



SAFEPlus Interim Quarterly Narrative Report

- *Interim reports should be concise, simply written and capture key points (maximum 10 pages).*
- *Acronyms should be explained in full at first usage.*
- *Any relevant and additional information should be provided as hyperlinks or annexes.*

Project Title	SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY PLUS (SAFEPLUS)		
Partner Name	IOM		
Project Value (£ GBP)	3,600,000	Reporting Period	1 April to 30 June 2020
Start / End Date	1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020	Report Date	July 2020

A. PROGRESS ON OUTPUT INDICATORS

As per agreed Log-frame

OUTCOME 1	Outcome Indicator 1		Baseline	Milestone Q1	Milestone Q2	Milestone Q3	Target	Comments
Refugee households (HH) are meeting their short-term cooking fuel needs	% of refugee HHs with access to adequate LPG	Planned	73	100	100	100	100	Source: Distribution monitoring reports
		Achievement		97.42	100	100	100	
		The SAFEPlus programme has been able to ensure 100% LPG coverage for Rohingya households. The SCOPE and UNHCR registration realignment have now been completed and IOM's Area of Responsibility (IOM AOR) is comprised of a total of 96,384 Rohingya households, home to 451,494 individuals (232,470 females and 219,024 males). All targeted refugee households have received LPG cylinders and stoves and also benefit from regular refills.						
OUTPUT 1	Output Indicator 1.1		Baseline	Milestone Q1	Milestone Q2	Milestone Q3	Target	Comments
31,220 HHs have access to LPG cooking sets (cylinder, stove, regulator, hose and LPG gas)	# of target HHs reached with interventions	Planned	78,375	31,220	0	0	31,220	Source: Distribution monitoring reports
		Achievement		19,611	394	1,366	21,371	
		During the quarter, 1,366 households received LPG for the first time, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 21,371 households which represents 68.5% achievement (which includes not only refugee households, but also host community). Movement restrictions continued through the end of June, making it ultimately impossible for the programme to reach all the targeted beneficiary households during the project period. IOM is discussing with the donor a three month (July to September) No-Cost Extension to meet the target and reach outstanding households. Overall, the SAFEPlus programme has reached a total of 125,133 households (104,985 Rohingya and 20,148 host community), ensuring their access to LPG. This translates to a total of 532,189 individuals (276,738 females and 255,451 males). LPG distribution was undertaken using the WFP-managed SCOPE platform, which is superior to manual distributions in terms of beneficiary management. Benefits include reducing						

		duplications, ensuring that only the rightful beneficiaries receive LPG, and being able to track all distributions.																								
OUTPUT 2	Output Indicator 2.1		Baseline	Milestone Q1	Milestone Q2	Milestone Q3	Target	Comments																		
137,326 LPG refills have been distributed to the beneficiaries over the project period to ensure the adequate supply of cooking fuel	# of LPG refills distributed	Planned	199,393	32,390	52,468	52,468	137,326	Source: Distribution monitoring reports																		
		Achievement		106,197	68,441	0	174,638																			
		<p>Since this activity was overachieved (127%) during the previous period, no LPG refills were distributed during this quarter. The overachievement was due to lower LPG prices on the global and local markets. In discussion with DFID, it was agreed that during this quarter (April to June 2020), the programme should focus on distributing LPG cylinders and stoves to new beneficiaries rather than continuing with refills. As DFID-funded interventions refocused on distributions to new beneficiaries, refills were continued and ensured by Global Affairs Canada, Sida and Norway financial support.</p> <p>Overall, the SAFEPlus programme has provided 929,853 refills (833,848 to Rohingya and 96,005 to host communities). These households regularly refilled their cylinders according to a schedule based on their household size as per the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Household size</th> <th>Previous refill schedule</th> <th>Current refill schedule</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 - 3</td> <td>45</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 - 5</td> <td>36</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 - 7</td> <td>30</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 - 9</td> <td>26</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 - 11</td> <td>21</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12+</td> <td>17</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Note: Post Distribution Monitoring which included weighing of the cylinders revealed that the cylinders beneficiaries return were not empty resulting in an adjustment of the refill schedule from August 2019.</i></p> <p>The refill schedule was adjusted after SAFEPlus teams conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey. The findings of the PDM mapped trends in LPG cylinder weight upon refill at the distribution points, finding that the cylinders were not fully empty on day of refill. These PDM trends confirmed the need to adjust the refill schedule to ensure that beneficiaries did not have excess liquid petroleum gas on the days they were due for refill.</p>							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
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																								

