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Shelter was a critical need for over 725,000 refugees from Myanmar crossing into Bangladesh since August 2017. The first new arrivals either stayed in the open, lived with other refugees and among local communities or formed new settlements. Overcrowding and lack of space were and still remain a key challenge. UNHCR distributed Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) until October 2017, which were improved with Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs) and Tie-Down Kits (TDKs) at the onset of the monsoon season. A more durable Mid-Term Shelter (MTS) solution is in the pipeline as the approach to refugee settlements is shifting to medium term planning.

Progress

UNHCR and partners have provided shelter support to the refugees through the first year of their displacement. Over 90,000 households have been provided with USKs and TDKs since August 2017 to build and reinforce their shelters, helping them withstand the monsoon rains. Due to the urgency to relocate refugees prior to monsoon rains, transitional shelters were installed, mainly in Camp 4 Extension – a newly prepared site for relocation in the northwest of Kutupalong refugee settlement.

90,524

USKs distributed since 2017

80,737

TDKs distributed since 2017

1,395

Transitional Shelters constructed in Camp 4 Extension

56,368

families with padlocks to secure their shelters

Way Forward

An MTS solution, which incorporates disaster risk reduction elements in its basic design, provides for stronger shelters that meet the minimum SPHERE standard for shelter space requirements, contributing to a refugee's safety, privacy and dignity. These structures will stand on solid concrete foundations that add strength and provide better wind resistance. Use of treated bamboo to add longevity is also being considered. UNHCR and others continue to advocate for more land to decongest overcrowded settlements and relocate refugees from landslide-prone areas, as well as prepare the land already provided by the Government of Bangladesh.

Challenges going forward

-  Lack of space to decongest settlements increases health and protection risks
-  A range of shelter actors are working across settlements. Greater harmonisation required.
-  Shelters located on hilltops are more exposed to the risks of high winds

90,000+ families will receive Upgrade Shelter Kit (USK) and Tie-Down Kit (TDK) in 2018

7,000+ refugees living in high landslide risk areas will be relocated to safer locations in 2018

UNHCR shelter strategy uses multi-level approaches to:

- 1** Improve the designs of current shelters
- 2** Support each household with USK, enabling families to strengthen their makeshift shelters
- 3** Support the relocation of refugees living in landslide-prone areas

Partners

UNHCR's shelter partners are BRAC, Action Contre La Faim, Danish Refugee Council, Adventist Development and Relief Agency and Caritas International.

Working in partnership

UNHCR co-chairs a Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Bangladesh with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a Protection Working Group in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnership with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox's Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 23 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS** Swiss Intercooperation | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation) |

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 1,000 **volunteers from the refugee community** who are **often the first responders on the ground**. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with **safety unit volunteers** (SUVs) who support the emergency response, **community outreach volunteers** who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, **community health workers** who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

Donor Support

The response of the Government and people of Bangladesh has been very generous. More support is currently needed from the international community to assist the ongoing humanitarian response in Bangladesh for refugees and host communities. Continued political efforts to work for a solution to the situation remain vital. UNHCR is appealing for USD 238.8m (part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018) in order to support Bangladesh's humanitarian response to refugees.

Donor country contributions to UNHCR Bangladesh (2017/2018)



UNHCR financial needs for 2018

| | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|
| | Protection | 26.7 m |
| | Basic relief items | 5.6 m |
| | Water, sanitation & hygiene | 40.8 m |
| | Shelter/infrastructure | 25.0 m |
| | Energy and environment | 13.4 m |
| | Education | 10.0 m |
| | Community mobilization | 18.1 m |
| | Health and nutrition | 34.5 m |
| | Logistics | 11.0 m |
| | Camp management | 35.3 m |
| | Support costs | 18.4 m |
| TOTAL | | 238.8 m |

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