UNHCR and partners developed WASH facilities while dealing with a very challenging topography and the initial acute emergency needs of the response. Improvements made over the past two years included upgraded latrines with larger volume pits to last longer; a large-capacity fecal waste treatment plant (in partnership with Oxfam) to serve 150,000 people; and a move towards supplying surface water supply through a chlorinated water network to support both refugees and the host community. 55 networks are now completed with others under construction. UNHCR is continuing to closely monitor groundwater resources to ensure their sustainable use. Water purification tablets and containers for collection and storage of water were distributed to refugees. In the water scarcity areas, in Teknaf, where surface water is the only option, currently 38 small water treatment plants are running from surface water sources. Several numbers of temporary dam re-construction are ongoing to secure water for next dry season.

Along with regular WASH intervention in response to COVID-19, hygiene promotion activities are being prioritized. For instance, 1898 hand washing devices are installed in different public places like distribution centers and HP volunteers are disseminating COVID massages during distribution of soap at distribution points. Apart from this, installation of WASH facilities – latrines, bathing cubicles, water network, black and grey water network - in six isolation and treatment centers are nearly operational.

Hygiene promotion activities remain in critical need and are being boosted to avert public health incidents. WASH staff are developing new modalities to deliver unified public health messages with health teams working in the settlements. This combined programme aims to prevent dengue fever and AWD outbreaks.

WASH is working closely with UNHCR protection unit to define and deliver hygiene kits, including menstrual hygiene kits; these continue to be distributed to girls and women across the camp.

### CHALLENGE

- **Need for long-term planning for WASH interventions, requiring commitments for multi-year funding, greater involvement of development actors, and agreement of authorities;**

- **Sanitation management challenges for Kutupalong settlement due to large population size, congestion, topography, and unavailability of land;**

- **Lack of easily reachable groundwater in Teknaf area and brackish quality of water in river requires alternative approaches, including introduction of catchment reservoirs.**

### WAY FORWARD

To address acute water needs in Teknaf, an upgrade of surface and groundwater resources serving both refugees and host communities is planned with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE).

A site was identified and permission granted to construct a large new water reservoir at Domdomia in Camp 27.

The lack of sanitation treatment and de-sludging capacity poses a significant public health risk in all camps. A committee of RRRC, UN agencies (including UNHCR), DPHE and others has been formed to identify appropriate land for faecal sludge management, with a number of sites now having been identified and proposed to the local government. One plant planned near Camp 2E will be built in the next couple of months by MSF with UNHCRs assistance and support. Other few potential sites have been identified in southern part of mega camp and also in Teknaf area.
**Key Figures**

- 349,303 Refugees received UNHCR WASH support
- 39,583 WASH infrastructures were assessed in UNHCR WASH managed camps
- 422 WASH hygiene kits distributed since January 2020
- 142,062 Female hygiene kits distributed since January 2020
- 76%* Households with access to soap

*Average figure from November 2019; KAP Survey finding covering 14 camps actively supported by UNHCR WASH Partners

**WASH Facilities Status (2020)**

- **5,237** Water Points (tube well)  
  - **27%** Non-functional  
  - **73%** Functional

- **7,813** Bathing Facilities  
  - **10%** Non-functional  
  - **90%** Functional

- **16,214** Communal Latrine Facilities  
  - **11%** Non-functional  
  - **89%** Functional

**Progress Againsts 2020 Targets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of water taps constructed (wells)</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of shared latrines facilities constructed</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>1,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of persons of concern per drop-hole in communal latrine</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of communal bathing facilities constructed</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2,348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Analysis**

- **360** Persons per Usable Handpump
  - **C1E C1W C2E C2W C3 C4 CXS C5 C6 C7 KRC NRC**
  - Standard: 213

- **71** Persons per communal latrine/toilet
  - **C1E C1W C2E C2W C3 C4 CXS C5 C6 C7 KRC NRC**
  - Standard: 20

**ACHIEVEMENT (MAY & JUNE)**

- 260 WASH facilities constructed, including 121 latrines and 139 taps.
- 12,668 WASH facilities have been maintained, including 2,685 tube wells and 9,983 latrines.
- 8 waste bins and waste pits installed.

**Financial Requirement**

- **$318.8 M** Overall financial requirement
- **$38.9 M** WASH financial requirement
- **$279.9 M** Others financial requirement

**Population Breakdown**

- **860,356** Total Refugees Population
  - **48%** 415,974
  - **52%** 444,382

**GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION & PARTNER**

- UNHCR WASH Partners (ACF, BRAC, NGOF, OXFAM, SI)
- Camps under UNHCR Site Management
- Registered camps

**Thank You**

UNHCR’s humanitarian response in Bangladesh is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed seed funding to UNHCR’s global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR Bangladesh operations.

In 2020, continued generous support has been received from the governments of: Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

UNHCR is especially grateful for the additional support received from many individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide including Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CERP, Education Cannot Wait, and Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani Humanitarian Fund.

All indicators are based on 2020 UNHCR operation plan.

**Source:** UNHCR and UNHCR Partners

For more information, contact bgdcoim@unhcr.org or visit: [http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/rohingya_refugees](http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/rohingya_refugees)

Creation date: 30 June 2020