Multipurpose Centre engaging beneficiaries from across the camps, including women with disabilities. In 2019, IOM introduced a slate of programmes to improve disability inclusion. This event also showcased skills of trained women in handicrafts, cooking and tailoring from IOM and ICCO's Women's Income Generating Support (WINGS) project and the Leda women's committee.

Film Festival a hit with Bangladeshis

Crowds of filmgoers flocked to the Bangladesh component of the Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF), which took place in over 100 locations globally. The festival began on December 10th – Human Rights Day - and concluded on December 18th – International Migrants' Day, during which a slate of international films showcased the experiences of migrants from around the world. Each showing was followed by a lively discussion based on the evening's content. IOM opened the festival with a film related to the Rohingya entitled *The Birth Land*. Director Proshoon Rahman was on location to answer questions from the audience. The GMFF organised two screenings of the film in high schools across Cox's Bazar. Additionally, an arts workshop and jazz concert were held with the local community to celebrate the festival.

World AIDS Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed in Cox's Bazar

IOM observed World AIDS Day on December 1st with events taking place in the Kutupalong camps, featuring discussions around the realities of those affected by AIDS. Recreational activities



BENEFICIARIES PARTICIPATE IN WORLD DISABILITY DAY ACTIVITIES DURING 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM, LEDA MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE © IOM 2019

and cartoons helped attendees understand difficulties experienced by persons living with this illness. On the following day, IOM observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, attended by IOM Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri and the RRRC's Mahbubur Rahman Talukder in Camp 24. The event and its participants acknowledged the difficulties that persons with disabilities face in emergency settings.

Counter-Trafficking coordination and capacity developed

IOM and its implementing partners have conducted trainings in order to improve counter-human trafficking services in the Rohingya refugee camps, as well as increase coordination with the government, local communities and religious leaders. During the month of December, 335 awareness-raising sessions on counter trafficking were held towards this end, in which 7,383 participants participated across the span of 10 meetings and orientations. IOM also distributed 2,203 awareness raising resources such as comic pocket books and visibility materials, as well as providing support to 27 Victims of Trafficking (VoT) whom had been identified. Of these 27, 12 were provided with livelihood support such a cash crops, while one victim identified in Chattogram was given legal and return assistance to the camps.

IOM supported UNDP with four policy-training sessions that included basic concepts of human trafficking and referrals. In coordination with OXFAM,

IOM conducted a one-day training session on Counter Trafficking to enhance the capacity of Oxfam staff on victim identification and referrals.

Child Protection awareness raising sessions conducted

As part of the many campaigns and days of observance celebrated this month, the Child Protection team organised an awareness raising session on issues such as early child marriage and caregiving at the multipurpose hall in camp 23 on 9 December 2019. Around 50 volunteers from Rohingya Disaster Management Units, Para Development Committees, Block and Sub-Block Majhis, and Idea Box teams attended.

HIGHLIGHTS



27
Victims of Trafficking supported



7,383
attendees at Counter Trafficking meetings



2,203
awareness-raising materials distributed

SITE MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING PROJECT (SMEP)



SMEP WORKER SUPPORTS ROAD REPAIR EFFORTS TO ENSURE CAMP ACCESS © IOM 2019

cleaning is ongoing at Jamtoli, camp 15, with 90% already complete out of 168 square metres. A total of 912 square metres was cleared, meanwhile, in Camp 8W, and 845 square metres cleared at the Police Post in Camp 12; curb and gutter drainage installation is ongoing at the ACF, Oxfam and North army road with 65% already complete. Finally, 2,200 square metres of earth road installation and 400 square metres of drainage installation has been completed at Camp 20 ext while 500 square metres of road repair, around 4,000 square metres of drainage clearance and 18 square metres of culvert repair has been completed in Unchiprang.

