

June 2019



Site Management & Site Development and Protection teams recognise World Refugee Day with an art exhibition in Camp 20 Extension © IOM 2019



719,920

Rohingya arrivals since 25 August 2017



932,940

Rohingya in Cox's Bazar



1.2 MILLION

people in need

ROHINGYA WOMEN SPEARHEAD WORLD REFUGEE DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Rohingya refugees took the lead in celebrating World Refugee Day – an internationally-recognized event commemorated around the world. In the Kutupalong Rohingya camps, 120 women and girls held a full slate of activities that ran throughout the day focusing on highlighting the unique culture of their homeland. The women were forced from Myanmar in mid-2017 and are housed in refugee camps just miles from the international border in Bangladesh.

In the weeks preparing for World Refugee Day, the women said they wanted to gather together as they did in Myanmar and cook and eat foods they used to enjoy. “One of the things most missed by the women and girls is the simple act of having community meals together – food is a very important part of the Rohingya culture, but when the fighting started and the movement restrictions happened, they had to stop,” said Gender-Based Violence Coordinator Rumpa Dey.

World Refugee Day offered an opportunity to plan a potluck-style meal where they sourced ingredients typical of their homeland and prepared dishes for an event at the IOM Women and Girls Safe Spaces. Finding ingredients was straight forward because Rohingya cuisine is similar to food in Bangladesh’s Chittagong region where the camps are located, said Dey.

The food unique to this cross-border area relies heavily on ingredients such as salted, dry fish; steamed and pureed aubergine; and a popular dish named Morichvorta made from crushed chilis. Other Rohingya dishes at the event could be easily seen at Indian and Bangladeshi tables such as chicken curry and egg fried rice. Dey explained that the women

IN BRIEF

- Counter Trafficking efforts have increased in line with the onset of the monsoon season to counteract traffickers capitalizing on vulnerable persons facing displacement and weather shocks
- A riverside community has received material assistance from IOM in partnership with WorldFish. Along with supplies to repair structures damaged during storm season, IOM teams are also training locals in business and trade skills for fishing livelihoods to bring long-term benefits
- Heavy monsoons damage in June has kept IOM Site Management actors occupied repairing and upgrading infrastructure in and around the Camps. During the past month, nearly three km of road and over 4 km of drainage was repaired or built. The work was completed largely under IOM’s Cash-for-Work programme that engaged 15,289 people during the month.

41% of the appeal funded
55.4M out of 136.2M



Traditional Rohingya cuisine in preparation on World Refugee Day © IOM 2019

and girls also served Biryani, “which is a Bangladeshi dish and isn’t Rohingya at all, but was given to them in the camps and they liked very much.”

The celebrations were financed by the attendees’ own income earned by an arts and crafts fair held on 8 March. “A community meeting was held where they decided on their own how to spend the proceeds.” Dey highlighted that the effort is an act of empowerment on the part of the women: “It’s good to see women organizing and making decisions in this way.”

The event’s success also highlights the importance of IOM’s Women and Girls Safe Spaces. “There are a lot of cultural and social pressures and security concerns that act to keep women in the house and prevent them from being active in their communities. The Women and Girls Safe Spaces helps create a female-only environment where women can get together for events, to socialise or to learn new skills,” Dey added.

HEALTH

MONSOONS BRING EXPECTED RISE IN TRANSMITTABLE DISEASE

The onset of the monsoon season has brought an anticipated rise in contagious vector and waterborne diseases, placing additional demands on IOM health professionals in both treatment and prevention efforts. In June, the most common ailment reported was Upper Respiratory Tract Infection, which accounted for 58% of all morbidity. The contagious illness is treatable, but often increases in prevalence with the onset of the rainy season. Other diseases on the rise during the wet season are Hepatitis, Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), Malaria and Dengue; the first two illnesses are associated with contaminated monsoon rain, and the latter are caused by mosquitoes breeding in stagnant pools. In line with the onset of the monsoon season, IOM’s safe drinking water campaign was expanded, specifically aimed at preventing AWD. The effort reached 15,910, beneficiaries, comprised of 1,668 men and 15,242 women during 726 sessions. In addition to stepping up treatment, during the last month, IOM medical teams have distributed Rapid Diagnostic Tests to health posts to improve the diagnoses, case management and surveillance of these diseases.

