



COX'S BAZAR'S MONSOON SEASON BEGAN IN LATE MAY © IOM 2019



719,920

Rohingya arrivals
since 25 August 2017



932,940

Rohingya in Cox's Bazar



1.2 Million

people in need in Cox's Bazar

CAMPS BRACE AS MONSOON SEASON HITS

More harsh weather expected as rains begin to impact refugee camps, causing damage and concern for coming cyclones

Monsoon preparedness has given way to monsoon response as rains and wind from the Gulf of Bengal have descended upon Cox's Bazar. The start of May saw IOM accelerate efforts to boost camp shelter readiness following Cyclone Fani's near miss in April. Efforts included reinforcing slopes with bamboo poles and trellising and installing drainage systems to channel excess water into newly-dug basins and out of the camps.

Category 3 Cyclone Fani was expected to hit Cox's Bazar and sent IOM into emergency mode as staff and volunteers on the ground distributed over 90,000 cyclone preparedness kits. Ultimately, Fani veered to the west and thankfully missed Cox's Bazar, while IOM and its partners were able to rehearse its disaster responses.

The monsoon seasons started in late-May, causing damage in and around the camps. With the rains in full swing, Site Management Support (SMS) teams were disbursed camp-wide to repair damage and respond to injuries. Rain and wind resulted in a total of 12 landslides, over 2,800 partially-damaged households, and 176 totally damaged households. Infrastructure was also hit by severe weather, with over 300 latrines, four health facilities and 23 waterpoints damaged, according to IOM figures.

Cox's Bazar is at especially high-risk for extreme weather and experiences major cyclones at an average of every six years.

IN BRIEF

An innovative Water Supply System is set to go into operation to benefit over 30,000 individuals. Solar-powered pumps will lift water from the 450-metre-deep shaft that has been dug in the Kutupalong camp through an international-standard network of tanks and pipes.

Counter-human trafficking efforts were stepped up following the launch of a joint task force to boost local enforcement.

IOM's first class of entrepreneurs graduated after a 20-day intensive training at IOM's new Centre of Excellence. The host community graduates took part in courses on construction, masonry and business management. The Centre of Excellence is set to be expanded over the summer.



SAFE Plus works towards strengthening social cohesion and increasing resilience as LPG Distribution kicks into high gear

IOM's distribution of Liquefied Pressurised Gas (LPG) tanks is reaching record numbers of host community and Rohingya beneficiaries under the SAFE Plus project announced in 2018. The project is partly to address deforestation brought about as beneficiaries turned to cutting down local trees for cooking fuel.

Defoliation in the camp left the dirt slopes exposed to monsoon rains, leading to landslides and widespread soil erosion. The issue also has gendered implications, as women are often forced to undergo arduous and risky journeys to collect wood for their families.

In May, 4,736 households in Camps 12, 11 and 18 receive LPG kits consisting of a cylinder, stove, regulator and hose. Before receiving the LPG kits, households were trained in fire safety, efficient cooking, and environmental management. A total of 21,473 households (1,216 host community households and 20,257 Rohingya households) refilled their LPG cylinders in May. IOM plans to cover Camps 13, 14, 15 and 19 in June 2019; additionally, new LPG depots are being developed to reach more areas of the camps.

SAFE Plus Activities:

- Provide **alternative cooking fuel** through LPG distribution
- **Strengthen livelihoods** and support income generation, including high-demand, high-nutrient crop production for host communities
- Empowerment development for the refugees through **technical skills** and **vocational training**
- Mitigate negative environmental impacts through **land and forest rehabilitation**
- Improve **community relations** between the Rohingya refugees and local Bangladeshis



2,500 HECTARES

Trees replanted since 2018



30,000

Beneficiaries trained in skills development programmes

21,473

LPG RECIPIENTS

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)



STORAGE TANKS FOR DEEP TUBE WELL © IOM 2019

WASH welcomes innovative Camp 12 Water System

450m deep well set for launch

In June, a solar-powered supply network and reservoir will be put into use, pumping water through a 450 metre deep well for the use of about 30,000 individuals in Camps 12 and 19. The well infrastructure includes an international-standard system made up of six 95,000 litre tanks, along with pipe connections, fencing and drainage.

