UNICEF-supported learning centres were completely burnt in Rohingya Refugee Camp 11 in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh.

12,000 Affected population
6,178 Children affected
15 Injuries reported
25 Facilities destroyed
2,000 Shelters destroyed
22 Learning centres destroyed
1 MPC destroyed
1 INF destroyed

Situation Overview¹

- This incident occurred at Balukhali refugee camp No. 11 around 2:30 PM BST on the 5th of March.² The fire then spread to the neighboring camps No. 9 and 10. It was finally brought under control at 6PM BST on the same day.
- According to initial reports around 2,000 shelters have been damaged or destroyed, and 12,000 (6,178 children, 6,240 female) Rohingya refugees have been affected.³
- 15 individuals have been reported to suffer superficial burn injuries, following this incident.
- 90 facilities (25 UNICEF supported facilities⁴) including hospitals and learning centres have been destroyed in the fire.⁵
- Reconstruction, Child Protection (CP), Social and Behavioral Change (SBC), Nutrition, and Education facilities are needed on site urgently. The assessment of the extent of infrastructural damage will be conducted shortly.
- UNICEF leveraged a total of USD 180,000 from its internal resources to provide immediate relief including reconstructing and refurnishing UNICEF’s supported facilities.

¹ https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2023/03/05/rohingya-camp-fire-originated-from-kitchen-gas-cylinder
² The cause of the fire could not be known yet. The fire service and law enforcement agencies are investigating the cause of the fire.
³ https://twitter.com/UNHCR_BGD/status/1632403154737455104
⁴ UNICEF supported 22 learning centres, 1 integrated nutrition facility, 1 information feedback centre (IFC), and 1 MPC has burnt completely. Other agencies are 2 primary health centres, 1 health post, 1 youth centre, 2 women friendly centres, 18 child friendly centres, 2 water network, 2 fecal sludge management plant and 35 mosques
⁵ https://twitter.com/UNHCR_BGD/status/1632403154737455104
Damages by sector

Education: 22 learning centers (LCs) located in Camp 11 are completely damaged. Overall, a total of 2015 children of learning age, have been affected. Out of those, 43 per cent are girls. The LCs are managed by UNICEF’s partners (Friendship (5 centres), CODEC (16 centres), and MUKTI (1 centre)). These centres were teaching the Myanmar curriculum. As of now, no casualty has been reported among children and their family members.

Child Protection: One Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC) supported by UNICEF partner BRAC, in Camp 11 is fully damaged. Staff, volunteers, children and adolescent were safely evacuated from the camp and relocated to safe locations.

Nutrition: One Integrated Nutrition Facility (INF) supported by UNICEF’s partner SHED in Camp 11 is fully destroyed. All personnel including volunteers are reported to be safe. This destroyed INF has been funded by BHA/USAID and HGSP/World Bank.

Social and Behavioral Change: One Information and Feedback Centre (IFC), funded by BPRM and KFW, and managed by UNICEF’s partner FIVDB in Camp 11 is fully destroyed. All staff is safe.

UNICEF response
- UNICEF CXB Field Office has activated its emergency response team following the Field Office Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP). Partners are at the ground after the fire was brought under control.
- UNICEF Partners’ care workers are working round the clock for case management. Psychological First Aid has been given to children since last night. Total numbers reached yet to be calculated.
- UNICEF Health partners PHD and RTMI in Camp 10 have deployed two mobile medical teams to the affected areas. The mobile medical team has treated 14 fire injured persons.
- UNICEF partners have supported children and their families to evacuate from Multi-purpose Centers (MPCs) and shelters to safe locations immediately after the fire started.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy
UNICEF is coordinating with IOM, UNHCR, other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations on the ground, and at CXB level. A Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Heads of Sub-Offices Group (HOSOG) level meeting was organized in the morning on 6th of March. A coordination meeting chaired by Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office and Camp in Charge (CiC) was held in Camp 11 as well. Sectoral meetings are ongoing to review the impact of the situation.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
- Rohingya Refugee Camp Fire
- Thousands ‘Left Homeless’ After Fire Tears Through Rohingya Refugee Camp in Bangladesh
- Statement: Tweet on statement
  [Tweet 1](#) | [Tweet2](#) | [Tweet3](#) | [Aljazeera Interview](#) | [Deutsche Welle News Interview](#)

Who to contact for further information:
- Sheldon Yett
  Representative
  UNICEF Bangladesh
  syett@unicef.org
- Ezatullah Majed
  Chief Field Office in Cox’s Bazar
  UNICEF Bangladesh
  emajeed@unicef.org
- Saja Abdullah
  Chief Field Services
  UNICEF Bangladesh
  sabdullah@unicef.org
Statement by UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh, Mr. Sheldon Yett, on the fire in the Rohingya refugee camps

DHAKA, 6 March 2023 – “Our deepest sympathies go out to the 12,000 Rohingya refugees – half of them children – who lost their shelter homes in the fire that broke out in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps yesterday. We commend the brave work of frontline responders who have brought the fire under control.

“While we are thankful that no casualties have been reported, 6,000 children are in urgent need of emergency support. UNICEF and our partners have worked through the night to protect and support traumatized children and their families.

“Two mobile medical units have been deployed and are providing emergency medical aid to injured children and adults. At the same time, children are receiving psychosocial support with special attention to those who may have been separated from their families in the chaos.

“The full extent of the damage is being assessed, but according to initial reports the fire destroyed 2,000 shelters and a large number of facilities that provide critical services to refugee children and their families. Among these are over 20 learning centres, at least one nutrition centre, and several sanitation facilities.

“UNICEF’s next priority is to repair and rebuild these facilities so that children can continue their education and will receive essential healthcare, nutrition and sanitation services.

“Our hearts are with the Rohingya children and their families who – after fleeing their country and taking refuge – have once more been left homeless.”

Download high-res photo here
Multimedia materials available here

About UNICEF
UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. For more information about UNICEF and its work for children, visit www.unicef.org/bangladesh/
Follow UNICEF on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube
For more information please contact:
Faria Selim, UNICEF Bangladesh, Tel: +880 181 758 6096, fselim@unicef.org
Kusali Nellie Kubwalo, UNICEF Bangladesh, Tel: +880 184 732 7230, knkubwalo@unicef.org