



A UN system-wide service hosted by



UN JOINT- PROJECT TO ADDRESS COOKING FUEL NEEDS, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND FOOD SECURITY FOR POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY THE REFUGEE CRISIS

ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Programme Title: Joint Programme to Address Cooking Fuel Needs, Environmental Degradation and Food Security for Populations Affected by the Refugee Crisis in Bangladesh. ● Programme Numbers: 00115175, 00118760 and 00115683 ● MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00115175, 00118760 and 00115683 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternative cooking fuel (LPG), ● Livelihoods, ● Self-reliance, ● Forestry and land stabilization
<p style="text-align: center;">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) ● International Organization for Migration (IOM) ● World Food Program (WFP) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p> <p>GoB: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Ministry of environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Forest Department (FD), Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) and Union Chairpersons</p> <p>INGOs: United Purpose, Relief International and BRAC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p> <p>LNGOs: Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED), Prottiyashi, Shushilan, Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), Arannayk Foundation (AF)</p>
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p>	<p>Programme Duration</p>

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FAO: 3,273,568 ● IOM: 15,789,006 ● WFP: 3,670,330 <p>Government Contribution</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors): 9,582,261</p> <p>TOTAL: 47,882,085</p> <p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>) 36 months</p> <p>Start Date⁵ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 27.11.2018</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 31.08.2021</p> <p>Current End date⁷ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 31.08.2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: John Chidumula Nyirenda ○ Title: Programme Manager ○ Participating Organization (Lead): IOM ○ Email address: jcnnyirenda@iom.int
--	---

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BDT	Bangladesh Taka
CBG	Common Beneficiary Groups
CSP	Community Service Providers
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DoF	Department of Fisheries
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FD	Forest Department
FFS	Farmer Field School
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICDDR,B	International Centre for Diarrhea Disease Research, Bangladesh
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCG	Inter Sectoral Coordination Group
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
REVA	Refugee influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment
SAAO	Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Program

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SAFE Plus programme was conceived to mitigate the environmental, protection, health and social-economic impacts of the Rohingya crisis. The programme supports 100,000 Rohingya and 25,000 host community households with cooking fuel (Liquefied Petroleum Gas- LPG), on and off-farm livelihoods. In addition, the programme is reforesting 2,000 hectares of land in host communities and stabilizing 500 hectares of vulnerable land terrains in the camps.

The programme is implemented by three United Nations (UN) agencies; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Organization for Migration and World Food Program, leveraging their comparative advantages to deliver an integrated programme. For example, FAO is leading on all on-farm livelihoods activities (crop, livestock and fisheries production), forestry and land stabilization, IOM is leading on the distribution of LPG while WFP is scaling up its well-developed livelihood and market linkage programming for Bangladeshi communities affected by the influx, alongside self-reliance approaches that increase income opportunities for the Rohingya households.

The programme has so far received funding from several development partners: United States of America (USA), Australia, Japan, Netherlands, Korea/JTS, European Union (EU), Canada, Norway, Sweden and The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). While other donors have provided bilateral support; Canada, Norway, Sweden and DFID supported the programme through the Multi-Partners Trust Fund (MPTF). Korea/JTS provided an in-kind donation (100,000 LPG cooking stoves). By December 2019, the programme had received \$48,026,275 out of the total programme budget of \$117.5 million.

The programme works closely with key Ministries and Departments of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), including the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), the Department of Forest (DoF), Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) and Union Chairpersons'. At Cox's Bazar coordination level, the programme works with the Food Security, Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI) sectors and the Energy and Environment and Livelihoods Technical Working Groups through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG).

The year 2019 was the first full year of the programme with funding through the MPTF. Key staff positions were filled, and significant progress was made in programme implementation as highlighted below:

1. 117,133 households (99,823 Rohingya – 68,878 male headed and 30,945 female headed households; and 17,330 host community – 13,864 male headed and 3,466 female headed households) received LPG along with training on fire safety, nutrition and environmental conservation. These households regularly refilled their LPG cylinders based on their household size and 446,210 refills (407,332 for Rohingya and 38,878 for host community) were distributed,
 2. 12,000 marginal and smallholder farmers, including 3,930 women, received nine varieties of good quality seeds that are well adapted to the targeted areas and tolerant to drought and resistant to diseases. Through Farmer Field School (FFS), 1,440 farmers have been supported to enable testing of new or improved production options and technologies. A total of 11,000 households have received durable food storage drums as an alternative and sustainable option for food storage so that it doesn't get spoiled and lose nutritional value. To date 500 fisherfolks have been supported with fishing equipment and trained in safety at sea, and 250 host community households have been supported with grants to start small-scale enterprises,
-

3. 679 hectares of degraded plantation sites (471 ha in the host community and 208 ha in the camps) have been replanted/stabilized using 858,725 saplings of different species through cash for work programming involving 29,819 person days.

