

### 884,000

Rohingya Population in Cox's Bazar

### 671,000

New Rohingya Arrivals since 25 August 2017  
in Cox's Bazar

### 1.2 Million

People in Need in Cox's Bazar



Women engage in the relay of soil baskets for backfilling at Purbo Assarbonia camp, Shamlapur. ©IOM 2018

## Key Highlights

- ◆ IOM presented this week the results of a rapid assessment on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support conducted to identify the **main factors affecting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing as well as coping strategies of the Rohingya refugees** displaced in Cox's Bazar. Key findings and recommendations are available on p.4.
- ◆ A **joint Drainage, Access, Stabilization and Haven (DASH) assessment** is ongoing in Camp 8W to identify high risk areas and prioritize required actions for the upcoming monsoon season. IOM is also supporting the NGO ActionAid to conduct DASH assessments in Camps 11 and 12.
- ◆ IOM has **this week demarcated, cleared and levelled 200 plots to receive new arrivals** in Camp 20. Moreover, Camp 20 is being equipped with a distribution point and bamboo bridges.
- ◆ IOM successfully conducted the **International Women's day celebration** in four safe spaces. Activities included singing, art and drama prepared by women and girls. Women and girls also took part in a rally to commemorate the day, and some gave a speech on the importance of the celebration.

## Situation Overview

Since 25 August 2017, an estimated **671,000** Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh fleeing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, increasing the total Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar to over **884,000**. New arrivals are living in spontaneous settlements with an increasing need of humanitarian assistance—including shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation.

Additionally, with the rainy season fast approaching, there is an urgent need to continue **strengthening preparedness measures** and **raising awareness among the refugee population regarding potential landslide and flood risks**.

In order to respond to these risks collectively and comprehensively, **IOM continues to work closely with the Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian**

**community**. IOM and its partners continue to scale up operations to respond to the needs of new arrivals, existing Rohingya, and affected host communities.



View of Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kislig

## Voices of Refugees

In the past six months more than 671,000 Rohingya refugees escaped violence in Myanmar by fleeing into Bangladesh. IOM, other agencies and the Bangladesh authorities support them on the ground.

But it is the refugees' own resilience that shines through when they share their stories of life in the world's biggest refugee camp...



### Ansrulla

For Ansarullah, 10 years old, life as a refugee gets a lot better when you start to make new friends ...

Discover Ansrulla's story [here](#).

## IOM Response



### Monsoon Preparation

As Bangladesh's annual wet season approaches, IOM is also working to secure infrastructure and strengthen preparedness measures.

**To mitigate risks to shelters and individuals and be ready for the worst conditions :**

**14,430** families received Shelter Upgrade Kits (USKs)

**9,675** households received community training on shelter upgrade and risk reduction

**9,600** refugees have provided feedback that is being analysed to prepare messages for the monsoon season

**1,400** community mobilisers are conducting door to door awareness campaign on preparedness measures for the monsoon season

**650** refugees and local community members are being trained in first aid as well as search and rescue in emergency situations

**5** new emergency medical centres are being prepared

Key machinery is being purchased to be placed across district for emergency works

### “Living on the Edge”

Click [here](#) to watch IOM short video on the monsoon preparation.



### Resilience and Environment Management

The recently established Resilience and Environment Management (REM) Unit oversees longer-term programming to complement the humanitarian response.

The REM Unit is currently working on a livelihoods project jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that aims to **improve food and nutrition security for host community and refugee populations** in Cox's Bazar. To date, **500 farmers received agricultural training**. These 500 farmers are also part of the **newly formed Farmer Field School (FFS)**, a group-based learning system that brings together concepts and methods of agroecology, experimental cropping, and community development. Members of the FFS are divided into groups consisting of 5 to 10 farmers who meet weekly under the guidance of one of the 32 trained facilitators.

**Recently, the FFS groups received 72 mini-tillers, 72 high-efficiency irrigation pumps, and government-provided inputs (e.g. seeds, fertilizers).**

Additionally, an agreement was formed with the Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation also known as the Arannayk Foundation to **establish Grass and Shrub Nursery** in Cox's Bazar district in an **attempt to start reforestation**.

