



© UNICEF Bangladesh/2021/Nazzina. Families gather in an emergency UNICEF nutrition point set up in the aftermath of a massive fire

Bangladesh

Rohingya Camp Fire

Situation Report No. 2

25 March 2021

Situation in Numbers

- 877,710**
 Rohingya refugees
 (UNHCR, 28 February 2021)
- 456,409**
 Rohingya refugee children
- 50,000**
 people displaced by the first
 24 hours of response
 With more than half of them are
 children

Highlights

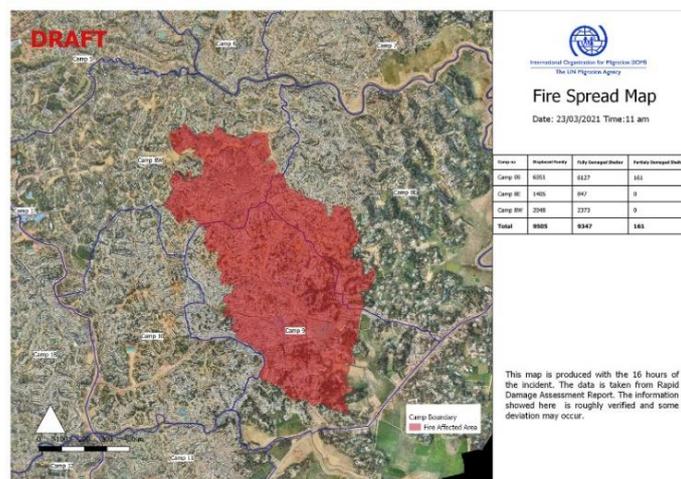
- It is estimated that approximately 50,000 people, of whom over half are children, have been displaced during the recent massive fire in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.
- UNICEF and its implementing partners have been responding to the emergency from Day 1 of the fire incident to provide health care and clean water; install temporary latrines; arrange for temporary shelter for displaced families in the Learning Centres (LCs); and reunite children separated from their families.
- UNICEF-supported facilities that were damaged include 141 LCs, three multi-purpose centres (MPC), a primary health centre (PHC) and two integrated nutrition facilities (INF). Water and Sanitation (WASH) infrastructure, including six water supply networks, 750 latrines and 280 bathing spaces were damaged as well and one Information and feedback centre (IFC) was destroyed.
- The estimated cost for reconstruction and rehabilitation of UNICEF-supported facilities is USD 3.88 million.

Situation Overview and

Humanitarian Needs

A massive fire broke out in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar District on 22 March around 3.30pm local time. The fire started in Camp 8W and spread to Camps 9, 10 and 8E. Refugees displaced by the fire moved to adjacent camps where they congregated in open spaces, moved to the Learning Centres (LCs) or stayed in the houses of other family members or friends. According to the reports of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in charge of the overall coordination of the humanitarian activities for Rohingya refugees, at least 11 people died including three children. UNICEF partners has so far reported that 24 children (13 girls and 11 boys) had been injured. Government authorities and aid agencies have been working since Day 1 to help those who were impacted and assess damages in the concerned camps.

A number of essential facilities and services have been impacted by the fire including health centres, clinics, hospitals, distribution points, markets, police posts and LCs. Among them are the UNICEF-supported 141 LCs, a primary health center, two integrated nutrition facilities (INF), three multi-purpose centres (MPC), six water supply networks, 750 latrines and 280 bathing spaces that have been destroyed or badly damaged.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

Despite the damage and limited staff, the UNICEF-supported PHC in Camp 8W has been open and continuing to provide emergency health care services. As the delivery room was severely damaged, health workers used another room in the facility where a 20-year-old Rohingya mother delivered a baby boy in the evening of Wednesday 24 March. This example shows the critical importance of this centre to the affected population. Within 48 hours after the fire, UNICEF delivered medicines and oral rehydration salts, basic medical equipment and other critical items including one generator, four water filters and 34 tarpaulins to the PHC in this camp to support the families who lost their homes including those of the Rohingya community health volunteers, porters and cleaners.



MMT at the affected areas at Camp 9
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UNICEF, through its partners, deployed a mobile medical team (MMT) in the affected areas. On Wednesday 24 March, the MMT provided services to 265 patients (38 females, 159 males and 68 children) including one child with disability. The majority of patients were suffering burn and cut injuries and other health problems as well including cold, fever and diarrhoea.



The midwife with a Rohingya new-born boy
©UNICEF Bangladesh/2021/Dr. Mahmud

Nutrition

Two INFs in Camp 9 and Camp 8E were destroyed by the fire. Despite this, both INFs have been made functional by UNICEF and its partners and started providing emergency nutrition services including the screening and management of acute malnutrition within 24 hours of the fire. On 24 March 2021, 302 children (175 girls and 127 boys) were screened for acute malnutrition and 23 children (18 girls and 5 boys) were identified as severe acute malnourished and provided with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). UNICEF and partners temporarily mobilised INF staff from neighbouring camps to provide support. Two breastfeeding corners have been established in the two INFs that supported over 50 mothers to breastfeed their babies. Mothers expressed satisfaction to have a private, and safe place for breastfeeding. Play areas were also established in both INFs to alleviate child sufferings and over 33 children benefitted from playing there.



Father queuing for his child to be screened
©UNICEF Bangladesh/2021/Karanveer



Girl with fractured arm playing at the INF
©UNICEF Bangladesh/2021/Karanveer



Children playing at the INF
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Nutrition teams from UNICEF and WFP jointly visited the affected areas to assess the needs and guide the response. Based on the findings of the assessment, access to water is one of the most urgent needs, and steps have been initiated to provide water at the two INFs.

