



Shelter and CCCM Sector, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

May 2026



ANNUAL REPORT- 2025



Forward:

The Shelter-CCCM (SCCCM) Sector, formed in 2023 by merging the Site Management and Site Development (SMSD) and Shelter and Non-Food Items sectors, is co-led by IOM and UNHCR, in consultation with the Government of Bangladesh. In 2025, this has allowed more cohesive planning and integrated SCCCМ assistance, enhancing coordination among partners and the government. Priorities include integrating emergency preparedness, climate change adaptation, and improved camp planning. Community inclusion, knowledge sharing, nature-based site development, and timely emergency shelter and NFI support are key focuses, benefiting both Rohingya refugees and host communities.

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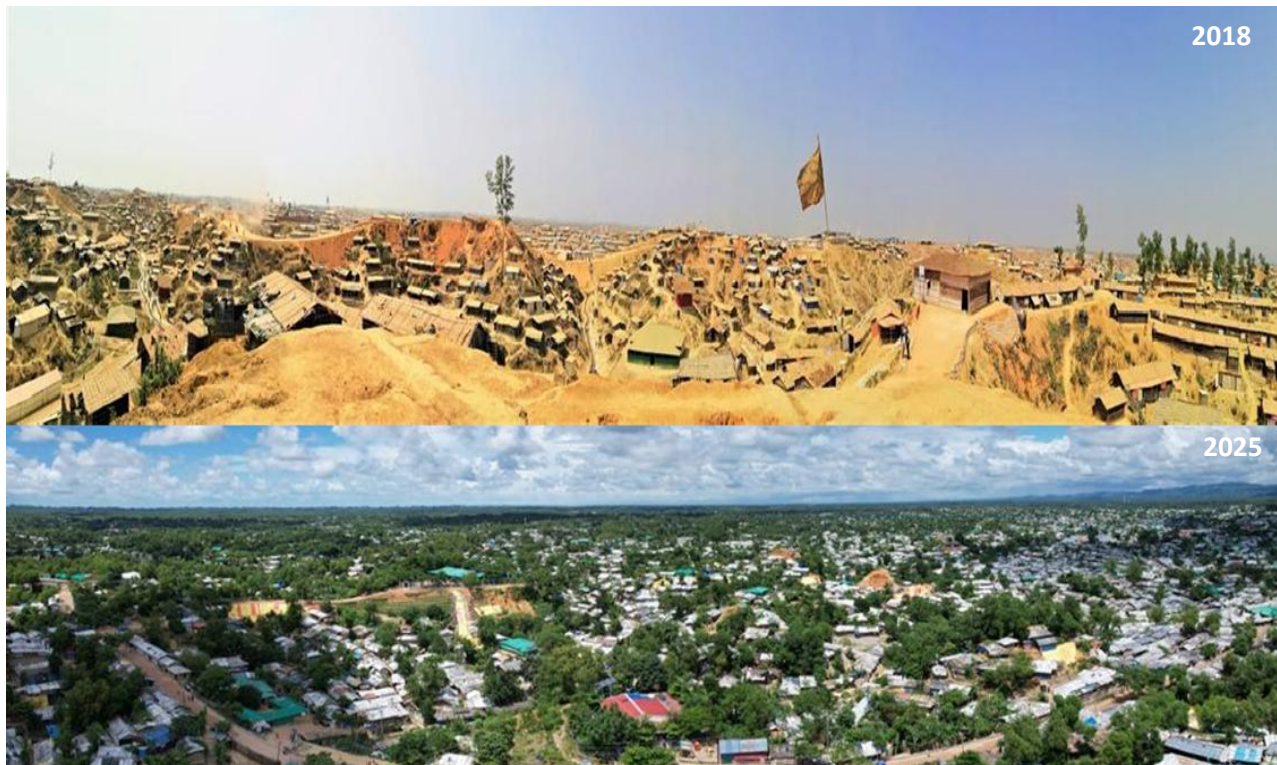


Photo: Before and After in Rohingya Camps

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Acronyms and Glossary:

AAP – Accountability to Affected People
CCCM – Camp Coordination and Camp Management
CIC – Camp In-Charge
CP&E – Community Participation and Empowerment
CLP- Community Led Project
DRM – Disaster Risk Management
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
GIS – Geographic Information System
HC – Host Community
HH – Household
HLP – Housing, Land, and Property
HRP – Humanitarian Response Plan
IOM – International Organization for Migration
ISCG – Inter-Sector Coordination Group
ISP – Integrated Settlement Planning
JRP- Joint Response Plan
LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MoDMR – Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
NA – New Arrivals
NFI – Non-Food Item
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
PDM – Post Distribution Monitoring
PIN – People in need
PSEA – Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RCP – Rohingya Coordination Platform
RRRC – Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
SAG - Strategic Advisory Group
SCCCM – Shelter, Camp Coordination and Camp Management
SD – Site Development
SMS – Site Management Support
SNA – Shelter Needs Assessment
SOP – Standard Operating Procedure
TSS - Temporary Safer Shelter
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USD – United States Dollar
WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

SCCCM SECTOR Background:

The Shelter-CCCM (SCCCM) Sector, co-led by IOM and UNHCR, in consultation with the Government of Bangladesh has allowed more cohesive planning and integrated SCCCM assistance, enhancing coordination among partners and the government.

Priorities include integrating emergency preparedness, climate change adaptation, improved camp planning, Community inclusion, knowledge sharing, nature-based site development, and timely emergency shelter and NFI support are key focuses, benefiting both Rohingya refugees and host communities.

To ensure effective delivery of SCCCM services, the Sector collaborated with 29 partners, including the Government of Bangladesh, in 2025. The Sector, steered by the Strategic Advisory Group advocates strategic priorities and supports contingency plan. The Sector comprises five thematic Working Groups, namely, the Shelter Working Group, the NFI Working Group, Site Management Working Group, The Multisectoral Settlement Planning Working Group and the Site Development Task Force guarantee compliance with the national and international standards.



Photo: From a Rohingya Camp @RCP



Introduction:

The Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (S-CCCM) Sector provides life-saving shelter, NFI, site management, and site development assistance to Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. This annual report (January-December 2025) documents our work under the Joint Response Plan (JRP 2025) framework including its strategic priorities (P1) and over all financial gap is 57.3% while highlighting key achievements across three core areas: Shelter-NFI distributions and upgrades, Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) activities through Site Management Support teams, and critical Site Development infrastructure projects. Progress during this period is contextualized through RCP 4W reporting and quantitative figures demonstrating operational impact.

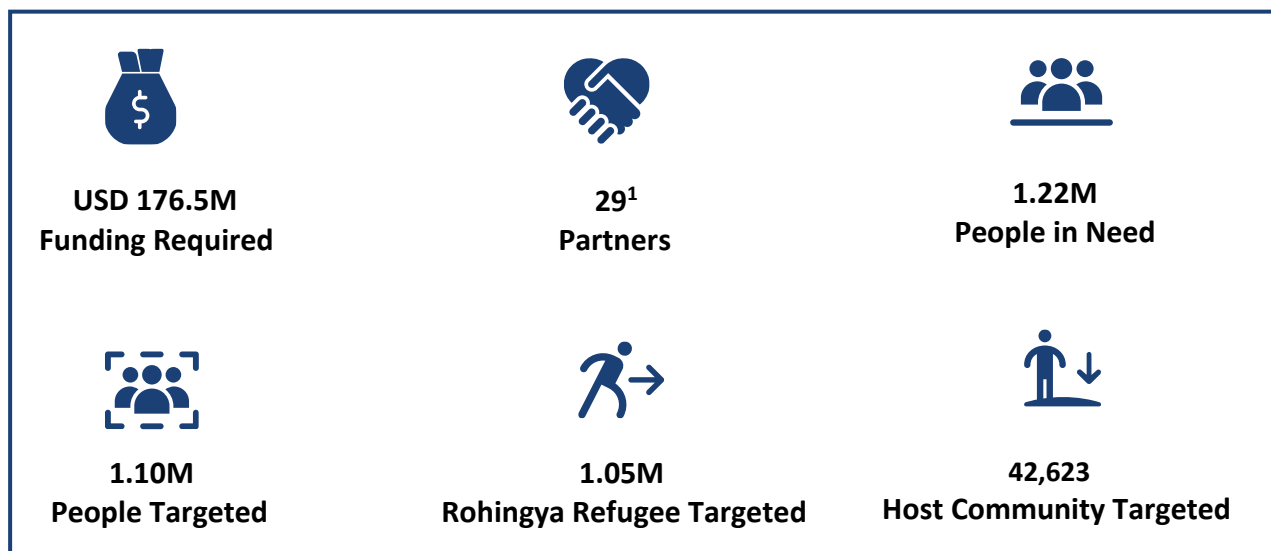
Significant capacity-building initiatives are featured, including the National Workshop on Integrated Settlement Planning (ISP), the TSS Workshop with RRRC, Landslide Risk Mitigation Planning sessions, World Environment Day engagements, and CCCM Training programs. The report also details our coordinated monsoon preparedness and response efforts, complemented by field testimonies illustrating frontline impact in CCCM, Shelter, and Site Development work.

Persistent challenges – including severe funding gaps, environmental pressures from LPG shortages, site congestion, and disaster risks – are thoroughly examined to inform urgent advocacy priorities. This comprehensive overview aims to transparently showcase both successes and critical unmet needs during the reporting period.



JRP 2025 Overview for SCCCM Sector:

Key Figures



Objectives of SCCCM SECTOR (2025-2026)

OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure timely and equitable delivery of Shelter, NFI, Camp Coordination and Camp Management services to Rohingya Refugees/FDMNs and host community (living in close proximity to the camps) to reduce exposure to physical and protection related risks including ensuring access to safe energy solutions to Refugee/FDMN households.

OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure critical emergency preparedness and response to households affected by disasters and other sudden onset events through the provision of emergency shelter, NFI, LPG, site development and site management support while also protecting and rehabilitating ecosystems.

OBJECTIVE 3: Enhance inclusive engagement and accountability through support to participatory coordination and feedback mechanisms among stakeholders.

Appealed Budget	176.5M (100%)
Funding needed - 1st Priority	54.8M
Funding (received+ committed)- 1st Priority	23.4M
Funding Gap- 1st Priority	31.4M (57.29%)

¹ SD-17 partners, NFI-10 partners, Shelter-14 partners, SM-08 partners.

Key Achievements in 2025

- Approval of Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS): Among four TSS types proposed to the Government, Model 1 (Lime Stabilized Soil shelter) is now in the rollout phase. This design features:
 - Flooring: Sand and cement
 - Lower/Upper Walling: Lime-stabilized soil plaster on bamboo mat
 - Roofing: Corrugated Galvanized Iron (CGI) with CGI ridge and PU insulation.
 - **2,477** New Lime-stabilized Soil (LSS) Shelters and 205 TSS have been constructed to serve as a firebreak in the camps
- Agencies – in consultation with ISCG-SCCCM Sector and RRRRC – may construct shelters combining elements from all four proposed options (e.g., sand/cement, MS pipe, terracotta tiles, lime-stabilized soil plaster). Pilot implementation is ongoing, prioritizing firebreaks and landslide-prone areas.
- The establishment of Multi-Sectoral Settlement Planning (MSSP) Task Force
- Submission of land Advocacy to RRRRC to reduce congestion and accommodate the anticipated 150,000 to 200,000 new arrivals.



Photo: Stilt shelters constructed in flood-prone areas, Camp 26, Block H

- IOM and partners are deploying LSS Shelters in Camps 8E, 8W, 09, 10, 13 and 20.
- Training and Workshops conducted:
 - TSS Workshop for the RRRRC office took place in February 2025
 - Integrated Settlement Planning (ISP) in Feb 2025
 - Landslide Risk Prevention in April 2025
 - CCCM/CSI Training in May 2025
- SD Catalogue 3.0 update is completed to standardize site development activities.

- To harmonize all shelter types currently practiced at the field level into a single platform, as part of the Sector’s initiative will develop a comprehensive Shelter Catalogue in 2026.
- Funding update analysis has been done as elaborated in the table below.

Year-end Funding Analysis for 2025-

Activity group	Funding required in JRP 2025 (USD)	Funding received (paid contribution) as of 31 Dec 2025 (USD)	Estimated gap as of 31 Dec 2025 (USD)	% funded
AAP	3,002,652	1,282,049	1,720,603	42.70%
Access and Safety	29,976,428	11,653,126	18,323,301	38.87%
Capacity Sharing/Training	2,761,859	1,162,344	1,599,515	42.09%
Community Participation and Empowerment	5,363,696	2,387,449	2,976,247	44.51%
Disaster Risk Management	34,431,397	14,503,377	19,928,020	42.12%
LPG	40,612,895	15,328,561	25,284,334	37.74%
NFI	23,928,687	8,405,600	15,523,087	35.13%
Service Coordination and Site Management Support	4,205,283	2,086,117	2,119,166	49.61%
Shelter	32,525,949	17,560,986	14,964,964	53.99%
	176,808,846	74,369,609	102,439,238	42.06%

Sector Priority	Funding required in JRP 2025 (USD)	Funding received (paid contribution) as of 31 Dec 2025 (USD)	Estimated gap as of 31 Dec 2025 (USD)	% funded
1st	48,228,374	20,978,002	27,250,372	43.50%
1st, 2nd	6,607,111	2,443,517	4,163,595	36.98%
2nd	81,239,605	33,442,833	47,796,772	41.17%
3rd	10,615,495	4,267,955	6,347,541	40.20%
R/S	30,118,260	13,237,303	16,880,958	43.95%
	176,808,846	74,369,609	102,439,238	42.06%

KEY NOTES

- LPG coverage was significantly reduced and change the refill cycle, particularly towards the phase-out period in September 2025. Sector developed a LPG flash appeal due to the funding shortfall directly impacting the continuity of assistance this increasing reliance on alternative fuel sources and associated protection, environmental, and fire risks.
- DRM – DRM activities faced a substantial funding gap of approximately USD 20 million by year-end, against a total requirement of USD 34.4 million. While some priority interventions were implemented, funding remained insufficient to fully deliver critical emergency preparedness and risk reduction activities, including cyclone, monsoon, and fire mitigation measures. As a result, key interventions such as slope stabilization, drainage works, and site-level preparedness activities were only partially implemented, leaving camps exposed to heightened risks of landslides, flooding, and fire incidents during peak hazard periods.

Thematic Update:

Shelter-NFI and LPG Achievements: Update Jan-Dec



97,180

Household provided with shelter kits



45,948

Household provided with Shelter construction and repair support



119,005

HHs reached by NFI items



1,807,248

LPG refills distributed



106,031

Energy efficient cooking set/pressure cookers distributed



34,505

Stove with/without gas cylinder distributed



26,574

Individuals provided with shelter construction training



17,283

Training sessions conducted on energy-efficient cooking sets



24,997

Shelter Baseline assessments done

Minimum NFI Package has been harmonized including WASH kits. New package includes-

ITEM Name	QUANTITIES	Remark
Blanket	1 pc (for 1-2 individuals) 2 pcs for 3-4 individuals 3 pcs for 5-6 individuals 4pcs for 7-8 individuals 5 pcs for 9 and above individuals	NFIs
Sleeping/ Floor Mat	1 Per Individual	
Mosquito Net	1 pc for 1-3 individuals 2 pcs for 4-6 individuals 3 pcs for 7 and above individuals	
Solar Light	1 Per Family/HH	
Kitchen Set	1 Per Family/HH	
Cylinder	1 Per Family/HH	LPG
Stove	1 Per Family/HH	
Igniter	1 Per Family/HH	
Regulator	1 Per Family/HH	
Jerrycan	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	WASH Kits
16L bucket	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
1.5L mug	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
2L bodna	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
Sandle	6 Pcs irrespective of family sizes	
Laundry soap 6 nos.	6 Pcs irrespective of family sizes	
Bathing soap 6 nos.	6 Pcs irrespective of family sizes	
Detergent powder	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
Antiseptic liquid	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
Nail cutter	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
Cotton gamcha 2pc	2 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
LT brush	1 Pc irrespective of family sizes	
Sanitary pads 10pc	10 Pcs irrespective of family sizes	
Panty 4 pc	4 Pcs irrespective of family sizes	
White (carrying) kit bag	1 Per Family/HH	

Site Management Support/ Camp Management and Camp Coordination

Activity Group	Activity Sub Type	Measuring Unit	Achieved
AAP	AAP Capacity Strengthening training conducted	# of trainings	15
	Camp-wide complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM) run by SMS agency	# of help desks	5409
	Communication resources developed	# of resources	12
	Community awareness of different DRM issues	# of sessions/IPC	154
	Community risk assessments conducted	# of assessments	34
	Complaint/Feedback Received (SCCCM only)	# of complaints/feedback	67755
	Complaint/Feedback Referred (SCCCM only)	# of complaints/feedback	48272
	Complaint/Feedback Resolved (SCCCM only)	# of complaints/feedback	32385
	Information boards operational in camps	# of information boards	155
	Information hubs in place run by SMS agency	# of hubs	335
	Number of People visiting information hubs for information/complaint	# of people	95439
Capacity Sharing/Training	Camp Committees leaders training conducted on CCCM and other areas	# of trainings	8
	Camp-level focal point coordination meeting conducted	# of meetings	122
	Capacity sharing conducted for the DMU committee and member	# of trainings	116
	Capacity sharing initiatives conducted for the DMU/SUV	# of trainings	230
	Capacity Sharing/Training conducted	# of trainings	27
	CCCM training conducted	# of trainings	68
	Emergency Preparedness/DRR trainings for GoB Staffs	# of trainings	3
	Emergency Preparedness/DRR trainings for SMS Staffs	# of trainings	19
	Gender/Protection/PSEA standards training conducted	# of trainings	22
	Other new trainings	# of trainings	61
Community Participation and Empowerment	AGD and Thematic groups/committees established	# of committees	2752
	Elected Sub-block committees active (and have signed ToR and Code of Conduct)	# of committees	336
	Information campaigns sessions	# of Campaigns	2755
	Community awareness of different DRM issues	# of sessions/IPC	44486
	Disaster management committees (DMCs) working in camps	# of committees	102
	DRM training conducted of DMC members including multi-sector focal points	# of trainings	3
	Fire extinguishers ready to be used in the camp	# of extinguishers	15854
	Host community skilled/unskilled laborers mobilized by the SMS agencies at camp level under CFW scheme	# of HC laborers	473
	Host Community volunteers mobilized by the SMS agency at camp level	# of HC Volunteers	755
		Individuals relocated (Departed)	# of individuals

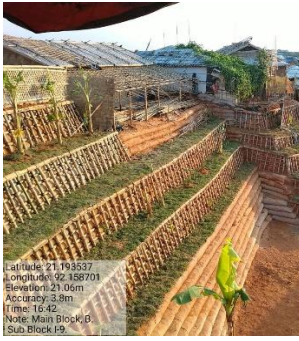


Activity Group	Activity Sub Type	Measuring Unit	Achieved
	Multi-hazard block-wise drills of DMU/SUV in participation of camp community	# of drills	60
	Rohingya skilled/semiskilled/unskilled laborers mobilized by the SMS agencies at camp level under CFW scheme	# of Rohingya laborers	97515
	Rohingya volunteers supporting SMS agency at camp level (SMS/SUV/DMU)	# of volunteers	14729
	Three wheeler available in the camp for fire response	# of three wheelers	326
	Volunteers trained in Disaster Management	# of volunteers	12285
	Water tanks - fire hydrants ready to be used in the camp	# of fire stands	8922
	Service Coordination and Site Management Support	Camp-level focal point coordination meeting conducted	# of meetings
Camp-level Regular SMSD service monitoring		# of updates	244
DMC meeting conducted in the camp		# of meetings	117
National NGOs participating in regular camp-level coordination meeting		# of organizations	2383
Regular camp-level coordination meeting with CiCs		# of meetings	394
Sector coordination meetings conducted		# of meetings	1042
UN, INGOs, & NNGOs participating in the regular camp-level coordination meeting		# of organizations	3729



Photo: Cyclone Preparedness Drill for the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) Volunteers

Site Development- Major Achievements: Jan-Dec 2025



250,000+ sqm

Slope protection intervention completed



800,000+ Lm

Drainage cleaned or maintained



30,000+ Lm

Drainage constructed and repaired



44,000+ Lm

Pathway/ road constructed or repaired



25,000+ Lm

Stairways constructed and repaired



6000+ Lm

Water crossing constructed and repaired



7,000+ Lm

Fencing provided for plantation and safety purposes



100+ sessions

Community awareness on disaster risk management conducted

Daily Incident Report- 2025

From January to December 2025, the SCCCM Daily Incident Reporting system documented 2,934 incidents across 33 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. The reporting mechanism, operational since 2018, continued to provide real-time monitoring of both weather-related and human-induced hazards to inform preparedness, response, and coordination.