I. Purpose

- To contribute to the overall food and nutrition security, skills development and resilience of 100,000 Rohingya and 25,000 host community households in Cox’s Bazar.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

Objective 1: Targeted households, especially women headed and vulnerable households, have monthly decreased expenditures related to firewood purchase and increased nutritional intake for household members.

Output 1.1: Households, especially female headed and vulnerable, have improved access to alternative cooking fuel and facilities

To reduce deforestation fueled by the harvesting of wood for cooking fuel, the SAFE Plus programme is providing LPG cylinders and cooking stoves to Rohingya and host community households. As of 31st December 2019, a total of 117,133 households (99,823 Rohingya households – 68,878 male headed and 30,945 female headed; and 17,330 host community households – 13,864 male headed and 3,466 female headed) received LPG cook-sets (cylinders, stoves, regulators, hose and accessories). These households regularly refilled their cylinders according to a schedule based on their household size as per the table below;

Household size	Previous refill schedule	Current refill schedule
1 - 3	45	47
4 - 5	36	38
6 - 7	30	32
8 - 9	26	29
10 - 11	21	24
12+	17	21

Note: Post Distribution Monitoring which included weighing of the cylinders revealed that the cylinders beneficiaries return were not completely empty resulting in an adjustment of the refill schedule from August 2019.

During the year, 446,210 refills (407,332 Rohingya and 38,878 host community) were distributed.

All Rohingya households are eligible for LPG, however in host communities only the most vulnerable, such as women headed households, were selected to receive LPG. In particular, SAFE Plus selected households participating in WFP’s livelihood programme, known as Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN). This is because people enrolled in this programme are already identified as vulnerable members of the community, but there was an added benefit that their income generating capabilities meant they were likely to be able to pay for LPG refills. Knowing that most of the beneficiaries had not used LPG before, and to ensure efficient usage and to reduce vulnerability to fire, all beneficiaries were trained on efficient cooking methods, health and nutrition practices, fire safety and environmental conservation. The training was delivered using



Gul Bahar (camp 20 extension) had to collect firewood in deep forest in Myanmar with threat of wildlife and government restrictions. She used leftover bamboos, tree branches in camp and never used LPG before. “Provision of LPG frees me from thinking of daily arrangement of cooking fuel. Also, it does not hurt eyes and keeps the kitchen clean”- she says. She also mentioned the useful trainings received before the LPG distribution for safe cooking practice.

an animated video in the local language (Rohingya for camps and Bengali for host communities) followed by a physical demonstration by every beneficiary. The beneficiaries received refresher trainings during refilling. In addition, the programme selected 30 (15 male and 15 female) community fire prevention volunteers who were later trained by the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense. These volunteers raise awareness about fire safety and are trained to be the first responders in the event of fire.

For the Rohingya, LPG distribution is done using the WFP managed SCOPE platform, a digital beneficiary and transfer management platform that allows beneficiaries to redeem refills using an entitlement card. The SCOPE platform also allows for the near real time tracking of distributions.



Collection of traditional fuel (firewood) was a challenge for Nur Mohammad who is an elderly person with hearing disability. He used to collect woods and bamboos from shelter maintenance activity to cook his daily meals. He is living with his only daughter who is unable to go for firewood collection. He mentioned; *“now I don’t have to worry about the cooking fuel. Previously I had to be in the forest or field to collect fuel but now I can use that time to do cash-for-work for my family income.”*

In the host community, distributions are tracked manually with National IDs or birth registration numbers are used as the beneficiary’s source of identification.

According to a 2019 IUCN⁸ study, access to LPG has resulted in a decrease in demand for firewood by 80% for Rohingya and 53% for host communities. Expenditure on cooking fuel by the Rohingya has decreased from 14% to 2%. The Rohingya have also rated LPG as the most important and best managed of all interventions (REVA, 2019 report⁹). Preliminary results of a study by Stanford University and ICDDR,B, 2019¹⁰ showed that LPG has improved the health of Rohingya refugees (reduced respiratory infections and improved eye condition). It also showed a reduction in cases of violence and abuse (conflicts between host and Rohingya communities). The study also indicated a reduction in the sale of food aid as beneficiaries no longer need to sell food to access cooking fuel. An increase in school attendance of boys and girls was observed mainly because they no longer have to spend time fetching firewood.

