



Preparedness of Cyclone MOCHA

Damages occurred at UNFPA facilities Photo: UNFPA

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Cyclone Mocha hit the coastal areas along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border on May 14, bringing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and causing landslides in the Cox's Bazar district and other coastal areas.
- A total of 2.3 million people were at risk, including 960,128 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island. The government raised the cyclone warning level to 10 for Cox's Bazar.
- UNFPA was engaged in cyclone preparedness and responding to the humanitarian needs of the affected people. The effects of the cyclone and the anticipated upcoming monsoon season heightened the risks for vulnerable Rohingya and host communities.
- According to the data obtained from the government's initial damage assessment, approximately 2,022 households have been completely damaged, while around 10,000 households have experienced partial damage.
- As per the 72-hour Joint Need Assessment (JNA) report, a total of 8,063 households and 36,907 individuals were affected in the 33 Rohingya camps.
- As a result of the cyclone, an estimated 15,000 women and girls from the affected households are now facing heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV) along with sexual exploitation and abuse (added stress, further dependency on aid and relief items etc). There is a reduction of movement for women and girls hampering their ability to receive lifesaving GBV and integrated SRH services.

## IMPACT

- A total of 152 learning centers, 33 community-based learning facilities (CBLFs), and 14 adolescent centers have been reported as damaged in the camps. 9,312 (4,527 girls and 4,785 boys) learners are being directly affected.
- There was no major damage to UNFPA supported health facilities. However, the capacity of the UNFPA supported CEmONC health facility was strengthened to receive emergency referrals for admissions from other health facilities within the camps reaching a bed capacity of 90%.
- A total of six (6) Women-Led Community Centres (WLCC)/Multi-Purpose Women Centres (MPWC) and 29 Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) were partially damaged which affected the access to and provision of services of women. From the UNFPA GBViE supported facilities in the Rohingya Refugee camps and surrounding host communities six WFS and five WLCC were partially damaged and the roofs, boundary fencing, entrance, garden shades were mostly impacted.
- In camp 10, one of the WFS volunteer's homes was destroyed in a landslide while there was reported damage to households, assets, in both camps and host communities.
- Due to the emergency preparedness the services were halted during the afternoon of 13th and 14th May. Additionally, services were halted for one full day, to engage in post cyclone repairs within the Whykong host community WFS.
- UNFPA, Cox's Bazar implements its Adolescents and Youth (A&Y) interventions in 80 locations, including community houses. Several of these community houses in the camps have sustained partial damage due to the intermittent winds, and sporadic incidents of landslides have also been reported. Among the life skills education program beneficiaries, the shelter of a participant from Camp 10 has been destroyed.
- Due to the damage to a few water points in camps, beneficiaries are collecting water from nearby unsafe water sources. More detailed information will be shared after the impact assessment.
- Beneficiaries, including their caregivers, face psychological trauma from their experience of the cyclone.
- On Bhasan Char island no damage or impact was reported.



Affected families due to the devastating cyclone MOCHA. Photo: UNFPA

## PREPAREDNESS

- UNFPA prepositioned and distributed emergency reproductive health medicines, commodities and supplies to Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group (SRH WG) partners including 600 MAMA kits, 600 clean delivery kits, post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and family planning commodities. Twenty-two (22) normal deliveries were conducted at all UNFPA supported health facilities.
- Four UNFPA supported WFS were identified as the emergency cyclone shelters for women and children and appropriate measures were taken accordingly to prepare the facilities for this purpose.
- Through its partners, UNFPA prepositioned a total of 2,413 dignity kits for the distribution amongst vulnerable women and girls to respond to the aftermath of the cyclone. All registry and case management records were either updated on the online database systems or transferred to safe locations in order to ensure there are no information gaps and the continuity of services. Alongside, all valuable items such as electronics, solar panels, and skills development items were relocated to safe locations
- Community based volunteers disseminated key messages on cyclone preparedness, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV and the referral pathway among the community leaders, religious leaders and community people.
- The Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) teams and Community Outreach Volunteers conducted household visits for assessment and awareness-raising on protection risks and mitigation measures.
- Integrated GBV - SRH-MHPSS referral pathways were updated, and distributed to first responders' service facilities were prepared to provide emergency temporary shelter for women and girls. Help Desks were set up to provide information on available services, offer Psychological First Aid and refer for further support.
- UNFPA has prepositioned a total of 4,800 disposable menstrual pads and made available for delivery under the Education and Protection Sector.
- The Youth Centers' facilities and equipment were reinforced and fortified in preparation for the cyclone, and all documents were stored safely and in line with privacy considerations. Session rooms within the Youth Centers were also prepared to serve as temporary shelters under the CIC.
- Early warning and preparatory awareness messages were disseminated in 18 locations in camps and host communities in Teknaf and Ukhiya.



