

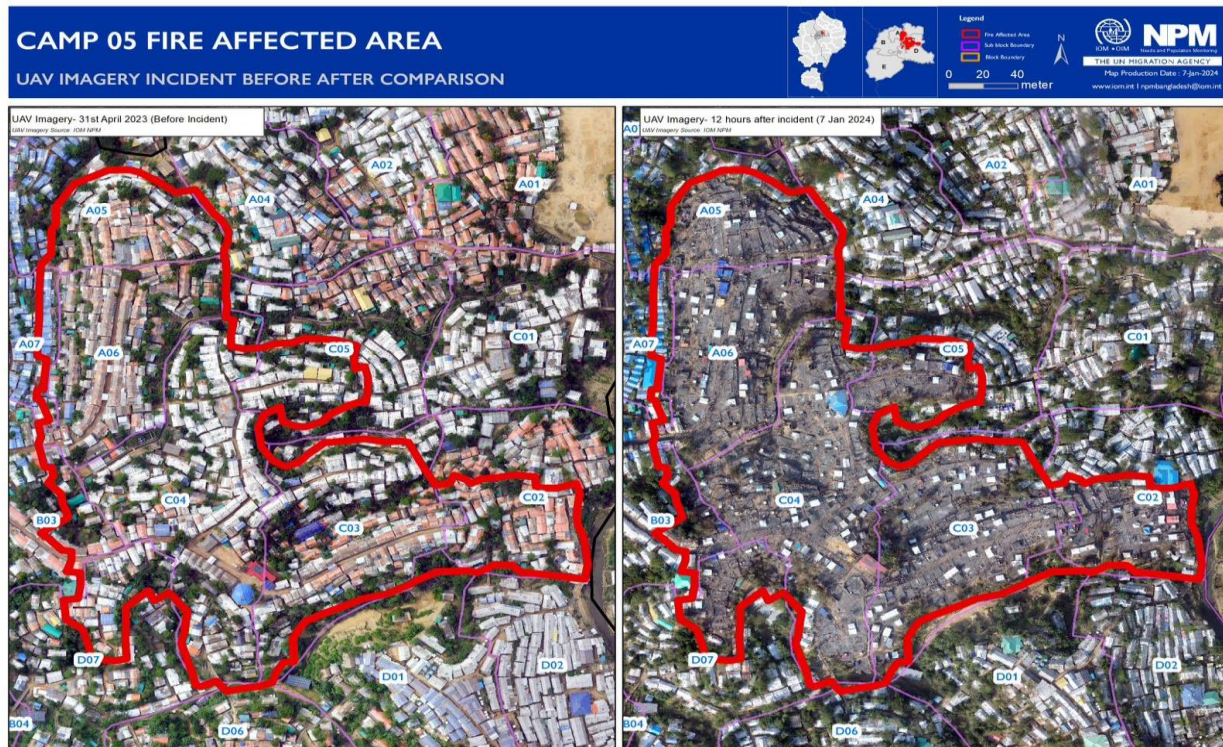
# Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 5

Situation Report  
As of 7 January 2024

## **i** Situation Overview

On 7 January 2024 around 1:00 am, an extensive fire broke out in Rohingya refugee Camp 5. The flames burned for approximately three hours. Immediately after the fire incident, Rohingya refugee safety unit volunteers (SUVs), local firefighters, Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD), Armed Police Battalion (APBn), and authorities controlled the situation by 4:00 am. Under the leadership of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), humanitarian partners immediately arrived on the spot to assess the damage and established a harmonized response. The Rohingya community volunteers were the initial responders to the fire incident, and they continue to aid the camps alongside other responders. Upon receiving the emergency call, specialized three-wheeled Mobile Firefighting Units (MFFUs) and water pumps provided by UNHCR were promptly dispatched from neighboring camps. To suppress the fire, water was sourced from the water network of WASH partners, as well as nearby streams and ponds. Additionally, fire corridors were established by removing shelters near the fire, effectively preventing the flames from spreading further within the camp.

