



The arrival of refugees to Cox's Bazar from Myanmar put a large strain on the local environment. During the initial phase of the emergency, hundreds of thousands of refugees struggled to build emergency shelters with the materials they could find, and used firewood from forest areas for cooking. This led to forest areas being cleared and trees cut extensively. UNHCR has been working with the authorities and other humanitarian agencies in Cox's Bazar on sustainable and safe solutions for refugees helping to mitigate the impact on the environment and protect and restore it with the help of refugees.

ENERGY & ENV. OBJECTIVES

116,217 refugee & host community households were reached with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and cooking kits provide cheaper, safer, and a more efficient and cleaner source of energy

UNHCR is working to create a better environment by:

- 1 **Reducing the environmental impact** of hosting refugees through environmental protection efforts, restoration & awareness among refugees
- 2 **Increasing the use of safe and alternative energy sources** in both refugee and host communities
- 3 **Improving protection and wellbeing** in refugee settlements through solar street lights installations and other environment-friendly energy initiatives

PROGRESS

The LPG programme of UNHCR is on-going and proving to be key for the protection of refugees. 99% of the refugees have been cooking with LPG since April 2019. The on-going monitoring and evaluation has allowed to better tailor the distribution as per refugee's needs, and to make sure that refugees are using LPG cookstove in a same manner. A biomass survey is being realized together with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and it will allow to quantify the positive impact of the LPG programme in terms of deforestation and preservation of ecosystem services. The distributions of host community families have been initiated based on a vulnerability survey which already have covered 26,000 host community families. About 10,000 LPG systems have already been distributed out of targeted 40,000 for host community along with 1 year continuous refill. This on-going distribution will contribute to strengthen the resilience of the inhabitants of the Cox's Bazar. A pilot project on pressure cooker is being rolled out and expected to generate a 30% fuel efficiency to its users. A scale-up is planned upon the results of the pilot project. As per the High Commissioner's initiative, the Solar+ programme has started and consist of the implementation of minigrids in the refugee camps. The construction of a minigrid that will power, amongst others, the clinic and market stalls is about to start.

Planting using a composition (27 species) of tree saplings, grass, legumes and shrubs have been completed in 95 ha of degraded land within the 16 camps. Planting programme of UNHCR and partners aim at controlling soil erosion, riparian protection, improving soil health and promotion of shade and nutrition. Refugees are engaged to protect the saplings following an agro-forestry model. 160 refugee households have been engaged and supported with inputs and relevant training on environment friendly agricultural techniques that ensures minimum disturbance to soil, less water use by the crops and bio-pesticide control mechanisms.

Watershed management options, enhancing water carrying capacity, increased groundwater recharge, bank protection with plant, biological waste water treatment are being piloted in one important stretch of Madurchhara watershed aiming to be replicated and scaled up in whole basin. Better watershed management will ensure livelihoods security of host communities living in the downstream and improve habitat condition for the refugees as well as contribute to improve habitat for the biodiversity that were affected.

606 Elephant Response Team volunteers from host and refugee communities are engaged, who have been monitoring the elephant movement around the camp from 100 watch towers and managing the contact by engaging with community. Also, a program has been launched to tackle human snake contacts. Aiming sustainability and improving the capacity of the environment programme, 176,111 individuals have been provided with environmental education.

A comprehensive assessment to measure the effectiveness of LPG programme in controlling deforestation is ongoing.

CHALLENGE

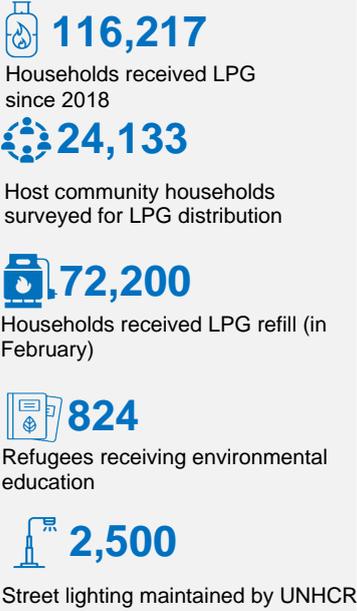
- Maintenance of solar street lights, including recycling of e-waste. As some type of batteries, such as lithium ion cannot be recycled in Bangladesh;
- Lack of space in the camps. Numerous projects are hampered due to not being able to find space (for saplings, for control rooms, etc.);
- Further conservation measures needed to address the situation of wild Asian elephants as the refugee settlements are on a vital migration corridor they once used.

