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IOM teams are working with refugees and host communities to install slope protection measures and upgrade key pathways. ©IOM2021

### IOM's Emergency Director Urges Swift, Durable Solutions to Protracted Rohingya Crisis

Almost 900,000 Rohingya refugees in congested camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District desperately need urgent action to secure their future, nearly four years after they were forced to flee Myanmar, a senior IOM official said.

"The Rohingya are still waiting for durable solutions," said Jeff Labovitz, IOM's Director for the Department of Operations and Emergencies during his official visit to Bangladesh this June.

"Refugees need to have livelihoods, they need to look to the future. Ultimately, all the stakeholders need to come together in the best interest of the individuals who continue to suffer without feasible solutions and come up with a plan."

During his week in Cox's Bazar, the director checked on the progress of rebuilding the camps destroyed by the fire which left thousands without shelter in March. Labovitz also visited IOM's key healthcare facilities, which he said had been vital in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more about his visit [here](#).



733,343

Rohingya arrivals since  
25 August 2017



884,041

Rohingya in Cox's Bazar



1.3 million

People in need

### IOM Strengthens Cyclone and Monsoon Preparedness Efforts

As one of the most disaster-prone districts in Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar is often subjected to cyclones, monsoons, strong winds, floods, landslides and other natural hazards. These disasters can cause mass casualties, disrupt humanitarian access, and severely damage shelters as well as critical facilities.

With Bangladesh's monsoon season underway, IOM is working to secure infrastructure and boost the resilience of both Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar. Special attention has been given to the refugees living in the three camps gutted by the fire that occurred in March.

"When the rains hit, an emergency situation will be inevitable. It is crucial we work together now to mitigate the risks before the disaster occurs," said Manuel Marques Pereira, IOM Deputy Chief of Mission in Bangladesh. "We need to be able to respond swiftly and effectively during such crises."

IOM is assessing the risk of landslides, strengthening drainage networks, installing slope protection measures and upgrading key pathways. IOM and its implementing partners have also trained and equipped 10 mobile medical teams and 350 community health workers to act as first responders, while 11 ambulances are ready to respond.

In close collaboration with local authorities, IOM supports early warning systems for host communities. A total of 1,655 volunteers have been trained to respond to cyclones and 20 multi-purpose shelters have been made accessible for emergency evacuation.

Thousands of refugees and host community members have received search and rescue and first aid training, with support from the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence Department. Those trained will act as community focal points in emergency situations, spreading early warning messages and assisting the frontline response.

IOM and its partners have trained an additional 100 volunteers in each camp on cyclone preparedness and the flag warning system. These volunteers are now disseminating awareness-raising messages to community members and responding to community requests.

Read more about IOM's preparedness efforts [here](#).

## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (SNFI)



In June, 12,000 borak bamboo poles were treated at IOM's bamboo treatment facility. ©IOM2021

In June, 1,114 shelters were completed and handed over to fire-affected families in Camps 8E and 9. Among them, 234 shelters in Camp 8E were completed by IOM's Common Pipeline Partner while 880 shelters in Camp 9 were completed by IOM.

In Camps 8E and 9, seven individuals received the first cash tranche while 101 received their second tranche to upgrade their shelters and support their families. A total of 21 meetings were conducted with 112 beneficiaries, with the purpose of explaining the project's working modalities and roles of each stakeholder.

A total of 1,399 households received Transitional Shelter Assistance 2 (TSA-2) materials in-kind and through the voucher system. Out of these, 388 households in Camp 15 received the materials from IOM's partner while 1,011 households in Camps 10 and 20 Extension received the support directly from IOM. Furthermore, 61 extremely vulnerable families in Camps 10 and 20 Extension received shelter construction and porter support. A total of 1,005 participants (434 women; 571 men) attended a shelter maintenance and improvement training.

