

# COVID-19 AND MONSOON PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

## WEEKLY UPDATE #18 | 3 to 9 July 2020

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

### HIGHLIGHTS

*“Through [household level] distribution, the Rohingya community can avoid gathering at distribution points. I maintain hygiene and distance during distribution. It ensures safety of my community and myself.”*

– **Dilder Hossain, a Rohingya Community-Based Volunteer working in a camp in Ukhiya.** WASH Sector partners are increasingly relying on community-based volunteers like Dilder to support in distributions of soaps and hygiene kits in the camps. WASH Sector, like other Sectors, have started household level deliveries to high-risk groups such as older persons, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, to reduce COVID-19 transmission and avoid mass gatherings at distribution sites. [Read more](#)



Photo: BRAC

### Key COVID-19 figures this week<sup>1</sup>

<p><b>58</b> confirmed COVID-19 cases in the refugee camps, and <b>3,026</b> cases in the host community</p>	<p><b>13</b> Rohingya refugees in quarantine who were in contact with a COVID-19 suspect or confirmed case, and <b>1,250</b> host community members</p>	<p><b>107</b> handwashing stations are operational at key entry points to the Rohingya refugee camps</p>
<p><b>6</b> Rohingya refugee fatalities due to COVID-19, and <b>42</b> host community members</p>	<p><b>34</b> Rohingya refugees in isolation who are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, and <b>1,102</b> host community members</p>	<p><b>2,318</b> Rohingya households with older persons without caretakers received home deliveries of special non-food item packages</p>

### Monsoon-related incidents<sup>2</sup> reported this week

<p><b>14,470</b> Rohingya refugees affected<sup>3</sup></p>	<p><b>0</b> Rohingya refugee fatalities due to drowning<sup>4</sup></p>	<p><b>0</b> Rohingya refugees injured</p>	<p><b>912</b> Rohingya refugees displaced</p>
<p><b>298</b> Rohingya refugees affected by <b>46</b> slope failures</p>	<p><b>14,172</b> Rohingya refugees affected by <b>67</b> events of wind/storms/rain</p>	<p><b>0</b> Rohingya refugees affected by flooding</p>	<p><b>0</b> Rohingya refugees affected by lightning</p>

<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 data on Cox's Bazar District is sourced from WHO daily update.

<sup>2</sup> All numbers are indicative only, as reported to SMSD Sector following rapid assessments carried out on the day of the incident. The numbers are not verified.

<sup>3</sup> Households and/or individuals directly affected by a specific incident, including people injured, relocated, displaced and with damaged shelters. These estimates do not include people who are indirectly affected, for instance those who are unable to access affected facilities.

<sup>4</sup> SMSD Sector cannot confirm that drownings resulted from the monsoon, however, the data captures all incidents (windstorm, slope failure, lightning, flood and drowning) reported in the camps during the monsoon season.

## COVID-19

### HEALTH

Health Sector **strengthened its Rapid Investigation and Response Team (RIRT) coverage in the camps** as part of its COVID-19 response with multi-sector support, which included providing an **induction training on RIRT operations for over 100 staff**. To address continued low testing numbers from the camps, Health Sector **began the recruitment process for 20 camp-level Health and Disease Surveillance Officers**, who will support the identification of suspected cases in the Rohingya community. To improve the oxygen capacity during in the COVID-19 health response, WHO **supported partners to acquire oxygen generators, including the installation of six units at four Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centres (SARI ITCs)** managed by UNICEF, IOM, Save the Children, and Ramu Upazila Health Complex. Surveillance and Immunization Medical Officers conducted **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training for 83 government and partner vaccinators** in preparation for outreach immunization sessions.

### WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE (WASH)

WASH Sector partners reached **265,638 individuals through a neighbourhood-based approach** and **175,520 individuals through mass media with COVID-19 awareness messages** in host and Rohingya communities. In the camps, WASH Sector partners **provided soap to 30,919 households** and **family hygiene kits to 39,350 households**; and **installed 14,368 hand-washing stations, 32 hand-washing stations with soak pit and drainage, and 1,158 tippy taps** (a cost-effective hands-free device for handwashing) and **12,886 stools** (with bucket and tap) at household-level. As part of COVID-19 risk prevention measures and IPC compliance in the host communities and camps, WASH Sector partners **disinfected 48,402 WASH facilities and 2,534 public buildings**. **5 handwashing stations have also been installed at camp entry points**, reaching a total of 107 handwashing stations at camp entry points.



*A volunteer disinfects a women/disabled persons friendly bathing space in a camp. Photo: Jamirul Islam*

### COMMUNICATION with COMMUNITIES (CwC WG)

CwC WG partners **reached 212,693 people in the camps and host communities with key COVID-19 messages** through community engagement activities, including 49,421 neighbourhood-based sessions; 16 sessions on home-based health care for older persons aged 60 and above; 14,593 community consultations; 1,491 listening groups; 389 video/film viewings, and 4,070 sessions led by religious leaders. CwC WG partners **organised COVID-19 awareness announcements via loudspeakers/megaphones in 19 camps**. For community feedback/complaints, **80 information service centres in the camps and 3 information service centres in the host community were operational**. CwC WG published its **14th COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement Update**, including **3 new audio messages, 2 posters, and 2 video programs on COVID-19** developed by partners.



*A Rohingya volunteer conducts an IPC session at the neighbourhood level in a camp. Photo: ACTED*

### FOOD SECURITY (FSS)

A **webinar on the FSS Joint Monitoring Framework** was held on 9 July for FSS Sector Advisory Group members including UN agencies/international and national NGOs, and other key actors. The monitoring framework uses a combination of a contextualized baseline evaluation of pre-COVID-19 food insecurity and vulnerability to COVID-19. FSS partners **engaged skilled Rohingya volunteers to communicate the July general food assistance messages and to promote hygiene practices at food assistance sites**. The Livelihoods Working Group **identified partners to cover remaining gaps in coverage for mask distributions in the camps**. Though challenges persist with low numbers of Rohingya and Bangladeshi people wearing masks, FSS partners reached **an additional 4,150 individuals in the camps and 37,000 individuals in host community with 82,300 reusable cloth masks, reaching a total so far of 300,000 individuals in the camps and host communities**. Additionally, FSS partners **provided over 1,500 individuals with a means to support their families through mask-making** during the COVID-19 pandemic in the camps and host communities.



*Tailoring trainer makes a child-sized cloth mask at a WFP-BRAC skills development centre in a camp. Photo: FSS, Akira Kaneko*

## EDUCATION

In 20 camps, 295 **Burmese Language Instructors (BLIs) including 10 females shared COVID-19 hygiene messages with 28,355 refugees. BLIs provided COVID-19 education support such as explaining caregiver-led learning materials and activities to 53,675 learner households and distributed 500 caregiver guidelines at the household-level.**

## SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

Shelter/NFI Sector partners **continued to provide NFI packages, including blankets, floor mats, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, rope, and some solar lamps, to households with older persons.** Out of 28,325 households with older persons, Shelter/NFI Sector **provided 263 households with NFIs at distribution points and made home deliveries of NFIs to 2,318 households without caretakers.** Shelter/NFI Sector partners also **distributed 29 NFI packages including blankets, floor mats, mosquito nets, solar lamps, and kitchen utensils, to quarantine centres.**

