



Community volunteers operate in the communities around the Dhalpur Aalo Clinic, spreading life-saving messages about Dengue prevention far and wide. They utilize every tool in their arsenal, including public announcements through miking, distributing leaflets, and organizing community meetings. Their relentless efforts, supported by UNICEF, reinforce the critical importance of awareness and community engagement in the fight against dengue.
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Highlights

- As of 18th September 2023, **170,768 dengue cases (including 39% women and 19% children (0-15 yrs) have been infected, with 839 deaths (58% female, 12% children below 15 years old).**¹ Until 13th September 2023, a total of **12,924 persons [1,808 Bangladeshi and 11,116 from Rohingya camps]** had tested positive for dengue. A total of **1,087 persons (845 Bangladeshi and 237 Rohingya refugees)** were admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital and another 793 persons were admitted to Upazila Hospitals. 13 persons (11 from Rohingya camps, 2 from the host) died due to Dengue-related complications.²
- SBC Section-supported RCCE activities **reached 4.81 million people (49.52 per cent women) nationwide and engaged 146,923 people (50.94 per cent women)** in awareness creation on dengue prevention across the country.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), **>201,000 people (>136,100 women, >1,102 persons with disabilities) were reached** with targeted approved dengue prevention direct messaging, events, and discussions across 30 of the most highly dengue-prevalent districts through 524 Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCH).
- **Dengue kits for 37,635 dengue tests** were procured and delivered to Communicable Disease Control CDC-DGHS out of the planned number of kits for **223,425 tests**.
- **In Cox's Bazar, a total of 40,818 (25,957 women) from Rohingya refugees in 17 camps and 2,518 (1,633 women) people in host communities** were reached with dengue prevention interventions through interpersonal communication (IPC) sessions including house-to-house visits, mother-to-mother support groups, adolescent club sessions and public awareness through street miking, mosque-based loudspeakers, and megaphones. **2,766 mothers were engaged through group sessions on dengue prevention.**
- So far UNICEF has made **US\$ 2.9 M** available for immediate response including Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan with a funding gap of **US\$ 2.6 M** to support a multi-sectoral response to the dengue outbreak and prevent more women, children, and other vulnerable members of the population from further infections.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS¹



170,768

Dengue cases (39% female) recorded (Health Emergency Operation Centre and Control Room, DGHS 18th September 2023)



32,207

children (0-15 yrs, 40% girls) infected (Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS 18th September 2023)



64/64
Districts

Districts affected (Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS 18th September 2023)

¹ Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS ([20230918_dengue_all.pdf \(dghs.gov.bd\)](https://dghs.gov.bd/20230918_dengue_all.pdf))

² Latest data available from Cox's Bazar Dengue Situation, 16th of September 2023, Civil surgeon Office, Cox's Bazar

Humanitarian Situation Overview

Bangladesh is experiencing the worst nationwide outbreak of dengue in its history, with a significant impact on the public health system in the country. Sporadic outbreaks have been occurring in Bangladesh since 1964. There was a major epidemic dengue outbreak in 2000 and since then, there have been varying intensities of dengue every year in Bangladesh. In 2019, Bangladesh experienced a major dengue epidemic, with 101,354 dengue cases recorded and 164 dengue-related deaths.¹ However, since the beginning of this year, the number of cases has increased significantly, exceeding cases over the same period in the previous years and the number of deaths is the highest ever recorded. As of 18th September 2023, **170,768 dengue cases (including 38% women and 19% children (0-15 yrs))** have been infected, with **839 deaths (58% female, 12% children below 15 years old)**.³ Even worse, one in every five people infected is a child, and children under five are at greater risk of severe illness (6% so far infected), with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 0.47%.⁴ For every five deaths, one is a child. Though the majority (63%) of cases are among males, nearly three of every five deaths (58%) are among females. The overall CFR, which is higher compared to previous years, is also higher in females than in males (0.72% v 0.32%) with females having four times higher CFR than males among those aged 21-40 years (0.71% vs 0.18%).⁵ As many as 63% of cases and 62% of the deaths were reported in the month of July 2023. This number represent only the diagnosed cases from different Government hospitals and some selected private hospitals. Most of the cases who don't come to hospital and taking remedies or taking consultations from private practitioners are much higher.

