



The UNHCR energy and environment unit supports re-greening of the camps, access to sustainable energy for cooking and lighting, and essential action on climate mitigation and adaptation. This includes installation and maintenance of solar streetlights and solar mini-grids, improved watershed management, provision of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking, bamboo plantation for reforestation, and environmental education and animal conservation. Combined, these activities maintain environmental protection in the camps, an essential component of refugee protection.

KEY ACTIVITIES



Wildlife Conservation and Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation



Since the camps were established after the 2017 Rohingya influx, the risk of human-elephant conflict has been a protection concern for both refugee and the host communities whose settlements lie in the migration corridor of one of the last remaining herds of wild Asian elephants. To mitigate these conflicts, elephant response team volunteers are trained and equipped with torches and loudspeakers to deter elephants from the camps and direct them towards nearby forests. Thorny plants and beehives are being established along camp boundaries as natural deterrents to elephants. Volunteers are also engaged in wildlife rescue, including rescue of snakes to the local wildlife centre operated by the Bangladesh Forest Department. Hand-in-hand with elephant response, UNHCR and partners conduct environmental education and conservation activities in camps to help maintain ecosystem balance with local biodiversity and wildlife.



Sustainable Use of Land Management and Ecosystem Restoration (SuLMER)



The Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Restoration (SuLMER) is a 3 year multi-sectoral watershed management project running from 2022-2024, aiming to improve ecosystem wellbeing for communities living around water systems (rivers, streams, etc) in the Rohingya refugee camps. It restores water networks using nature-based solutions of stream excavation, bank protection, slope stabilization, revegetation, and plant-based water treatment, benefitting hundreds of families that now experience a safer, healthier and habitable environment surrounding their households. As of 2023, 600 meters of stream have been re-excavated through these Nature Based Solution, with plans for further excavation toward building a safer and more enjoyable environment for community members living in the area.



Solar Street Lighting for Improved Protection and Mini grids



UNHCR has installed thousands of solar streetlights across camps to improve access to water and sanitation facilities and mitigate gender-based violence risks. A community-based maintenance strategy ensures continued operation and maintenance of these important assets by refugees, with approximately 70% of streetlights functional on a daily basis. Meanwhile, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from diesel generators and mitigate climate change, UNHCR has installed and maintains solar mini-grids and rooftop solar systems to power health facilities, learning centres, camp offices, communal facilities, registration sites and public lights, ensuring reliable and renewable power to these essential service points. To protect refugees from the risk of lightning strikes, UNHCR has also installed lightning protection systems across the camps and, where required, in newly constructed facilities.



Youth Environment Club and Environmental Education



To raise awareness on environmental issues, UNHCR supports youth environment clubs in the refugee and Bangladeshi host communities. Through the clubs, male and female youth receive training on key environmental, conservation and biodiversity topics, and are supported with low-cost, localized approaches to key environmental issues such as solid waste management, bamboo plantation and animal conservation.



E-waste



UNHCR, in partnership with NGO Forum, UNITAR, Electriciens Sans Frontieres and Schneider Electric, is implementing the Green Innovation Hub pre-pilot project, aiming to establish a vocational training and recycling hub for e-waste management. Communities in Kutupalong Refugee Camp (KRC) and Nayapara Refugee Camp (NRC) are being sensitized on the issue, and e-waste take back and repair schemes are in development to extend the lifetimes of electronic items and decrease the risk of environmental and safety issues resulting from e-waste disposal in the natural environment. Over 40,000 refugees in KRC and NRC will benefit from the project.

Beneficiary LPG refill assistance received

221,645 *

UNHCR and partners conduct energy and environment activities in the Cox's Bazar and Bhasan char localities, including facilitating access to solar and electrical infrastructure, provision of LPG and fuel efficiency items, watershed management, bamboo plantation and reforestation and environmental education and conservation.

6,424

of solar street lights operational

8

of functional solar-grids

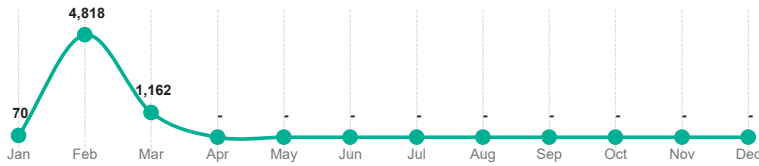
83

Elephant watch towers maintained

of individuals received environmental education



Monthly trend (# of streetlight maintenance (cleaning/ repairing))



Geographic overview (# of solar-grids existing in camps)



Key achievements

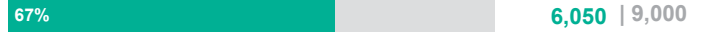
Progress against target



of seedling maintained in plant nursery



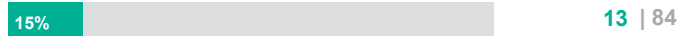
of streetlight installed and maintained (cleaning/ repairing)



of individuals received environmental education



of times environment related issues were solved engaging other sectors (MFT and camp coordination meeting)



of individuals supported with environmental protection activities (volunteers and cash for work)



Human-Elephant Contact Events Mitigated



Individuals benefiting from Sustainable Use of Land Management and Ecosystem Restoration (SuLMER)



of study conducted on ecological monitoring

