

**AUGUST 2021**



*Elderly Rohingyas are waiting to get COVID-19 vaccine at IOM health facility in Camp 2W. ©IOM2021*

### Host Community Support

IOM is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh to support the host community affected by the monsoon.

Around 80,000 host community people have lost homes and source of income due to devastating floods, heavy rains and landslides from the end of July to first quarter of August.

People's daily life became difficult as standing crops in farmlands were damaged and belongings were washed away due to nonstop rains and flood. Most host community people rely on agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.

IOM teams have been delivering continuous support to the disaster-affected host communities. More support is needed to rebuild the damaged infrastructure in affected areas and to recover people's losses.

IOM's livelihoods programme provides host community members with different types of income-generating activities. Since 2017, close to 11,000 host community members have accessed livelihood opportunities.

Read more [here](#)



**738,817**

Rohingya arrivals since  
25 August 2017



**890,276**

Rohingya in Cox's Bazar



**1.3 million**

People in need

### IOM Supports COVID-19 Vaccination for Rohingya Refugees

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign for the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar camps started on 10 August. As part of the Government of Bangladesh National Committee on COVID-19 vaccination plan, the vaccination campaign was for the refugees who are 50 years and above.

The first dose of the vaccine was given to 36,943 refugees -- 21,673 male and 15,270 female -- at the first phase of the campaign, which aimed to reach 43,093 refugees through this facility-based approach. By covering 86% of the targeted beneficiaries, the campaign's first phase ended on 23 August while eligible community leaders who are supporting the camp operations were also vaccinated.

Out of the 34 selected sites for vaccination, 10 were IOM health facilities where 17% of vaccinated refugees were provided first dose of the vaccine. A total 46 IOM health workers were trained on vaccination Standard Operating Procedures as well as guidelines on Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI).

Community Health Workers (CHWs) played a key role in mobilisation and were also responsible for vaccination card distribution. There were Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities that took place prior, during and after the campaign, for raising awareness, promotion of this campaign, and establishment of trust and feedback mechanisms from the community.

For this campaign, IOM has distributed 11,693 Information, Education & Communication (IEC) materials related to vaccination and reached 134,666 beneficiaries through house to house visits, and conducted awareness-raising sessions. The next round for the second dose will begin in early September.

In addition, through the provision of tablets and orientation for staff on data entry, IOM also supported five government facilities in Cox's Bazar with COVID-19 vaccination registration for the host community, with 423 registrations done this month.

Download the IOM Bangladesh 2021 Appeal [here](#)

The 35 IOM supported primary and secondary health care facilities are ensuring essential health services for both Rohingya refugee and host communities. These facilities provide outpatient and inpatient management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, services for child health (consultations, immunization and referrals for malnutrition); Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services; 24-hour emergency referrals; Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Gender-based Violence services. A total 350 community health workers from implementing partners have been working for the community-based activities.

Following the massive fire incident on 22 March, 2021, IOM has continued to support fire affected populations, through the mobile medical teams, makeshift facility and static facilities, offering essential health services. This month, there were 4,632 consultations and 14,745 households were visited by CHW, conducting health promotion and referrals.

## Infection Prevention, Control and Surveillance

The three IOM supported ambulance decontamination units have cleaned and disinfected ambulances 60 times during this month. IOM Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITCs) in camps 20 Ext and 24, continue to be operational as part of scaled up response the surge of COVID-19 cases. In August, 121 cases (33 suspected cases and 88 confirmed) were received comprehensive care and management. A total of 225 coveralls, 860 KN-95 masks, 13,884 gloves, 27,825 pieces surgical masks, 1,540 face shields, 170 pieces goggles, and 1,355 gowns were distributed to IOM-supported health facilities to ensure staff safety and IPC.