In coordination with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC), 25,000 refugee households were selected to receive **micro-gardening kits**. Another 25,000 kit recipients have been identified in the host communities through Community Agriculture Rehabilitation and Implementation Committees, using vulnerability as a criteria for final selection.



This week, **10,901 consultations occurred**, bringing the total number of consultations from **25 August 2017 to 3 March 2018 to 263,698 (155,335 in Ukhia and 108,363 in Teknaf)**. In regards to **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, 4,487 people have received support** since the current influx began.

To expand health services, IOM has started the **construction of multiple facilities**. The construction of **three temporary structures is now completed in the south east of Ukhia** to house the Research Training and Management (RTM) International health teams. IOM will work in partnership with RTM International to conduct **assessments, strengthen the referral system as well as the community participation and community support systems**.

This week, medical officers participated in a condensed

**2-day tuberculosis (TB) training course** to increase quality around TB referrals and care.

Finally, IOM presented its findings from the recent assessment to the MHPSS Working Group (see below).



Pharmacy of IOM PHC in Camp 10. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kislig

## Key Findings and Recommendations of the MHPSS Needs Assessment

IOM conducted a rapid assessment on Mental Health and Psychosocial support to identify the **main factors affecting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing as well as coping strategies of the Rohingya refugees** displaced in Cox's Bazar. These indicators are not intended to be conclusive neither pretend to be a generalization of mental health and psychosocial concerns but can help inform the developing of future interventions. Data collection method included Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with 300 refugees and key informants.

### Key findings:

- ◆ **38%** of children reported **sleeping problems** since they were displaced, due to bad memories of the events occurred and manifested feeling afraid to fall asleep.
- ◆ **20%** of participants reported some sort of **somatic complaint, headaches, sore muscles and backpain**.
- ◆ **52%** of the youth respondents expressed some sort of **physical uneasiness, specially headaches**.
- ◆ **38%** of children expressed that, among other factors, their current situation, food shortage and having lost track of their relatives make them **feel anxious and sometimes feel difficult to focus at school**.
- ◆ **4%** percentage of youth participants who reported **death ideas**, those participants also manifested their lack of educational and employment opportunities and a sense of being in captivity in the camp.

### Recommendations:

- ◆ **Advocacy in sectors such as food security and nutrition as well as shelter, site planning and WASH need to be strengthened** with relevant humanitarian actors, as basic services are the biggest factor affecting psychosocial wellbeing.
- ◆ **Develop resilience factors** that are key to strengthening and improving the overall psychosocial wellbeing of the Rohingya population.
- ◆ **Develop refugee awareness regarding psychosocial services** provided by humanitarian actors in the field
- ◆ **Identify and engage with selected universities** with studies in mental health and psychosocial support to establish partnerships with the aim to encourage a knowledge exchange on programming and specific trainings that address main MHPSS concerns and the needs of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.



## Site Management & Site Development

In anticipation of the monsoon season, IOM has **relocated households identified to be living in high-risk areas**. This week, a total of 32 families were relocated from Balukhali Makeshift Settlement (Camp 9) to Camp 20. In addition, 369 individuals and 53 Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) new arrivals are being



Relocation of families identified to be in high risk areas. ©IOM 2018/Nicola Andrade

relocated from UNHCR Transit Center to Camp 20.

To reinforce participation, 41 Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with women and men were held to **discuss hygiene promotion, fire safety and risks of landslides** in Camp 9. In addition, 24 FGD with a total of 156 participants, including 40 women were conducted in Camp 10. The site monitoring of Camp 10 covering 5,510 households was completed this week; most of the blocks need lamp posts, and people need additional shelter kits and fuel. Additionally, some blocks need wash room, latrine and deep tube wells.

IOM has established Safety and Security Committees and has trained the members to build the **capacity of the community to respond to emergencies**. In Camp 18, Fire Safety, Search and Rescue & First Aid Trainings for the committees' volunteers were conducted.

