

OCTOBER 2021



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction observed in Cox's Bazar. ©IOM2021



**756,554**  
 Rohingya arrivals since  
 25 August 2017



**907,766**  
 Rohingya in  
 Cox's Bazar



**1.3 million**  
 People in need

### International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction Observed in Cox's Bazar

IOM supported the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) of Bangladesh in celebrating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) and 50-year-anniversary of CPP in holding a cyclone preparedness and response simulation on 13 October. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) through video conference watched a simulation performed by the CPP volunteers with IOM support.

A video documentary on IOM's DRR activities in Cox's Bazar (watch the video [here](#)) was presented at the main event of day, organized by Cox's Bazar district administration. IOM also participated in the simulation on earthquake and fire incidents organized by the Upazila administrations of Ramu, Moheshkhali, Ukhiya, and Teknaf upazila.

In the Rohingya camps, IOM mobilized and trained 1,700 Disaster Management Unit (DMU) volunteers to respond to any kind of hazard or emergency at the camps. The DMU volunteers received trainings on search and rescue, first aid, fire safety, monsoon and cyclone preparedness to prepare them to respond to disasters in the camps.

Since 2018, IOM has raised capacities of around 1,655 CPP volunteers (Male 990, Female 695) on the early warning system, landslide awareness, and cyclone preparedness of local community-level volunteers. IOM also equipped 2,655 CPP volunteers with light search and rescue equipment. In this period, IOM supported the renovation of 45 Multi-purpose Cyclone Shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf from 2018. (Watch the video [here](#)). IOM will continue supporting Cox Bazar district in its efforts to strengthen Disaster Risk Governance.

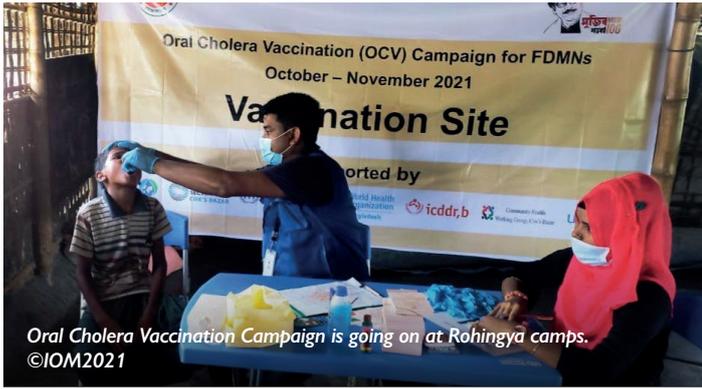
To mitigate the negative impact of flood, landslides, fire, and other hazards, IOM and its partners implemented 9,777 site development interventions such as construction of bridges, stairs, pathways, drainage, installation of fire points, micro terracing and slope protection works in the camps since 2020. IOM and its partners also engaged in tree plantation to further mitigate soil erosion and landslides. (Watch the video [here](#)).

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

### Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) campaign started

In October, the first round of Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) campaign was launched with the aim of vaccinating 869,095 Rohingya refugees who are at least one year old. The campaign was jointly carried out by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and humanitarian partners aiming to prevent potential outbreak of Cholera in the Rohingya refugee camps. IOM actively supported the campaign through contribution with human resources for vaccination and supervision, transportation and logistics.

In the first round of the campaign, IOM teams directly supported the vaccination of 121,897 individuals which is equivalent to 83.76% of the target. The IOM teams also indirectly supported the vaccination of 98,194 individuals by supervising the vaccination activities. This accounted 84.79% of the target. IOM and its partners deployed 25 vaccinators and 20 volunteers to the vaccination campaign in the refugee camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. IOM also mobilized 360 Community Health Workers (CHW) to conduct risk reduction and community engagement activities to encourage the refugees to participate in the vaccination campaign.



Oral Cholera Vaccination Campaign is going on at Rohingya camps. ©IOM2021

IOM continues to work closely with its implementing partners, the Health Sector and the GoB, to ensure a wide range of health services for vulnerable Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar. IOM supports the operation of 49 health care facilities.