Key Highlights

- Wind/Rain/Storm incidents (1,384 cases) remained the most dominant hazard, accounting for 47% of all reported incidents.
- Fire incidents (683 cases) were the second most frequent hazard, showing a slight increase compared to 2024.
- Landslides (528 cases) continued to significantly affect hilly camp areas.
- June recorded the highest monthly incidents (689 cases), reflecting peak monsoon impact.

In total, 24,150 households and 115,493 individuals were affected during the year.

- 15,464 households were impacted by windstorm-related events alone.
- 2,168 households were displaced, primarily due to flood and storm events.
- 14,327 shelters were partially damaged, while 288 shelters were fully destroyed, with full destruction largely linked to fire incidents.

Seasonal Pattern

Incident trends followed a clear seasonal pattern:

- April–September (monsoon period) saw a sharp rise in windstorms, floods, and landslides.
- January–March and October–December recorded fewer weather-related incidents but higher proportions of fire-related destruction.

Compared to 2024, overall incidents slightly decreased (2,934 vs. 3,076), suggesting improved mitigation efforts, though climate-related hazards remain the primary driver of shelter damage and displacement.

Strategic Implication

Highlights			
2,934	33	115,493	24,150
Incidents	Affected Camps	Affected Ind	Affected HH
284	5	43	10,931
Injured	Missing	Dead	Displaced Individuals
Damaged Shelters			
14,327	288		
Partially Damaged	Fully Damaged		
Damaged Facilities			
3	18	75	
Health facilities	Mosques	Learning Centers	
24	3	3	
Water points	Food Site	Shelter NFI Site	
444	1380		
Latrines	Other Facilities		
Damaged Infrastructure			
18	663	119	
Roads	Pathways	Bridges	
555	2149	8	
Stairs	Retaining Walls	Other Infrastructures	
Response Delivered			
31	139	13	
Food Security Response	Health Response	Protection Response	
114	20	251	
Shelter/NFI Response	WASH Response	Search & Rescue Response	

The 2025 data reaffirms that windstorms, landslides, and fire hazards collectively account for nearly 90% of all incidents, underscoring the need for strengthened early warning systems, slope stabilization, fire prevention measures, and climate-resilient shelter design across camps.

Participated Agencies	Covered Camps	Reported Incidents	Affected Households	Affected Individuals	Displaced Individuals
6 Agencies	33 Camps	2,934 nos.	24,150	115,493	10,931

Number of Damaged Shelters

14,615
Partially: 14,327
Fully: 288

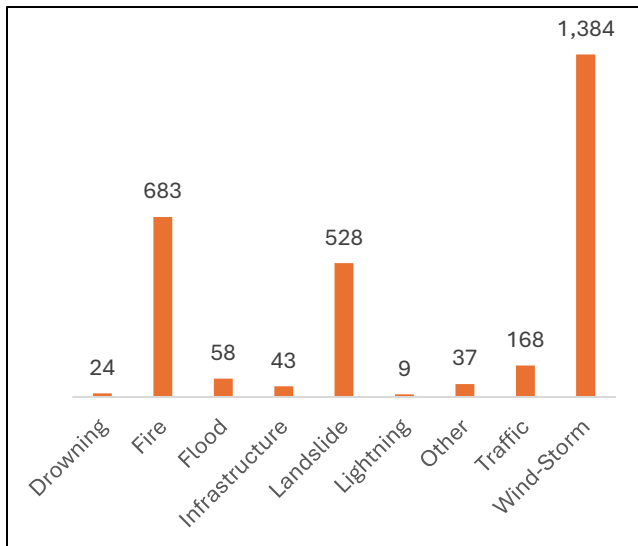
Number of Casualties and Injuries

Dead: 43	Injured: 284
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Number of Damaged Facilities

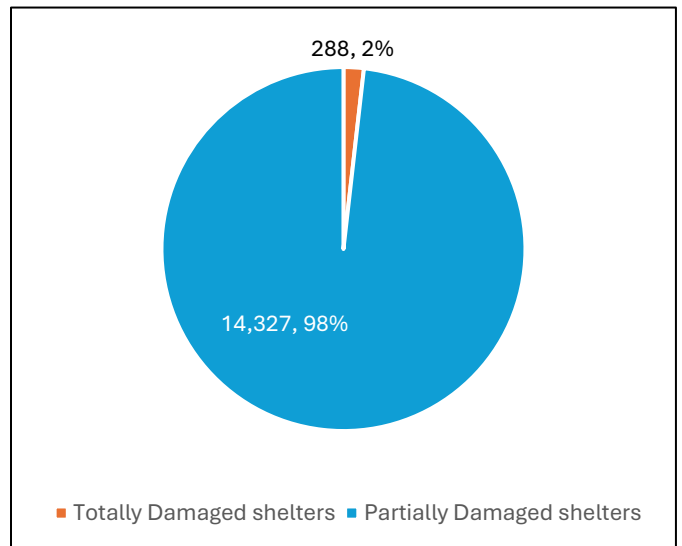
Health 03	Water Points 24	Latrine 444	Learning Center 75	S/NFI Distribution point 03
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Number and Type of Incidents



Graph: Type of Incidents

Damaged Shelters Categories



Graph: Shelter Damage from Jan-June '25

SCCCM Publication and Reports:

LPG Flash Appeal

SCCCM sector published the Urgent LPG Flash Appeal in August 2025 that highlights a critical funding shortfall threatening the continuation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) support for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. LPG has been a cornerstone intervention, benefiting over one million refugees by reducing reliance on firewood, mitigating protection risks, and preventing environmental degradation.



Due to severe funding constraints, LPG assistance is at risk of suspension from October 2025, following the planned phase-out of support by IOM (July 2025) and UNHCR (September 2025). The appeal seeks **USD 10.2 million** to sustain LPG refills for the final quarter of 2025. Without immediate funding, affected populations may resort to negative coping mechanisms, including firewood collection, increasing risks of gender-based violence, tension with host communities, and exposure to landslides and respiratory health hazards.

The appeal underscores LPG's cost-effectiveness, with an average refill costing approximately USD 15 per household, and its critical role in safeguarding both refugee well-being and the surrounding environment. Immediate donor support is essential to prevent a reversal of gains achieved in protection, environmental conservation, and community resilience.

Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS) Initiative

The Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS) initiative has been developed to strengthen the safety, resilience, and environmental sustainability of shelters in the Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar. Guided by policy direction from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh (MoFA) and implemented in coordination with the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the TSS framework establishes standardized, disaster-resilient shelter solutions for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs).

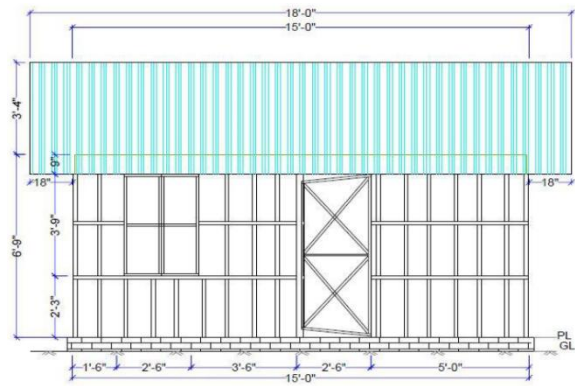
The strategy moves beyond a single-design approach and promotes modular, terrain-sensitive shelter options that address key environmental risks including fire hazards, monsoon flooding, landslides, and extreme heat. TSS models emphasize improved structural integrity, safer construction materials, climate adaptation, and cost-effective solutions that remain temporary in nature while enhancing protection and dignity. Environmental safeguards, quality control, coordination with camp authorities, and adherence to approved technical designs and Bills of Quantities (BoQ) are integral to implementation.

Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS)-Approved Model Designs and Standards

- Model 1: LSS Application of TSS Model, Link - [Click Here](#)
- Model 2: Cement Grouting, Geotextile-Tarpaulin-Wire mesh Shelter Application of TSS Model, Link - [Click Here](#)
- Model 3: Improvement of Mid-Term Shelter to Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS) Features, Link - [Click Here](#)
- Model 4: CGI Roofing & Cement Soaked Geotextile Shelter (CR&CS-GS) of TSS Model, Link - [Click Here](#)
- Model 5: Waste Revive Resilient Shelter (WRRS) of TSS Model, Link - [Click Here](#)



TSS Model 1



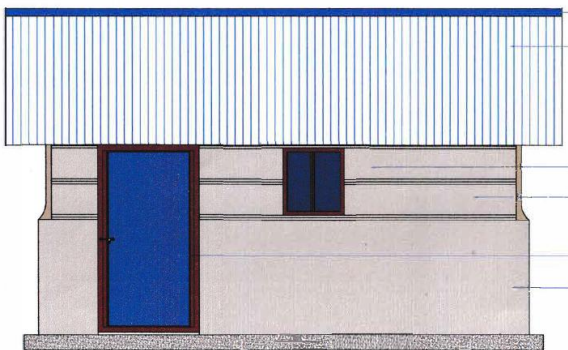
TSS Model 2



TSS Model 3



TSS Model 4



TSS Model 5

Multi-Sector Settlement Planning (MSSP) ToR Submission to RRRC

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), now Rohingya Coordination Platform (RCP) in coordination with the Shelter-Camp Management and Camp Coordination Sector (S-CCCM), formally submitted the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the establishment of the Multi-Sector Settlement Planning (MSSP) Task Force to the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Cox’s Bazar, for review and endorsement. The submission was made in line with guidance provided by the RRRC during the Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS) Workshop and subsequent inter-sector consultations. The proposed MSSP Task Force is intended to strengthen coordinated, multi-sectoral settlement planning across the Rohingya camps by promoting optimal land use, harmonized sectoral interventions, and improved safety and access to services for the refugee population.

Furthermore, the S-CCCM Sector requested the nomination of the RRRC as co-chair of the Task Force to ensure government leadership and alignment with GoB policies and humanitarian principles. The mechanism is expected to support CiCs and site-level actors in leading and endorsing meso-level settlement planning, infrastructure upgrades, and service allocation, with technical oversight from the S-CCCM Sector.

The activity concluded with a formal request for RRRC’s review, endorsement of the ToR, and appointment of a co-chair to operationalize the MSSP Task Force.

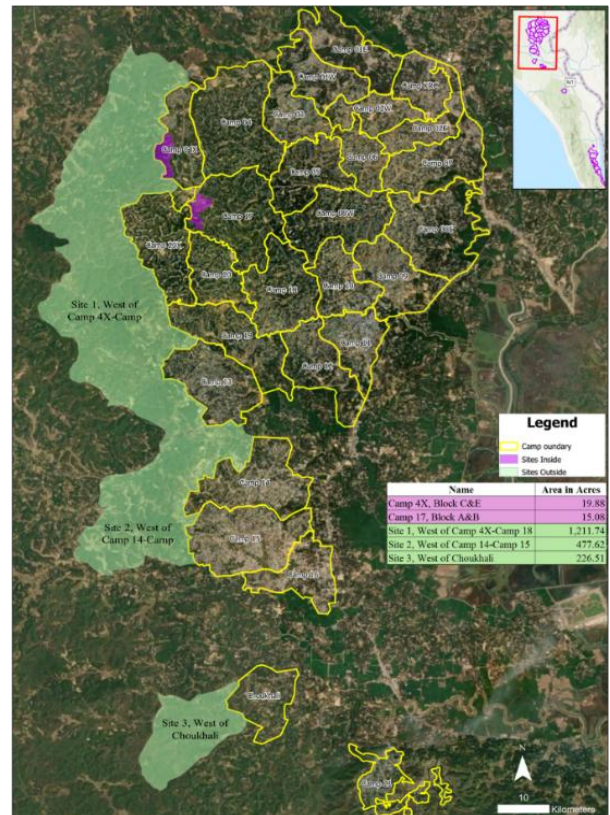
The minimum site planning standards link – [Click here](#)

Land Advocacy Note Submission to RRRC

The Shelter and CCCM (SCCCM) Sector has developed a comprehensive land advocacy strategy to address the critical congestion and safety challenges within the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. This advocacy note outlines the current problem analysis and proposes strategic options for government consideration.

SCCCM Problem Analysis

- **High Congestion:** Approximately 5,960 acres of land currently host 800,000 individuals. Population density in some settlements is nearly four times that of Dhaka city. Currently, 61% of camps have less than 30 sqm of space per person, while 38% fall below 18 sqm.
- **Safety and Risk:** Over 58,000 shelters (housing 200,000+ individuals) are located in high-risk areas prone to landslides and flooding. Between 2018



and 2025, over 2,800 landslides were recorded, resulting in 33 deaths and impacting 64,000 people.

- **Terrain and Infrastructure:** Only 38% of the provided land in Ukhiya is suitable for settlement; the remaining 62% consists of slope terrains and flood plains. This lack of usable land hinders the creation of fire breaks and the construction of roads for emergency services.

Strategic Advocacy Options Proposed

The sector presented three primary options to the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) to mitigate these risks:

- **Camp Expansion:** Allocation of an additional 2,100 acres to accommodate 56,000 shelters. While this would alleviate congestion, it faces challenges regarding potential conflict with host community farming land and further deforestation.
- **Relocation to Available Spaces:** Utilizing approximately 35 acres of identified undeveloped land within existing camp boundaries to accommodate 1,200 households. Mapping indicates that less congested camps (such as Camps 26, 24, and 17) could potentially host an additional 100,000 refugees.
- **Heavy Machinery and Site Development:** Investing in slope stabilization and land flattening to make currently unusable terrain safe for settlement.

Alternative Solutions and Recommendations

- **Double-Storey Shelters:** To reduce the shelter footprint, the sector proposes double-storey structures for families of five or more (representing 35% of the population). This approach could save approximately 180 acres of land.
- **Integrated Settlement Planning:** The sector recommends immediate integration of multi-sectoral settlement planning to align all needs with SCCCMM site planning minimum standards.
- **Improved Safety Ratios:** A recommendation has been made to adopt a 20:80 ratio of Temporary Safer Shelters (TSS) to Mid-Term Shelters to better withstand fire and environmental hazards.

Inter-Sector Need Assessment (ISNA) 2025 Overview

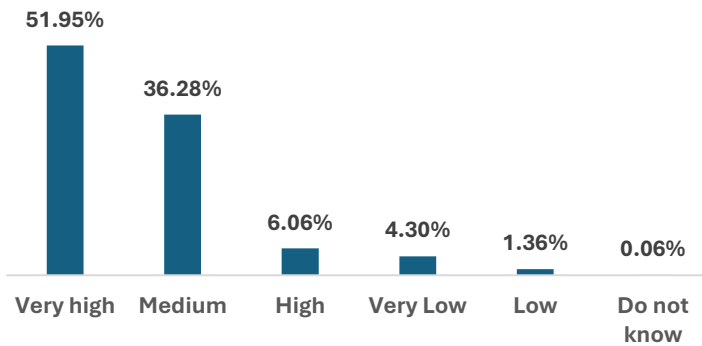
The 2025 Inter-Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA) provides an integrated analysis of Shelter, NFI, Site Development, and Site Management conditions across 33 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. The assessment surveyed 3,465 refugee households and 105 new arrival households, ensuring representative findings at camp level.

Shelter Condition and Maintenance Crisis

Key Findings:

Nearly 97% of households reside in standard refugee shelters, with limited upgrades to safer shelter models. Structural deterioration is widespread: roof leakage (55.5%) and damaged wall coverings (47.4%) are the most commonly reported issues. Over half of households (57.2%) were unable to undertake repairs in the past year, primarily due to lack of materials and financial constraints, highlighting a growing care-and-maintenance crisis.

Severity of site/area overcrowding



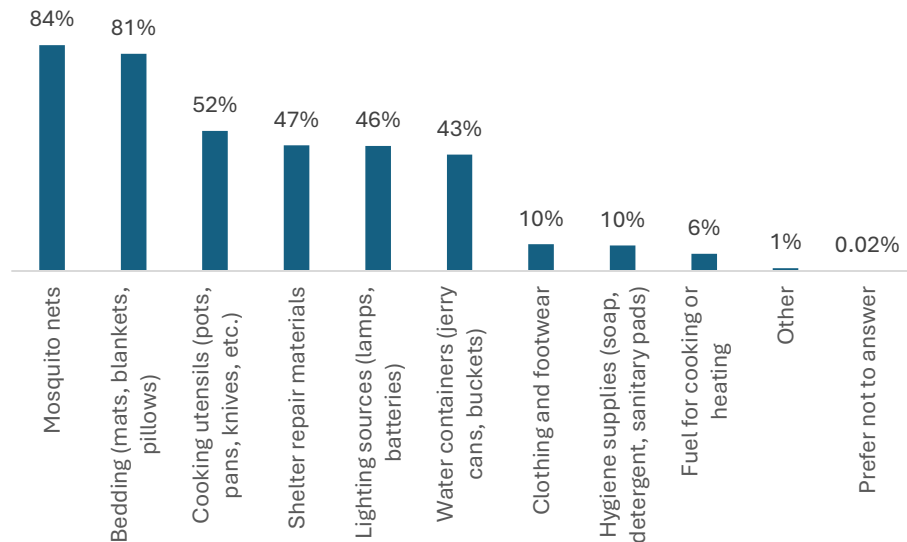
Overcrowding and Space Constraints

Site congestion remains severe, with 51.9% of respondents rating overcrowding as “very high”. While 74% report adequate internal space, significant constraints affect sleeping, privacy, and cooking functions. Overcrowding and structural deterioration directly undermine dignity, safety, and psychosocial wellbeing.

Critical NFI Gaps

Core NFI shortages are widespread. The most commonly missing items include mosquito nets (84%), bedding (81%), cooking utensils (52%), shelter repair materials (47%), lighting sources (46%), and water containers (43%). These gaps increase exposure to vector-borne diseases, fire hazards, and protection risks.