IOM's two facilities with COVID-19 antigen Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) and nine sentinel sites collected 1,373 samples that were sent to the central laboratory in Cox's Bazar. Quarantine Facility, located in Camp 20 Extension, is continuing to quarantine contacts of reported cases in order to encourage early containment of the outbreak. For this reporting period, 12 contacts were quarantined in this facility that offers follow-up and health check-up services from World Concern/Medair, IOM MHD's implementing partner, from the attached health post.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Despite the natural disasters and limited movements in the community due to COVID-19 restrictions, a total of 9,565 beneficiaries were reached through a range of facility and community based MHPSS activities. MHPSS team also arranged awareness sessions, emotional support, individual counseling, and other supportive activities all throughout the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for refugees. A total of 5,071 community level outreach MHPSS activities and referrals were recorded while 7,794 participants attended community psychosocial group activities.



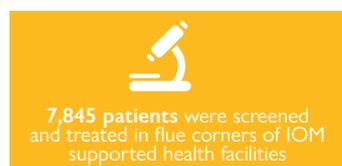
## Essential Primary Health Services

In August, a total of 86,089 consultations from IOM facilities and 280 Medical Referrals for Acute Life-threatening Conditions (MRALC) were recorded. IOM is also supporting Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with routine vaccination in Rohingya refugee camps. IOM continues to support secondary health facilities including district Sadar hospital and upazila health complexes, through specialists support (obstetric and gynecologists, internal medicine specialists and surgeons), equipment, supplies and consumables. In August, there were 887 consultations from specialists, 30 surgeries and seven Caesarean Sections.

This month, there were 262 facility-based deliveries while 5,298 women were provided with antenatal care and 954 with postnatal care. A total of 4,534 women were provided modern family planning methods. A total of 148 patients received treatment and care this month from IOM-supported Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) corner at Ukhiya Health Complex. 254 consultations for patients with life limiting illness took place, follow up visits for 60 cancer patients.

28 patients were linked with physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, community palliative care activities included awareness sessions and discussion groups, facilitated by palliative care assistants and compliant with IPC measures, reaching 146 beneficiaries, and 111 follow up home visits.

A total of 1,557 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases were treated in IOM-health facilities. IOM worked on improving its preparedness and response though continued support for 22 Oral Rehydration points, 15 beds in diarrhea treatment centers (DTC) and four Oral Rehydration Treatment (ORT) corners. In August, 7,845 patients were screened and treated in flu corners of IOM supported health facilities, out of which 569 were referred as suspected COVID-19 cases to COVID-19 isolation centres for further evaluation and treatment.





One of IOM partners is working on slope stabilization in Camp 22. ©IOM2021

During the reporting period, IOM responded to the damages caused by heavy rain. Disaster Management Unit volunteers disseminated emergency messages and supported families to relocate from risky areas to temporary communal shelters or relatives' houses. IOM is regularly doing emergency incident tracking and sharing information with partners. IOM disseminated awareness-raising messages on importance of wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing, symptoms of COVID-19, example of symptomatic cases, proper way of hand washing etc. IOM monitored the distribution points within the camps, coordinated among agencies to keep track of the planned distributions to avoid overlapping and to ensure the agencies adhere to the COVID-19 IPC measures.

In camp 23, IOM assessed and identified 91 families in need of shelter assistance which was successfully delivered. In Teknaf camps, IOM monitored and reported site development related urgent issues to Site Development implementing partner Shushilan and Site Management Engineering Programme (SMEP). In preparation for the end of monsoon season, IOM re-assessed the functionality of installed fire safety points in the community (fire drum, buckets, shovels), in camps and began the removal and replacement of damaged items

### Women's Participation Project (WPP)

Under WPP, a total of 1,078 women representatives took part at 134 awareness sessions on fire safety, COVID-19 vaccination, flood, landslide and basic hygiene with in six camps. A total of 14 trainings were conducted in five camps with 177 women committee members. A total of 479 women committee members in 11 camps are engaged in women-led projects CLP covering basic literacy, handicraft, basket-making, embroidery, painting, and gardening. As part of Fire Response – essential items i.e. borkha, scarf, bag, umbrella, water bottle, plastic folder, pen and notebook were provided to the 74 women committee members in camp 9.