### Essential Primary Health Services

The IOM-supported health facilities provide outpatient and inpatient management of communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), services for child health, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Gender-based Violence (GBV) and 24-hour emergency referrals. Along with regular medical consultation, a total of 432 medical referrals for acute life-threatening conditions for Rohingya refugees and host communities were reported in October. IOM is also supporting the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with routine vaccination in Rohingya refugee camps where IOM vaccinated 807 children under five years old.

In October, IOM observed an increase in all SRH services. The IOM-supported health facilities looked after 433 facility-based deliveries, provided antenatal care to 6,247 women and postnatal care to 1,371. Aside from these, the health facilities also sensitized 5,583 women on modern family planning methods. A total of 3,229 patients were screened for cardiovascular disease risk assessment; 1,233 patients were diagnosed with one major NCD, e.g., diabetes mellitus, hypertension, asthma, and cancer; 3,187 patients received follow-up care; and 29 NCD patients were provided with referral support.

### Infection Prevention & Control and Emergency Preparedness and Response

IOM operates Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITCs) in Camps 20 Extension and 24 with a total capacity of 200 functional beds. To improve early detection of COVID-19 cases, IOM operates eight sentinel sites which collected 2,629 COVID-19 samples that were sent to the central laboratory in Cox's Bazar for testing. IOM's COVID-19 quarantine facility in Camp 20

Extension also provides quarantine service to contacts of reported cases to encourage early containment of the outbreak.

IOM also operates a Dispatch and Referral Unit (DRU) with a pool of 22 ambulances from IOM and its partners. The DRU also provides ambulance dispatch support to the COVID-19 response.

IOM is actively involved in surveillance of diseases with outbreak potential. IOM's proactive contact tracing activities resulted to the identification of 60 contacts of individuals diagnosed with diphtheria. IOM also conducted 133 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) for communicable diseases. IOM observed an upward trend in the number of individuals who tested positive with Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases in Cox's Bazar. The IOM health facilities treated 2,305 cases of AWD cases.

For rehydration therapy and monitoring of diarrheal cases, IOM has three primary health care centres with operational Oral Rehydration Points (ORP); a 20-bed inpatient isolation capacity and 33 other health facilities with Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) corners. Playing a key role in Emergency Preparedness & Response, IOM leads and coordinates the Mobile Medical Team Working Group (MMT WG) to ensure safe, rapid, and effective response during an emergency.

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

In celebration of the World Mental Health Day (WMHD) last 10 October 2021, IOM conducted awareness sessions and counselling sessions. The theme of this year's celebration is "Mental health in an unequal world!" The campaign aimed to raise awareness on mental health, discuss the related stigma, reduce barriers to access, and promote the importance of self-care. In addition, IOM's MHPSS project conducted this month, a wide range of facility- and community-based MHPSS services that benefited 7,667 individuals. Furthermore, IOM also provided a 13-day training on psychosocial skills development for 24 Rohingya and 23 host community beneficiaries.



World Mental Health Day 2021 observed in Cox's Bazar. ©IOM2021





Construction of Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre (RCMC) is going on at Rohingya camps. ©IOM2021

IOM has been providing Shelter and Non-Food Items (Shelter/NFI) support for the Rohingya refugees and host communities since the humanitarian crisis started. Along with the provision of regular Shelter/NFI support, IOM has been playing a leading role in supporting beneficiaries during natural disasters such as monsoon, cyclones, floods, and landslides.

In response to the fire that affected Camps 9, 8E and 8W last March, IOM and its partners constructed 66 shelters in Camp 9 and one shelter in Camp 8E in October. In total, IOM constructed 2,996 shelters while its partners constructed 453 shelters in the fire affected camps. In addition, IOM also constructed a new bamboo structure of Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS) for the Rohingya women and girls in Camp 9.