WASH is also moving forward with its adoption of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS). Two systems will be launched in Camp 23 and construction of two additional facilities has commenced in Camp 9. DEWATS is a waste water treatment system that cleans fecal sludge through biofiltration and filtration in an ecologically-friendly manner. DEWATS is well-suited for high-population density Rohingya camps where the ground is porous, allowing for efficient treatment of grey water.

As part of the expansion plans, WASH also identified two new locations in Camp 9 and one new location in Camp 19 to implement DEWATS systems. Finally, the WASH team distributed 100 hygiene kits in Camp 20 Extension along with 3,300 top-up hygiene kits and 4,332,960 Aquatabs in Camps 9 and 10 in cooperation with partners. IOM also reached 194,281 under the IOM-supervised hygiene-promotion programme.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

A total of 1,751 individuals received counselling, case management follow-up, and group support in the month of May.

New beneficiaries made up 1,552 of the total. The most common issues reported were relationship conflicts, comprising 45% cases, with many reporting domestic violence. This represents a significant rise over April's 28%, which indicates the need for an increase in family support. This rise comes despite a general slowdown in beneficiaries seeking support during Ramadan, suggesting greater acceptance of mental health issues, as well as more effective outreach on



CHILDREN TAKE PART IN AN IOM HEALTH CLINIC STORYTELLING EXERCISE AS A MEANS OF PROCESSING THEIR EXPERIENCES OF DISPLACEMENT © IOM 2019

IOM noted that 35% of beneficiaries indicated psycho-somatic problems. Socioeconomic factors may have played a role in these conditions including unemployment, frustration about the future, physical illness, and living conditions. To address these issues, a total of 1,301 individuals were reached through community-based activities such as family dialogue healing and games.

Respiratory infections remain a concern as IOM builds medical response capacity



IOM MOBILE MEDICAL TEAM TRAINING © IOM 2019

IOM noted an increase in both the number of outpatient consultations and the scope of external capacity building. Outpatient consultations rose by 9% this month, representing a total of 60,220, 31% of which were with children under five years of age. Upper Respiratory Tract Infections continue to be major concern, accounting for 31% of all cases of morbidity. As part of IOM's plan to support local health facilities, a team of medical professionals was sent to the Cox's Bazar District Hospital. Starting in late April, IOM provided 10 highly-skilled medical officers, one radiographer and two lab technicians to train local staff. The programme was initially planned to last two months, but was extended for an additional six.

As part of IOM's health emergency preparedness efforts for Cyclone Fani, we trained six Mobile Medical Teams (MMT), covering 86% of Cox's Bazar's Health Sector MMT preparedness. In addition, 26 IOM clinicians received two-day training on Emergency and Trauma Care and 300 Community Health Workers received training on cyclone preparedness, messaging and basic first aid. IOM's efforts to increase government technical capabilities was also furthered with the pilot of a new data app was launched for more efficient and prompt contact tracing.

Prevention and treatment efforts expanded to address seasonal outbreak threat

A rise in acute watery diarrhea (AWD) was noted in Camps 2W, 3, 9 and 15 which often coincides with 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 WASH and Health units joined forces, as WASH made efforts to curb contamination by implementing better surveillance and mitigation efforts. Meanwhile, joint assessment teams and WASH partners have also been engaged.

Additionally, sporadic cases of diphtheria continue to be reported in the camps. Diphtheria is a bacterial infection that causes fever and swelling of the lymph nodes. IOM has collaborated with the World Health Organization in providing prophylaxis treatment.

