

PROJECT TITLE:

**EMERGENCY HEALTH SUPPORT, HUMANITARIAN WARMTH
RESPONSE AND DISTRIBUTING NON-FOOD MATERIALS FOR
FIRE-AFFECTED FAMILIES IN KORAIL SLUM**



PROJECT PERIOD: 03 DECEMBER 2025- 02 JANUARY 2026

REPORTING: COMPLETION REPORT

IMPLEMENTED BY: COMMUNITY INITIATIVE SOCIETY (CIS)

SUPPORTED BY: ASIA PACIFIC ALLIANCE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT (A-PAD)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 25, 2025, a catastrophic fire outbreak occurred in Korail Slum, one of the largest informal settlements in Dhaka. This incident resulted in extensive destruction of shelters, significant loss of household assets, and the displacement of numerous families. In response to this humanitarian crisis, the Community Initiative Society (CIS), with the generous support of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD), launched an emergency relief and early recovery project aimed at addressing the immediate needs of affected households.

The project effectively reached 5,300 beneficiaries by providing essential primary health care services, distributing non-food items, and delivering warm blankets to protect against the winter cold. Despite facing logistical challenges and adverse environmental conditions, the project successfully met its objectives. It significantly contributed to reducing the vulnerabilities faced by the affected communities and played a vital role in restoring their dignity as they began the process of recovery and rebuilding their lives.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Korail Slum is a densely populated urban settlement characterized by cramped living conditions, where numerous vulnerable families reside, struggling with limited access to essential infrastructure. The community faces significant hardships regarding reliable sources of water, adequate sanitation facilities, and consistent electrical supply. Recently, a catastrophic fire erupted within the slum, wreaking havoc across extensive



areas and leading to the destruction of numerous homes. This disaster has left countless families displaced, forced to flee their residences without their belongings or basic necessities. The upheaval has not only devastated individual households but has also inflicted substantial damage on critical public services, further aggravating the challenges faced by the residents.

Korail Slum is highly susceptible to fire hazards due to its densely packed housing, illegal electrical connections, and the prevalent use of combustible construction materials. On Tuesday, 25 November 2025, at approximately 5:20 PM local time, a catastrophic fire broke out in the Korail slum, one of Dhaka's most densely populated informal settlements, characterized by its narrow pathways and closely clustered shelters. The fire ignited rapidly, propelled by the flammable materials utilized in the construction of the buildings, which predominantly consist of tin, bamboo, and wood, rendering it challenging for residents to control the flames. Moreover, the presence of overhead electrical lines and household gas cylinders exacerbated the situation, facilitating the swift spread of the fire.

- **The blaze was under control after 5 hours (from 5:20 pm to 10:35 pm), but full extinguishing reportedly took up to 16 hours, into the early hours of the next morning.**
- **Fortunately, no deaths/casualties have been reported so far.**
- **However, more than 2,670 of families were homeless or displaced.**
- **More than 400 shops and 1,200 sewing machines were destroyed**
- **Around 2,000 injured came to take fast aid treatment**



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Provision of warmth component distribution, for displaced families, distributing nonfood items and deployment of mobile health teams to provide basic medical care and mental health services.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Distributing Blanket as Warmth Response
- Non-Food Aid for Vulnerable Fire affected Families
- Provide health services and conduct health camps to support the disaster-affected people

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

a) DISTRIBUTING BLANKET AS WARMTH RESPONSE

Community Initiative Society (CIS), in partnership with the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD), undertook blanket distribution initiative as part of an emergency response aimed at providing warmth to families affected by a devastating fire in the Korail Slum. This initiative was designed to address the urgent needs of the displaced and particularly vulnerable households in the aftermath of the blaze, which left many without their essential belongings and exposed to the harsh, chilly weather conditions typical of the season. As the fire ravaged through the community, countless families found themselves struggling not only with the loss of material possessions but also confronting significant health and safety risks brought on by the dropping temperatures.

With a strong focus on those most in need especially children, the elderly, and women the initiative prioritized ensuring that these groups received the immediate warmth and comfort they required to stay safe during this challenging time. Through the organized efforts of dedicated volunteers and effective coordination within the



community, **150** blankets were distributed swiftly and efficiently. This timely intervention not only provided much needed physical warmth but also fostered a sense of care, compassion, and solidarity among community members during the critical early recovery phase. The act of sharing blankets served as a symbol of support, helping to mend the emotional scars left by the tragedy and restore a sense of hope for the future.



b) NON-FOOD AID FOR VULNERABLE FIRE AFFECTED FAMILIES

In response to the recent fire incident in Korail Slum, which resulted in numerous families becoming homeless and lacking essential household items, our organization undertook a non-food aid distribution to support the most vulnerable households affected by this tragedy. The fire inflicted significant damage on shelters and vital belongings, disproportionately impacting women, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. The primary objective of this intervention was to address immediate post-emergency needs by providing essential non-food items, thereby

assisting families in restoring minimum living conditions with dignity and safety. A rapid needs assessment was conducted in collaboration with community leaders and local volunteers to identify the most affected and vulnerable households.