Overall, the IOM health team provided 50,140 consultations in June. Due to the Eid holidays, this reflects a decrease of 16% as compared to May.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND EMERGENCY REFERRAL

IOM’s Sexual and Reproductive health response in the first two weeks of June 2019 saw 187 deliveries and over 3,500 consultations. This reflects an increase which comes on the back of training and capacity development instituted last year and during the first months of 2019.

For emergency referrals, 286 patients received secondary and tertiary medical care; less than 1% were acute lifesaving cases while 24% were chronic. The most common ailments included obstetrics and gynaecological emergencies, cardiovascular disease, abdominal problems, traffic accidents, and fractures.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

A total of 1,416 beneficiaries received individual support through counselling, case management follow-up, group support and awareness sessions in IOM’s health facilities. During this reporting period, 45% of beneficiaries reported psychosomatic problems such as poor appetite, chest pains, headaches and sleeping difficulties.

Two focus group discussions were carried out to evaluate services with 25 participants (10 male and 15 female). The evaluations found that 51% of beneficiaries were better able to manage their main symptoms such as sleeping problems, anxiety and sadness. A total of 59% reported improvement in their initial concerns and 52% reported improved stress coping mechanisms.

Additionally, 1,435 beneficiaries were reached through community-based activities that included six healing ceremonies, sport activities, development of social skills, conflict mediation, social cohesion and 17 family dialogues to contribute to conflict transformation.



Mother and child attended OPD consultation © IOM 2019



15,910 beneficiaries reached by IOM’s safe drinking water campaign.



335 supervisors from three implementing partners were trained in caring for new-borns at home.



50,140 Out Patient Department (OPD) consultations in June.

SITE MANAGEMENT AND SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)

SMSD TEAMS RESPOND TO RAIN, WIND DAMAGE

Heavy monsoons damage in June has kept IOM occupied repairing and upgrading infrastructure in and around the refugee camps. During the past month, nearly three km of pathways and four km of drainage were repaired or built. The work was completed largely under IOM's Cash-for-Work programme that engaged 15,289 people during the month. As of time of publication, rains and winds have increased in Cox's Bazar and July's numbers are expected to be far higher.



2,855m of pathways constructed/repaired



1,394m of steps & trail constructed/repaired



4,384m of drainage constructed/repaired



193 bridges constructed/repaired

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

- IOM's Site Management team celebrated World Refugee Day on 22 June with activities across the Camps including street dramas, friendship football matches and art exhibitions.
- A total of 51 IOM staff and volunteers participated in a two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on Women's Empowerment, Participation and Leadership Training for Rohingya Refugee Women during late June in Cox's Bazar. The activities focused on leadership and decision-making skills and empowerment.
- The Centre for Disability and Disaster (CDD) conducted a five-day training and focus group on Persons with Disability inclusion. After the event, dignity kits were provided to women with disabilities.
- A total of 757 Radio Listening Sessions were held to raise awareness on family violence, disease, child care, preparation for summer heat, and fire safety.
- IOM is rolling out its Idea's Box initiative, developed by Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF), in which beneficiaries will be able to utilize media centres with access to learning and communications material, as well as movies and audio. IOM has been conducting outreach activities with refugees as they learn to tap into this exciting new resource.



Idea's Box Activity in Shamlapur © IOM 2019

SITE MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING PROJECT (SMEP)

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS COMPLETE FOR MONSOON DELUGE

IOM's SMEP light engineering has completed nearly 1.5 km of drainage systems in the Kutupalong refugee camp following an infrastructure drive launched in April to prepare for the monsoon season. The project was a "V" shaped construction spanning the Kutupalong-Balukhali expansion.

The drainage upgrades are to address the threat of flooding and landslides in the refugee camps, which are located on a hilly, dirt expanse in a region that's prone to extreme weather including cyclones. SMEP teams consisting of international and local engineers alongside Cash-for-Work beneficiaries have installed drainage systems using large bamboo, cement and bricks. While improving overall infrastructure, the programme trains locals and refugees in construction, project management and engineering.

SMEP also aims to expand its skills training following the successful graduation of a class of construction trainees in May. In the works are sessions in machinery repair, mechanics and woodworking. Additionally, SMEP is commencing a fun behaviour change strategy to promote community ownership of infrastructure. With the help of SMEP's mascot, SMEPPY, 25 SMEP supervisors gathered to launch this promising initiative in an exciting celebration in late June. The strategy will now be rolled out in 34 camps in the coming six months.