International Midwives' Day and One Millionth Consultation celebrated

Reflecting on IOM's milestone achievement of one million out-patient consultations, a workshop on 8 May was held to consider past successes and address shortfalls moving forward. IOM also celebrated International Midwives Day on 5 May, releasing a video and a statement showcasing expanded and improved midwife services throughout the humanitarian response.

Cyclone, Monsoon drills bring lifesaving skills

Disaster simulation builds disaster preparedness

The IOM Site Management team in Camp 18 conducted a simulation exercise as part of the monsoon preparedness programme on 28 May. The simulation was aimed at improving the capacity of camp volunteers to assess damage and compile accurate reports, as well as respond to urgent needs in a timely manner.

In one simulation, the trainees responded to a rain-induced landslide that damaged shelters, WASH facilities and drains. In another scenario, trainees went through protocol to rescue a child trapped under debris from a fallen house.

Meanwhile, Disaster Management Unit (DMU) volunteers were immediately mobilized during the simulation to collect information from the community on storm damage, reporting back to the Site Management team for verification. The simulation was conducted in coordination with the IOM Protection, Health and Shelter teams and was attended by members from the community.

The exercise will be replicated in all IOM camps before the second level is rolled out to engage all actors in the camp and measure the effectiveness of inter-sectoral responses. These drills are one of a series of activities IOM is carrying out during the June through September monsoon season.



A COMMUNITY CYCLONE SHELTER © IOM 2019



EMERGENCY TREATMENT SIMULATION ON © IOM 2019

Infrastructure improvements continue for month of May

Site Development's infrastructure improvements continued in May with nearly five kilometres of road built or repaired. IOM also built or repaired 49 metres of steps and trails, 5,582 metres of drainage and 311 metres of bridges. Additionally, IOM Site Development installed 170 solar street lights across the refugee camps.

Site Development's Cash-for-Work programme benefitted 16,980 people in May, 4% of whom were women. In Teknaf camps, the Site Management team organized consultation meetings with Rohingya community members where they discussed the Cash-for-Work programme and ways of increasing women's participation and engagement.

IOM also held a three-day fire safety and civil defence trainings for 100 volunteers. The training was aimed at boosting skills and response capacity in the lead-up to the monsoon and cyclone season. Fire hazards are also an ongoing safety concern being addressed by SMSD.



A FIRE-SAFETY POINT IN CAMP 25 © IOM 2019



5,582

meters of drainage repaired



311

bridges constructed or repaired



16,980

cash-for-work laborers engaged

‘Class of May’

IOM welcomes its first construction graduates

COX’S BAZAR — When four Bangladeshis living near the world’s largest new human settlement heard about a programme teaching construction, they saw an opportunity. “Lots of people had come over the border [since 2017] and houses were going up everywhere, but there weren’t enough contractors and the ones here didn’t have much experience,” Reza explains. He and his friends were interested in learning business and construction, but it seemed impossible. “I grew up here, and there are no good schools or business or construction school. Many of the craftsmen are just making it up as they go along.”

Last year, Reza heard about a new IOM ‘Centre of Excellence’ that was teaching construction and business skills, so he and his friends jumped at the opportunity. They enrolled in the intensive 25-day, 84-hour programme located on the camp’s outskirts. The programme is a part of a broader joint IOM, UNHCR, and WFP effort aimed largely at infrastructure upgrades in the camp and livelihood building for affected communities. Over the ensuing weeks, Reza and his friends took part, learning everything from how to mix cement, to masonry, basic accounting and employee relations. They came out of the course ready to take the step of launching their own company: Star Construction. In addition to pitching services to NGOs, Star aims to serve the local community in Cox’s Bazar and to hire workers from the surrounding host community.

Nearly a million refugees fled to Cox’s Bazar seeking safety from violence in Myanmar. As conditions have gradually improved in the camps, increasing numbers of host community Bangladeshis are learning from the international expertise brought by the humanitarian presence. The relief effort has meant some of the world’s foremost technical experts have converged on this previously-isolated border community. In addition to benefitting locals through infrastructure and development projects, the influx of

talent has given many access to training in skills that will outlast the humanitarian effort. Training locals in skills ranging from construction to computers and administration constitutes part of IOM’s aim to localize the delivery of relief services in Bangladesh.