Drainage, roads upgraded

In preparation for the rainy season, SMEP completed upgrades, repairs and new infrastructure construction in and around the camps. This included a crib wall at the Camp 10 IOM Health post, along with nearby slope stabilisation to prevent landslides. Drainage improvement has also

been a focus for IOM's rainy-season and cyclone preparations. In Camp 5 near the bamboo storage area, SMEP extended the army road and installed a curb and gutter to improve drainage, totalling around 187 square metres. About 4,000 square metres of drainage was cleared while 250 square metres of drainage was installed. Meanwhile, drainage installation and

HIGHLIGHTS



4,000 sqm
of drainage cleared



2.2km
of roads installed

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

Dry weather supports Shelter team upgrades

IOM's Shelter team took advantage of the cold season's calm, dry weather of by accelerating its upgrade programme in and around the Rohingya refugee camps. A total of 26,183 beneficiaries received support through the Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) programme, which transitions refugees from emergency shelters into larger, more secure homes.

A total of 4,813 households (HHs) participated in 'Shelter Upgrade and Maintenance' under IOM's TSA programme with 4,837 HHs receiving shelter materials that included ropes and metal footings. Vouchers were distributed to 5,692 HHs, entitling them to tarps, bamboo, rope, wire, cement, jute bags and a padlock and chain. The voucher programme offers refugees greater decision-making power in the types of assistance they receive.

Also during the month of December, 412 Households with Special Shelter Needs (HHSSN) were supported with material transportation and shelter upgrades under the TSA programme. Shelter support was provided to two households affected by weather and other shocks. A total of 47 mid-term shelters were completed and are now ready for the Site Management teams to relocate households from congested or flood-prone areas.



BAMBOO POLES BEING READIED FOR USE IN ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS © IOM 2019



PIECES OF BORAK BAMBOO DRY AT IOM'S BAMBOO TREATMENT FACILITY © IOM 2019

IOM project sparks hopes of transforming Cox's Bazar into a bamboo hub

At the IOM Bamboo Treatment Facility in Cox's Bazar, workers busily transfer the latest batch of green poles from a six-foot-deep pond to the nearby drying station. The bamboo spent seven days in a bath of water and borates – a naturally-occurring pesticide. By infusing the poles in the solution, the bamboo lifespan increases from one or two years to five. After a few days drying in Bangladesh's warm climate, the poles will be trucked off to the nearby Rohingya refugee camps and crafted into shelters and public buildings.

Completed in 2019, the Bamboo Treatment Facility is the largest bamboo procurement effort in the humanitarian world and forms part of a new initiative that could help this region of eastern Bangladesh become a hub for the international bamboo market. IOM works closely with the newly-established Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) to improve quality and sustainability of this lucrative product that boasts impressive international potential.

When nearly one million Rohingya refugees arrived in 2017 and exhibited immediate need of housing, bamboo was the

natural choice due to its strength, abundance and low cost. Over the ensuing years, humanitarian demand has created a market for readily-available and inexpensive bamboo and more than 24 million poles are estimated to have been harvested for the refugee response. Along with high demand, however, has come questions around whether bamboo farms were harvesting plants too early and over-taxing local supplies. For a period, demand started to outstrip supply and as a result, some plants were being harvested too young. According to BFRI, 80% of the nation's bamboo is grown on private farms, meaning the harvesting has limited impact on local forests. But harvesting bamboo prematurely can mean a weaker, more vulnerable product because bamboo requires

time to build up its cell structure. Making this resource viable as a long-term local industry necessitates developing the bamboo supply chain into a sustainable industry to outlast the relief effort. "It's better to harvest during the dry season to avoid damaging the young emerging shoots," said Kevin Rowell a bamboo expert supporting IOM's initiative. For these reasons IOM, in partnership with BFRI, has worked to establish a sustainable supply chain that includes training and for farmers and bamboo brokers.

Trainees are taught about sustainable cultivation, harvest and care of bamboo, and are shown the best varieties for their particular areas. The pilot programme will initially target around 30 businesses.

"Bamboo is one of the oldest building materials in the region - so in a way we are supporting the use of a resource that has been invaluable here for thousands of years," said Rowell. This approach positions Bangladesh to set its sights on the booming international market for eco-friendly materials, estimated at USD 60 billion a year, according to the International Network of Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR.)

Bamboo is being pinned as an alternative to wood for everything from building supplies to cups and clothing fabric. By jumpstarting the local market and enhancing local quality control – Bangladesh could become a significant player.