Over 5,000 Rohingya refugees were displaced due to the fire incident. A total of 842 shelters were affected, including 749 shelters totally destroyed by the fire and 93 partially destroyed. 33 communal facilities were damaged including health facilities, learning centres, mosques and a mobile firefighting unit hub. In addition, 63 solar streetlights were damaged. So far, no casualties have been reported.



## Inter-Sector Response



### Shelter-CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

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#### Impact

- A total of 842 shelters were affected (749 fully damaged and 93 partially damaged).
- 33 communal facilities were damaged including health facilities, learning centres, mosques and a mobile firefighting unit hub.
- 63 solar streetlights were damaged.

#### Response

- Shelter and core non-food items (NFIs) assistance (including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)) response has been coordinated through the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) and UNHCR with support from existing camp partners.
- Relocation tracker of displaced families has been initiated.
- Site development will take place over the next 3 days and will be required along with new site plan before shelters are reconstructed. The CiC agreed on the importance of preventing spontaneous private shelter construction that may impede urgent and coordinated site planning activities. Information campaign on this will be carried out by UNHCR Site Management Support (SMS) teams.

#### Challenges and Needs

- Access to the site remains a challenge and site development works are ongoing including bridge re-enforcement.

#### Partners

- AFAD, BRDCS
- More partners are expected to take part in the response as response mobilization continues.



### Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

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#### Impact

- 4,000 individuals affected by the fire require emergency rapid food assistance.
- WFP e-voucher outlets were not affected by the fire.

#### Response

- In coordination with the CiC, WFP responded immediately to the emergency with the distribution of High Energy Biscuits (HEB). Over the day, 774 households received one carton each of HEB. A total of 3.8mt was allocated to the affected refugees.
- WFP provided 4,767 hot meals including 2,767 for lunch and 2,000 for dinner.
- The distributions were conducted from the CiC office and WFP outlets.

#### Challenges and Needs

- WFP reported no gaps in the emergency of rapid food assistance on this occasion.

## Partners

- FSS partners operating in Camp 5: BRAC, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council, HSI, Save the Children and WFP.
- WFP implementing partners: AAB, BRAC, CODEC, DRC, ESDO, Prottiyashi, SARPV and SCI.



## **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF**

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### Impact

- A total of 82 latrines, 74 bathing cubicles, 4 deep tube wells, 9 tap stands and 42 handwashing stations have been affected.

### Response

- BRAC engaged Emergency Response Team (ERT) by refugee volunteers.
- A total of six mobile toilets were mobilized by NGO Forum. Seven tap stands have been repaired.
- A total of two trucks (capacity 10,000 litres/truck) have been deployed to provide clean water.
- UNHCR and BRDCS are going to distribute NFIs, including WASH items such as hygiene kits, female hygiene kits, soaps, and jerricans, to the affected families covering all affected households.

### Challenges and Needs

- Debris/garbage collection from the fire affected area.
- As part of the rationalization process, a new partner has recently taken over this camp from the previous partner, so the transitional phase is critical for smooth response operation.

## Partners

- BRAC, DSK, JSK, NGO Forum.



## **Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO**

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### Impact

- No health facilities were affected.

### Response

- Two Primary Health Care (PHC) centres in Camp 5 provided support, along with the deployment of two Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs) and community health workers to the site.
- 97 individuals (34 women) were screened by the MMTs, and 11 individuals were referred to Camp 5 FH PHC for injury treatment.
- 31 individuals were referred for further medical treatment to the PHC centres.
- The PHC treated 15 patients in total (4 burns and 11 injuries) and was fully ready to provide any urgent support in case of casualties. The PHC provided psychological first aid to 15 affected people.
- 1,236 awareness messages were delivered by community health workers (CHWs) regarding fire safety.
- 121 individuals received first aid kits.
- These achievements highlight a comprehensive coordination approach to respond to the affected

people, including screenings, awareness campaigns, distribution of first aid kits, and referrals for further medical attention.

### **Challenges and Needs**

- Extra load of patients to the PHCs especially with some health posts closed.