While the aforementioned findings show great promise in terms of the impact of LPG in the camps and host community, it is important to note that there is still room for improvement in programme implementation. One of the main issues encountered relates to crowd control given the high number of beneficiaries requiring

assistance and the limited number of LPG depots due to space shortage in the camps. Further to this, it quickly became clear that the LPG depots that were initially constructed were not providing adequate shade and queuing spaces for the beneficiaries. To address this issue, LPG depots were redesigned and reconstructed to provide enough shade and dignified queuing space. The programme recruited more staff and volunteers to improve service delivery. In addition, porters have been recruited to address the challenges faced by Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (the elderly, sick, pregnant and nursing mothers) who were unable to carry full LPG cylinders from the LPG depots to their homes.

⁸ Impact of LPG distribution among the Rohingya and Host communities of Cox’s Bazar South Forest division on forest resources, IUCN, December 2019

⁹ Refugee influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment, 2019

¹⁰ Human and environmental costs and benefits of firewood versus LPG for cooking in Bangladesh’s Rohingya refugee camps (Stanford University and ICDDR,B, 2019)

Objective 2: Local Agriculturists are engaged in markets and benefiting from income generation

Host community livelihood activities are aimed at supporting those living around the camps to generate food and income through on and off-farm interventions i.e. capacity development, assets and grant support. Production is made profitable through the development of market linkages, and facilitation of access to markets.

Output 2.1: Vulnerable households in host communities are provided with training and means for livelihood activities



Group members of “Sotota Attonirvorshil Mohila Dall” in Jaliapalong received individual and collective grants for their livelihood activities. Ms Rojina, the cashier of the group started poultry and vegetable gardening from the grant which she used to buy two more goats. She meets her daily nutrition from vegetables and eggs. Josna, another member bought a cow from the profit from her initial IGA.

The group collectively rented land and started cultivating vegetables on a large scale from. They have managed to deposit 43,000 Taka in a local bank from the vegetable gardening profits.

Initially the members were using litterfall and firewood for cooking, but now they are receiving LPG from the programme. Ms Josna says; “*we used to spend 2,000 BDT each month on firewood in our three members family*”. They are also informed about the LPG refill price which is almost half of the cost of firewood. Ms Chobi, a member of the group said, “*if we can continue making profit from the livelihood support, we will continue using the LPG even after the free supply ends*”. The group members said that they have confirmed that LPG has economic, health and health benefits of LPG over firewood.

IOM provided livelihoods grant support to 211 men and 39 women in the host community to initiate their livelihoods activities. The beneficiaries started different businesses based on their interest. Before disbursing an income generating grant, the beneficiaries received an appropriate technical training based on the skill they chose to pursue; for example on tailoring, vegetable gardening, cow rearing, poultry etc. In 2020 WFP and IOM will scale-up host community livelihood programming targeting 11,000 households currently identified as vulnerable by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs’ Social Safety Nets Programme. In 2020, the beneficiaries will receive a comprehensive package of trainings (life skills, entrepreneurship, vocational skills) before receiving a cash grant and monthly subsistence allowance to support their businesses. These beneficiaries will also receive LPG cook-sets and six refills. It is expected that the beneficiaries will continue refilling their cylinders using income generated through their businesses. The programme will also promote linkage to markets for beneficiaries to help ensure business growth, for example by connecting them with WFP’s fresh food farmers’ market in the refugee camps where they will be able to sell their food items. Additionally, participants will receive training in negotiation, and be provided with innovative ways to access

market prices.

Output 2.2: Local agriculturalists, especially women, have access to innovative climate-sensitive agricultural practices and high-demand and nutrient crops

FAO in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), has formed 72 Farmer groups (1,440 farmers of which 432 are women) for Farmer Field School (FFS). These have been trained on sustainable vegetable production by Community Service Providers (CSPs), agricultural extension agents i.e. Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers (SAAOs) and experts. The training was based on a set curriculum and the work-plan was designed based on local needs. Twenty farmer groups comprising of 458 (113 female) farmers received an additional capacity building on agri-business planning to enhance their marketing and business skills.

