

July 2019



ROHINGYA CAMPS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE MONSOON SEASON, EARLY JULY © IOM 2019



719,920
Rohingya arrivals



932,940
Rohingya in
Cox's Bazar



1.2 Million
people in need

CAMPS RECOVER FROM EIGHT DAYS OF STORMS

Rohingya refugee camps and surrounding communities have been recovering after an eight-day storm that brought almost unending rains and wind between the 4th and 12th of July. The storm systems saw 709mm of rain fall in parts of the Kutupalong Refugee Camp, out of a July average of about 1,040mm for Cox's Bazar. Thousands of people were displaced and infrastructure and homes were damaged as a storm system blew in off of the Bay of Bengal after forming near the coast of Sri Lanka.

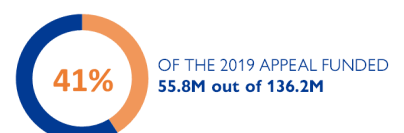
Protracted rains also contributed to an increase in waterborne illnesses. An inundation of water led to stagnant pools in and around the camps, which caused a rise in cases of diphtheria, dysentery and dengue fever. Health teams have been mobilised to respond to the increasing demand for services.

The severe monsoon rains were the worst weather the district has experienced for over a year. In an 11 July statement, IOM Bangladesh Deputy Chief of Mission Manuel Pereira said: "The rain and wind are causing misery on the ground and our teams are working day and night to provide emergency services and relocations to affected people. While we are grappling with the immediate effects of the storms, we still have to remain focused on long-term disaster management".

Between the 9th and 10th of July, IOM supported nearly 6,000 people with emergency items and trained 570 in emergency response. IOM teams distributed 5,079 plastic tarpaulins to families impacted by the storms. After the storms abated, IOM teams spread throughout the camps assessing damage and relocating beneficiaries vulnerable to landslides and floods. Roads and slope reinforcements were especially hard-hit and are being repaired by staff and Cash-for-Work recipients. The remainder of July saw instances of hard rain and wind, though far less than what was experienced between the 4th and 12th of the month.

IN BRIEF

- IOM Protection marked the international World Day Against Human Trafficking with a series of events in and around the refugee camps.
- The region's deepest, solar-powered well was inaugurated on 29 July by IOM and its JICA partners. Representatives from the Japanese embassy attended after a visit from foreign minister Taro Kono
- Heavy rains in Cox's Bazar have contributed to a 17 percent rise in dysentery in the camps, leading health teams to boost treatment and prevention efforts. IOM teams are also preparing for possible dengue fever cases due to outbreaks in Dhaka.



HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH TEAM HADLES 2,000 COUNSELLING CASES

A total of 1,836 individuals received counselling, case management follow-up and group support during the month of July, with new beneficiaries comprising 1,740 of the total. The most common issues reported to mental health service providers were relationship conflicts, comprising 40% of the cases, with many reporting domestic violence.

IOM noted that 58 percent of beneficiaries indicated psycho-somatic problems. Socioeconomic factors may have contributed to these conditions including unemployment, frustration about the future, physical illness, and difficult living conditions. IOM aimed to reduce these effects through community-mobilisation activities such as healing ceremonies, sports activities and collective kitchens. The ceremonies are based on community meetings and musical traditions from back home in Myanmar.



MEDICAL SERVICES CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED DESPITE JULY'S HEAVY RAINS

Despite July's heavy rainfall and inclement weather, IOM and its implementing partners continued the operation of 22 primary health care facilities, ensuring uninterrupted emergency services were available to the refugee population.

Six mobile medical teams remained on standby to deliver life-saving services and emergency referrals. IOM's emergency referral units helped 346 patients receive specialised care at secondary and tertiary medical facilities in Chittagong — a 20 percent increase from the previous month. Training was held for referral nurses and medical escorts on the proper transfer of patients and administration of basic life support and infection prevention and control measures. IOM also continued to support government hospitals in Cox's Bazar through training and direct services.

The rains contributed to an increase in waterborne illnesses, reflecting a 20% increase in consultations over the previous month, totaling 62,700 consultations. Upper respiratory tract infections accounted for 25 percent of all morbidity. Damp and rainy weather resulted in a 60 percent increase in fungal skin diseases recorded for July.



