

30 November 2019



## PROGRESS

UNHCR and partners developed WASH facilities over 2017 - 2019 while dealing with a very challenging topography and the initial acute emergency. Improvements made over 2019 included upgraded latrines with larger volume pits to last longer; a large-capacity fecal waste treatment plant (in partnership with Oxfam) to serve 150,000 people; and a move towards supplying safer water supply through chlorinated water networks to support both refugees and the host community. 55 networks are now completed with others under construction. UNHCR is continuing to closely monitor groundwater resources to ensure their sustainable and safe use. Water purification tablets and containers for collection and storage of water treatment plants are running from surface water sources. Several numbers of temporary dams re-construction are ongoing to secure water for next dry season.

In 2019, within the host community UNHCR constructed and repaired drainage systems and built latrines for schools, as well as a waste water treatment plant as part of its Quick Impact Projects.

Hygiene promotion activities remain critical need and are being boosted to avert public health incidents. WASH staff are developing new modalities to deliver unified public health messages with health teams working in the settlements. This combined programme aims to contribute to prevention measures to reduce risks of dengue fever and AWD outbreaks.

WASH is working closely with UNHCR protection teams to deliver hygiene kits, including menstrual hygiene kits; These kits continue to be distributed to girls and women across the camps as part of UNHCR support to refugees.

## CHALLENGES

Need for long-term planning for WASH interventions, requiring commitments for multi-year funding, greater involvement of development actors, and agreement of authorities on plans as well as provision of land;

Sanitation management challenges for Kutupalong settlement due to large population size, congestion, topography, and unavailability of land;

• Lack of easily reachable groundwater in Teknaf area and brackish quality of water in river requires alternative approaches, including introduction of catchment reservoirs.

## 🔶 WAY FORWARD

To address acute water needs in Teknaf, an upgrade of surface and groundwater resources serving both refugees and host communities is planned with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE).

A site was identified and permission granted to construct a large new water reservoir at Domdomia in Camp 27.

The lack of sanitation treatment and de-sludging capacity poses a significant public health risk in all camps. A committee of RRRC, UN agencies (including UNHCR), DPHE and others was formed to identify appropriate land for faecal sludge management, with a number of sites now identified and proposed to the local government. One plant planned near Camp 2E will be built in 2020 by MSF with UNHCRs assistance and support. Other few potential sites have been identified in the southern part of Kutupalong camps refugee settlement and also in Teknaf area.

**ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE - BANGLADESH** 

## DASHBOARD - WASH 30 November 2019



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