

Humanitarian Response to the Fire in Rohingya Refugee Camp 5

Situation Report
As of 8 January 2024

Situation Overview

On 7 January 2024 around 1:00 am, an extensive fire broke out in Rohingya refugee Camp 5. 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.

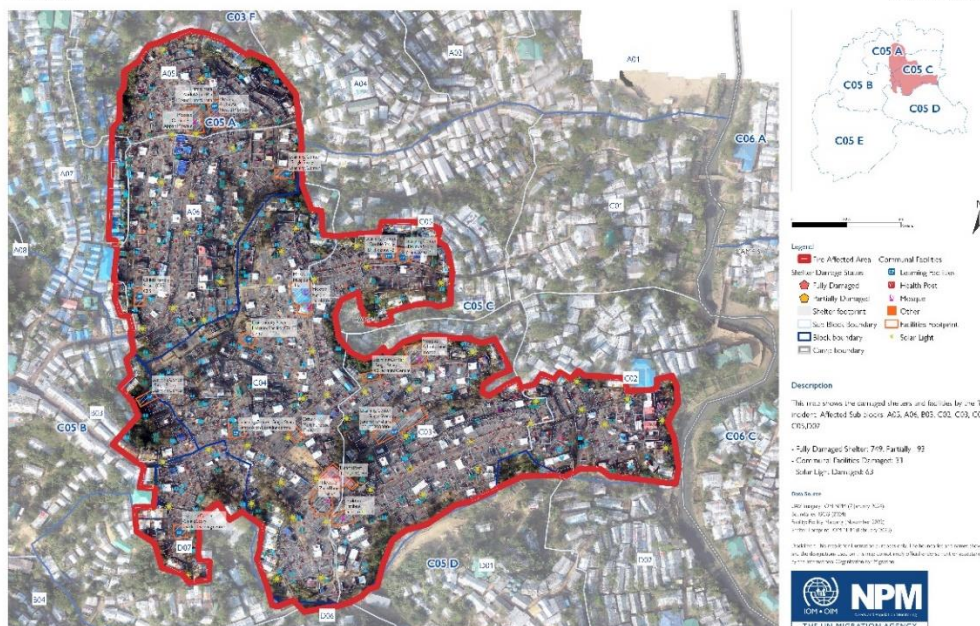
Over 800 households were affected by the fire, comprising around 5,000 refugees who were displaced due to the fire incident, including 3,500 children. Displaced households have sought temporary shelter in the homes of relatives or other community members, or in community facilities in Camp 5 and adjacent camps. A displacement tracker was activated on Day 1, in coordination with the SCCCM Sector, to track where people affected by the fire are temporarily staying, to ensure identification and provision of necessary support.

UNHCR is leading an interagency and multisectoral response team to replan the fire-affected blocks. The initial site plan is scheduled to be presented to the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) by 9 January. Following government endorsement, UNHCR and partners will commence the reconstruction of shelters, WASH facilities, and associated site development, adhering to the government approvals.

CAMP 05 FIRE AFFECTED SHELTER & FACILITY

KUTUPALONG, UHKIYA, COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

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Inter-Sector Response



Shelter-CCCM Sector Lead Agencies: IOM and UNHCR

Impact

- Over 800 refugee households (comprising 5,000 individuals) were displaced by the fire and sheltering across various camps.
- 841 shelters were affected, including 748 shelters totally destroyed and 93 partially destroyed.
- 31 communal facilities were damaged including:
 - 1 health facility (non-operational since March 2023)
 - 15 learning centres
 - 2 child friendly spaces
 - 13 mosques/religious schools
- 1 mobile firefighting unit (MFFU) hub.
- 55 solar streetlights.



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Response

- A displacement tracker was activated on Day 1 to ensure identification and provision of necessary support to fire-affected families temporarily sheltering in other homes or communal facilities in different camps.
- The site clearance and safe disposal of debris are progressing well, with expectations of full clearance by 9 January.
- Community engagement and common messaging to affected families regarding planned assistance and response modalities are ongoing.
- On 9 January, distribution of non-food items, including hygiene supplies and menstrual hygiene management kits, is scheduled to begin. Partners BDRCS, Save the Children, AMAN, AFAD are actively mobilizing these items to the camp level.

Challenges and Needs

- Affected households have already started to construct temporary structures. This may cause challenges to site planning activity.

Partners

- AFAD, AMAN, IFRC/BDRCS, NGO Forum, Save the Children
- More partners are expected to take part in the response as response mobilization continues.



Food Security Sector Lead Agencies: FAO and WFP

Impact

- 4,000 individuals affected by the fire require emergency rapid food assistance.

Response

- Through coordinated efforts, a total of 6,826 hot meal packs were handed out to the affected refugees on 8 January. These include:
 - Lunch packs to 3,000 individuals and dinner packs to 2,826 individuals, provided by WFP.
 - 1,000 hot meal packs including 500 each for lunch and dinner, provided by AMAN, who also plans to provide 1,000 hot meal packs per day to the affected refugees for 10 days.



Challenges and Needs

- WFP has the capacity to meet all the needs of the emergency rapid food assistance to the affected refugees in Camp 5. There are no gaps in foods assistance.

Partners

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



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

Impact

- A total of 82 latrines (major damage 68, partial damage 14), 76 bathing cubicles (major damage 74, partial damage 02), 9 tap stands, and 42 handwashing stations have been affected.
- No major damage to the water networks.