In Leda, IOM together with the Camp in Charge (Army Commander) identified **four potential relocation sites to accommodate a total of 548 households in high-risk areas**. A **WASH needs analysis is being conducted** in the relocation area, in order to determine exact needs and to advise WASH actors on needed WASH facilities.

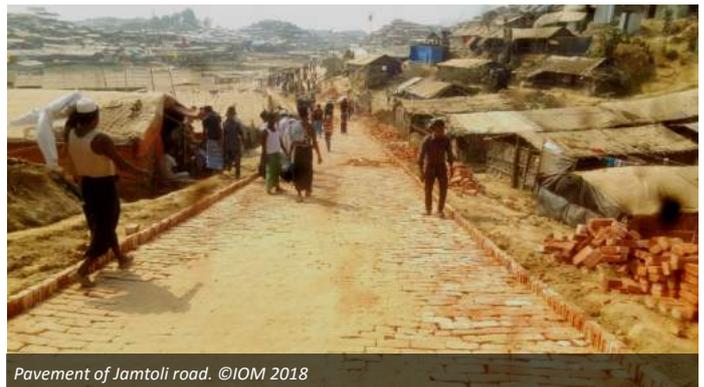
IOM received **1,369 questions and complaints from the community** in Leda and referred 1,132 to different organisations. People requested additional toilets and

complained about water shortage.

A **joint Drainage, Access, Stabilization and Haven (DASH) assessment** is ongoing in Camp 8W to identify high risk areas and prioritize required actions for the upcoming monsoon season. IOM is also supporting the NGO ActionAid to conduct DASH assessments in Camps 11 and 12. In Unchiprang, Shamlapur, Leda, Camp 14, Camp 15, and Camp 16, IOM is developing **community flood hazard maps** based on anecdotal information captured from local community and field measurements taken of high water levels.

Regarding Site Development activities, IOM has **demarcated, cleared and levelled this week 200 plots to receive new arrivals** in Camp 20. Moreover, Camp 20 is being equipped with a distribution point and bamboo bridges. In addition, IOM completed the **pavement of Jamtoli road** this week. In Leda, Shamlapur and Uchiprang, the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) are ongoing. They mostly consist of foot paths, bamboo bridges and clean-up of the canals and drainages.

Finally, the **construction of temporary health facilities** in Camp 17 and 19 including earthworks is nearly



Pavement of Jamtoli road. ©IOM 2018

completed. The construction of a brick incinerator in the Primary Healthcare Centre (Block D-4) was completed this week.



## Protection

In Cox's Bazar, IOM is responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP), Counter Trafficking (CT), and general protection issues.

This week, IOM identified 30 individuals and 53 households extremely vulnerable, 32 people received Psychological First Aid (PFA) by trained case workers, 47 health referrals were made and 3 new Victims of trafficking (VOTs) were identified and assisted.

To date, a total of **15,293** EVIs have been identified, **4,411 individuals have been provided with PFA**, 1,890 individuals were facilitated with health referrals, and **40 Victims of Trafficking have been identified and assisted**.

With the recent arrival, IOM has been supporting relocations to Camp 17, 18 and 20. IOM has been working with other protection partners to integrate protection activities in the arrivals process, expanding the existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to

ensure that there is more **seamless coordination around transferring households from one area to another**.

Preparations are under way to work with Site Management on the roll out of Safety and Security Committees to ensure a **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) lens on protection activities**. There is a need to strengthen protection engagement and support vulnerable populations prior to and during the monsoon season. Efforts are also underway to work closely with the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Adviser to strengthen access to **relevant and actionable information for persons at heightened risk**.

Finally, a two-day **community mobilization training** was organised by IOM for its implementing partner staff on GBV assessment tools including service mapping, facilitation skills, focus group discussions, how to deal with disclosures and make safe referrals.

## International Women's Day Celebration

As part of GBV activities, IOM successfully conducted the **International Women's day celebration** in four safe spaces. Activities included singing, art, and drama prepared by women and girls to celebrate the day.

Women and girls also took part in a rally to commemorate the day and some gave a speech on the importance of the celebration.