SEASONAL OUTBREAK THREATS MONITORED, MITIGATED

IOM Health teams report a rise in acute watery diarrhea (AWD), which often coincides with the onset of the rainy season. Contamination poses a higher risk during monsoon season as the first rains often flush ground-based contaminants into water sources. IOM's medical centers treated 341 AWD cases, a 17% increase for July over the previous month. A total of 44 stool samples were collected for rapid diagnostics tests and four oral rehydration points remained active within primary health care centres. Very few cases of dengue have been reported in the camps as of 31 July 2019, but IOM health centers are continuing to undertake preparedness measures to prevent or control any potential outbreak. Increases in dengue cases are reported in other areas of the country including Dhaka, which presents concerns that IOM is aiming to mitigate.

IOM health centers are supplied with Dengue Rapid Diagnostic Test kits. An orientation for 60 health care providers covered the clinical diagnosis and management of dengue.

SITE MANAGEMENT & SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)

INAGURATION OF BSF IDEAS BOX

LIBRARIES WITHOUT BORDERS VISIT

In partnership with Libraries without Borders (BSF), an inauguration ceremony was held for the establishment of an Ideas Box in Camp 20 Extension and Camp 23.

Patrick Weil, Association President of BSF attended the ceremony with other BSF personnel. BSF is a non-profit organisation that encourages literacy in developing countries.

Lack of access to books and educational materials remains a major challenge in Rohingya camps. During the BSF event, which took place on the 22nd and 23rd of July, community members were eager to benefit from this “pop-up” multimedia and learning hub where they are able to share and access educational and cultural materials.



CHILDREN CURIOSLY PEER INTO THEIR CAMP'S FIRST IDEA BOX © IOM 2019

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE IN JULY

ROADS, BRIDGES AND WALKWAYS REPAIRED AND UPGRADED

IOM Site Development Team's infrastructure improvements continued uninterrupted for July in the midst of harsh weather conditions in the beginning of the month. IOM constructed and repaired 2,691m of road, 1,740m of steps and trails and 395 bridges in addition to 5,307m of drainage.

In Camp 24, Rohingya and host communities collaborated in a Quick Impact Project to improve a commonly-used pathway. IOM's SMSD Team led the bridge's construction. Emergency planning and response was scaled up during the heavy rains of July. Raincoats, gumboots, and torches were distributed to all staff and community volunteers as monsoon preparedness measures. Additionally, 782 radio listening sessions were held to raise awareness on issues related to seasonal diseases, fire safety and domestic violence. A pilot program for an Inter Agency Community Feedback Mechanism has been initiated in Camps 18 and 22. To ensure a smooth rollout, IOM's Communication with Communities (CwC) Team organized an orientation program for IOM volunteers and staff.



SMSD BRINGS A JOINT ROHINGYA AND HOST COMMUNITY IDEA TO REALITY © IOM

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- The Site Management team upscaled their emergency response during heavy rainfall in July. Monsoon preparedness items like raincoats, gumboots, and torchlights were distributed for all staff and community volunteers.
- A total of 782 Radio Listening Sessions were conducted in July to raise awareness on issues including family violence, disease, child care, preparation for summer heat, and safety for women and children as well as fire safety.
- A total of 7,878 complaints were received through IOM's new feedback service. Out of the total, 1,024 were referrals.
- The month also saw construction or repair of 1,740m of steps and trail and 5,307 of drainage. The work was carried out largely by 14,647 individuals who were engaged in Cash-for-Work during the reporting period. Four percent of Cash-for-Work beneficiaries were women.
- Training of Trainers (ToT) on General Protection was arranged for Protection and Site Management staff. ToT for Disaster Management Unit (DMU) volunteers is on going in both IOM and Implementing Partner camps. Site Management staff also received training on Protection Mainstreaming.



2,691m

of road built/
repaired



395

bridges built/
repaired



5,307m

of drainage built/
repaired

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM AND JAPAN LAUNCH SOLAR-POWERED WATER SUPPLY NETWORK

An expansive humanitarian solar-powered water system was officially inaugurated on the 31st of July by IOM and partner the Japan International Development Agency (JICA). The network provides safe, clean water to approximately 30,000 people living in the Kutupalong Mega-Camp from a deep underground well.

This cost-effective network is the largest system in the camps, and is the result of positive collaboration between JICA, the Bangladeshi Government and IOM. Generous funding came from the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan.

The Japanese Minister Takeshi Ito, IOM Chief of Mission in Bangladesh Giorgi Gigauri, JICA Bangladesh Office's Chief Representative Hitoshi Hirata, and government representatives were present. The Japanese Embassy's Minister Takeshi Ito said: "I would like to commend the people of Bangladesh who have accepted more than 700,000 displaced people ... We are now providing safe water for 30,000 people and it will contribute to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal Number Six: 'Clean Water and Sanitation for all.'"

