



Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being. As an Area Focal Agency for 14 Camps, UNHCR has been providing safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene promotion activities for the Person of Concern through Implementing and Operational Partners since the influx of 2017. Below achievements are through WASH PPA partners for 2023, BRAC, NGOF for Public Health, Oxfam and MoDMR/RRRC.

KEY ACTIVITIES



Water Supply



Test borehole drilling arrangement at camp-21 under Teknaf Ground Water Project

UNHCR and partners supply safe water to refugees in 14 camps through piped water networks and tubewells. Trained refugee volunteers conduct regular operations and maintenance of the system. To monitor water supply, real time remote monitoring system devices have been supplied at selected water networks in Ukhiya and Teknaf. Regular monitoring of water quality is also conducted at water point and household levels.

In Teknaf, the Teknaf Groundwater Project was developed to address seasonal water shortages and provide sustainable water supply. UNHCR partner Oxfam undertook the following activities, in collaboration with Dhaka University and Groundwater Relief:

- A second test borehole (with a recommended flow rate of 50m³/hr) was drilled in Gilatoli village, Teknaf, adjacent to Camp 21.
- Technical, financial, environmental feasibility and community acceptance assessments of the project were reviewed and finalized.
- Plans for combined pumping tests for the two test boreholes, to understand how they interact were finalized. The test is planned for May.



Sanitation



Inauguration of IFSTN covering Camp-1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, KRC

Sustainable sanitation includes effectively capturing human waste in a safe, accessible, and dignified setting, as well as collecting, transporting, treating, and safely disposing of that waste. UNHCR and its partners operate two large scale and centralized fecal sludge treatment plants covering the Ukhiya camps. A third treatment plant located in Teknaf is under construction (30% complete) and is expected to be operational later in 2023. An intermediate fecal sludge transfer network, consisting of 64 km of sludge transfer pipeline, was inaugurated in the first quarter of 2023, and is now functioning. Latrines, bathing cubicles, female hygiene centres and solid waste composting facilities also provide basic sanitation services for refugees in the camps. Trained refugee volunteers conduct regular maintenance and identify areas where new facilities are needed.



Hygiene



Children are playing Hygiene Ludo game.

Community engagement and hygiene promotion helps ensure continuity of access to services and facilities. Volunteers trained and equipped by UNHCR and partners conduct hygiene promotion through shelter visits, group sessions, mass awareness and clean-up campaigns. In 2023 Q1, 71 hygiene staff members of UNHCR partners BRAC and NGO Forum received training on hygiene promotion, total cleaning, and community engagement, and 70,895 bottles of antiseptic liquid were distributed to households in UNHCR-managed camps.

In 2023 Q1, 71 hygiene staff members of UNHCR partners BRAC and NGO Forum received training on hygiene promotion, total cleaning, and community engagement, and 70,895 bottles of antiseptic liquid were distributed to households in UNHCR-managed camps. Hygiene 295,302 Individuals



Solid Waste Management



Finished compost from solid waste.

Solid waste is segregated through 35 material recovery facilities operated by UNHCR and partners. Organic waste is composted and distributed to agricultural activities in the camps. In Q1, five tons of finished compost was distributed to agricultural activities under the livelihoods sector.

ACTED was onboarded as drain cleaning partner, responsible for regular cleaning of solid waste dumped into the compost plants and segregated for material recovery and compost in all camps.

Cleaning campaigns here held in camp and host community areas, including a two-day cleaning campaign in Teknaf to prevent pollution of local salt cultivation land, and a two-day cleaning campaign in the Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Rehabilitation (SuLMER) project area between Camps 1W and 2W, with support from BRAC, IUCN, Greenhill and ACTED.

Bhasan Char

UNHCR closely coordinates with local authorities and humanitarian partners to provide adequate, safe, and dignified WASH services on the island of Bhasan Char, where approximately 30,000 refugees have been relocated. In support of the Government-led response, UNHCR works to ensure basic lifesaving services for refugees and protect public health and the environment. As of April 2022, UNICEF leads the WASH sector on Bhasan Char in coordination with UNHCR and other actors.

Key Activities

UNHCR and partners' WASH activities on Bhasan Char include:

- Implementing operational and maintenance activities (e.g., repairing tube-wells, latrines, and bathing cubicles);
- monitoring water supply quality and quantity.
- develop hygiene promotion activities (through distribution of hygiene kits);
- disseminating hygiene promotion messages to ensure access to safe water supply (for drinking, dishes, and washing) and sanitation services.
- managing solid waste to preserve the environment.

Effective solid waste management is critical to sustaining safe and dignified life on the island. UNHCR and partners have developed a comprehensive plan, including installation of an incineration. A comprehensive study of the solid waste management scenario began to explore the way forward on sanitary landfilling, composting, and managing recyclable materials.

