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UNHCR has been supporting primary and junior secondary education for refugee children born in both Kutupalong and Nayapara settlements since the early 1990s. A Government directive limits education to informal learning for any new arrivals who crossed over into Bangladesh in and after 2017. Educational programs for newly arrived refugee children and youth are conducted in English, Burmese and Rohingya.

Progress

As of September 2018, **36,834 children (31%) out of 120,000 children and youth targeted by UNHCR's programs** were provided access to learning. In order to increase the coverage of refugee education, UNHCR and partners **CODEC** and **BRAC** has put in place the following:

316 learning spaces including **5** adolescent clubs set up

682 teachers (incl. **329** from host communities) recruited, trained and deployed

812 School Management Committee Members mobilised and engaged to enhance community involvement

35 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres set up and **79** facilitators recruited for mobile ECD in **316** locations

Way forward

Throughout 2018, UNHCR and partners continue to expand its educational activities by setting up primary and secondary education learning centres, early childhood development centres, and adolescents' clubs. UNHCR will also recruit, train and deploy teachers and learning facilitators for these new facilities. The program will provide existing and newly recruited teachers basic and subject-based teaching skills training that is complemented with continuous hands-on training and mentoring. UNHCR will also pilot separate learning sessions for adolescent boys and girls and engage both groups through Adolescent Groups for Literacy Boost (AdGLiB) programs, ensuring they have equally good opportunities to learn.

Challenges going forward

-  **Capacity** of current services needs to be enhanced, including capacity building and increase of teachers
-  **Need** to establish more learning facilities
-  **Lack** of formal educational activities

540,000 children and youth aged 3-24, 60% of the entire refugee population, need education opportunities

More than 1 year of formal education opportunities has been lost

UNHCR is working to improve refugee education by:

- 1** Ensuring access to **equitable learning** opportunities in a safe environment for refugee and host community children and youth
- 2** Improving the **quality of teaching and learning**
- 3** **Strengthening engagement of refugee and host communities**

Working in Partnership

UNHCR co-chairs the **Strategic Executive Group** together with the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM. The Refugee Agency leads on the protection response for all refugees, and heads a **Protection Working Group** in Cox’s Bazar. UNHCR welcomes its valuable partnership with a number of UN agencies and coordinates the delivery of its assistance with humanitarian partners through a number of working groups under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR’s main government counterpart is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and its Cox’s Bazar-based Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). UNHCR staff work closely with the Camp-in-Charge officials in different refugee settlements, as well as with a range of international and national actors. It has a strong network of 28 partners, including:

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) | **ACTED** (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development) | **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | **BDRCS** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) | **BNWLA** (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association) | **BRAC** (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee) | **CARITAS BANGLADESH** | **CODEC** (Community Development Centre) | **CSI** (Center for Social Integrity) | **DRC** (Danish Refugee Council) | **FH** (Food For the Hungry) | **GK** (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) | **HELVETAS** Swiss Intercooperation | **HI** (Handicap International) | **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) | **IRC** (International Rescue Committee) | **MTI** (Medical Teams International) | **NGOF** (NGO Forum) | **OXFAM** | **PIN** (People in Need) | **PUI** (Première Urgence Internationale) | **REACH** | **RI** (Relief International) | **RTMI** (Research Training and Management International) | **SCI** (Save the Children) | **SI** (Solidarités International) | **TAI** (Technical Assistance Incorporated) | **TDH** (Terre Des Hommes Foundation)

UNHCR would also like to acknowledge the crucial role played by the refugees in the response; with over 1,000 volunteers from the refugee community who are often the first responders on the ground. UNHCR and partners have trained and work with safety unit volunteers (SUVs) who support the emergency response, community outreach members who support raising awareness on important issues and in addressing protection risks, community health workers who assist with outreach for health and nutrition, and others who provide further critical support to the emergency response.

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