

Fire in Cox's Bazar

Norwegian Refugee Council emergency response, Bangladesh

SITREP - 13 March 2023

On 5th March, a massive fire was reported in camp 11 in Cox's Bazar, following a series of devastating fires in the camps in recent years. According to the Inter Sector Coordination Group, **15,926** persons were affected, **5,274** Rohingya displaced; **2,805** shelters damaged or destroyed and 155 facilities were also affected. NRC has rapidly scaled up its emergency humanitarian response.

Update:

- Access to basic services, including adequate sanitation, food, water and emergency education is still needed. Refugees continue asking for help to rebuild their shelters, showers and latrines faster. Many continue to be concerned as they lost their identification documents during the fire.
- A number of people who were affected by the fire and who are outside the camp have reported difficulties in accessing humanitarian aid.
- The lack of space and the destruction of learning centers as a result of the fire only worsen the situation for children and young people. It is necessary to continue strengthening all emergency education activities.
- Women are asking for clothes for their children and dignity kits. They argue that they cannot stay in the camp because there are no latrines, no walls in their shelters and no privacy.
- Significant consumer price increased of important goods and services making it harder for people to purchase essential goods and increasing insecurity according to the people we serve.
- Door-to-door distribution of humanitarian aid in the camp is requested by people with disabilities. Coordination and complementarity of humanitarian actions will continue to be vital.

General Context:

Hosting nearly one million Rohingya, Cox's Bazar is the world's biggest refugee settlement where refugees reside in 33 extremely congested camps. 2023 marks the sixth year of displacement for the Rohingya people and refugees continue to be caught in a state of limbo, unable to return, and banned from earning a living in Bangladesh. All refugees live in difficult conditions, entirely depending on humanitarian aid.

QUOTES FROM THE PEOPLE WE SERVE:

"Families are separated and we don't know when we will reunite again. My wife can't be here because there are no latrines, no walls in the houses, no privacy." - Husband and father of two children.

"We cannot continue to live in these critical conditions, so we need long-term solutions." - Young man, 18 years old.

"My son seems to be afraid all the time after the massive fire, but he has no help. All the learning centers burned down and the children need your support now." - Mother head of household of three children.

"We lost everything, we have nowhere to sit, nowhere to sleep, no place to prepare food, we have to start again from scratch." - Young woman.

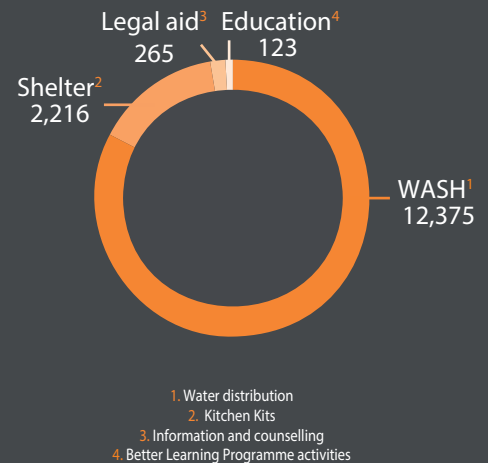
OUR DONORS:

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), the European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

Individuals assisted
14,986



People assisted



Humanitarian response

NRC is present on the ground, organising water, sanitation, shelter, education and legal support. We respond within 18 hours of the emergency. We are providing:

- Life-saving water
- Emergency Non Food Items
- Education activities
- Information, counselling and legal assistance (both mobile and in a strategic help desk in the CiC office).

Ready to scale up

In addition to the current response, NRC is ready to scale up and support with:

- Learning centers rehabilitation and stationery kits.
- Construction of new shelters and toilets.
- New bathing centres and Non Food Items.



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Learn more about the **humanitarian assistance we provide** with the support of our donors. Thanks to the authorities and coordination agencies that have allowed us to contribute to this emergency.



Coordination:

NRC closely works with local and national stakeholders in all operational areas of Bangladesh, including government authorities, UN agencies and other NGOs. NRC regularly attends the humanitarian coordination meetings and the sector working groups meetings to contribute and complement the humanitarian response. NRC is fully engaged in all coordination mechanisms, both inter-sector and sectorial specific lead and working group. NRC is already part of the coordinated emergency response to this fire incident, provided immediate water and material assistance distributions in coordination with local authority (RRRC, CiC), and humanitarian actors-SMS, IOM, WFP and other NGOs and UN agencies. Post-distribution monitoring feedback, lessons learned, and any relevant issues raised through our Community Complaints Feedback Mechanisms are also being implemented to comply with the Do No Harm principle.



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