



International



Strengthening Resilience Capacity of Rohingya and Host Communities by Promoting Livelihood, Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation Measures in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

CCA-DRR-IR Project

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GUK Overview

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is a locally rooted, non-governmental development organisation established in 1985 in Gaibandha, a northern district of Bangladesh highly vulnerable to poverty and climate-induced disasters. Over the past decades, GUK has evolved into a women- and children-focused organisation, dedicated to empowering marginalised and disadvantaged communities across Bangladesh through a strong people-centered approach.

GUK implements its initiatives in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, various national and international partners including UN agencies and the private sector. The organisation has steadily expanded its reach and currently operates diverse development and humanitarian programmes across 18 districts.

GUK prioritises working with communities living in riverine char areas, displaced populations, migrants, and persons with disabilities groups that face compounded vulnerabilities due to geographic isolation, environmental hazards, and social marginalisation.

GUK's interventions are structured around four main sectors:

1. Social Development Programme
2. Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment Programme
3. Social Business and Enterprises Programme
4. Humanitarian Response and Disaster Management Programme

The organisation's efforts are driven by a skilled, efficient, and dedicated team. What sets GUK apart is its strong community presence, inclusive and gender-sensitive approach, transparency, and proven capacity for resilience and innovation.

GUK believes that meaningful development begins at the grassroots, is people-driven, and leads to lasting impact. Together with its partners and the communities it serves, GUK continues to build a just, inclusive, and resilient Bangladesh.

Introduction

The proposed project is designed to support both-the vulnerable Rohingya Refugees and the host community people in the Rohingya Refugee Camp-13 and Palongkhali Union, Bangladesh. The project intends to bring resilient livelihood options for refugees and host communities to enhance their knowledge and practices on sanitation & hygiene, fire incidents, cyclone preparedness, landslide, gender-based violence (GBV) & safeguarding issues by September 2025.

THEMATIC AREA	: Migration & Refugees, Livelihood, Food & Nutrition Security, Climate Change, Health and WASH
PROJECT PERIOD	: 01 October 2023 to 30 September 2025
PROJECT LOCATION	: Camp-13, Palongkhali union, Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	: Direct beneficiaries: 4678 persons (Rohingya 3382 and Host 1296), Indirect beneficiaries: 16850 persons
TOTAL BUDGET OF THE PROJECT	: BDT 30,442,155.70

Rationality/Context

The Cox's Bazar's socio-economic and environmental issues were made worse by the inflow of more than a million Rohingya immigrants from neighboring Myanmar. Between August to September 2017, over 700,000 Rohingya fled from Myanmar's northern Rakhine state, settling in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh which became the world's largest and densest migration settlement. By end-December 2022, there were almost 952,303 Rohingya refugees who resided in 33 makeshift camps in the Cox's Bazar area (UNHCR, 2022) with population density reaching 60,000 persons per sq. km, leading the livelihood and well-being of the population towards a serious challenge compounded by monsoon and natural disasters. The Rohingya people and adjacent host communities are facing unstable livelihoods due to a lack of regular income opportunities, technical knowledge, and life skills opportunities.

