



@UNHCR/ Caroline Gluck

Shelter has been a critical need for over 730,000 refugees. At the beginning of the influx, new arrivals often stayed in the open or lived with other refugees and among local communities or formed new settlements. UNHCR responded to their needs for shelter by distributing Emergency Shelter kits, followed with other materials to assist refugees upgrade their shelters as well as tie-down kits in preparation for the monsoon season. Overcrowding and lack of space still remain a key challenge.

SHELTER/SITE/NFI OBJECTIVE

UNHCR has distributed kits to households to help re-strengthen their shelters, ahead of and during the monsoon season.

Over 88,000 families receive kits to help them tie down their bamboo-frame shelters. 43,109 families were supported with shelter repair/replacement materials to replace degraded parts of their shelter's structure

UNHCR shelter strategy aims to:

- 1 Develop a **master site plan** for refugee settlements in collaboration with relevant sector
- 2 Improve **shelter design** that meets the minimum standard for safe, dignified and appropriate living
- 3 Improve the **living environment** in refugee settlements for better protection of refugees and access to services and facilities

PROGRESS

Many of the settlement areas are prone to flooding and landslides due to their hilly locations in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR collaborated with IOM and WFP through an engineering platform called the Site Management Engineering Project (SMEP) to develop land and infrastructure across all refugee settlements, including preparing flat land in the large Kutupalong refugee settlement. UNHCR and its partners designed and built stronger and better-built shelters in the newly prepared land for over 1,300 refugee households prioritised for urgent relocation before and during the monsoon season in mid-2018. Additionally, UNHCR and partner agencies continue to construct facilities and improved infrastructure in the settlements. The Government of Bangladesh has approved a mid-term shelter strategy (MTS strategy), as assistance in the refugee settlements is shifting to medium-term planning. As part of the MTS strategy, UNHCR is advocating for the construction of 'transitional shelters'. UNHCR is also delivering on innovative shelter alternatives to address spatial constraints and congestion in the settlements. These shelters would need to be built with specific site planning, in which UNHCR is engaging the authorities. UNHCR and BRAC established new plants to treat bamboo which will be used for all future construction. Treated bamboo may last for 10-12 years by protecting it from fungi, insects and other biological and physical elements.

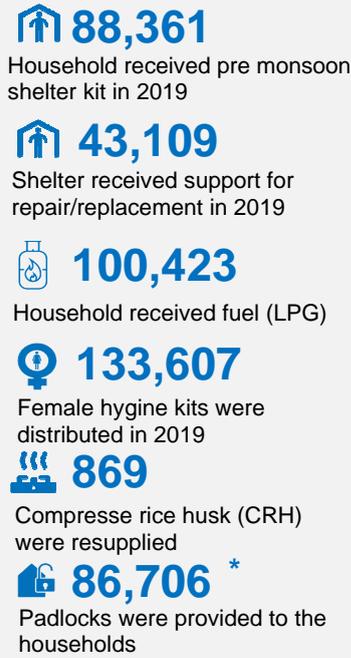
CHALLENGE

- Highly congested settlements and limited options for relocation to safer areas pose health and protection risks;
- Site management needs to be strengthened to ensure protection is fully integrated in its approach at all levels;
- The settlements and their infrastructure are extremely fragile and need more disaster-proofing, especially for cyclone preparedness.