During the reporting period, one international organization signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IOM to access the Bamboo Treatment Facility (BTF). In June, 12,000 borak bamboo poles were treated at IOM's BTF, and 4,625 nipa pallets were produced for the Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre as Cash-for-Work (CfW) activities for refugees in Camp 24 and host community members in Hnila.

In June, 108 host community members and 138 carpenters attended a training on safe shelter upgrading. During the training the participants learned about appropriate materials and features while the carpenters learned how to build a safe shelter.

In June, 81,455 LPG refills were conducted for refugees and host communities, while 2,734 extremely vulnerable individuals (1,642 women; 1,092 men), such as elderly individuals, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and COVID-19 suspected patients, received essential door-to-door porter support. To date, a total of 36,017 individuals have received this type of assistance.

As part of its cyclone and monsoon preparedness efforts, IOM ensured the availability of emergency shelter kits in all the camps under its Area of Responsibility (AoR). The stockpile has been completed for 30% in Ukhiya and 100% in Teknaf. A total of 63,929 households have received tie-down kits to ensure their shelters are secured to the ground.

Under its regular emergency preparedness and response programme, IOM directly supported 327 households with emergency shelter support and 38 extremely vulnerable households with emergency shelter and additional porter and construction support across four camps. Furthermore, IOM's Common Pipeline Partners distributed 805 emergency shelter kits to households affected by harsh weather and relocations across six camps.

A total of 75,578 man-days were paid under the Shelter Cash-Based Intervention, through CfW activities for the emergency response, and other types of construction, upgrades and maintenance works. Another 2,469 man-days were paid under the LPG programme, through CfW activities such as porter support for extremely vulnerable individuals.



1,399 households received Transitional Shelter Assistance-2 materials



63,929 households received tie-down kits for monsoon preparedness



14,433 refugees and host community members received COVID-19 NFI kits



81,455 LPG refills were conducted for refugees and host communities



78,047 man-days were paid through Cash-for-Work activities



12,000 borak bamboo poles were treated at IOM's Bamboo Treatment Facility

## MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION (MHD)

As part of the ongoing response to the fire of March 22, IOM continues to operate one Mobile Medical Team (MMT) in Camp 8E and the temporary health post in Camp 9. To support the surveillance of COVID-19, a team has been trained and deployed to the newly launched sentinel sample collection site set up in the same facility. In June, 4,576 fire-affected individuals were provided with health services.

In response to a landslide and the subsequent displacement of host communities in Teknaf, IOM deployed an MMT, which provided essential health services to 107 patients. The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) staff assisted 224 individuals affected by heavy rainfall, with basic emotional support, Psychological First Aid (PFA) and referrals. As part of its monsoon preparedness efforts, IOM donated mass casualty incidence management kits to four Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) and six health posts.

### Essential Primary Health Services

In June, IOM continued to address the essential health needs of Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities, by providing 71,018 consultations at 35 primary and secondary healthcare facilities. The services provided included outpatient and inpatient consultations, SRH services, 24-hour ambulances, MHPSS and GBV services, laboratory facilities, and child health services. In June, 17,854 children under five received curative consultations while 476 were vaccinated.

IOM supports Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care services in health complexes in Ukhiya and Teknaf as well as in other 27 health facilities across the camps. During the reporting month, 217 facility-based deliveries, and 4,049 antenatal care and 662 postnatal care consultations were conducted, while modern family planning methods were provided to 3,744 women. Several individuals received HIV counseling and testing services and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services in selected IOM supported facilities.

The health packages at five IOM health facilities in Ukhiya and Teknaf include integrated palliative care as part of the services provided. During the reporting period, 233 patients were consulted, 35 people with disabilities were referred to physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, 51 cancer patients benefited from follow-up visits, and 154 people were reached through community outreach activities. A total of 46 Community Health Workers (CHWs) received training on palliative care to strengthen their skills in identifying and referring patients.

As part of its prevention efforts, IOM has continued contact tracing for diphtheria with four contacts traced and assisted through the Directly Observed Treatment approach, and 142 rapid diagnosis tests conducted for various communicable diseases. A total of 70 medical officers and 14 medical assistants participated in a training focused on clinical management, recording and reporting of diseases.