"Bamboo is more environmentally friendly than, say tropical teak. When you harvest bamboo, you aren't killing the whole plant. It actually grows in clumps, so you are just cutting a few poles. Bamboo's rapid growth and adaptability to various regions and high absorption of CO2 also means it can help regenerate degraded land while offering more benefit for family farms," Rowell added.



WORKERS CARRY TREATED PIECES OF BORAK AT IOM'S BAMBOO TREATMENT FACILITY © IOM 2019



CANAL FENCING IN THE CAMPS © IOM 2019

In other developments:

- CwC completed a large community consultation on Rohingya social organisations. The consultation included extensive engagement of Rohingya involved in leadership and civil society organisations. The consultation forms the basis of IOM's upcoming plans on community representation.
- In Teknaf the Site Management team organised workshops on engaging the host community in IOM activities. The workshop was held in Camp 23, 24 and 25. The objective was to increase host community participation through a discussion of challenges faced alongside awareness raising of current activities.

Training and outreach conducted across camps

IOM and UNHCR supported capacity sharing for 27 RRRC staff who received a comprehensive package of training that included four days of Protection and Communication with Communities (CwC) trainings as well as three days of natural hazard and Disaster Risk Reduction trainings.

IOM CwC completed scaling of a new community feedback mechanism. The system has already recorded over 16,500 questions, feedback, and requests and will be further expanded to include partner camps. Within the first quarter of 2020, IOM plans to harmonise this approach against new community feedback standards currently under development among IOM, UNHCR and the CwC Working Group.

IOM CwC has completed a community consultation on Rohingya social organisations which included extensive engagement of Rohingya involved in leadership and civil society groups. The consultation forms the basis for IOM's upcoming plans regarding enhancing community representation.

In Teknaf, the Site Management team

organised workshops with a focus on engaging the host community in IOM activities. The workshop was held in camps 23, 24 and 25 to engage host community members on activities being undertaken by IOM and partners. The main objective was to increase host community participation in activities through a discussion of common challenges, alongside awareness-raising around current activities.

In December, a Capitalisation Workshop was arranged under the Ideas Box Project in the Kutupalong and Teknaf camps. A total of 50 Participants from four Ideas Box centres attended the workshop, aimed at revisiting achievements and challenges, as well as identifying ways forward for the future.

Communication with Communities (CwC) promotes beneficiary expression and community engagement

After recording over 16,500 questions and feedback items, IOM has expanded its Community Feedback Mechanism to include partner camps. In the first quarter of 2020, IOM plans to further incorporate partner camps into feedback collection, harmonising new community feedback standards that IOM is co-developing with UNHCR under the CwC Working Group.

SITE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS



2,140
Metres of road built/
repaired



246
Community meetings
held



1,615
Metres of drainage
constructed/repared



4,299
Labourers engaged in
site management



HOST COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE A POWER TRAILER AND REAPER TO SUPPORT LOCAL FARMING INITIATIVES © IOM 2019

Cyclone Shelters renovated to enhance Disaster Risk Reduction

IOM plans to renovate 30 multi-purpose cyclone shelters under an OFDA-funded activity. Structural assessments of targeted cyclone shelters have been completed and a structural assessment is currently under development. IOM also handed over a recently-renovated ECHO-funded cyclone shelter to the Cyclone Shelter management Committee in December.

Distribution of LPG package and refills

During the month of December, 4,017 Rohingya households use Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders for the first time, reflecting a total of 98,838 beneficiary households receiving fuel. Support for the host community remains ongoing while IOM provides LPG support to 713 households, bringing the total to 17,330 host community families who have received LPG resources from IOM. Regular refills are continuing, with 63,382 refills distributed to the Rohingya beneficiaries during the reporting month. Furthermore, a total of 9,858 refills were distributed across the Bangladeshi host communities.

Pilot application of pressure-cooker in camp

IOM and UNHCR are jointly conducting a pressure cooker pre-pilot involving 400 households in camps 2W and 8E. Beneficiaries will be trained on the effective use of LPG and pressure cookers

in order to assess the efficiency of LPG using pressure cookers.

