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## SUPPORT TO BANGLADESH HOST COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE JOINT RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

### RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

#### **FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**

**20,250** Bangladeshi families receiving livelihood support in Ukha and Teknaf; Cash-for-work activities for **26,038** people; **6,230** receiving support (cash) for Food Security & Nutrition, School Feeding; **144,022** students receiving fortified biscuits daily; **2,150** households received agricultural inputs, 24 groups of 500 farmers provided with power tillers, water pumps, efficiency sprayers. **25,000** people targeted for micro-gardening and food safety kits with **4,300** reached. **2,150** received agriculture technical training. **Training of Trainers** for the Department of Agriculture in climate sensitive technologies and high value crops.

The Food Security Sector aims at supporting the **livelihoods of the most affected host communities** by creating job opportunities, income generation activities, restoring productive assets, reinforcing **agriculture production** (crop production, livestock, fisheries) with a special focus on **marginalized farmers**, large-size families, **women** from the poorest households, and in general the communities most affected by the Rohingya influx in Ukha and Teknaf.

14 organizations. Government partners: Department of Agricultural Extension, Forestry and Environment.

#### **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

Comprehensive **Water Resource Potential Assessment** of Ukha and Teknaf ongoing; Central **Water Quality Testing Laboratory** being established for Cox's Bazar district. **2,700** Household latrines installed, Water filter (1,000) and Hygiene Kits distribution (1,050 HH); Water and sanitation support in **7** schools; **50 water points** installed or repaired, provision of a contingency water supply in Teknaf. Multiple **sludge treatment management units** being constructed for Ukha and Teknaf.

**Top Priorities:** water resource mapping, multiple harmonized waste management system (solid waste and fecal sludge).

7 organizations. Government partner: Department Public Health Engineering

#### **PROTECTION**

**50** social workers trained in child protection; **26,321** children received psychosocial support through 30 child friendly spaces; **2,062** women, 651 girls benefited from GBV response and prevention services; **3 female help desks** established in local police stations; **Over 80 adolescent clubs** operational; multi-media campaign on ending child marriage. **33** popular theatre shows across Teknaf and Ukha with approximately **10,660** attendees spread messages of tolerance, resilience and social cohesion.

The JRP strategy includes quick impact projects in vicinity of settlements primarily in mediation/conflict resolution with communities and local government; support for government institutions including police; expansion of psychosocial support and case management for affected children; expansion of Gender Based Violence (GBV) case management, services and programming targeting women and girls.

**Child Protection Sub-Sector** — 6 organizations target 54,000 for service provision in Bangladeshi communities. Working through social mobilization, community engagement and entertainment education on child health and protection concerns such as child marriage, child labour, corporal punishment and birth registration, at least 71 adults were trained in child protection and 820 adults were reached through awareness in 30 community-based sessions in host communities.

**Gender Based Violence Sub Sector** — At least 2,713 of the 139,057 individuals accessing GBV response and prevention services since March 2017 are Bangladeshi nationals. 10 partner organizations conduct service provision in Bangladeshi communities including those hosting refugees for GBV response and prevention.

Government partners: Department of Social Services, Police and RRRRC.

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## EDUCATION

All **137** primary schools in Teknaf and Ukhia are targeted for grants to improve infrastructure and supplies; **30,400** learners benefiting from support; **3,697** girls and boys received pre-primary and primary education; 6 host community schools were renovated, including boundary walls, additional classrooms and sanitation facilities, 6 schools benefited from new or renovated computer centres and libraries. School adolescent girls in 15 locations involved in **distance learning** via smartphones.

The Education Sector working closely with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and the Directorate of Primary Education (DPEO) to support host community education services through vocational and teacher training, distribution of teaching and learning supplies, upgrade of classrooms and WASH facilities. It is estimated that until March 2020, 30,400 school students in Cox's Bazar host communities will receive education supplies and benefit from improved libraries, reading promotion campaigns and co-curricular activities, such as sports.

Education projects that were launched in the previous years will also be sustained as a part of the JRP.

## HEALTH

Ongoing **capacity support** to Cox's Bazar district hospital, Teknaf and Ukhia health complexes; **Laboratory and diagnostic services** being improved at Medical College in Cox's Bazar; **8 tons** of medicines provided to the Civil Surgeon Office and Sadar Hospital Working with government to strengthen surveillance of infectious diseases to respond to outbreaks and disease.

The health sector is committed to health system strengthening through support to Government facilities. Establishment of new field hospitals and inpatient facilities within the camps has also alleviated the burden on government facilities. The sector is working with the MoHFP and IEDCR in strengthening surveillance of infectious diseases and capacity to respond to outbreaks and disease threats in the host community. All reported Diphtheria cases in the host community were thoroughly investigated.

