
Situation Report: August 2022

WHO Cox's Bazar: Rohingya emergency crisis

.....

Coordination and Leadership

WHO met with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Myanmar, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer on 24 August. Ms. Heyzer highlighted the major pressures on Bangladesh as host of one of the largest refugee populations in the world. She emphasized that it was ultimately Myanmar's responsibility to establish conducive conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return to Myanmar of all refugees and forcibly displaced persons. The rights and security of the Rohingya people must be guaranteed and embedded in Myanmar-led solutions towards a peaceful, democratic and inclusive future guided by the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

The Sub-Office also welcomed Mr. Thomas Brouns—the new Deputy Refugee Coordinator at the USA Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. An overview of WHO programs and CXB Health updates were given during the meeting.

Health Facility Rationalization

In a bid to improve efficiency, WHO CLA, with the Health Sector Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), has completed the health facility rationalization exercise. The SAG decision framework was based on both the quantitative and qualitative analysis of target populations, accessibility, quality and relevance of services, localization considerations, access to the host community, and co-location of other providers. From this, 80 primary healthcare facilities out of 125 have been prioritized. Despite ongoing review, the sector strongly urges donors and partners to defer to these recommendations for decision-making.

Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) rolled out

HeRAMS is WHO's standardized approach to resource management supported by a software-based platform. It aims to collect and analyse information on the availability of health resources and services in humanitarian context, addressing needs/gaps expressed by the health cluster. HeRAMS covers the geographical location of the HF, demographic data on the catchment area, type, functionality, building type, inpatient capacity, managing and supporting partners, health personnel, access and security, and health services provided at different levels of healthcare.

.....

Information management and epidemiology

With the threat of **dengue** increasing over the course of July, WHO teams have moved quickly to draft dengue prevention, detection and case management protocols. WHO is currently discussing input and comments with key stakeholders before moving on to the dissemination of the protocols.

Despite a rise in RDT availability, however, dengue cases in August dropped by almost 50% to 2607 cases—down from 4852 in August.

During August, all **AWD/Cholera** alerts were successfully verified by JART teams within 24 hours. WHO has also finalised the Multi-Sectoral **AWD/Cholera** Preparedness and Response plan 2022/2023 and submitted it for endorsement by the Civil Surgeon. Coordinated the Joint Assessments and Response Teams (JARTs) refresher training and Multi-Sectoral AWD/Cholera Preparedness and Response Plan 2022/23 sensitization training for 103 field personnel.

WHO mobilized ten **Diphtheria** Antitoxins (DATs) from the regional office with support of the IVD Unit within two days. The DATs were dispatched to MSF Kutapalong Hospital for the timely management of two severe diphtheria cases admitted to the health facility. In total, the sector detected and investigated 52 suspected, eight probable and seven confirmed cases of diphtheria in August.

The **COVID-19** test positivity rate has further declined across August, with a two-fold decrease to 1.0% over July's rate. The decline has coincided with improved contact tracing and reporting of COVID-19 cases on the go.data platform. WHO led multiple contact tracing coordination meetings with camp implementation partners.

Immunization

Routine Immunization sessions have continued uninterrupted in FDMN camps. In January - August 2022, children under the age of 2 received more than 350,000 different antigens. In August we were able to achieve:

Vaccination against Polio—18,017 OPV (1st to 3rd dose) and fIPV (1st and 2nd dose)

Vaccination against Measles—7,217 MR (1st to 2nd dose)

A COVID-19 booster dose vaccination campaign began on 27 August and will end on 15 September targeting 358,433 members of the FDMN population.

Health operations & technical (response)

Communicable disease

On August 22, a team consisting of WHO SEARO, WCO, WSO and National Program partners visited the ART Center and PMTCT Center at the Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital. They aimed to complete a triple Elimination mission for HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis. Subsequently, the civil surgeon chaired a meeting to discuss the possibility of improved access to care and reporting for these three diseases. Government, NGO, INGO and UN stakeholders were present.

Non-communicable disease

WHO has supported nine health-sector partners with 50,000 pcs of Tablet Amlodipine, 2,500 pcs of Tablet Hydrochlorothiazide, 2,520 pcs of Tablet Aspirin, 200 pcs of Insulin, 17 Glucometers, 10,400 Blood Glucose Strips, 26 Digital Blood Pressure Machines and 27 Weight Machines. These tools will strengthen the screening, diagnosis, and management of NCDs in primary health care facilities.

Mental health and Psychosocial Support

WHO facilitated an mhGAP refresher training of 28 doctors, medical assistants, and counsellors—fifteen men and thirteen women—at the request of UNHCR and FH.

A further 36 healthcare professionals attended fourteen training session. They focussed on the performance comparisons to existing standards of evidence-based clinical practice, as well as the provision of corrective and supportive feedback on performance.

WHO psychiatrist provided real-time advice on patient management issues throughout August. A total of 26 consultations (nine male and seventeen female) were directly assisted.

Infection prevention and control

Only 57% of the general health facilities in the camp reported their IPC score card for August—a decrease of 3% from July 2022 report. However, a cohort of 121 (54 female, 67 male) IPC focal persons from the Rohingya refugee camp were trained throughout August on Accidental Exposure to blood, management of injuries and Post Exposure Prophylaxis. A further 24 (6 female, 18 male) national level participants were trained on IPC and will cascade their training to all Upazila Health Complexes in Bangladesh.

Health operations & technical (services)

Tuberculosis

August saw 46 positive TB tests out of a total of 160 GeneXpert and 881 routine microscopy tests completed. TB field assistants reached over 700 people and conducted twelve awareness-raising community sessions in both the FMDN camps and host communities.

Emergency preparedness and response

WHO, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, organized a second batch of five-day Basic Emergency Care training at CXB Sadar Hospital in August 2022. A total of fifteen people—seven men and eight women—took part in and completed the training. Fourteen of them are medical doctors from the camp and Sadar Hospital. One is a nurse leader.

Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health

WHO organized, upon request from Principal of Cox's Bazar Medical college, a half-day training on management of post-partum haemorrhage for the physicians of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department. The training was conducted at the multi-disciplinary skill lab at the medical college for hands-on learning. The participants practiced NASG use and condom catheter insertion for management.

Healthcare waste management

During August, WHO conducted training on HCWM for the healthcare workers of Ramu and Chakaria Upazila Health Complexes from 22nd August 2022 to 1st September. Among the 184 participants were included 42 doctors, 37 nurses, 23 midwives, twelve medical technologists and 70 cleaners.

Contacts

Dr Bardan Jung Rana
WHO Representative to Bangladesh
ranab@who.int

Dr Jorge Martinez
Head of Sub Office, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
martinezj@who.int