One of the Star Construction partners, Anan, 29 years old, explains cement block demand has increased exponentially since the refugee influx. Bangladesh lies on a silt fluvial plane hundreds of metres deep, meaning there exists no rock for construction materials or to secure structural foundations. At the SMEP training facility, Anan and the Star Construction partners learned how to make concrete slabs for securing flood-prone houses and making pavement. “The techniques of how to mix the cement correctly and the proportions and types of sand were entirely new to us,” said Anan. With the successes of the first training facility, IOM plans to expand its efforts with the addition of a two-story workshop in the Kutupalong refugee camp. On offer will be basic skills training in metal working, mechanics and possibly welding.



SMEP TRAINING GRADUATES IN FRONT OF THE CAMP TRAINING CENTRE © IOM 2019



Reducing the risk of landslide

SMEP teams have installed bamboo re-enforcements on vulnerable slopes in the Rohingya refugee camps.

The camps are situated atop fluvial silt from the Himalayas and deforestation has made them prone to flash floods. Bamboo trellising helps keep soil in tact, improving the safety of local residents.

NEEDS AND POPULATION MONITORING

Women's voices emphasized under new data collection

The Site Assessment report moves beyond consulting local officials for its monthly findings

Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) pressed forward with changes to the way it collects and analyses information by diversifying its Key Informants. Every quarter, the NPM team collects comprehensive data in the Rohingya refugee camps to assess health and social needs, food security, physical security, and general issues of concern. The information is collected from interviews and questionnaires of Key Informants, who are refugees and local community members. The findings are incorporated into the quarterly Site Assessment report which is circulated widely to stakeholders. This month, during Site Assessment round 15, NPM began incorporating female beneficiaries into its Site Assessment. So far, approximately 1,040 female responders have been interviewed out of 1,060 locations. By the end of the assessment in late June, NPM aims to have interviewed at least 1,900 female respondents, in approximately 2,050 locations. The NPM Information Management unit in coordination with the operations team is currently reviewing and updating datasets and Majhee blocks and preparing the structure and tools for analysis.

At time of publication, data from 16 camps had been compiled. As part of the diversification activities outlined above, several scoping missions in Bangladeshi communities hosting Rohingya refugees have been carried out. These missions are aimed at inviting Rohingya representatives to speak on behalf of their communities for the IOM NPM Site Assessment.



ENUMERATORS COLLECTING DATA FOR NPM'S SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT © IOM 2019

PROTECTION

Protection identified 138 Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) and managed 169 new cases in May. IOM found that the most common issues reported related to registration, food access, healthcare services, damaged or weak shelters, self-relocation, gender based violence (GBV) and communal disputes.

Four risk mapping sessions were held in four different camps with the main risks identified as living in flood-prone areas, insufficient evening lighting, landslides, road accidents and poor latrine quality. After identifying risks, the community also identified its response capacities. These included communication over threats, increasing presence of male community members in risk-prone areas, strengthening shelters, designating shelters to operate as informal disaster shelters.

Additionally, parents highlighted the need to raise child awareness about road hazards to help young people cross thoroughfares safely. A total of 427 beneficiaries were assisted with relocation support, while 19 were identified for specialized follow-up. Meanwhile, IOM trained 137 individuals through seven sessions for non-protection actors. This included six sessions on EVIs and support for such individuals during emergencies. The team also conducted one capacity-building training for an NGO partner focusing on protection monitoring and data collection.