IOM continues to operate Oral Rehydration Points and inpatient isolation areas for Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) in its four PHCCs, which also conduct rapid diagnostic tests for malaria as part of its monitoring activities for vector-borne diseases. Additionally, a mini Oral Rehydration Therapy corner has been set up in 14 health facilities. In June, 1,595 AWD cases and 8,745 flu patients were treated in IOM facilities (299 were referred as suspected COVID-19 cases).

### Infection Prevention and Control and Surveillance

Two IOM Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centres (SARI ITCs) and eight health facilities are sample collection sites for suspected and confirmed Acute Respiratory Infections cases. Following the Government and Health Sector's recommendations, IOM has recently [scaled up](#) their capacity from 120 beds to 173.



During the reporting period, the Dispatch and Referral Unit transported 305 people (suspected and confirmed cases, deceased and discharged). A total of 142 ambulances were cleaned and disinfected at IOM's three ambulance decontamination units in Uttarban and Camps 20 Extension and 24.

To ensure adequate IPC measures, the following Personal Protection Equipment items were distributed to IOM-supported health facilities: 520 coveralls, 3,535 KN-95 masks, 33,500 gloves, 24,250 surgical masks, 960 face shields, 115 pairs of goggles and 875 gowns.

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

In June, the team provided MHPSS services to 11,438 refugees and host community members, including 298 COVID-19 patients. Due to ongoing restrictions, the team focused on facility-based activities, such as individual counseling, psychoeducation, PFA, basic emotional support, referrals, and remote MHPSS services (hotline and tele-counseling).

Since the onset of the pandemic, refugee children have been one of the most affected groups as schools and learning centers remain closed. By participating in non-formal education activities, children can get the opportunity to express their emotions and make new friends. On June 20, the team celebrated World Refugee Day through a participatory session with children and a drawing activity with the theme "Every Child Matters".



24 COVID-19 suspected and 205 confirmed cases were admitted to IOM's two SARI ITCs and 193 contacts were traced



2,583 COVID-19 samples were collected and transported to the laboratory in Cox's Bazar for analysis



199,722 door-to-door visits and 7,505 courtyard meetings were conducted by Community Health Workers part of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement teams



71,018 consultations were provided in IOM-supported health facilities, including outpatient and inpatient care, SRH services and integrated palliative care



IOM regularly conducts sessions on “Self-Care and Coping Skills in Stressful Situations”. ©IOM2021

## General Protection

In June, the latest COVID-19 restrictions significantly curtailed IOM Protection’s field presence and changed the work modality. This has been a particular challenge because Rohingya refugees who experienced harm were not able to easily access specialized services from IOM and other protection agencies. Where permitted, IOM continued to provide case management services, small-scale outreach activities on Protection risks and threats and COVID-19 prevention measures, support activities in fire-affected camps, and cyclone preparedness activities.

Where access was restricted, the Protection team held a series of internal online workshops to bolster staff capacity on disaster preparedness and response, Counter-Trafficking (CT), Child Protection (CP), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and General Protection (GP). The team also facilitated thematic online sessions for IOM staff and partners whose camp access was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

During the reporting period, General Protection assisted 39 cases, most related to recent relocation exercises. The team also supported 23 individuals with relocation, identified 48 extremely vulnerable individuals across IOM’s Protection AoR, and referred 88 extremely vulnerable individuals to other sectors for specialized services.

## Counter-Trafficking

In June, IOM and its partners sensitized 7,306 Rohingya refugees and host community members on human trafficking issues and COVID-19. The outreach messages promoted personal hygiene, physical distancing and discouraged mass gatherings, while also highlighting possible risks of human trafficking during the pandemic. Additionally, 1,608 comic pocketbooks, leaflets, posters and masks that feature the CT hotline were distributed.

