

Overview of all HEKS/EPER COVID-19 Interventions in and around the Rohingya Camps

Context



The Rohingya are living in conditions of hardship. Crammed together in tiny makeshift shelters of 17m² per family made from bamboo and plastic, many of the refugees already suffer from poor nutrition and poor health. With an average of up to 70,000 Rohingya living on one km², the population density is up to three times higher than on the notorious Diamond Princess cruise ship. In such an environment the virus is difficult to be contained.

Since late March 2020, the Bangladesh government implements measures of social distancing which include movement restrictions. These restrictions have a significant impact on people's incomes also for the host community living around the camps. "Non-essential" NGO programs in the camps have been put on hold by the government, and quarantine centers were established to treat and host infected Rohingya.

On May 14th the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in a Rohingya camp.

Objective

To support the most vulnerable people in and around the Rohingya Camps, to prevent or slow down the spread of COVID 19, and to support them recovering from the shock.

Target groups

- Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh with a focus on the cluster of Camps 14, 15, and 16.
- Bangladeshi Host Community living close to camp 14,15 and 16.





Completed Interventions

HEKS constantly analysis the situation and adds interventions based on needs in the Field. By June 2020, the following activities were completed or ongoing:

Distributions in the Rohingya camps

All 3,500 households with elderly household members in Camp 13, 15, and 16 received masks and shelter material allowing families to construct a protected sleeping place for the elderly (own sleeping mat, separation wall with tarpaulins). The package has a value of 40 USD.



Distributions and Hygiene Promotion in the Host Community

When movement restrictions became imposed by the government, HEKS/EPER distributed food support to 1,500 vulnerable households and hygiene kits along with Handwashing promotion to 300 households.



Capacity Building on Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Facilities

HEKS/EPER is implementing a comprehensive WASH in Health facilities project in all 400 health facilities in the Rohingya camps as well as in the host community of Cox's Bazar District. The staff of the facilities is trained and coached on hygiene and infection control and prevention. All facilities are supported to develop their WASH strategy. (details on this project are presented in the separate Factsheet 610.427)



Country: Bangladesh
Project Start: 4/2020
HEKS/EPER No.: 610.437 and 610.427
Budget: 920'000 USD
Responsibility:
Sebastian Zug, Desk Officer
Humanitarian Aid
Shahid Kamal, Regional



Equipping Government Quarantine Centers with Hygiene Infrastructure

Installation of washing machines, water pumps, and waste bins, along with distribution of hygiene material to 5 Government Quarantine Centers located in Upazila Health Complexes. In one of the centers, a waste management zone was constructed.



Temperature Checkpoint

Three Checkpoints were constructed by HEKS at the entry of Camp 14, 15, and 16, where Rohingya and NGO workers can have their temperature checked and wash their hands.



Outlook

HEKS is constantly analyzing the situation and developing new program activities, including substantial construction of hygiene infrastructure in government health facilities. Additionally, people who have lost their income opportunities will be supported with cash, food, and/or cash for work.

The COVID-19 Interventions are supported by



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