


# BANGLADESH


## Situation Overview<sup>1</sup>

- **Heavy rains from 23-25 July 2018 triggered landslides and flooding** throughout Cox's Bazar district. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department recorded **463mm of rainfall** in under 24 hours on 25 July—the **second highest recorded rainfall** in one day for the district.
- **Nearly 60 incidents of landslides, winds, floods, and waterlogging** reported in all settlements by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)<sup>2</sup> on **25-26 July 2018**, with **445 shelters damaged**.
- **Floods and landslides damaged major road access to settlement** in Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts, including parts of Marine Drive and Ukhiya-Teknaf highway linking Cox's Bazar to settlements in both sub-districts, and the arterial road ("Army Road") connecting Kutupalong in the north and Balukhali in the south.
- **Blocked access and damaged infrastructure** restrict aid distribution and movement of personnel.
- **No reported settlements fatalities thus far**. However, landslides in the morning of 25 July killed five local children, according to Cox's Bazar police.


## UNHCR and Partners Response

 The Site Management Engineering Project (SMEP) — a joint engineering project of **UNHCR, IOM, and WFP**, has been working since 25 July evening to **repair Army Road to maintain access** to settlement for aid delivery.

 **174 families** were **temporarily relocated** to safer areas on 25-26 July, mainly from Chakmarkul and Camp 6 in Kutupalong.

 **52 families** were **permanently relocated** in Chakmarkul from **landslide risk shelters** to a safer site built by the Sultanate of Oman where **emergency latrines** are being installed and **post disaster kits** are being distributed.

 **15 families** were **preemptively relocated** in Kutupalong from **high landslide risk shelters** to prepared land on Camp 4 Extension.

 **Protection staff continue to monitor** settlement in Ukhiya and Teknaf. UNHCR is on the ground with all partners, Camps-in-Charge (CiCs), and the refugee community to **identify those in need of relocation, extremely vulnerable persons**, and those with specific needs. **262 protection volunteers** from the refugee community (COMs) actively participated in the Emergency Response by ensuring coverage and addressing the needs at community and individual levels with a focus on those with specific needs. In some cases, they accompanied Shelter partners and referred cases directly to them.








*UNHCR staff inspect sites at risk of landslide.  
@UNHCR/K. Allen*

<sup>1</sup> This flash update is produced by UNHCR sub-office in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, covering the period 25-26 July 2018. Figures are subject to change following further assessments and monitoring, particularly in hard-to-reach areas due to multiple landslides and waterlogging.

<sup>2</sup> The ISCG receives information from Site Management Support agencies, and data is based on preliminary assessments. Figures are subject to change.



UNHCR staff assessing relocation needs for refugees at high risk of landslides. @UNHCR/K. Allen.

-  Refugees in high landslide risk areas are being **provided counselling and support to relocate** to community structures identified as **emergency evacuation shelters**: community centres, mosques, madrassas, temporary learning centres, and child-friendly spaces.
-  UNHCR received the report of four **Protection Rapid Response Units (PERU)** from Solidarités International and UNHCR **deployed** to various locations in Teknaf to assess needs on the ground, as part of an inter-agency protection response coordinated by the Protection Sector Working Group.
-  **Food is provided to relocated refugees**, in cooperation with **WFP** and partners, including Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Technical Assistance Inc. (TAI). A total of **149 sleeping mats** and **107 plastic sheets** were distributed among **256 families** in different settlement.
-  UNHCR's **WASH Emergency Response Teams** also conducted **rapid assessments** in affected settlement to identify damaged latrines and other WASH facilities.
-  **30,000 post-disaster kits for host communities** have been allocated for distribution based on needs, with the first 200 slated for hand over to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) in Cox's Bazar on 27 July.

## Government of Bangladesh Response

**Bangladesh activated Emergency Control Rooms (ERC)** on 25 July at the DC's office in Cox's Bazar and the Upazila Executive Officer's office in Ukhiya and Teknaf. The DC leads the joint coordination mechanism at the district and sub-district levels, together with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (**RRRC**), the **Armed Forces Division (AFD)**, and **international humanitarian organizations** in Cox's Bazar under ISCG coordination. The first meeting following ERC activation agreed on response priorities:

- The **Site Management Sector would identify households at high risk of floods and landslides** in need of **urgent relocation** and conduct a **survey** of community facilities to assess temporary relocation capacity.
- **WASH, Food Security, and Health Sectors** will ensure **immediate support to relocated people**.
- Routine activities at **learning centres are suspended** until further notice **to facilitate temporary relocation**.
- All child-friendly spaces, women centres, learning centres, and possibly mosques, will remain ready for use as **potential communal shelters in case of an emergency evacuation**.
- 32 members of the Army Disaster Management team put on alert; those deployed in settlement are on 24/7 duty.

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