2019 JOINT RESPONSE PLAN AND IOM APPEAL

United Nations aid agencies and NGO partners launched the 2019 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis on 15 February. The appeal seeks to raise USD 920 million to meet the massive needs of more than 900,000 refugees from Myanmar and over 330,000 vulnerable Bangladeshis in host communities. The 2019 JRP is the second appeal and builds on humanitarian achievements made thus far in order to further stabilize the situation of Rohingya refugees.

IOM is appealing to the international community for USD 136.2 million for 2019 to assist an estimated 1.2 M individuals. In 2019, IOM will adopt an integrated approach to support life-saving and sustaining assistance as well as early recovery activities. The overarching priorities of IOM include the respect and upholding of protection needs of the Rohingya, but also the improvement of quality and access to services. IOM will also continue to provide support to the most vulnerable host community members and mitigate the impact of the refugee influx on the environment in order to strengthen social cohesion. Aside from the activities conducted in the different sectors, IOM remains actively engaged in addressing human trafficking as well as cross-cutting concerns such as Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).

IOM BANGLADESH APPEAL FOR THE ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS RESPONSE 136.2 M to assist an estimated 1.2 M individuals - Read more.

KEY FEATURES

- The final design of mid-term shelter has been submitted to the Shelter Sector and the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) for approval.
- Increased trends of Chickenpox are still being observed in the Rohingya camps of Cox’s Bazar. In February, IOM facilities treated 4,325 Chickenpox cases.
- IOM protection staff attended a training focused on improving understanding on the communication with people living with disabilities to foster their inclusion into programming.
- As part of the Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) of communities, IOM and the Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMC) members identified Disaster Risk Mitigation schemes in four Unions.
SITE MANAGEMENT

In February, more than 1,004 community meetings were held with Majhees, Camp Coordination Committees, Women’s Committees and Block-level Committees, Safety Unit Volunteers’ team, WASH team, Health team and Education team across the camps. Support for Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) was on-going. In order to address the complaints, IOM and its implementing partners continued to refer those to relevant areas or sectors for taking appropriate actions.

IOM Site Management continued to use Radio Listening Sessions to raise awareness on various issues, for example chicken pox, pneumonia, safe water management, fire safety, pregnancy and neo-natal care.

IOM organized Cyclone Preparedness Plan (CPP) and Disaster Management Trainings for Safety Volunteers Units and IOM volunteers in several camps in coordination with the American Red Cross and German Red Cross.

The second batch of Training of Trainers (ToT) on Site Management was facilitated by IOM Global CCCM Cluster Adviser and IOM Capacity Building Coordinator. A total of 22 participants (including four females) from the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), IOM and implementing partners attended the training.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Land and block demarcation is ongoing across the camps and flagpole installation is continuing across multiple camps. IOM Site Development teams have been constructing drainages, bridges, pathways and community hubs.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

This month, the Community Shelter Upgrade intervention continued with the upgrading of 11 new community shelters and the assessment of another 21 for possible upgrade under Phase II of the Community Shelter Upgrade Intervention. Under the phase I, IOM completed upgrade works for 71 community buildings, creating space for approximately 4,200 individuals to take temporary refuge in the event of severe weather or other shocks, or whilst upgrading their shelters.

After the distribution of Emergency Shelter Kits (phase 1) and Upgrade Shelter Kits (phase 2) with training and technical assistance to upgrade/construct shelters, IOM has started rolling out the Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA)/Mid-term Shelter (phase 3) programme. The main objective of this programme is to support Rohingya households to increase the durability and habitability of their shelters while taking ownership of shelter maintenance and improvements.

In less congested areas, IOM plans to construct 2,000 mid-term shelters for vulnerable households. The final design of Mid-term shelter has been submitted to the Shelter Sector and the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) for approval. Where there is not enough space available to construct mid-term shelters, households are with transitional shelter assistance, including durable shelter materials (including treated bamboo), shelter maintenance trainings, technical support, and additional shelter materials (voucher-based distribution).

