
Situation Report: Oct 2022

WHO Cox's Bazar: Rohingya emergency crisis

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Coordination and Leadership

As part of the 2023 Humanitarian Program Cycle, the WHO-led Health Sector completed initial processes in the development of the 2023 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for Cox's Bazar. The plan will aim to:

- i) support equitable access to essential primary and secondary healthcare services for Rohingya refugees/FDMN and the host community
- ii) prepare for, prevent, and respond to outbreaks of communicable disease and other hazards that have potential negative public health consequences
- iii) Promote health and well-being at the individual and community level.

A total of 17 out of 27 submitted project proposals have been selected through the sector project peer review committee, totalling to an appeal of USD 84 million. This represents a 24% reduction in the appeal due to the prioritization of essential healthcare based on rationalization and change in the COVID-19 epidemiology trend among others.

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Information management and epidemiology

The epidemiology unit disseminated the Intra-Action Review Report for Multi-sectoral AWD Response 2021, Multi-Sectoral AWD/Cholera Preparedness and Response Plan 2022/23, and Contact Tracing SOP for Epidemic and Pandemic Prone Infectious Diseases (Diphtheria and COVID-19). These documents will go a long way to improving the effectiveness of responses to epidemic-prone diseases among the FDMN and host populations.

The epidemiology unit and its existing camp-level surveillance networks (CHDSOs), in collaboration with the Community Health Working Group, have also cascaded contact tracing SOPs to approximately 1000 CHWs in all 33 FDMN Camps. This will further enhance the quality and timeliness of identification, enrolment, follow-up, monitoring, discharge and reporting of COVID-19 and diphtheria contacts within the FDMN Camps.

Through multi-sectoral response interventions and surveillance of existing risks, there has been a gradual decline in the number of **dengue** and **cholera** cases during the month of October compared to August 2022. There were five culture-confirmed cholera cases in the month of October compared to 35 cases in September 2022. Equally, the number of dengue fever caseloads dropped from 1112 cases reported in September 2022 to 677 caseloads for October 2022.

Immunization

From January to October 2022, children under the age of two received more than 450,000 different antigens. In October, WHO vaccinated 18,193 against polio and 7,508 against measles. In response to the diphtheria outbreak amongst FDMN communities, the Penta and TD vaccination campaign is scheduled to run from November 5 to 24, serving ages 6 weeks to 15 years.

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Health operations & technical (response)

Non-communicable disease

WHO trained 48 primary healthcare workers on the national protocols for the management of hypertension and diabetes mellitus and drafted implementation plans in primary healthcare settings.

Under the Health and Gender Support Project (HGSP), WHO delivered medicines and supplies to two UHCs and 11 Health Sector Partners. These include tablet Amlodipine, Gliclazide, Hydrochlorothiazide, Aspirin, Insulin, glucometers, blood-glucose strips, lancets and blood pressure machines, among other items.

WHO provided supportive supervision conducted at seven community clinics and 3 upazila health complexes in the Cox's Bazar district.

The sixth NCD Core group meeting was held on 13 October 2022 and attended by all 12 NCD core partners.

Mental health and Psychosocial Support

WHO conducted MHGap intervention training for 37 healthcare providers, with further training given to 28 workers. We also gave mental health supportive supervision to 14 healthcare professionals over five sessions. WHO psychiatrists provided real-time advice on patient-management issues during 26 consultations.

Clinical case management

The Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centres (SARI ITCs) in Cox's Bazar have 223 beds. Of those, the occupancy rate has been 35% averaged across Ukhiya (24%) and Teknaf (43%). A total 32% of cases were categorized as mild, 32% as moderate and 35% as severe.

Essential lab services

Forty laboratory personnel were trained on sample collection procedures, COVID-19 antigen tests and Rapid Diagnostic Tests on 12 October. WHO trained A further 40 healthcare workers on biosafety and infection prevention and control (IPC) during COVID-19. Between 23 and 27 of October, we oriented 285 healthcare workers on clinical transfusion practices.

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Health operations & technical (services)

Tuberculosis

A total of 1913 tests were completed in Ukhiya and Teknaf health complexes. Among them, 128 tested positive for TB. A further 120 X-rays were performed in October 2022 for TB suspects and other chest diseases at Teknaf UHC. TB field assistants reached over 550 people and conducted 10

field sessions for community awareness in the FDMN camps and host community. They distributed sputum collection pot to the TB suspect and referred them to the nearby BRAC facility for further testing.

Emergency preparedness and response

Under the direction of the Civil Surgeon, WHO implemented a training of trainers session for the health facility Safety and Resilience toolkit. The training took place at HOPE Field Hospital and IOM health facilities in camps 2W and 10 in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Healthcare waste management

HCWM training was completed as planned on 19 October 2022. A total of 771 healthcare and other workers from a range of local facilities received training. In total, 130% (594) of the target was achieved. Five hundred participants received classroom-based learning, with a further 256 receiving hands-on training.

WHO also dispatched supplies to HCFs which have arrived at our warehouses. Ramu, Pekua and Chakaria health complexes have received supplies for HCWM whilst dispatches continue.

Risk Communications and Community Engagement

The RFP for WASH FIT has been published. A suitable firm/organization will be selected to carry out the activities in November.

All administrative workers began Water Quality Surveillance (WQS) training. The training will be finished in mid-November. After training, the Water Quality Surveillance activity will be started immediately. The first round and fourth rounds of WQS will be supported by UNICEF. Second and third rounds will be supported by WHO.

Administration, finance and logistics

A total of 42 consumable items relating to blood transfusion, NCD and HCWM have been distributed to four health complexes in Cox's Bazar, worth \$50,471.79100 USD. Further, 51 items were delivered to health-sector partners. Various consumables, including dengue, cholera, hepatitis and COVID-19, RDTs, antitoxins, snake-venom antiserum and anti-rabies serums were also distributed to partners. Eight items were received at the WHO warehouse relating to NCD, blood transfusion and VPD.

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