WAY FORWARD

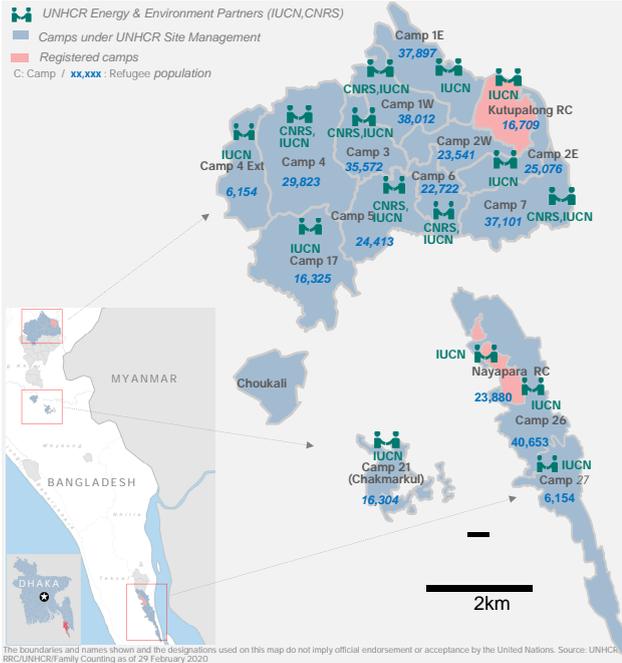
UNHCR is looking at ways to make the LPG programme more sustainable. The pressure cooker may be a solution and a detailed monitoring and evaluation will allow to validate this hypothesis. Solar street lights are expensive and not durable; UNHCR is aiming at gradually phasing in minigrids and phasing out solar street lights. Refugees are engaged for the basic maintenance and a scheme of "Energy Ambassador" shall be created.

A comprehensive environment restoration plan requires understanding and knowledge of the basin characteristics, degradation level and causes. Stream restoration plan for two other major stream networks will be implemented soon. Development of an environment sensitive camp management protocol is in progress aiming to mainstream environment in all sectors and consider impact on environment in all aspects of activities in compliance with Bangladesh's environmental laws and regulations.

KEY FIGURES



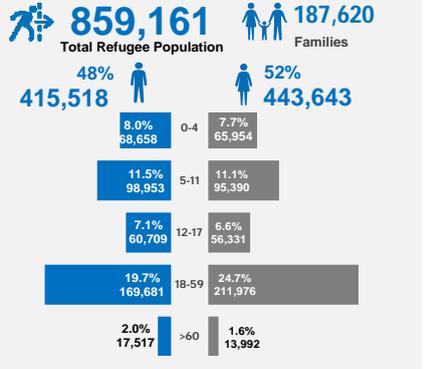
GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION & PARTNER