As of 13th September 2023, a total of **12,924 persons [1,808 Bangladeshi and 11,116 from Rohingya camps]** had tested positive for dengue. A total of 1087 persons (845 Bangladeshi and 237 Rohingya refugees) were admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital and another 793 persons were admitted to Upazilla Hospitals. 13 persons (11 from Rohingya camps, 2 from the host) died due to Dengue-related complications.⁶

It is to be noted that, these numbers reflect only reported cases from government hospitals and some selected private hospitals that are reporting. The actual number of cases (unreported) is much higher.

UNICEF Preparedness and Response

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

- SBC Section-supported RCCE activities **reached 4.81 million people (49.52 per cent women)** nationwide and engaged **146,923 people (50.94 per cent women)** in awareness creation on dengue prevention across the country.
- Social media posts on dengue prevention and care developed by the SBC Section reached approximately **52,319,284 social media users (27.69 per cent women)**. A new video will be posted soon on social media soon.
- A Public Service Announcement (PSA) on dengue prevention has been released, and with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, it will air on TV channels. Bangladesh Betar continued the airing of a Radio PSA on dengue. The process of producing PSA on dengue care (what to do when symptoms manifest) and treatment (where to obtain services) has been started.
- The SBC Section presented the Bangladesh Experience of the RCCE Platform for Dengue as a part of the Social Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) for dengue outbreak at the WHO Southeast Asia regional webinar series on dengue outbreak management.
- A video recording of the Health Minister and DG, DGHS, has been completed with the RCCE message to disseminate on social media. CDC and DGHS have requested the SBC Section to support the recording of this video.



A frontline worker is encouraging communities to take preventive action against dengue.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- A Nationwide Dengue Prevention Cleanliness Week to eradicate breeding sites for mosquitoes is planned for the first week of October 2023. This is a collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives together with BDRCS and the Scouts Movement. Approximately 500,000 people countrywide will benefit from the reduced mosquito breeding sites.

³ Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS ([20230916_dengue_all.pdf \(dghs.gov.bd\)](https://dghs.gov.bd/20230916_dengue_all.pdf))

⁴ Dengue Situation Analysis

⁵ Dengue - Bangladesh (who.int)

⁶ Latest data available from Cox's Bazar Dengue Situation, 13th of September 2023, Civil surgeon Office, Cox's Bazar

- The WASH Section engaged International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR), WHO and DGHS-CDC on the development of Dengue Prevention orientation module for the City Corporation Waste Management Department.
- Orientation on Dengue Prevention and control for the 12 City Corporations has been scheduled for 25th September 2023.

Child Protection

- In partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), **>201,000 people (>136,100 women, >1,102 persons with disabilities) were reached** with targeted approved dengue prevention direct messaging, events, and discussions across 30 of the most highly dengue-prevalent districts through 524 Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCH).
- In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), **>213,700 people (>144,600 women, >213 persons with disabilities) were reached** with targeted approved dengue prevention direct messaging, events, and discussions across 16 of the most dengue- affected districts through >5,320 Sports for Development events and sessions.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), the Child Helpline (1098) received > 2,970 calls for information on dengue and Social Workers followed up on **> 6,350 (>4,390 women, >197 persons with disabilities) of the most vulnerable children and families in the 30 most dengue-affected districts**, including those who are homeless.

Education

- UNICEF organized orientations at the national level for policy makers and at the subnational level for the District Level Education officials on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for emergencies, with a focus on the critical messages for the Dengue response. The SOPs cover the nine (9) nationally identified hazards. The SOP for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response is a guideline for primary schools to follow before, during and after disasters including dengue.
- The total number of national and subnational officials reached is 225 (National is 30; subnational 195 at Mymensingh-35, Sylhet-45, Chittagong-45, Barishal –35, Khulna-35), while Rangpur is planned for the week beginning 24th September.
- **70,500 copies of the SoPs have been printed by UNICEF and have been distributed to every Government primary school in the country. The responsible National and subnational education officers have also received copies.** The SOPs were developed with the Technical and financial support from UNICEF.

Health

- **Dengue kits for 37,635 dengue tests** were procured and delivered to Communicable Disease Control CDC-DGHS out of the planned amount **for 223,425 tests**. The remaining 18,579 dengue duo test kits for 185,790 tests will be procured in batches over the next 4-6 weeks due to the high demand.
- UNICEF is coordinating with WHO and the Communicable Disease Control CDC-DGHS to finalize the national dengue response plan.
- With support from UNICEF, the CDC-DGHS has finalized the capacity development and death surveillance and response activity plan and budget to initiate implementation in line with the draft national response plan.

