

KEY ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Support for Refugees

Agricultural support is a part of UNHCR's multi-year initiative supporting refugee self-reliance in the camps. Through adoption of the innovative approaches of vertical gardening, refugees are able to use limited camp space to produce vegetables and sell surplus produce to support their families. Nearly 9,000 refugee households received continued agricultural support to grow vegetables in their gardens. More than 80 percent of refugees involved in UNHCR's agricultural activities are women who previously did not participate due to cultural and social constraints.

Skills Development for Women

Some 840 refugee women especially youth are engaged in jute bag production. The jute bag production in the camps is creating self-reliance opportunities, portable skills and promotes Bangladeshi products. Additionally diversified jute products help in reducing plastic and pollution in the camps as jute is biodegradable, non-toxic, eco-friendly and easily disposable. Jute bags are being produced for non-governmental organisations and partners working in the

camps with the aim to reduce plastic and protect the environment. UNHCR is further developing skills of refugee women in sewing tailoring and production of reusable sanitary napkins, underwear, and some clothes. In parallel with skills development in the camps, around 330 women from the host community are being taught hand embroidery, block printing, screen printing, sewing and clothes production skills.



A refugee woman getting vegetable from her vertical garden.
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Agricultural support for host community

Over 3,500 host community households across five unions of Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts received training in vegetable gardening, poultry rearing and vermicompost production (processing and sale), followed by delivery of product assets to diversify their livelihoods options, scale up their current businesses and generate more sustainable income. The poorest households in the host community have been receiving support through UNHCR's multi-year livelihood projects since 2019 as a commitment to ensure peaceful coexistence and tackle the households' daily vulnerabilities.

Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme

The Graduation Programme has been supporting 2,000 of the poorest host community households across five unions of Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts since early 2020 by providing assets support in livestock and agricultural such as seeds, fertilizer, saplings, as well as encouraging households to invest the income into savings and/or further business development. In 2022, UNHCR and partners are linking Bangladeshi participants to markets, through scaling up their businesses and entrepreneurship capacities.

Joint Programme Skills Development

A joint initiative by BRAC ILO and UNHCR with financial support from Global Affairs Canada resulted in multi-year joint skills development project for refugees and host communities. The project targets refugees with limited basic skills, including but not limited to literacy and numeracy skills, refugees who have some level of knowledge and skill capacity within a certain job category which enables them to work in the future as low skilled or semi-skilled laborers, and refugees who have achieved secondary level or higher learning opportunities. The project aims to encourage more refugee women towards training and education, especially in occupations generally considered "non-traditional" for women. In the Cox's Bazar camps, the project provides technical skills to 8,000 refugee youth (ages 18-24), and in Bhasan Char the project aims to reach 11,460 refugees.

Peaceful Coexistence

Since 2019, UNHCR has been engaging with the refugee and host community to increase awareness and enhance peaceful coexistence. Over 2,200 individuals have attended diverse learning, sports and music events, peaceful dialogues between both communities, and participated in capacity building of local community structures such as youth clubs and community leaders.

Bhasan Char

UNHCR and partners are working to reduce the economic vulnerability of refugees on Bhasan Char who are highly reliant on humanitarian assistance. Multiple factors continue to drive this vulnerability, including limited livelihood opportunities, restrictions on movement to search for self-reliance opportunities, depleted savings and asset stripping. Allowing refugees to engage in small-scale on-farm agricultural interventions will foster self-reliance, food security, dietary diversity, and access to fresh foods. UNHCR and partners are implementing climate-smart agriculture-based activities on the island such as homestead gardening, aquaculture and livestock rearing, to ensure sustainable livelihoods and food security for refugees. UNHCR as well will focus on skills training on Climate Smart Agriculture technologies and materials. The training will be provided to all the targeted households (one from each household) at the beginning of the project followed as well by learning the skills in food production and preservation trainings. Included will be as well life skill training on business development and disaster risk reduction and management tools.