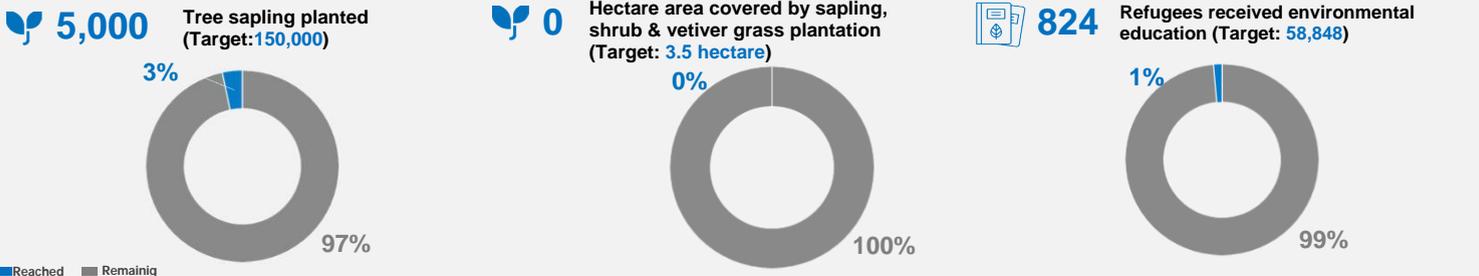
UNHCR FUNDING STATUS



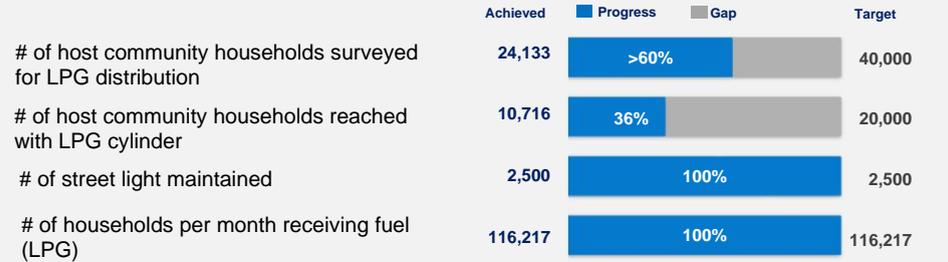
POPULATION BREAKDOWN



ACTIVITY STATUS



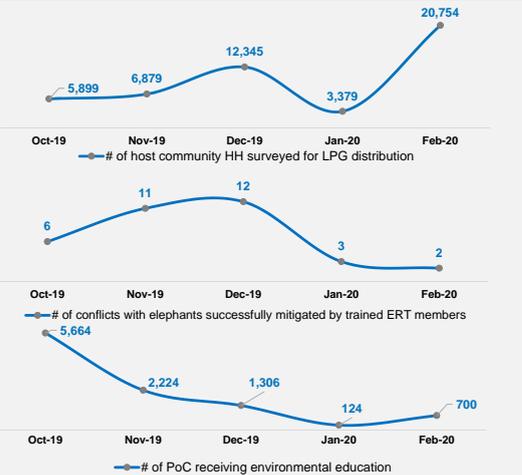
PROGRESS AGAINST 2019 TARGETS



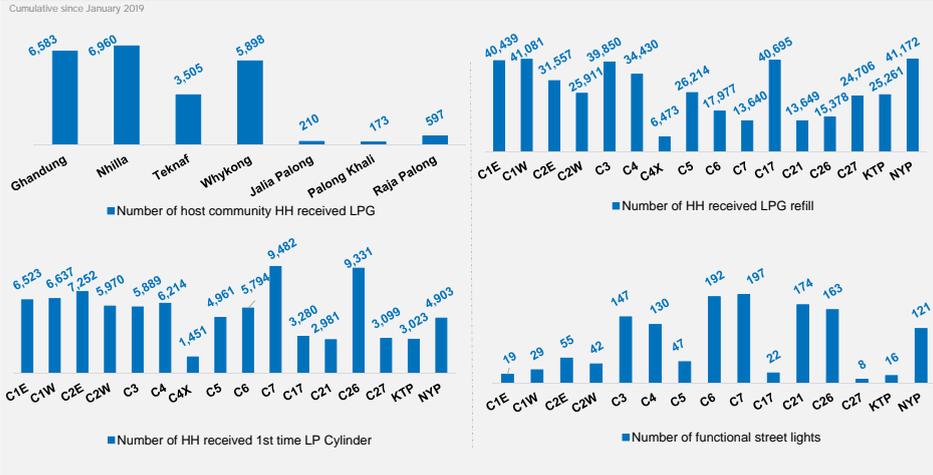
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE (JAN & FEB)

- 4,200 new households have received LPG cylinder while 72,00 households received refills other families in this reporting month.
- 824 refugees participated in environmental education opportunities in September

ACHIEVEMENT TRENDS



TREND ANALYSIS



THANK YOU

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