



2018




2025

Comparison of camps in 2018 (pre-LPG) vs camps in 2025 (post-LPG and with reforestation) © IOM

Funding Required

 10.2 M USD


Need to continue to the rest of the year

 1,226,165 individuals

Affected Population, 100% of the entire refugee camp population including new arrivals.

 1st of October

From 1st of October, the LPG refill cycle will be stopped.

 91% Reached

91% refugees reached by pressure cooker aimed to reduce the LPG consumption

 Each LPG refill cost 15 USD

Each LPG refill cost 15 USD including the transportation

Background:

Rohingya Refugee camp in Ukhiya and Teknaf in - Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, is recognized as the world's largest refugee camp, currently sheltering nearly 1.2 million Rohingya refugees who escaped violent persecution in Myanmar since 2017. As the camp rapidly expanded, environmental degradation - particularly deforestation caused by relentless firewood collection for cooking - became a critical concern. In response, humanitarian agencies initiated a shift to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for household cooking starting in 2018. This transition, now reaching nearly all refugee households, has significantly reduced firewood use, contributing to improved health, safer living conditions, and environmental recovery in the region.

Current context:

Because of a critical funding shortage, 1,105,600 refugees included in the JRP will no longer have full access to LPG after September 2025. Additionally, approx. 100,000 new arrivals included in the July flash appeal—who have not received LPG since their arrival—will continue to lack access.

For the last three months of the year, this means that refugee families—previously protected from the worst environmental and safety impacts by access to LPG—may lack the means to cook their food or will revert to firewood collection as their only means of cooking fuel. The consequences are immediate and dire: negative impacts on the food security of the refugee population and force them to start using negative coping strategies, which may result in key protection risks and insecurity across the response e.g., GBV, inter-community conflicts between refugees and the host community, deforestation and large-scale firewood gathering will rapidly accelerate deforestation around the camps, heightening the risks of landslides and soil erosion as well as undoing years of environmental recovery.

This puts women and girls at increased protection risks as they venture further from the camps to collect wood, and indoor air pollution from burning biomass is likely to spur respiratory illness and malnutrition among children. Such harsh conditions may drive families to negative coping strategies, including boys and men being lured by organized groups with cash incentives.

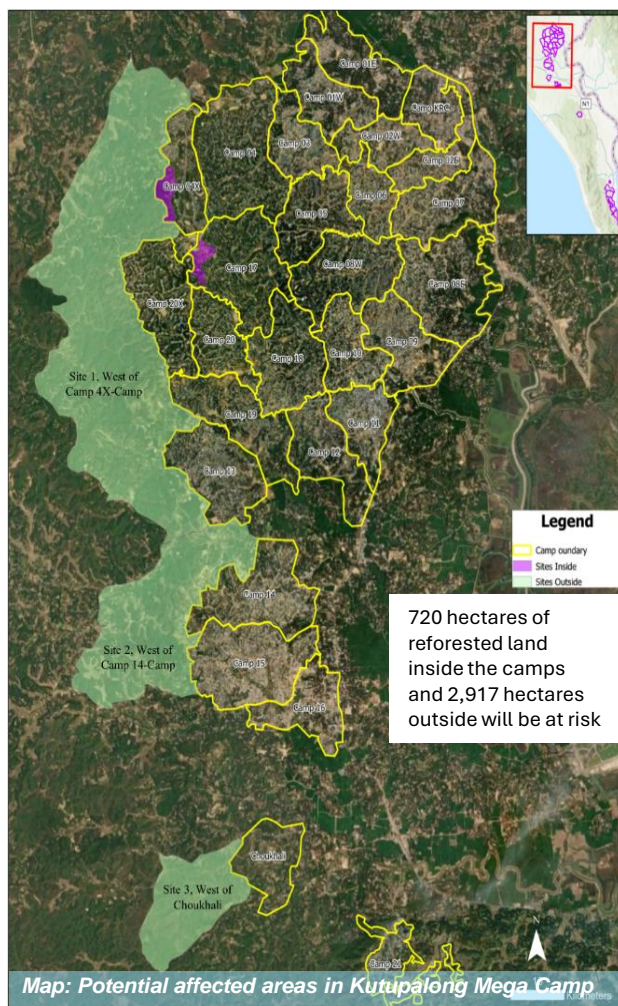
This cascading crisis can only be averted if humanitarian agencies secure the urgently needed USD 10.2 million to maintain uninterrupted LPG supply through December 2025.



Consequences:

Lack of provision of LPG will have severe and rapid negative humanitarian, social and environmental consequences for the whole camp population, including new arrivals. These will include;

- **Food insecurity:** Food assistance efforts will be undermined as families cannot safely prepare distributed meals.
- **Reduced nutrition:** Inability to cook certain foods, such as pulses or meat, can lead to poor nutrition as families limit meals to what can be cooked quickly or without fuel.
- **Environmental hazards:** Heightened risk of landslides and flooding due to deforestation, endangering lives and critical infrastructure within refugee settlements.
- **Increased health risks:** **538 lives** could be lost annually to indoor air pollution as families resort to cooking with firewood inside their shelters.
- **Increased gender-based violence:** Women and girls will face heightened risks when collecting firewood.
- **Community tensions:** Tensions between refugees and host communities will escalate over limited forest and wood resources.
- **Loss of shelter materials:** Essential construction materials—particularly bamboo used for shelter and slope protection—may be repurposed as firewood, weakening homes and safety.
- **Negative coping strategies:** Refugee households may increasingly resort to selling non-food items (NFIs) and food rations to purchase cooking fuel.
- **Loss of forest cover:** **720 hectares** of reforested land inside the camps and **2,917 hectares** outside will be at risk, leading to deforestation and environmental degradation.
- **Increased fire risk:** Increased danger of fire accidents as households turn to unsafe or improvised cooking methods, or unsafe LPG transfers.
- **Burden on education:** Children, especially girls, may be kept out of school to help collect firewood, limiting their learning opportunities and long-term prospects.
- **Protection risks during wood collection:** Women, girls, and even boys face risk of physical assault, abduction, and harassment while collecting firewood in remote or unsafe areas.
- **Loss of livelihoods:** Time spent gathering firewood reduces time available for income-generating activities, self-reliance, or skills training.
- **Undermining community relations:** Rising competition and disputes over scarce wood resources can contribute to conflict both within refugee communities and with surrounding host populations.
- **Negative environmental impacts:** Increased reliance on firewood contributes to loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, and decreased water quality from sediment runoff.
- **Long-term health impacts:** respiratory diseases, asthma, eye problems, and burns become more prevalent among children and adults exposed to smoky indoor environments.
- **Limited ability for emergency response:** Lack of LPG can hamper emergency food distribution and safe water provision during disasters, as families may not have fuel to boil water or cook.
- **Economic impacts:** The increased local price of firewood due to high demand can push vulnerable families deeper into poverty and debt.



Conclusion & Emergency solution:

LPG is more than just a cooking fuel—it represents protection, health, stability, and dignity. The SCCCM sector urgently need your assistance to sustain this life-saving initiative. USD **10.2 million** will help us safeguard lives, preserve forests, and promote peaceful coexistence in Cox's Bazar. Without immediate funding and support to ensure access to LPG for all, the health, safety, and dignity of the entire camp population—as well as the fragile environment around them—are at serious risk.