### **Partners**

- RTMI, IOM, FH, UNHCR



### **Protection (including GBV and CP) Sector Lead Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA**

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### **Impact**

- Over 5,000 individuals including approximately 3,500 children were reported to be affected and displaced by the fire incident and relocated in temporary/emergency shelters/learning centres or with nearby community members and relatives. This increases protection risks and GBV concerns, as emergency shelters are not suitable if they cannot host separate facilities for men and women/children.
- 30 children were reported to be injured and have been referred for medical treatment.
- Eight unaccompanied and separated children (5 boys, 3 girls) have been identified, with seven of them reunified with their families and one's family being traced.
- Two Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) were damaged resulting in the cessation of activities for children.
- At least seven families lost their registration documents.
- Affected people are experiencing stress and psychosocial distress due to loss of assets (particularly single mothers and female-headed households).

### **Response**

- Activation of the interagency Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) – a multipurpose team trained and prepared to provide basic first aid and search and rescue.
- Mobilization of children case workers and protection community volunteers to identify vulnerable individuals including vulnerable children, and link and facilitate their access to services and support.
- Community engagement at camp level through CiCs, Sector focal points – mobilization of over 100 community-based protection (CBP) volunteers.
- Provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) to 180 affected refugees including children (16 women, 16 men, one disabled man, 68 girls, 79 boys).
- Referral to medical care for burns (30 children) and some severe mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) cases.
- Provision of winter clothing including sandals and blankets
- Referral to registration team for replacement of documents.
- Protection Sector SAG meeting was held.
- Meetings with CiCs, partners and protection focal points took place. CiCs put in place ERT.

### **Challenges and Needs**

- Protection risks include 1) lack of privacy in WASH facilities; 2) trouble with outsiders intruding on the disaster affected area; and 3) relocation to temporary/emergency shelters at facilities or through community/relatives exasperates GBV risks.

- Secondary Child Protection concerns may arise from lack of essential items such as food, shelter, clothing, and blankets for children and families.
- Damaged WASH facilities can have significant repercussions for the safety and well-being of children and women.
- National election restrictions affected the ability of national staff to rapidly gather information.
- There is a need for disaggregated data by age and gender by block.

#### Partners

- IRC, Nari Maitree, BRAC, UN Women, Department of Social Services, SCI, TdH



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#### **Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF**

#### Impact

- There is no reported damage to any integrated nutrition facility.
- At the time of reporting, a total of 1,094 children under 5 years of age and 383 pregnant and lactation women (PLW) have been affected as a result of loss of shelters for their households.

#### Response

- Affected households who lost their nutrition supplies will be supplied with replacements to minimize loss and prevent deterioration of nutritional status.

#### Challenges/Needs

- It is difficult to locate the children and PLW in nutritional care because of the beneficiaries' dispersion among several sub-blocks as a result of temporary relocation.
- Replacing beneficiary cards is essential for those who have lost theirs.

#### Partners

- World Vision Bangladesh, UNICEF, WFP



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#### **Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children**

#### Impact

- A total of 20 learning facilities, including 14 learning centres (LCs) and 6 community-based learning facilities (CBLF) are fully damaged. In addition, 1 LC is partially damaged.
- Learning materials from four LCs are lost.

#### Response

- Undamaged LCs have been open as emergency shelters as instructed by the CiC. UNICEF will provide tarpaulin to partner/JCF to open temporary learning centres (TLCs). Based on the need assessment, repair and reconstruction of the LCs and learning materials will be supported by UNICEF.

#### Partners

- Mukti, TDF, DCA, BRAC, CODEC, Friendship, JCF, SKUS, UN Women, UNHCR, UNICEF



## **Livelihoods and Skill Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR**

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### **Impact**

- There has been no report so far of LSDS assets or facilities being affected.

### **Response**

- The Sector is in close contact with Camp focal points and partners to identify any subsequent issues/needs.

### **Partners**

- UN Women, DRC, UNHCR, NGO Forum, BRAC

### **Contact**

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Rohingya refugee response: Cox's Bazar: [iscg@iscgxcb.org](mailto:iscg@iscgxcb.org).

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<https://rohingyaresponse.org/>