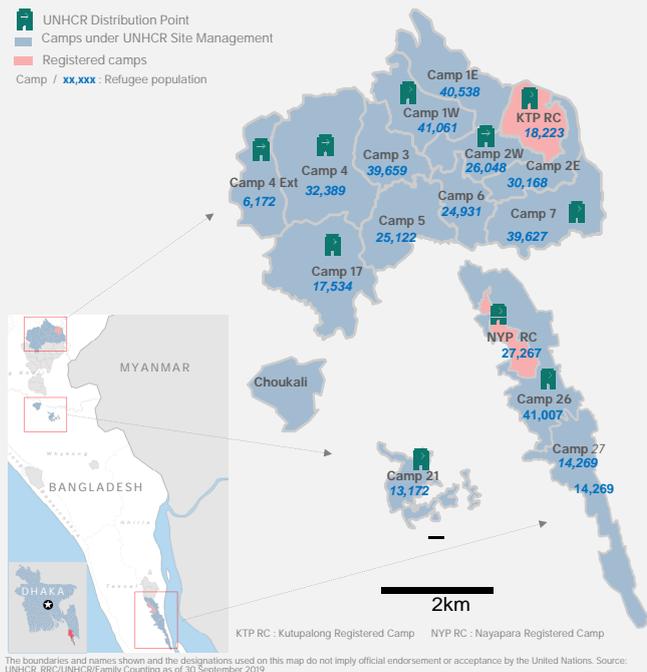
WAY FORWARD

UNHCR's Transitional Shelter incorporates disaster risk reduction elements in its basic design with a steel frame structure that can withstand high winds. It meets the minimum SPHERE standard for covered shelter space and therefore contributes to better safety, privacy, and dignity of life. UNHCR and others will continue to advocate for a sustainable mid-term shelter strategy, more land to decongest overcrowded settlements and relocate refugees from areas with natural hazards, as well as improve the areas already provided by the Government of Bangladesh. UNHCR and other actors are honing coordination and developing wider partnerships to improve shelters and living conditions.

KEY FIGURES



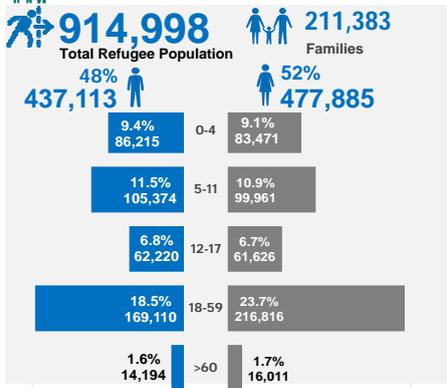
GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION & PARTNER



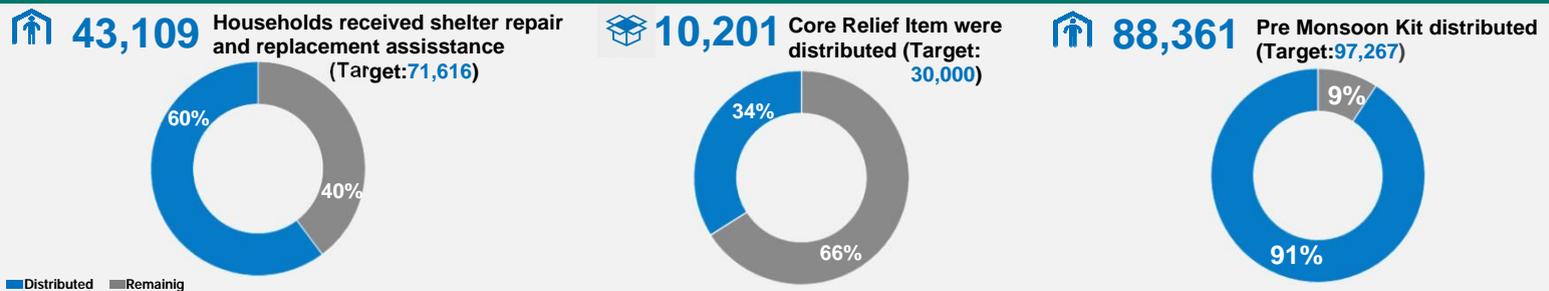
UNHCR FUNDING STATUS



POPULATION BREAKDOWN



DISTRIBUTION STATUS



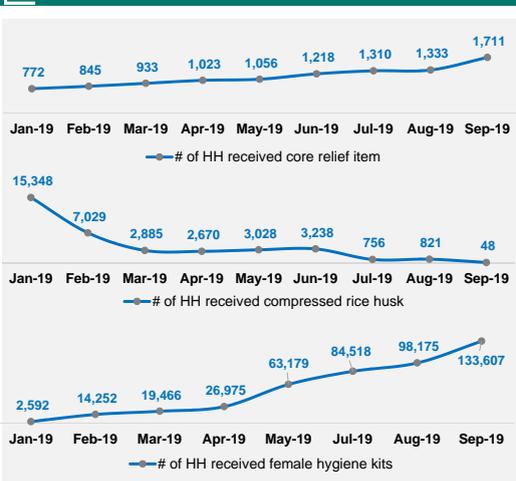
PROGRESS AGAINST 2019 TARGETS



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MONTH

- 24** kilometers of infrastructures constructed during this reporting month, including **6** km of steps, **12** km of retaining structures and **6** km of drainages
- 11,246** shelter repair and replacement assistance provided
- 580** shelter padlocks were distributed since January

ACHIEVEMENT TRENDS



TREND ANALYSIS