SMEP team celebrates beginning of 'SMEPPY' initiative, as supervisors begin planning behaviour change strategies to implemented in their camps © IOM 2019

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

PILOT PROGRAMME SUPPORTS FISHING VILLAGE

A total of 66 vulnerable Bangladeshi households are receiving Shelter assistance under a pilot programme that commenced in June. The beneficiaries are in a small fishing village located on a Teknaf riverside less than a mile from the Myanmar border. The residents have been hard-hit by a recent ban on fishing in the border region, as Shelter/NFI programme manager Joshua Hart explains, "Authorities have been combatting cross-border smuggling and unfortunately, this meant that residents were no longer able to fish on the river."

Shelter learned of the extent of the riverside community's shelter vulnerability during a visit spurred by a partner organisation, WorldFish. Originally requested to provide tarps to the most vulnerable households, IOM expanded provisions to include a range of shelter materials, including re-enforced cement concrete footings for houses susceptible to the coming monsoons. "Because the houses are located near a river, the soil is water-logged and high in salinity, removing bamboo columns from the ground with concrete encased footings is critical to avoiding rot and rust," said Hart. The initiative to provide in this way for local households will be applied to other Bangladeshi host communities that surround the Rohingya camps.

-  **1,261** households received in-kind shelter materials under the TSA programme including 6 borak, 9 metal footings & 6mm rope
-  **126** extremely vulnerable households received construction support
-  **239** households affected by weather provided Emergency shelter support
-  **26** mosque and **31** mid-term shelters were upgraded
-  **16,900** borak bamboo poles were treated at IOM's facility

TRANSITION AND RECOVERY DIVISION (TRD)



Women engaging in fast food making livelihood activities © IOM 2019

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL COHESION

LOCAL WOMEN EQUIPPED WITH WORK SKILLS

During the month of June, IOM expanded its Women's Income Generation Support (WINGS) programme as part of a broader effort to teach vocational and business skills to local women. A total of 460 female beneficiaries (200 Rohingya and 260 host community) were trained under the WINGS programme towards increasing female beneficiary self-reliance. The programme teaches women practical skills for earning informal or full-time incomes. The courses are carefully designed to be relevant to the rural market and include topics such as food processing, tailoring, vegetable gardening, and goat rearing.

LOCAL FISHERMEN GIVEN SKILLS TO TAP REGIONAL MARKET

Under the digital island project, IOM recently launched an effort to support local fishermen in launching dried fish businesses in Cox's Bazar. Cox's Bazar is located near open waters on the Bay of Bengal, famous for its seafood and specialty dried fish used in curries and unique Bengali salads. IOM selected the month of June to carry out the trainings because not only does the month fall during breeding season, but beneficiaries cannot fish during this time as June is typically closed to fishing under government rules. An initial group of 31 beneficiaries attended the trainings and were taught organic methods of drying fish using elevated fish-nets. The classes ran through every stage of the process to cure and sell such fish, from drying to packaging and marketing products. IOM organiser Jalil Lone said that the 'graduates' hope to put their skills into action in August: "they just need to wait for the rainy season to end – you can't dry fish in a rain storm," he quipped.

SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY (SAFE PLUS)

ALTERNATIVE FUEL AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

As part of the capacity-building initiative, IOM also provided beneficiaries one LPG cylinder, one double-burner cooker, four utensil packages, 70 kg of food-ingredients and one wooden table to 50 beneficiaries. A further 80 beneficiaries received tailoring packages comprised of one sewing machine, 24 tailoring accessories and 48 yards of cloth for a business start-up. Ten host community women received goats to initiate income generation.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

RAISING HOST COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND BUILDING CAPACITY

In other developments, 132 Rohingya beneficiaries and 185 host community beneficiaries participated in awareness-raising sessions regarding women’s empowerment. A total of 200 Rohingya women were taught business development skills focusing on basic financial literacy, savings, and marketing. IOMs training efforts were also aimed at boosting disaster preparedness in line with the onset of the monsoon and cyclone season. On 15 June, implementing partner Concern Worldwide trained 750 host community beneficiaries and distributed cash grants. Course material included identifying potential hazards that might affect beneficiary livelihoods and developing disaster-resilient business plans. IOM programming also provided vulnerable refugee and host community members trainings in dry fish processing, small business, goat rearing, cow rearing, irrigation, sewing and tailoring; and agriculture; some in cooperation with the Bangladeshi government.