Core NFIs items are missing in the HH

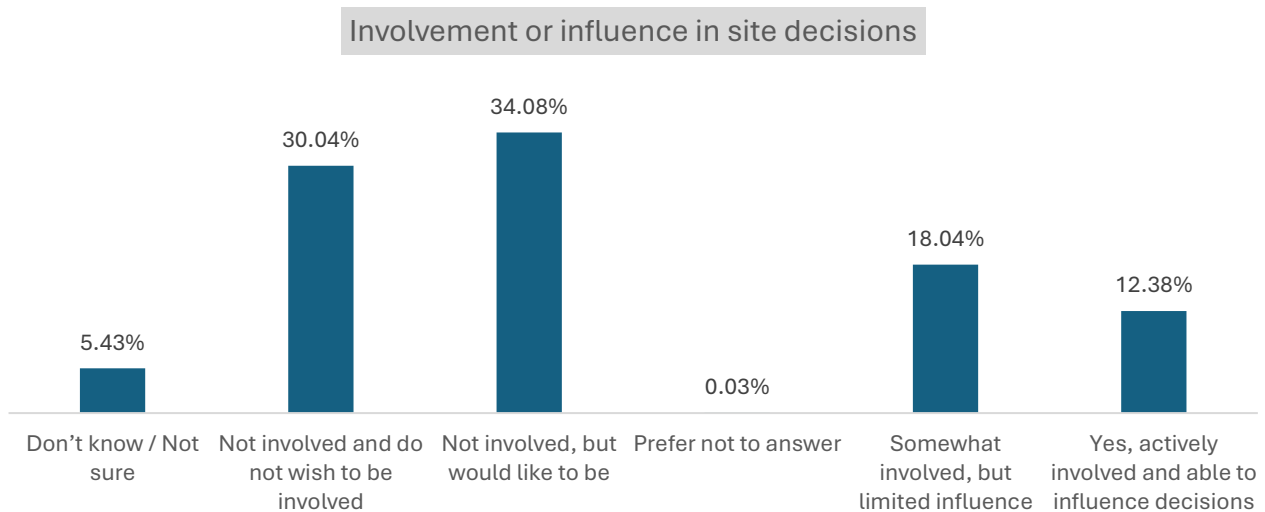


Energy and Fire Risk Concerns

Although solar lamps are widely used, 42% of households report functionality issues, including poor charging and battery failure. As a result, households revert to candles and open-flame lighting, increasing fire and protection risks in already congested settings.

Participation and Accountability Gaps

Only 12.4% of respondents feel actively involved in camp-level decision-making, while 34.1% wish to participate more. Information/help desks, care-and-maintenance services, and complaints mechanisms were identified as priority site management needs.



New Arrivals – Heightened Vulnerability

New arrivals face acute shelter and NFI deficits, with over 80% lacking essential items such as cooking utensils and water containers. Many report inadequate shelter safety and privacy, compounding risks within already overcrowded camps.

Strategic Implications

The ISNA 2025 findings underscore the urgent need to transition from episodic emergency support toward predictable, scaled care-and-maintenance programming, targeted NFI replenishment, solar system sustainability, and strengthened participatory site management. Without immediate funding and integrated settlement planning, congestion, infrastructure deterioration, and hazard exposure will continue to escalate.

To see the full report – [Click here](#)

SCCCM-GBV Safety Audit 2025

In 2025, the Joint SCCC-GBV Safety Audit was conducted across 33 camps in Cox’s Bazar to assess environmental, structural, governance, and programmatic factors contributing to gender-based violence (GBV) risks within shelter, communal facilities, and camp management systems.

Purpose & Approach

The audit, led jointly by the GBV Sub-Sector and the Shelter-CCCM Sector, aimed to identify and analyze factors that elevate GBV risks, strengthen prevention and mitigation measures, and inform programmatic action across sectors. A participatory mixed-methods approach was used, involving community consultations, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, structured observations, and reflection checklists with both community members and humanitarian staff.

Key Findings

Progress in Risk Mitigation Integration

- High levels of consultation with diverse groups during shelter planning and assessments (>90%), demonstrating commitment to inclusive processes.
- Most sites have adopted gender-sensitive NFI/LPG distribution practices, including separate queues and prioritization of vulnerable groups.
- Majority of CCCM contingency plans now include GBV risk mitigation measures.

Persistent Safety and Protection Gaps

- Lighting deficits persist, with significant proportions of paths, latrines, and water points poorly lit, contributing to insecurity for women and girls.
- Accessibility remains inadequate in multiple sites due to lack of ramps, handrails, and inclusive pathways for persons with disabilities and older persons.
- Internal shelter safety features (locks and partitions) and ventilation shortcomings continue to undermine privacy and dignity.
- Representation of women, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk groups in camp governance is increasing but often remains nominal rather than influential.

Accountability and Trust Challenges

- While complaints and referral mechanisms are established in most sites, community trust and functionality remain weak due to inconsistent follow-up and confidentiality concerns.

Strategic Implications

The audit highlights that while GBV risk-informed practices have been increasingly embedded in Shelter and CCCM programming, implementation is uneven, and structural gaps persist in safety features, accessibility, inclusive governance, and accountability mechanisms. Moving forward, strengthening standardized operationalization, enhancing supervision, and improving community trust in feedback systems are critical to achieving predictable protection outcomes across all camps

To see the full report – [Click here](#)

Shelter-NFI Data Needs Report

The 2025 Comprehensive Shelter–NFI Needs Assessment covered 465 households across 26 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf, applying a probability-based sampling approach to generate representative findings for sector planning. The assessment provides an integrated analysis of structural shelter conditions, site-level safety, and NFI gaps.

Key Findings

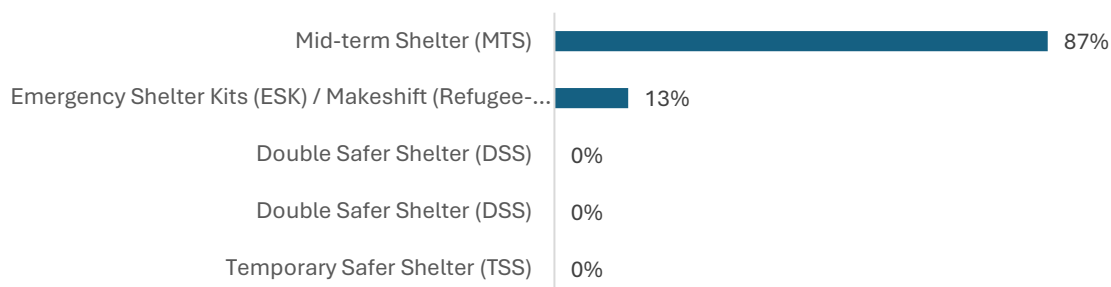
1. Quality Crisis in Mid-Term Shelters (MTS)

While 87% of households reside in Mid-Term Shelters (MTS), structural deterioration is widespread.

- 70% report bamboo infestation, significantly reducing shelter lifespan.
- 58% experience roof leakage, exposing households to water damage and health risks.
- 57% have sub-optimal flooring, increasing moisture and vector-related risks.

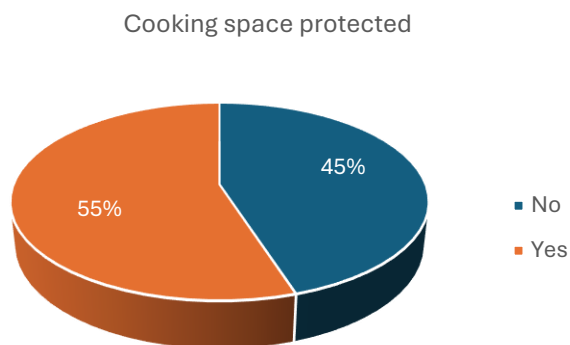
The findings indicate a durability and maintenance crisis, rather than a shelter coverage gap.

Shelter Typology



2. Fire and Environmental Risks

- Only 52% report firebreaks are properly maintained, leaving nearly half of the areas assessed at elevated fire risk.
- 45% lack protected cooking spaces, increasing burn and settlement-wide fire hazards.
- Flooding is localized but acute in specific areas such as KRC, where the majority report seasonal impact.
- Nearly half of households perceive erosion or landslide risk, reflecting environmental vulnerability.



3. Protection and Dignity Gaps

- 89% rely on communal latrines, with only 10% having internal latrines, creating protection and accessibility concerns.
- 46% lack adequate internal privacy partitions.
- 22% lack full locking mechanisms, posing security risks.
- Overcrowding and limited domestic space undermine dignity and psychosocial wellbeing.

4. Climate Adaptation Deficits

Heat mitigation measures remain limited:

- 24% have no cooling feature installed.
- The majority rely only on natural shade or minimal ventilation.

With increasing heat stress and monsoon intensity, climate-adaptive shelter upgrades remain a major opportunity gap.

5. Persistent NFI Gaps

High-demand items include mosquito nets, bedding materials, hygiene items, cooking utensils, lighting sources, and water containers. Significant wear-and-tear was observed across bedding, mats, and kitchen equipment, compounded by seasonal environmental pressures. Many households rely on borrowing, sharing, or purchasing items despite limited income.

Strategic Implication

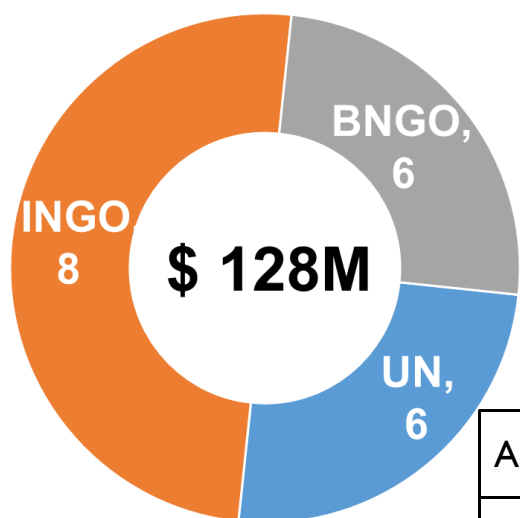
The assessment confirms that the refugee settlement has entered an infrastructure aging phase, where existing shelters are reaching end-of-design life without predictable maintenance systems. The priority is to shift from episodic assistance toward:

- Predictable care-and-maintenance cycles
- Targeted bamboo and roofing rehabilitation
- Firebreak restoration and cooking safety upgrades
- Scaled NFI replenishment pipelines
- Climate-adaptive shelter retrofitting

SCCCM JRP for 2026

For 2026, the Shelter-CCCM Sector submitted a total appeal of USD 128 million, reflecting a 31% reduction compared to the 2025 appeal (USD 186.4 million). The revised ask prioritizes life-saving and critical maintenance interventions in a highly constrained funding environment.

	2025	2026	(-) 2025 vs 2026	+/- %
TOTAL Ask	186.4m	128m	-58m	-31%
P1*	58.1m	84.6m	26.5m	+46%
P2*	92.9m	31.6m	-61.3m	-66%
P3	11.7m	3.3m	- 8.4m	-72%
R/S	23.3m	8.5m	-14.8m	-63%



As of April 2026 -

Appeal Budget	127,994,929/ 128M USD (100%)
Confirmed Budget	\$56,895,748 / 56.8M USD (44.5%)
Required Budget	71,099,178/ 71.1M USD (55.5%)

This year life saving activities/P1's are below-

Activity Group	Sub-activity	Priority	Budget by Sub-activity in 2026	
			Budget for Refugees (USD)	Budget for Host Comm. (USD)
Access and Safety	# of ha revegetated land including slope stabilized through nature-based solutions	1st	2,963,485	5,000
	# of km streambank rehabilitated and maintained through riparian plantation	1st	436,071	0
	Surface area re-forested and mitigate the landslide risk	1st	717,588	0
LPG	# of New arrival HHS supported with LPG cylinder, refills and Pressure cooker and associated induction	1st	660,528	0
	LPG refills, training, energy efficient cookware, including EVHHs (RR)	1st	34,175,438	0
NFI	# of HHS supported with Sector approved minimum NFI packages (including Voucher) (2026 new arrivals)	1st	876,656	0
	# of HHS supported with Sector approved minimum NFI packages (including Voucher) (families who haven't received NFI assistance in 2025)	1st	605,950	0
Service Coordination and Site Management Support	% of identified service gaps forwarded to respective sectors	1st	1,580,076	0
	# of Camp Coordination meetings include refugee representatives held per month	1st	1,705,088	0
	# of site profiles and Service monitoring database updated within the agreed timeframe	1st	1,018,152	0
Shelter	# of HHS reached with regular shelter improvement/upgrading, repair, maintenance and reinforcement, including EVHHs	1st	14,821,710	150,000
Disaster Risk Management	# of camps with established fire response capacity established (MFFU, training etc.)	1st	1,014,608	12,096
	# of camps with identified trained DRM first responders	1st	1,451,417	24,937
	# of DMC meetings	1st	65,355	14,773
	# of DRM drills and simulations (Early warning system)	1st	187,579	71,754
	# of DRM training per camp received	1st	369,844	115,000
	# of HHS identified pre disaster through SMA. (cyclone - flood)	1st	16,325	22,798
	# of HHS supported with emergency NFI assistance (approved minimum package) including EVHHs (including Voucher)	1st	665,820	0
	# of households identified and relocated from high-risk areas	1st	288,899	0
	# of households identified as in need of permanent relocation from high-risk area (flood/landslide)	1st	244,669	0
	# of incident reports identifying households for Rapid Damage Verification (RDV)	1st	155,507	0
# of Multi Hazard awareness sessions conducted	1st	513,889	54,141	

Activity Group	Sub-activity	Priority	Budget by Sub-activity in 2026	
			Budget for Refugees (USD)	Budget for Host Comm. (USD)
	# of refugee HHs supported with Emergency LPG distribution, including EVHHs	1st	320,154	0
	# of rehabilitation schemes (pathways, bridges, etc.) identified, prioritized and implemented, following damage after heavy rainfall/ cyclone, by refugee community members through CFW modality or voluntarily	1st	658,200	35,668
	% of identified drainage cleaning and distilling works done	1st	1,954,604	5,000
	% of identified high risk Slope areas stabilized through SD works	1st	14,456,533	80,000
	# of HH supported with shelters (ESK, MTS, TSS, Tie Down kits) and repair materials distributions post hazard	1st	1,552,076	0
AAP	# of camps with CFRM	1st	270,322	500
Community Participation and Empowerment	# of people reached by SMA information campaigns	1st	156,164	0

The funding structure reflects a strategic shift toward Priority 1 (P1) activities, which increased by 46% (USD 84.6M) to safeguard essential shelter safety, care-and-maintenance, and risk mitigation needs. In contrast, allocations under P2, P3, and resilience/support (R/S) components were significantly reduced to focus limited resources on immediate life-saving interventions.

Out of the total appeal:

- USD 6.2 million (13%) has been confirmed
- USD 111.8 million (87%) remains unfunded

A total of 20 agencies submitted JRP 2026 projects:

- 5 projects focused on Site Management & Site Development (SMSD)
- 2 projects focused on Shelter & NFI (SNFI)
- 13 projects integrated both SMSD and SNFI

The 2026 appeal reflects a targeted, risk-informed prioritization approach, concentrating resources on critical infrastructure rehabilitation, fire safety, and protection-sensitive site management amid significant funding constraints.

Sector Performance 2025

In 2025, the SCCCM Sector conducted its annual Performance Monitoring Survey with 16 responding partners, representing UN agencies (44%), International NGOs (25%), and National NGOs (31%).

Overall Satisfaction



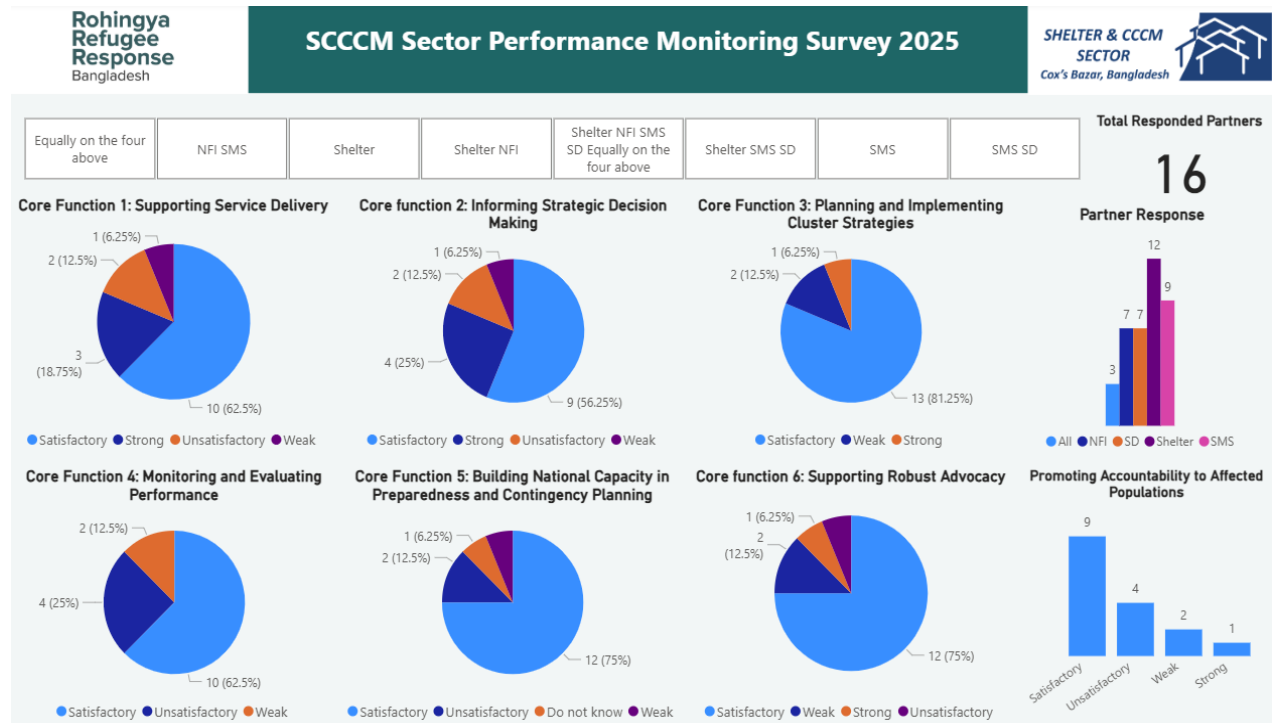
The Overall Satisfaction Index in 2025 stood at 59%, compared to 70% in 2024. While this reflects a slight decline, the majority of partners continued to rate sector coordination as satisfactory or strong across core functions.

Satisfaction by Core Function

- Supporting Service Delivery: 73% satisfaction index
- Informing Strategic Decision Making: 75% satisfaction index
- Planning & Implementing Cluster Strategies: 70% satisfaction index
- Monitoring & Evaluating Performance: 63% satisfaction index
- Building National Capacity: 64% satisfaction index
- Supporting Robust Advocacy: 69% satisfaction index
- Promoting Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP): 64% satisfaction index

The strongest ratings were observed in Strategic Decision-Making and Service Delivery, demonstrating confidence in data-driven coordination and operational support. Slightly lower scores in Monitoring, National Capacity Building, and AAP suggest areas for continued strengthening in 2026.

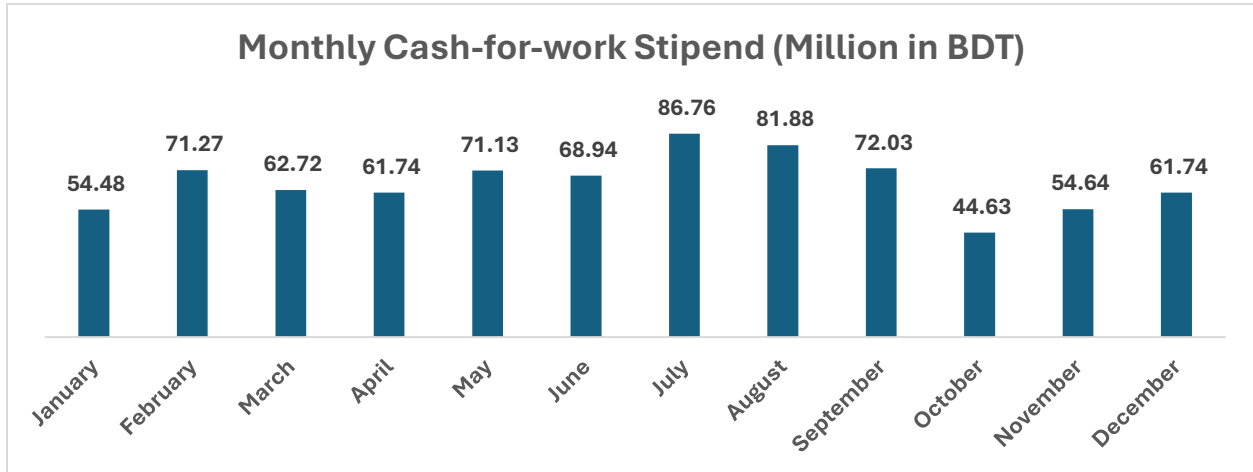
Key Insight



Although overall satisfaction remains solid, the reduction compared to 2024 indicates the increasing operational pressures faced by partners, including funding constraints and rising incident trends. Moving forward, the Sector will prioritize enhanced partner engagement, stronger AAP integration, and streamlined monitoring mechanisms to improve overall performance perception.