## RESPONSE OF UNFPA

- UNFPA has been leading the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub Sector. The sub-sector Coordinated with partners to collect information on the prepositioned Dignity kits for women and girls (12 years - 59 years) **including the response activities in order to identify the gaps and the responses.**
- **The GBVSS** coordinated the distribution of 491 dignity kits (**262 of which were from UNFPA partners**) from different organizations to affected women and girls. In addition, 1,202 refugees, including 186 Persons with Disabilities were reached through counseling and awareness sessions.
- 145,000 women and girls visited UNFPA GBVIE facilities where **1,186 individuals** received midwifery services **and** 211 referrals were facilitated by UNFPA. **Through UNFPA partners**, a total of 6,132 households were reached at the community level. Amongst those, 888 were visited by the PERU for needs assessment, 562 were visited by the psychological first aid (PFA) team, and 4,519 were visited by social mobilizers to disseminate information, updates, and key messages.
- UNFPA has established a volunteer task force comprising 15 "Champions of Change" community facilitators who are working closely with the UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) office to ensure prompt response and assistance in the host community of Teknaf and Ukhiya.
- Two (2) Community-Based Child Protection (CBCP) officers were deployed as part of the site management's Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) and three (3) volunteer teams were formed and were on standby for deployment for rescue and response efforts in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ukhiya, and Teknaf. Community facilitators of UNFPA life skills programmes regularly conduct household visits in camps, so they conducted visits and check-ins after the cyclone to assess the overall situation and any impacts on the well-being of adolescents.

- UNFPA continues to keep regular communication with the PERU team, protection focals, UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer), and site management team. It is ongoing to ensure that referral mechanisms are functional, effective, and timely.
- In terms of external communication, UNFPA Bangladesh has posted about the response, see [here](#).

## FOLLOW UP ACTIONS NEEDED

- The community members including the WFS & WLCC volunteers are afraid of the upcoming monsoon season, fearing possible landslides and floods. Considering this situation, UNFPA requires strengthening the WFS and WLCC to protect from cyclonic effects and upcoming monsoon risks, as well equip the facilities with emergency case management supplies.
- Pre-positioning of Dignity Kits for the upcoming monsoon season.
- Procurement of monsoon preparedness supplies such as boots, raincoat, umbrella for the community volunteers. The impacts of the cyclone on the infrastructure - both homes and public facilities - pose safety and protection risks for adolescents and youth, especially girls, as well as hinder the delivery of services.
- Currently there is an overall funding gap of 83% under the 2023 Joint Response Plan (JRP). For UNFPA specifically there is a funding gap of 46%. The significant decrease in humanitarian funding in 2023 is already leading to a decrease of 33.3% in food assistance (from Jan to June). The Cyclone Mocha is in addition to the prioritized needs in the 2023 JRP highlighting the continuous emergencies within the already precarious situation that the Rohingya refugees face.

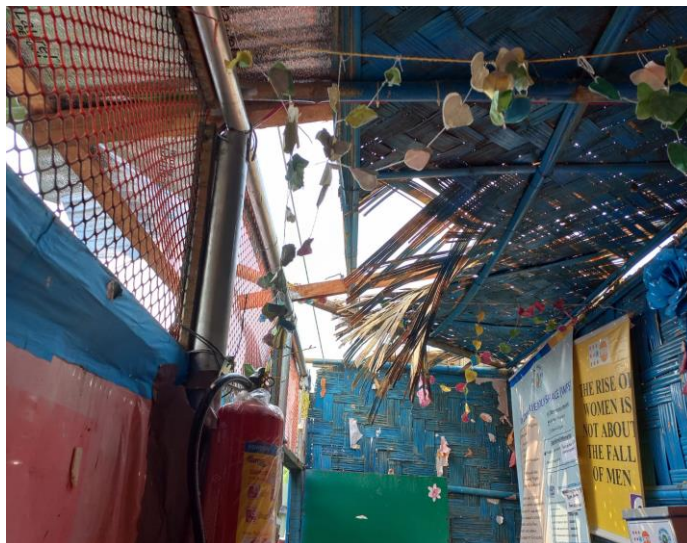
## Quotes

*"I can't stop natural disasters, but I can disseminate awareness messages to the community as an aid worker. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity."*

*- Boni Amin, UNFPA facilitated community volunteer.*

*"Staff are delivering cyclone preparedness important information with hand mic involving Community Change Makers. Soyoda Katun (Community Change Maker) is aware of us. We started to pack our data card, ration card, medicine card together with clothes safely, poured clean water in a drum and dry foods in a capped pot."*

*-Nado Bibi, community people, block - D, Camp - 1W*



**Contact: Ms. Roselidah Raphael, Head of Sub-Office, UNFPA Cox's Bazar**  
**Email: rraphael@unfpa.org**