Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IOM UN MIGRATION

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

WFP World Food Programme

SAFE+2

SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY

A joint UN programme integrating energy, environment and resilience

Rohingya refugee Monowara is pleased that she no longer has to collect firewood. "It is dangerous. I was scared every time, every day." © UNHCR/Roger Arnold

KEY INDICATORS

190,000

# of refugee households (comprising 920,000 refugees) supported with energy-efficient cooking kits and LPG cylinders

11,900

number of equivalent hectares of natural forest protected

655,000

tons of carbon dioxide emissions abated annually

DURATION

2022-2025

3 years

BUDGET

USD 282 million

funding required

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT

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In partnership with Canada

THE SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY PLUS (SAFE+) PROGRAMME was conceived in 2018, following exacerbated pressure on limited natural resources, including protected forests and ecosystems, in Cox's Bazar. Some 700,000 Rohingya refugees had moved into the region from Myanmar the year before, resulting in the creation of the world's largest refugee camp (Kutupalong-Balukhali Extension) on an allocated 2,500-hectares of protected forest provided by the Government.

The large presence of refugees in the area impacted the regional availability of limited natural resources, food and livelihoods opportunities, and affected local forests and fragile ecosystems. To cook, refugees collected some 900,000 kilos of firewood per day from some 6,000 hectares of natural forest. Carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and cooking fires were estimated to be 655,000 tons annually.

Refugees were negatively impacted in multiple ways. Having to collect and use firewood resulted in respiratory issues, lower health and nutritional status, and gender-based violence incidents. It also took time away from education and other activities. Often, the refugees were required to cook on plastic or purchase firewood when no firewood could be obtained, depleting their already limited financial resources.

To address these needs, the UN agencies UNHCR, IOM, FAO, and WFP, in close coordination with the government and donors, launched the SAFE Plus programme (2019-2022). SAFE+2 (2022-205) comprises the second phase of the programme and builds upon the successes and learnings from the first phase, by focusing on three integrated areas of intervention:

#1 CLEANER COOKING ENERGY	#2 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION	#3 RESILIENCE
*Enabling safe access to sufficient and cleaner cooking energy for some **190,000 refugee households.***	*Rehabilitating and protecting degraded environment and ecosystems, benefiting over **167,000 refugee and host community members***	*Increasing resilience among some **50,000 refugee and 50,000 host community households.***

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: CLEANER COOKING ENERGY

The programme's first priority is to ensure that households have safe and sufficient access to cleaner cooking energy to meet basic needs. This priority mitigates the negative health, protection and deforestation aspects associated with firewood collection, usage and deforestation. It also avoids renewed degradation of recently restored landscapes, helping to preserve a key natural resource — Bangladesh's forested hills, the habitat of one the last herds of endangered Wild Asian Elephants.

Goals:

- Mitigated refugee protection risks (i.e. gender-based violence, negative health impacts from smoke inhalation);
- Enhanced food security, nutrition, and social cohesion through reduced resource competition;
- Enabling access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy *(Sustainable Development Goal 7)*
- Mitigation of climate change, deforestation, and environmental degradation.

Activities:

- Continued provision of LPG cylinders and refills to more than 920,000 refugees (190,000 households);
- Distribution of and training on energy-efficient cooking sets and pressure cookers;
- Research and development to identify, assess, and pilot alternative cooking energy solutions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION

SAFE+2's second priority is that environment and ecosystems are rehabilitated through community resilience and conflict mitigation over natural resources, disasters, and climate shocks. This priority aligns with the climate action aspirations of the Government of Bangladesh by improving agricultural practices and diversifying income opportunities for local farmers and forest-dependent communities.

Goals:

- Improved productivity, food security and sustainable value chains while contributing to disaster risk reduction.
- Enhanced community awareness of sustainable development approaches using Nature-based Solutions (NbS);
- Reduced risks of flash flooding and landslides by contributing to climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation;
- Availed research on sustainable management of watersheds, land use and natural resources to guide implementation;
- Strengthened government and civil society institutions in sustainable natural resource management and governance;
- Improved biodiversity and wildlife conservation.

Activities:

- Implementation of environmental and watershed management plans;
- Rehabilitation of streambanks, drainage, reservoirs, and walkways
- Revegetation and stabilization of slopes and land (including through cash-for-work);
- Supporting tree nurseries;
- Training of elephant response teams;
- Promotion of renewable energy;
- Engagement of youth in environmental conservation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: RESILIENCE

The programme's third priority is to ensure that the resilience of vulnerable host communities and Rohingya refugees is sustained. As the Rohingya situation in Bangladesh has moved from an emergency situation to a protracted refugee operation, there is renewed focus to build the skills and capacity of Rohingya refugees. The SAFE+2 agencies work together to implement skills training, capacity building and production activities related to humanitarian and sector-based needs.

Goals:

- Optimal camp and host community relations through market linkage activities.
- Climate resilience of local farmers through the localized supply of agricultural goods with decreased waste associated with the transport of goods;
- Enhanced production and capacities aligned with humanitarian and sector-based needs.

Activities in Refugee Camps:

- Green skills development (e.g. community aquaculture, home gardening, re/upcycling waste into products);
- Environmentally sustainable center-based training activities (e.g., reusable mask and sanitary napkin production);
- Training and input distribution for home gardening and community aquaculture activities;
- Develop and implement food waste management strategy.

Activities in Host Communities:

- Promotion of environmentally and economically sustainable livelihoods across different value chains for off-farm and on-farm production;
- Quality improvement and value addition in production with enhanced marketability and environmental sustainability;
- Making markets more approachable for women;
- Establishing and strengthening the capacity of self-help and producer groups;
- Supporting marginal green business opportunities;
- Enabling cash, training and market linkages to self-help and producer groups, and farmer field schools;
- Attracting institutional buyers through a market system development approach;
- Market assessments and value chain analyses.