Yearly trend for CFW

In 2025, the SCCCM Sector facilitated monthly Cash-for-Work (CFW) stipends totaling between BDT 44.6 million and BDT 86.8 million per month, reflecting seasonal operational intensity and activity scale. Stipend disbursement steadily increased from BDT 54.5 million in January to a peak of BDT 86.8 million in July,



coinciding with the monsoon preparedness and response period when site maintenance, drainage cleaning, and risk mitigation activities were scaled up.

Following the peak monsoon period, stipend levels gradually declined, reaching the lowest point in October (BDT 44.6 million), before stabilizing again in November and December.

EVENTS:

TSS Workshop with RRRG (9th Feb)

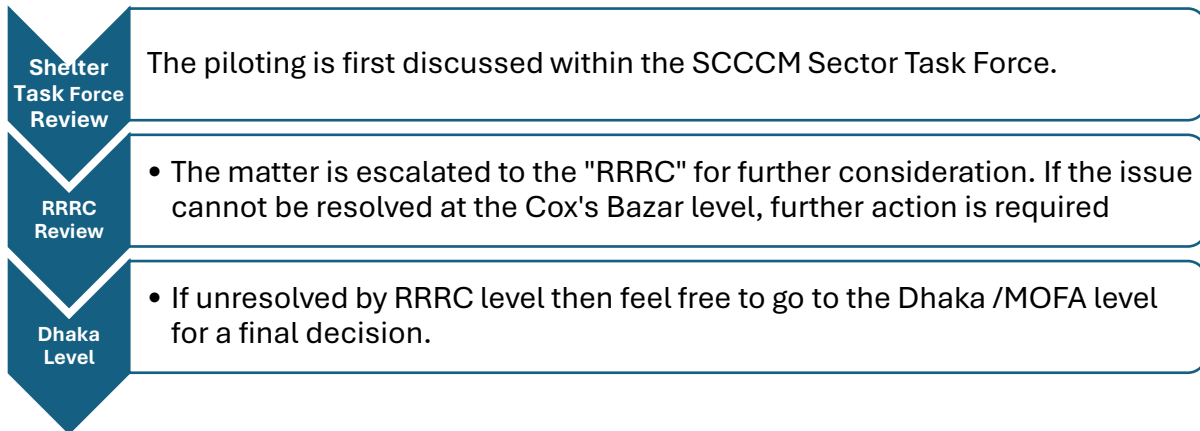
On 9th February 2025, a daylong workshop was held at the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner on Temporary Safer Shelter options developed by the Shelter taskforce and endorsed by the Inter-sector Coordination Group. Among the 4 proposed options, one was finally approved- Lime Stabilized Soil constructed shelter, while the weather and fire-resistant materials had also been approved for planning new shelter models.



LSS Shelter at innovation valley in Camp 20 @IOM



Any new type of materials/Shelter/SP the process must be introduced through below process-



As per the committee's preference, a certain percentage of shelters in the camp must be lime-stabilized to uphold their decision and ensure compliance. To integrate these shelter models into site planning, site planners should identify appropriate locations. In the slope areas and flood prone areas, stilt shelters might be more suitable. In some cases, no alternative options may be available, making their placement essential. For flat ground, other shelter models can be considered based on suitability and planning requirements.

National Workshop on Integrated Settlement Planning (ISP) (23rd TO 27th Feb)

The Integrated Settlement Planning Workshop, held from 23rd to 27th February 2025, brought together key stakeholders, including government officials, UN agencies (UNHCR, IOM), and sector partners, to enhance collaboration and capacity for refugee camp planning. Organized by the SCCCM Sector and ISCG, the workshop aimed to strengthen government leadership and foster cross-sectoral coordination in Cox's Bazar's Rohingya refugee response.

Key outcomes included:

- Camp In-Charges and officials gained tools for participatory settlement planning, with high satisfaction rates (4.26/5) reported as per the post survey.
- Improved alignment between IOM and UNHCR on planning standards and mutual understanding of approaches.
- Calls for government-led planning, hazard mitigation, and rehabilitation of natural drainage systems were emphasized.

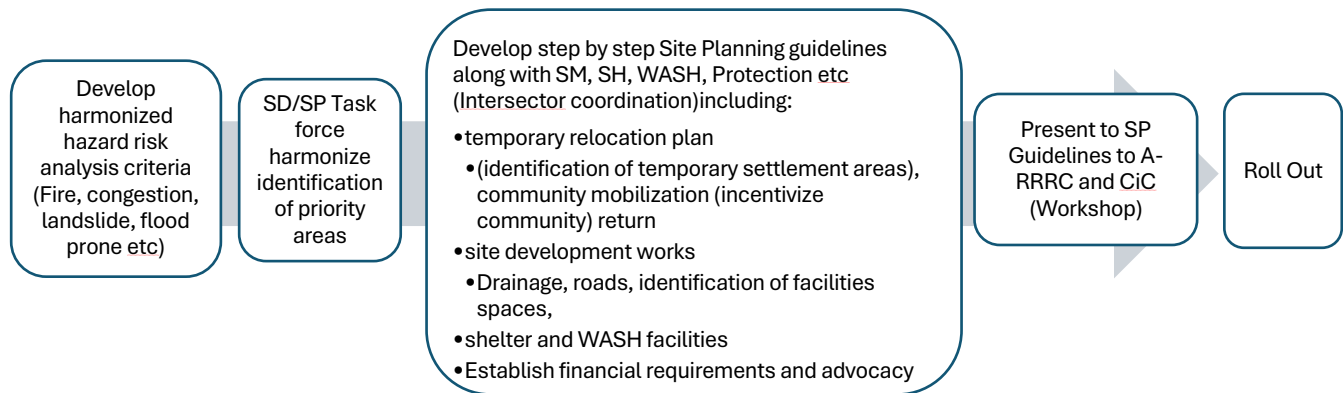


Photo: ISP Workshop DAY 2

- Participants highlighted the value of field visits, group work (rated 4.63/5 as per the post survey), and global insights from Geneva experts. Next steps include follow-up trainings (e.g., GIS), regular knowledge-sharing platforms, and forming an ISCG Taskforce to implement recommendations.
- The workshop underscored the need for innovative solutions amid space constraints, with a focus on equitable infrastructure and shelter safety. An action plan was drawn for developing the site planning guideline for Rohingya Camps below:



Photo: ISP Workshop Field Visit



Landslide Risk Prevention and Mitigation Planning Workshop

On 30th April 2025, a workshop on landslide risk prevention and mitigation was organized by the SCCCM sector and the RRRC office in Cox’s Bazar where almost 105 participants took part in the group activities on landslide risk mitigation, prevention and relocation strategies. The UN Resident Coordinator and RRRC were present during the inauguration session among other distinguished guests. Participants including govt officials from the RRRC office, APBN, UN staff, NGO, INGO participated in the group activities. To examine the proposed strategies for effectively preventing and mitigating landslide risk in the Rohingya camps. Importantly, it will provide a platform to share practices, lessons learned and discuss solutions to address underlying issues that affect the effective delivery of landslide risk mitigation, emergency preparedness, and response measures.



Photo: Group activity during the workshop @UNHCR



Photo: Invited Guests at the workshop @SCCCM



Celebration of World Environment Day

Led by the Energy and Environment Network (EEN) and in collaboration of the RRRC office, World Environment Day 2025 was celebrated across the camps from 16-18 June. Tree plantation, awareness against plastic pollution, art competition for children, camp cleaning campaign, community dialogue, awareness sessions, street drama etc. were organized by SCCM actors across different camps.



Photo: Observation of World Environment Day in Different Camps

CCCM Training by Capacity Sharing Initiative (CSI)

The Joint Capacity Sharing Initiative, under the S-CCCM Sector, technically co-led by both IOM and UNHCR, is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary training, capacity sharing and skills transfer platform that prepares and reinforces the Government of Bangladesh’s (GoB) national site management staff and other relevant stakeholder. The Capacity Sharing Initiative arranged a 3 days CCCM Foundation training from 12-14 May 2025.



Photo: CCCM Foundation Training Participants by CSI Team

Fire Safety Training for Shelter -CCCM Sector Partners on 1 September 2025

To better prepare the field level staff in fire response, the Shelter-CCCM (SCCCM) Sector organized a day-long Fire Safety Training for field-level staff from partner agencies on 28 August and 1 September 2025 at

the IOM Ukhiya Office. The training was designed to strengthen frontline preparedness and enhance practical capacity for fire prevention and emergency response within camp settings. A total of 56 participants (28 participants per batch) from Shelter-CCCM partner organizations successfully completed the training over the two sessions. Each organization was invited to nominate one field-level staff member to ensure broad representation and operational relevance.

The training focused on three core components:

- Basic fire extinguisher use and safe handling techniques
- Best practices for fire risk mitigation in congested camp environments
- Key fire prevention considerations in newly introduced Lime Stabilized Soil (LSS) and Temporary Safer Shelter (TSS) models

The methodology combined technical presentations, group discussions, scenario-based learning, and hands-on practical exercises. Participants engaged in live demonstrations of fire extinguisher operation and simulated response scenarios to strengthen real-time decision-making and coordination skills.

Pre- and post-training evaluations indicated improved understanding of fire safety protocols, particularly in relation to the evolving shelter typologies and firebreak strategies being implemented under the SCCCM Sector.



Field staff participating in practical fire extinguisher demonstration during Fire Safety Training

Collaboration with Academia- Visit of University Students in Camps

The SCCCM Sector strengthened its collaboration with academia by supporting a field-based learning initiative under the ‘Design Studio’ course of the Department of Architecture at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST). As part of ARC 4104 (Design Studio VII), fourth-year students undertook a project titled “Planning and Design of Community Spaces for the Rohingya Refugee Population in Kutupalong Mega Camp.” The initiative aimed to bridge academic learning with real-world humanitarian challenges through direct engagement with the Rohingya response.



From 21–24 December 2025, AUST students participated in a four-day field engagement in Cox’s Bazar. The program began with a technical workshop at the WASH Building, where students received orientation on humanitarian principles, settlement planning, MESO-level strategies, and the complex socio-spatial dynamics of the camps. This was followed by field visits to Camps 4, 15, and 17, enabling students to observe settlement patterns, assess environmental risks, and understand challenges related to density, infrastructure, and service delivery. A visit to the Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre further enriched students’ understanding of cultural and social contexts.



AUST Design Studio Workshop 2025

The studio focused on micro-level planning at block and sub-block levels, addressing hazard mitigation (floods, landslides, fire), drainage and watershed management, and integrated planning of shelters, WASH facilities, and communal spaces. Emphasis was placed on community participation and cost-effective, context-sensitive solutions.

The initiative was jointly supported by SCCCM Sector partners, including UNHCR, IOM, BRAC, HEKS/EPER, and ACTED, with permission from RRRRC. This collaboration highlights the role of academia in contributing innovative, research-driven solutions while strengthening future capacity for humanitarian planning and design.



AUST Design Studio Field Visit



AUST Design Studio Field Visit



AUST Design Studio Field Visit



AUST Design Studio Workshop 2025

Monsoon Response

As of 30th June 2025, Heavy monsoon rains caused 297 landslides and 41 flooding incidents across Cox's Bazar's Rohingya camps, damaging 4,174 shelters and displacing 4,942 people². Despite proactive measures, a significant funding gap is undermining vital relief efforts. The lead agencies i.e. UNHCR and IOM, in coordination with Bangladesh authorities and partners under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), has launched an emergency response. Over 3,000 community disaster management volunteers and hundreds of additional community responders and cash for workers have been deployed across the camps to support emergency relocations, rescue operations, and initial damage assessments.

Site management agencies conducted cyclone preparedness drills, community mobilization for relocation from the landslide risk prone areas, consultation and awareness sessions with the thematic community groups. Site Development and DRR actors focused on drainage cleaning and desilting, covering or stabilizing risky slopes to prevent landslides and protect both lives and critical infrastructure, removing fallen trees and debris from shelters and accessways.

The shelter response included providing Emergency Shelter Repair Support to affected households within the shortest possible timeframe, ensuring quick restoration of safety and dignity, mobilizing the community with timely awareness messages on preparedness, safety measures, and available support mechanisms, supporting vulnerable families with temporary and emergency relocation, minimizing exposure to life-threatening risks during intense weather events.

² [S-CCCM daily incident Report](#)



Photo: Monsoon Response by Shelter, Site Management and Site Development-DRR actors



Fire advocacy messages (3 major fires in December)

Fire remains one of the most persistent hazards in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, with 2,425 recorded incidents between May 2018 and December 2025, affecting over 100,000 individuals and damaging more than 20,000 shelters. Historically, large-scale fire events in 2021 and 2023 caused widespread destruction; however, 2025 marked a notable shift in impact despite continued high incident frequency.

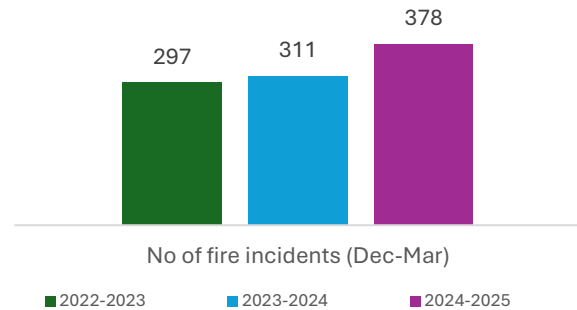
The advocacy note highlights that although fire incidents did not decrease (with 683 incidents recorded in 2025), there were no catastrophic, camp-wide fires as seen in earlier years. This improvement is attributed to sustained investments in preparedness and response capacity, including community-based fire response teams, pre-positioned firefighting equipment, and strengthened coordination among UN agencies, SCCC partners, and civil defense actors.

A specific review of December 2025 fire activity showed several incidents across camps such as Kutupalong RC and Camp 24, but with limited humanitarian impact and no fatalities; trained volunteers and rapid response mechanisms contained fires quickly and effectively.

The note emphasizes that the positive trend reinforces the effectiveness of long-term donor support and operational efforts but cautions that fire risk remains structurally high due to dense settlement patterns and flammable shelter materials. Continued investment in fire-resilient shelter materials, sustained emergency preparedness, and community capacity building is urged to maintain and further reduce fire impacts in future seasons.

To see the advocacy note – [Click here](#)

Seasonal Fire Incident Trend (2020-2025)



Key Highlights: Data May 2018 to Dec 2025

2,425 Total Number of Fire Incidents Recorded	1,097 Number of People Injured
19,148 Number of Shelters Damaged	37 Number of People Death
20,749 Number of Households Affected	352 Number of People Missing
100,823 Number of Individuals Affected	3,691 Number of Facilities Damaged
60,220 Number of Individuals Displaced	83 Number of Fire Incidents Recorded in December 2025



Building Emergency Shelter after the fire incident

CSI Thematic Workshop

Joint Capacity Sharing Initiative (CSI): The Joint Capacity Sharing Initiative, under the Site Management Sector, is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary training, capacity sharing and skills transfer platform that prepares and reinforces the Government of Bangladesh's (GoB) national site management staff.

Objective: *To prepares and reinforce the Government of Bangladesh's newly recruited national site management Support Staff*

Under the Capacity Sharing Initiative (CSI) the following activities have taken place in last two quarters:

- *IOM completed 2 batches of Basic CCCM training for the CiC staff members and the partner agencies from different IOM AoR camps. Total 43 participants were covered (06 female and 37 male). UNHCR completed 6 batches of Basic CCCCCM training for the CiC staff members and the partner agencies from different UNHCR AoR camps.*
- *CSI team jointly organized 2 days thematic workshop on Protection, Durable Solution, Data Protection, HLP and AAP with CiCs from different camps.*



Photo: During the CCCM training, feedback from ARRC and the CCCM Unit Lead at UNHCR

- One ToT on Disaster Risk Management for Disaster Management Committees was organized by IFRC. Participants from RRRC Office and Site Management senior staff from both IOM and UNHCR AoR attended the ToT. The Trainees aims to roll out the DRM trainings for the DMC (Disaster Management Committees) at camp level.



Photo: CCCM Foundation Training Participants by CSI Team

CCCM Trainings: As part of fostering a shared understanding on Camp Coordination and Camp Management among UNHCR, IOM, Site Management partners, Government counterparts, and other humanitarian actors working in the camps, UNHCR coordinating closely with IOM and government of Bangladesh and facilitated Seven Batches of CCCM training session in 2025. Additionally, the aim of CCCM training is to strengthen participants' knowledge and practical skills in applying relevant CCCM guidelines and tools, enabling them to contribute more effectively to settlement responses when required.

The trainings, implemented with funding support for Six batches from UNHCR and one batch from JICA.

A total 215 participants, including 163 men and 52 women, including the newly appointed CiCs (10), CiC staff (38), as well as UNHCR, IOM and other operational and implementing partners (167), actively participated and completed the trainings. The sessions were facilitated by a diverse team of trainers from RRRC, UNHCR, IOM and SMS partners. The training emphasized roles and responsibilities, in line with international standards and principles.

Thematic Workshop for CiCs: The Capacity Sharing Initiative (CSI), a joint effort of the RRRC Office, UNHCR, and IOM, conducted a Protection-themed workshop on 3–4 December 2025 to strengthen the Cox's Bazar refugee response. The workshop brought together 20 CiC/A-CiCs and 24 participants from the Protection, Health, and SCCCM sectors to promote a shared understanding of Protection, HLP, and AAP in line with international standards, and to enhance awareness of resources for effective protection coordination. Representatives from the RRRC Office, ISCG, UNHCR, and IOM attended the opening and closing ceremonies, reaffirming their commitment to collaborative protection efforts.



Photo: CCCM Training Certificate distribution

Sheltering Hope, Building Resilience: SCCCM in Action (Case Stories)

CCCM

From Pain to Purpose: Sokina's Journey Towards Strengthening Camp Resilience

Sokina’s (35) life in Myanmar was upended in 2017. Fleeing military violence with her children, she endured a traumatic journey to Bangladesh, separated from her husband and everything she knew. Settling in the overcrowded Camp 26 in Teknaf, she faced profound uncertainty—a single mother of three, haunted by loss and struggling to survive. But in 2018, Sokina found a lifeline: ActionAid Bangladesh’s Site Management Support (SMS) program. She stepped forward as a volunteer, determined to rebuild purpose from pain.

Trained in disaster response, first aid, and firefighting, Sokina transformed into a pillar of resilience for her community. Daily, she walks through the camp’s narrow pathways, conducting home visits to share life-saving knowledge: reducing fire risks, promoting safe hygiene, and connecting vulnerable families to essential services. Her courage defied tradition—becoming one of Camp 26’s first female fire responders. She now leads fire drills, teaching neighbors to use extinguishers and pumps, evacuate safely, and stay calm in emergencies. Her leadership has not only reduced panic during crises but also reshaped perceptions of women’s roles in the community.



