



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসন সংস্থা (আইওএম)

Cyclone Roanu: Rapid Assessment Report

24 May 2016



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Introduction

Cyclonic Storm Roanu that hit coastal districts of Bangladesh on 21 May was the first tropical cyclone of 2016. Originating from a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal south of Sri Lanka, it gradually drifted north east and intensified into a cyclonic storm on 19 May. Finally it hit the coastal areas of India and Bangladesh on 21 May Saturday, weakened slightly by landfall. Even though it was not a severe cyclonic storm, low lying coastal areas have been flooded, loss of shelter and 23 lives. In Cox's Bazar district, the impact was lesser than Chittagong and other areas. The most affected areas are the Kutubdia, Maheshkhali, and Teknaf upazilas.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MDMR) and the international community has initiated a Joint Need Assessment Phase 1 on 22 May for all the saffected areas. IOM is coordinating the assessmrint in Cox's Bazar district. Based on the findings of the JNA-1, decision will be made if there should be a move for the follow up phases.

IOM's role



Before, during and after Cyclone Roanu, IOM had its field teams were monitoring the situation on the ground in the three UMN settlements in Ukhiya and Teknaf. IOM team, together with its local implementing partner NGO, was providing information on nearby cyclone shelters, status of the danger signal and what kind of precaution the community should take. The two Upazilas did not experience very strong wind, so there was no major impact on the UMN community based on eye witness reports from staff on the grund. Six medical team with well equipped ambulances were on

ground ready to provide health care services. Emergency health care due to injuries and illness has been provided since landfall of Roanu.

IOM also conducted a rapid assessment on 22 and 23 May in 2 Upazilas Ukhiya and teknafe, in 3 settlements of the Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs) – in Kutupalong makeshift settlement (KMS), Leda makeshift settlement (LMS) and Shamlapur. The purpose was to assess the impact of the storm over the UMN community, the host communities and the extent of community resilience to cope with the impact. It was also to identify the needs in the community both immediate and in the medium or longer term.

Considering the possible immediate support needed, IOM has a limited stock of shelter repair materials ready at Kutupalong and Leda makeshift areas. A list of non food items (NFIs) and probable vendors that can supply immediately is also ready. The nature and volume of support can be decided based on the assessment report.



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Methodology

For the 3 locations, IOM staff deployed for emergency response led the quick assessment. They were accompanied by local implementing partner NGOs – SHED in KMS, NGO Forum in LMS and Shamlapur. For KMS, the team also consisted of coordination partners ACF and MSF. The teams went around each block/area of UMN settlement, observed the condition of the sheds, spoke to the inhabitants and affected households. Small number of key informant interviews with local leaders and focused group discussions were also held to triangulate the information collected. The IOM team leaders of the assessment recorded all the collected information into a prescribed format. This report is based on the findings as recorded on the template, and also speaking to the team leaders.



Findings of the rapid assessment in UMN communities



The total affected population is significantly low compared to the total population. From a population of 35,274 in KMS, 188 persons were affected. In Leda, out of the total population of 15,200 - 800 were moderately affected. In Shamlapur the total population is 11,408 and the affected population is 1000. Affected in this case are people mostly whose sheds were damaged.

The rain continued for 3 days from 19 to 21 May. On 21 May Cyclone Roanu crossed over land in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar around noon. UMN communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf experienced heavy rain and moderate to strong wind particularly on 21 May Saturday. Most of the damage to shelter, injury, impact on livelihood was on that day. During the assessment it was observed that the number of severely damaged shelters was significantly low. Severe damage was identified with sheds which had both the roof and side walls blown away. Most of the others that were damaged was partial – part of the roof blown away or one of the side walls broken. Most of the roofs of the sheds in the UMN settlements of Kutupalong and Leda are made with plastic sheets. The shed structure itself is temporary with a combination of mud walls and bamboo fences or even fences with dry branches of trees. With strong wind they are easily blown away or tear off. During the visit it was observed that some of the people were already fixing the roofs and walls of their sheds – to the best of their ability.

In LMS area, the access road to one of the blocks was damaged to soil erosion as it was alongside a canal. In KMS, the sloped access roads were holding on and there was no damage. Roofs of several temporary structure latrines were blown away in KMS and very few of the roofs of the semi





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permanent latrine cubicles in LMS were also blown away. Agencies who supported the construction were seen continuing with repair work on 22 May.