The health sector also conducted water quality testing and infection prevention control at all health facilities in and around the camps, including government facilities. Recommendations were provided to facilities with contaminated water sources.

107 organizations. Government partners: Civil Surgeon, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, DGHS coordination cell.

## NUTRITION

**52** Outpatient therapeutic care centers being strengthened to treat and prevent acute malnutrition; **20,482** children screened and 52 treated for acute malnutrition; **623** pregnant and lactating women received micronutrient supplements; **7,123** women benefited from child feeding counselling;

The Objectives of the nutrition sector, which is co-led by Government under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), is to prevent malnutrition related mortality and morbidity in the host community working with government counterparts to provide services for treatment of acute malnutrition in government health facilities. These include hospitals and clinics in coordination with the Civil Surgeon Office.

7 organizations.

## ENVIRONMENT

**9** grass nurseries established for slope stabilization; **23,000** households targeted for liquid petroleum gas cooking fuels distribution; **Environmental Impact Assessment** of Rohingya influx completed; **Market and supply chain research** for major agricultural commodities conducted; **Elephant habitat mapping** and awareness program implemented;

**Strategic approach:** Reforestation and planting of fast growing trees and seedling production; **Environment and eco-system rehabilitation and wildlife habitat restoration** through outreach and education, conservation and biodiversity protection, and strengthening agro-forestry and collaborative forest management farming systems. **Provision of alternative cooking technology** as part of the RRRC Clean Energy Program entails expansion of other cooking fuel alternatives including improved cookstoves, biomass briquettes and biogas to curb deforestation from firewood collection. **Longer-Term Environmental Planning** for restoring the degraded lands will include watershed management & water resource mapping. **Establishment of nurseries** for specific trees and grasses will be established for increasing the supply chain of planting materials for soil stabilization and reforestation. Nurseries could generate an important source of revenue for host communities in the short term by providing seedlings for reforestation projects and in the long term by introducing high-value trees like fruit.

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## DRR/SITE MANAGEMENT

**Mitigation activities:** 40 kms roads rehabilitated in Ukhia and Teknaf; 20 public shelters improved; 10 bamboo foot-bridges and 6 footpaths installed; 10 km of Kutapalong- Balukhali canal dredged.

**Institutional Capacity support for District and Local Government** — human resources being provided to DC office along with GIS and Information management support. Technical and human resources support have been provided to Ukhia and Teknaf UNOs. Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) have been supported in Bahachor, Teknaf Sadar, Hnilla and Sabrang Unions, along with establishment of early warning system in 4 schools, 18 wards (WDMCs), and 2 UDMCs for Bahachora and Teknaf Sador. A functionality and capacity assessment of UDMCs in Ukhia has been undertaken. Retrained 135 existing Gov't Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) volunteers from Ukhia. Additional 240 CPP volunteers or 16 CPP units (16 units x 15 volunteers each) for Ukhia. Training of new 240 CPP volunteers or 16 CPP units for Ukhia covering the unions of Hadia Palang (7 units), Ratna Palang (5), Jalia Palang (1), Raja Palang (1), Palangkhali (1) and Khunia Palang (1).

**Risk Assessment** — cyclone shelters assessed in all 11 Unions of Teknaf (6 UDMCs) and Ukhia (5 UDMCs) Upazilas conducted in collaboration with UNOs and Disaster management committees. Public infrastructure mapping of 170 public/community buildings in Ukhia and 167 in Teknaf conducted for cyclone sheltering capacity, design, location, and state of facilities and access. Community facilities in proximity to the camps assessed for utilization as shelters along with upgrades to these public facilities such as rehabilitation of roofs, windows, and doors, and expansion of WASH facilities. Risk Assessments have been conducted for Rajapalong and Palongkhali unions.

## COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES

12 themed and 5 call-in **radio shows** on health, water and sanitation and nutrition issues; **Training of local journalists** on peace and conflict reporting; **joint emergency preparedness training** sessions for Rohingya and host community.

**Top priorities:** ensure a two-way communication between the humanitarian response and the affected people using a wide range of communication channels such as radio, audio, video, print, digital and face-to-face interactions.



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## SITUATION OVERVIEW

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The Government of Bangladesh (GoB), responded rapidly upon the arrival of the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar since August 2017, including the allocation of 5,800 acres of land. The Bangladeshi communities of Cox's Bazar were the first responders and have made a significant and ongoing contribution to the life-saving response for refugees together with the district administration and under the leadership of the National Government and supported by the UN and international community.

### IMPACT ON HOST COMMUNITIES

The rapid and massive increase of the refugee population, concentrated in the south of Cox's Bazar district in Ukhia and Teknaf, has had an enormous impact on Bangladeshi host communities' food security, economic vulnerability, market access, labour opportunities and environment.