ROHINGYA REFUGEES RECEIVE CARPENTER TRAINING TO SUPPORT TSA

“In Myanmar, I was brought up in a carpenter family where my father and brother were head carpenters and since my teen age, I was used to work with them as an assistant carpenter. After fleeing in Bangladesh, I was looking into similar work to do and finally I found myself as trained carpenter in the Shelter/NFI team at IOM. Now, I am working to maintain and improve others’ shelter at the same time earning for my family. Honestly, it is self-satisfaction to work what you liked to do.” Bashir Ahmed expressed his work satisfaction.

Boshir Ahmed is living in Camp 18. He received carpenter training as part of TSA programme and started to work with the Shelter/NFI unit to support Rohingya beneficiaries to improve and maintain their shelter in Camp 18. To date, 390 carpenters have been trained through 26 batches of training.

8,970 pieces of treated borak bamboo produced at IOM’s pilot bamboo treatment facility to date

862 extremely vulnerable households (EVI) supported as part of IOM’s TSA programme assistance

6,122 vulnerable host community members have received a package of non-food items
Site Planning: Creating Livable Communities for Rohingya Refugees

Kutupalong Expansion, which houses over 610,000 Rohingya refugees, is the world's largest refugee camp. With an area of 16.9 square kilometers (3,170 football fields), the site is also the world's most densely-populated refugee camp.

In this context, it is a challenge to accommodate shelters and other services in the congested camps. IOM’s Site Planning team in Cox’s Bazar is on a mission to create a livable community which maximizes the use of available land.

A livable community is one that enhances personal independence, dignity, and choice for all ages by offering safe housing, transportation and community services. The team works in collaboration with relevant Sectors to ensure equitable access to services. “The way site planners place stairs, pathways, facilities and shelters will have an influence on how the community uses them and interacts with them,” says Margaret Suen, IOM Site Development Officer. “The location of services is very important; placing one facility at one place rather than another can increase the number of people accessing it,” added Ghada Barakat, IOM Site Planner.

“One community should be consulted during the planning phase. They provide feedback on their personal and community space and recommendations to improve their living conditions”, says Ghada. At the micro level, site planners propose layout plans for shelters and facilities according to Sector standards. This includes site planning new camp areas, as well as rehabilitation of developed areas. Site planners use a range of different tools, including GIS and CAD (computer aided design) to create plans, analyze data and support field staff.

Transitioning into a post-emergency phase, there is increased emphasis to improve the quality of life in the camps by upgrading to mid-term standards. The Site Planning team will continue to support the response in creating more livable communities for the benefit of all.

NEEDS AND POPULATION MONITORING (NPM)

IOM NPM, in coordination with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and the Site Management Sector, completed the facility identification and mapping data collection in 10 out of 18 IOM-managed camps, with 2,387 facilities identified. The data was cleaned using field-level verification exercises as well as consultations with sectors. This process involved liaising with sectors to correctly categorize all confusing and multi-sectoral facilities, thus resulting in a final dataset that is approachable and operationally easy-to-use. The data for these 10 camps was shared with the ISCG on the 14th of February.

NPM has completed data collection for Site Assessment Round 14. The NPM IM unit is conducting data validation and cleaning, analysis for the final reporting. In addition, updates for the Majhee block maps are ongoing based on any changes found in the Site Assessment Round 14. In preparation for the Site Assessment Round 15, NPM team is improving and refining the methodology. All sectors are currently being consulted for feedback on the tool to ensure that NPM continues to capture information that is useful and relevant to the sector’s needs.

In February, the ACAPS NPM analysis hub supported the ISCG to finalize a response monitoring framework. In addition, the ACAPS NPM analysis hub collaborated with the ISCG and response assessment partners to start planning and strategizing the 2019 assessment landscape. The hub made a presentation on the preliminary findings of the Assessment Lessons Learned to key assessment stakeholders (ISCG, NPM, REACH, UNHCR).

IOM NPM has been working closely with REACH Initiative on planning and preparation for Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in host community locations in Ukhiya and Teknaf. These FGDs are a follow up to the host community Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) which was conducted in November, December 2018. A tool has been drafted and shared with sectors for feedback. FGDs are scheduled to start in mid-March.
In collaboration with a photographer from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), IOM has documented evidence of integrated outbreak preparedness and response strategies through the mediums of photography and interview. These resources will assist in promoting the integrated humanitarian response strategies employed in Cox’s Bazar to strategize more effective approaches in any future crises.