Gender-based Violence, Persons with Disabilities and Child Protection

Between the third and fifth of May, the IOM GBV team in Camps 24 and 25 conducted a rapid assessment to determine emergency-preparedness among Rohingya community members with disabilities. IOM measured whether persons with disabilities were receiving messages on disaster responses and emergency preparedness and if shelters were stocked with basic provisions such as food, candles, and lighters. IOM also worked with care givers, family members and neighbours to support individuals with disabilities in case of evacuation to a safer location. Programming is designed to keep in mind the fact that disasters are often followed by an increase in GBV, including intimate partner violence and sexual assault which disproportionately impacts women and girls. Persons with disabilities are also more vulnerable to experiencing GBV.

Community Feedback

In May, IOM conducted block-level interviews and found the main concerns were:

- Lack of functioning tube wells
- Solar lights not properly functioning
- Latrines positioned too close to main roads or market areas
- Long distances to food distribution points
- Rumors of violence
- Confusion over obtaining food tokens



FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION HELD TO IDENTIFY SKILLS AND CAPACITIES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES IN CAMP 24 © IOM 2019

Based on monitoring and findings, the GBV team started a four-day distribution from 27 to 30 May, giving out dignity kits, solar lanterns, torch lights, and thamis (fabric for sewing) to 58 women and 13 children with disabilities. The teams received positive feedback from the community. One woman with a disability remarked: “I haven’t seen such respect from anyone toward me in the past which I have experienced today from IOM.”

Other activities included identifying about 400 ‘influencers’ to act as advocates on the ground to prevent GBV in their communities. The overall aim is the pre-empt GBV by addressing social attitudes in addition to responding to reported cases.

Counter-trafficking remains top priority

IOM continues press forward with efforts to strengthen local law enforcement and awareness among vulnerable groups regarding the threat of human trafficking. In May, IOM announced a joint task force with the Government of Bangladesh to increase enforcement of the country’s 2012 counter-trafficking law, the Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (PHSTA). Included in this initiative is better inter-agency collaboration, training for officials involved in counter-trafficking, and support to investigative bodies in compiling and processing cases.

Moving forward, Protection plans to follow-up with a workshop for investigators to enhance their capacity in combatting human trafficking in Cox’s Bazar. In coordination with implementing partners, IOM will continue hosting awareness-raising sessions, providing direct assistance and partaking in Counter-Trafficking Committee meetings at the Upazila and Union level.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

Upgrades provided to thousands of shelters in anticipation of monsoon season

For the month of May, IOM distributed material packs stocked with a tarpaulin, bamboo, rope, tie-wires, cement, jute bags and a padlock and chain to 3,326 households in Camps 8E, 10, 18, 20 and 23. IOM also completed construction of 12 pilot mid-term shelters in Camp 20 Extension and has received approval to roll-out construction in Camp 20 Extension. Additionally, IOM upgraded 11 mosques and provided emergency shelter support to 432 households affected by weather shocks.

Despite shorter days during the Ramadan holiday season, IOM treated 2,100 bamboo poles at IOM’s bamboo treatment facility to prevent rot and strengthen bamboo borak. These developments coincided with the debut operation of two treatment tanks featuring a total capacity of 4,000 litres.



3,326

Households received materials



432

Households received emergency shelter support



7,410

Cash-for-Work laborers engaged



TIE-DOWN KIT DISTRIBUTION IN TEKNAF © IOM 2019

Livelihoods and Social Cohesion

Disaster Management

IOM completed trainings on disaster management in preparation for the monsoon and cyclone seasons. In Teknaf, IOM trained a total of 410 individuals in a series of sessions; in nearby Ukhiya Camps, 294 beneficiaries participated in similar classes.

Reproductive Health Rights and Counter-Trafficking

Team members received professional training on women's reproductive health rights and human trafficking on 12 May 2019. Sessions were facilitated by IOM's Protection unit and Implementing Partners Mukti in Ukhiya and Bangladesh German Spopritee (BGS) in Teknaf. A total of 13 IOM staff participated in the training.

Small and Medium Enterprise

Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) trainings were provided to 12 beneficiary entrepreneurs in coordination with IOM's SMEP, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Livelihood and Social Cohesion, and Migration and Development units on 1 May 2019.