## Shelter/Non Food Items (NFIs)

IOM is coordinating the Shelter/NFI Sector

As part of its shelter upgrade activities to reduce disaster risks and to improve overall living conditions in the camps and makeshift settlements, IOM distributed



DRR and shelter Upgrade orientation session. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kislig

this week **2,800 bamboo bundles** in Camp 9, 10 and 18. Since the beginning of February 2018, Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs) — which include materials and tools to **carry out simple shelter upgrades and household level site improvements** such as soil stabilization, slope protection, and drainage improvements — have reached **14,430 families**.



## Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation

A total of **123 Deep Tube Wells (DTWs)** have been completed since the influx began, serving an estimated **123,000 users**. The construction and installation of 142 DTWs is ongoing in Balukhali Kutupalong Extension Site and in host villages Chapotkhali, Dhakkin Pannasia, and Tolatoli. In addition, **2,092,500 liters of water** have been trucked for refugees.

To date, **2,019 emergency latrines and mobile toilets** have been constructed, serving approximately **100,950 individuals**. The construction of 412 household and 27 community latrines is ongoing.

Additionally, **116 wash rooms have been constructed to date and are ready to use**, with 60 more currently under construction.

Along with the distribution of USKs, **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and shelter upgrade orientation sessions have been provided to 9,675 families**.

Additionally, **39 new volunteers and 31 carpenters** were trained on 'Shelter Upgrade and DRR' and 'Basic Guidance for Shelter Upgrade' this week.

For the Common Pipeline Programme, IOM has now five partners distributing USKs and continues to sign agreements with additional partners.

### The Shelter/NFIs Common Pipeline

The Common Pipeline Programme is a **repository of NFI supplies** that are managed by one agency— IOM. As the managing agency, IOM **procure, preposition and store** the supplies. Distribution to the affected population is the responsibility of the Shelter/NFI partners (including IOM), who can access the supplies after endorsement from the Sector Coordination Team.

To enhance good hygiene practices, **30,399 Hygiene Kits were distributed to date**. In addition, **13,665 jerry cans and 206,491 bars of soap** have been distributed since August through IOM health facilities or directly to beneficiaries.

Additionally, six agreements have been signed with partners for **WASH common pipeline supplies** that include hygiene top-up kit and aquatabs.

Finally, a joint field visits conducted in Camp 10 in coordination with the WASH actors was conducted on 7 March to **assess critical sanitation issues** related to **decommissioning, solid waste management and drainage and to define roles and responsibilities**.



## Inter-Sector Coordination Group

IOM is hosting the sector based coordination structure for the Rohingya Crisis Response

The Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), hosted by IOM, is coordinating the overall Rohingya Refugee Crisis. ISCG facilitates timely, coordinated, needs-based, and evidence-driven humanitarian assistance for efficient use of resources and to avoid duplication, and produces regular Situation [Reports](#) and [4W maps and data](#). ISCG is working closely with the Sector lead agencies to finalize the Joint Response Plan 2018, expected to be released mid-March 2018.

## Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) Round 8

**NPM Site Assessment Round 8 report** is now available [here](#).

Additional NPM products are available [NPM website](#). They include:

- ◆ NPM Site Assessment (SA) Master List
- ◆ NPM SA Needs Assessment Dataset
- ◆ NPM SA Site Profiles
- ◆ NPM SA Population Density Map

## IOM in the news

### Monsoon floods and landslides threaten 100,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

Reuters (9 March 2018)

Chakmakul Refugee Camp, Bangladesh – The Rohingya refugees who live in shacks clinging to these steep, denuded hills in southern Bangladesh pray that the sandbags fortifying the slopes will survive the upcoming monsoon.

Click [here](#) for the full article.

### IOM, FAO to Support Agricultural Livelihoods, Forestry on Bangladesh-Myanmar Border

IOM (13 March 2018)

Cox's Bazar – When a poor, rural farming community finds itself in the middle of the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world – doubling its population in just a few months – it's not just the new arrivals who need support as food prices soar and infrastructure is overloaded.

Click [here](#) for the full article.

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