Aside the shelter construction for the fire affected camps, IOM and its partners are also supporting Rohingya households with shelter reinforcement materials and technical support through the Transitional Shelter Assistance Phase 2 (TSA-2). TSA-2 shelter materials distribution is done through the voucher system which allows beneficiaries to select the shelter materials they need to reinforce their shelters. In October, a total of 5,511 refugee families which includes 303 families with family members who are Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI) in Camps 15, 16, 20 Ext, 14, 22 and 24, received shelter reinforcement materials from IOM and common pipeline partners through the TSA-2 project. IOM and its partners provide shelter construction and porter support to EVI families. In addition, a total of 26,768 beneficiaries -- 18,068 males and 8,700 females -- received the shelter maintenance and improvement training. Besides, a total of 120 carpenters also received the training.

In October, IOM and its partners distributed 94 emergency shelter packages to the households affected by harsh weather conditions, relocations due to protection issues and other shocks in 11 camps. Also, A total of 25 households, affected by harsh weather conditions, received emergency NFI support from IOM and its partners.

To mitigate fire accidents in the shelters, IOM introduced the use of the fire safety ring. The fire safety ring is a metal drum cut into half and is used to secure a stove and minimize the chance of getting the wall of the shelter catch fire from the stove. For the month of October, IOM distributed fire safety rings to 486 households in Camp 9. In total, 1,184 households in Camp 9 received fire safety rings from IOM.

IOM introduced the Cash for Work (CFW) scheme, an activity under IOM's Cash-Based Intervention (CBI), in IOM-managed camps and the host communities near them. Assistance through the CFW scheme helps provide vulnerable families access to cash they need to meet their basic needs. During the reporting month, a total of 16,483 man-days were paid through Shelter CFW activities while a total of 2,351 man-days were paid through Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) CFW activities.