Our Social Cohesion and Livelihood unit conducted assessments of fishing community vulnerabilities in collaboration with USAID.

Women's Income Generation (WINGS)

The Women's Income Generation (WINGS) project targeted 400 Rohingya households under a self-reliance programme pilot. The business training incorporated human trafficking awareness, gender-based violence, children's rights and prevention of early marriages. Attendees were taught practical skills including food processing, tailoring, and vegetable gardening.

For example, 89 women trained in tailoring under our cash-for-work initiative. The programme is aimed at boosting Rohingya women's alternative cash access while making direct cash grants and income generation available to the host community.



WOMEN LEARNING SEWING SKILLS UNDER THE WINGS PROGRAMME © IOM 2019



LOCAL CHILDREN ATTENDING A DISTANCE LEARNING SESSION © IOM 2019

Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilience Unit distributed 50 Emergency water tanks to 50 IOM Cyclone Shelters, along with emergency equipment to 11 UDMCs and 11 VDP units.

IOM's efforts also included hosting 79 Courtyard Session with 41 informal DRR awareness groups in collaboration with TRD's Social Cohesion and Livelihood unit. A total of 1,226 participants attended the group meetings.

Migration and Development

A total of 23 government primary school teachers and government officials participated in a computer multi-media skill course. This curriculum was co-developed by both the Department of Social Services and IOM, under the local government's guidance. A government certificate will be granted to participants after they complete two months of training.

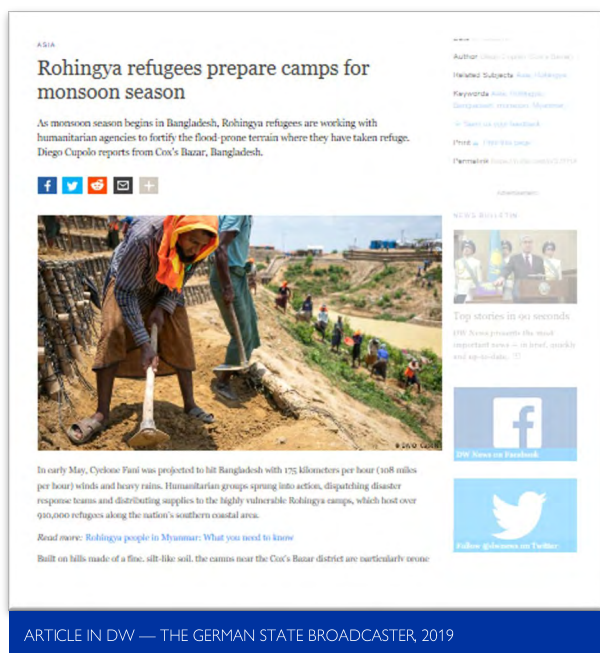
Other activities included:

- Distance learning classes started in May. Around 3,600 students from 10 selected government primary schools attended classes using multi-media content to supplement national text books.
- Brainstorming workshops on digital marketing for locally-produced products for sale via an e-commerce platform were held in Dhaka. After the workshop the online marketing company Boomerang agreed to produce an action plan for attendees.
- 65 patients received medical care through the mobile healthcare facility established via the Moheshkhali Health Complex. Notable during the reporting period was the use of mobile ultrasounds.

IOM is transitioning to consulting non-traditional ‘on-the-ground’ sources in its communications coverage and press releases. This approach will include conducting interviews with engineers, volunteers and beneficiaries, granting voice to stakeholders directly involved with frontline engagement. The results of this new perspective have been encouraging as IOM’s online uptake and local coverage of Bangladesh press releases has increased significantly.

National Media

In the past month since IOM Cox’s Bazar’s revitalized communications efforts began, local coverage has risen from zero to 12 articles in print and online media. IOM notes that half of these articles are in outlets where IOM has never had coverage. In the pipeline are national media events and other measures to boost IOM’s local media profile. Below are samples of press articles in print during the reporting cycle.



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