

Situation Report Template

Situation Report [#] 02

Fire Incident at Rohingya Refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

23 March 2021

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Date Range Covered by Report 22-23 March 2021

Part 1: The Overall Situation

A devastating fire broke out at the Balukhali Rohingya Refugee camp in Palongkhali Union of Ukhiya Upzila (sub-district), Cox's Bazar on Monday afternoon (3:30 pm), 22 March 2021. The fire incident affected at camp 8E, Camp 8W, camp 9 and Camp 10 where about 132,415 Rohingya Refugee were living since 2017 in bamboo and polyethene made temporary shelters after the massive influx of Rohingya people from Rakhine state of Myanmar. The fire was initiated from the camp 8W later spread over to 3 nearby camps- 8E, 9 and 10 rapidly. The fire spread very quickly due to whirlwind. Therefore, Rohingya families living in those camps could not save their belongings and valuable assets because of ongoing fire broke out. The fire fighters of the Ukhiya Fire Service brought the fire under control at midnight of 22.

The massive fire left over 9500 shelters and 1609 facilities such as learning centers, child friendly spaces, Multipurpose centers, hospitals and health facilities burnt to ashes. About 50,000 people were affected by the devastating incident, left 15 death and 563 injured.

This is to be noted that over a million Rohingya refugee has been living in 34 makeshift camps in 2 sub-districts (Ukhiya and Teknaf) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh since October 2017 of the 54% are children and adolescent.



Camp 9:

Camp 9 is one of the worst affected, almost completely destroyed as per the site management report. Among 88 sub-blocks, 82 were fully and rest 6 are partially damaged. Total 6288 shelters are fully damaged and partially 1,468. Total no. of families 6051 were displaced and reported that they are residing other camps and nearby areas. Total no. of individual displaced about 20,791. 8 death were reported but only got three dead bodies recovered. 314 people were reported injured and 339 missing.

Other major points observed are there is no shelters remained stay, no toilets and bathing cubicles, water points available. Many of the beneficiaries spent the night out of the camp. Some families have started to come back from different camps. 577 facilities were fully damaged which include hospitals, health centers, learning centers, child friendly spaces, multipurpose centers, police post etc.

Camp 8E:

Camp 8E is one of the Educo working area, almost 50% of the camp severely affected by the fire. 22 sub-blocks were burnt with about 1,000 shelters fully damaged. Total 1406 families were displaced to other camps and nearby areas. Total no. of individual displaced about 6589., many were reported injured including 1 death. Total 24 people were missing among them majority were children. Displaced refugees spent the night out of the camp. Some families have started to come back from different camps.

Other issues are all the community toilets and bathing cubicles, water points in the affected blocks have been damaged.

346 facilities fully damaged that includes hospitals, health centers, learning centers, child friendly spaces, multipurpose centers, police post etc.

Camp 8W:

Camp 8W is one of the mostly affected among the three camps. It is also one of the Educo working area where EDUCO started its Gender based Violence project recently, 30 sub-blocks were burnt in the camp, while about 2373 shelters fully damaged. Total 2048 families were displaced to other camps and nearby areas. Total no. of individual displaced about 11153., many were reported injured including 1 death. Total 24 people were missing among them majority were children.

Almost all the community toilets and bathing cubicles, water points in the affected blocks have been damaged. 346 facilities that includes hospitals, health centers, learning centers, child friendly spaces, multipurpose centers, police post etc were affected.

Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where Educo/ChildFund Works

- Among the 4 affected camps, EDUCO has presence in Camp 8E and Camp 8W since 2019 implementing education, child protection and gender-based violence projects in partnership with 2 local NGOs-SKUS and JCF with funding support of CFK, Barnfonden and EDUCO. Both the camps were severely affected by the fire incidence, almost 50% of the family lost their shelter, total 27 learning centers in camp 8E, 17 learning centers in camp 8W fully burnt including 2 home-based learning centers of Educo.
- EDUCO has been supporting 4500 children and adolescent with child protection and Education services in Camp 8E and 1360 adolescent girls and boys with child protection and GbV services in camp 8W. Majority of them were affected by the fire incidence. Most of the learning facilities run by humanitarian agencies and educo through its partners has been affected. In addition EDUCO working with 2000 Household, 3884 caregiver in both the camps. Almost all the household have lost their belongings and many of them just escape with nothing. Children have lost their book and stationaries and more importantly their learning centers.
- Children and adolescent are in desperate needs of shelters, cloths, food and learning materials. They are at high risk of being lost, abused and exploitation. Adolescent girls have raised concerns about safety, protection, and education. Children are extremely traumatized and are in fear of domestic violence and being engaged in harmful child labour. Some of them are physically injured while escaping the fire. There is indene of missing as well. Educo staffs are working with protection

team, 14 lost children were identified today and returned to their parents. So far 25 children were reported missing, the protection identified and handed over to parents.

Part 3: Educo/ChildFund's Response and/or Early Recovery action

- EDUCO deployed their national and Rohingya volunteers, teachers and staff to keep contact with the children and adolescent and to provide counselling and PSS support.
- EDUCO will plan to provide education materials and adolescent club activities to make them engaged and get out of trauma and fear.
- Rebuild education facilities, provide education materials and reinstate education and protection activities.
- EDUCO currently partnering with 2 National NGOS for its child protection, education and GbV project, will continue partnership for responding to the children and adolescent for providing child protection services.
- Educo/ChildFund will maintain link with humanitarian coordination structures, especially with Educational and protection sectors and contribute in in-depth needs assessment.