Maintenance works of ITC is going on at Camp 24. ©IOM2021



5,511 HHs received TSA-2 materials in six camps



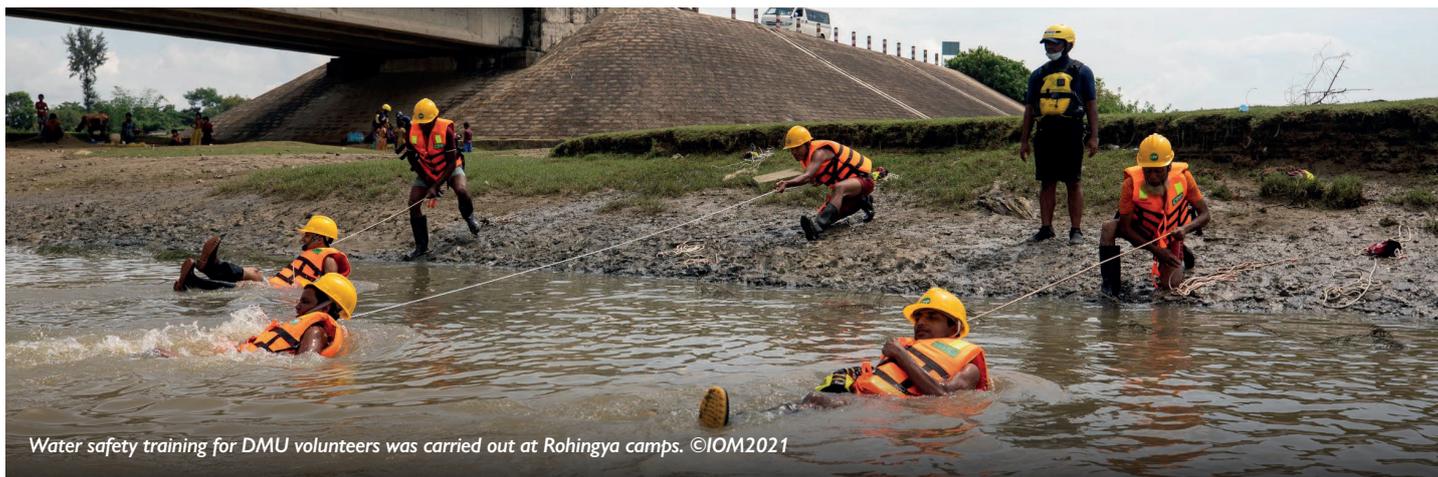
71,986 LPG refills provided in 16 camps



18,000 borak bamboo poles were treated



18,834 man-days paid through Cash for Work



In October, a total of 22 community projects were implemented while 66 training were arranged on Site Management (SM), Protection, Women Participation Project, Disaster Management Unit (DMU). DMU volunteers and SM volunteers supported the Rapid Investigation and Response Teams (RIRTs) in the contact tracing, provided information for completing the testing, and are linked to services and assistance. IOM disseminated COVID-19 key messages like the importance of wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing, symptoms of COVID-19, examples of symptomatic cases, the proper way of handwashing.

Of the received 15,804 complaints through communication with communities' activities, 9,668 complaints were referred to the respective service providers while 6,086 complaints were replied in the reporting period.

IOM continues to seek to improve the preparedness of the DMU volunteers to respond to emergencies. For the month of October, IOM organized fire drills in Camps 9, 19, 20Ext. and 22 in partnership with the Fire Service Civil Defense Bangladesh. 60 Rohingya DMU volunteers, community members, Site Management Support volunteers and camp

level sector focal points participated in the exercise. Apart from the participants, more than 500 host community members watched events from the surrounding areas.

### Women's Participation Project (WPP)

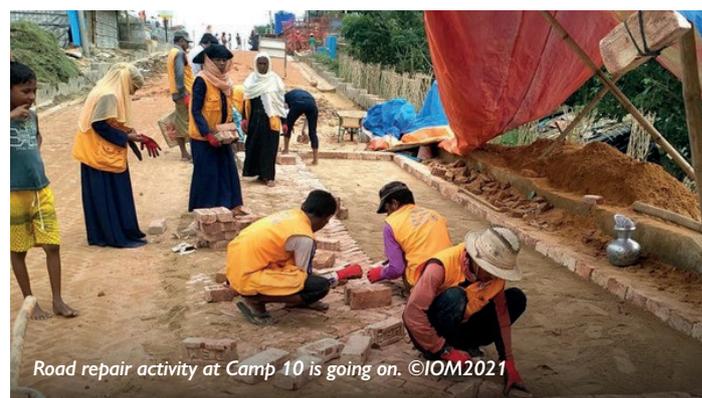
The Women Committee consultation meetings were conducted in Camps 9, 15, 18,19, 20,20E, 22, 23, 24 and 25 with the participation of 274 Women Committee members on their engagement in site management, finalizing the women led projects, Cash-for-Work (CfW) engagement, trainings, and other activities in the camps.

A total of 3,862 beneficiaries were reached through door-to-door visits to disseminate different key messages on COVID-19 and vaccination, monsoon, landslide, and fire safety.

A total of 360 Women Committee members identified and implemented nine projects in nine camps. These community projects include tailoring, fishing net making, basic literacy, embroidery, homestead gardening, handicraft etc. All WPP focal from 10 camps gathered as part of the monthly meeting to provide a platform for experience-sharing of good practices as well as challenges, discuss and plan on priorities moving forward.

### Site Management Engineering Project

The Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP) is a joint endeavor of IOM, UNHCR, and WFP seeking to ensure fast and proper implementation of facilities maintenance works in the camps. In October, SMEP repaired a total of 2,169 m<sup>2</sup> of roads and completed 1,532 m<sup>2</sup> slope stabilization including hillside slope protection and roadside stabilization works using various technical designs and materials suitable for the specific intervention such as bamboos, masonry brick wall, and concrete cantilever wall. To ensure the sustainability of the intervention works, SMEP is maximizing the use of nature-based intervention including planting of trees on the slope stabilization works.





International Day of the Girl Child was observed at Ratnapalong Women and Girls Safe Space. ©IOM2021

**General Protection (GP)**

Aiming to mitigate threats to COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 12,897 Rohingya refugees benefitted from IOM awareness sessions on COVID-19 preventive measures and protection risks in October. In the reporting period, IOM assisted 95 individual protection cases.