### Site Management Engineering Project (SMEP)

Site Maintenance and Engineering Project office is comprising of IOM, UNHCR, and WFP involved in the construction and use of the camp roads.

SMEP has completed the repair of IOM Ukhiya Logbase access road. Under the Build Back Safer activity, around 14,000 sqm landslide risk areas in camp 8E and portion of camp 9 fire affected areas had been stabilized using bamboo and geotextile (bamboo crib wall).

In same manner, camps 21 and 1E are also doing hillside stabilization. In August, 2,178 sqm road have been repaired which involves removal of damage bricks, subbase compaction, and installation of Brick Flat Soling (BFS) and Herring Brick Bone (HBB). 29,810 sqm road were repaired. Road repair is ongoing in camp 3, 4, 13, 21, 22, Nayapara RC.

Hillside slope stabilization using bamboo walls is ongoing at fire damaged at camps 8E, 8W, 9, 11, 1E, 15, and 19. There is an ongoing roadside drainage installation work at camp 1W. At camp 15, drainage repair and installation of precast inverted T-Walls with cover is ongoing.

In August, 187 sqm roadside curb & gutter, concrete invert were installed while the 283 sqm drainage installed which are not alongside road.





403 Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) Identified and Referred for Specialized services



9,925 Number of individuals sensitized on counter trafficking issues



3146 Awareness Raising on Child Protection sessions were held



9,017 Awareness raising sessions on GBV were held

In the camps where the monsoon was most damaging, the IOM Protection and the Rohingya volunteers formed mobile teams to respond to extremely vulnerable households by identifying their acute needs, providing psychological first aid, and coordinating closely with other IOM staff and partners to refer the refugees to humanitarian services.

## General Protection (GP)

During the reporting period, immediate and direct referrals were provided for a total of 208 individuals as heavy rainfall caused a variety of protection concerns for the refugees. Another 30 refugees who were in need of relocation to safer areas as their shelter was in a landslide prone areas were also supported. A total of 346 extremely vulnerable individuals were referred for registration, WASH, livelihoods and food support. IOM received and administered a total of 54 protection cases, mainly related to the emergency response during the monsoon season.

Responding to the government initiated COVID-19 vaccination campaign for the Rohingya refugees, IOM and camp-based inter-agency Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams disseminated key messages to ensure that the campaign information reached 1,587 older persons, persons with disabilities, and other extremely vulnerable Rohingya above the age of 55 were reached or accompanied to the health clinics for the vaccination. A total of 23,490 Rohingya refugees benefitted from ongoing awareness raising and hygiene efforts in camps to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 disease and protection risks.

## Gender Based Violence (GBV)

Despite the authorities' COVID-19 restrictions and the impact to GBV programming overall, IOM continued to follow-up with persons in need of GBV services when possible and continued emergency safe shelter support. For the monsoon response, 158 dignity kits and 137 'Thamis' (traditional Rohingya dress for women) were distributed to women and girls who were in need and affected by the severe weather. The SARI Isolation and Treatment Centre at camp 24 was also provided with 100 dignity kits.

Rohingya volunteers reached 7,786 individuals through door-to-door sessions on COVID-19 awareness including vaccination and monsoon related topics. In host community, a total 1,231 individuals were also reached. IOM's partner PULSE Bangladesh reached 3,434 individuals from the host community by phone on COVID-19 preventive measures, Psychosocial Support (PSS) and protection-related issues. IOM will roll out the evidence-based GBV prevention curriculum across six camps when the government lifts the restrictions on GBV related activities.