Output 2.3: Local agriculturalists have access to inputs (seeds, irrigation and production technology) to develop high demand crops

The programme provided high quality seed of nine different varieties of winter vegetable seeds to 11,415 marginal and smallholder farmers, of which 3,930 are women. A total of 8,000 marginal farmers, including 2,600 female farmers, received good-quality seeds, watering cans, spades and weeders to help them improve agricultural production activities and ensure food security. With these improved inputs, beneficiaries were able to produce food for their own consumption and sold the surplus enabling them to generate income.

During the reporting period, 11,000 households received durable food storage drums to reduce the risk of stored food spoiling and losing nutritional value. Based on monitoring conducted by FAO in December 2019, it was confirmed that 98 percent of the beneficiaries were effectively utilizing the drums to preserve seed or food grains.



Monowara received 30,000 BDT as a grant and she bought a cow that later calved. She always had a dream of becoming entrepreneur and sold the cow to buy three sewing machines. She already had sewing skills and started training local women. She opened her own tailoring shop in her yard.

“I have trained twelve women and three are working with me in my shop”- she says. “Our team is very skillful and women from nearby community come to us for tailoring”- she added. Her income also made her empowered. Now she can make decision in her family. She also added “previously, due to poverty, I used to have many disagreements with my husband, but now we collectively take our decisions”. Now she dreams of owning a small garments shop with her group members.

Output 2.4: Host community groups are provided with material and training on sustainable fishing technologies

Eight Common Beneficiary Groups (CBGs) comprising of 160 fish farmers including 50 women practicing commercial pond aquaculture were formed and supported with a cash grant and government standard equipment (i.e. pH meter, dissolved oxygen meter). They were also trained in pond aquaculture analysis and modelling. A total of 500 fisherfolks have been supported with



“Mirzisara Krishak Dal”, a small farmer group that successfully expanded agricultural production with new approaches that suit market demands launched a new business (Poultry farm) investing group that contribute and collectively sell their products. These groups are part of the Farmer Field School (FFS) and enabled farmers to get hands-on learning thereby enhancing skills in critical analysis, improved decision and community relations. Md. Ibrahim, a group member said *“we are grateful to the program for arranging quality seeds (i.e. bitter gourd, Pumpkin, Tomato, Cauliflower, Chilies, Beans) as per farmers’ expertise and needs, which helped us to improve quality of our products thereby increasing our profits”*.

They utilized vegetables for family consumption for nutrition and earned 600,000 BDT by selling surplus produce at local markets. With improved confidence and inspiration, they have invested 1,800,000 BDT in poultry farming. Nurul Bashir, Secretary of the group stated, *“we are not just profit makers, we are the changers of agricultural practices at our locality. My neighbors contact me whenever they have a problem in their field, and I am able to give them advice, which helps them to grow more production”*.

safety equipment (i.e. life jacket) and trained in safety at sea to promote safe fishing practices.

Output 2.5: Strengthening the collective capacity of agricultural producer groups and enhance income generation through improved market linkages and food security of marginal farmers’ households.

FAO developed an Organizational Development (OD) Strategy document to guide the work of farmer groups. Consequently 58 farmers groups with a total of 1,164 participants, of which 373 were women, received training on business development with an objective to strengthen farmers' capacity for profitable and sustainable production, as well as accelerate the social cohesion between group members.

Output 2.6: Market actors are motivated to invest in the supply chain benefiting the production and market access for 5 key supply chains

FAO developed Market Development/ Linkage modules which were used to train 458 farmers of which 113 women who engage in the commercial production. In addition, FAO identified interventions that promote scaling up of the promising technologies: market interventions based on value chain analysis (baseline survey); the marketing of high value vegetable crops, fish and livestock. FAO closely collaborated with WFP and linked 80 farmers including 15 women from host communities to the existing farmers’ market.

Output 2.7: Government local service provision capacity for technical support to farmer groups is expanded in 4 sub-districts

Fifty Community Service Providers (CSPs) were selected and trained. They in turn provided technical support to the farmers. 56 DAE’s front line extension agents i.e. Sub Assistant

Agricultural Officer (SAAOs) including eight females were given a two-day capacity development training on the farmer field school approach for improved farm production.