IOM assisted 46 individuals with relocation and identified 43 new extremely vulnerable individuals. A total of 166 persons were referred for further assistance to registration, WASH, livelihoods and food assistance in October.

**Child Protection (CP)**

IOM provided case management services to 51 children (24 boys and 27 girls), reunified two lost children with care givers and supported two households with a person with disabilities. IOM partner Terre des Hommes conducted 12 MHPSS sessions with children using the “Be Happy Be Safe” booklet developed by IOM and 12 sessions with adolescents under the RIDE ON PSS curriculum and provided further eight sessions for care giver son positive parenting. A total of 442 children (308 girls and 134 boys) have been supported through PSS activities in the CFCs of WGSS.

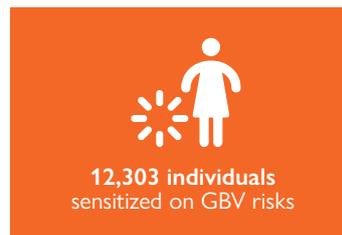
IOM celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October in the WGSS at Ratnapalong in host community through different activities with children and adolescent girls to promote the girl's rights. In the host community, IOM identified 25 children with disabilities (13 Boys and 12 Girls) and connected them with the WGSS to receive dignity kits and other supports.

**Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

IOM continued to conduct activities with the reopening of nine WGSS across eight camps and one host community area. In October, a total of 1,911 women and girls participated in small group-based PSS activities in the WGSS. IOM distributed 641 dignity kits, 460 thami sets (traditional Rohingya women clothing), 100 sharees (South Asian traditional dress) to the most vulnerable women and girls.

Community mobilizers and Rohingya volunteers reached 8,489 individuals through outreach about GBV prevention in the camps and host community areas. IOM's partner PULSE Bangladesh conducted group-based awareness sessions for 3,814 individuals and phone call sessions for 2,724 individuals on COVID-19 preventive measures, PSS, protection-related issues.

IOM conducted trainings for 130 Majhis (127 men and three women) on “GBV Core Concepts and Safe Referral” in five camps. The



participants provided positive feedback on the content of training and will disseminate the information with their neighbours in their community to better prevent, respond and mitigate the risk of GBV.

**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 on an individual basis or in a small group session. In this effort, 4,085 comic pocketbooks, leaflets, posters and masks that featured the Counter-Trafficking hotline were distributed to the participants to make a safe referral. A total of 66 victims of trafficking (47 men, 15 women and four boys) were identified in October and provided direct assistance with case management services in the host community and camp.

In the reporting period, three trainings were conducted for the protection actors in the Camp 6 on “Basic Concept of Counter Trafficking, Referral pathways and COVID-19” for 66 participants. Two trainings were also organized for the protection actors in the camp on “Basic Counselling training” for 40 individuals. A training was conducted for 16 teachers and journalists (13 men and three women) on Counter-Trafficking issues, Act 2012 and Referral Mechanism” in Teknaf Sadar. A counter-trafficking committee (CTC) meeting was organized by IOM together with partner in Teknaf Baharchora Union.

A total of 13 orientation sessions on counter-trafficking basic concepts and COVID-19 were organized in Rohingya camp for 221 individuals (191 men and 30 women) consisting of protection actors, protection volunteers, WPP group, Majhi, religious leaders and community leaders.



Bene-ficiaries are checking the quality of the newly constructed WASH block in fire-affected Camp 9. ©IOM2021

IOM oversees the operation and maintenance of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH facilities in 13 camps and two host-community villages. IOM provides safe water for drinking and domestic purposes, safe sanitation facilities, improved solid waste management, and hygiene promotion activities. IOM and its partners conduct regular follow-up visits at household and communal WASH facilities, and active engagement of community groups with the service providers. These facilities are serving a total of 279,140 individuals.

