



80% of fuel presently from tree cutting

95,000 refugees households using compressed rice husk as complementary fuel each month

6,200 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) kits distributed to refugees, providing cheaper and more efficient and cleaner source of energy in the camps.

UNHCR is working to make the environment better by:

- 1** Reducing environmental impact of the refugee emergency
- 2** Increasing safe and alternative energy sources
- 3** Increasing engagement of refugee and host community, including gender norms

The environment has suffered inevitable degradation as a result of the massive refugee influx following violence last August in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The 720,000 people who fled faced an initial struggle to find shelter and space to live on, leading to trees being cut for makeshift structures, and also used as fuel to cook for their families. In Kutupalong settlement, over 600,000 refugees are crammed into 13 sq. km of land. The impact is visible: deforestation, soil erosion, and exploitation of groundwater for basic survival.

Progress

UNHCR, with partners **BRAC & International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, have made progress by helping the environment and supporting energy needs as follows:

All the targeted families (86,400) received solar lanterns

700 street lights installed in refugee and host community areas

30 elephant response teams set up to manage human-elephant conflict

Planting projects started, including trees, grasses, and vegetables

Way Forward

UNHCR plans to expand its use of LPG gas in camps which will have a number of impacts, including: 1) improvement of air quality in camps and household fumes harmful to health; 2) reduced burden on forest cutting and 3) enabling replanting programmes to thrive, as well as 4) improved protection of refugees who would otherwise travel to isolated areas for wood collection, including risks of sexual or gender-based violence, and exploitation. Some 800 LPG kits are planned for host communities in the coming weeks. Further investment will be made in harnessing solar energy for water networks in Kutupalong refugee settlement. A multi-year reforestation plan with the Bangladesh Forest Department, and other partners, will be pursued. Additional solar street lights are also planned by the end of the year.

Challenges going forward



Limited space for planting due to congestion within the camps



Expanding camp area has created challenges for wild Asian elephants cutting off a vital migration corridor



Limited facilities at present to manage and treat waste (e.g. faecal and others)

Monsoon response: Vetiver grass, known to help soil stabilization and erosion, has been introduced in a number of areas of the camps. In addition to cutting trees, roots were also pulled up for fuel which has made the hilly areas more prone to landslides. Heavy monsoon rain has put 200,000 at risk of landslides and flooding. UNHCR and partners are moving those at greatest risk to safety.

Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs a Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnership with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 23 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS** Swiss Intercooperation | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation) |

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 1,000 **volunteers from the refugee community** who are **often the first responders on the ground**. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with **safety unit volunteers** (SUVs) who support the emergency response, **community outreach volunteers** who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, **community health workers** who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

Donor Support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh has been very generous. More support is currently needed from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response in Bangladesh for refugees and host communities. Continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation remain vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to support Bangladesh's humanitarian response to refugees.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018)



UNHCR financial needs for 2018

	Protection	26.7 m
	Basic relief items	5.6 m
	Water, sanitation & hygiene	40.8 m
	Shelter/infrastructure	25.0 m
	Energy and environment	13.4 m
	Education	10.0 m
	Community mobilization	18.1 m
	Health and nutrition	34.5 m
	Logistics	11.0 m
	Camp management	35.3 m
	Support costs	18.4 m
TOTAL		238.8 m

With thanks to the many private donations from individuals, foundations, companies including Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, IKEA Foundation, International Islamic Relief Organization Kuwait Finance House, OPEC Fund for International Development, Prosolidar-Onlus Foundation, Qatar Charity, Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, The Big Heart Foundation, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, and UPS Corporate. Special thanks also to CERF.