



BRAC's emergency response to the fire-affected

A devastating fire broke out on 9 January 2022 at Rohingya camp 16 in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. The fire affected over 1,700 people from the Rohingya and the adjacent host communities. The blaze has burnt 6 home-based Humanitarian Play Labs and 2 BRAC learning centres. 9 of BRAC's community volunteers were also injured. BRAC mobilised 100 volunteers to assist Government, BDRCS, IOM and WFP to install temporary shelter and food distribution. BRAC learning centres, child-friendly spaces and women safe spaces remained open to provide temporary shelter support to those who lost their homes. BRAC health post services continued to serve 24/7 health support.

Response Highlights



Shelter support

- 8 learning centres
- 1 community centre
- 1 child-friendly space
- 14 temporary shelter materials
- 16 families, 56 people supported



Health Services

- 237 patients including four burnt received services by health staff members
- 1,683 people received mental health support by the para counsellors



Emergency rescue

- 5 unaccounted children reunited



Food assistance

- 900 litres safe drinking water
- 21,000 packets of high energy biscuits



Volunteers support

- 100 community volunteers supported promptly

Munni Akter: a comforter to the burnt hearts



Munni Akter is on the ground to support fire affected people
Photo: Maruf Hasan © BRAC 2022

Munni Akter is working as a senior para counsellor in the Child Protection sector of the BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme. In the aftermath of the incident, on 9 January 2022, she rushed to support with psychological first aid for fire-affected people. Munni noticed 'Monowara' - one of the fire affected women sitting along with two of her children next to the burnt remains of her shelter. Her terrified eyes stated the intensity of her mental wound stirred up by the flame. So, Munni listened to her fire memories and provided psychosocial support to recover from trauma. Two years back, Monowara's husband abandoned her along with the responsibility of children. At the onset of the fire, she fell into an overburdened situation as she had to save both her children and household belongings with a single hand. All of a sudden, she lost her children into the rushing crowd and felt she had lost her only hope to live in the world.

BRAC has a primary focus on mental health in any emergency crisis. "We are here to listen to their grief, gather courage for them and reunite them with the hope they lost," said Munni. Besides psychological first aid, she identified and referred affected people with specific needs to relevant food, water, and health services. We are proud of our frontline staff members like Munni who work relentlessly to serve humanity.

BRAC in Bhasan Char



BRAC with the support of UNHCR, BRAC USA and Hilton Foundation is implementing two projects in Bhasan char to address the existing requirements under Livelihoods, Agriculture and Environment, Community-based Protection, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, Legal, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Education, Water Hygiene and sanitation and Health and Nutrition sectors.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

The team conducted a survey to identify the newly relocated Rohingya beneficiaries and finalise the persons for the aquaculture, agriculture and small scale poultry and livestock farming. In January, the team provided technical support on vegetable cultivation to 37 households. Water quality testing is continued at 32 ponds for better water quality.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The team has conducted 106 hygiene sessions, 675 house to house visits and 1,289 cleaning activities at the households level. One cleaning campaign has been organised where community members actively participated in cleaning. For eight days, mosquito repellent was sprayed through a fogger machine to reduce mosquito-borne diseases. Seven tubewells were repaired and one training session was arranged on hygiene promotion for community volunteers.

Tuberculosis - Malaria

Tuberculosis and malaria prevention messages disseminated to 550 households through door to door visit. 8 presumptive were identified and 1 tuberculosis case was diagnosed through Gene-Xpert and other diagnostics.

Community-based Protection

The team received 475 feedback and complaints through the community feedback mechanism. 3864 individuals received community-led messaging through the community awareness sessions on key protection issues and mitigation measures.

Gender-based Violence

The team provided case management and referral services to 8 survivors in January. 236 people received messages on gender-based violence and related services.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

The team reached 964 individuals through community-based psychosocial group activities. 36 individuals received focused psychological counselling.

Health and Nutrition

The Health and Nutrition team conducted 36 courtyard sessions and 1,064 households were visited to disseminate awareness messages on health and nutrition. 1,050 mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening and 236 MUAC screening for pregnant and lactating women (PLW) completed. In January, the Nutrition team provided treatment to 124 children under 5 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 338 children under 5 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). 75 pregnant and lactating mothers with MAM received nutrition services.