Increased trends of Chickenpox are still being observed in the Rohingya camps of Cox’s Bazar. In February, IOM facilities treated 4,325 Chickenpox cases. Community health workers are continuing with community health messaging through household visits and community meetings. 15 of the IOM facilities are accepting “high risk” cases and providing antivirals. Information, Education and Communication materials on Chickenpox community messaging have been published and are being disseminated through CwC team, CHW partners and health facilities to boost community awareness on chickenpox.

A total of two batches of training on Clinical Management of Chickenpox have been conducted in Ukhia and Teknaf to strengthen the capacity of clinicians on diagnosis and clinical management of chickenpox (32 and 14 clinicians respectively). A weekly reporting system through Kobo Tool Box has been launched for IOM facilities to improve the surveillance of communicable diseases, such as Chickenpox, and to improve the performance of triage and isolation processes.

To prevent Diphtheria transmission, CHWs of IOM partners are continuing with contact tracing activities. Contact tracing was conducted for 21 Diphtheria cases last week providing preventive medicine to 199 contacts through the Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) approach.

IOM continued provision of quality sexual reproductive health services through the provision of 24/7 delivery care services at three and day time delivery care services at six facilities, provision of a comprehensive package of Antenatal/postnatal Care and family planning services at 23 health facilities. In February, IOM conducted a total of 258 safe deliveries, 3,810 antenatal care sessions and 665 post-natal care sessions across all camps. In addition, there was provision of modern family planning services to 1,975 individuals of whom 1,193 were new service users.

Capacity strengthening of health workers and community health workers to improve the quality of services at IOM facilities and improve the maternal and newborn outcomes continued in February where six facility health workers and 12 community health workers received a training on essential newborn care services at facility and community levels respectively by Centers for Disease for Control and Prevention (CDC) using the CDC/WHO guidelines. A total of 15 midwives received training on the syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections especially during pregnancy.

On 7 February, a capacity building workshop on ‘Strengthening Capacity of project development and management’ was hosted by IOM for all implementing partners. 31 people participated in sessions on grants management, reporting tools, financial management and project proposal writing.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES (MH-PSS)

A total of 12,188 beneficiaries have been reached in February through various MH-PSS activities, including direct provision of services and community activities. Family dialogues have been conducted between 40 family households, reaching 200 individuals, aiming to acknowledge the role of women in the community and families to tackle and transform negative and violent relational/gender patterns.

Five collective kitchen events have been conducted between 40 family households, reaching 260 individuals—the events aim to increase social bonding, social cohesion, and networking within the community. Six cultural healing ceremonies have been conducted reaching 328 individuals. These events aim to heal issues relating to the Rohingyas’ stateless condition, lack of recognition of their culture and ethnic identity.
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

276,600 individuals benefitting from operation and maintenance of WASH facilities

214,800 beneficiaries reached through hygiene promotion sessions

The installation of 46 community tap stands for the water pipeline network in Camp 12 has begun. All planned community and facility tap stands are expected to be installed by mid-March. The construction work at the reservoir site is still ongoing. In addition, 187 solar panels have been affixed to the platforms and will be used to generate electricity to pump water.

Surface water in the Leda Makeshift Settlement (MS) is being used for irrigation by the local farmers. As surface water is the only source of water in the Leda MS, it is putting additional pressure on the available water. If irrigation activities continue at this pace, the stored water by earthen dams will support the community only up to the month of May, falling short of the initial estimate to supply water until June 2019. IOM WASH team has met with the local farmers in presence of Camp in Charge (CiCs) (Representative of Government of Bangladesh) to optimize the use of water for irrigation purposes. The IOM WASH team continues to monitor closely the quantity of water and will update the WASH sector regularly.