The water comes from a deep borehole carefully tested to measure sustainability over the long term. The system takes full advantage of the area's tremendous solar energy potential and is powered by 187 solar panels, providing enough electricity to pump over 580,000 litres of water daily. The water storage reservoir is made up of six large 95,000 litre tanks, capable of supplying water to the targeted population for over 24 hours in case of emergencies. More importantly, the system includes a disinfection plant, which will chlorinate the water to prevent household-level contamination. Almost 10 kilometres of pipeline has been installed for this network, supplying 358 taps through 87 tap stands.

IOM Bangladesh's Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri reflected on this accomplishment, stating, "This system stands as an international example; not just for its capacity but because of the impressive collaboration between partners, countries and people."

IOM's WASH unit is also collaborating with local geologists to assist with mapping and estimates of local water resources. Cox's Bazar lies on a deep fluvial plane measuring over half a mile deep with a complex network of zones separated by clay and other impermeable layers. IOM's collaboration efforts are part of an initiative to measure available water resources in eastern Bangladesh — an area not fully explored by local geologists. The activities include sonic imaging, drilling and other techniques to map out the subterranean layers for use by both governmental and non-governmental bodies.



THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE WATER SYSTEM TO BENEFIT 30,000 © IOM 2019



30,000
individuals benefit from
the water system



580,000
litres of water
pumped daily



187
Solar panels



10
kilometers of pipe-
line

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- To address the needs of refugees relocated due to road construction, IOM's WASH Team is constructing WASH facilities, 13 deep tube-wells, 86 latrine cubicles and 74 bathing cubicles in Camps 19 and 20 Extension.
- Four plastic transfer tanks were installed in Camp 18 by implementing partner Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) to connect latrines previously located at a distance out of the Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) plants' reach. The tanks are part of WASH's efforts to improve waste treatment in and around the camps.
- WASH has expanded its DEWATS or Decentralised Wastewater Treatment System. The system harnesses biofiltration, filtration and vegetation to process fecal sludge in an eco-friendly manner. Wastewater tests have indicated proper functioning of the system. The construction of three DEWATS is ongoing in Camp 9 and four new locations have been planned for DEWATS installation in other camps.

PROTECTION

PERFORMANCES MARK WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IOM's Protection team marked the World Day Against Human Trafficking with a series of events in and around the refugee camps beginning on the 21st of July. The highlight of the day's events was a drama performance to raise awareness about human trafficking in the refugee and host community. The play featured Bangladeshi members of the nearby communities who acted out a story of a human trafficker who successfully recruits a victim. The story follows the victim into a third country where she eventually escapes and seeks help and repatriation. "The story line was developed in 2018 and is still evolving with input from beneficiaries and human trafficking survivors," said Emmy Sjarijono – IOM's Counter Trafficking (CT) Programme Officer. "Underneath the storyline are lessons and messages about the types of tricks that traffickers try to play, and how victims can get help", she explained. Integrating entertainment into counter-trafficking messaging factored prominently in the day's events, which also included a musical performance by Rohingya refugees. The song, simply referred to as "The Human Trafficking Song" was written by the refugees themselves and was performed live and recorded. Poverty and lack of work opportunities make Rohingya refugees especially vulnerable to human traffickers who often offer fully-paid trips abroad and lucrative work opportunities.



YOUNG WOMEN ENGAGE CT DEBATE COMPETITION © IOM 2019

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) TEAMS RESPOND TO EVI NEEDS

IOM's GBV teams across some camps have been working jointly with General Protection (GP) and Site Management in identifying extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) along with households that are at high risk of being affected by natural disasters. Field staff have been providing emotional material support such as solar lanterns, dignity kits and other basic items. IOM has also been encouraging beneficiaries to come to the Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) to meet and engage in skills-building. IOM GBV teams have distributed 71 dignity kits and 2,100 solar lanterns to the most vulnerable women and girls across nine camps during the month of July.

GENERAL PROTECTION TEAMS IDENTIFY MOST VULNERABLE

The General Protection team conducted block-level monitoring and responded to monsoon-affected populations following severe weather in the beginning of July. The team identified cases of vulnerable structures and met with local Mahji leadership to receive feedback directly from beneficiaries. GP also generated a list of extremely vulnerable individuals in need of assistance in the event of extreme weather. This was a large undertaking as the combined target camp population is over 42,000.

