

KEY ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Support for Refugees

Agricultural support is a part of UNHCR's multi-year initiative supporting refugee self-reliance in the camps. Through innovative approaches like vertical gardening, refugees are able to use limited camp space to produce vegetables and sell surplus produce to support their families. Nearly 9,000 refugee households receive continued agricultural support to grow vegetables in their gardens. More than 80 percent of refugees involved in UNHCR's agricultural activities are women who previously did not participate due to cultural and social constraints.

Skills Development for Women

Some 907 refugee women especially youth are engaged in jute bag, female hygiene materials and crafts production. The productive engagement in the camps is creating self-reliance opportunities, portable skills and promotes Bangladeshi products. Additionally, diversified jute products help in reducing plastic and pollution in the camps as jute is biodegradable, non-toxic, eco-friendly and easily disposable. Jute bags are being produced for non-governmental organisations and partners working in the camps with the aim to reduce plastic and protect the environment. UNHCR

is further developing the skills of refugee women in sewing tailoring and the production of reusable sanitary napkins, underwear, and some clothes items. In parallel with skills development in the camps, around 380 women from the host community are being taught hand embroidery, block printing, screen printing, sewing and clothes production skills.



Rohingya refugee women gain skills and make a living through livelihoods opportunity in the camps. © UNHCR/Amos Halder

Agricultural support for host community

Over 3,500 host community households across five unions of Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts received training in vegetable gardening, poultry rearing and vermicompost production; followed by delivery of product assets to diversify their livelihoods options, scale up their current businesses and generate more sustainable incomes. The poorest households in the host community have been receiving support through UNHCR's multi-year livelihood projects since 2019 as a commitment to tackle the households' daily and ensure peaceful coexistence vulnerabilities.

Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme

The Graduation Programme has been supporting 2,000 of the poorest host community households across five unions of Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts since early 2020 by providing in livestock and agricultural assets such as seeds, fertilizer, saplings, as well as encouraging households to invest the income into savings and/or further business development. In 2022, UNHCR and partner linked Bangladeshi participants to markets, through scaling up their businesses and entrepreneurship capacities.

Joint Programme Skills Development

A joint Initiative by BRAC ILO and UNHCR with financial support from Global Affairs Canada resulted in a multi-year joint skills development project for refugees and host communities. The project targets refugees with limited basic skills, including literacy and numeracy skills, who have some level of knowledge and skill capacity within a certain job category which enables them to work in the future as low skilled or semi-skilled laborers. It also supports refugees who have achieved secondary level or higher learning opportunities. The project aims to encourage more refugee women towards training and education, especially in occupations generally considered "non-traditional" for women. In the Cox's Bazar camps, the project will provide technical skills to 8,000 refugee youth (ages 18-24), and on Bhasan Char the project aims to reach 11,460 refugees. In December, the project started accredited vocational training with 500 youth participants.

Peaceful Coexistence


Since 2019, UNHCR has been engaging with the refugee and host communities to increase awareness and enhance peaceful coexistence. Over 7,800 individuals have attended diverse learning, sports and music events, peaceful dialogues between both communities, and participated in capacity building of local community structures such as youth clubs and community leaders.

Bhasan Char


UNHCR and partners are working to reduce the economic vulnerability of refugees who are highly reliant on humanitarian assistance. Multiple factors continue to drive this vulnerability, including limited livelihood opportunities, depleted savings and asset stripping. Allowing refugees to engage in small-scale on-farm agricultural interventions will foster self-reliance, food security, dietary diversity, and access to fresh foods. UNHCR and partners are implementing climate-smart agriculture-based activities on the island such as homestead gardening, aquaculture and livestock rearing, to ensure sustainable livelihoods and food security for refugees. UNHCR will also focus on skills training on Climate Smart Agriculture technologies and materials. The training will be provided to all the targeted households at the beginning of the project, followed by learning the skills in food production and preservation trainings. Included will be as well life skill training on business development and disaster risk reduction and management tools.