The IOM WASH team has received the site plan for Camp 19 and 20 Extension. Based on this plan, IOM WASH unit has begun the process of assessing WASH infrastructure needs in Camp 19 and 20 Extension. In addition, IOM will install small scale water pipeline network in Camp 20 Extension to ensure safe drinking water to approximately 750 people. The planned pipeline network will supply 15,000 liters/day maintaining the WASH sector agreed standard of 20 liters per capita.

PROTECTION

IOM continued to provide integrated protection services through: mitigation and prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV), General protection (GP), Child Protection (CP) and Counter Trafficking (CT). Key achievements in February include:

♦ 19 GBV staff were trained by Christian Blind Mission (CBM) on effective and inclusive communication with persons with disabilities. CBM also provided training on inclusion and disability to 136 IOM and implementing partners staff (75 male and 61 female) from site management, protection, transition and recovery and Shelter/NFI.

♦ IOM GP staff attended a training focused on improving understanding on the communication with people living with disabilities. The objective of the training was to foster inclusion of people living with disabilities in the protection programming and was organized by Centre for Disability in Development (CDD).

♦ IOM’s GBV team is working to improve relations with lawyers, court magistrates, and the police in order to provide the best care for children and other GBV survivors. Increased incidents of marital disputes and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) put challenge to the GBV team in guiding the people involved through existing justice mechanisms and channels of mediation and arbitration.

♦ The kick off for the pilot project Woman’s Participation in Camp Governance was held. The project will continue to expand on involving more women in camp governance structures to ensure the most vulnerable in the camps are reached.

♦ Child protection actors in Camp 23 reported cases of child marriage. This issue was raised with the CIC and further engagements are underway to find lasting solution to this.

♦ 40 female caregivers have been trained on effective parenting skills.

♦ Six Victim of Trafficking (VoTs) were identified and assisted.
SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY (SAFE)
In February, Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) refills continued and have benefited 9,789 households ($70 host community members and 9,219 Rohniya).

RESILIENCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)
A two-day non-residential training was organized on International Humanitarian Assistance for the Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) of Palongkhali Union. A total of 26 UDMC members took part in this participatory and highly interactive training.

As per the proposed activities in the Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) of communities, DRR team along with UDMC members identified Disaster Risk Mitigation schemes in Sabrang, Hnila, Rathna Palong and Halfa Palong for engineering estimation. The engineering estimation will help give a thorough understanding on the works needed to be done to reduce the risk of disaster in the affected area.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL COHESION
A total of 660 women from the affected host communities (mainly displaced to the peripheries following the expansion of Rohniya camps) received assistance through three livelihoods groups (livestock, commercial vegetable cultivation, and small retail businesses). The project supported the respective local extension services to guide the different groups on how to identify risks, particularly on animal health monitoring, management of water sources for the vegetable cultivation in the dry weather period, and poultry protection in view of the heat season. A total of 2,400 livestock (400 goats and 2000 chickens) were handed over to beneficiaries in Ukhiya.

The project has also been sensitive to groups with special needs among the affected communities who have been identified following a vulnerability assessment. A total of 98 individuals were provided assets to start small businesses. The project assisted in identifying 25 high demand essential goods for their started-up retail businesses. IOM has supported these beneficiaries with tailoring kits, sewing machines, materials for handicraft making, and 25 high demand goods for grocery shops. These initiatives contribute to social cohesion and relationship building between the host communities and the refugees.

MUMENA BEGUN - LIVELIHOOD BENEFICIARY
Mumena Begum is benefitting from the project. Mumena is raising her two children alone. Following the Rohingya influx, the prices of commodities have considerably raised and Mumena struggled to cover the expenses of her household.

In December 2018, Mumena was enlisted as a single mother beneficiary of the IOM Social Cohesion and Livelihoods project. Encouraging her talent for vegetable cultivation, handicrafts and livestock rearing, IOM and its partner SHED have provided her with basic training, a sewing machine, a goat, five hens, seven varieties of winter vegetable seeds and fast-growing fruit seedlings as well as high-demand spices. Mumena explained proudly that her goat has given birth to young ones and her five hens have had 30 chicks.

The money being earned by Mumena is helping her to support her family including her daughter’s education.

Funding for IOM Response Plan is provided by

[Image of funding logos]