



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 & ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVE

87,395 households reached with LPG since 2018, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and cooking kits providing 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

Efforts to stop deforestation and restore wildlife habitats are progressing with the ongoing provision of LPG fuel for cooking which reduces the need for refugees to cut and collect forest wood, and helps conserve the environment and wildlife habitats. Inter-agency collaboration is underway for the distribution of LPG and cooking sets to both refugee and host community families as an eco-friendly cooking solution, aiming to cover all refugee families. The switch will improve air quality and reduce the harmful health effects associated with fumes from cooking with wood inside shelters. It also mitigates some of the physical risks posed to children and women as the main collectors of firewood in isolated forest areas. The introduction of LPG is also creating employment for the host community as it requires supporting infrastructure such as refilling stations. UNHCR and partners are simultaneously planting trees to help regenerate vegetation, control soil erosion, and reduce landslide risks. Efforts were made by UNHCR with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also to mitigate human-elephant conflict by having watchtowers and trained teams organised to lead elephants safely away from the camps and protect human life.

CHALLENGE

- Additional land needed for nurseries to develop resources (e.g. trees or vetiver grass) to restore the environment, and for use for natural prevention of soil erosion.
- 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.
- Limited facilities at present to manage and treat waste, including human and household waste, with risk of contamination for water supply and aquatic biodiversity of stream water.

WAY FORWARD

UNHCR and partners reached 99% coverage with LPG and stoves across 16 camps in March 2019. A pressure cooker pre-pilot has started across 400 HH's so that technical lessons and user preference can inform a pilot at camp scale, UNHCR will be collaborating with IOM on this project. A host community survey is complete identifying the most vulnerable host community HH's to enable a fuel and stove distribution for 19.4k HH's. 606 HH's have already benefited, UNHCR will provide 6 refills per HH. Two Solar mini-grids in collaboration with the International chamber of commerce and Électricité de France as part of the High Commissioners initiative are at installation commencement these will provide 86 KWP of energy to clinics, lighting to HH's and markets. Over 50ha have been planted in 2019 with 40ha planned which will be contributing towards the "Camp Greening Strategy" by UNHCR and partners CNRS and IUCN thereby slowly reversing deforestation and improving soil destabilisation. Improved water network projects has started with stream rehabilitation.

KEY FIGURES


40,928

Families received LPG cylinder in 2019


24,561

Possible host community Families surveyed for LPG distribution


72,141

Families received LPG refill


4,109

Persons of concern receiving environmental education

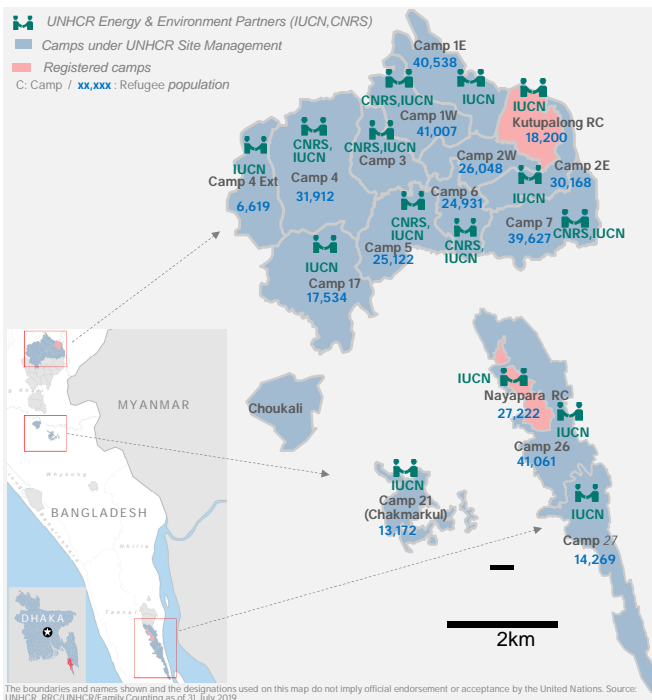

2,500

Street lighting maintained by UNHCR

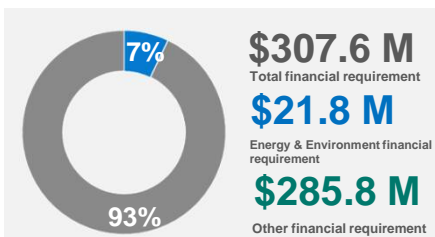

756

Families received compressed rice husk

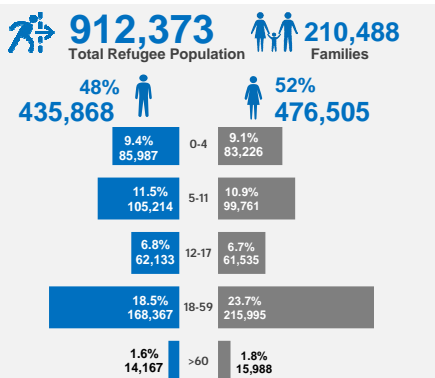
GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION & PARTNER