Six training sessions on “Basic Concepts of Counter-Trafficking with Legal Framework” were organized for 180 staff working with UN Women and the Child Protection Sub-Sector. Another four orientation sessions on basic concepts of counter-trafficking and COVID-19 were organized for Jaliapalong Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC) members, religious leaders, local leaders and boatmen.

## Child Protection

IOM and its partner Terre des Hommes continued outreach activities on COVID-19 and child protection risks for 1,260 individuals. Two awareness-raising sessions on child marriage and child labour issues were organized for Adolescent Club members in Ukhiya. Another two sessions were conducted for 25 Rohingya volunteers in IOM’s quarantine centre.

Due to heavy rains, 1,125 people (125 families) were evacuated in Teknaf and took shelter in a nearby school. IOM provided support related to basic child protection issues and COVID-19.

## Gender-Based Violence

The COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions impacted case management services inside the camp and activities in the Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) that are part of IOM’s regular GBV programming. In June, IOM provided individual Psychosocial Support (PSS) to 136 women and girls from Rohingya and host communities via the WGSS that remain open across the camps and in Ratna Palong Union in Ukhiya.

Community mobilizers and volunteers continued conducting outreach activities on GBV prevention, in line with COVID-19 restrictions. During the reporting period, IOM reached 7,144 individuals through awareness-raising activities conducted in WGSS and at the community level. IOM’s partner PULSE initiated remote outreach awareness-raising sessions via phone on COVID-19 prevention, protection, and hygiene, reaching 6,834 refugees and host community members.

In coordination with Camp 18’s Camp-in-Charge (CiC), IOM started mask making sessions for the women and girls who completed the tailoring training at IOM’s WGSS. IOM distributed the materials to 12 women so they could make the masks at home and distribute them to refugees in Camp 18.

During the reporting period, in coordination with the GBV Sub-Sector, the team organized two training modules on Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS+)/Primer for 36 IOM caseworkers and case supervisors. IOM also conducted nine training sessions on Protection Core Concepts and GBV Safe Referrals for 169 Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers in Ukhiya.



**136 extremely vulnerable individuals** were identified and referred to specialized services



**13,978 people** were reached through awareness-raising activities on gender-based violence



**52 victims of trafficking** were identified and assisted through case management services



**30 children** were identified and assisted through case management services

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Between 23 and 24 June, IOM organized a hygiene promotion workshop for IOM staff and its partners, aimed at promoting hygienic practices through observation, exploration, and needs-based intervention.

A dedicated WASH team comprised of staff, volunteers and partner NGOs has been working tirelessly ever since the fire on March 22, installing emergency WASH facilities to meet the critical water, hygiene, and sanitation needs of those affected.

To celebrate [World Environment Day](#) on June 5, IOM highlighted its water supply network in Camp 12, designed to be powered by a 60 kWp solar power system, reducing the use of fossil fuel by between 94.5 litres and 126 litres daily. The network addresses the main water needs of the community and the health threat that poor sanitation and hygiene pose, creating dignified living conditions for the refugees.

“Previously, we didn’t have access to clean water so we couldn’t give our children a bath,” said Mahmuda, one of the 30,000 refugees benefitting from the water supply network. “They frequently suffered from diseases. After installing the network, our children got rid of diseases. They are healthy now and so are we. All due to taps with clean running water in our community.”

During the reporting month, IOM distributed 26,202 soap kits through its partners across five camps. Each soap kit contains eight bars of bathing soap and seven bars of laundry soap, meant to last for a month for the average refugee family in the camps. Partner organizations distributed the soap kits door to door, while maintaining physical distance.

IOM also provided 200 WASH kits to the quarantine facility in Camps 20 Extension and 24 for COVID-19 patients. Each kit is comprised of a laundry soap bar, bathing soap, one toothbrush, toothpaste, and two buckets with a capacity of 10 litres each. Additionally, the team provided 1,000 bathing soaps.