## Child Protection (CP)

In August, IOM held small group and one-to-one awareness sessions on child protection for 3,273 individuals (595 men, 872 women, 934 boys and 872 girls) in the camps and host communities. IOM's partner,

Terre des Hommes (TDH), provided temporary shelter to 9 Rohingya families who were affected by heavy rainfall and floods. IOM and TdH both provided important information about monsoon rains and safety measures about flooding, PSS and Psychological First Aid (PFA) to the children, parents and community people. During the field visit to Ratna Palong, 15 children were identified with disabilities and referred to respective actors for further support. The team also distributed clothes and essential daily products to 12 children with disabilities.

## Counter Trafficking (CT)

IOM and partners continued to raise awareness on human trafficking, COVID-19 vaccination and prevention of COVID-19 to sensitize Rohingya refugees and host community members in individual basis or in very small group session. The outreach messages explained the possible risks of human trafficking during the pandemic. The effort reached 9,925 individuals. In addition, 2,316 comic pocketbooks, leaflets, posters and masks that featured the CT hotline were distributed to participants.

58 victims of trafficking (31 men, 23 women and four girls) were identified and assisted with case management services in the host community and camps. One Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC) meeting was organized by IOM and partners in Whykong Union with 27 members. Seven orientation sessions on CT basic concepts and COVID-19 were organized in Hnila, Sabrang, Whykong and Teknaf for 106 individuals (90 men and 16 women) consisting of protection actors, CTC members, Union Parishad standing committee members, civil society persons, religious leaders, local leaders and boatmen.



IOM protection team conducted training on "Mitigating Protection and GBV Risks in WASH." ©IOM2021

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



Door-to-door soap kit distribution at Camp 20. ©IOM2021



Rebuilt multi-cubical communal latrine in Camp 9 fire-affected area. ©IOM2021

Due to monsoon rain, the refugee camps have faced flash floods. To prevent Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD), a total of 1,886,859 Aquatabs (water purification tablets) were distributed to the households in the flood-affected areas, including a demonstration on its use, under the guidance of IOM.

In the reporting period, the IOM rebuilt 282 cubicles of communal latrines, 78 cubicles of the bathing sheds, and three Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Systems (DEWATS), and newly constructed 20 WASH blocks (two latrine cubicles and one bathing cubicle) in the camp 9 fire-affected area. IOM upgraded 98 latrine cubicles to improve access for disabled and elderly people. Handwashing devices were installed nearby the latrine blocks to ensure access to soap and water for users. IOM partners have been organizing consultations with users for determining cubicles for male and female users. Accordingly, gender marks will be put in place as per the community preference.

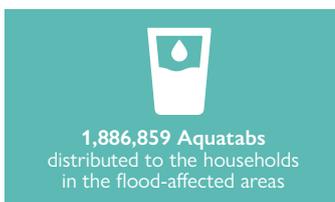
During August, 200 WASH kits were distributed to the SARI ITC in camps 20 extension and 24. Each kit contains a bar of laundry soap, bathing soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, and two buckets of 10 liters capacity each. IOM distributed 28,648 soap kits and distributed a total of 212,766 soap kits. IOM provided a total of 431 top-up hygiene kits to the relocated families from January to August 2021. Each top-up hygiene kit contains eight bars of bathing soap, seven bars of laundry soap, two pairs each of child and adult size flip-flops, four toothbrushes, and a tube of toothpaste.

IOM partners distributed soap kits from door to door of beneficiary households maintaining physical distance and avoiding gatherings in commonplaces to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. IOM continued supporting the relocated families to mega camps from other areas with the provision of WASH relocation kit. IOM WASH unit installed a total of six deep tube wells from January to August 2021.

In August, 4,390 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits were distributed. IOM partners conducted 140,805 hygiene promotion sessions in the reporting period. More than 267,600 people are receiving continued life-saving WASH support through the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, and awareness and materials for promoting hygienic practices through IOM and partners.

Project implementation partners continued disseminating messages on preventive measures of COVID-19 transmission, food safety, waste management, and hygienic practices following the IOM guidance. They conducted household sessions and also disseminated messages using megaphones.