Photo: Sokina in her role as a fire fighter @ACTED

Through her work, Sokina ignites change far beyond safety. Her advocacy for clean water and health referrals has curbed disease outbreaks. Her visibility as a confident female volunteer in male-dominated spaces inspires other women to step into community leadership. "This role gave me strength," she reflects. "I lost my past, but I gained a future through helping others."

Sokina’s journey—from displaced mother to trusted first responder—proves the power of refugee-led solutions. For seven years, her dedication has fortified Camp 26 against disasters and despair. Yet her heart remains anchored in hope: "I work every day to make camp life better, but I yearn for the moment I can return home to Myanmar."

Her story underscores the SMS program’s impact and the urgent need for sustained support: continued stipends for volunteers, advanced training in first aid and psychosocial care, and pathways for skilled women like Sokina to transition into paid humanitarian roles.



Weaving Dignity: Jafor Hossain's Journey from Dependence to Leadership Through Disability Inclusion

Location: **Camp 12**

Name of Organization: Danish Refugee Council (**DRC**)

For seventy-five-year-old Jafor Hossain, the journey from Myanmar to Bangladesh in 2017 was more than displacement—it was the loss of identity and independence. Once a farmer who supported his family with dignity, he arrived at Camp 12 in Cox's Bazar carrying the trauma of conflict and a physical disability that limited his mobility. In a camp of nearly 32,000 people, overcrowded and resource-constrained, Jafor's life became defined by dependency and waiting—waiting for aid, assistance, and a sense of purpose that seemed lost.

Like many people with disabilities in the camp, Jafor faced barriers to accessing services and participating in community life. Their voices were often excluded from decision-making processes, leaving them marginalized despite their significant needs. Recognizing this gap, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), through its Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) program with support from IOM, introduced an inclusive initiative: the Disability Inclusion Support Committee (DISC).

The initiative followed a Community-Led Project (CLP) approach, emphasizing participation, ownership, and sustainability. Through inclusive consultations involving men, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, the community identified fishing net production as a suitable livelihood opportunity—low-cost, culturally familiar, and accessible for individuals with limited mobility.

DISC members, including Jafor, played a central role in designing and implementing the project, while DRC provided technical support, materials, and oversight. This collaborative effort transformed the intervention from a simple aid activity into a shared community initiative.

For Jafor, the impact was life changing. His hands, once idle, began weaving fishing nets, restoring not only his ability to contribute economically but also his sense of dignity. The income helped his family access food, hygiene supplies, and medical care. More importantly, it restored his identity. "Before, I thought I could only wait for help," he reflected. "Now, I feel I can help my own people."

The initiative also had wider social impact. By actively involving people with disabilities in productive work and decision-making, it challenged stigma and fostered inclusion. Confidence grew among participants, and their roles within the community strengthened. As one DISC member shared, "Before, I was silent. Now, I speak and act for my family and neighbors."

Despite its success, the project faced challenges. Initially, some community members were unfamiliar with participatory approaches and hesitant to engage. However, continuous dialogue and visible results helped build trust and acceptance over time.

Although the project duration was short, its effects continue through skill-sharing and ongoing support. It demonstrated that when communities are empowered, even in resource-constrained settings, they can drive meaningful change.



As Jafor continues weaving nets inside his shelter, each thread represents more than livelihood—it symbolizes resilience, dignity, and renewed purpose. His journey reflects a powerful truth: even in the most difficult circumstances, inclusion and empowerment can restore not just livelihoods, but lives.



Photo: Jafor Hossain, DISC member, weaving a fishing net inside his shelter. His hands craft tools of sustenance and symbols of renewed purpose @Danish Refugee Council.

The net growing in Jafor’s hands will soon provide for his family. But its greatest value lies elsewhere—in the restoration of dignity, the rebuilding of identity, and the quiet but powerful reminder that even in the most difficult circumstances, purpose can be reclaimed, one thread at a time.

Bridging Barriers: How a Community led Initiative Transformed Mobility and Access in Camp 03

For years, residents of Camp 03, particularly those living in B02, B04, and B06 subblocks, struggled with a challenge that quietly shaped every part of daily life. More than 550 residents, including women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, faced significant obstacles in simply reaching essential services such as hospitals, distribution centres, learning facilities, and administrative offices.

At the heart of the problem lay a wide secondary drain running through the valley between subblocks. With steep stairways rising sharply on both sides, crossing the drain had become a daily hardship. For vulnerable groups, the difficulty often turned into danger. Mothers avoided the route, older people feared falling, and children hesitated to attend school when it meant navigating unsafe pathways. During community consultations, residents repeatedly identified this barrier as one of their most urgent priorities.

The impact was immediate and deeply felt.



“Now, this bridge ensures my access to the hospital and distribution centre via the shortest distance,” shared Mr. Ayas, a person with disabilities who previously struggled to navigate the vertical terrain.*

For many elderly residents, the intervention has been lifechanging.

“Before this initiative, it was very difficult to reach the CiC office, hospital, or distribution site for ration. The alternative route was much farther, but now the journey is easier and shorter,” said Mohammed Alom, an elderly community leader.*

Teachers and parents have noticed a remarkable improvement in children’s mobility and safety.

“With this bridge, students now have easier access to school. It improves child protection and encourages learning. The consultation process and incorporation of our suggestions made us feel happy and empowered,” explained Mr. Rofique, a teacher at a nearby community school.*



Handover the project to the community and feedback session



The bamboo bridge ensured the access for the community

The initiative’s strength lies in its approach. The community identified the need, prioritized it collectively, and monitored the implementation process. Acted supported the intervention with materials, labour, and technical expertise before handing over full ownership to the residents. This method not only strengthens the physical environment but builds community confidence, engagement, and leadership, key pillars of accountability to affected populations.

The bamboo bridge now stands as more than a structure, it symbolizes resilience, dignity, and the power of community voices. Through collaboration and commitment, Camp 03 has built more than a pathway; it has built connection, opportunity, and hope for thousands.

N.B. * Names are changed to maintain the confidentiality of beneficiaries.

From Risk to Recreation: How a Community-Led Football Field is Transforming Young Lives in Camp 4

In Camp 4, where thousands of Rohingya families live in tightly packed shelters, open spaces are scarce. For the large number of adolescents and youth growing up in the camp, finding a suitable place to play football, a sport many carried with them from their childhoods in Myanmar, had become increasingly difficult. Most open plots were uneven, congested, or already in use, leaving young people with limited options for recreation, physical activity, or positive engagement.

For Habib*, a 19-year-old youth leader from E06 Block, football was more than just a sport. It was a reminder of the freedom he once had. “Back in Myanmar, I used to help my father on the farm and play football in open fields without fear,” he recalls. “After arriving here, movement became restricted, opportunities became limited, and youth had little to keep them active or motivated.”



Photo: Youth playing at the field and community people watching the match



Photo: The newly created football playing space through community-led initiative

The turning point came when Habib* and his youth group learned about a community-built Chinlone (a traditional Rohingya sport) field in a nearby block. Inspired by this success under the Community-Led Project (CLP), they approached Acted’s Site Management Support (SMS) team with a proposal: develop a dedicated football field for the youth of Camp 4.

Acted encouraged the initiative and helped the youth group submit a formal request to the Camp-in-Charge (CiC). After securing approval, Acted’s engineer worked closely with the youth group to design the playing area. Materials, including borak bamboo, geo bags, GI wire, and cement, were provided, while the youth themselves contributed labour, planning, supervision, and coordination.

The journey was not without resistance. Some community members preferred that the land be used for building a madrasa. Habib* explains, “We respected their concerns. We held meetings with religious leaders and elders and shared how this field could benefit children and youth, keeping them active, building discipline, and strengthening community ties. Slowly, they understood and supported us.”

With strong support from influential community figures, the project moved forward. The construction process strengthened cooperation among youth and parents and reinforced the importance of collective decision-making.

The first match played on the new turf remains Habib's* favourite memory. "Seeing hundreds of young people come together, it felt like we achieved something meaningful," he recalls. Community members expressed pride and appreciation, recognizing the youth group's dedication and leadership.

Looking ahead, Habib* dreams of adding a small gallery for spectators and hopes to see more youth-focused initiatives, including a community-led school for children.

N.B. * Names are changed to maintain the confidentiality of beneficiaries.

Soft Threads, Strong Stories- Women Participation Project (WPP)

Location: All IOM Camps

As dusk falls over the camp, a fragile silence settles among the rows of tightly packed shelters—each one holding stories that rarely escape their confines, especially the stories of women. For Rohingya women like Fatema Khatun and Nurusamman, displacement has meant more than losing their homes; it has tightened the invisible boundaries around them. Long before arriving in the camps, cultural norms restricted their movement outside the household, but after fleeing Myanmar, those restrictions became even more pronounced. Stepping outside alone is discouraged, working in public spaces is largely impossible, and while families struggle to survive, many women find themselves confined indoors, watching opportunities slip away beyond the narrow doorways of their shelters. The burden is twofold: they shoulder the responsibilities of caregiving, trauma, and survival, yet they have little opportunity to contribute economically. Their dependence grows—not by choice, but by circumstance. Skills remain unused, and voices go unheard. In this constrained reality, even small opportunities can have a profound impact.

Fatema's journey with a needle and thread began long before she ever reached the camp. Originally from Maungdaw, Myanmar, she carries a name that reflects her identity: Khalifa, which means "tailor" in her language. Her cousin's sister first taught her to sew, and with determination, she purchased her own sewing machine—a tool that represented both livelihood and independence. But when violence forced her family to flee, she left everything behind, including the machine that supported her dreams. In the camp, now a mother of two, she managed to buy a second-hand machine, but it was old and difficult to operate. Her work was slow, and sustaining an income remained a constant struggle.



Photo: Women Participation Project in IOM camps

For Nurusamman, the path was even more traumatic. In Myanmar, her family owned land and cattle, sustaining themselves through farming despite severe restrictions on freedom. But in 2017, fire engulfed their village, forcing them to flee. During the crossing, tragedy struck—her daughter was shot, and one of her sons is blind. Adjusting to camp life meant carrying the weight of profound loss while trying to hold her family together.

The turning point arrived through the Women's Participation Project (WPP) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), introduced to both women by a site management volunteer. For Nurusamman, joining the women's committee and learning crafting skills became a source of healing. For

Fatema, consistently sharing her passion for tailoring led to a life-changing opportunity. When women collectively expressed their need for sewing machines—Nurusamman remembered owning one in Myanmar but never learning properly; Fatema desperately needed a reliable tool—WPP responded. They provided training with the understanding that women committee members would trickle down skills to others, and distributed sewing machines so each community block had at least one, accessible to all local women. The location of each machine's shelter was chosen through democratic voting. More important than the logistics was the cultural sensitivity: the sewing machine allowed women to work with dignity from within their homes, respecting norms that restrict women from leaving to earn income while still opening pathways to economic contribution.

The impact transformed both women's lives in ways they never imagined. Fatema received a new sewing machine with one condition: she would share it with other women in her block. With a functional, reliable tool, stitching no longer felt like a struggle. Gradually, her work gained recognition. Before Eid and other festive seasons, she became overwhelmed with orders. People from neighboring camps began approaching her to stitch their clothes. Over the last two Eid's, she earned more than 40,000 Bangladeshi Taka—an amount she once thought was unimaginable. *"Using the income I earned from my tailoring work during Eid, I purchased a pair of small gold earrings for myself,"* she shared, her voice carrying quiet pride. *"In the current situation we are living in, this purchase feels like a luxury. However, the ability to buy something for myself with my own earnings fills me with immense pride. At the same time, I am also saving for my children's future."* For Nurusamman, the sewing machine opened different doors. With the income she earned, she was able to marry off her daughter. Using crafting skills learned through WPP, she created hand-embroidered bed covers and floor mats as wedding gifts—each stitch carrying love, resilience, and reclaimed dignity. Her daughter and in-laws were deeply touched by the care behind each piece. *"While the sewing machine has opened income opportunities for me, the WPP space has also aided my healing process, helping me regain my confidence,"* Nurusamman reflected.

The journey was not without challenges. Managing expectations proved difficult—while machines were distributed for community sharing, many women desired personal machines of their own. Some machines were sold in the market or stolen from shelters. And though women learned to tailor, many did not know how to repair or maintain the machines when they broke. In response, WPP adapted, incorporating maintenance training into their interventions. Yet the lessons learned only strengthened the model. As Namrata Talukder Arpa, Senior SMSD Field Assistant at IOM, observed: *"Through the Women's Participation Project, I have witnessed how small, culturally appropriate interventions can create lasting change. By listening to women and responding to their priorities, we enabled them to use their existing skills safely from within their homes. The sewing machines were not just livelihood tools, they restored confidence, dignity, and agency. Seeing women support their families, share resources with neighbors, and emerge as leaders within their blocks reinforces the importance of women-centered programming. These stories remind us that when women are meaningfully engaged, the impact extends far beyond individual households and strengthens the entire community."*

The intervention's sustainability lies in its simplicity and cultural alignment. Once women receive a sewing machine and basic training, they can continue generating income independently, sharing resources within the community, and passing skills to others. Fatema now teaches fellow committee members stitching techniques. Nurusamman's handmade gifts carry forward traditions while building new futures. Yet ongoing needs remain advanced tailoring training, access to quality raw materials, repair services, market

linkages, and opportunities for savings and cooperative models would further enhance income stability. For now, as dusk falls over the camp, the whirl of sewing machines drifts from shelters where women once sat in silence. Each stitch binds together not just fabric, but fractured lives—threads of dignity woven into a new reality. Fatema's gold earrings catch the fading light, a small symbol of profound transformation. Nurusamman's embroidered gifts rest in her daughter's new home, carrying love across generations. In a world of displacement and loss, a simple sewing machine has done what grand interventions sometimes cannot: it has stitched hope back into the fabric of everyday life.

Stitching Resilience: How Geo-Bag Production Is Empowering Rohingya Women and Strengthening

Location: Camp 7, Cox's Bazar

Name of Organization: BRAC

For years, Syeda Khatun's world had been confined to the narrow boundaries of her family shelter in Camp 7, her days consumed by household responsibilities and the quiet endurance of displacement. Like countless Rohingya women, she possessed untapped potential but lacked pathways to transform it into purpose. When BRAC Site Management introduced a community-led geo-bag production initiative, Syeda saw not just an opportunity for income, but a chance to discover abilities she never knew she possessed. The program linked environmental protection with skill development under the Cash-for-Work modality, addressing two critical needs simultaneously: the camps' persistent vulnerability to soil erosion and flooding during monsoon seasons, and the profound exclusion of women from meaningful livelihood opportunities. For Syeda, those first hesitant stitches would mark the beginning of a journey from invisible household worker to visible community guardian.



Photo: Syeda Khatun stitching and reassembling all the stitched Geobags

With each stitch, Syeda Khatun contributes to a safer, more resilient camp—turning skill into protection for her community

The transformation unfolded through careful, patient engagement. BRAC conducted multiple sessions with thematic groups, using storytelling as a mobilization tool to help women understand how their participation could protect footpaths, reinforce drainage lines, and stabilize vulnerable slopes against monsoon destruction. Syeda, who had never before engaged in structured technical work, received hands-on guidance in geo-bag production—learning to stitch and assemble the essential materials that would shield her community from environmental catastrophe. What emerged was remarkable: 19,270 geo-bags produced through 243 total man-days, with women contributing 132 of those days, outnumbering their male counterparts and challenging every assumption about who could perform technical labor. More important than the numbers were the quiet revolution in confidence. Syeda became a peer motivator within her thematic group, eagerly teaching other women the techniques she had mastered and championing skill development as a pathway to dignity and self-reliance.

The impact rippled far beyond the bags stacked against eroding slopes. "As we are engaging ourselves in this activity, I feel I'm helping my community with my skill," Syeda reflected, her words carrying the weight of newfound purpose. "I want to thank the SMS team for encouraging us and making us aware of our own abilities and the importance of skill development." For women who had long been invisible in camp improvement efforts, the initiative offered recognition that their contributions mattered. They worked alongside men, producing materials that would protect shelters, drainage lines, and footpaths—literally stitching together the fabric of community resilience. The collaboration fostered peer learning, collective responsibility, and a quiet but powerful shift in perceptions about women's leadership in technical domains.

The lessons learned extend far beyond Camp 7's boundaries. Initial hesitation among women to engage in unfamiliar work was overcome through continuous encouragement, safe spaces for learning, and the power of seeing peers succeed. The initiative demonstrated that skill-based Cash-for-Work generates deeper motivation than simple wage labor—participants took pride not just in earning, but in producing something essential for their community's survival. Linking livelihood activities with environmental goals proved a powerful formula for sustainability, as women understood their stitching directly protected their neighbors' shelters from monsoon destruction. Syeda now embodies this model's potential: "Now I can teach others what I learned. When we work together, we protect our camp and ourselves." Her words capture the essence of genuine empowerment—not charity bestowed, but capacity unleashed. With each bag she stitches and every technique she passes to another woman, Syeda Khatun transforms thread into protection, skill into solidarity, and individual effort into collective resilience. The geo-bag initiative, rooted in short-term engagement, has planted seeds of long-term transformation—proof that when women are trusted with tools and skills, they build not only stronger infrastructure but stronger communities.



The Road to Dignity: How Abdur Zabbar and His Neighbors Paved Their Own Path

Location: Camp 6, Sub-block A4, Ukhiya, Cox’s Bazar

Name of Organization: BRAC

For the residents of Camp 6, a 15-foot stretch of road near Fitkala Bazar was more than a path—it was a lifeline to the IRC-BDRCS Primary Health Centre. But when the road fell into disrepair, ambulances hesitated to navigate the damaged surface, and pedestrians struggled to reach medical care. Although the issue had been referred to the Site Development partner, budget constraints delayed action, and the community grew increasingly desperate.

Abdur Zabbar, a 58-year-old elder living in Camp 6 since 2017, listened as neighbors repeatedly raised the same concern at community meetings: what happens when an ambulance cannot reach the clinic? A respected figure with his own family to protect, Zabbar refused to wait any longer.

Inspired by BRAC SMS's message of community ownership during forum discussions, Zabbar mobilized his neighbors for collective action. During Ramadan, with fasting bodies but determined spirits, they repaired the road themselves over five days in March 2025, filling potholes and restoring safe passage with nothing but simple tools and shared purpose.



Caption: Community members of Camp 6 work together during Ramadan to repair a key access road near Fitkala Bazar, restoring ambulance access to the Primary Health Centre. An inspiring example of community ownership and resilience, supported by BRAC SMS

The transformation was immediate. Ambulances now reach the clinic without delay. Pedestrians walk safely. And the community discovered something more valuable than a repaired road: their own power. *"Through coordinated efforts, we repaired this road for the betterment of our community,"* Zabbar reflected. *"Our lives are now easier, especially for accessing hospital services. This was only possible because of the motivation from BRAC SMS."*

"We feel proud that we did this ourselves," he added. *"It showed what we can achieve when we work together."*

The lesson was clear: when communities are empowered to solve their own problems, limited resources become secondary to collective will. As Habibur Rahaman, Senior Officer at BRAC SMS, observed, *"This initiative reflects the success of continuous engagement and trust-building. When communities are empowered, even small steps lead to transformative outcomes."*

The community now maintains the road themselves, a testament to what becomes possible when people stop waiting and start acting. For Abdur Zabbar, every step on that repaired path carries the satisfaction of dignity restored proof that even in displacement, hope can be rebuilt, one pothole at a time.