## PROTECTION, including Child Protection (CPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV SS)

Rohingya Community Outreach Members (COMs) **conducted 730 household-level visits and 154 monitoring assessments, reaching 3,131 refugees.** COMs also **conducted 2,669 COVID-19 awareness sessions reaching 7,054 refugees, including 1,968 older persons and 144 persons with disabilities.** COMs continued conducting mask-making trainings for the **Rohingya community who produced 3,553 masks.** CPSS **case management has been ongoing,** directly by case workers for high risk cases, and through volunteers, with remote support for low and medium-risk cases. CPSS has **shifted psychosocial support largely to structured sessions through volunteers** due to recent efforts to increase the capacity of volunteers. CPSS further **strengthened the capacities of Child Protection Focal Points** through biweekly trainings, daily phone support and weekly email guidance. GBV SS **provided psychosocial support to 457 refugees including 301 females, and continued to reach religious leaders with COVID-19 and GBV messages in refugee and host communities.**

## SITE MANAGEMENT and SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)

The **SMSD focal point from each camp participated in Health Sector's RIRT orientation training** on their roles and responsibilities, case investigation, contact tracing, safe and dignified burials, and the Dispatch and Referral Unit referral process. The training will ensure coordination between Health and SMSD teams on communication, treatment protocols, and prevention measures with COVID-19-affected individuals and households. SMSD Sector partners **distributed masks to 7,167 households in a camp in Ukhiya and to 2,139 host community families in Teknaf.** SMSD Sector partners continued to **lead "Go & See" visits to health and quarantine facilities for Rohingya and host community leaders and women's groups,** to enhance trust in services provided and help prevent misinformation.



*SMSD volunteers distribute masks to host communities in Teknaf. Photo: IOM*

## NUTRITION

Nutrition Sector distributed among its partners posters on '**Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) key message on COVID-19 context**'. Nutrition Sector partners **provided Vitamin A supplements to 38,700 Rohingya children under five, reaching over 70% of its targeted children.** Nutrition Sector partners also **counselled 2,177 Rohingya mothers and caregivers and 631 Bangladeshi mothers and caregivers on IYCF practices in emergencies, particularly in the COVID-19 context.** Nutrition Sector identified **40 suspected COVID-19 cases at nutrition facilities in the camps and referred them to health facilities.**



*Camp 16 CiC participates in the Vitamin A Supplement campaign. Photo: Nutrition Sector*

## LOGISTICS

Logistics Sector **loaned one 22 KVA generator to International Rescue Committee in Camp 23 (Shamlapur) and one 15 KVA generator to Save the Children in Camp 21 to support SARI ITCs.**

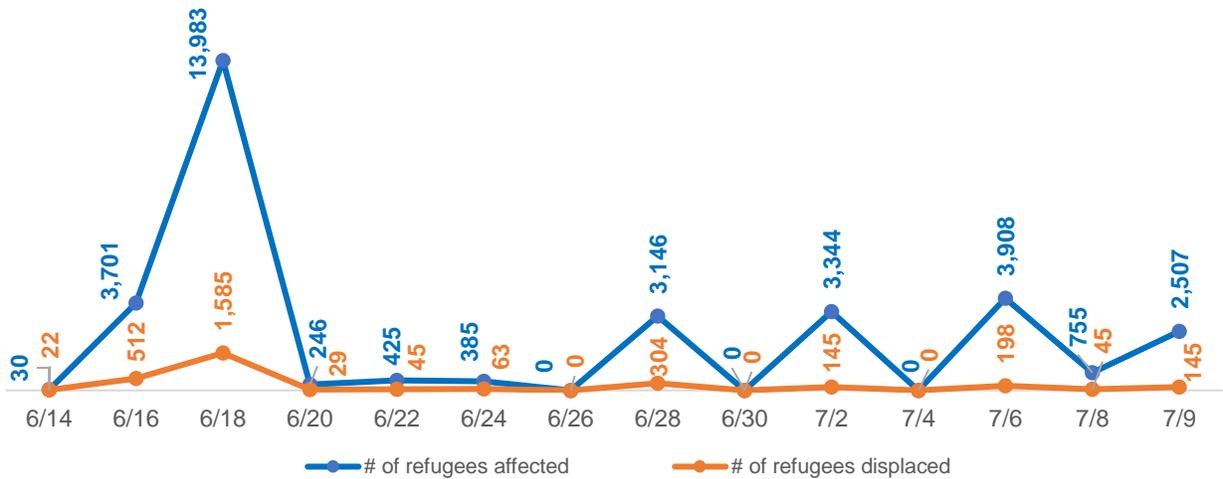
## GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION (GiHA WG) and GENDER HUB

