

### ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE - BANGLADESH

### **FACTSHEET – ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

31 October 2020



## PENERGY & ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

- 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
- Improving protection and wellbeing in refugee settlements through solar street lights installations and other environment-friendly energy initiatives

# PROGRESS (SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER)

The LPG programme is on-going and Rohingya refugees are still receiving LPG to cover 100% of their cooking energy needs. During the three winter months, the refill frequencies will be shortened in order to provide 20% more LPG. This calculated to compensate for the higher consumption during the cold months, as refugees are preparing a great number of hot beverages. The scale-up in host-community areas is on-going, though it was paused during the peak of the covid-19 pandemic. About 15 thousand host community families have now received a LPG cooking set and continuous refills. The target of 40 thousand host community families reached will be met beginning of 2021.

The pre-pilot project on pressure cooker has also been resumed. 400 families are now cooking with a pressure cooker and are monitored daily. The initial findings has highlighted a potential 30-50% fuel efficiency. This is highly promising considering the high cost of the LPG programme. The construction of the EDF1 mini grid in camp 4x is on-going and will be finished beginning of 2021. This mini grid is part of the Solar+ programme, an initiative of the High Commissioner.

Planting using a composition (34 species) of tree saplings, grass, legumes and shrubs have been completed in 142.5 ha of degraded land within the 30 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. Monitoring to inform soil quality has been improved is ongoing in 8 camps and of several land uses following a rigorous methodology in partnership with partners, including academia. Wildlife survey is also ongoing in 7 camps and in host community to know if the habitat restoration work is contributing and favorable conditions are met for the wildlife to recolonize the area.

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 improved habitat for the biodiversity that were affected.

624 Elephant Response Team volunteers from host and refugee communities are engaged, who have been monitoring the elephant movement around the camp from 99 watch towers and managing the contact by engaging with community. Also, the human snake contact programme is highly active this time of year. Aiming sustainability and improving the capacity of the environment programme, 183,306 individuals have been provided with environmental education.

# ① CHALLENGES

- > 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

Community lighting is an important aspect of our intervention. The last assessment was done in 2018, and is now being updated. The updated street light maps that will be produced beginning of 2021 will show the status of each streetlights. It will then possible to action a maintenance and recycling plan. A pressure cooker pilot project will be developed based on the findings of the pre-pilot project, and include 4000-6000 families. The scale-up of the pressure cooker project will hopefully follow from May 2021.

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 almost complete 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.

# UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

# KEY FIGURES (cumulative since January 2020)



Households receiving LPG

support by UNHCR 31,093

Host community households surveyed for LPG distribution

79,944

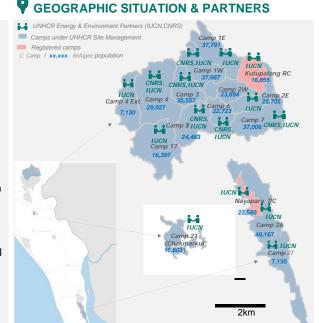
Households received LPG refill (in October)

7,195

Refugees receiving environmental education

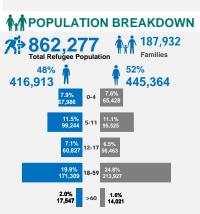
**1** 2,500

Street lighting maintained by UNHCR



# **5** FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS





# YACTIVITY STATUS

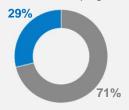
**1237,012** Tree sapling planted (Target:150,000)



92 Hectare area covered by sapling, shrub & vetiver grass plantation (Target: 47.5 hectare)



7,195 Refugees received environmental education (Target: 25,000)

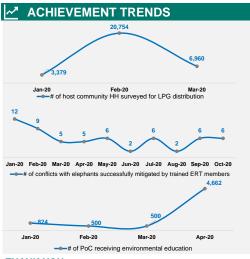


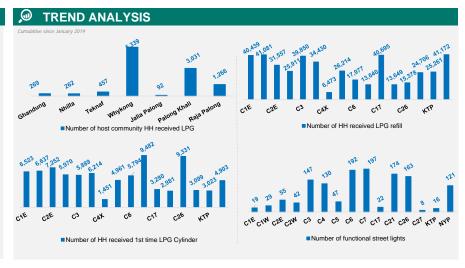
Reached Remainig

#### **PROGRESS AGAINST 2020 TARGETS** Progress ■ Gap Target Achieved # of host community households 31,093 40,000 78% surveyed for LPG distribution # of host community households 11,959 30% 40,000 reached with LPG cylinder # of street light maintained 2.500 100% 2,500 # of refugee households receiving LPG support by UNHCR (1st time full set + Refill) 100% 91,371

### ACHIEVEMENTS (SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER)

- 106 refugee households received 1st time LPG cylinder while LPG reflls were distributed to 71,069 refugee households.
- 8,875 host community households have received LPG refill.
- 6 conflicts with elephants successfully mitigated by trained Elephant Response Team.





#### **THANK YOU**

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