
Situation Report: Sept 2022

WHO Cox's Bazar: Rohingya emergency crisis

Coordination and Leadership

The health sector established the Health Resource and Service Availability Monitoring Systems (HeRAMS), capturing information on 152 health facilities. HeRAMS provides information on general clinical and trauma care services, child health and nutrition services, communicable diseases services, sexual and reproductive health services, non-communicable disease and mental health services. It was launched with a live-interactive dashboard now available. The detailed baseline report is also accessible.

In preparation for the development of the 2023 Joint Response Plan, the health sector conducted a one-day workshop to identify health-sector priorities, needs, and approaches to meeting those gaps. The consensus from the workshop framed the sector objectives and budgets for 2023.

Information management and epidemiology

Dengue protection protocols are currently at the advanced stage of completion, as the FDMN camps experience a three-fold decrease in the number of confirmed cases in September. WHO Epidemiology teams believe the ongoing multi-sector response to dengue is bearing fruit.

The Joint Assessments and Response Teams (JARTs) training for **AWD/Cholera** has been completed with 103 Health and WASH sector personnel trained. The Surveillance network has been able to detect a slight upsurge of AWD/Cholera cases. WHO epidemiology teams have responded by engaging the WASH sector through situational updates and the WASH HP Technical Working Group.

Community transmission rates of **skin infections**, specifically scabies, have fallen below 5% in the Rohingya Camps due to sustained surveillance and case management in the month of August 2022.

The level of **COVID-19 Infection** and transmission has declined, due in part to improved surveillance activities including contact tracing. WHO continues to guide targeted multi-agency response interventions in the Rohingya camps and surrounding host population.

Immunization

Routine immunization services are one of the first essential services for vulnerable people. Due to their importance, routine Immunization sessions at FDMN/Refugee camps continue uninterrupted. From January to September 2022, children under the age of 2 received more than 400,000 different antigens.

The COVID-19 booster dose vaccination campaign for people aged 18+ was conducted from 27 Aug to 15 Sep, led by the Bangladesh government and with support from WHO and health sector partners. A total of 309,457 beneficiaries received a COVID-19 booster dose—86% of the target population.

A further 17,099 beneficiaries aged 18+ received a 2nd dose of the Sinopharm vaccine, and 11,042 beneficiaries received J&J. Also, 2,938 children aged 12-17 years received 1st dose Pfizer vaccine and 14,799 received 2nd dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

A total of 526,333 beneficiaries received 1st dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is 96% of the target age group. A further 496,100 beneficiaries received 2nd dose COVID-19 vaccine which is 90% of the target age group.

Health operations & technical (response)

Communicable disease

A quarterly performance review meeting on TB, TB-HIV and Malaria was conducted on 27 September 2022 at EPI conference hall alongside different stakeholders from the FDMN camps. The meeting aimed to improve performance, coordination and information flow.

Non-communicable disease

Under the Health and Gender Support Project (HGSP), WHO has conducted supportive supervision for NCDs across 19 Government health facilities in Cox's Bazar. We provided on-site technical assistance for the screening, diagnosis, management, referral and reporting of NCDs.

Additionally, 15 organizations were provided with 137,000 Amlodipine tablets, 25,000 Gliclazide tablets, 4,340 Aspirin tablets, 1,500 Hydrochlorothiazide tablets, 430 Insulin vials, 35 Glucometers, 74,800 Blood Glucose Strips, 10 Digital BP Machines and 9 Weight Machines.

Mental health and Psychosocial Support

MHGap Initiative training was conducted in September for 35 doctors, medical assistants and counsellors/psychologists. A further 29 have been reached through 12 supportive supervision sessions with a focus on improving performance and maintaining standards. WHO directly supervised 37 consultations.

Infection prevention and control

WHO conducted its third quarterly supportive supervision session for SARI ITCs in the FDMN camps, aiming to improve practices and quality control. The 27th IPC Technical Working Group meeting was also held on September 27 with an emphasis on improving monitoring practices.

Health operations & technical (services)

Tuberculosis

Test positivity rates in September remain stable with 48 positive TB tests out of a total of 173 GeneXpert and 989 routine microscopy tests completed. During the month, TB field assistants reached over 600 people and conducted 10 field sessions for community awareness programs in the refugee camps and host community.

Emergency preparedness and response

In response to a request from the Office of the Civil Surgeon, Cox's Bazar, WHO assisted the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh conducted the STAR risk-perception exercise in the Rohingya camps at Cox's Bazar to document the risk profile, hazards, vulnerability etc. A comprehensive STAR training is planned for Bangladesh later this year to augment the Preparedness and Response Plan for emergencies involving multiple hazards. On the 26th and 27th of September 2022, experts from the WHO Headquarters and Regional Offices led Focus Group Discussions with key community representatives, volunteers from the Cyclone Preparedness and Disaster Management Unit, sector focal persons, and volunteers from the Site Management and Site Development Units. In addition, the team conducted Key Informant Interviews with the Camp Leader and Security Focal of Camp 15, as well as a Representative of People with Special Needs.

Healthcare waste management

During the reporting period WHO conducted the HGSP Health Care Waste Management Capacity Building Program for healthcare workers of Pekua, Maheshkhali, Kutubdia Upazila Health Complexes, and 250-bed District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar. A total of 239 healthcare workers (56 doctors, 53 nurses, 10 midwives, 19 medical technologists and 101 cleaners/ others) received classroom-based and hands-on training. So far, 98% (excluding ToT) of the total target participants have been trained on HCWM.

Risk Communications and Community Engagement

This month, WHO developed and disseminated IEC materials on World Mental Health Day 2022 throughout the health sector to recognise the day in the FDMN camps.

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Administration, finance and logistics

Tuberculosis

Under the HGSP project, WHO has delivered 25,000 pcs of NCD medicine to the Teknaf Upazila Health complex. We have also handled over 148 test kits of Dengue NS1 reagent to the IEDCR Laboratory and donated 1170 RDTs of Cholera, Hepatitis and leptospira.

WHO supported the Civil Surgeon on the transportation and installation of two TB mobile vans to Cox's Bazar. Transportation support was provided for GeneXpert machine from an NTP Warehouse to Cox's Bazar.

WHO is continuously supporting the transportation of COVID-19 and dengue sample from 33 sites in the FDMN camps to the IEDCR laboratory using two vehicles.

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