DRR training in Ukhiya © IOM 2019

WASH

WASH READIES FOR RIBBON-CUTTING ON WELL

IOM is preparing for the official ribbon-cutting of a solar-powered water supply network in Camp 12 that is now ready to provide safe, clean and potable water to over 30,000 people. This achievement will be celebrated as construction of the well’s reservoir site, crib wall, six 95,000 litre tanks, pipe connections, fencing, and drainage have been completed. The precise date of the ceremony is being finalised to coincide with an official visit from partner’s, donors and associated dignitaries.

In addition to the well and upstream distribution, 87 tap stands have been installed and the pipeline network has been extended to include 12 facilities with possibility for additional taps. IOM is now flushing the pipeline network and conducting final checks.

June also saw construction of 80 single cubicle twin pit latrines thanks to the support of local NGO BRAC, as well as installation of four tanks to transfer sludge from latrines to the Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) plants. Faecal sludge is a feedstock that can be used to make fertiliser that is increasingly being sold in local markets and serves the dual function of eliminating sewage and helping local farmers.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

- IOM constructed facilities in Camps 19 and 20 Extension for beneficiaries relocated due to road construction. This effort included 42 latrine cubicles, ten deep tube-wells, and 38 bathing cubicles.
- IOM’s WASH and Site Management teams identified three locations for construction of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System (DEWATS) – a sewage treatment system that uses vegetation and natural filtration.

WASH CATCHES THE EYE OF LOCAL GEOLOGISTS

IOM’s drilling and exploration activities have caught the attention of Bangladesh’s top learning institution Dhaka University. In June, IOM met with its Department of Geology, which is keen to collaborate to develop a groundwater forecasting model to better understand local geology and the impact upon the water table of extraction practices.

Last year, IOM captured geological data during borehole drilling in and around the Kutupalong refugee camp – a border region that is not well explored. The region is an ancient fluvial plane with exceptionally overburdened soil. IOM’s recently-dug solar-powered well detected over 20 distinct zones in the 450-meter shaft; many separated by clay and compacted soil.



Mr. Yasuharu Shinto, counsellor to the Japan Embassy, at borehole site in Camp 12 during his field visit on 18th of June © IOM 2019

IN FOCUS: Hygiene Practice in Camps

Momena, one of the residents of Camp 12 in the Kutupalong Mega-Camp, was spontaneous in response to the question of hand washing practices. Pointing her finger to the hand washing device (an IOM infrastructure equipped with soap and water to clean hands after using the toilet) near her house, she started to describe the importance of the device. In comparison to her experience in Myanmar, she says “We used soap to wash our hands from time to time, but never with such emphasis as now”.

Additionally, she and her family only collect drinking water from deep tube-wells. Hygiene promotion volunteers have taught beneficiaries about the possible health implications of drinking water from sources other than deep tube-well. As a result, even if the nearest deep tube-well is non-functional, Momena and her family seek another tube well at which to collect water.

Momena realizes these practices of using hand washing devices and drinking water from deep tube-well are ensuring a healthy life. Frequently occurring water borne diseases have become a rarity for her and her family now.



Momena using hand washing device © IOM 2019

PROTECTION

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The General Protection team observed World Refugee Day with the community in five camps in both Ukhaia and Teknaf. In three camps the team organized together with seven other protection partners to create art exhibitions showcasing work from children of over 20 child-friendly spaces with the common theme of 'My Hope for the Future', which were open for general viewing in two Site Management hubs. In one camp, the team also organized a football competition for adolescent boys. Also in Teknaf, the General Protection team organized a short cultural programme with other partners that included cultural songs, dramas and puppet shows.



Female beneficiaries enjoying skills-building activities © IOM 2019

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

REFUGEE WOMEN TAKE THE LEAD IN WORLD REFUGEE DAY COMMEMORATIONS

In recognition of World Refugee Day on June 20th, participants at IOM's ten Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) took the lead as IOM, agencies, partners and members of host and refugee communities celebrated this internationally-significant day. At their own behest, the participants met and decided to use earnings from handicraft and tailored-goods sales to host picnics and commemorations at the WGSS and shelter.

