

May 20, 2020

In early April, World Renew paused all disaster response deliveries to the Rohingya people until mid-May to slow transmission of coronavirus and protect the Rohingya population. On May 14, the UN confirmed the first two cases of COVID-19 in the Rohingya refugee camps near Cox's Bazar, triggering concern and response from humanitarian organizations around the world.

As part of those responses, World Renew re-commenced our work on May 11 as planned, bringing vital food supplies to families desperate for support. Our staff and partner colleagues continue to coordinate our efforts with the UN and local government structures as well as international NGOS to coordinate our response.

Moving forward, World Renew's Rohingya response must address not only our mounting concern for the course COVID-19 will take through the refugee settlements near Cox's Bazar--where over 1 million refugees live and physical distancing is virtually impossible--but also our monitoring of Cyclone Amphan, which has made landfall Wednesday and is set to tear across India and Bangladesh.

Prayer in this moment is paramount:

- Pray that the damage from the cyclone will be minimal
- Pray for mandated evacuation efforts. Indian officials have reported 300,000 people in coastal towns who are in immediate danger are being evacuated. Bangladesh is moving over 2 million people to emergency shelters.
- Pray for Indian emergency shelters, which typically contain 500,000 people but due to COVID-19 can only safely contain 200,000 people.
- While Bangladesh reports enough emergency shelters to safely hold all those fleeing and still observe physical distancing, prayer for the number of people fleeing to these shelters in mass is critical.
- Pray for response teams, who will be entering "red zones" of infection in order to rescue families stranded by flooding.

And of course, prayers for the families living in the refugee camp near Cox's Bazar which will experience very heavy rainfall and possible flooding as a result of Amphan. With hygiene conditions in the camp already deteriorating, the warm, damp weather and flooding will create an environment where the virus can thrive and our efforts to contain it will grow more and more difficult.

For those looking to support these vulnerable communities financially in addition to prayer, our team is currently preparing for a range of responses. Once Amphan hits land, we will notify you of our specific course of action and the ways you can join us in response.



For now, thank you for lifting all the people of East Asia up to the Lord for his protection and mercy.