Emergency Update from Refugee Camp

care

Camp 16, Potibunia, Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh | June 26, 2018

June 09, 2018 marked the onset of the monsoon season, with heavy rains hitting Cox's Bazar, one of the world's largest refugee camps with a population of over 900,000* people from Myanmar. From mid-May, it rained on and off at the camps, however, since June 09, Cox's Bazar has received a total of 552 mm of rain, for nearly seven days, which is 66% of the typical total average monthly rainfall for June**.

Several shelters and basic infrastructure have been affected by the heavy rain and subsequent soil erosion. CARE field reports indicate that most damages have been caused by mudslides/soil erosion and waterlogging.

Most of CARE's programs are centralized in Camp 16, while services for Health, and Protection & Gender Based Violence (GVB) is also extended in other camps.

Damage report of heavy downpour from June 9 – June 13, 2018 in Camp 16, Potibunia



22,000+ Individuals affected



101 Shelters fully damaged



19 HHs affected by water-logging



3 HHs affected, 4 individuals injured from landslide all received medical care in the camp

Shelter

178 households (HHs) are partially damaged due to rain, flood, water-logging and land-shifting, Shelters are being repaired by the residents from shelter materials and through cash for work laborers with contingency supplies.

Block	Total HH	Affected HH	Affected Hill	Affected Drainage	Affected Stair	Affected Road
Α	1631	20	21	0	24	0
В	780	21	15	12	3	3
С	959	12	7	8	9	0
D	444	17	2	11	2	1
G	598	22	9	25	7	2
Н	651	9	8	21	14	3
Total	5063	101	62	77	59	9

The continuous rain revealed that more families and infrastructure are at risk of soil/hill erosion and therefore, they are being moved to Block H. Based on an earlier risk assessment, 438 risky HHs were already relocated. After last week's rains, an additional 27 HHs have been relocated and more are being prepared to move; all within Camp 16.

CARE site management team, with support from partners have been clearing drains to reduce water-logging.



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"A portion of our shelter was damaged during heavy rain. After the rain stopped, we made some sandbags and covered the damaged area with the sandbags, so that it is safe again", said an elderly man who lives next to the hilly walk-way in Block B.

WASH

Severe rain and soil erosion has compromised several WASH facilities. Partially damaged WASH facilities are being repaired and fully damaged ones are being decommissioned.

WASH damage

WASH infrastructure	Partially damaged	Fully damaged
Latrine	131	24
Bathing cubical	92	21



Health

Out of the four CARE managed health posts, the one in Camp 14, Hakimpara Health Camp, incurred light damage. The structure has been fixed and health support is still being provided from this health post. Other three health posts are fully operational.



Protection & GBV

One of five CARE managed Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) in Camp 15, Jamtoli, incurred partial damage to the outer boundary due to soil erosion and water-logging. The soil-erosion caused one of the tin-boundaries to collapse which now leaves one side of the WFS exposed. Beneficiaries of WFS are a little hesitant to visit due to lack of security and difficulty of access.

Other four WFS incurred relatively less damage. In few cases, outer walls became partially warped due to the pressure of down-stream muddy water flow.

"The rains eroded soil throughout the camp, causing a number of landslides and moving substantial earth. This will likely lead to future damage; many shelters are still at risk. Those at greatest risk or with severely damaged shelters have been relocated. Presently in camp 16 the greatest needs are sandbags, tarps, and bamboo. We need immediate procurement and distribution of supplies and labor. The host community members living in the camp also need our support. Many of their shelters have been left particularly vulnerable and they have received little or no assistance."

- Michele Bornstein, Grants Manager, CARE Bangladesh

Photo Credit: Field Team/CARE 02