UNHCR Throughout the year UNHCR has hosted multiple site visits of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and RRRC to review Mezzanine Shelter pilot projects at Nayapara Registered Camp and Double Storey Steel Shelter at Camp 4 Extension.

In October 2020 MoDMR granted permission for the construction of the Mezzanine Shelter design based on the pilot designs developed for the Nayapara & Kutapalong Registered Camps. The approval considered the population growth and multi-generational dimension of resident registered camp’s families as well as the 100% additional area gained through the design, understanding that there would be minimal disruption during the construction, as the approach facilitated the replacement of Shelters to suit the original planned foot-print and orthogonal layout. After community consultations and community prioritization of shelters to be rebuilt, UNHCR has started reconstruction of 429 shelters. In addition, MoDMR also granted permission for the Double Storey Steel Shelter for the Main Camp Refugees, contingent upon approval of re-planned site layouts per area to increase living space and help decongest parts of the settlements. A number of site plans have been submitted to RRRC for approval and construction will start as soon as approvals are given.

In 2019, UNHCR launched a major effort to renew the materials used by refugees in their shelters. An assessment of just under 74,500 shelters was conducted, and almost 82,000 were allocated materials to make improvements to their shelters. A similar effort was planned this year as the monsoon approached, but the circumstances around COVID-19 limited UNHCR’s shelter response significantly, as part of the public health response to reduce movements into the camps and prevent the spread of the virus. Despite the challenges, UNHCR Shelter and its Partners have carefully managed to reach over 50,000 households with Emergency Shelter Repair or Replacement Materials and more than 30,000 households received a kit of shelter materials in November and December.

UNHCR has also undertaken a blanket distribution of one new plastic sheet per household in all the camps that the agency manages along with its Shelter Implementing Partners. This ensured that families were able to fix and address roof leaks and improve their protection against the wet monsoon conditions, as well as increase the security and privacy of shelters in case of tears or other damage to the side walls. The distribution of these plastic sheets reached 90,426 households out of a target of 90,990 or 99.38% by early September.

Challenges

- Due to the disruption caused to regular activities by COVID-19, there have been very limited opportunities to assess and identify shelters in immediate need of assistance, though any walk through the camp demonstrates that there are significant needs. The majority of Shelter assistance, since Covid-19 was declared, has been emergency in nature and despite the challenges more than 80,000 families were allocated shelter materials, enabling light repair to full replacement by families themselves. Further support with transporting of materials and labour for rebuilding was carefully provided to Extremely Vulnerable Individuals / Persons with Specific Needs by UNHCR Shelter Partners.
- The yearly monsoons continue to have an impact on shelter and site development in the camps in Cox’s Bazar and preparations are being made for the two cyclone seasons. Given the high risks related to the two cyclone seasons and the monsoon season, UNHCR Shelter & Partners continue to ensure emergency preparedness for quick repair response after sudden incidents such as strong winds and heavy rains. This activity is being improved and streamlined in close collaboration with Shelter partners, Site management partners and CiCs.
- While respecting Covid-19 safety measures and maintaining social distancing recommendations, UNHCR Shelter Implementing Partners will seek to continue the distribution of shelter materials. Due to precautions around more precise assessment and identification of needs, which would require significant staff resources being deployed to inspect shelters, alternative assessments will be explored by Shelter Partners technical teams.

Way Forward

- UNHCR Shelter will start the construction of mezzanine mid-term shelter in the two registered camps and develop re-planned site layouts for construction of double storey mid-term steel framed shelters in the main camps.
- UNHCR will continue to tackle shelters in the poorest condition, aiming at preparing the shelters for the next monsoon season.
- Heavier infrastructure constructions such as roads, drains and community facilities for health, nutrition, and protection as well as warehousing & distribution points, remain a significant part of UNHCR’s Shelter and Site Planning team’s activities. The dry season will have high levels of construction activity.

Source: UNHCR and UNHCR Partners
Creation date: 31 December 2020
In 2020, continued generous support has been received from Bangladesh operations, the Kingdom and the United States of America. All Indicators are based on 2020 UNHCR operation plan. 

**KEY FIGURES** *(cumulative since January 2020)*

- **78,196** shelters received support for repair/replacement
- **87,795** households received pre-monsoon shelter tie down kits
- **976** transitional shelters constructed
- **98** kilometers of infrastructures constructed including roads and pathways, bridges and retaining structures

**DISTRIBUTION STATUS**

- **78,196** HH received shelter repair and replacement assistance
- **87,795** Tie down kits distributed

**PROGRESS AGAINST 2020 TARGETS**

- # of transitional shelters constructed
- # of kilometers of access road and pathway constructed
- # of shelter repair and replacement assistance provided

**ACHIEVEMENTS (November & December)**

- **28,183** partial shelter repair & replacement kits were distributed.
- **235** transitional shelters have been constructed.
- **25.2** km of infrastructures constructed, including **6.2** km of roads and pathways, **10** km of drainage, **3** km of stairs, **0.7** km of pedestrian bridges and **5** km of retaining structures.

**THANK YOU**

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For more information, contact bgkcom@unhcr.org or visit: http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar_refugees Creation date: 31 December 2020