The dramatic increase in population has strained resources, infrastructure, public services and the local economy. The most affected areas have been the Unions in Ukhia and Teknaf Upazilas, but impacts are being felt throughout the district. Increased pressures include rising food, firewood and transport prices, pressure on water, basic services and the environment and competition for jobs. The education system has been impacted due to the hiring of both teachers and students to work on the refugee response. Increased traffic congestion on the roads has led to access and safety concerns.

Even before the influx, one in five households had poor food consumption patterns much higher than the national average. On average, 33% live below the poverty line and 17% below extreme poverty line. 38 per cent of the local population is vulnerable to food insecurity, of which 12.5 per cent are considered highly vulnerable. Food production in the district is scarce, leading to increased household expenditures on food and economic vulnerability overall.

**Environmental impacts** have been dramatic: More than two thousand hectares of forest and crop land have been depleted to establish the camps and every day more forest disappears due to firewood collection (about 700 tons per day). Agricultural land near camps are suffering from siltation and contamination from fecal matter. Irrigation wells for rice crop irrigation are also affected due to watershed destruction and diminished water table (particularly acute in Teknaf which was already water scarce). Mass cooking fires and garbage burning lead to daily spikes in air pollution. Loss of critical habitat for elephants and other species has been another effect.

The current situation risks slowing – and even reversing – efforts towards achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals** in Cox's Bazar District and a higher level of economic prosperity for the area.

### RESPONSE – WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS ON HOST COMMUNITIES?

The international community recognizes the need to support affected host communities in coping with the impact of the influx and is working together with the Government of Bangladesh and local and national NGOs to try to help facilitate this support in Ukhia and Teknaf and to district and local level institutions.

As a result, **specific programs are targeted under the Joint Response Plan (JRP)** from March to December 2018. The JRP has a commitment of 25% of planned activities for the affected host communities living in the proximity of the refugee camps and directly affected by the influx. As an exceptional measure humanitarian support will reach 336,000 people in need who are living in unions hosting refugees in Ukhia and Teknaf.

The approach under the humanitarian response is inclusive and based on need. Critical programs of support are extended to the most vulnerable among the affected host communities, many of who are facing similar problems as new arrivals (household income, jobs, food and nutrition and poverty). A recognition that both the displaced population and host communities are poor and need support underlies the approach. **Support is also provided to government institutions** to mitigate the impact on service delivery and strengthen public delivery systems in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, agriculture, forestry and environment.

### THE JRP RESPONSE ADDRESSES HOST COMMUNITY NEEDS IN THREE WAYS:

**Operational Projects Across all Sectors** — implementing projects for refugees and host communities at district, community and household levels, in partnership with national, international and local NGOs. Priority areas of support fall into 4 main categories: 1) Environment and eco-system restoration; 2) Agriculture, markets and livelihoods support; 3) Health, nutrition and education; 4) Community and Public Infrastructure.

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**Engagement with Host Communities** and support for community to community engagement. Consultation with communities living on the edge of the camps and bringing the two groups together for dialogue.

**Institutionalizing engagement through Government** — holding regular coordination and dialogue meetings with District, Upazila and Union level authorities and host community leaders.

#### OVERALL CHALLENGES NEEDS AND GAPS

**Infrastructure and waste management** 1) community infrastructure rehabilitation and repair- roads, drainage systems, public facilities, repair and restoration of damaged buildings especially schools 2) larger infrastructure, bridges, roads, fecal sludge management and solid waste management

**Livelihoods for host communities** need to be increased, particularly for those dependent on disappearing forest resources for livelihoods as well as for fishermen. Medium term approaches linked to market economy and food production system are needed. Social safety net coverage for Ukhaia and Teknaf

**Quick impact projects with communities at the centre** need to be increased, including road safety shelters, drainage cleaning and repair; damaged building repair, public solar lighting.

**Access to drinking water** and adequate sanitation ,and addressing scarcity of water in Teknaf

#### AREAS KEY TO REDUCING TENSIONS IN HOST COMMUNITIES

**Curbing Firewood collection** - consistently been listed as a main source of tension between host communities and the Rohingya population as both populations depend on firewood for fuel and as an income-generating activity.

**Water** - Particularly in Teknaf water is in short supply. The influx in areas surrounding Nayapara, Leda, and Unchipra-nAg, has put an additional strain on water supply.

**Labour and wages:** Both the host community and the Rohingya population rely on casual day labour for income. The large numbers of new Rohingya arrivals, who are often willing to work for lower wages, has increased competition for livelihood opportunities (WFP and UNHCR 2012; K4D 20/10/17).