IOM is facilitating disinfection of WASH facilities and key camp locations with 0.5% chlorine solution. During the reporting period, all the WASH facilities used by communities and the infrastructures where the centres providing general common services are located, were disinfected spraying chlorine solution by the NGO partners on daily basis. Besides, IOM provided backpack sprayers and HTH chlorine to the Health Unit to support the disinfection activity of the health centres in the camps.



## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (SNFI)



Beneficiaries are receiving TSA-2 package in camps 20 Extension distribution point. ©IOM2021

Since the massive fire at three camps on 22 March, IOM has been reconstructing the shelters for the affected people. So far, 2,285 shelters have been constructed directly by IOM while 421 shelters had been completed by the IOM partners. Besides, a total of 114 host community beneficiaries were trained on 'Safe Shelter Upgrade' from camps 8E and 9.

IOM and partners have been supporting Rohingya households with Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA-2). Through the community-based intervention TSA-2, shelter improvements and regular maintenance activities have been carried out by distributing more durable in-kind and voucher shelter material, shelter maintenance training and technical assistance.

IOM and partners have distributed Tie-Down Kits (TDK) in the camps along with preparedness messages for all households in IOM's area of responsibility to strengthen shelters and minimize damage caused by rainstorms and winds. So far, 68,346 households have received TDK to prepare for the monsoon and cyclone season.

IOM has introduced Cash for Work (CFW) intervention programme as a part of the Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) in IOM-managed camps and host community sites, as part of its emergency response operations, designed to directly benefit refugees and host communities. IOM cash-based interventions through CFW have been supporting vulnerable families. The CFW assistance ensures families have access to resources for meeting their basic needs. A total of 25,137 man-days were paid through CFW for Shelter and LPG activities.

In August, a total of 16,450 Borak bamboo poles were treated at IOM's Bamboo Treatment Facility in response to provide more durable materials in shelter projects. In August 1,490 nipa pallets were produced with the nipa leaves that were treated with locally available salts. So far, a total of 35,293 nipa pallet to be utilized for construction of Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre.

**2,016 households** received Transitional Shelter Assistance-2 materials

**74,270 refills** LPG refills were conducted in 17 camps

**887 Households** received the TDK as part of monsoon preparedness

**16,450 borak bamboo poles** were treated at IOM's Bamboo Treatment Facility

**394 shelters** were constructed under fire response

**85 households** completed in host community under fire response

**25,137 man-days** were paid through Cash-for-Work activities

**2,107 emergency shelter packages** distributed



**2348 Rohingya beneficiaries** received vegetable cultivation inputs



**716 host beneficiaries** received conditional cash grants to extend their businesses



**500 returning migrants'** primary data collection completed



**21 structural disaster mitigation interventions** implementation was started

## Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

In Ukhiya and Teknaf, six primary school cyclone shelters located close to the Naf river were identified for planning of school based DRR programme as the community people reside at both sides of the river and are vulnerable to regular floods and cyclones. The main objective of the school based DRR programme is to organize and manage school and the education programmes on disaster prevention and reduction, by assessing risks, hazards, capacities, and vulnerabilities in the face of natural hazards.

The renovation works of 22 cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazila are in progress. As of August 2021, renovation work of seven cyclone shelters is almost complete and the remaining seven and eight cyclone shelters have 90% and 60% progress, respectively. IOM started the implementation of 21 structural disaster mitigation activities out of 35 in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazila (flood protection embankment, access roads to cyclone shelters etc.) by which impacts of disasters would be mitigated and reduced. As of August 2021, about 50% works of the structural disaster mitigation activities have been completed.

Small scale cleaning/maintenance activities were started in 32 multipurpose cyclone shelters involving the local communities through CFW. The works are expected to complete by 2nd week of September as the school may reopen soon. IOM has started communication with Union Disaster Management Committees at three unions for the activation/formation of Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMC). Along with this activity, the preparation of Contingency Plan for disasters as per Standing Orders on Disaster 2019 was also resumed as the activities were stopped due to lockdown. The formation of WDMC aims to prepare the communities for responding during the disasters and reduce the losses and the damages of lives and properties.