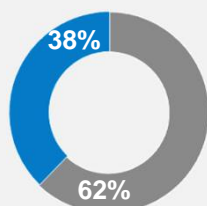
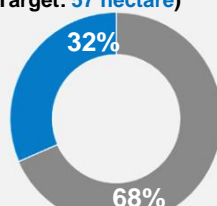
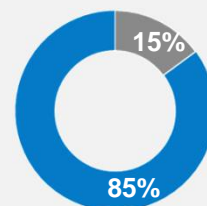
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT



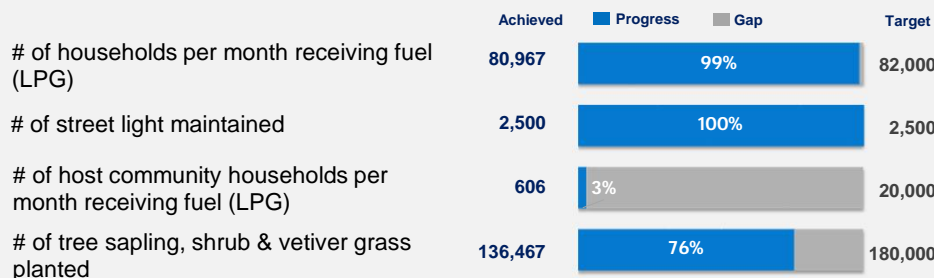
POPULATION BREAKDOWN



ACTIVITY STATUS

39,067 Tree sapling planted (Target: 142,500)

18 Hectare area covered by sapling, shrub & vetiver grass plantation (Target: 57 hectare)

153,087 Refugees received environmental education (Target: 180,000)


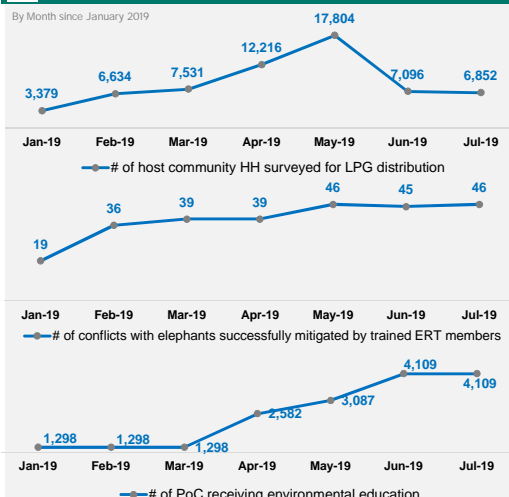
PROGRESS AGAINST 2019 TARGETS



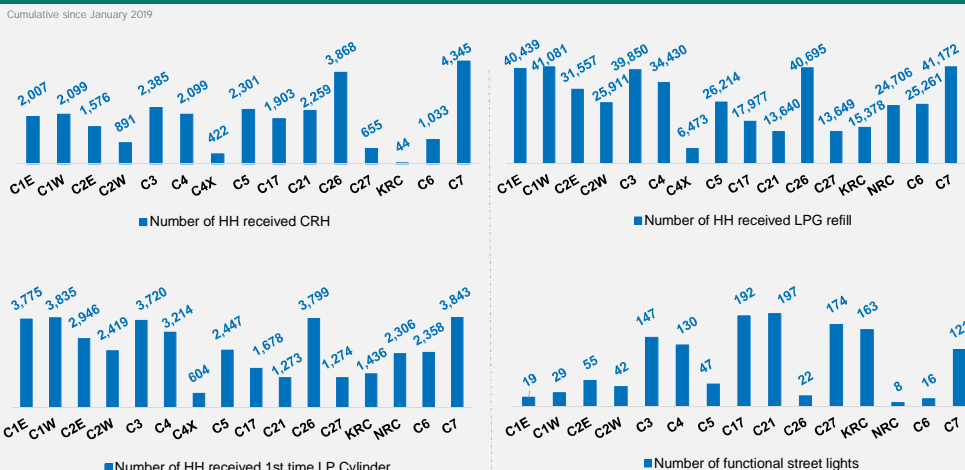
ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUNE - JULY

- 3,699 new households have received LPG cylinder while 72,143 households received refills others families in this
- 6,852 host community households were visited as part of ongoing host community LPG assessment
- 4,109 refugees participated in environmental education opportunities in July

ACHIEVEMENT TRENDS



TREND ANALYSIS



THANK YOU

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All indicators are based on 2018 UNHCR operation plan Source: UNHCR and UNHCR Partners For more information, contact bgdcoim@unhcr.org or visit: http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar_refugees Creation date : 31 July 2019