Credit: ©FAO/GMB Akash

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## INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN REFUGEE RELIEF

International NGOs and UN agencies have recruited over 2,700 Bangladeshis since August 2017, many of them from Cox's Bazar district. At least 35 local NGOs, run by the people of Cox's Bazar district, are currently providing relief to refugees and host communities. Local NGOs are co-leading the Food Security Sector, WASH sector and communication with communities group. Local procurement is undertaken by UN agencies as a priority.

## CONSULTING WITH PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES

Consultation with partners is channelled through the sector coordination structure as well as working groups on Environment and energy, Livelihoods, Communication with Communities and Gender in Humanitarian Action. A series of consultations is planned by ISCG with local government, humanitarian actors and host community leaders.

A Livelihoods Working Group meets bi-weekly. Updates from Partners include presentations on lessons learned, success factors and sustainability including in crop diversification and sustainable soil management techniques.

## SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

Support is being provided to government institutions to mitigate the impact on service delivery and strengthen systems in health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education, agriculture, forestry and environment. Collaboration with the Civil Surgeon, Public Health Engineering, Forestry and Environment, Social Services, Women and Children's Welfare is ongoing. Support is also being provided to the RRRC (and CIC's), Deputy Commissioner Office and UNOs in Ukhia and Teknaf in the management of the crisis.

## ALIGNING HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

More needs to be done for Host Communities and the district of Cox's Bazar. Development agencies and programs can help expand and scale up coverage for the most affected area of the district, Ukhia and Teknaf. Development Programmes that complement and expand the Joint Response Plan programmes for the benefit of both host communities and refugees can ensure alignment between humanitarian and development approaches.

Assessments are underway with office of Deputy Commissioner to determine district wide impact and help planning for the medium- term. The World Bank, Asian Bank and others are planning for short and medium- term activities in Ukhia and Teknaf building on the JRP programmes for a harmonized and targeted approach to the Rohingya humanitarian crisis.



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## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

## Household Population and Poverty level by Upazila (2017 Projection)

UPAZILA	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	NUMBER OF POPULATION	POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE
Chakaria	102,807	551,678	153,347
Cox's Bazar Sadar	96,168	517,149	143,749
Kutubdia	26,271	145,709	40,502
Maheshkhali	67,665	373,601	103,848
Pekua	37,154	199,416	55,430
Ramu	55,717	310,105	86,198
Teknaf	53,884	307,334	85,428
Ukhia	44,128	241,140	67,028

Source: BBS population projection as of 2017, World Bank

## Household Population and Poverty level by Upazila (2017 Projection)

Home to the world's largest sea beach with a major tourism industry centred in Cox's Bazar Sadar. The district is reliant on food imports due to low level of agricultural production and lack of cultivatable land. Special economic zones are planned. New coal power plants are planned for Moheshkhali, Kuruskul Ashrayan in addition to the Matherbari 1200 MW plant. Prominent livelihood industries in Ukhia and Teknaf are fishing, shrimp cultivation, salt production and betel nut

KEY INDICATORS	COX'S BAZAR	NATIONAL
Total population (BBS, 2011)	2,289,990	143,925,006
Population in rural areas (BBS, 2011)	1,790,979	110,480,514
Pop density (Gov. Data, 2011)	920/km <sup>2</sup>	1203/km <sup>2</sup>
Gender Ratio (male/female in %) BBS, 2011	107.57 %	101.24 %
Main city/town	Cox's Bazar	Dhaka
% of population with electricity (BBS, 2011)	40.4%	57%
HH using solid fuel for cooking (MICS, 2013)	97.1	88.2
Use Improved drinking water sources (MICS, 2013)	78.8%	97.9
% with access to improved sanitation (BDHS 2014)	36.1% in Ukhia	61%
Life expectancy (The World Bank, 2013)	NA	70.7 yrs
Under 5 mortality (MICS, 2013)	41-50	42
Severely Child Stunted (BBS, 2012)	28	23.39
Maternal mortality per 1000 (WHO, 2001, UNICEF 2010)	114	220
Malaria prevalence (ICDDR,B 2011)	Endemic % not found	3.97% Southeast: 6%
Food security Classification	38% in Ukhia & Teknaf 12.5% highly vulnerable	-
% Below the upper poverty line (WB, 2010)	32.7%	32.3%
% Below the lower poverty line (WB, 2010)	16.2%	18.4%
% Stunted children under 5 years (BBS, 2012)	47%	41.2%
% Underweight children under 5 years (BBS, 2012)	9%	8.12%
% of out of school children (11-15)	41% boys, 30% girls	28% boys, 20% girls
Literacy rates	43.15 %	53.34 %

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**HOST COMMUNITIES AND ROHINGYA POPULATION TARGETED UNDER THE JRP 2018**