IOM’s implementing partners continued disseminating messages on COVID-19 prevention measures, food safety, waste management, and hygienic practices. Partner organizations conducted a total of 152,418 household sessions, reaching 267,669 beneficiaries. Partners also conducted 8,173 awareness-raising sessions using megaphones, reaching an estimated 156,439 people.

Since March 2020, IOM has provided 214 backpack sprayers and 7,733 kg of 65% HTH chlorine. In June, partner NGOs conducted water container cleaning campaigns using 0.4% chlorine solutions in response to the increased number of AWD cases.

As solid waste management continues to be a challenge in the camps, IOM is distributing red and green household-level waste bins and has trained the community on waste segregation. During the reporting period, IOM distributed 340 household-level waste bins through its implementing partner in Camp 12. Since July 2020, partners have distributed 103,360 waste bins to households.



In June, IOM distributed 4,750 Menstrual Hygiene Management kits to refugee women and girls. ©IOM2021

## Site Management (SM)

IOM is part of the Rapid Investigation and Response Team (RIRT) set up by the Health Sector in each camp to follow up on COVID-19 patients and conduct contact tracing as needed. During the reporting month, IOM Disaster Management Unit (DMU) volunteers and Site Management Support (SMS) teams supported the RIRT with contact tracing while the SM focal point embedded in each RIRT followed up on those who opted to stay in home quarantine in the camps. Due to the strict lockdown imposed by the government, SMS teams operated with limited staff or through remote management.

In June, SM continued the campaign “No Mask, No Entry” with all service providers to ensure physical distancing and mask wearing for both staff and beneficiaries at service points. The team monitored the distribution points within the camps and coordinated with other agencies to keep track of the planned distributions in order to avoid overlapping and to ensure that all agencies follow COVID-19 IPC measures during distributions.

IOM provided support to 3,717 partially damaged and 34 fully damaged shelters affected by landslides and floods. The teams prioritized emergency response activities and block monitoring as well as joint assessments with relevant sectors. Together with its Site Development partners, the IOM assessed the landslide risks and mapped the communal shelters for temporary relocation.

The unit supported IOM’s health response to increase the capacity of the SARI ITC in Camp 20 Extension. The quarantine facility managed by the SM team expanded its support to assist the increasing number of close contacts of COVID-19 patients. In June, 58 individuals were supported with their 14-day quarantine in the facility. DMUs and CPP volunteers also conducted door-to-door visits to raise awareness about monsoon preparedness and COVID-19 prevention measures.

In Camp 9, the SM block engagement team supported IOM’s shelter interventions and four other Shelter partners with the reconstruction of shelters by engaging beneficiaries in community interactions. The teams also supported the SNFI team to distribute shelter tie-down kits while DMU volunteers raised awareness about their use. In Camp 24, IOM assisted its implementing partner to distribute 600 jerrycans to 300 households who self-relocated.

## Women’s Participation Project (WPP)

After conducting several camp-level workshops for women committee core groups, the team organized a workshop for 17 Protection and SM staff to discuss lessons learned and good practices, and plan ahead. On June 30, the team organized a psychosocial self-care refresher training for its implementing partners and protection staff, who will in turn roll out the training to women committee members across eight camps.

The WPP team conducted three training sessions on how to facilitate the workshop “Ma Boinor Rosom” for Rohingya women and girls.

IOM Bangladesh was invited to present WPP in two global events: the UNICEF GBV Risk Mitigation Stocktaking workshop and the annual Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Meeting. WPP Bangladesh was highlighted as a model for women engagement.





70 small-scale mitigation activities have been completed



22 cyclone shelters are currently being renovated



120 host community members attended a livelihood training



1,975 refugees received in-kind support for vegetable gardening

## Disaster Risk Reduction

The renovation of the Multi-Purpose Community Structures (MPCS) used as cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas is ongoing. Four out of the 22 MCPS have now been completed. Despite the monsoon and COVID-19 restrictions which have put on hold some of the works, the team hopes to complete the remaining works by July 2021. During the reporting period, the community consultations and assessments for 67 Cash-for-Work activities for 20 MPCS have been completed in Teknaf. Due to current restrictions, the implementation of these activities is currently being revised. Between May and June 2021, IOM has completed the maintenance works of 51 MCPS.