## Livelihoods

IOM's partner BRAC provided vegetable cultivation materials (nine types of seeds, 15 kg of manure, a sprayer, bamboo for fencing, and a watering container for each beneficiary) to 2,348 Rohingya in five camps for expanding vegetable cultivation. By utilizing the distributed

materials, beneficiaries have cultivated vegetables in their homesteads. Another partner SHED distributed conditional cash grants to 716 beneficiaries (per person received BDT 8,500) to extend their individual and collective businesses after completion of skills development and entrepreneurship development trainings. These beneficiaries received three-day long poultry farming training which was facilitated by a Government Livestock Assistant.

IOM's partner United Purpose provided skills development training to 10 beneficiaries who received seven-day long trainings on food processing in Ukhiya. Beneficiaries learned to make local snack items, dried food, sweet items, traditional cakes, pickles, and juice using hygienic standards of production. By utilizing training knowledge, beneficiaries will produce and sell food items in their grocery stores and bakery shops and generate certain amount of income.

## Community Safety Initiative

Aiming to enhance safety, access to justice and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities in Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, 300 members of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) are participating at community outreach training, conducted by IOM, UNDP and UNHCR. The APBn personnel who are working at Rohingya refugee camps will receive the training in 10 batches by September. Further police officers had a chance to work on Safe Community Plan based on the lessons they received during the training.

## Labour Migration

IOM has collected basic information of 500 returning migrants from all over Cox's Bazar district. This activity is one of the key elements to identify skilled/semi-skilled/unskilled returning migrants and enable them to contribute on the economic activities with the provision of market-based income generation skills and methods. IOM is closely working with the Bureau of Migration, Employment and Training (BMET) office in Cox's Bazar to identify the returning migrants.

IOM recently launched the activities part of the project "Building Social Cohesion in Host Communities in Cox's Bazar through Skills Development" funded by the IOM Development Fund (IDF). IOM has already started data collection with the BMET.



300 members of Armed Police Battalion are participating at community outreach training, conducted by IOM Bangladesh and two other UN agencies. ©IOM2021

## NEEDS POPULATION AND MONITORING (NPM)

IOM completed the 'Shelter Standard Assessment' which will be published in September. A set of greenery coverage maps was provided to the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group (EETWG) and to Natural Hazards Working Group showing trees at risk from flood and slope failure in the Rohingya camps and maps showing the success of tree growth in tree planting areas. Maps were also provided to ISCG to provide context to the monsoon impact in the camps.

For the Trends Survey Report (Rohingyar Hobor) Edition 2, NPM and CwC jointly worked on quantitative and qualitative analysis. [The report](#) has been published. Daily Incident Reporting Mechanism is ongoing in coordination with the SMSD sector. Common Feedback Platform (CFP) monitoring exercise and NPM's integration into the CFP are continuing. NPM operations team in coordination with WFP have done rapid flood impact assessments in both host community and the camps. NPM has done a multisectoral needs assessment in coordination with PSU.

Teams have collected total 423 sample points. The first phase of the IDF project data collection on COVID-19 affected migrants ended. Second phase is being designed. Post distribution monitoring will be launched in September.

The NPM operations team in coordination with ISCG and REACH completed Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) in host communities using phone-based data collection method, while receiving total of 1,300 successful interviews. NPM-ACAPS continued to support MSNA qualitative component planning and coordination led by the ISCG. NPM-ACAPS Hub will be facilitating Focus Group Discussions (FGD) for the qualitative component of the MSNA. A training of enumerators for FGD will be take place in September 2021. The report on [birth documentation in the host community](#) was published on 3 August by ACAPS. In August, ACAPS continued its impact monitoring. As Key Informant Interviews were finalised, a survey is ready to be shared with relevant partners in the response.



NPM volunteers are collecting data from beneficiaries. ©IOM2021

Funding for IOM's response is provided by