The Drainage Guardian: Jafor's Journey from Beneficiary to Community Steward

Location: Camp 7, Cox's Bazar

Name of Organization: BRAC

For Jafor Ahmmad, the terror of the 2025 monsoon in Camp 7 was not measured in inches of rainfall, but in the rising panic in his children's eyes. When flash floods, fueled by blocked drains, surged toward his shelter in sub-block G03, the father of five could only watch helplessly as water threatened to swallow the fragile home he had built after fleeing Myanmar in 2017. Though he had worked for years in Cash-for-Work programs, clearing drains for external agencies, that single moment of parental fear revealed a painful truth: dependency on short-term humanitarian projects left his community perpetually vulnerable when the rains came and the workers left. The feeling of helplessness stayed with him long after the water receded, planting a seed that would soon transform not only his own life but the resilience of his entire block.



Photo: Jafor Ahmmad. The Drainage Guardian in front of the cleaned

The turning point arrived during a BRAC Site Management community meeting on sustainability, where discussions centered on an uncomfortable reality—external projects and budgets would eventually end. For Jafor, the message was not abstract theory but a call to action. Drawing on the terror of that flooded night, he mobilized his neighbors in sub-block G03 with a radical proposal: they would clean the drains themselves, not for wages, but for their children's safety. When they approached BRAC not demanding payment but requesting basic tools, the organization responded immediately with gloves, cleaning equipment, and wheelbarrows. What followed was nothing short of transformation. Fifty meters of



Photo: *Jafor Ahmmad with other drainage guardian cleaning the primary & secondary drain of Camp* secondary drain and sixteen meters of primary drain were cleared before the monsoon, restoring water flow and, more importantly, community confidence. When the rains came, the water stayed where it belonged—in the drains, not in people's homes.

"This is not just cleaning drains. This is protecting our children and our future."

~ Jafor Ahmmad

The impact rippled far beyond the cleaned channels. "Last year, we waited for someone to come. This year, we cleaned the drain before the rains came. It's our home—if we don't protect it, who will?" Jafor reflected, his words capturing a profound shift from beneficiary to guardian. The initiative reduced flood risks for dozens of households, eliminated stagnant water that bred disease, and sparked a transformation in community attitudes. Skepticism about unpaid work gave way to pride in collective responsibility, with other residents now eager to join future efforts. For Jafor, the work carries deeper meaning: "This is not just cleaning drains. This is protecting our children and our future." His leadership, as BRAC Site Management Team Member Pabel Chowdhury observed, "shows how trust in community capacity can transform beneficiaries into long-term stewards of the camp."

The drainage guardian model Jafor pioneered now stands as a testament to sustainable, community-driven resilience. Unlike incentive-based programs that fade when funding ends, this initiative thrives on local motivation and ownership. Jafor has already begun encouraging neighbors to think beyond seasonal cleaning—toward solid waste management, early reporting of blockages, and routine maintenance that prevents crises before they unfold. The journey from helpless father to community leader required no large budgets or complex interventions, only timely material support and trust in local capacity. As Camp 7 faces future monsoons, it does so with a new kind of infrastructure—not of concrete and steel, but of human dignity and collective will, embodied in a man who refused to wait for someone else to protect his home.

Site Development:

Turning the Tide: How Watershed Healing United Refugees and Hosts in Cox's Bazar

When over 700,000 Rohingya refugees poured into Cox's Bazar in 2017, the hills paid the price. Forests vanished for shelters and firewood, terraced slopes bled soil, and monsoon rains turned camps into death traps. "Every storm brought landslides and sewage floods," recalls Mohammad Hossain, a Rohingya leader. For host communities like farmers Shabuddin and Mohiuddin, choked streams meant barren fields and poisoned water. The environmental crisis threatened everyone.

IOM responded with nature-based watershed healing at Kutupalong-Balukhali Extension—home to 984,591 refugees. Their approach centered on community power:

IOM anchored its watershed recovery in community voices, beginning with workshops that let Rohingya refugees and host communities prioritize interventions—from unclogging toxic drains to fortifying



Camp 20 Extension Integrated Watershed Project Before (left) and after (right) @IOM

landslide-prone slopes. Nature itself became the blueprint: deep-rooted vetiver grasses were planted to bind eroding hillsides, while constructed wetlands filtered polluted greywater before it choked streams. Crucially, cash-for-work programs engaged women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities from both communities, transforming labor into a bridge of solidarity. Where tensions once framed land as "theirs versus ours," shared stewardship forged a new narrative: "**our shared safety.**"

The transformation is palpable. Where fetid drains once bred mosquitoes, clean waterways now flow. Hills once crumbling under rain now stand fortified with vegetation. Mohammad Hossain confirms: "The stench is gone. Our children breathe easier." For host brothers Shabuddin and Mohiuddin, restored drainage meant reviving dead farmland: "We donated 700 feet of land willingly after seeing results—this is how we rebuild together."

Beyond environmental gains, the project reshaped social dynamics. Women gained economic voice through cash-for-work, reducing vulnerability. Joint maintenance committees now bridge refugee-host divides. "We share the same rains, the same soil," notes an IOM engineer. "Protecting them requires protecting each other."



Photo: Camp 14 Watershed Project Before(left) and after(right) @IOM

Challenges remain—monitoring restored ecosystems needs long-term funding, and scaling requires tailored guidelines for Cox’s Bazar’s fragile geology. Yet this watershed approach proves that environmental healing can be the deepest form of crisis response: one that doesn’t just save lives but weaves fractured communities into resilient tapestries. As monsoon clouds gather, the replanted hills whisper a promise: broken land can mend, and so can people.

How Slope Stabilization Restored Peace to Samsu's Family in Camp 13

Location: Camp 13, Ukhiya Upazila, Cox’s Bazar District

Name of Organization: CARE Bangladesh

For Samsu, a 45-year-old father of three, the monsoon season in Camp 13 never brought the relief of rain—only the terror of collapse. His family had fled Myanmar in 2017, leaving behind a small business and the life they had built, arriving in Bangladesh with nothing but the hope of safety. Instead, they found themselves living on the fragile hillsides of one of the most crowded and challenging camps in Cox's Bazar. Steep slopes, limited infrastructure, and relentless monsoon rains transformed their existence into a daily struggle against environmental forces they could not control. Each heavy rainfall triggered soil erosion, sent water rushing toward their shelter, and made the unstable ground beneath them feel like a threat. Trees uprooted. Shelter floors stayed soaked for days. Children risked injury simply by playing near their home. And through it all, fear became as constant as the rain.

"Our shelter was never safe," Samsu recalled, his voice carrying the weight of years spent waiting for disaster. "Every heavy rain made us afraid that the hill would collapse again." His words echoed those of countless neighbors in Camp 13, families living along unstable slopes who watched each monsoon season with dread. The stagnant water that pooled around shelters brought not only discomfort but disease. The fear of landslides kept parents awake at night, listening to the rain and praying their fragile home would hold until morning. It was a cycle of anxiety and vulnerability that seemed unbreakable—until the community decided they could no longer remain silent.



Before the intervention: An unstable slope in Camp 13 showing severe soil erosion and floodwater flowing directly toward nearby shelters, posing serious risks to families and children during the monsoon season

Through the Complaints and Feedback Response Mechanism (CFRM), residents repeatedly raised their concerns. Their message was urgent and unmistakable: the situation was becoming unbearable. Immediate action was needed to stabilize the slopes, improve drainage, and restore a basic sense of safety and dignity for families living in the area. CARE Bangladesh, in partnership with the Site Management Support and Site Development (SMSD) team and the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) office, responded by conducting a joint site assessment. Technical evaluations and community consultations confirmed what families already knew: the risks were severe, and action could not wait. The path forward was not simple. Extreme congestion left little room for construction, and years of recurring disasters had created deep anxiety among residents. But in consultation meetings, something remarkable happened. Residents made a collective decision to allocate small portions of their limited space for slope stabilization and drainage works—choosing shared safety over individual convenience. This act of community sacrifice became the foundation upon which everything else was built. Working in close coordination with the CiC office and

SMSD, CARE implemented an intervention focused on stabilizing the slope using durable, context-appropriate materials and constructing drainage channels to safely manage rainwater and reduce flash flooding. This was not a temporary fix for a single monsoon season, but a long-term risk reduction measure designed to protect families for years to come.

The transformation was immediate and visible. The stabilized slope remained intact through rains that would once have triggered collapse. No further landslides were reported. The newly constructed drainage channels guided rainwater safely away from shelters, keeping floors dry even during heavy downpours. The area that had once felt like a disaster waiting to happen now felt safer, calmer, and more livable.



After the intervention: Stabilized slope with improved drainage channels, significantly reducing landslide and flood risks and creating a safer living environment for the surrounding community



Mr. Samsu stands confidently beside the stabilized slope beside his home, reflecting the renewed sense of safety and dignity restored through the intervention.

Children who had been confined to cramped shelters during rains could now play freely without constant danger. Families reported fewer health concerns and a sense of relief they had not felt in years.

"Now we can sleep peacefully at night," Samsu said, standing confidently beside the stabilized slope next to his home. *"My children play freely, and we are no longer afraid when it rains. This support has changed our life completely. We finally feel safe in our home."* His words captured not just gratitude but the restoration of something fundamental: the right to exist without fear in one's own dwelling.

The intervention's success held important lessons. Community ownership proved critical for site development in congested camp settings—when residents are active participants in decisions, they become invested in outcomes. The CFRM demonstrated its power as both an early warning system and an accountability tool, ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable could trigger meaningful action.



And the collaborative approach between CARE, SMSD, and the CiC office showed that even in highly constrained environments, life-saving interventions are possible when coordination is prioritized.

Sustainability was woven into every aspect of the work. Durable materials designed to withstand monsoon conditions ensured the structures would endure. The formal handover of the stabilized slope and drainage systems to the surrounding community for routine monitoring and maintenance embedded ongoing stewardship in the people who benefit most. As the Project Manager-Resilience at CARE Bangladesh observed, *"This slope stabilization not only reduced disaster risks but also restored a sense of normalcy and safety for the community."*

As the next monsoon season approaches, Samsu no longer watches the sky with dread. When rain falls on Camp 13, it brings water to the drainage channels, not floods to his shelter. It tests the stabilized slope, which holds firm as designed. And inside his home, his children sleep peacefully through storms that would once have terrified them. The intervention that transformed their lives required technical expertise and coordinated effort, but its deepest impact is measured in the quiet moments: a father no longer lying awake in fear, children playing on safe ground, a community that chose collective safety and now reaps the rewards. For Samsu and his family, the unstable hillside that once threatened their existence has become something else entirely, firm ground beneath their feet, and the foundation of a future built on dignity and peace.

Shamshida's Journey from Poverty to Leadership Through Women-Led Cash-for-Work

Location: **Camp 27, Block C11, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar**

Name of Organization: NGO Forum for Public Health

When Shamshida Begum fled Myanmar in 2017, she carried more than her children across the border—she carried the weight of uncertainty, fear, and the crushing responsibility of keeping her family alive. Settling in the overcrowded expanse of Camp 27, she found herself in a landscape where hope was as scarce as livelihood opportunities, particularly for women. Social norms in the camp, mirroring those she had known her entire life, strictly restricted female participation in public spaces and income-generating activities. Women were expected to remain within the confines of their shelters, their contributions invisible, their voices unheard. But Shamshida had no choice. Her husband was chronically ill, unable to work, and four young children depended on her—three school-going sons and a daughter under five. The family teetered on the edge of destitution, facing food insecurity, compromised health, and the looming threat of pulling children out of education. In a context where nearly a million displaced Rohingya struggled for survival, Shamshida's family represented the most vulnerable among them.

The turning point arrived when NGO Forum launched Cash-for-Work under Women-Led Initiatives, a program designed to do more than improve site conditions through road leveling, drainage repair, and slope stabilization. Its deeper purpose was to uplift extremely vulnerable women through dignified work, challenging the cultural norms that had long confined them. When Shamshida learned about the opportunity, she did not hesitate. Despite knowing the work would be physically demanding and that



people would stare and talk, she stepped forward. Pre-orientation sessions built her understanding and confidence. Field teams distributed PPE and basic tools, ensuring safety and participation. Female-only work teams were formed, creating a supportive environment where women could labor together without fear of judgment or harassment. For Shamshida, each day spent leveling roads and repairing drainage lines was not just labor—it was an act of defiance against poverty and prejudice.



Photo: Women-Led Cash-for-Work

The transformation in her life was immediate and profound. Before the intervention, Shamshida had no income and struggled to afford her husband's treatment. Her children's education hung by a thread, their health compromised by inadequate nutrition. After joining the Cash-for-Work initiative, she began earning steadily—enough to support her husband's medical care, feed her family properly, and ensure her sons remained in school. The work itself carried broader benefits: improved roads and stabilized slopes



reduced landslide risks and enhanced mobility for the entire community. But perhaps most significant was the social transformation unfolding around her. Shamshida's visibility as a woman performing construction work began shifting perceptions. Other women watched her labor with quiet admiration, and some gathered courage to join. A quiet revolution was taking root in Camp 27, led by women who refused to remain invisible.

"At first, it was hard," Shamshida reflected, her voice carrying the weight of battles fought and won. *"The work is tough, and people stared and talked. But I kept telling myself, my children are watching me. If I give up, what will they learn?"* Her words capture the essence of her journey—not merely as a worker earning wages, but as a mother modeling resilience, determination, and dignity for the next generation. The income she earned bought more than food and medicine; it purchased the priceless gift of example. Her children witnessed their mother breaking ground literally and metaphorically, learning lessons no classroom could teach.

The challenges along the way were significant. Cultural norms initially discouraged women from joining construction-related work, and the physical labor was demanding. But awareness sessions and orientation-built trust within the community. Peer encouragement flourished within female-only teams, and ongoing staff support ensured women felt safe and valued. These lessons point toward a clear path forward: expanding women-led work models and providing skills training for sustainable income generation beyond short-term project cycles.

Shamshida now stands as a beacon of possibility in her community. *"We came here with nothing,"* she said quietly. *"But thanks to NGO Forum, I found a way to rebuild—not just for my family, but for my community."* Her words echo beyond her shelter, inspiring neighbors and challenging generations of ingrained beliefs about what women can and cannot do. As one field staff member observed, *"Shamshida's courage shows us how impactful women-led interventions can be. She is not only a worker but a leader and role model."*

Yet her journey is not complete. Her husband continues to need medical support. Vocational training opportunities would enable her to diversify her income beyond physical labor. And ensuring her children's education continuity remains an ongoing priority. The Cash-for-Work initiative provided a critical lifeline, but lasting transformation requires sustained investment in skills development and livelihood diversification.

As dusk settles over Camp 27, Shamshida returns home after another day of labor. Her hands are calloused, her body tired, but her spirit is unbroken. In a world that told her to stay invisible, she chose to be seen. In a community that whispered about women who worked outside, she chose to labor openly. And in doing so, she has done more than support her family—she has begun rewriting the story of what is possible for Rohingya women. Each road she helps level, each drain she repairs, each slope she stabilizes carries the weight of her determination. Shamshida Begum, once invisible, now stands tall—breaking ground, building futures, and stitching resilience into the fabric of her community, one day's work at a time.



The Bridge of Dreams: How a Metal Structure Reconnected Lives in Camp 21

Location: Block-C3, Camp 21, Rohingya Settlements, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Name of Organization: BRAC-HCMP

For the 320 families living in the low-lying hilly terrain of Blocks C1, C2, and C3 in Camp 21, the monsoon season once brought more than rain—it brought isolation, fear, and the collapse of normal life. Each year, as heavy rains transformed the landscape into a waterlogged maze, the fragile bamboo bridge that served as their only link to the outside world would splinter and wash away under the force of flash floods. What remained was a community cut off from everything: medical clinics became unreachable, markets turned into distant memories, and children watched their education dissolve with the rising waters. For residents like Md. Shafiq, a 45-year-old father, and Tosmin Ara, a 27-year-old mother, the cycle of destruction and rebuilding became an exhausting rhythm of survival—one that took not only a physical toll but a mental one, as hope eroded with each passing monsoon.

The faces of this struggle were many. Mujibur Rahman, 31, watched helplessly as floodwaters trapped his family inside their shelter year after year. Hasina Begum, 30, feared for her young children every time they attempted to cross the slippery, unstable bamboo planks to reach school. Ayesha, 53, whose aging bones made movement difficult even in good weather, found herself completely imprisoned during the rains, unable to access the medical care she needed. For all of them, the fragile bamboo bridge was not just an inadequate structure—it was a daily reminder of their vulnerability, a symbol of how displacement had stripped them not only of home but of the fundamental right to move freely and safely.

The turning point arrived when BRAC, in consultation with UNHCR and with approval from the Camp-in-Charge, undertook an ambitious intervention: the construction of a permanent four-way metal footbridge spanning 53.5 meters in length and 1.8 meters in width. Raised 1.5 meters above natural ground level, the structure was designed specifically to withstand the brutal monsoon conditions that had destroyed every temporary solution before it. Built on a strong metal frame supported by RCC small pillars, with a floor of RCC slabs, the bridge represented a strategic shift from fragility to resilience. Completed in November 2025, it stood as a testament to what thoughtful, sustainable infrastructure could achieve—not just in connecting physical spaces, but in restoring human dignity.

The transformation was immediate and profound. The elevated design, rising above the flood line, ensured that even during the heaviest rains, movement remained possible. The four-way connection linked not only Blocks C1, C2, and C3 to each other but also joined them to the surrounding camp via an HBB road, weaving isolated families back into the fabric of community life. For the elderly, women, and children who had suffered most during monsoon seasons, essential services that were once cut off for months became accessible year-round. The bridge also brought unexpected environmental benefits: by preventing waterlogging and facilitating natural drainage, it reduced soil erosion and landslide risks in the hilly terrain, protecting the very settlements it served.

"Movement was impossible during the rainy season, but this bridge has fulfilled a long-standing dream of a safe environment," shared Md. Shafiq, Mujibur Rahman, Tosmin Ara, Hasina Begum, and Ayesha together, their collective voice carrying the weight of years endured and hopes finally realized. They

describe the new four-way metal footbridge as *"the lifeblood of their community"* a phrase that captures how deeply infrastructure can intertwine with identity, survival, and belonging. The transition from fragile, temporary renovations to durable infrastructure has finally restored their sense of dignity. This sustainable initiative has not only mitigated weather-related hazards but significantly improved the safety and long-term well-being of the entire community.



Previous Bamboo Bridge and Context



Newly Constructed Four-Face Metal Foot Bridge

The lessons learned from years of failed bamboo structures were clear: in the difficult context of Bangladesh's monsoons and unstable mountainous terrain, only high-rise, metal-framed infrastructure can provide the structural resilience needed to protect displaced communities. The consistent failure of temporary solutions highlighted an essential truth—that humanitarian response must invest in permanence, not patchwork, when the stakes are people's lives and livelihoods.

Yet sustainability requires ongoing commitment. While the metal frame resting on RCC pillars with RCC slab flooring provides a strong foundation for long-term resilience, consistent maintenance protocols remain essential. Community partners must ensure the area under the bridge remains free of solid waste,

as foundation erosion could compromise the structure's stability over time. The bridge, for all its strength, still requires collective stewardship to fulfill its promise across generations.

As the sun sets over Camp 21, children cross the metal bridge easily on their way home from school, their laughter replacing the silence that once accompanied isolation. Women carry goods from the market without fear of slippery planks. The elderly move at their own pace, confident that the structure beneath them will not betray their trust. Md. Shafiq pauses mid-cross, looking out over the waterlogged lowlands that once imprisoned his community. In the distance, the remnants of old bamboo bridges lie forgotten, relics of a time when survival meant constant rebuilding. Below him, the metal frame stands firm against the gathering dusk. He thinks of his children, of Tosmin Ara's children, of all the young ones who will grow up knowing that rain brings life, not isolation. He thinks of Ayesha, who can now reach her clinic even when clouds gather. And he gives silent thanks—to BRAC, to all who made this possible—for understanding that sometimes, the most profound act of compassion is simply building something that lasts. The bridge beneath his feet carries not just his weight, but the dreams of 320 families finally connected to hope.