Visits to the LPG distribution points

On 10th and 12th of December, Turkish delegates visited the camp 11 LPG depot. The delegates were briefed on the LPG distribution process as well as the SAFEPlus programme and the scope system used for distribution. The delegates observed the distribution process and had a meaningful discussion with the SAFEPlus team. On the 11th of December, SIDA and DFID had visited the host community LPG distribution site at Jalia Palong Union. Following, the delegation was taken to the camp 20 extension LPG depot to witness the distribution process. The delegates were briefed on the LPG programming and the SCOPE system.

e-Commerce initiatives continue

IOM organised 10 demonstrations on production and preservation of healthy, organic dried fish throughout December in four different unions of Moheshkhali. A total of 450 fishermen participated in the learning visual demonstrations. The project encouraged entrepreneurs to open a stall in the Cox's Bazar Industry and Trade Fair to promote local dried fish. The stall earned 42,000 BDT during the reporting period. The project also supported the nine selected entrepreneurs with cash grants to buy organic dried fish to sell online. In December, 112 KG of dried fish, amounting to BDT 82,123, was sold through the e-Business Centre in

Moheshkhali; meanwhile, an additional BDT 52,000 worth of fish was sold online.

From December 19 – 20 the project team organised two days of hands-on training for members of the Agricultural Information and Communication Centre (AICC) on use of power tillers and rice reapers. The project successfully organised the launch ceremony for 80 attendees, held on 28 December to share experiences.

The Senior Secretary of the ICT Division, along with other high-level government dignitaries and IOM personnel were present and oversaw the hand-over of the modern agricultural machinery to members of four AICCs. The last Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting and stakeholder consultation of the Digital Island project was organised on 28 December 2019 in Moheshkhali. A total of 45 participants attended the meeting and improvements to the programme. Later, the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) formally handed over the network infrastructure of the Digital Island project to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (BTCL) to continue existing services under the project.

Around 160 Farmers received services from three Agriculture and Information Communication Centres (AICC) on modern cultivation techniques during the reporting period.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



MISSION VISIT OF HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO CAMP 12 SOLAR-POWERED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM © IOM 2019

Groundwater monitoring stepped up

WASH has embarked on a programme to introduce small-scale solar water networks to the Rohingya refugee camps. Community consultations and engineering surveys began in camp 20E and the initial plan is to construct five networks to provide water to about 5,000 beneficiaries.

WASH was also involved in the response to the Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak in Teknaf camps, carrying out increased coordination, partner support and monitoring efforts. As part of IOM's response and prevention measures, WASH coordinated with partners to intensify hygiene promotion, household visits, disinfection, water point chlorination, and increasing clean water supply in high-risk areas. As a result,

AWD cases fell significantly during the last week of December 2019 and the issue is now under control.

Twelve dams were completed along the Leda canal to store drinking water for Rohingya refugees living in camp 24 and 25. A Decentralised Waste-Water Treatment System (DEWATS) project has also been completed in Leda and desludging is ready to begin.

Construction of latrines, bathing sheds and installation of tube-wells is ongoing for new development areas in camp 19 and camp 20 extension. Implementing partner BRAC has distributed hygiene items including eight bars of bathing soap and seven bars of laundry soap per family to 5,668 households in camp 10. On top of hygiene item distribution, regular hygiene promotion activities including

hygiene sessions, cleaning campaigns, handwashing demonstrations and orientations were organised by implementing NGO partners under the guidance and supervision of IOM WASH. Over the past month implementing partners have conducted 6,428 hygiene promotion sessions, reaching 127,743 individuals. Drilling and installation of eight nested piezometers has been completed, and drilling of the last two in the host communities is under way. The piezometers measure underground water pressure and improve groundwater management. The initiative has also seen one weather station installed in Ukhaia to supply the groundwater model with reliable hydrological data. In December a new geophysical down-the-hole borehole logging assembly arrived to analyse the lithology and geology of existing boreholes. This effort will help in understanding the local and regional hydrogeology and improve the district-wide groundwater model.

HIGHLIGHTS



5,668
Families received hygiene kits



6,428
Hygiene promotion sessions

Funding and Support for IOM Response Plan is provided by



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



KING SALAMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE



From the People of Japan



European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

