UNHCR hosted a site visit of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and RRRC to review Mezzanine Shelter pilot project at Nayapara Registered Camp and Double Storey Steel Shelter at Camp 4 Extension. MoDMR granted permission for the construction of the Mezzanine Shelter design based on the pilot designs developed for the Nayapara & Kutupalong Registered Camps. The approval considered the population growth and multi generational dimension of resident registered camp’s families as well as the 100% additional area gained through the design, understanding that there would be minimal disruption during the construction, as the approach facilitated the replacement of Shelters to suit the original planned foot-print and orthogonal layout. In addition, MoDMR also granted permission for the Double Storey Steel Shelter for the Main Camp Refugees, contingent upon approval of re-planned site layouts per area to increase living space and help decongest parts of the settlements. In 2019, UNHCR launched a major effort to renew the materials used by refugees in their shelters. An assessment of just under 74,500 shelters was conducted, and almost 82,000 were allocated materials to make improvements to their shelters. A similar effort was planned this year as the monsoon approached, but the circumstances around COVID-19 limited UNHCR’s shelter response significantly, as part of the public health response to reduce movements into the camps and prevent the spread of the virus. Despite the challenges, UNHCR Shelter and its Partners have carefully managed to reach over 50,000 households were with Emergency Shelter Repair or Replacement Materials, with 21,000 of these during this reporting period of September and October.

UNHCR has also undertaken a blanket distribution of one new plastic sheet per household in all the camps that the agency manages along with its Shelter Implementing Partners. This ensured that families were able to fix and address roof leaks and improve their protection against the wet monsoon conditions, as well as increase the security and privacy of shelters in case of tears or other damage to the side walls. The distribution of these plastic sheets reached 90,426 households out of a target of 90,990 or 99.38% by early September.

**CHALLENGES**

- Due to the disruption caused to regular activities by COVID-19, there have been very limited opportunities to assess and identify shelters in immediate need of assistance, though any walk through the camp demonstrates that there are significant needs. The majority of Shelter assistance, since Covid-19 was declared, has been emergency in nature and despite the challenges more than 50,000 families were allocated shelter materials, following rapid technical assessment, enabling light repair to full replacement by families themselves. Further support with transporting of materials and labour for rebuilding was carefully provided to Extremely Vulnerable Individuals / Persons with Specific Needs by UNHCR Shelter Partners.
- The monsoon continues to have an impact on shelter and site development in the camps in Cox’s Bazar and further preparations are being made for the cyclone season that is just ahead. Given the high risks related to the two cyclone seasons and the monsoon season, UNHCR Shelter & Partners continue to ensure emergency preparedness for quick repair response after sudden incidents such as strong winds and heavy rains. This activity is being improved and streamlined in close collaboration with Shelter partners, Site management partners and CiCs.
- While respecting Covid-19 safety measures and maintaining social distancing recommendations, UNHCR Shelter Implementing Partners will continue the distribution of shelter kits to 30,000 households and due to precautions around more precise assessment and identification of needs, which would require significant staff resources being deployed to inspect shelters, a rapid physical assessment was undertaken by Shelter Partners technical teams cross checked by past records of households who had received shelter assistance more recently.

**WAY FORWARD**

- UNHCR Shelter will start the construction of mezzanine mid-term shelter in the two registered camps and develop re-planned site layouts for construction of double storey mid-term steel framed shelters in the main camps.
- UNHCR will continue to tackle shelters in the poorest condition, aiming to reach some 30% of the households before the end of the year to be self-built by refugee families, providing additional support on an as needs basis.
- Heavier infrastructure constructions such as roads, drains and community facilities for health, nutrition, and protection as well as warehousing & distribution points, remain a significant part of UNHCR’s Shelter and Site Planning team’s activities and the anticipated end of the Monsoon season will lead to a dry season, presenting an opportunity to rebuild these community facilities and site infrastructure affected by the rains.
**KEY FIGURES**

- **50,013** Shelters received support for repair/replacement
- **87,795** Household received pre-monsoon shelter tie down kits
- **741** Transitional shelters constructed
- **25.9** Kilometers of infrastructures constructed including roads and pathways, bridges and retaining structures

**GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION & PARTNER**

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations, Denmark, UNHCR, or any United Nations entity or programme.

**FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **$318.8 M** Total financial requirements
- **$65.4 M** Shelter/NFI financial requirements
- **$253.4 M** Other financial requirements

**POPULATION BREAKDOWN**

- **862,277** Total Refugees Population
- **48%** Families
- **52%** Individuals

**COVERAGE**

- **187,932** Families
- **445,364** Individuals

**THANK YOU**

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*Source: UNHCR and UNHCR Partners*