Shelter:

From Shelter to Home Is Where the Art Is: Aiub's Artistic Vision for a Safer Home

The 2021 fire that tore through Camp 9 in Cox's Bazar laid bare a deadly truth: tightly packed bamboo-and-tarpaulin shelters, with no firebreaks, became death traps. For Mohammad Aiub—a 31-year-old Rohingya mason who fled Myanmar's violence in 2017—this vulnerability haunted daily life. "We slept fearing rain, wind, or a single spark," he recalls. Years without shelter upgrades left families defenseless.



Aiub's shelter before @HEKS



Aiub's LSS Shelter in its original form @HEKS



LSS Shelter with Aiub's artistic touch @HEKS

HEKS/EPER and IOM responded with Lime Stabilized Soil (LSS) shelters—fire-resistant structures designed to *prevent* disaster. Strategically placed to create life-saving firebreak zones, they swapped tarpaulins for lime-stabilized earth walls and fireproof jute-wrapped bamboo. Aiub, whose masonry skills lay dormant since displacement, seized the chance to rebuild through a cash-for-work program. "Finally, I could use my hands to protect my family," he says. The result: a sturdy, weatherproof home needing minimal upkeep for 3–5 years, a revelation compared to annual repairs of the past.

Firebreak zones now curb fire spreads, while non-flammable materials shield against accidents. Respiratory illnesses from mold and dust have dropped; waterlogging no longer breeds disease. But for Aiub, the shelter became more than safety. Using lime putty and brick dust, he etched intricate brick patterns onto the walls—no real bricks, just memory and skill. "This isn't just a shelter; it's *my home*," he insists. Neighbors, inspired by his artistry, began reimagining their own spaces.

Families initially resisted smaller sizes, and skilled labor was scarce. HEKS/EPER overcame this through community dialogue and recruiting masons from other camps. Yet gaps remain darkened interiors due to privacy-driven window reductions, and no lighting after dusk. "Solar lamps would turn safety into dignity," Aiub notes. His story underscores a broader truth: safer shelters save lives, but they must also nurture hope. "I rebuilt my pride here," Aiub reflects. Scaling solutions like LSS across high-risk camps, integrating refugee craftsmanship, and powering homes with solar energy aren't luxuries—they're the foundation of survival. In Camp 9, Aiub's art-covered walls stand as a testament to resilience, one brushstroke at a time.

Resilience and Hope: Noor Begum's Journey to a Safer Future

Location: Camp 8W

Name of Organization: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

When Noor Begum fled Myanmar in 2017, she carried more than her six children across the border—she carried the weight of persecution, the trauma of detention, and the desperate hope that Bangladesh would offer the safety her family desperately needed. Settling in the overcrowded expanse of Camp 8W, she received initial shelter and non-food support, but the years that followed brought relentless hardship. In 2024, tragedy struck again when her husband fell ill and passed away, leaving her alone to navigate the brutal realities of displacement while raising six young children. Economic struggles forced her to make impossible choices; she sold some of her assistance just to survive. As her shelter deteriorated, the fragile structure could no longer protect her family from monsoon rains that seeped through the roof or strong winds that made the walls shake. Each rainy season brought terror, each storm a reminder that even the illusion of safety had slipped beyond her reach.

The turning point arrived when the IOM shelter team identified Noor Begum for a transformative intervention: the construction of a new Lime Stabilized Soil (LSS) shelter. Unlike the makeshift structures that dotted the camp, the LSS shelter promised durability, thermal stability, and genuine protection from the elements. What made the process remarkable was how it unfolded—the team engaged Noor Begum not as a passive recipient but as an active participant, involving her in the shelter design process and ensuring her opinions shaped the final structure. Construction proceeded collaboratively, with local workers and community volunteers building alongside IOM staff, each brick representing not just materials but collective investment in one family's future. The monsoon rains, which had always been an enemy, now posed a challenge to construction itself. The team responded by installing temporary tarpaulin covers over the whole shelter during building, a practical solution that reflected the same care embedded in every aspect of the intervention.



Fragile shelter before receiving LSS shelter, location Camp 8W.

After receiving LSS shelter support, location Camp 8W. ©IOM Bangladesh / Suma Hamida Yesmin

The transformation in Noor Begum's life was immediate and profound. Before the new shelter, her family endured nights of terror. *"We could not sleep as rainwater entered from the roof and our shelter was shaking in the strong wind,"* recalled her elder daughter, twelve-year-old Noor Bahar, her young voice carrying memories that no child should carry. After the LSS shelter was completed, the shaking stopped. The leaks ceased. For the first time in years, the family could sleep through a storm without fear. The improved structure dramatically reduced risks of collapse and fire hazards associated with makeshift shelters. Its thermal stability and reliable protection decreased health issues related to dampness and cold that had plagued the children. But perhaps most significantly, the shelter restored something intangible yet essential: dignity.

"The shelter team was very kind and listened to us before shelter construction," Noor Begum shared, her words highlighting how respect and participation had been woven into every interaction. The process of being heard, of having her opinions mattered, carried its own healing power. Now, freed from the constant cycle of repairs and upgrades that makeshift shelters demanded, she could redirect her energy toward what truly mattered: raising her children. *"The LSS shelter does not require repair and upgrade each year. Now I can focus more on raising my children without constant worry about safety and protection,"* she reflected, her voice carrying quiet gratitude and renewed purpose.

The significance of this intervention extends beyond one family. As Timothy Ujjal Kanti Sarkar, Senior Project Assistant for Shelter/NFI at IOM, observed: *"The LSS shelter is highly valued by beneficiaries for enhancing safety, security, dignity, and a sense of ownership."* The sense of ownership is crucial—in a context where displaced people own nothing, where every aspect of life is temporary and uncertain, having a shelter that feels like home, that stands firm against storms, that requires minimal maintenance, restores a fragment of what was lost. It says: you belong here. You are safe. You matter.

The lessons learned from constructing during monsoon season will inform future interventions. The temporary tarpaulin covers proved essential, and the experience reinforced the importance of careful seasonal planning when building with stabilized soil technology. Yet the challenges were worth

overcoming. The LSS shelter now stands as a model of sustainable, durable housing in the camp context—requiring minimal maintenance while providing maximum protection.

As evening falls over Camp 8W, Noor Begum watches her children play near their new home. The youngest runs across the compacted earth floor without tripping over leak-induced puddles. The older boys no longer eye the sky with dread when clouds gather. Noor Bahar sits inside, dry and warm, doing homework by lantern light—a simple scene that represents triumph over years of terror. The shelter surrounds them like an embrace, solid and dependable. Outside, rain begins to fall, drumming on the roof that no longer leaks. Inside, no one trembles. No one moves buckets to catch water. No one huddles in corners away from shaking walls. They simply continue with their lives—eating, studying, talking, resting—because the storm outside no longer dictates peace inside. For Noor Begum, widowed mother of six, the journey from persecution to safety has been long and brutal. But tonight, in a shelter built with stabilized soil and genuine compassion, she has found something she thought lost forever: a place where hope can finally take root.

Restoring Dignity: Sakina Khatun's Journey to a Safer Home

Location: Block-C4, Camp 2-East, Rohingya Settlements, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Name of Organization: BRAC-HCMP

Seventy-one-year-old Sakina Khatun has spent much of her life running. She first fled to Bangladesh in 1991, returned to Myanmar after her husband passed away, and then crossed the border once more in 2017 when military operations set her world ablaze again. Today, she lives alone in Camp 2-East in Cox's Bazar, while her four adult children reside in separate camps with their own families. For an elderly widow living in isolation, the bamboo and tarpaulin shelter that housed her was more than just worn—it was dangerous.



Previous Shelter of Sakina



New CBS Shelter of Sakina

When the September 2025 rains finally brought it down, Sakina found herself exposed not only to the weather but to the very real fears that haunt a woman alone at night: no privacy, no lock on the door, no certainty that the walls would not collapse while she slept. But three kilometers away, her name was already on a list. Following a vulnerability assessment and approval from the Camp-in-Charge, BRAC-HCMP's Shelter Project stepped in to build something different—not a temporary patch, but a Composite Bamboo Shelter built on a durable steel frame anchored by concrete footings, designed to withstand both weather and time.

When the structure was completed in October 2025, Sakina stepped inside and found herself in a space that finally felt like hers: insulated foam keeping the heat at bay, cement plaster flooring firm beneath her feet, and most importantly, a door that locked. The change, she says quietly, has been everything. "I am very happy to have received this CBS shelter, which has provided an opportunity to protect my safety, privacy, and dignity." For an elderly woman who could never have maintained or repaired her old shelter on her own, this was more than construction—it was recognition. The project taught a vital lesson: that serving the most vulnerable means building not just for the season, but for the years ahead, with structures that reduce the need for constant repairs and restore something far more fundamental than four walls. In Sakina's case, what collapsed in September was replaced by something that will stand—and with it, so will she.

Anowara's Story- Shelter is More Than Walls and a Roof

Location: FDMN Camp 7, Kutupalong, Cox's Bazar

Name of Organization: Islamic Relief Bangladesh

My name is Anowara. I'm 33 years old, but most days I feel much older. My whole world is this small home in the refugee camp. I live here with my two young children and my husband. I am the one who takes care of everyone.

My day starts before sunrise with the Fajr morning prayer. I wake up my child for Madrasa. After that, I start my own work: cleaning the house, cooking our meals, and trying to make life feel as normal as possible for my children.



Photo: Anowara received support from humanitarian workers

But it's very hard because my husband is not well. He has a mental illness that makes it difficult for him to be a partner next to me. He often wanders off and gets lost, and sometimes people are cruel to him. Because of his illness, I have to do everything by alone. I'm the one who goes to get our food aid every month. Sometimes the food is enough for the month, but often it's not. When we run out, I have to go to my mother's house nearby and ask for help. Life wasn't always like this. Back home in our village in Myanmar, we had our own house. It was simple, with mud walls and a grass roof, but it was our home. I lived there with my parents, brothers, and sisters. I remember running in the fields and playing under the trees. I remember it all so clearly.

But that life was destroyed by violence. We had to run for our lives. We walked through jungles and over hills to escape. I finally crossed the border into Bangladesh in the middle of a big storm, holding my brothers' hands back in 2022.

When we first got here, we lived in a tiny, makeshift tent that I built by ourselves. It was terrifying. The rain would flood the floor, and we were always afraid of mudslides. Later, we got a better shelter, but it was weak and broke in the storms in the same year.

Then, by the grace of Allah, Islamic Relief came. They helped us build this new house, a proper, strong home. The floor is plastered, the roof doesn't leak, and it stands firm against the wind. Whether we have enough to eat or not, we finally have a safe place to lay our heads. Before, the sound of rain was a sound of fear, a sign that our floor would turn to mud. Now, we can listen to the raindrops on the roof and feel safe. This shelter is more than just walls; it is peace of mind. Here, I teach my older child, and we play games together. It is a place of small joys.

Now, the holy month of Ramadan is coming. For Muslims, it's a time of fasting and family, but for me, it's also a painful time. My children see other families preparing special food to break their fast each evening during Iftar. They ask me for things I can't give them. I have to turn away so they don't see my tears. It would be such a blessing to get a food package for Ramadan. It would mean my children could have good food, and I wouldn't have to worry so much.

To anyone who read my story, I want to say thank you for reading. For anyone going through a hard time, I tell them what I tell myself: have patience and have faith. The help we get from people like you reminds us that we are not forgotten. Please continue to support families like mine.

A New Chapter of Peace and Security for Abu Siddique's Family

Location: Host Community, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar

Name of Organization: Islamic Relief Bangladesh

For fifty-year-old Abu Siddique, a fisherman from Kanjor Para village in Teknaf, the Naf River has long been the primary source of his livelihood. But the tides of fortune have not always been kind. Living with his wife and four children, Abu Siddique's daily struggle was compounded by the dilapidated state of their home.

His family of six, including his wife Nasima Akhter, 40, and their children, faced constant uncertainty. Their eldest son, 25-year-old Nurul Islam, is unable to work due to a disability. His 16-year-old daughter, Torika Akhter, had to abandon her education due to financial constraints. The two younger sons, Naim Uddin, 15, and nine-year-old Osman Gani, are still pursuing their studies.

The family's home was a source of perpetual fear. *"Every time it rained, water would pour inside,"* Abu Siddique recalls. *"The wind would make the whole structure tremble, and we lived in constant fear of it collapsing."* With an unstable income from fishing and the added expense of his eldest son's medical needs, repairing the house was an impossible dream. The weight of these worries made it difficult for him to focus on his work and provide for his family.



Before



After

A turning point came when the local chairman included Abu Siddique's name in a list of vulnerable families. Following a recommendation from the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), his case was brought to the attention of Islamic Relief Bangladesh. The organization assessed the family's dire living conditions and responded with a life-changing gift: a new, permanent, and securely built home. This new dwelling features two rooms, a veranda, a kitchen, and a hygienic toilet, providing the family with a safe and stable environment.

The impact of this new home has been profound. The constant fear of storms and rain has been replaced by a sense of peace and security. *"My children can now sleep soundly at night,"* Abu Siddique shares, a sense of relief evident in his voice. *"Islamic Relief Bangladesh has given me a house where we can rest peacefully. My family's safety is now assured."*



Freed from the constant anxiety about his home, Abu Siddique can now dedicate his full attention to his livelihood and his family's well-being. With heartfelt gratitude, he says, *"I offer a thousand thanks to Allah. I thank Islamic Relief Bangladesh and pray for their continued success."*

For Abu Siddique and his family, the new house is more than just a structure of wood and tin; it is the foundation for a more secure and hopeful future. This life-changing gift was delivered through the **Integrated Humanitarian Assistance to improve the Shelter, WASH, and LPG vulnerability (IHSAN)** Project. An initiative supported by Islamic Relief USA and implemented by Islamic Relief Bangladesh, the project successfully provided permanent, safe homes for a total of fifteen of the area's most vulnerable families, giving each a new chapter of stability and peace.

"A Shelter of Hope": Restoring Safety and Dignity for Sayed's Family

Location: Block-D2 (Omani Site), Camp-21, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar District

Name of Organization: BRAC

The Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar are crowded, hilly, and vulnerable to extreme weather. For thousands who fled violence in Myanmar, life here means daily struggles with poor infrastructure and fragile shelters battered by monsoon rains and scorching heat. Among them is Mohammed Sayed, a 30-year-old Rohingya refugee living in Block-D2 of Camp-21 (Omani Site), Ukhiya, who has faced more than his share of hardship.

Sayed was born in 1995 in Parapur, Maungdaw, Myanmar, a beautiful place surrounded by rivers and mountains. But despite the idyllic scenery, life was far from easy. He was born with a physical disability: one leg is shorter and weaker than the other. "I was never fit for heavy work," he says quietly. "But my family supported me."

That family was torn apart in August 2017 when Myanmar's military attacked his village. "They raided our homes, abducted people, killed many," he recalls, his voice heavy. Panic spread, and with his family's consent, Sayed fled alone - leaving behind his parents and siblings for a chance to survive. "I miss them every day," he admits. "But I try to forget the past and focus on giving my children a better future."

Arriving in Bangladesh exhausted and alone, he first found refuge with friends in Chakmarkul, Camp-21. Later the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) allocated him a small plot at the Omani Site, where he began to rebuild his life. In 2018 he married Noor Kolima, from Camp-8W. Over time they had three children: Sardar (6), Samaiya (4), and little Usma (2) – all born in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



Photo: Shelter Construction in hilly area @ Camp 21

. As their family grew, so did the challenges. Rations were essential but never enough to cover childbirth costs or medical needs. Though physically disabled, Sayed refused to surrender to helplessness. In 2019, he began volunteering in the WASH sector, earning 8,000 taka a month. “I may be disabled,” he says firmly, “but I’ll do any work to care for my family.” Noor nods proudly: “His determination is admirable. His love and effort make our life happy; you can see it even in this shelter.”

Their first shelter was built in 2018, with support from other organizations, later adding brick stairs and MS-pipe railings to help Sayed move around safely. However, the materials used were not durable, and each monsoon season left the structure increasingly fragile. BRAC provided repair support in 2020, 2022, and again in 2024—but by early 2025, the shelter had deteriorated beyond repair.



Photo: Emergency shelter Construction

“It had no security or privacy,” Sayed explains. “The walls were damaged. Everyone could see inside. My wife and kids deserved better.” Desperate, he approached the CiC and explained the unsafe conditions, formally applying for help. The CiC assessed the case and recommended Sayed’s family for a new Composite Bamboo Shelter (CBS) under the BRAC-HCMP Shelter Project.

In June 2025, the new shelter was constructed. It is an advanced, disaster-resilient design: a steel frame set on Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) short pillars to sit securely on the hilly terrain without cutting trees. The floor loft is made of cement fiber boards supported by a steel frame. Insulation foam beneath the tarpaulin roof helps reduce heat. The walls, crafted from bamboo mats with partial tarpaulin coverings, ensure privacy and durability against wind and rain.

Sayed beams as he shows the improvements. “I never thought BRAC would actually listen to me and build this shelter for my safety,” he says, voice cracking. “But they did. Now I am safe and secure at home,

completely risk-free. BRAC truly works on a priority basis.” His wife Noor adds gratefully: “BRAC has given me so much. This shelter gives us privacy, and now I feel quite safe.”

BRAC staff reflect on this success with pride. “We designed this CBS shelter not just to meet basic needs but to restore dignity and reduce disaster risks for vulnerable families. Seeing Sayed’s family safe makes our work meaningful,” shares the Shelter sector’s Technical Officer.

As Sayed’s children laugh and play outside their new shelter, there is hope in their smiles. Sayed watches them, determined as ever. “I want them to have a better future,” he says. “Thanks to this shelter, I believe they will.”

Safe Ground: Jaitun Begum's Journey from Fear to Peace in Camp 8-West

Location: Camp 8-West, Ukhiya Upazila, Cox’s Bazar District

Name of Organization: CARE Bangladesh

For seven years, Jaitun Begum and her family lived in fear. After fleeing violence in Myanmar in 2017, the 23-year-old mother settled with her husband and children in a makeshift shelter in Camp 8-West—a fragile structure with bare soil flooring that offered little protection from rain, wind, or the looming threat of landslides. Each monsoon season brought the same terror: water seeping through gaps, mud turning pathways into traps, and her children with nowhere clean to play. Sleep came fitfully, if at all, as storms battered their flimsy home.

The turning point arrived in June 2025, when CARE Bangladesh, using internal emergency funds, moved urgently to address the growing shelter crisis in the camps. With nearly 119,000 new arrivals overwhelming existing infrastructure, families like Jaitun’s—living in hazard-prone areas for years—could no longer wait. Through intensive coordination with IOM, DRC, VERC, and camp authorities, CARE secured approved land and constructed 60 Mid-Term Shelters in Camp 8-West. The intervention went beyond simple shelter: land was filled and leveled, drainage planned, and coordination with WASH and site management partners ensured a fully functional settlement.

Jaitun’s new home stands elevated on concrete flooring, protected from floods and dampness. Improved ventilation, secure doors, and a designated cooking space have transformed daily life. *“Before, our children had no clean place to play, and we were always afraid during the rains,”* she shared. *“Now they will be able to play on a clean floor, and we will be able to sleep at night without fear. This shelter will give our family safety and peace of mind.”*

The impact extends beyond Jaitun’s family. The cluster-based settlement design encourages social connection among residents. Safe pathways and coordinated services mean children can reach learning centers, families can access health posts, and the constant stress of weather-related danger has finally ended.