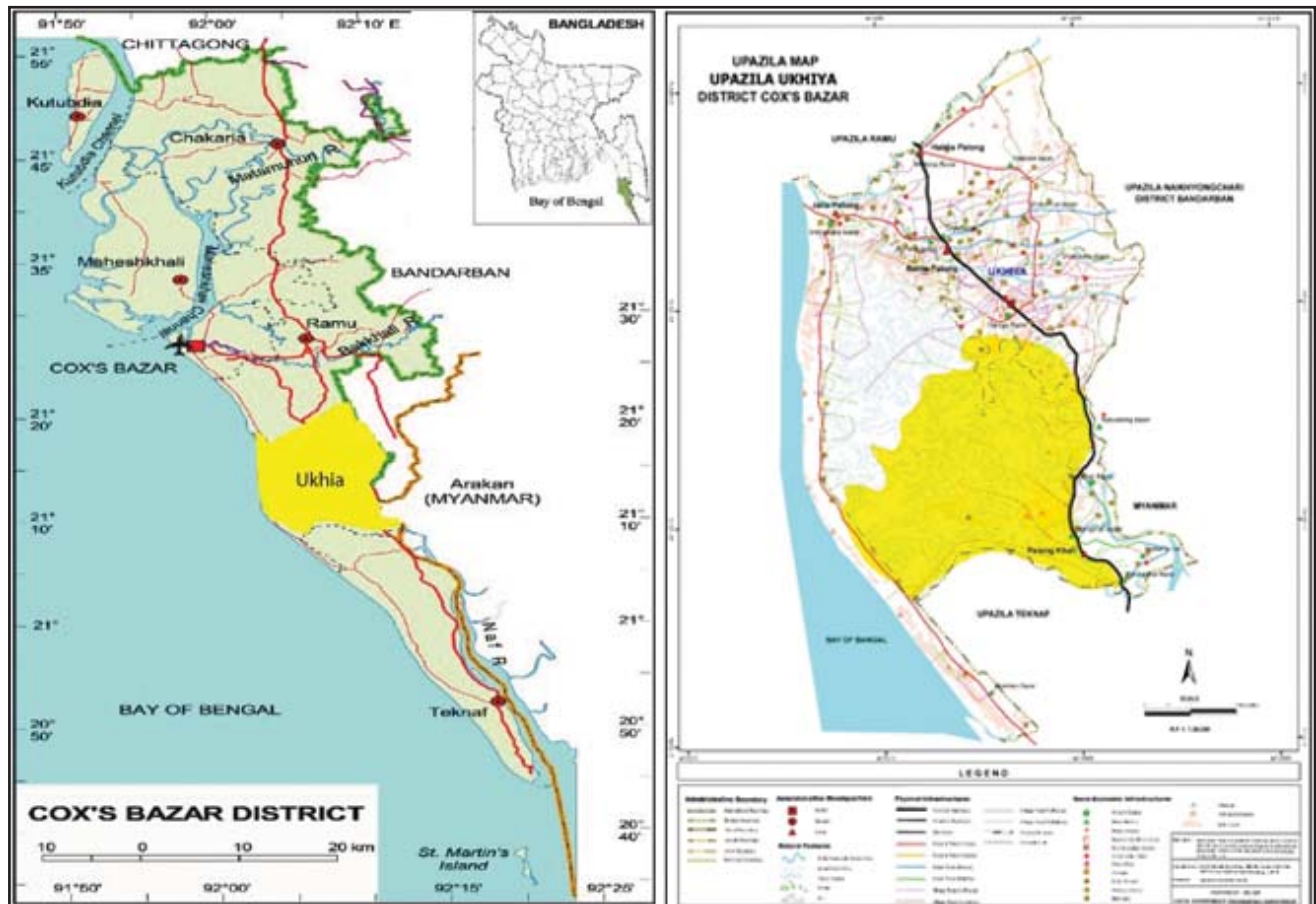
Rohingya refugees are almost entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance and face major challenges, particularly the lack of regular income and livelihood opportunities, WASH, Child Protection, GBV, and Health hygiene. COVID-19 as well as the price hike of daily essentials followed by the Russia-Ukraine war heightened vulnerabilities for refugees and host communities. Preliminary findings of the Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA IV) indicated that 24% of refugee households and 30% of host community households reported

increased vulnerability (WFP 07/02/2021). According to WFP, vulnerability levels remain high in the Rohingya camps because the fragile camp economy is sustained fully by aid and no evidence of wealth/asset accumulation.

Both Rohingya and host communities face landslides, excessive rainfall, and submerging of lands during monsoon season, which is life-threatening for them. These kinds of natural calamities are increasing day by day. Livelihood opportunities in the camp areas are extremely limited. As a result, productive individuals such as; men, boys, and women are always inactive, which is leading to new crimes and other risks in the community. Day by day and particularly for the innumerable losses and damage due to Covid-19 and climatic hazards; the situation is worse now in Bangladesh and even all over the world. It has been a great challenge to manage the refugees fulfilling all their needs and, in the meantime, the foreign/donor support has decreased hugely which is also a big concern.

The activities and achievements of this project will contribute to various indicators of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 _ No Poverty; SDG 2 _ Zero Hunger; SDG 8 _ Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 13 _ Climate Action.

Geographical Location



Beneficiary Selection Criteria and Process

BENEFICIARY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Most vulnerable households in camp and host community;
- Female and male aged between 18-45 years;
- Households have no own cultivable/agricultural land and/or have only homestead;
- Families rely on daily income;
- Women-headed families, families having elderly people, disabled, and children involved with earning will be given priority.

BENEFICIARY SELECTION PROCESS

- The project will select the most vulnerable families following the pre-set criteria. Beneficiary selection will be done in consultation with the respective camp authority, local government representatives, and community people.

Result Chain

Intended Impact (Goal): The supported Rohingya refugee communities and the host communities are resilient through the improved livelihood and prepared multi-hazard disasters in Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh.

Outcome 1

Targeted Rohingya and host communities improved food and nutrition security through adopted sustainable livelihood options.

Output 1.1
Targeted participants received training and input support on rooftop/vertical vegetable gardening, multilayer gardening, and vermin compost production.

Output 1.2
Selected participants received vocational/technical skills training and start-up support.

Output 1.3
Self Reliance Groups (SRG) are capacitated for entrepreneurship and income-generating initiatives in the host communities.

Outcome 2

Targeted communities increased knowledge and practised the adopted learnings from awareness of anthropogenic, natural, and social distress.

Output 2.1
Targeted participants gathered knowledge on DRR, cyclone preparedness, landslide, fire incidence, GBV, social inclusion, and safeguarding issues.

Output 2.2
The targeted community members were capacitated for protection from fire and cyclone incidents.

Output 2.3
The targeted beneficiaries have access to improved WASH facilities created by the project.

Output 2.4
The targeted beneficiaries became gender sensitive and understood social inclusion issues.