Communication

- The Communication Section continued social media messaging on awareness raising and prevention. **So far, the messages reached a total of 81,941,068 people with impactful messages on Dengue symptoms and preventive measures. The messaging featured a high-ranking government official in our communication.**
- A new web story on a roundtable discussion organized on dengue management has been published on the UNICEF website.

Cox's Bazar Field Office

Social and Behavior Change (SBC)



Photo: M2M Session on dengue prevention at Camp 04. UNICEF/FIVDB @Nazma Sultana Riku

- Community interventions for containing and preventing dengue prevention are ongoing through SBC implementing partners engaging communities to seek and destroy mosquito breeding sites across Rohingya Refugee camps and host communities. Efforts were made to reach children through learning centres and other places where children are assembling to enhance their knowledge on dengue transmission and mobilize them for participation in the community clean-up campaign. **A total of 7,729 (boys 3,647 and girls 4,070) adolescents were engaged.**
- SBC is partnering with partners and working with **416 mosques in 17 camps** to amplify and reinforce dengue prevention awareness messages with emphasis on household cleanup, understanding the symptoms and care for children who are most vulnerable.

- The Information and Feedback Centres (IFCs) are providing dengue prevention information to the community through those who visit the centres. As from 24th August to 5th September 2023, a total of **15,126 CFQs (9,286 from women)** were received of which **56 cases** were related to the dengue outbreak. IFCs are also monitoring rumors related to the Dengue outbreak in the community.
- A total of **222,943 (135,804 women) from Rohingya refugees** in 17 camps and **41,187 (24,663 women) people in host communities** were reached with dengue prevention interventions through interpersonal communication (IPC) sessions including house-to-house visits, mother-to-mother support groups, adolescent club sessions and public awareness through street miking, mosque-based loudspeakers, and megaphones. **13,973 mothers** were engaged through group sessions on dengue prevention.

WASH

Rohingya Camps in Cox's Bazar



Awareness session with Rohingya Community (male group), Camp 22. Photo @Mostafa/DSK

- Capacity building of staff & volunteers on dengue prevention-related topics among Community Hygiene Promoters, Sanitation Supervisors, and other key staff and different types of volunteers at the camp level was done. **A total of 241 participants** (HPO, CHP, CHV, Sanitation Engineer, Asst. Engineer, and Sanitation Supervisor) participated.
- Cleaning up Campaign by the local community was organised to destroy aedes mosquito breeding sites. During the reporting period, **a total of 5,072 households (HHs)** cleaned their surroundings.
- During Household visits, Community Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) and Community Hygiene Volunteers (CHVs) disseminate messages on dengue prevention, such as finding out the risk area at HHs where Aedes mosquitoes can breed, how the community can prevent dengue, and so on. A total of **40,001 HHs** were visited, and messages disseminated among **254,043 individuals (132,367 female).**
- Sessions with Child Leaders Groups and a drawing competition were held on dengue prevention. A total of 738 child sessions have been conducted through drawing dengue prevention-related messages, in which **6,642 children (3,102 girls)** participated and were able to understand the harmful effect of dengue on the human body.

Rohingya Camps in Bhasan Char



Communication awareness and mobilization by community Volunteers. Photo Credit: Imam Hossain C79, Bhasan Char

- The hygiene team worked together with the CIC office, education, and health sectors to create awareness on prevention of dengue through regular coordination meetings with cluster focal, imams, and LC teachers. A total of 89 meetings were held from 26th August to 5 September 2023.
- Hygiene promotion volunteers disseminated recorded messages on dengue prevention and control through street miking and megaphones. **19,838** community people were reached through megaphones from 26th August to 5th September 2023.

- The Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group (HPTWG) Team reached **7,453 families** almost twice to raise HH visits to awareness about dengue prevention among the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women & children. The hygiene team reached all the communities through 2761 HP sessions to increase dengue awareness.
- Bhasan Char WASH agencies are undertaking fumigation twice a week at Bhasan Char camp (Marketplace places, and waste dumping areas). Bhasan Char WASH agencies are doing back spray twice a week in their assigned occupied and unoccupied locations to remove mosquito larvae.
- An intensive cleaning exercise was organized by the community volunteers targeting spaces with stagnant water and removed objects such as abandoned items, including old tires, buckets, containers, coconut shells, and open drains, which are potential mosquito breeding sites within their households and surrounding areas. A total of 59 clusters & 5 markets were covered through this intensive cleaning campaign.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) continues to coordinate the Cluster preparedness to Cyclone Mocha. Regular interaction with Cluster Leads is maintained to ensure up to date information is shared and updated for the preparedness and response to complement Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB)-led efforts to tackle the dengue outbreak. The WASH Cluster at the national level is coordinating with government line ministries to support the response.

