

Humanitarian Aid for Rohingya Refugees and Bangladeshi Host Communities – HEKS/EPER Rohingya Response Phase 2

Context

The nearly 700,000 Rohingya, who have fled to Bangladesh after the massive violence against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar's Rakhine State in August 2017, do not have an optimistic perspective. The situation in Myanmar does not allow them to return.

HEKS/EPER is working in Jamtoli Camp. Before the refugee crises, the area was sparsely populated with rice fields surrounded by forest-covered hills. The forest has been completely cut and the hills were transformed into an extremely congested settlement for the 50,000 refugees. Living in these conditions is not easy, and it will become even more difficult during the Monsoon. In July only, People will experience nearly the same amount of rain than the major cities of Switzerland during a full year. During heavy thunderstorms, the camps become extremely muddy and footpaths will become little rivers. The simple shelters made from bamboo and tarpaulins will start leaking and many will become floated by water and mud.

Many simple emergency latrines were constructed at the beginning of the crisis. They are now filled up with feces and pose a big concern for hygiene and consequently for people's health, especially when they become flooded. Rather than constructing additional latrines in the camp, HEKS/EPER will ensure that the existing dysfunctional latrines will be decommissioned, and faecal sludge of filled latrines will be professionally managed to allow people to safely use these Latrines again. Additionally, a solid waste disposal system will be established, hygiene promotion conducted, and hygiene material like soap distributed.

The food rations provided by the international community are limited to rice, oil, and pulses, which is insufficient for a healthy diet. With hardly any access to income through



BANGLADESH

HEKS Humanitarian Aid in Cox's Bazar



160'995'640

Population (2015)

148'460

Area km²



employment or cash programming, it is difficult for Rohingyas to complement their diet with food purchased from the market. However, there is limited land available around the shelters. This project will make use of this resource and will promote vertical gardening by which the Rohingyas can produce their own vegetables.

Families in the Host Community will be supported financially to establish vegetable gardening on their lands. This allows them to compensate income losses due to decreased labor rates since the Rohingyas have arrived.



Since all food received, needs to be cooked before consumption, and fuel is comparatively costly, many Rohingyas are compelled to cut the forests around the camp for firewood and to cook inside their shelters which is dangerous. HEKS/EPER will construct community kitchens where some 25 families each can cook two meals a day. This will reduce fire hazards, as well as environmental degradation and related conflicts with the host community.

The project will be implemented by our partner Christian Aid. We are also closely cooperating with the Swiss-based media organization Fondation Hirondelle, who will use our community Kitchens as an information hub, where they will broadcast an information program through loudspeakers.

Objective

To contribute to addressing the most urgent needs of Rohingya populations in Jamtoli and neighbouring host communities

Target groups

8,000 Rohingya Families and 250 Families from the host community (37,125 individuals)

Activities

HEKS/EPER will implement the following activities

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- Construct and operate a fecal sludge management facility
- Decommission 450 nonfunctional latrine



- Distributed hygiene kits (replenishment) to 2,000 households
- Sensitize recipients of hygiene kits on hygiene practices

Community Kitchens

- Construct and operate 26 community kitchens
- Supply gas and spices to the community kitchens

Vegetable Cultivation

- Distribute 2,500 gardening kits, and train Rohingya
- Provide training and inputs to 250 host community households for vegetable production for the market

Country: Bangladesh

Project Budget: USD 480,000

HEKS/EPER No.: 610.422

Responsibility:

Sebastian Zug, Desk Officer
Humanitarian Aid

Shahid Kamal, Regional
Humanitarian Aid Coordinator

Implementation Modality

The Project is co-implemented with Christian Aid

Project Progress

The project has been successfully completed in November 2018

This project is funded by



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