Child Protection

Three MPCs were destroyed by the fire in Camps 8E and 9. Within 48 hours, UNICEF and partners set up six child friendly spaces (CFS) in Camp 9, 8 and 8W to provide psychosocial support (PSS) and recreational services. Altogether 822 people have been reached with PSS services so far (243 boys, 298 girls, 195 women, 86 men). About 180 tarpaulins were dispatched to the partner organizations to set up temporary spaces to provide psychosocial support.

Family tracing and reunification services resulted in 97 successful reunifications (40 females). This represents a huge progress compared with 36 reunifications in Day one. However, 52 cases of separated children (24 girls) are pending reunification as tracing efforts are underway. Distribution of dignity kits have started as well.

Education

A total of 141 UNICEF-supported LCs and other facilities including MCPs, Resource Centres and project offices were damaged in Camp 8E, 8W, 9 and 10. The integrated adolescent MCPs, which are equipped with materials such as sewing machines, clothes, cutting tables and solar panels were destroyed. The affected children and families are taking shelter in the remaining LCs and MCPs in unaffected areas.

UNICEF's partner organizations and Burmese language instructors have been working as community volunteers to support the Emergency Response Teams in coordination with other humanitarian actors. Similarly, UNICEF has released payments for incentives for affected Burmese language instructors who lost everything due to the fire.

WASH

Among the four affected camps, UNICEF's area of responsibility with regard to WASH is Camp 8E and 8W. UNICEF's partner organizations in Camp 6, 7 and 14 have stepped up WASH services to cater to the displaced population from affected camps including hygiene promotion and distribution of critical supplies.

In Camp 8E and 8W, six water supply networks and 190 tube wells have been damaged. Two of the water supply networks have been repaired with the damaged solar panels replaced and portable generators set up to pump up and provide safe water at distribution points. So far, 76 of the damaged tube wells have been repaired. In total, safe water is being provided to an estimated 12,500 people.



People collect safe water from a UNICEF temporary water distribution point in Camp 8W
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An emergency latrine in Camp 8E
©UNICEF Bangladesh/2021/Imtiaz

With 750 latrines having been destroyed in Camp 8E and 8W, a total of 82 emergency latrines have been constructed which can provide access to 4,100 people in line with the SPHERE standard of 50 people per latrine during acute emergency. UNICEF is also prioritizing areas where people have returned and are rebuilding their homes as locations for the construction of emergency latrines.

A total of 280 bathing facilities were destroyed. UNICEF has helped construct 27 emergency bathing facilities, providing access to an estimated 1,150 people. The construction of emergency bathing facility is also being prioritised in areas where people have returned and are starting to rebuild their homes.

UNICEF is also providing emergency WASH supplies such as jerrycans, buckets, Family Hygiene Kits, Menstrual Hygiene

Kits and soap to affected families. UNICEF is reinforcing hygiene promotion activities by engaging Community-Based Volunteers (CBV), WASH committee, water and latrine users' group. Out of 123 CBVs in two affected camps, 56 are highly affected (21 female and 35 male). Currently all CBVs are actively engaged in hygiene promotion activities through households visit, promoting hygiene practices including handwashing, safe handling of drinking water, use of Aquatabs, and safe management of menstruation.



Children collect water from a UNICEF temporary distribution point in Camp 8W
©UNICEF Bangladesh/2021/Sujon

Communications for Development (C4D)

The C4D Emergency Response Team met the people of affected communities located in the temporary shelters and staying with their neighbours to assess the information need and addressing people's queries and concerns related to unaccounted children, issues related to shelter and information on health services availability. One Emergency Information Hub was established in Camp 9 for collecting queries and to link the affected community with the necessary services.

Altogether 35,069 people were reached with key child protection prevention messages and information through family reunification and various service points. UNICEF has established a WhatsApp group with all frontline staff and are sharing interactive voice recording (IVR) on relevant services and information needs. An inter-agency Communication with Community (CwC) Working Group for which UNICEF is a member developed a series of public service announcements on unaccounted children, health service availability, food distribution, registration, care and protection of children, fire safety and first aid burn, lost documents, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse which are disseminated by community radio partner, through loudspeaker announcements in the camps and through social media. A radio dialogue on mental health has also been broadcast.

Funding requirement

UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office requires US\$ 3.9 million to reconstruct the facilities destroyed or damaged; restart provision of life-saving interventions; and address the critical needs of refugee children and their families affected by the massive fire in general. This estimated funding requirement may be revised as more information on the extent of destruction and its impact on the population becomes available.

Programme areas	Funding needs	Funding identified	Funding gap
C4D – Reconstruction of information and feedback centre	\$10,035	0	\$10,035
Child Protection	\$94,451	0	\$94,451
Education	\$813,876	0	\$813,876
Health	\$82,645	0	\$82,645
Nutrition	\$55,490	0	\$55,490
WASH	\$2,831,464	0	\$2,831,464
Grand total	\$3,887,961	0	\$3,887,961

Human Interest Stories and External Media

[Junaid was separated from his family when fleeing raging fire in Rohingya refugee camps | UNICEF Bangladesh](#)

The next Situation Report will be issued on 31 March 2021.

For general information regarding the actions being pursued by UNICEF and other humanitarian community actors for Rohingya Refugee Emergency and resource requirements, please see the following documents.

- UNICEF Bangladesh Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) (<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/bangladesh.html>)
UNICEF Bangladesh Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicef.bd/>)
- Bangladesh Rohingya Refugee Joint Response Plan 2020 (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh>)
- UNICEF Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh (<https://dashboard.unicefbangladesh.org>)

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