SNIPPETS

Dr Akramul Islam visited BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme

Dr Akramul Islam, Director of BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme visited HCMP programme interventions at Cox's Bazar from 4-5 January 2022. KAM Morshed (Senior Director, BRAC Advocacy for Social Change, Migration, Partnership Strengthening Unit, Social Innovation Lab and Technology), Tushar Bhowmik (Chief Financial Officer, BRAC) accompanied him during the visit. Hasina Akhter (Area Director, BRAC HCMP) and senior management of HCMP facilitated the two-day visit, including field visits and consultation sessions with the local community, staff members and sector leads.



During the two-days visit, The directors visited BRAC's partner implemented intervention in the host community at Ukhiya and BRAC education, health and nutrition, protection, livelihood and food security interventions in the Rohingya camp. The directors exchanged their views with staff members and volunteers. They emphasised innovative, effective and need-based interventions. Later, they joined several strategic consultation meetings with senior management and sector leads.

Fire safety orientation for frontline staff members



A fire safety orientation was held at the HCMP Hakimpura branch office on 16 January 2022. The safety and security team facilitated the orientation programme. WASH staff members and representatives from CiC offices, site management and site development from camps 8 West, 14 and 15 participated in the orientation. A total of 50 participants attended the theoretical sessions and demonstration. The sessions broadly covered the possible risk factors for fire incidents, immediate response to the fire, fire signals, category and use of fire extinguishers.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Child-centred humanitarian response

In a recent fire incident in camp 16, the Child protection team provided psychological first aid (PFA) support to 1,678 persons, among nine were persons with disabilities and nine were pregnant mothers. The child protection team reunified five children. 900-litre mineral water and 21,000 packets of high energy biscuits were distributed to the fire affected people. Children friendly spaces were open to provide shelter for those who lost their house in the incident. Apart from fire response, the team has reached 34,251 children through “Pashe Achi” door to door visit sessions. A two-day basic training on case management was organised for newly recruited case management staff members. A total of 12 persons received the training.

Systematic health support and COVID-19 measures



The Health and Nutrition sector continues to operate with three primary healthcare centres and eight health posts in Rohingya camps; also community outreach activities are conducted both in camps and host communities. 29,459 Rohingyas received outpatient care and 58 Rohingyas received inpatient care from the primary healthcare centres. In Rohingya camps, 3,130 mothers and 2,488 mothers in the host community received maternal and reproductive health services. In this reporting period, 95,631 people from the Rohingya community and 139,671 people from the host community were reached through COVID-19 awareness messages dissemination. 11,825 people were screened for COVID-19 and 22 suspects were referred to health facilities. During this period, 3,174 mothers/ caregivers of children under five were counselled on nutritional practises and sick childcare. Counselling on infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) was provided to 1,399 mothers/ caregivers of 0-23 months. A Covid-19 antigen testing booth set up in HCMP office premises.

Agriculture and Environment ensuring sustainable livelihood

In the Rohingya camps, the agriculture and environment team provided training on improved homestead gardening to 5792 persons in eight camps. Two staff capacity building training and one beneficiary selection orientation were arranged in January. The objective of the capacity building training was to improve the technical know-how on agriculture and aquaculture. A project inception meeting for WFP supported self-reliance projects was held on 18th January 2022. In the host community, 231 winter vegetable gardens were established at homesteads in Ukhiya and Teknaf in January. The project has also vaccinated 6612 adult poultry and chicken, reducing the risk of being infected by the deadly Ranikhet Disease. Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture Extension visited the project area of Hatirghona village. The visit facilitated by the team have enhanced linkage and coordination among the project participants and other stakeholders, which will contribute to the sustainability of the project interventions in the long run.