GiHA WG partners supported Rohingya women’s committees to co-facilitate COVID-19 awareness-raising activities alongside messages on increasing gender-balanced roles in the household. GiHA WG partners conducted 4 trainings for female Rohingya elected leaders to enhance leadership skills during the pandemic. GiHA WG provided support to women networks engaged in psychosocial support activities and piloted 2 virtual women’s support groups in the camps. The Gender Hub and the Health Sector Gender Focal Point facilitated an awareness-raising session on COVID-19 gender implications for 37 middle managers and technical staff from the humanitarian community.

## MONSOON

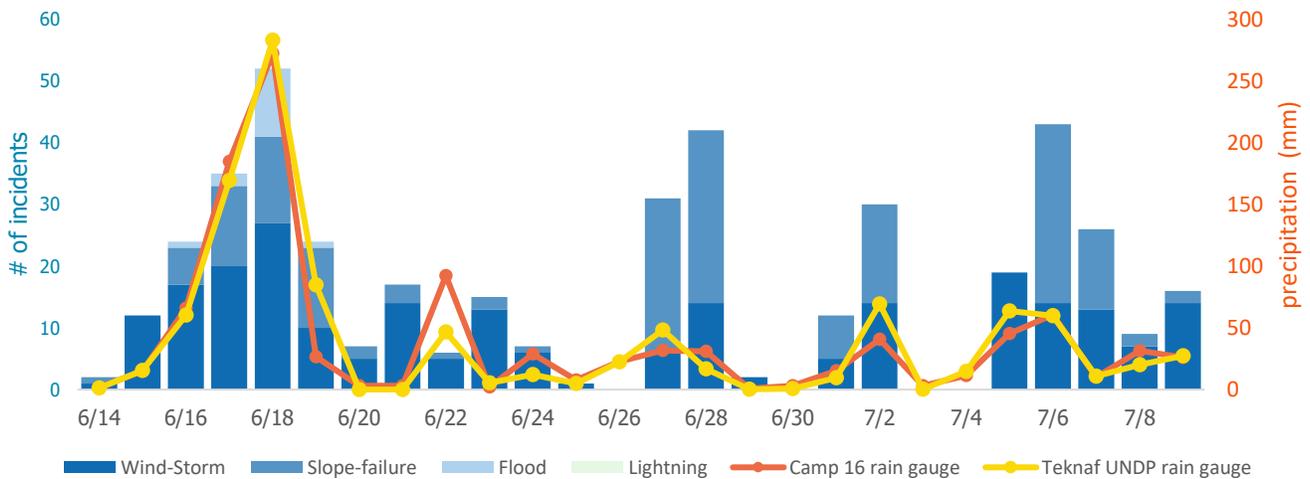
### Cumulative incidents reported in Camps since 14 June 2020 (SMSD Sector)

**CUMULATIVE CASUALTIES:** Since 14 June, 2 fatalities have been reported in the camps as a result of monsoon-related events. Some 14 refugees have been injured. The peak was recorded on 18 June, when over 1,585 refugees were displaced by wind and slope failure in one day.



### Cumulative precipitation compared to number and type of incidents reported by rain gauge (Geological Survey of Bangladesh/UNDP)

Please note the pre-determined risk thresholds are - 3 hours: 75 mm; 24 hours: 200 mm; 72 hours: 350 mm. The slope failure risk is significant when those thresholds are reached with the given time period.