There has not been any change in the prices of essential household commodities in the market. The assessment team came to the conclusion after cross checking with the community and the nearby markets – Kutupalong bazar near KMS, Leda roadside market and Shamlapur bazar. Most of the shops were closed during the storm, but started to open soon after the storm crossed CXB and the danger signals were brought down.

The UMN community of KMS, LMS and Shamlapur are used to heavy rain and coping with it even with some difficulty. Many of them have been living in this region for several years and try to cope at least one major storm and incessant rain during the rainy season. This is the first storm of the season, incessant monsoon rain is yet to settle in. So they do tend to be prepared within their ability. Ofcourse there is hardship and they appreciate if there is support from the government or other agencies.

Before, during and after the cyclonic storm, UMN community was seen to tie or protect their sheds and their assets. They were well informed by IOM and partners to move to safe shelters, but they preferred to stay on and protect their properties. They also knew that the storm was not very severe. In Shamlapur they had covered the roof of their sheds with fishing nets and net ropes to protect the roof from being blown away. The community mosques and its microphones were used by the local community leaders to announce the warning signals and the precautions to take, which supplemented the announcements made by IOM NGO partners. The community leaders also went back to their respective areas and blocks to inquire and support the block inhabitants. Many of them did store dry food just in case. If some sheds were too difficult to take shelter during the storm, some of them took refuge in their neighbours' shed, madrasa or even in the community bathing cubicles in their community.

Immediate needs

Immediate needs identified through the rapid assessment were some shelter repair support and repairing of the WASH facilities. In consultation with the community the shelter repair materials that were found to be most needed are – plastic/polithene sheets (for temporary repair), tarpaulin sheets (for more longer term repair), bamboos, ropes, GI wire. For the WASH facilities, the drains would need to be cleared, repair the roofs of the latrine and washing cubicles in some cases, repair the damaged doors of the latrines.washing cubicles. For the Leda, some of the community kitchens would need to be repaired as well. Some follow up might be required though the medical teams – to take rounds and check for support. For some of the affected, hygiene kits, NFIs and ORS would be useful.

The summary of the support required is available in the matrix at the end.



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Conclusion



The rapid assessment reinforced that the impact of Cyclone Roanu was not severe in any of the 3 UMN settlements. Most affected by wind and rain during the three days were some of the sheds, which were already worn out. In Shamlapur which is closest to the sea, some inhabitants experienced water logging. Some of the inhabitants in all the 3 areas experienced minor injuries from falling down or when their sheds were broken. Livelihood of the UMN population was affected for the 3 days, causing hardship for those who earn low wages as day labourers. Post cyclone and rain, some

inhabitants complained of mild fever for which immediate healthcare had been provided by IOM in Leda and Shamlapur, and IOM and MSF in Kutupalong area. But there is no imminent danger of any epidemic.

The team deployed in the field for responding to Cyclone Roanu also recommended, in consultation with the community and field implementation partner, that an emergency disaster response team should be formed with all relevant stakeholders in the UMN settlement areas as well as in CXB centrally. Focal persons from the UMN community should also be identified for coordination and response. These focal persons can be provided training and some basic logistic support like rain coats and torch lights.

The UMN community as well as the local Bangladeshi community are used to coping with natural disasters. But because of the extra vulnerability of their living conditions, coping does become harder. Cyclone Roanu did not have a major impact which needs massive support, but when the rainy season settles in, further monitoring, assessment and support would be required.

IOM is also working to finalise a disaster response and contingency plan for the UMN community in CXB, together with coordinating and implementing partners and the district-upazila administration. This plan would be ready by June and can be field tested for any upcoming natural disaster in the region.



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Summary Table of findings of Rapid Assessment after Cyclone Roanu n Cox's Bazar

Location	Affected Population	Injured	Total damaged Sheds		Total	Community space /shed		WASH			
			Moderate	Severe		Madrasha / School	Shelters	Bathing cubicles	Latrine cubicles	Community kitchen	Drainage (ft)
KMS	188	4	31	10	41	1	40	6	65	0	0
LMS	800	1	110	0	110	1	109	4	24	8	450
Shamlapur	1000	0	114	21	135	0	135	4	9	0	0
TOTAL	1988	5	255	31	286	2	284	14	98	8	450 FT



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