Photo: The unlabeled plot in the camp-8W before new 60 Mid-Term Shelters were constructed



Photo: After labeling the land, and constructing 60 Mid-Term Shelters in camp-8W

The path was not easy. Limited safe land in congested camps and tight project timelines required intensive inter-agency coordination. But early engagement with Shelter, Site Development, Site Management, and WASH partners proved that even in constrained environments, timely action can transform unsafe land into dignified settlement. As one CARE staff member reflected, *"This intervention shows how coordinated planning and timely action can quickly transform unsafe land into a dignified settlement."*

Today, Jaitun watches her children play on clean flooring as rain falls outside—rain that once meant terror now means only the sound of water on a secure roof. For a mother who spent seven years waiting for safety, the simple act of sleeping through a storm is nothing short of transformation. In Camp 8-West, 60 families have found what displacement rarely offers: peace of mind.

LPG Distribution

A Breath of Hope: Mohammad Ullah's Journey from Smoke to Dignity

Location: Camp 10

Name of Organization: International Organization for Migration

When violence forced Mohammad Ullah to flee his village in Maungdaw, Myanmar, in 2017, he left behind more than his home—he lost a lifetime of independence. A 58-year-old farmer and tailor, he had supported his family of seven through honest work. In Camp 10, Cox's Bazar, survival meant depending entirely on humanitarian aid, a reality that slowly eroded his sense of purpose. His family cooked with firewood, filling their shelter with smoke that left his children sick and his wife exhausted from hours of

collection. Each day was about coping with risk—burns, respiratory illness, and the constant fear that something would go wrong.

The turning point arrived when IOM provided Mohammad Ullah's family with LPG cylinders, a stove, and a pressure cooker, along with thorough training on safe use. Cooking transformed overnight—cleaner, faster, and safer. The smoke that had poisoned their home disappeared. The hours spent gathering firewood, which often exposed women and children to protection risks, ended. But the most profound change came when Mohammad Ullah was offered a role as an LPG volunteer. *"The day I became an LPG volunteer, I felt hope returning,"* he shared. *"For the first time since fleeing my home, I felt I could stand on my own feet again."*



Photo: Mohammad Ullah supporting community in messaging at the LPG distribution point. ©IOM Bangladesh /

The impact rippled through every aspect of his family's life. Indoor air quality improved, reducing respiratory illnesses. With less time spent on cooking and fuel collection, his children could focus on education. Through his volunteer role, Mohammad Ullah began mentoring others, sharing skills, and rebuilding the social connections that displacement had fractured. *"Before, every day was about coping with risk—smoke in the shelter, searching for firewood, and worrying about my children's safety,"* he reflected. *"Now, our home feels safer, our life feels more stable, and I can think about my children's future, not just today's survival."*



Photo: Mohammad Ullah regains safety, dignity, and time with his family through his role as an LPG volunteer and reliable access to clean cooking fuel. @IOM Bangladesh / Arafat Hossain 2026



The path was not without challenges. Many households initially feared LPG, unfamiliar with the technology and hesitant to abandon traditional firewood. But continuous sensitization, hands-on demonstrations, and follow-up by trained volunteers like Mohammad Ullah gradually built trust. The lesson was clear: energy interventions succeed when they integrate awareness, protection, and community participation.

Today, Mohammad Ullah stands at the LPG distribution point, helping others navigate the same transition that transformed his life. The smoke that once filled his shelter is gone, replaced by clean flame and renewed purpose. For a man who thought he had lost everything, the simple act of cooking has become something more—a daily reminder that dignity, once ignited, burns brighter than any firewood ever could.

The Struggle and Hope of Ziaur Rahman

Location: **Bhasan Char FDMN Camp, Hatia, Noakhali**

Name of Organization: **Islamic Relief Bangladesh**

Ziaur Rahman is a 35-year-old father who lives on an island called Bhasan Char. He is a husband, a son, and a dad to six children. His life has not been easy. In 2017, he and his family had to flee their home in Myanmar to stay safe. After living in a crowded camp in Cox's Bazar, they moved to Bhasan Char to start over.

On the island, Ziaur works very hard to take care of his family. Some days he finds odd jobs, and other days he goes fishing. He does everything he can to make sure his children have food to eat.



For a long time, the hardest part of their day was cooking. Ziaur's wife had to use a clay stove filled with firewood. The wood created thick, black smoke that filled their small home. It made it very hard for the

children and Ziaur’s elderly mother to breathe. It also meant people had to go out and cut down trees, which was not safe and was bad for the environment.

Everything changed when a special project called the **Shelter, Livelihood, and WASH Facilities Improvement (SWIP)** Project came to help. It is supported by **Islamic Relief USA** and implemented by **Islamic Relief Bangladesh**.

Through this project, Ziaur’s family received LPG gas cylinders for cooking. They are among **2,500 families** on the island who received this support on every month until March 2026.



So far, the project has given out **43,500 cylinders** every month! 500 more are delivered. Because the Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme team managed their money so well, they were able to give gas to the families for **22 months** instead of just 19.

Life is much better now. *"The gas cylinder changed our lives,"* Ziaur says with a smile. *"Cooking is now fast and safe. Our home is clean and there is no more smoke to make us cough."*

Because they use gas instead of wood, the trees on the island are safe too. This helps keep the air clean and the land green. The project also helped the families get clean water and safe places to live.

Ziaur still dreams of one day going back to his home in Myanmar. He wants to work a steady job and give his children a bright future. But for now, he is happy and thankful. Thanks to the SWIP project, his family is healthy, his home is safe, and he can look forward to a better tomorrow.

Elevated Dreams: Yousuf’s Journey from Waterlogged Despair to a Sheltered Life

Title: From Displacement to Dignity: Yousuf’s Quest for a Home Away from Home

Intervention Area: Shelter / Site Development

Location: Camp 26, Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar

Name of Organization: NGO Forum for Public Health

Funded by: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



For fifteen days, Mohammed Yousuf, his wife, two daughters, and his grandchild had been stranded after fleeing the violence in Myanmar, existing without food, water, or shelter. Their journey, born of persecution, had led them not to a home, but to a limbo of exhaustion and vulnerability. After a brief, cramped stay in a makeshift school shelter in Nayapara, Yousuf managed to secure a plot of land for his family in Block-H of Camp 26, Teknaf. It was, however, a hollow victory. The shelter sat in a low-lying area that turned into a fetid pool with every heavy rainfall, turning their quest for safety into a daily struggle against waterlogging, unsanitary conditions, and recurring sickness. For Yousuf, the dream of a home away from home remained frustratingly out of reach.



Waterlogging in Block-H, Camp 26 during rain



Construction of Composite Bamboo Shelters (CBS) on stilts in Block H, Camp 26



CBS on stilt after construction in Block-H, Camp 26

The transformation of Yousuf's life began with an intervention by UNHCR and its implementing partner, NGO Forum for Public Health. They replaced the vulnerable, flood-prone shelters in Block-H with elevated Composite Bamboo Shelters (CBS). These new structures, built on concrete stilts and reinforced with steel



frames, lifted Yousuf's family above the flood line for good. Wide, wheelchair-accessible doorways and ramps connected to elevated pathways ensured safety for all, including the most vulnerable. The implementation was a complex undertaking, requiring delicate negotiations with both the refugee community, who were initially hesitant about the new design, and the host community over land usage. Through persistent community engagement and the construction of demonstration shelters, trust was built. Families like Yousuf's were temporarily



Mohammed Yousuf in front of his new Composite Bamboo Shelter

relocated to relative shelters while their new, permanent homes were constructed, a logistical challenge that ultimately paved the way for their renewed sense of security.

The impact on Yousuf's family was immediate and profound. The incessant worry of where to sleep or cook during the rains vanished, replaced by a newfound stability. The improved drainage eradicated waterlogging, drastically improving hygiene and, with it, the family's health. His children, no longer perpetually sick, could finally focus on their daily lives. For Yousuf, the shelter was more than just a structure; it was a symbol of resilience. "For years, our home would fill with water whenever it rained. We couldn't sleep, cook, or even step outside safely. My children were constantly falling sick," he recounted. "This new shelter has changed our lives. Now, even during heavy rains, we remain dry and safe. My children can sleep peacefully, and we feel hopeful again." The change was palpable for those who helped build it. As Zahidur Rahman, a Shelter Associate with UNHCR, observed, "These families have suffered for years. Seeing them now in safer shelters, watching the children play freely, brings an overwhelming sense of relief and pride."

The project's success, built on durable materials and an elevated design, offers a model for sustainable shelter in the challenging camp environment. However, the journey was not without its lessons. The initial refugee hesitance highlighted the critical need for involving the community from the very planning stage. Similarly, the complex Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues underscored the importance of early due diligence and collaborative resolution with government and community leaders. Looking forward, the experience advocates for an integrated settlement approach and, crucially, for future shelter designs to prioritize a larger footprint. This is essential not just for physical comfort, but for upholding the privacy and dignity of families in culturally sensitive contexts. For Yousuf and his family, the elevated shelter in

Block-H is not just a dwelling; it is the firm ground upon which they can finally rebuild their lives, a testament to the fact that even in displacement, dignity and hope can take root.

A Village of Hope: Laila Begum's Journey from Fear to Stability in Amanah Village

Location: Camp 14

Implementing Organization: SAWAB

When Laila Begum fled Myanmar with her three children in 2017, she carried the hope of safety across the border. But in the overcrowded expanse of Camp 14, safety remained elusive. Her makeshift shelter offered little protection, especially during monsoon rains, when leaks soaked their belongings and dampness kept her children awake, coughing through the night. As a female-headed household with limited income opportunities, each storm brought fresh terror: Would the shelter hold? Would her children fall sick again? Would the muddy, waterlogged paths prevent them from getting help if needed?



Photo: Mini Village in Camp 14

The turning point arrived when SAWAB identified Laila's family for an integrated intervention in the newly developed Amanah Village. She received a durable transitional shelter designed to withstand monsoon rains and storms. But the support extended far beyond four walls. SAWAB installed a toilet and bathing facility, restoring dignity that years of displacement had eroded. A water station provided safe, accessible drinking water. Brick pathways replaced muddy trails, allowing safe movement even during heaviest rainfall. And an organized drainage system finally eliminated the waterlogging that had turned her surroundings into a breeding ground for disease and despair.



The transformation was immediate. "Before, whenever it rained our shelter would leak and the children couldn't sleep," Laila recalled. "Now, we feel safe in the new shelter—and with nearby toilets and water facilities, life has become much easier." For the first time in years, her children slept through storms. Her youngest, once perpetually ill from dampness and poor sanitation, began to thrive. The simple act of walking to collect water no longer meant wading through mud and stagnant pools.



Photo: ARRC visit the Laila Begum's house

The impact rippled through every aspect of daily life. Reduced flooding and standing water lowered health risks. Safe pathways improved access to learning centers and distribution points. Shared facilities fostered community cooperation and collective responsibility for maintaining the settlement. Laila, who had spent years in survival mode, found herself with something precious: stability. Not the permanence of home, but enough safety to focus on her children's future rather than simply surviving each day.

The path was not without challenges. Limited space in the camp made layout planning difficult. Monsoon weather slowed construction. Rising material costs strained budgets. But SAWAB's team addressed each obstacle through careful planning, phasing construction, adjusting schedules, strengthening procurement, and maintaining close coordination with camp authorities. Community meetings ensured transparency and managed expectations among families not yet covered.

As Abu Sadat Nooh, District Coordinator at SAWAB, reflected: *"This intervention is not just about building shelters—it is about rebuilding a sense of safety and belonging. When a family has a secure home, a nearby toilet, clean water to drink, and a dry path to walk even in the rain, fear is replaced with dignity and hope."*

Yet sustainability requires ongoing commitment. The shelters and infrastructure, while durable, need regular maintenance—especially after monsoon and storms. Continued WASH supplies and hygiene promotion will keep facilities safe. And thousands of vulnerable households still await similar support.

Today, Laila sits outside her new shelter, watching her children play on dry ground where mud once ruled. The fear that once governed her days has receded, replaced by something she thought displacement had stolen: the quiet confidence that her family can face tomorrow. In Amanah Village, a mother's long journey from terror to stability stands as proof that even in exile, home is possible—not as a return to what was lost, but as a foundation for what can still be built.

Threads of Bamboo, Dreams of Tomorrow: Hasina's Journey from Survival to Empowerment

Location: Bamboo Treatment Plant Unit (BTPU), Camp 4-Extension, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

Name of Organization: BRAC-HCMP

For Hasina, a 31-year-old widow raising three children in the Rohingya settlements, displacement brought more than the loss of home, it shattered the fragile stability she had built after marrying at 18. The 2017 violence forced her to flee Myanmar, and in the crowded camps of Cox's Bazar, she endured a painful marital separation that left her alone to provide for her daughters. With no formal employment opportunities and the weight of cultural stigma against women performing manual labor, survival itself became a daily battle.

The turning point arrived when Hasina joined BRAC's Bamboo Treatment Plant Unit (BTPU) as a daily wage laborer. There, she processes and cleans untreated Borak bamboo, ensuring the materials used in shelter construction are durable and sustainable. Working 10 to 13 days each month, she earns between 3,500 and 4,500 taka—enough to transform her family's trajectory.



Photo: Hasina is Engaged in Cleaning Borak Bamboo for Treatment Purposes at the BTPU of Shelter Project

The impact reaches far beyond income. Her eldest daughter now attends eighth grade, the second is in fifth grade, and the youngest has begun her educational journey because their mother refused to let poverty dictate their future. *"I am much better than before,"* Hasina reflects. *"This job is a reflection of my future dreams. I hope that through this work I will be able to realize my life and livelihood plans."*

She overcame social stigma by focusing on her responsibilities and the faces of her children. What began as a struggle for survival has evolved into active future planning. Her work at BTPU does more than support her family, it protects them from market volatility, enables emergency preparedness, and pushes her daughters' education toward a sustainable future.

"This financial stability has enabled her to prioritize the education of her three daughters and long-term independence," her story affirms. For Hasina, each bamboo stalk she cleans carries not just treatment chemicals, but the weight of dreams deferred and now reclaimed proof that even in displacement, a mother's determination can build something lasting.

Safety in a Bag: Rahima's Journey to Safety in the Face of Disaster

Location: Camps 3 & 4, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

Implementing Organization: Oxfam in Bangladesh & PROTTYASHI (Funded by Oxfam Hong Kong)

For Rahima, a 59-year-old widow living in Camp 3, every cyclone warning brought the same terror: how would she evacuate with her disabled son and two grandchildren? Her shelter, perched on a landslide-prone slope, became a trap during emergencies. Her son's mobility challenges made rapid escape impossible, and without basic tools or timely information, her family faced each disaster utterly vulnerable.

That changed when Oxfam and PROTTYASHI delivered a Safe Evacuation Kit to her doorstep. The sturdy duffle bag contained a torchlight, whistle, umbrella, plastic folder for documents, and hygiene essentials—simple items that transformed her family's ability to respond. An orientation session taught her how to use them effectively when every second counts.

"Now I feel prepared," Rahima shared. "I know what to take, where to go, and how to keep my son safe."

The intervention reached 957 of the most vulnerable households in Camps 3 and 4—persons with disabilities, elderly individuals, and female-headed households selected through UNHCR criteria. For those unable to visit distribution points, staff delivered kits directly to their shelters, ensuring no one was left behind.

The impact was immediate. Beneficiaries reported feeling confident and prepared for the first time. Torches lit escape routes. Whistles summoned help. Important documents stayed protected. And the Inter-Sector Coordination Group recognized the initiative as a DRM best practice—proof that inclusive door-to-door assistance saves lives.



Photo: Rahima with safe evacuation kit @ PROTTYASHI.

Today, Rahima keeps her kit ready by the door. When rains come, she no longer waits in fear. She packs, she moves, she protects—because someone understood that for the most vulnerable, preparedness must come to them.

Challenges of SCCM Sector:

- ❖ **Extreme Camp Congestion and Space Constraints:** Growing populations exert immense pressure on sites, compounded by Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues and no available land for expansion. Critical overcrowding is evident, with 23 camps providing less than 30 sqm per person and 8 camps falling below the extreme threshold of 15 sqm per person.
- ❖ **Significant Gaps in Shelter and NFI Assistance:** Critical shortfalls persist, with 39,394 households lacking planned shelter assistance and 30,000 refugees without essential Non-Food Item (NFI) support, severely impacting basic living conditions and dignity.
- ❖ **New Arrivals:** The ongoing influx of new arrivals places acute pressure on already limited shelter options and resources, hindering the ability to meet their immediate basic needs upon arrival.
- ❖ **Funding Constraints Impacting Site Safety & Maintenance:** Limited funding has directly caused delays in crucial slope protection works and drainage maintenance, increasing vulnerability to disasters like landslides and flooding. Emergency response capabilities are further hampered by the complex terrain and access difficulties within the camps.



❖ **Precarious Cooking Fuel Situation & Environmental Risk:**

Despite progress, 23% of households remain dependent on firewood, creating significant protection and environmental hazards. Due to a severe funding shortfall, 50% of the camp population will lose access to LPG by the end of August. Without urgent support, refugee families will be left with no choice but to return to collecting firewood—triggering deforestation, landslides, health crises, protection risks for women and girls, and a surge in malnutrition.



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

❖ **Protracted Displacement without Durable Solutions:** The absence of a political pathway and durable solution for refugees fundamentally constrains the response, impeding the necessary transition from purely humanitarian assistance towards more sustainable, nexus-based approaches.

❖ **Unfavorable Terrain:** The Rohingya refugee camps are established on 5960 acres of land; however, in Ukhia, the refugee settlement only covers 38% of the provided land, and the remaining 62% is unoccupied due to the slope terrains, flood plains, and lands unsuitable for settlement.

To enable the settlements in this terrain means utilizing resources to stabilize slopes, bridges and improve the drainage in the camps.



Photo: Slope protection (NBS) in camp 9

SCCCM Advocacy Points and Recommendation:

- **Decongest Camps Urgently:** Release land to address extreme overcrowding (8 camps <math><15\text{m}^2\text{/person}</math>) and improve settlements including new arrival shelter and CCCM assistance.
- **Enhanced Disaster Risk Management:** Fund slope stabilization, drainage, and firebreaks in all site works.
- **Scale up Temporary Safer Shelters:** Fast-track fire/weather-resistant shelters and relocate refugees from high-risk areas.
- **LPG Response:** Urgent fund mobilization for full-coverage LPG distribution to prevent deforestation, landslides, GBV risks, and food insecurity.
- **Integrate NFI-Shelter Design:** Standardize shelters with safe cooking spaces and storage to reduce hazards.



Annexes

- [SCCCM Sector Website](#)
- [SCCCM Sector Area of Responsible \(AoR\) Map](#)
- [Camp Focal Information and Contact List](#)
- [Daily Incident report Dashboard](#)
- [Daily Incidents Yearly Report](#)
- [LPG Flash Appeal – Aug 2025](#)
- [Guidelines for the Management of Vacant Shelters-2025](#)
- [Shelter-CCCM Sector: Shelter Repair and Maintenance Annual Updates](#)
- [Shelter-NFI Harmonized PDM Guideline and Questionnaire-2025](#)
- [SHELTER-NFI DATA NEEDS ASSESSMENT Report 2025](#)
- [Inter Sector Need Assessment 2025](#)



COORDINATED BY

SHELTER & CCCM
SECTOR
Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



Lead Agencies



SCCCM Partners



Save the
Children



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency






Cross Cutting Themes

 **Accountability to Affected People (AAP)**

 **Age and Disability**

 **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

 **Energy and Environment**

 **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**





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