Protecting legal rights



The legal protection team provided 707 legal assistance in January. The team arranged 52 legal awareness sessions in 16 camps. In the awareness sessions, the team prescribed the laws and shares the case filing procedure. 472 persons received legal counselling. Additionally, the team informed participants about the available services in the camp in accordance with legal process. In January, 224 meditations were attended by the team, among 106 meditations were successful.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Site management support continues



Site Management Support (SMS) team conducted camp wise sector meetings and monthly camp coordination meetings. The SMS team traced persons who tested positive for COVID-19 and took them to the isolation centres. Also, engaged volunteers to assist the covid-19 vaccination campaign. SMS arranged a training facilitated by UNHCR on physical and sexual exploitation and abuse for staff members of other agencies who operate interventions in the camp. SMS immediately engaged volunteers in nine fire incidents in five camps.

Emergency shelter support



The shelter team constructed a total of 190 shelters in seven camps. Among six new shelters that have been built, 64 shelters were rebuilt and 120 shelters were repaired and maintained. These interventions served a total of 950 people. In response to incidents like heavy rains, strong wind, cyclones, landslides, etc. the shelter team regularly does a rapid damage verification practice. Following this practice, the shelter team constructed one fully damaged shelter in camp 1E. Five metres of shelter plinth was constructed to reduce soil erosion; this intervention will protect 8559 households from landslides.

Social Media Posts

1. Fire incident in camp 16

- [Facebook](#)

2. Loss and damage of fire incident

- [Facebook](#)

3. Brac emergency response during fire incident

- [Facebook](#)



SECTOR-WISE SNAPSHOT: JANUARY 2021

Host Community

- 2,488** women received maternal healthcare services
- 492** clients received family planning services
- 1,037** mothers and children referred for immunisation
- 1,815** supportive supervision and referral services provided by community health workers
- 3,773** cubic meters of solid waste collected and disposed
- 6,612** poultry chicken vaccinated
- 3,200** households received vegetable seedlings distributed from community-based nursery
- 340** persons benefited through Sexual and Gender Based Violence awareness sessions

Camps



Shelter

- 184** shelter material kits distributed
- 190** regular shelter upgradation, repair and maintenance
- 20** labour for EVI household construction



WASH

- 34,398** people participated in Hygiene Promotion sessions
- 385** cubic meter solid waste collected and disposed
- 213** repair and maintenance of latrine



Education

- 1,554** refreshers trained
- 300** teachers were trained for Inclusive training
- 144** damaged Learning Centres repaired



Livelihoods and Food Security

- 31,513** households received food items within catchment-D to meet nutritional requirements
- 2,423** households received elderly porter services
- 8,887** most vulnerable households supported with fresh food



Child Protection

- 34,251** 'Pashe Achi' door to door home visits carried out

Camps



Health and Nutrition

29,459 outpatient consultations provided through primary healthcare centres and health posts

1,322 family planning counselling and service provided

24 deliveries conducted in primary healthcare centres

1,488 antenatal care provided

2,603 early year stimulation services provided for children aged 0-36 months

1,399 mothers/caregivers of 0-23 months children received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling

5,387 people received nutritional services from the nutrition corners

3,174 mothers/ caregivers received Nutritional Practice and Sick Child Care counselling



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

91 clinical mental health consultations conducted

353 women, men, girls, and boys received focused psychosocial and psychological care

16,313 women, men, girls, and boys participated in community-based group psychosocial group activities

67 individual counselling provided by psychologists



Site Management Support

1,597 community issues resolved

25 meetings with thematic group (imam, majhi, women and youth) conducted

7 camp coordination meetings facilitated



Agriculture and Environment

4,340 participants received home gardening training



Protection

6,623 men and boys participated in gender-based violence prevention programme

472 legal counselling sessions conducted

106 successful legal mediations conducted

7,027 complaints, feedback, questions received under the Community-based complaints mechanism



Ayesha Abed Foundation

186 artisans received Skill Development training on hand embroidery in the Rohingya community

195 artisans received Skill Development training on hand embroidery in the host community

67 artisans of host community received training on tailoring

PROFILE ON GROUND

2,108

6,141

38%

staff providing critical services in camps and host communities

volunteers from both camps and host communities

of BRAC HCMP staff members are women

**Updated till 31 January 2022*

BRAC THANKS TO ITS PARTNERS



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