



## ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT

Approximately 2,570 houses in Cox's Bazar were damaged by the storm triggered by **Cyclone Yaas**. The areas that were affected by the storm include Matarbari, Chowfaldandi, Kutubdia and Maheshkhali. Field-level work is going on to assess the loss in salt, fish, cultivation, forest and rural road sectors. People who were affected received 200 packets of water and hot-meals at Delpara and Sonarpura Cyclone Centres in Wards 4 and 3 of Jalia Palang Union, Ukhia. BRAC staff supported communities with life-saving information in areas of high risk and engaged in government initiatives.

Senior officials of BRAC with Hasina Akhter Huq, Area Director of Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP), visited camps 22 and 23 in Ukhia. During the visit, she spent time with the children and adolescents in the camp, and she highlighted the health risks amidst the COVID-19 situation, safety, and importance of home education for the children there. In addition, safety of women and children, as well as critical health risk programmes were planned for the next day. She added, that BRAC will collaborate with the government and implement these programmes in the future.



## Against all odds

Women play a greater role in community-level disaster risk reduction than often acknowledged. When included in consultation, planning and implementation, women's active participation in decision-making at the grassroots level create effective strategies for ongoing engagement.

Women's engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activity is considered necessary as disasters impact women disproportionately by endangering girls' and women's personal safety, income sources, livelihood resources, mental and physical health, future opportunities and too often, life itself. Post-disaster mortality, injury, and illness rates are often higher for girls and women than for boys and men. BRAC's DRR believes that the best measures to mitigate disaster risk can come from the portion of the community that is affected most by them.



Khurshida Begum is a 42-year-old Forcibly Displaced Myanmar National (FDMN). The crisis of August 2017 irrevocably changed the reality for Khurshida and her family, when they had to flee violence from Myanmar. They currently reside at camp 8W, with Khurshida being the head of the family of six all on her own, she faced much hardship while providing for them since their arrival.

Recently she participated in a cash-for-work programme under BRAC's mitigation activities. She is working as a day labourer and is being paid BDT 400 per day. She is now part of a project that has improved her financial situation and feels secure at her workplace.

She mentioned that now she can earn for her family without being discriminated against. In the future she plans to participate in similar programmes and is planning to start a small business. She said, "I will not go back to Myanmar, my birthplace, unless I feel safe and secure to return for my family."

## Prioritising health services in the COVID era



Along with the government, BRAC has stood by the people from the Rohingya community, who sought refuge in Bangladesh from Myanmar.

BRAC HCMP has prioritised issues such as health, education, child protection, shelter and WASH. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic both preventive and curative health care were prioritised. BRAC is working with the government to provide primary health care to the people from the Rohingya communities in the camps with an emphasis on the prevention of COVID-19. BRAC Health and Nutrition sector has provided 1,203,625 outpatient consultations, 96,504 antenatal care, 11,951 postnatal care, 71,936 family planning services, 77,346 vaccinations for children and women and 2,451 safe deliveries through three primary healthcare centres and eight health posts from the beginning of the influx. A total of 142 children under the age of 5 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 977 children under the age of 5 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 450 malnourished pregnant and lactating women received nutritional services under this sector. Deworming tablets were given to 59,054 adolescent girls.

BRAC is operating one quarantine centre in the extension of Camp 4 where 1,460 persons were kept in quarantine to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A total of 167,735 presumptions have been tested in BRAC laboratories and 10,479 TB cases were identified up till May 2021. Community health workers and volunteers repeatedly visited 1,741,891 households to provide COVID-19 prevention messages in Ukhia, Teknaf, Kutubdia and Rohingya camps amongst 5,657,247 people. In the Rohingya camps, 4,667 courtyard group sessions have been organised by community health workers on different health and nutrition issues such as hygiene promotion, IYCF, infectious disease prevention, non-communicable disease prevention, vaccination, SRH services etc.