IOM has been continuing in a gender-inclusive way through community consultation for construction and hygiene promotion sessions. For Hygiene promotion sessions, IOM partners had organized different group session like reproductive female age group for MHM related session, adolescence age group, general group. For construction, IOM has gender marker in latrines and bathing sheds for ensuring gender inclusive WASH response. Six IOM partners are also in line to provide comprehensive WASH services. The partners have been ensuring the functionality of WASH facilities through regular operation, repair, maintenance, awareness-raising sessions, and hygiene materials

distribution. IOM WASH programming also seek to address the needs of persons with disability (PWD) and the elderlies. Since January 2021, IOM constructed and/or retrofitted 461 latrine cubicles to improve the ease of access of PWD's and the elderlies to the facilities.

Aside from overseeing the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, IOM's WASH programme also built 69 communal latrines, 50 bathing cubicles and constructed and nine WASH blocks in Camp 9. Responding to the feedback gathered by IOM's Communication with Community (CwC) team from the Rohingya refugees, IOM WASH programme redesigned the typical WASH block to include two cubicles of the latrine and one cubicle of bathing. Handwashing devices and laundry drying racks are installed nearby the WASH blocks. Aside from these, IOM also constructed 243 bathing cubicles and installed six deep tube-wells during these months.

IOM completed the construction of two solid waste management (SWM) facilities in October 2021 in Camp 9. IOM likewise constructed four decentralized wastewater treatment systems (DEWATS) from January to October 2021 – three in Camp 9 and another one in Camp 24. The SWM facilities constructed by IOM in the refugee camps produced an estimate of 12,255kg of organic fertilizer (compost). Through its Social Cohesion Programme, IOM will provide 7,188kg of the organic fertilizer produced in the refugee camps to the farmers in the host communities.

IOM WASH programme provided the refugee families who were located to the mega camps. In October, IOM provided WASH relocation kits to refugee families who were relocated to Camp 13 and 20 Extension. From January to October, IOM provided 458 WASH kits to the refugee families who were relocated to the mega camps. Each WASH 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.

A total of 68,819 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits in October. This year, IOM and its partners distributed soap kits to 276,926 refugee households in the refugee camps. Each soap kit contains eight bars of bathing soap and seven bars of laundry soap, meant for a month for a refugee family with an average size of five individuals.

**12,255 KG**  
compost produced from  
Solid Waste Management Units

**30,517 soap**  
kits distributed

**69 cubicles**  
of latrine constructed

**50 cubicles**  
of bathing constructed



Newly constructed solid waste management unit in Camp 9. ©IOM2021



Fire drill with CPP volunteers was held at Ukhiya upazila area. ©IOM2021

IOM acknowledges that the socio-economic and security impact of the influx of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar to both Rohingya refugee and host communities is multidimensional. To address this, IOM is implementing social cohesion activities which aim to sustain peace between the two communities, reduce disparities, inequalities, and social exclusion, as well as strengthen safety and security, social relations, and socio-economic interactions and ties between the two communities.

IOM focuses on enhancing social cohesion and community stabilization through the use of a human security approach both in the refugee camps and in the host communities. IOM believes that if basic services, livelihoods, protection and safety measures are in place at the community level, and if the sources of insecurity are correctly identified and managed, then people's perception of community stabilization will improve.

### Livelihoods

IOM will provide unconditional cash grants to 700 host community beneficiaries (motor drivers, restaurant workers etc) who were affected by the prolonged lockdown. IOM is currently conducting a survey to identify the most vulnerable beneficiaries to provide the cash grants. The distribution will be completed in November 2021, as soon as the list of beneficiaries is finalized. Aside from this, IOM also provided unconditional cash grants to 5,590 fishermen out of 6,218 fishermen from 16 targeted unions were identified in coordination with fishermen community and local government authorities as recipients of unconditional cash grants to support the vulnerable fishermen during the cyclone season when the harvesting of marine resources is prohibited by the government. The fishermen will additionally receive emergency communication equipment to facilitate search and rescue operations in case of emergency.

In October, 20 female beneficiaries received training on tailoring, 20 beneficiaries on handicraft, 20 beneficiaries on livestock rearing and 30 beneficiaries on poultry farming by IOM's partner. IOM and its partner organized a meeting with Chamber of Commerce and Industry on value chain and market linkages analysis in the reporting month.