Response

- The repairs and reconstruction of WASH facilities will commence upon approval of new site plans by the RRRRC/CiC. The plans should be ready by this week – WASH partners are on standby to respond.
- Ongoing support for displaced families includes the distribution of hygiene kits with menstrual hygiene kits, jerricans and soap.
- Debris cleaning is ongoing with the support from DSK, expected to be completed by 9 January.

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

Impact

- No currently operational health facilities were affected. A non-operational former health facility (closed since March 2023) was damaged.

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.
- 197 individuals were screened by the MMTs, and 23 individuals were referred to Camp 5 PHC for treatment.
- 86 individuals were referred for further medical treatment to the PHC centres.
- The PHC treated 49 patients in total (15 burns and 34 injuries) and was fully ready to provide any urgent support in case of casualties. The PHC provided psychological first aid to 26 affected people.
- 2,049 people were reached with awareness messages delivered by community health workers regarding fire safety.
- 173 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

Impact

- **Protection Risks:** The fire has led to increased protection & GBV risks due to:
 - Families, particularly women and children, staying in temporary or emergency shelters.
 - Inadequate separation facilities in emergency shelters, leading families to seek shelter with friends and relatives, heightening GBV concerns.
 - Potential resort to negative coping mechanisms by affected communities.
- **Livelihoods Concerns:** Stress and suffering due to loss of assets are particularly acute for single mothers, female-headed households, adolescents, and persons with disabilities.
- **Child Protection Concerns:** Approximately 200 households lost possessions, including children's clothing. Reports of children feeling unsafe in temporary shelters, with increased vulnerabilities for those with disabilities.

Response

- **Rapid Assessments and Emergency Shelters:**
 - GBV actors are conducting rapid needs assessments with findings expected imminently.
 - Some GBV facilities are operating as emergency shelters, notably the Women's Market.
 - Community engagement continues with various stakeholders and volunteers providing support, including psychological first aid (PFA).
- **Referrals and Psychosocial Support (PSS):**
 - GBV service facilities are functional, offering case management (CM), PSS services, and initiating referrals for protection cases. GBV volunteers are operating at CiC office.
 - Separate/Unaccompanied Children: Child Protection (CP) workers have reunited unaccompanied and separated children with families and provided PFA to approximately 132 children. Guidelines and procedures have been developed to ensure the safety and well-being of separated or unaccompanied children affected by the incident.
 - Community awareness sessions reached 117 heads of households and covered where to seek assistance regarding access to food, how to replace lost or burnt documents, what to do in case of shelter damage, health support, family reunification, GBV issues and other protection concerns.
 - Camp-based meeting with CiC for coordination of the response including meeting with all the Protection actors, focal points and volunteers to prepare messaging for the affected population to avoid or mitigate protection risks.
 - Protection from Unwanted Visitors: to formulate strategies to protect affected refugees from unwanted visitors entering the area, ensuring their security and privacy.
 - Referral Mechanisms: to establish a common referral system to connect refugees with different services, streamlining the process and enhancing access to essential support.
- **Provision of Essential Items:**
 - Distribution of dignity kits is planned, with a total of 2,997 kits ready for distribution, of which 1,500 will be distributed on 9 January.
 - Additional supplies like menstrual pads, blankets, sandals, winter clothes, and dry food are being distributed.
 - UNFPA is prepositioning post-rape kits in health facilities for clinical management of rape in the two health facilities functioning in the camps.
- **Facility and Resource Management:**
 - Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) are being utilized as temporary shelters, and a feedback mechanism helpdesk has been established.
 - The Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) team, inclusive of GBV focal points and volunteers, is activated.

Challenges and Needs

- **Information and Data Gaps:** Difficulty in confirming information on affected families, partly due to election-related disruptions. There is a need for disaggregated data by age and gender.
- **Protection Risks:** Concerns about privacy in WASH facilities and intrusion by outsiders in the disaster area.
- **Child Protection Specific Needs:** Addressing secondary concerns like food, shelter, and clothing for children, particularly for those with disabilities.

Partners

- DSS, BRAC, SCI, WVI, Caritas, BLAST, TdH, IRC, IOM, UNICEF.



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

Impact

- There is no reported damage to any integrated nutrition facility.

Response

- All the Nutrition Services at the centre level including outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP), targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP), blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), etc. are ongoing, although the outreach activities are very slow.

Challenges/Needs

- The fire incident has impacted thirteen refugee nutrition volunteers, affecting nutrition outreach activities and centre-level operations.
- The absence of the growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) card and UNHCR data card poses a significant challenge in maintaining track of GMP activities.

Partners

- World Vision Bangladesh, UNICEF, WFP



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.
- 11 individual packets of fortified biscuits in the affected LCs were also burnt.
- 1,838 (female: 838) learners are directly impacted.
- Learning materials from four LCs are lost.

Response

- Psychological First Aid (PFA) provided to learners, parents, Burmese language teachers, and cleaners by Mukti and JCF staff.
- Partners are accommodating learners to the nearest learning facilities to continue their education.
- Just after the incident, teachers/facilitators and Community Education Support Group (CESG) members communicated with affected learners, identified their needs, and shared them with site management for quick response.



Challenges/Needs

- Reconstruction needed for 14 completely burnt LCs.
- Teaching materials (including solar panel, light, fan, etc.) needed for 25 LFs.
- Learning materials (including notebooks, gags, textbooks, etc.) for 1,838 learners are required.
- Accommodating all learners in the nearest LFs is a challenge due to space shortage and distance from learners' shelters.

Partners

- Mukti Cox's Bazar, JCF, UNICEF and WFP



Livelihoods and Skill Development Sector Lead Agency: UNHCR

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

Rohingya refugee response: Cox's Bazar: iscg@iscgxcb.org.