Objective 3: Mentoring and training of Rohingyas

Output 3.1: Rohingyas are mentored in basics

The year 2019 was mainly for preparatory activities and coordination with key Government actors on what activities should be prioritised and implemented in 2020. Overall, this coordination effort saw agreement that in 2020 activities that build the portable skills of the Rohingya should be prioritized. Planned activities for 2020 are training in tailoring, embroidery, vegetable gardening, life skills, art and craft. A participatory self-assessment by WFP in 2019 showed that training of Rohingya females improved their understanding of nutrition and enhanced their ability to engage in crucial household decision making as their confidence increased. During the year, implementing /cooperating partners have been engaged to scale up these activities.

Objective 4: Negative environmental impacts are mitigated through land/forest rehabilitation

Output 4.1: Land stabilization, restoration and erosion control measures conducted

Through satellite imagery analysis, FAO identified degraded areas inside the camps and categorized them according to the degradation level. This helped to prioritize degraded land that needs to be restored. Several activities were recommended, and a technical guideline was developed to restore and stabilize these areas to reduce landslide vulnerability and rehabilitate the denuded ones. Later, FAO procured landscaping tools/equipment and provided technical assistance to IOM, WFP and an implementing partner NGO (Arannyak Foundation) who planted trees, leguminous plants, bamboo seedlings, long rooted grass on more than 100 sites covering 208 hectares under replantation and restoration activities. This activity contributed to attainment of faster vegetative coverage inside the camp area and reduced landslide vulnerability. FAO established 21 blocks inside the camps for protecting the threatened species of trees that could be used as future seed sources.

Output 4.2: Cash for Work programme support land/forest rehabilitation activities/tree nurseries

During the reporting period, a total of 679 hectares (208 ha in the camps and 471 ha in host communities) were planted/stabilized. This was achieved through cash for work involving 29,319 man-days. The cash for work activity has contributed to the livelihoods of the labors in the camp and host community.

Output 4.3: Nurseries are producing planting materials

Nurseries are key in ensuring that the supply of planting materials is enough to address the needs of the current and future planting seasons. The programme raised 15 nurseries of tree shrubs and grasses (saplings) that were later transplanted in vulnerable areas. The activity included identification of suitable land for raising nursery (survey and mapping) and prepared land for nursery development; prepared nursery bed, constructed shed and installed water pumps. The produced materials constituted multi-species with varying root depths and ground cover thereby maximizing stability of the planted sites. Through an open, transparent and competitive process, FAO procured 500,000 seedlings from local nurseries certified by the Forestry Department. In addition, the Forestry Department contributed 358,725 saplings. All the planting materials were shared amongst the participating UN agencies and NGOs who planted them on hillsides within the camps and forestry areas in host communities. A total of 41 nurseries operated by the local communities received nursery materials from the programme. FAO also ensured use of proper germination and treatment techniques, sorting, grading, weeding and ensured protection against microbial and insect attack. Four nursery associations were formed to support the nursery owners in strengthening their business with the expanded market and beneficiaries. FAO provided capacity building training to the nursery owners on grass and bamboo propagation, vegetative reproduction, establishment of propagation house and mother tree orchard. This created work opportunity for 100 forest resource dependent host community members who worked on preparation of nursery beds, soil collection, mixing of organic manure, sowing seeds, weeding, thinning, grading, sorting and watering of the nurseries.

Output 4.4: Slope stabilization and reforestation of damaged areas

The SAFE Plus programme plans to restore 2,000 hectares of degraded forest land over the entire project period. In the reporting period, FAO in collaboration with the Forest Department (FD) restored 471 hectares of degraded plantation sites against 1,000 hectares planned in the first year. FAO provided technical assistance and planting materials to the Forestry Department that supported in stabilizing and restoring the degraded plantation area. The programme provided supported for the maintenance of 1,100 hectares of host community forestry resources. This activity included silvicultural operation (i.e. tree thinning, pruning, climber cutting, brush cutting etc.) and planting indigenous tree species for gap filling in the degraded plantation area. In an effort to reduce environmental pollution (i.e reducing soil



The intensive two months watershed area reforestation program has been completed, in which nearly half a million tree seedlings were planted near Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh through the SAFE Plus program in collaboration with the Cox's Bazar South Forest Division.