Output 2.5
A clean environment and safe from landslides are ensured in the targeted communities.

Outcome 3

Disaster-affected families in the project area received lifesaving humanitarian assistance/assistive devices, particularly during the emergency phase

Output 3.1
Persons with Disabilities received knowledge and assistive devices for convenience in daily life and emergency purposes.

Activities

RESULT AREA 1: ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY INCLUDING NUTRITION

- Provide a day training on rooftop/creepers/vertical vegetable gardening and input support;
- Conduct a day rooftop/courtyard/vertical vegetable gardening training ;
- Training/orientation on vermin compost production and start up support (shed and vermin) to selected host community beneficiaries;
- One month training on tailoring/hand embroidery training for selected women and youth girls and provide inputs as start-up support;
- One month training on mobile servicing for selected youth from host community;
- Organize seven days skills training on stove burner & solar system repairing for selected man & boys from Refugee participants and provide inputs as start-up support;
- Arrange 15 days skills training on bamboo and cane craft making for selected men & women from refugee participants and provide start-up support;
- Provide 7 days skills training on fishing net making to selected refugee participants and start-up support;
- Arrange 5 days mason training on disaster mitigation structures including WASH facilities for host communities and provide input support;
- Provide day long training/orientation on business development plan for different trades and business start-up support to selected most vulnerable HHs.

RESULT AREA 2: DISASTER RESILIENCE

- Form and strengthen the Fire Protection Committee in Rohingya community;
- Conduct Community Consultation Meeting (CCM) for committee formation;
- Conduct 2 days training on fire preparedness measurer to the committee members;
- Organize quarterly meeting with Fire Protection Committee;
- Fire protective materials to FPC member/authority;
- Organize drills/simulation on fire incidence issues to create mass awareness for protection from fire incidence;
- Conduct awareness sessions on specified issues e.g., sanitation & personal hygiene, DRR, Cyclone preparedness, landslide, fire, GBV, Inclusion & safeguarding issues through community volunteers;
- Form and strengthen 2 Community WASH management committee in Rohingya and host community;
- Conduct Community Consultation Meeting (CCM) for committee formation;
- Conduct a day training on WASH management;
- Conduct quarterly meeting with Community WASH Management Committee;
- Establishment of bill board with awareness message on WASH;
- Construction of community bathing cubicles for women and girls;
- Strengthen 2 cyclone shelter management committees at the host community;
- Community deep tube well;
- Provide orientation to committee members;
- Conduct quarterly meeting with Cyclone Shelter Management Committee;
- Safety equipment support;
- Establish waste bins at community level for waste disposal engaging WASH management committee;
- Conduct tree plantation at hilly land/road sides around host and Rohingya communities;
- Establish small scale mitigation works to protect from landslides by using geo-bags;
- Sensitize community leaders, religious leaders and community people on GBV issues through theatre for development and workshops;
- Theatre for development (TFD) at Host community and Rohingya communities;
- Conduct workshop with Religious leaders on gender equality;
- Conduct workshop with community leaders on gender equality.

RESULT AREA 3: EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Support assistive devices for Persons with Disabilities for emergency preparedness in Rohingya and host communities;
- Interact among people with disabilities/their family members & govt. officials for govt. schemes & disaster preparedness;
- Instrument (assistive devices) for persons with disabilities for emergency (wheelchair, white cane, deafness earphones, stick, etc.);
- Provide emergency assistance (in kinds/cash on need based) to the disaster affected households.

Expected Achievements

- **Improved Livelihoods and Food Security:** Rohingya and host communities gain alternative on-farm and off-farm livelihood options through training and input support, ensuring food security, nutrition, and income opportunities.
- **Enhanced Preparedness and Community Safety:** Beneficiaries acquire knowledge and skills on sanitation & hygiene, disaster risk reduction (cyclone, landslide, and fire preparedness), gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, social inclusion, and safeguarding, leading to safer and more resilient communities.
- **Emergency Response and Environmental Safety:** Disaster-affected families receive timely emergency assistance, and targeted communities maintain a clean and safe environment with preventive measures against landslides and related hazards.

Assumed Challenges

- Natural calamities (cyclones and landslides): The cyclones/landslides in the working areas are highly predictable due to geographical location and climate change impact. During a cyclone, a temporary interruption might happen;
- Political unrest at the Local/National Level;
- Pandemic situation.

Sustainability

The project will take measures to ensure sustainability beyond the project life cycle. The capacity/vocational & technical skills training will be a lifelong issue that contributes to earning more income and puts the target households in a better income position which in turn will contribute to creating an enabling environment for quality living standards. The project support to the targeted households for better income generation will sustainably contribute to a better livelihood. Utilizing and expanding their skills they will produce more, and decide about the usage of income. Moreover, as GUK has a strong presence in the proposed working areas, there will be some sort of connection with targeted beneficiaries even after the completion of the project.

Although, after completion of the assigned activities, the organization will move back, but could do the distance monitoring and provide support as needed, for example, GUK may connect the host community beneficiaries with microfinance institutions that are available there for financial support to continue/expand their business.

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