## HEALTH

Health Sector **mobile medical teams and Dispatch and Referral Units are operational and ready to respond to adverse effects of monsoon weather in the camps and nearby host communities.** Health Sector continued preparing an evacuation plan for patients and equipment from SARI ITC facilities in the event of a severe weather-related incident.

## WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE (WASH)

Monsoon rain and winds **affected 34 toilets, 7 tube wells, and 10 bathing cubicles in different camps in Ukhiya; and impacted 93 toilets, 1 faecal sludge management (FSM) sites, 7 tube wells, 17 solid waste management pits and 18 bathing cubicles in camps in Teknaf.** WASH Sector partners **started repairing the damaged toilets and bathing cubicles in Ukhiya and Teknaf.**

## COMMUNICATION with COMMUNITIES (CwC WG)

CwC WG partners **engaged with Rohingya and host communities to raise awareness on monsoon preparedness and response and reached 15,099 individuals through different community engagement activities,** including 51 community awareness sessions, 2,782 neighbourhood-based sessions, 21 radio listeners' group sessions, and 69 video/film shows. Moreover, **83 information service centres were operational, with staff disseminating monsoon-related information** and receiving feedback and complaints from both communities.

## FOOD SECURITY (FSS)

FSS partners provided rapid food assistance response to households displaced by floods and landslides in the camps, including **dry food rations to 3 households, high energy biscuits to 12 households, and 48 cooked meals in 5 camps.**

## SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

<b>300</b> Rohingya refugee households were partially moderately damaged	<b>469</b> Rohingya refugee households were partially severely damaged	<b>449</b> Rohingya refugee households were fully damaged	<b>0</b> Rohingya refugee households were completely destroyed
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Shelter/NFI Sector partners **continued providing emergency support to vulnerable Rohingya households affected by monsoon rains.** Shelter/NFI Sector partners **verified shelter damage for 1,218 households and provided them all with emergency shelter assistance.** Shelter/NFI Sector partners **provided household deliveries of emergency shelter materials and repaired shelters for 19 households with older persons without caretakers.**

## PROTECTION, including Child Protection (CPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV SS)

Protection Focal Points **coordinated activities addressing shelter and relocation concerns** arising within the Rohingya community. Community-level child protection planning continued with the **establishment of Emergency Child and Caregivers Information Points.** CPSS partners **formed child protection mobile teams,** comprised of one child protection partner and 5 volunteers for each camp, **to support the monsoon response,** and CPSS **provided training for the volunteers.** GBV Focal Persons and volunteers together with Protection Emergency Response Units and Gender Focal Points **provided monsoon/cyclone and COVID-19 emergency response messaging to 4,464 individuals, including 2,674 females in the camps and host communities.**

## SITE MANAGEMENT and SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)

With reduced access to the camps and heavy rains, SMSD Sector partners have been **overwhelmed with monsoon mitigation and response activities.** In the camps, SMSD Sector partners **completed 79 landslide mitigation works and two bridges, and repaired 50 meters of drainage, 158 staircases, and over 150 meters of bridges.**

SMSD Sector partners also conducted an **assessment on fenced and non-fenced ponds as part of a monsoon safety check**; and held **awareness sessions for 350 Rohingya households on preparing shelters for heavy rains**.

## LOGISTICS

Logistics Sector **prepositioned two mobile storage units, two 2.2 KVA generators and one 15 KVA generator in Balukhali Logistics Hub for monsoon preparedness**.

## GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION (GiHA WG) and GENDER HUB

Rohingya women volunteers **shared key messages on monsoon preparedness and the importance of identifying shelters that need repairs** in the camps. **Rohingya female elected leaders expressed their interest in being included in assessments of damaged shelters**, given that their knowledge and trust within the community well-positions them to help prioritise shelter repairs.

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For more information: Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)  
E-mail: [iscg@iscgxcb.org](mailto:iscg@iscgxcb.org). Website: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh> Social media:

