

Adequate shelter is a critical necessity for over 435,000 refugees living in Cox's Bazar. At the beginning of the influx, new arrivals stayed in the open, lived with other refugees, found temporary accommodation with local communities, or started to live spontaneously in new areas. UNHCR was among other actors responding to their life-saving need for shelter by distributing Emergency Shelter Kits, followed with other materials to assist refugees upgrade their shelters in preparation for the monsoon season. Overcrowding and lack of space still remain a key challenge, including the inherited design flaws in the settlements as a result of the spontaneous settlement of many areas. The site management structure in place is still early in its development.

SHELTER/ SITE / NFI OBJECTIVE

To support families ahead of and during the monsoon season, UNHCR to distribute pre-monsoon kits to families to enable them to tie-down their shelter and portable solar light for household needs.

UNHCR to support families through need-based targeted shelter repair and replacement assistance in order to maintain adequate shelter condition.

UNHCR shelter strategy aims to:

- 1** Develop a **master site plan** for refugee settlements in collaboration with relevant sector
- 2** Improve **shelter design** that meets the minimum standard for safe, dignified and appropriate living
- 3** Improve the **living environment** in refugee settlements for better protection of refugees and access to services and facilities

PROGRESS

Many refugees live in areas prone to flooding and landslides due to the hilly locations in Cox's Bazar where they settled. UNHCR collaborated with IOM and WFP through an engineering platform called 'Site Management Engineering Project (SMEP)' to develop infrastructure across all refugee settlements, including preparing flat areas of land in the large Kutupalong settlement to safely relocate people who would otherwise be at an unacceptable level of risk from landslides. Moving forward from the initial emergency shelter designs, UNHCR and its partners built stronger shelters in the new flat areas for over 1,300 refugee households in mid-2018. UNHCR has advocated for continued construction of improved infrastructure and facilities in the settlements. The Government of Bangladesh approved a mid-term shelter strategy (MTS strategy). As part of the strategy, UNHCR was advocating for the construction of 'transitional shelters' with integrated water, sanitation/hygiene, and kitchen facilities to offer better living conditions, including to address some protection concerns. This was not yet endorsed by the authorities. UNHCR is additionally discussing innovative shelter alternatives with the authorities to seek their support to address spatial constraints and congestion in the settlements. This would require specific site planning and is an ongoing conversation. One step forward was a unique UNHCR/BRAC project to address rapidly degrading bamboo which is a vital material in current shelter designs. UNHCR and BRAC established new plants to treat bamboo which can be used for all future construction. Treated bamboo may last for 10-12 years by protecting it from fungi, insects and other biological and physical elements.

CHALLENGE

- Congestion and limited options for relocation from risky hillside areas pose safety, health and protection risks for refugee households.
- Site management, through its structure, services and response mechanisms, does not yet adequately incorporate protection into its approach at different levels.
- The settlements and existing infrastructure are extremely fragile and need more disaster-proofing, especially for cyclone preparedness.

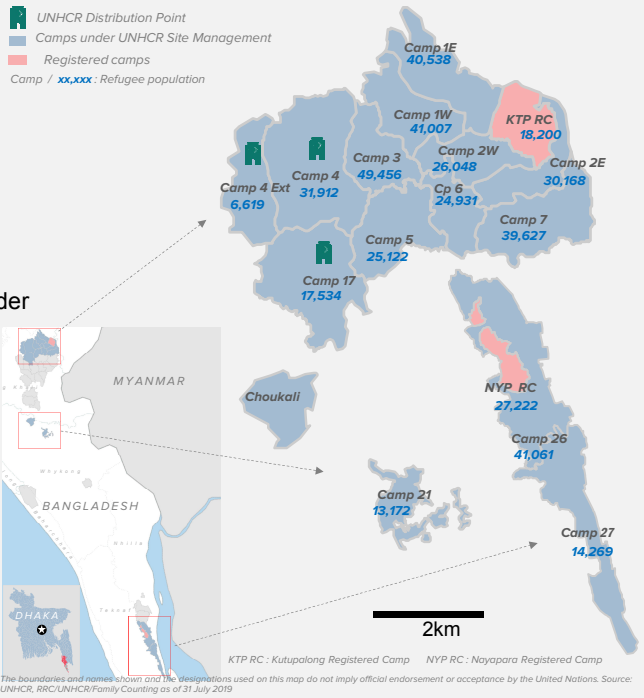
WAY FORWARD

UNHCR and other actors are developing wider partnerships to improve living conditions in the camps and shelters. UNHCR's proposed transitional shelter incorporates disaster risk reduction elements in its basic design with a steel-frame structure that can withstand high winds. It meets the minimum SPHERE standard for covered shelter space and can contribute to better safety, privacy, and dignity. UNHCR and others continue to advocate for a sustainable mid-term shelter strategy, more land to decongest overcrowded settlements and relocate refugees away from areas at high risk, as well as improving areas already provided for use by the Government of Bangladesh.

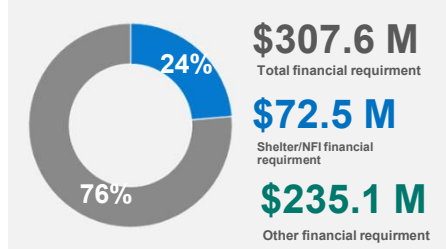
KEY FIGURES

- 88,361** Household received pre monsoon shelter kit in 2019
- 25,011** Shelter received support for repair/replacement in 2019
- 40,928** Household received LPG stove & cylinder with training in 2019
- 72,209** Female hygiene kits were distributed in 2019
- 756** Compressed rice husk (CRH) were resupplied
- 86,706** Households provided with a padlock and chain to secure their shelter since 2018

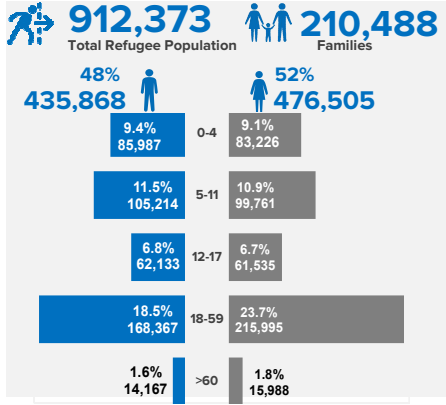
GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION & PARTNER



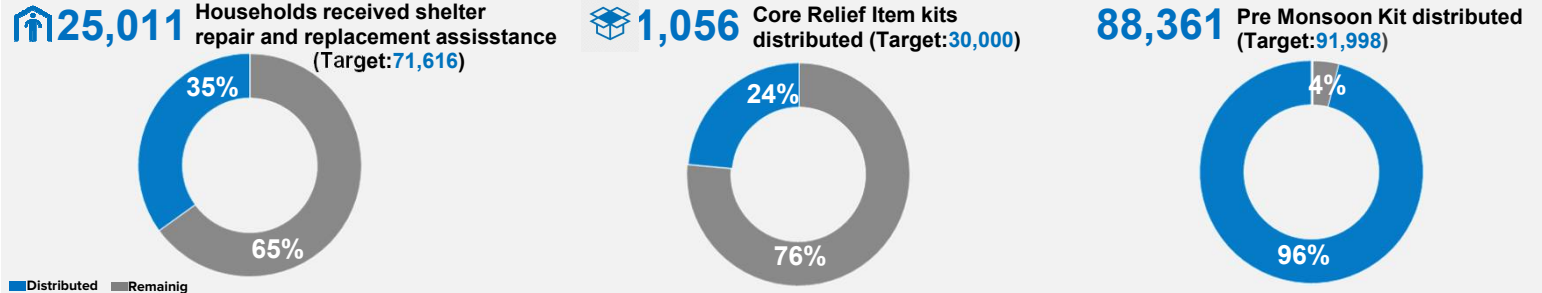
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT



POPULATION BREAKDOWN



DISTRIBUTION STATUS



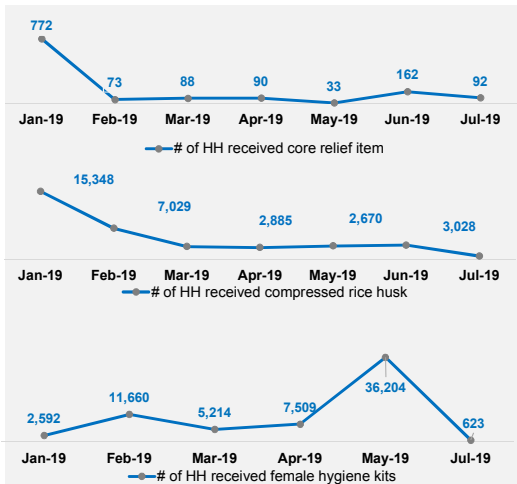
PROGRESS AGAINST 2019 TARGETS



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MONTH

- 9.5 kilometers** of infrastructures constructed during this reporting month, including **2.4 km** of roads and pathways, **0.4 km** of bridges, **1 km** of steps, **4 km** of retaining structures, and **2 km** of drainages.
- 9,030** female menstrual hygiene kits have been distributed to women age 12 to 59 year old during this reporting month.

ACHIEVEMENT TRENDS



TREND ANALYSIS