CHILD PROTECTION

IOM Counter Trafficking and Child Protection organised two events with adolescents' groups in child friendly spaces as part of International Day against Human trafficking. The events included an awareness-raising session, a quiz on trafficking and musical chair games for 30 adolescents. Child Protection provides support to child survivors of human trafficking. Many cases are complex and involve collaboration between Counter Trafficking, GBV and Child Protection. We work with adolescent girls from both the Rohingya and Bangladeshi communities providing case-management services, shelter and legal support.

SITE MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING PROJECT (SMEP)

SMEP WORKS AROUND THE CLOCK FOLLOWING STORMS

SMEP is a collaborative project between IOM, UNHCR and WFP. Torrential rains and severe winds made for a busy month for the project. The SMEP team responded to more than 486 incidents reported through hotlines or by regular inspection. During monsoon season and emergencies, SMEP is available around the clock to ensure safe access to the camps, proper methods of drainage and the rapid rehabilitation of lands affected by landslides. In response to the heavy precipitation, SMEP spent July ensuring safe access to the camps through drainage improvement and slope stabilisation. The SMEP team utilised geotextiles, bamboo terrace and guide walls to stabilise slopes threatened by soil erosion. The team continues to widen the Folio Para Road for improved vehicle access. All road, drainage and slope conditions are monitored regularly and relayed to the relevant humanitarian agencies. The Casting Yard Team supported SMEP's ongoing activities by producing 3,316 slabs and 680 columns of crib wall to support its current operations. The expanded casting output is part of SMEP's programme to localise materials sourcing and build refugee and host community skill sets. In May, SMEP marked the first graduation class for its vocational skills school that teaches construction and business management.



CASH FOR WORK TEAMS REPAIR ROADS © IOM 2019

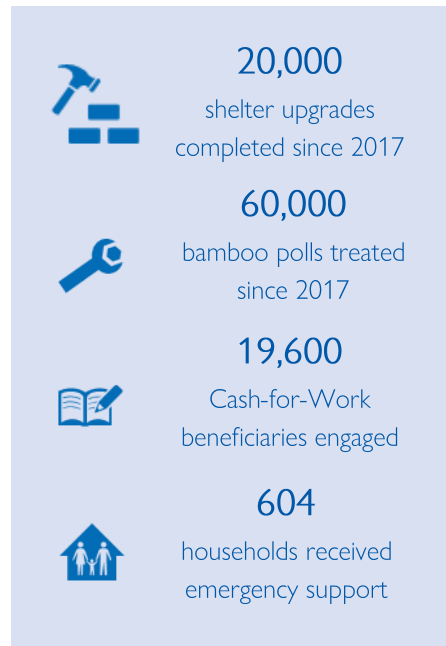
SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

SHELTER RESPONSE KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

During the early part of July, IOM Shelter teams worked around the clock distributing emergency equipment and completing upgrades to assist Rohingya camps and host communities hit by heavy monsoon rains and wind. Shelter teams provided emergency response support to 604 households during the month, in which 16,851 tarps were distributed as part of a blanket exercise to provide 1 for every household in 8 camps.

Since the beginning of the influx, IOM's Shelter team also supported 20,000 shelter and 74 community facility upgrades under ECHO and DFID funding, as well as refurbishing 29 mosques and treated 60,000 treated bamboo poles. The treated poles have been infused with borax — an environmentally-safe compound that extends the bamboo life by fending off mold and insects.

IOM's Cash-for-Work programme employed 19,600 individuals living both in and around Rohingya and host community settlements. Finally, IOM and World Fish together supported Teknaf fishing communities in the pilot of the new shelter construction. IOM and its implementing partners have been providing relief to fishermen in and around Teknaf who have been impacted by a government fishing ban on the Naf river.



TRANSITION & RECOVERY DIVISION (TRD)

TEACHER TRAINING BOOSTS DIGITAL SKILLS

IOM's Migration and Development Unit completed a two month-long training programme for primary school teachers on basic computing and online marketing on the 5th of July. The programme falls under TRD's Digital Island initiative – a Korean-funded pilot project that is under review for expansion. The project is centred in Mohshkhali and oversees the installation of a fibre optic cable connecting the landmass to the mainland.

Through better internet connectivity and establishment of new online platforms, beneficiaries are given a slate of services offered under the programme. For example, beneficiaries of IOM's dried fish processing trainings have been assisted in setting up eBusinesses to advance income-generation. Students are also given access to education offered in different parts of the country and medical patients can access doctors and other medical services through the internet. About 580 community members of different ages received instruction on internet browsing, form submission, printing, scanning and making documents, as well as self-learning through YouTube. On the medical side, a total of 80 patients received advice through mobile linkups with doctors at the Mohshkhali Health Complex. There are plans to expand the programme and apply it in other remote areas of the country.