KEY FIGURES COX'S BAZAR CAMPS

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

44



Advocacy initiative conducted

32,189



Persons receiving production kits or inputs for agriculture/livestock/fisheries activities

892



Persons earning incentives/wages from partners and from community contracting projects

2,831



Persons reached through community sensitization campaigns

330



Female from host community received training on hand embroidery, block printing, screen printing, sewing and clothes production skills

9,000



Refugee households received continued agricultural support to grow vegetables in their gardens

3,545



Host community households received comprehensive livelihood support

580,905

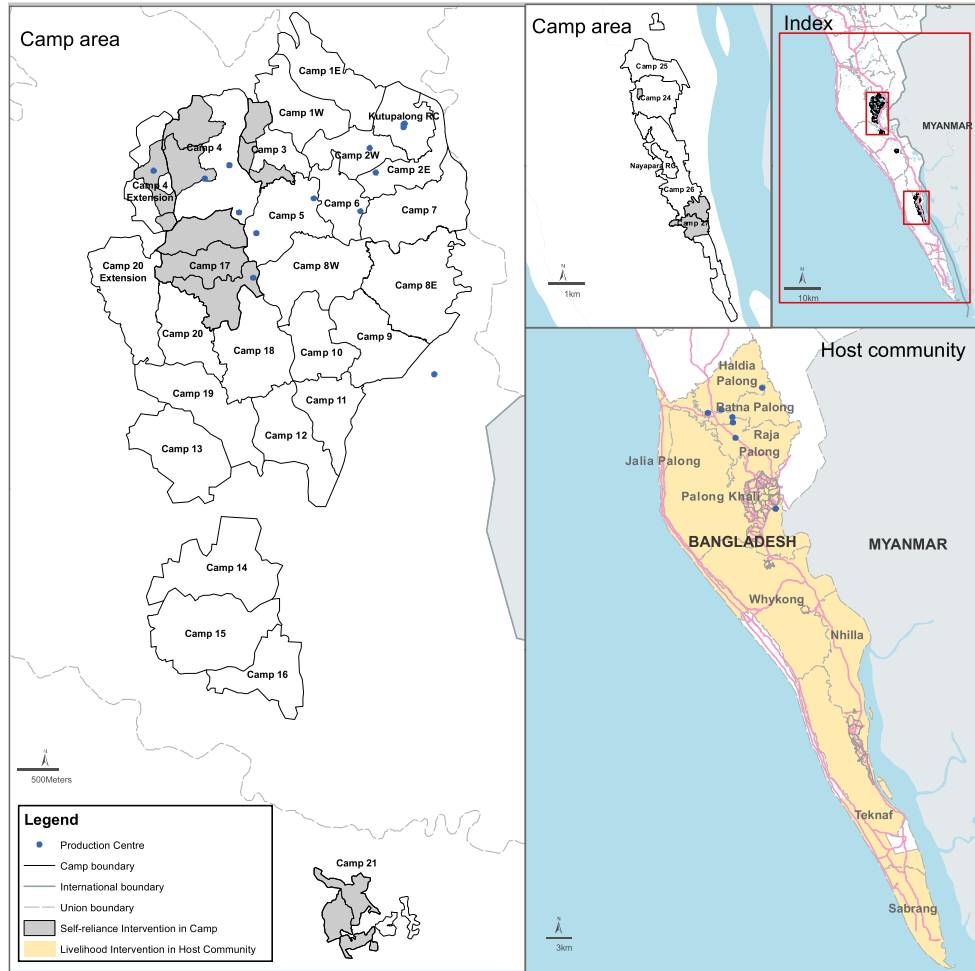


Tote bags produced by female refugees delivered to UNHCR

840



Refugee women especially youth are engaged in the jute bag production



KEY FIGURES BHASAN CHAR

3,130



Refugee households received (at least one seasonal) input supports for home gardening

3,237



Refugees received training on agricultural practices

11,460



Refugees receiving training on technical skills