The keynote event included a meal prepared by WGSS participants that featured dishes from their homeland that they miss since fleeing Myanmar. They also coordinated discussion groups to mark the day.

During World Refugee Day, IOM's Gender Based Violence (GBV) team participated in an advocacy and awareness event in Dhaka. The event was coordinated by the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) working group and attended by government agencies. The team showcased and celebrated the work of the women and girls who attend skills-building trainings in fields such as tailoring, sewing, and creative arts.

COUNTER TRAFFICKING

PREVENTION, REINTEGRATION THE FOCUS IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE

During the month of June, IOM continued to provide support and training to address threats of human trafficking in and around Rohingya refugee camps. The Kutupalong camps and Cox's Bazar in general remain hubs for international human trafficking rings as persons afflicted by poverty are falsely promised free trips and attractive jobs in Bangladesh, the Middle East, or in countries such as Malaysia and Thailand. All too often, those whom have been targeted end up in bonded labour, working and living in exploitative conditions. The onset of the monsoon and cyclone season only exacerbates this problem as communities face increased economic burden due to damaged caused by severe weather that blows in off the Gulf of Bengal.



Theatre street drama spreading the word about human trafficking © IOM 2019

“IOM is aware of the threats that vulnerable people and women in particular face from human traffickers. Our teams are working hard on both the prevention side through education; and on the reactive side by identifying victims and providing relief and reintegration,” said programme head Chissey Mueller. Other efforts include working with Bangladeshi authorities to boost enforcement of its Anti-Trafficking act passed in 2012.

During June, IOM and implementing partners organised over 600 human trafficking awareness sessions for 13,125 participants. IOM continues to provide direct assistance to trafficking victims and in June identified 64 victims, coordinating immediate services. IOM provided total of 36 victims from local host communities materials that included tools, machinery and pumps to support businesses and livelihoods initiatives.

Counter Trafficking Committee (CTC) Meetings were held in five different areas in Cox’s Bazar in coordination with partners. The largest meeting featured 40 participants that included teachers, police, journalists and students.

CHILD PROTECTION

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES REACH UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

In coordination with implementing partner Terre des Hommes, IOM registered eight children in need of case-management services during the month of in June. Seven out of the eight children were unaccompanied and living in alternative care arrangements such as with relatives or foster parents. A total of 655 children received psychosocial support through child-friendly spaces and mobile activities.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD)

DISABILITY SERVICES EXPANDED IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

IOM’s implementing partner Christian Blind Mission (CBM) conducted Home Based Rehabilitation (HBR) that reached a total of 33 Individuals who are otherwise unable to access IOM clinics in Camps 18, 19, and 20, as well as in the host community. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy were offered to 624 individuals, while 59 psychosocial sessions were conducted. Thanks to CBM’s support, a total of 163 assistive devices were provided to 94 persons with disabilities during the reporting period. Additionally, disability inclusion trainings were provided to 20 Protection staff. These efforts reflect a growing international impetus to improve services for persons with disabilities who are often some of the most vulnerable among beneficiary populations.

NEEDS AND POPULATION MONITORING



NEW RESPONDENTS INCLUDED AS SECURITY CONCERNS EASE

IOM has expanded its data collection to include formerly inaccessible areas as well as additional respondents from the Bangladeshi host community. This development follows a diversification drive launched last month that increased women’s input in IOM findings.

Every quarter, IOM collects comprehensive data in the Rohingya refugee camps to assess health and social needs; food security; physical security; and issues of general concern. During the month of June, this data collection was broadened as further representatives of the Rohingya community living outside camps were identified and declared their willingness to be regularly interviewed.

This month, IOM also finally had the chance to visit Shahporir Dwip Island on Bangladesh’s southernmost tip, which had been inaccessible during the last year due to security concerns. Data was collected for the roughly 2,000 Rohingya living there, many of whom were displaced before the main influx in 2017.

IOM’s population monitoring information is collected from interviews and questionnaires with Key Informants and is incorporated into the quarterly Site Assessment report which is circulated widely to stakeholders.

Funding for IOM Response Plan is provided by