Based on the findings of the assessment, non-food relief packages were distributed, which included items such as sleeping mats, blankets, cooking utensils, hygiene kits, buckets, and tarpaulins. The distribution process was executed in an organized and transparent manner to ensure equitable access and to prevent any duplication of aid. A total of **130** families affected by the fire received non-food assistance through this initiative. Beneficiaries expressed their relief and gratitude, indicating that the support facilitated their ability to manage immediate daily needs while they embarked on recovery efforts. This intervention significantly contributed to reducing vulnerability, enhancing household safety and hygiene, and supporting early recovery for fire-affected families in Korail Slum. It is recommended that continued support and longer-term rehabilitation assistance be provided to strengthen community resilience against potential future fire incidents.



c) PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES AND CONDUCT HEALTH CAMPS TO SUPPORT THE DISASTER-AFFECTED PEOPLE

In response to the recent fire incident in Korail Slum, Community Initiative Society (CIS), in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) and Dhaka Community Hospital Trust (DCH Trust), implemented emergency health services to support the affected communities and address their urgent health needs. This intervention concentrated on the provision of accessible primary healthcare through the organization of community-based health camps in the areas impacted by the fire.

These health camps offered free medical consultations, basic treatment, essential medications, first aid services, and referrals to nearby healthcare facilities. Special emphasis was placed on vulnerable populations, including women, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, health awareness sessions were conducted to promote hygiene, prevent disease outbreaks, and enhance community health practices in the post-fire context.

Through these initiatives, CIS was able to provide health services to approximately **3,900** beneficiaries, contributing to the improvement of immediate health outcomes, the reduction of health risks, and the support of recovery and well-being for fire-affected households in Korail Slum. This intervention significantly enhanced community access to essential health services during the emergency response and early recovery phases.





Project Outputs and Results

KEY OUTPUTS:

- 130 households received nonfood supports
- 150 households received blankets
- 3,900 individuals accessed basic medical and hygiene services
- Community awareness sessions conducted with active participation

STRENGTH OF A-PAD BANGLADESH

- Coordination with **Fire Service and Civil Defence** to control the fire
- A-PAD Bangladesh set up public health camp and provided health facilities including health facilities among **900 beneficiaries** fire affected communities in Korail Slum.
- A-PAD Bangladesh distributed tarpaulin as emergency shelter support with emergency shelter kits, mosquito net, charger light and dry foods.
- A-PAD Bangladesh raised funding and inkind support around **.7 M** from the local partners including DCH Trust, DHEM Foundation, Seven One Limited, FR3 and Maysha Transport.
- **15** Community Leaders involved in the fire outbreak responses
- **75** women and youth volunteers among them **35** are women volunteers actively responded during Fire Outbreak response at Korail Slum.
- Support to **evacuation efforts**, especially for women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities
- Coordination with **local authorities and community leaders** for emergency responses and distribution.

KEY RESULTS:

- Immediate survival needs of affected families were addressed
- Temporary shelter reduced exposure to weather-related risks
- Improved hygiene practices helped prevent disease outbreaks
- Enhanced community knowledge on fire safety and risk reduction

CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

CHALLENGES

- Narrow access roads and congestion
- High demand compared to available resources
- Risk of repeat fire incidents

MITIGATION MEASURES

- Use of community volunteers for distribution
- Prioritization of most vulnerable households
- Fire safety awareness and coordination with authorities

ACCOUNTABILITY AND COORDINATION

The project ensured accountability through:

- Transparent beneficiary selection and public listing
- Community consultations and feedback mechanisms
- Close coordination with local government bodies, fire service, and humanitarian actors

LESSONS LEARNED

- Rapid response is critical in densely populated informal settlements
- Community engagement significantly improves effectiveness and acceptance
- Pre-positioned emergency supplies can reduce response time
- Fire risk reduction should be integrated into long-term programming

SUSTAINABILITY

While the project addressed immediate needs, continued support is required to strengthen resilience in Korail Slum. Continue fire safety awareness and preparedness initiatives

- Advocate for safer housing and electrical systems
- Seek partnerships for long-term rehabilitation and livelihood support

CONCLUSION

The response to the fire outbreak in the Korail slum was executed effectively through the prompt assistance of the affected communities, which included the provision of essential non-food items, blankets, and the establishment of health camps. These measures effectively addressed the immediate needs of households impacted by the fire, mitigated vulnerability during the emergency phase, and facilitated the restoration of fundamental living conditions. The distribution process was carried out in a coordinated and transparent manner, thereby ensuring that the most severely affected families received the necessary support. Additionally, the health camps played a significant role in enhancing community well-being by offering basic medical services, health consultations, and education on hygiene and disease prevention. Overall, this response not only bolstered community resilience but also underscored the critical role of swift humanitarian assistance in emergency scenarios. Ongoing collaboration with stakeholders and the implementation of preparedness initiatives are recommended to improve future emergency response efforts.