SOUTH KOREA VISITS CAMPS, EYES SUPPORT

On August 6th, a South Korean delegation completed a two-day visit to Bangladeshi and Rohingya host communities to review social cohesion and livelihood programmes as part of an overall effort to boost humanitarian support. The recent visit included senior advisors to the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). During the visit, the group toured IOM programmes including Women's Income Generation Support (WINGS) activities, which teaches female beneficiaries vocational skills. The visit also met with members of the Women's Committee, and included a visit to a Women and Girls' Safe Space. South Korea has been active in supporting Gender Based Violence as well as Protection and livelihoods initiatives. "This demonstrates the interest of Korea in supporting the refugee crisis response and their commitment to working with the host community," said Patrick Charignon, Programme Manager of the Transition and Recovery unit.



KOREAN DELEGATES MEET WITH IOM STAFF IN TEKNAF REFUGEE CAMP TO DISCUSS GENDER RESPONSE AND PROGRAMMING © IOM 2019

SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL & ENERGY (SAFE+) ADVANCES TARGET DISTRIBUTION

During the month, 10,923 Rohingya households accessed Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders for the first time, reflecting a total of 77,845 beneficiary households now benefitting from the resource. This brings the humanitarian response closer to its target to cover 100,000 Rohingya and 25,000 host community households by the end of 2020. Anecdotal stories show that LPG use has reduced cooking time, improved beneficiary health, reduced incidences of violence and abuse related to firewood collection and contributes to environmental protection by reducing deforestation rates.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE IS STRENGTHENED

The IOM DRR team conducted 124 Courtyard Sessions with informal DRR awareness groups during the reporting period. A total of 3,767 members (45 percent men and 55 percent women) received messages on DRR and associated issues in Ukhiya and Teknaf. Additionally, the team conducted 13 Large Groups Dissemination (LGDs) in Ukhiya and Teknaf in collaboration with Upazila administration and Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs), Upazila health and family planning Office, Protection and Health team of IOM. The main objective of the LGDs is to use Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) to raise awareness around vulnerable community participants, building community resilience on issues related to risk reduction and empowering women in decision making pre-, during and after emergencies. Other issues addressed are risk reduction and women's reproductive health rights during emergencies, human trafficking and cyclone early warning system. Capacity enhancement works have started on 19 vulnerable Cyclone Shelters while capacity assessments have been completed for 45 cyclone shelters in Ukhiya to gauge the scope of possible capacity enhancement activities both structural and non-structural, among other activities.

NEEDS & POPULATION MONITORING (NPM)

NPM DATA COLLECTION INCORPORATES WOMEN RESPONDENTS

IOM's NPM team published the results of the NPM Round 15 Site Assessment exercise. This round identified a Rohingya Refugee population of 942,517 individuals and 215,198 households. The data collection was conducted between the 1st of May and 24th of June 2019 across 2,054 locations. As of this round, in order to incorporate female perspectives into the Site Assessment in a systematic manner, efforts were made to conduct female key informant (KI) interviews in each of the 1,956 locations in refugee camps. This process and the design of the data collection methodology involved extensive field level design and piloting with female field staff. During round 15, female enumerators identified and interviewed female KI's in 100 percent of the locations comprising the refugee sites. As a result of this exercise, NPM now has a comprehensive dataset that can be used for analysis against the Majhee KI dataset. Points of comparison and differences between male and female KI's will be presented in reports, disseminated and used to highlight key issues that women may be facing in the refugee camps.



ENUMERATORS AT WORK ALONGSIDE CASH-FOR-WORK VOLUNTEERS © IOM 2019

Along with its Site Assessment 15 exercise, NPM also updated its Majhee Blocks Atlas, Site Profiles and GIS tools packages by camp. The products are available on the NPM Bangladesh Portal and were shared via Mailchimp reaching over 1,000 people. In coordination with the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG), and as part of the wider facility mapping and monitoring activity, NPM enumerators worked with Site Management Cash-for-Work (CfW) participants to spray paint codes on concrete waste pits across IOM camps. These codes, which are part of the broader facility mapping activity, link to a dataset containing key information about the facility and will assist in the immediate reporting and repairs of any weather related damage.

By combining technical skills and labour experience, NPM and CfW teams were able to successfully identify and tag the waste pits. The tagging exercise is intended to mark locations in the camps to make data collection more efficient moving forward. "We were all a bit uncomfortable at first, but we learned a lot from each other, and it was an experience to see how hard CfW volunteers work," reflected NPM Team Leader, Bakul.

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