Local people from the host communities planted 475,000 tree seedlings and cleared unwanted vegetation and undergrowth across 471 hectares. 15 local nurseries of which were established through the project; grew the tree seedlings, further benefiting the local economy and delivering a sustainable source of trees. The project targets vulnerable watershed areas, which are upland forest areas that capture rainwater, feeding rivers and streams. The intensive planting was done in collaboration with 19 local Forest Department offices. Most of the planted area is located within just 1 to 3 kilometers of the camps and is classified as buffer zone, i.e. forested area surrounding the protected core zone of a forest. In the core zone, an assisted natural regeneration approach was used, a process whereby natural growth is supported by the removal of undesired species followed by the plantation of indigenous species as needed.

contamination and deposition of plastic in seabed), the programme removed around 1.2 metric tons of plastic solid waste from Protected Areas of Cox's Bazar South Forest Divisional.

Output 4.5: Soil conservation and land stabilization

FAO has provided technical support and planting materials to stabilize 208 hectares of land inside the camps. This activity mainly focused on stabilizing hillside through biological and mechanical land stabilization techniques. The short-term result of this activity has been a quick vegetative coverage on the exposed land thereby reducing the surface runoff and controlling of soil erosion. The mixed vegetation, especially the leguminous crops contributed to increasing soil fertility for expediting regeneration of natural vegetation.

FAO developed technical guidelines for restoring riparian areas inside the camp and piloted the guidelines with implementing partners. Some of the piloted activities include land stabilization inside the camp, riparian area restoration and dry season planting mechanism.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Results	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Goal: Contribute to the overall food and nutrition security, skill development and resilience of 125,000 Rohingya and host community households in Cox's Bazar.</p> <p>Indicator: % of targeted households who adopt one or more negative food-related coping strategies</p> <p>Baseline: 70% (WFP REVA study, Dec 2017)</p> <p>Target: 50%</p>	As per programme document, result will be measured at the end of program	N/A	Final evaluation report
<p>Objective 1: Targeted households, especially women-headed and vulnerable households, have monthly decreased expenditures related to firewood purchase and increased nutritional intake for HH members.</p> <p>Indicator 1: % of targeted households who report decreased monthly expenditures linked to firewood purchase</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 80%</p>	As per programme document, result will be measured at the end of program	N/A	Final evaluation report
<p>Output 1.1: Households, especially female headed and vulnerable, have improved access to alternative cooking fuel and facilities</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.1: # of targeted households with cooking set and LPG provision for 6 months.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 125,000 households (40% female)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1.1: 117,153 (99,823 Rohingya and 17,330 Host community) households in host and camp. For the Rohingya, 69% (68,878) are male headed and 31% (30,945) are female headed while for the host community, 80% (14,864) are male and 20% (3,466) are female headed.</p>		<p>Indicator 1.1.1 LPG Distribution database</p>

<p>Objective 2: Local agriculturists are engaged in markets and benefiting from income generation</p> <p>% of targeted household from host community who report increase in income after participation in the project.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 60%</p>	<p>As per programme document, result will be measured at the end of programme</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Final evaluation report</p>
<p>Output 2.1: Vulnerable households in host communities are provided with training and inputs for livelihoods</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1: # of targeted individuals, (disaggregated by sex) trained in livelihood activities and receiving start up support</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 25,000 households (40% Female)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1: 250 (211 men and 39 women) beneficiaries received startup grants for their livelihood's activities</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1 selection of implementing/cooperating partners took long. The available budget is also not adequate for the planned target.</p>	<p>Activity report</p>
<p>Output 2.2: Local agriculturalists, especially women, have access to innovative climate-sensitive agricultural practices and high-demand and nutrient crops (FFS)</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.1: # of agriculturalists supported in climate-sensitive agricultural practices and high-demand and nutrient crops production, marketing and management</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 1,440 agriculturalists (72 groups of 20 members)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.2.1: 1,440 entrepreneurs, farmers and smallholders (m/f)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.2.1: no variance</p>	<p>Indicator 2.2.1: Activity report</p>