UNICEF will continue leading the WASH Sectors/Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-sector/Cluster and co-lead the Education Sector/Cluster. In Bhasan Char, UNICEF is leading WASH and Education Sectors in coordinating the dengue response. UNICEF will prioritize Grand Bargain commitments, mainstreaming child-centred disaster risk reduction across sectors, ensuring accountability to affected populations and supporting the localisation of humanitarian assistance to strengthen national actors' capacity to lead the response. In this regard, relevant government counterparts (Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Upazila Education Officer, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Sub-Assistant Engineer at Upazila DPHE office, Union Parishad Chairmen and members, Dhaka North and South City Corporations) are part of all UNICEF-supported response activities in dengue hotspots.

UNICEF staff participated in the meetings of the WASH and Education Sectors at the national level to ensure coordination of interventions.

Funding situation

UNICEF has mobilised US\$ 231,000 from internal resources, additional to \$500,000 USD from HQ UNICEF, and \$250,000 from USAID, to support immediate response to the dengue outbreak and meet the priority needs of girls, women and people with disabilities. A further US\$ 505,000 was received from the Danish Government to support the Dengue response. UNICEF Bangladesh has received \$1.5 million in loans from UNICEF HQ to ensure the continuity of the Dengue response while fundraising efforts continue. Through in-country fundraising⁷, UNICEF has mobilised US\$ 8,062.

⁷ As of 20 Sep 2023

The table below shows the funding needs per Sector to mitigate the impact of dengue on vulnerable populations including women and children:

SECTOR	Funding Requirement (USD) *Updated	Received (USD) Available/ Received / Pipeline	Funding gap
Health	\$422,000	\$138,000 (Global Thematic Fund) \$125,000 (USAID) \$10,000 (Reprogrammed) \$412,000 (EPF loan)	(\$263,000)
WASH	\$2,907,500	\$230,000 (Global Thematic Fund) \$150,000 (Reprogramme) \$500,000 (EPF loan)	\$2,027,500
Education	\$1,650,558	\$344,000 (EPF loan)	\$1,306,558
SBC	\$265,500	\$92,000 (Global Thematic Fund) \$125,000 (USAID) \$21,000 (Reprogramme) \$50,000 (Reprogramme) \$194,000 (EPF loan)	(\$216,500)
Humanitarian Coordination		\$50,000 (EPF loan)	(\$50,000)
Additional funding from Denmark (to be allocated across Sections)		\$505,000	
Operational costs (7%)	\$367,189	\$40,000 (Global Thematic Fund)	\$327,189
Total	\$5,612,747	\$2,986,000	\$2,626,747

As of 20th September 2023

*\$ 8,062 (in-country fundraising is not reflected in the table above)

Human Interest Stories and External Media

[Link to the recent news reports on Dengue situation:](#)

- Anadolu Ajansi: Bangladesh sees single-day high with 21 new deaths in dengue fever : <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/bangladesh-sees-single-day-high-with-21-new-deaths-in-dengue-fever/2981937> : Sep 3
VoA: WHO: Bangladesh Hit by Worst Dengue Outbreak on Record : <https://www.voanews.com/a/who-bangladesh-hit-by-worst-dengue-outbreak-on-record-7256884.html> : Sep 6
- The Daily Star : Botched dengue response: Where does the fault lie? <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/botched-dengue-response-where-does-the-fault-lie-3408046> : Sep 1
- The Daily Star : 'Nobody performs duty properly' : <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/nobody-performs-duty-properly-3417536> : Sep 12
- New Age: Artificial crisis causes saline import : <https://www.newagebd.net/article/211852/artificial-crisis-causes-saline-import> : Sep 10
- Financial Express : Children account for 20pc of dengue-related death: UNICEF : <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/health/children-account-for-20pc-of-dengue-related-death-unicef-report> : Sep 7
- The Business Standard : Hospitalisation of dengue patients highest in 10 districts : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/hospitalisation-dengue-patients-highest-10-districts-698838> : Sep 12
- The Business Standard : Dengue outbreak to continue throughout September: Experts : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/dengue-outbreak-continue-throughout-september-experts-697678> ; Sep 9
- Dhaka Tribune : Dengue toll climbs to 752 with 11 more deaths : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/325107/dengue-toll-climbs-to-752-with-11-more-deaths> : Sep 12

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