IOM organized a meeting with its community mobilizers to formulate a roadmap with necessary guidelines and budget for the activation of Ward Disaster Management Committees and the preparation of the Disaster Contingency Plan for Naf River communities. The two activities are expected to be completed by July 2021, pending government approval.

In June, IOM organized a cyclone preparedness training for 80 participants at the Kalamarchara Government Primary School in Moheshkhali, in collaboration with the Cyclone Preparedness Programme. Nearly 500 men, women and children observed the simulation on landslides and cyclone and were sensitized on the appropriate measures to follow before, during and after any disaster. IOM also supported the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense in Cox's Bazar to organize a simulation exercise, which helped participating agencies and communities to increase their preparedness capacities.

## Livelihoods

In June, IOM's implementing partner BRAC supported 1,975 Rohingya beneficiaries in Camps 14, 19 and 22 with the distribution of nine types of seeds, 15 kg of manure, spray, and other gardening equipment.

Under the SAFEPlus programme, IOM's implementing partner Protyashi completed a skill development training on electrical wiring and electronics repair in the Ukhiya Training Hub. Fifteen host community members received theoretical and hands-on experience on installation, troubleshooting, repairing and configuring different electrical components. Using their new skills, these youth will be able to access good market opportunities and earn an income.

Another 15 participants attended a 72-day skill development training on plumbing and accessories repair. Beneficiaries received theoretical and practical sessions on using the tread cutting machine and basin water supply system, among other topics. Training sessions on sewing, embroidery, natural crafts, and business development also took place.

## Labour Migration

IOM launched the activities under the project "Building Social Cohesion in Host Communities in Cox's Bazar Through Skills Development" and the overarching "Skills Development Framework for Host Communities and Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar", funded by the IOM Development Fund (IDF).

The objective of this project is to strengthen economic resilience and social cohesion and improve the self-sufficiency of returning migrant workers and vulnerable communities through skills development and livelihood diversification. Beneficiaries will receive training and start-up kits, which will help them identify self-employment opportunities.

To that end, IOM is working closely with the government to collect migration data as there is currently no digitalized and structured data on returning migrants in Cox's Bazar District. As part of its primary assessment, IOM started the data collection with the Bureau of Migration, Employment and Training in Cox's Bazar. A total of 400 returning migrants have been surveyed from the five sub-districts (Pekua, Ramu, Chakaria, Moheshkhali and Cox's Bazar Sadar) so far.



IOM organized a cyclone preparedness training for 80 CPP volunteers in Moheshkhali. ©IOM2021

## NEEDS AND POPULATION MONITORING (NPM)



NPM supported Ground Truth Solutions to conduct perception surveys in the host communities. ©IOM2021

IOM NPM continues to support the Site Management Sector with the Incident Reporting Mechanism. More information on incidents can be found in this [dashboard](#).

During the reporting period, NPM continued to collaborate with UNHCR on facility mapping and activity monitoring under the coordination of the SMSD Sector.

NPM conducted a greenery analysis of tree and greenery coverage across the Rohingya camps, looking at data from February 2021 and detecting changes in tree coverage between 2018 and 2021. The maps developed following the analysis were shared with the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group to support future reforestation initiatives.

NPM supported Ground Truth Solutions to conduct round five of the perception surveys in the host communities living in and around the Rohingya refugee camps.

The concept note for the Joint Multi Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA) has been finalized. The data collection for camps and host communities will begin mid-July. Modality of data collection (remote or in-person) is to be determined pending final directives from the government on lockdown measures.

NPM and TRD are currently collaborating for the IDF project on returning migrants. The objective of this project is to support returnees in Cox's Bazar District by providing them skill-based training that will support their livelihoods.

Funding for IOM's response is provided by