## Other Activities

Shelters distributed building materials to 753 households in assigned camps under the **Emergency Shelter Support and Assistance** through Rapid Deployment Vehicles (RDVs). In total, work was done on 626 shelters which were damaged in fires, 32 repairs on partial/moderate damage, 199 partial/severe damage and 759 fully damaged shelters, which were effective in helping the people of the Rohingya communities repair and maintain their existing shelters by themselves. Shelter building materials were received by 401 households under the **Regular Shelter Support and Assistance** through door-to-door visits. Shelters also constructed 172 metres of drainage which reduced waterlogging and improved drainage facilities in the surrounding areas and constructed 367 metres of Drum Sheet Retaining Wall which protects the shelters from landsliding as well as strengthens the plinth of shelters.



The meeting titled **COVID-19 Preparedness and Response** at the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office decided that WASH activities will be carried out by volunteers who are overseen by field level supervision. The Camp In-charge (CIC) of Camp-1 (West) has endorsed BRAC for providing WASH services to the Rohingyas community of Block A. Meanwhile, WASH team is conducting an assessment of the existing condition of WASH components inside the block. Moreover, the respective programme has ensured safe water supply to the double-storeyed learning centres in the camp.

Under the '**Livelihoods Support and Women Empowerment Project, GAC**' in the host community- 1,503 clients received input packages such as manure and summer vegetable seeds and started cultivation of summer vegetables. 399 clients in Ukhia and 68 participants in the Sonarpura branch received Moringa (Sajina) seedlings (2/3 seedlings per participant according to availability of space in the homestead area). 179 clients received papaya and tomato seedlings in Sonarpura, Thainkhali, Whykong and Shemlapur branch. 2,124 chicks and 1,397 adult chickens have been vaccinated for Baby Chick Ranikhet Disease Vaccine (BCRDV) and Fowl cholera respectively. 2,011 adult chickens were also vaccinated by RDV to prevent Ranikhet disease.



Under the **Self-reliance for Agriculture and Aquaculture**, 100 Community Agriculture Volunteers (CAVs), of whom 81 were male and 19 were female, took the Training of Trainers (TOT) on home gardening activities as per the guidance of the World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Next, Cash Based Transfer (CBT) distribution was done amongst the 100 volunteers. WFP-Gender and Protection unit organised online sessions on protection, on 20 May 2021.

## SECTOR-WISE SNAPSHOT: MAY 2021

### Host communities

**21,313** people received tele-counselling services

**2,082** women received maternal health services

**1,289** people received referrals by Community Health Workers for services from government health centres

**661** mothers and children referred for immunisation

**59** Families received family planning services

### Camps

#### WASH

**38** Bathing cubicles built

**27** Latrines constructed

**21** Handwashing stations built

#### Shelter

**302** Households provided with shelter materials

**96** Shelters maintained and repaired

**03** New shelters built

#### Education

**N/A** No children and adolescents registered in learning centres in April due to COVID-19

**N/A** Learning centre operations suspended in April due to COVID-19

**N/A** No management committees meeting held in April due to COVID-19

#### Livelihood and Food Security

**28,731** households ensured with improved access to a wide selection of food items

**8,025** fresh food support to households who are most vulnerable

**5,285** services for elderly participants

## Camps



### Health and nutrition

**17,501** outpatient consultations made through 11 health centres

**7,402** nutrition counselling and care sessions were conducted for caregivers of children who are sick

**5,776** counselling sessions done on dietary management and lifestyle modification for patients with chronic disease

**5,700** malaria tests conducted

**3,162** TB presumptive tests done

**2,774** early years stimulation services provided for children aged 0-36 months

**21** deliveries conducted in primary healthcare centres



### Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

**8,813** women, men, girls and boys participated in community-based psychosocial group activities

**196** women, men, girls and boys received focused psychosocial and psychological care

**11** individual counselling sessions provided by psychologist



### Protection

**78** sessions of legal counselling conducted

**48** functional community groups

**08** successful legal mediations conducted



### Child protection

**38,920** Tele-counselling services provided



### Site management

**700** volunteers hired

**387** people employed for cash-for-work in labour

**3** meetings facilitated for sector coordination

## PROFILE ON THE GROUND

**6,665**

volunteers from both camps and communities

**2,359**

staff providing critical services in camps and host communities

**40%**

of BRAC HCMP staff are women

\*Updated on 31 May 2021

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



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