### Disaster Risk Reduction

IOM works with the government in improving the disaster risks reduction response of the government. As of October, IOM completed and handed over four cyclone shelters to the local communities. Eight more are in the process of being handed over to the local communities. Aside from these, IOM is also renovating 10 more cyclone shelters

which are expected to be completed by November 2021. These improved cyclone shelters are integrated with the primary schools in the communities. Thus, the improvement of these primary schools for the purpose of making them cyclone shelters also provides year-round benefits to the communities in form of improved educational facilities.

During the reporting month, four Ward Disaster Management Committees have been identified as institutions of Naf River Based Community for enhancement of DRR emergency preparedness and response capacities. For this activity, six schools were also identified. Nine cyclone and flood vulnerable Wards of Palongkhali union under Ukhiya upazila, and Hnila and Sabrang unions under Teknaf upazila were also selected for the activity. The community and their institutions will be strengthened through capacity building for the preparation and operation of community based early warning system, school-based disaster management plan and contingency plan including mass awareness raising and simulations by next three months.

### Returning Migrants

Aiming to strengthen economic resilience of returning migrants and vulnerable women in Cox's Bazar through skills development, IOM identified four areas of skills interventions and will design the training programmes to build capacity of the selected beneficiaries.

The IOM Development Fund (IDF) funded a project to support the skills development of 102 returning migrant and 102 vulnerable host community members. Under this project, IOM identified 102 returning migrants based on the primary source of data from the government. The data collection for another 102 vulnerable host community is currently ongoing using a door-to-door survey method. The survey will identify their existing skills, interests, available markets nearby and required resources. IOM will analyze the collected information to identify the most suitable skills for the targeted beneficiaries which has good market opportunities and high economic value.

### Community Safety Initiative

IOM is working on increasing the practical knowledge for the police working in Rohingya camps in community safety, conflict resolution, crime prevention and communication with refugees, in collaboration with UNDP and UNHCR. During the reporting month, a total of 175 members of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) received training on (mention the topic of the training – e.g. community policing?) that will help them to understand the context of Rohingya emergency, the dynamics, and challenges of working in the refugee camps and host communities and how to foster a peaceful coexistence between the refugees and the host communities.

**175 APBn personnel** receiving capacity building training

**102 beneficiaries** from returning migrants selected

**4 renovated cyclone shelters** handed over to local community

**90 host community beneficiaries** received trainings

NPM completed the 'Overview Yearly Incidents Analysis' based on NPM's Daily Incident Reporting Mechanism for Inter Sector Coordination Group's (ISCG) Emergency Preparedness and Response. As a part of the Facilities Monitoring exercise, the digitization of 31 camps was completed. 17 camps were covered in the reporting period and data collection will be completed in November. The 'Common Feedback Platform' monthly analysis and reporting is ongoing. The solar streetlights tagging, and geolocation collection activities are going while the activities have covered 10 camps as of October 2021. The 'Greenery Analysis' with the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group of ISCG is going on for the secondary data review and methodology. The Flood Model Data have been completed and shared with REACH.

Data collection for 'Post-Monsoon Assessment' in coordination with SMSD sector has started.

NPM and ACAPS team continued to support the Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA), led by the ISCG. A preliminary draft of the four-year comparison report was shared with the ISCG by ACAPS. NPM is supporting 'Nutrition assessment' which is being conducted by ACF and UNICEF regarding Majhi information on cluster sample group. NPM is also supporting the disaster management cluster of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).

Trainings for Comprehensive Gender Analysis project which is being conducted in coordination with GiHA is ongoing, data collection will start in November.

The Information and Analysis Ecosystem Report will be finalized and shared with the ISCG in November by ACAPS. ACAPS is also drafting reports on socially desirable responding and the protection implications of polygamy.



NPM volunteers are collecting data from beneficiaries. ©IOM2021

Funding for IOM's response is provided by