<p>Output 2.3: Local agriculturalists have access to inputs (seeds, plantings, irrigation and production technology) to develop high demand crops</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.1: # of agriculturalists supported with inputs (seeds, plantings, irrigation and production technology)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 1,440 agriculturalists (72 groups of 20 members)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.3.1: 1,440 Agriculturist</p>	<p>Indicator 2.3.1: no variance</p>	<p>Indicator 2.3.1: Activity reports</p>
<p>Output 2.4: Host community groups are provided with material and training on sustainable fishing technologies</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.1: # of individuals provided with fishing material and training;</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 200</p>	<p>Indicator 2.4.1: 500 individuals</p>	<p>Indicator 2.4.1: Increased demand for the activity</p>	<p>Indicator 2.4.1: Activity report</p>
<p>Output 2.5: Strengthening the collective capacity of agricultural producer groups and enhance income generation through improved market linkages and food security of marginal farmers households</p> <p>Indicator 2.5.1: # of agricultural producer groups have strengthened capacity and enhanced income generation</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 800</p>	<p>Indicator 2.5.1: 788 producer groups</p>	<p>Indicator 2.5.1: Within acceptable variance</p>	<p>Indicator 2.5.1: Training reports</p>
<p>Output 2.6: Market actors are motivated to invest in the supply chain benefiting the production and market access for 5 key supply chains</p> <p>Indicator 2.6.1: # of supply chains supported by the market actor's investment</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>Indicators 2.6.1: 0 supply chain</p>	<p>Indicator 2.6.1: This activity experienced some delays in order to be in sync with the farmers markets, which were only implemented towards the end of the year. The activity will</p>	<p>Indicator 2.6.1: Activity reports</p>

Target: 5		be implemented in the year 2020.	
<p>Output 2.7: Government local service provision capacity for technical support to farmer groups is expanded in 4 sub-districts</p> <p>Indicator 2.7.1: Technical Community Service Providers are readily available to farmers and groups in each sub district (LPS) Baseline: 0 Target: 120</p> <p>Indicator 2.7.2: Extension and BCC materials are effectively reaching target groups and individuals Baseline: 0 Target: 4 sub-groups</p>	<p>Indicator 2.7.1: 15 CSP (Community Service Provider)</p> <p>Indicator 2.7.2: 0</p>	<p>Indicator 2.7.1: In year-1 FAO has engaged 15 CSPs and in year -2 remaining 25 will be engaged.</p> <p>Indicator 2.7.2: To be implemented in 2020.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.7.1: M&E reports</p> <p>Indicator 2.7.2: Activity reports</p>
<p>Objective 3: Mentoring and Training of Rohingyas</p> <p>Indicator 3.1: % of targeted Rohingya households who report increased knowledge Baseline: 0 Target: 60%</p>	As per programme document, result will be measured at the end of program	-	<u>Final evaluation report</u>
<p>Output 3.1: Rohingyas are mentored in basic skills</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.1: # of Rohingyas who received mentoring Baseline: 0 Target: 30,000</p>	Indicator 3.1.1: 0 individuals	Indicator 3.1.1: Variance: 30,000. Strategic considerations pertaining to aligning programming with government requirements resulted in a delay in implementation. Furthermore, the activity is not fully funded. As such, only 8,000 households will be reached in 2020.	-

<p>Objective 4: Negative environmental impacts are mitigated through land/forest rehabilitation</p> <p>Indicator 4.1: # of hectares of agricultural forest land have improved through the protection or rehabilitation</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 2,000</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1: 679 ha</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1: Allocation of forest land for plantation delayed implementation</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1: GIS analysis, field survey</p>
<p>Output 4.1: Land stabilization, restoration and erosion control measures conducted</p> <p>Indicator 4.1.1: # of sites replanted to protect land inside the camps</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 100</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1.1: 190 sites</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1.1: Due to the smaller sizes of the sites, more sites were achieved.</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1.1: Activity reports</p>
<p>Output 4.2: Cash for Work programme support land/forest rehabilitation activities/tree nurseries</p> <p>Indicator 4.2.1: # of Cash for Workdays supporting land/ forest rehabilitation activities/ tree nurseries</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 158,400 cash-for-work days</p>	<p>Indicator 4.2.1: 29,819 Cash for Work days.</p>	<p>Indicator 4.2.1: Variance due to insufficient funding.</p>	<p>Cash for Work attendance records</p>
<p>Output 4.3: Nurseries are producing planting materials</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.1: # of nurseries producing planting materials</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 20</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.2: # of individual workers employed</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 200 (at least 40% female – 80)</p>	<p>Indicator 4.3.1: 56 nurseries</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.2: 100</p>	<p>Indicator 4.3.1: Over achieved due to smaller sizes of each nursery requiring more nurseries to reach the required number of saplings.</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.2: The other 100 have been planned for 2020</p>	<p>Indicator 4.3.1: activity report</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.2: activity report</p>