KEY FIGURES COX'S BAZAR CAMPS*


133

 Advocacy initiative conducted


55,370

 Refugees receiving production kits or inputs for agriculture/livestock /fisheries activities


1,286

 Persons earning incentives/wages from partners and from community contracting projects


7,633

 Persons reached through community sensitization campaigns


379

 Female from host community received training on hand embroidery, block printing, screen printing, sewing and clothes production skills

9,000

 Refugee households received continued agricultural support to grow vegetables in their gardens


3,571

 Host community households received comprehensive livelihood support

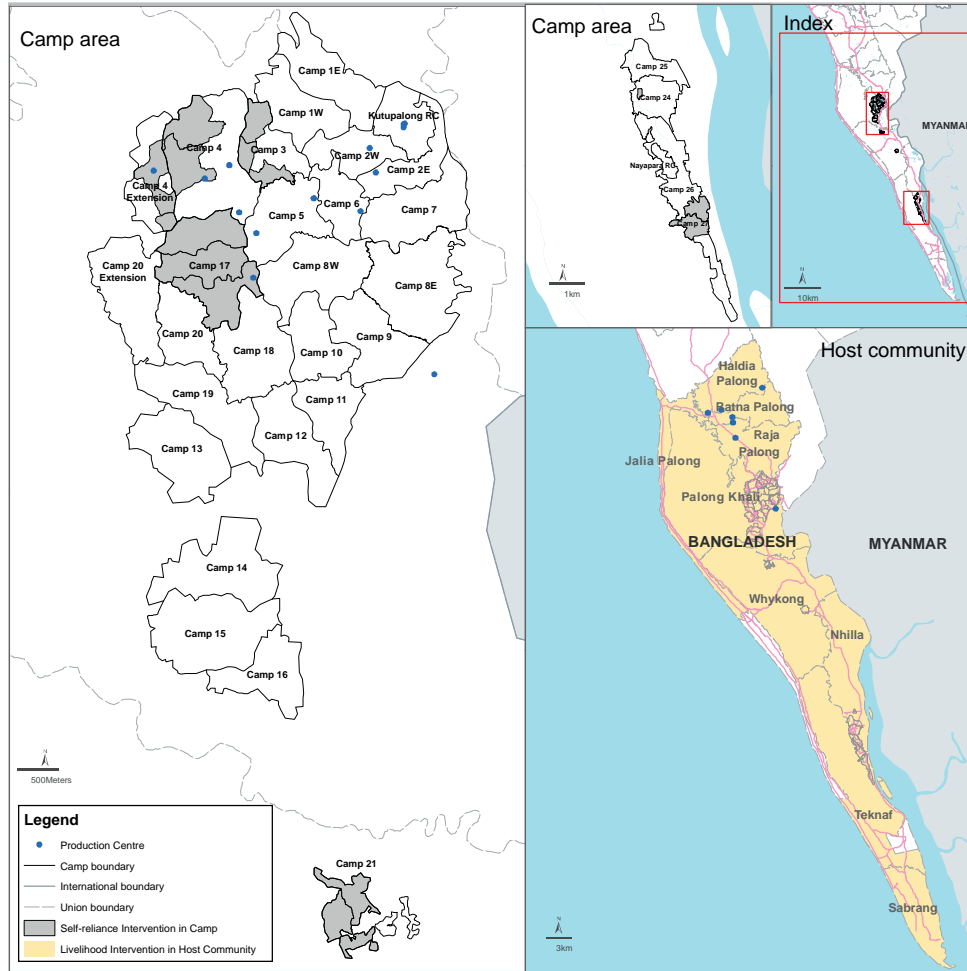
600,000

 Tote bags produced by female refugees delivered to UNHCR

907


 Refugee women especially youth are engaged in the craft production

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



KEY FIGURES BHASAN CHAR *

3,537

 Refugee households received (at least one seasonal) input supports for home gardening

3,237

 Refugees received training on agricultural practices

3,384

 Refugees receiving training on agricultural practices

*This information reflects data collected between January to December 2022