

Media Release

Date: 12/06/2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPOKESPERSON ALERT: Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh hit by biggest storm of the year

Dozens of Rohingya refugee shelters were inundated with floodwater or hit by landslides over the weekend, as the biggest storm of the year to date hit refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar.

Heavy showers and powerful winds tore through the camps, leaving behind crumpled shelters and families scrambling to rebuild. Save the Children teams found major roads cut off when they arrived in the camps on Sunday and Monday mornings, with teams having to enter central parts of the camp on foot in order to provide essential services to children, like food programmes and learning centres.

Daphnee Cook, Save the Children's Communications and Media Manager in Cox's Bazar, said: "A powerful storm—the strongest so far this year—has again wreaked havoc in the camps, leaving many areas accessible only on foot. We're especially concerned for children, as they're the most vulnerable in events like this—leaving them at risk of developing skin diseases, being separated from their families, and losing access to critical services."

More than two and a half metres of rain are expected to fall in Cox's Bazar throughout June, July and August during peak monsoon season, with more rains forecast to fall later this week.

If New Zealanders would like to donate to help children affected by the flooding, please go to <https://savethechildren.org.nz/how-to-help/donate/one-off-donation/>

ENDS

Save the Children's Daphnee Cook is available for interviews from Cox's Bazar. Please contact Daphnee.cook@savethechildren.org or Natasha.dossantos@savethechildren.org.

For photographs or more information please contact: Ally Clelland, Communications Specialist, Save the Children NZ, phone 022 531 9514 or email ally.clelland@scnz.org.nz

About Save the Children

Save the Children works in 120 countries across the world. The organisation responds to emergencies and works with children and their communities to ensure they survive, learn and are protected.

Save the Children NZ currently supports international programmes in Fiji, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, and Mozambique. Areas of work include education and literacy, disaster risk reduction, and alleviating child poverty.