<p>Output 4.4: Slope stabilization and reforestation of damaged areas (2000 ha)</p> <p>Indicator 4.4.1: # of hectares planted for slope stabilization Baseline: 0 Target: 2,000</p> <p>Indicator 4.4.2: # of planting materials produced Baseline: 0 Target: 1,500,000</p>	<p>Indicator 4.4.1: 471 ha</p> <p>Indicator 4.4.2: 858,725 planting material</p>	<p>Indicator 4.4.1: Allocation of forest land for plantation delayed the implementation</p> <p>Indicator 4.4.2: Ongoing activity and the variance will be reached in 2020</p>	<p>Indicator 4.4.1: GIS, field survey</p> <p>Indicator 4.4.2: activity report</p>
<p>Output 4.5: Soil conservation and land stabilization</p> <p>Indicator 4.5.1: # of hectares of land stabilized Baseline: 98 Target: 500 ha</p> <p>Indicator 4.5.2: # of communities and households benefiting from the actions Baseline: 0 Target: 100 community groups</p>	<p>Indicator 4.5.1: 208 ha</p> <p>Indicator 4.5.2: 45 communities participated</p>	<p>Indicator 4.5.1: Site development plans are still being developed to identify more land for planting in 2020</p> <p>Indicator 4.5.2: Ongoing activity</p>	<p>Indicator 4.5.1: GIS maps and field survey data</p> <p>Indicator 4.5.2: Activity reports.</p>

iii) Challenges and Lessons Learned

- A link containing photos and video clip is shared with MPTF

Problem / Challenge faced, intervention and results:

Challenge	Intervention	Result
Delays in securing government approval for the programme resulted in delays in the formation of the steering committee	Several meetings were conducted with senior government officials especially MoDMR and ERD	The programme was approved and the steering committee was formed
The realignment of SCOPE with UNHCR beneficiary registration became a challenge. Following the finalization of the UNHCR registration of Rohingya Refugees in early 2020, SCOPE platform had to realign with the UNHCR registration. This revealed that there were households that registered on SCOPE and were receiving LPG but were not on the UNHCR register.	Such households were assessed and if confirmed to be poor and vulnerable, they were enrolled on the host community list	The poor and vulnerable households were served as host communities and supported with livelihood so they can continue refilling LPG on their own.
Identification of forestland for implementation of the programme activities is was a challenge	FAO closely worked with FD to agree on areas that will be supported by the programme	Land was identified for reforestation and land stabilization
Farmer groups had limited access to agricultural credit resulting in low adoption of improved climate smart agricultural technologies.	The programme reorganized and built the capacity farmers' groups for them to qualify for agricultural credit.	
Land shortage in the camps affected almost all interventions – number and size of LPG depots, community centres for capacity building, land for planting/land stabilization	The programme closely worked with site development/site planning to identify land for	Some land was secured for planting and improvement of LPG depots

Lessons Learned: What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?

- Timely engagement of government authorities enables securing a buy-in from them and enhances the relationship between implementing agencies and the GoB.
- By supporting both host and Rohingya populations, the programme contributes to social cohesion and reduces the tension between the communities as the host communities appreciate the benefits from the programme.
- Having several organizations with different specialties working together enhances achievement of an integrated programme.
- The Farmer Field School (FFS) approach has proved to be developing the capacity and improving livelihoods of the smallholder.
- The visibility of activities increased the awareness of the project activities and outcomes among the Government, development partners and general public.
- By closely working with relevant government departments, it was possible to understand the needs of host community beneficiaries. This will also sustainability.

1. III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

- IUCN conducted a study on the impact of LPG distribution among the Rohingya and Host Communities of Cox's Bazar South Forest Division of Forestry Resources (2019).
- The Rohingya Refugee influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA, 2019).
- Human and environmental costs and benefits of firewood versus LPG for cooking in Bangladesh's Rohingya refugee camps (Stanford University and ICDDR, 2019)
- Floral Diversity Assessment and development of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools) Guideline for the Hilly and Plain land forest is underway to ensure better management and sustainability. FAO, IUCN and Forest Department are combinedly working on it.
- FAO piloted Dry season planting mechanism inside the camp and waiting to get the assessment result. It would help in expanding SAFE Plus environmental restoration initiatives beyond the plantation seasons.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

- Not applicable.

V. Resources (Optional)

As indicated in the executive summary, apart from the four donors that have supported the programme through MPTF, six other donors have in parallel supported the programme with US\$9,582,261. These are; United States of America (USA), Australia, Japan, Netherlands, Korea/JTS and European Union (EU).
