

## Background

The geographical terrain Cox Bazar basing current Rohingya refugee settlements/camps (more than 800,000 population) is at high-risk of flash flooding and mud/landslides during the ensuing monsoon season, a season usually lasting from June to September. Mud/Landslides are a frequent occurrence in Bangladesh's hilly areas during heavy monsoons. However this threat is further compounded for Rohingya as recent deforestation made way for new/expanded settlements, albeit increasing ground vulnerability. Cyclone Mora of May last year that ravaged the districts of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong with widespread flooding and damaging winds, and affected over 3 million people is a stark reminder of potential adversity.

Inherent complexity of catchment areas coupled with recent deforestation at camp sites only increase challenges to making any precise predictions as to reaction of geographical terrain to monsoon rains. However a Monsoon Contingency Preparedness and Response plan was put in place and it is now being activated to address any eventuality. As per Bangladesh meteorological department 5.4 inches (138 millimetres) of rains has already fallen since 09 June (Saturday) with forecast of more heavy rains in coming days.

## Cumulative Impact of category 1 incident<sup>1</sup> (as on 12 June 2018)

Affected Population	Affected Areas in camps	Damage to critical infrastructure
<b>24, 735 individuals/ 5372 households</b>  <b>1522 displaced</b>  <b>26 Injured</b>  <b>13 people including 2 Rohingya</b> (of which one is 2.5 years boy) <b>killed</b> (Rangamati and Cox's Bazar districts)	<b>Camps in Kutupalong expansion sites: 8W, 8E, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 20</b>	<b>1 Health Facility</b>  <b>18 waterpoints</b>  <b>1 food distributing point</b>  <b>252 latrines</b>

<sup>1</sup> **Category 1**- A localized event that caused minor or moderate damage and that has little or no impact outside the locally affected area/s. Triggers could be flood, landslides or other events that displaces/affects a small number of households

## Response

- Emergency Advisory Committee met on 11 June 2018 in Cox's Bazar.
- Monsoon and cyclone contingency and response plan is activated. Health sector coordination under the coordinator is underway, in line with the response plan.
- Coordination and dispatch modalities for mass casualty management (MCM) and engagement of MMTs, in line with contingency plan, have been activated
- Communication mechanisms and access to very high frequency (VHF) equipment is being improved through linking NGOs/partners with UN Agencies for effective and timely communication
- A large number of volunteers from health sector operational partners have been alerted and are ready for deployment in times of need on ground.
- Stakeholders alerted to increased risks of water and vector-borne disease outbreaks and corresponding need to increase vigilance and reporting under EWARS for rapid detection and timely response.
- Assessment of the health facility reported damaged is underway. Arrangements for continued health services provision for the affected catchment population made through an alternate, neighbouring health facility and health partner responsible requested to supplant assets to meet the increase in demand.
- Diphtheria outbreak though still continuing but new cases declining with targeted immunization, effective case management, and health promotion, as evidenced with enhanced lab testing.
- Health sector partners acutely aware of Cholera risks and operational plans in place to respond to potential outbreak/s.
- Regional EMTs alerted and on call to increase/supplement existing surgical capacity in case needed.

## Action Points:

- Arrangements to operationalize HEOC from June 18, after Eid Holidays, agreed with Civil Surgeon. Emergency Coordinator, under guidance of IM and supported by team will develop HEOC operational plan including identification of skeletal staff, delineation of assigned roles, Job Action Sheets (JAS), etc. before June 18 to make HEOC operational from this date.  
**Action: IM/Emergency Coordinator**
- Health Sector Coordination Working Group (HSCWG) and DGHS Coordination Cell will jointly streamline and agree on ambulance dispatch/usage modalities and referral mechanisms  
**Action: Health Sector Coordinator and Civil Surgeon Office**
- Health sector coordinator to develop a matrix clarifying roles and responsibilities of involved partners in times of emergency. For discussion and adoption by HSCG  
**Action: Emergency Coordinator/HSC**

- Under guidance of HSCG, Health Sector Coordinator to develop SOPs for engagement of Rapid Response Team (RRTs) from the local health system. SOPS to clearly define:
  - TORs and activities of RRTs;
  - Triggers for activation/deployment of RRTs; and

**Action: Health Sector Coordinator**

**For More Information, please visit following web-links:**

- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh>
- <http://www.searo.who.int/bangladesh/surveillancecxb/en/>

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