OUTPUT 3	Output Indicator 3.1		Baseline	Milestone Q1	Milestone Q2	Milestone Q3	Target	Comments
18 fire safety teams are equipped and trained/refreshed to face HH fire issues	# of fire safety teams equipped and trained/refreshed to face HH fire issues	Planned	6	6	6	6	24	Training reports
		Achievement		6	18	0	24	
		No fire safety trainings were conducted during the quarter as this activity was already accomplished during the previous quarters. The LPG supplier provided fire equipment such as fire extinguishers, sand buckets. The supplier also provided leaflets and ensured fire safety messages were engraved on all cylinders used in the programme. The provision of engraved cylinders makes it is easier to trace them as beneficiaries understand that in order to refill they must bring back empty cylinders featuring these engravings. During the reporting period, no instance of LPG fire was observed in the IOM-managed camps thanks to intensive training given to LPG beneficiaries and fire safety teams.						
OUTCOME 2	Outcome Indicator 2.1		Baseline	Milestone Q1	Milestone Q2	Milestone Q3	Target	
Negative environmental impacts are mitigated through land/forest rehabilitation	# of hectares of damaged forest and agricultural land protected or rehabilitated	Planned	120	100	0	0	100	Source: Plantation monitoring report
		Achievement		0	0	0	0	
		During the first quarter and some months into the second, it was not possible to plant the seedlings due to seasonal challenges – namely, this period fell during the dry season in which there was not sufficient rain to successfully plant the seedlings. Once the wet season had started up in early March, COVID-19 onset was also well under way in Bangladesh and with it came government lockdowns and restrictions. While the forestry seedlings were procured during the first and second quarter, following dry season challenges, it was not possible to plant them due to the COVID-19 lockdown and movement restrictions that continued until the end of June. As indicated above, the programme has requested a three month (July to September 2020) No-Cost Extension and, if granted, IOM will continue working towards implementing the outcome and outputs. The movement restrictions have since been eased and it is currently possible to implement the activity. If the restrictions are set again, however, activities will have to pause until they are lifted.						
OUTPUT 4	Output Indicator 4.1		Baseline	Milestone Q1	Milestone Q2	Milestone Q3	Target	Comments
		Planned	13200	25,000	20,000	-	45,000	

Planting of fast-growing wood fuel plants/tree nurseries, seedling production involving 45,000 cash for work days	# of Cash-for-Work days supporting land/forest rehabilitation as well as agro-forestry activities	Achievement		31,832	10,421	0	42,253	Source: Attendance monitoring record
		No Cash-for-Work was implemented during the final quarter. However, to date a total of 42,253 (38,450 male and 3,803 female) Cash-for-Work person days have been carried out. The Cash-for-Work activities focus on tendering of forestry resources. This activity is carried out in close collaboration with the Forest Department. The plan was to achieve 45,000 person days by the end of June but only 94% was achieved due to limitations put on this activity as physical distancing measures were instituted to limit the spread of COVID-19. As indicated, the programme has requested a three month (July to September 2020) No-Cost Extension from the donor and if granted, the activity will be completed. If the restrictions are set again, however, activities will have to pause until they are lifted.						
OUTPUT 5	Output Indicator 5.1		Baseline	Milestone Q1	Milestone Q2	Milestone Q3	Target	Comments
Establishment of 03 nurseries for land-stabilization planting materials	# of nurseries established for land-stabilization	Planned	15	3	-	-	3	Source: Activity report
		Achievement		10	0	0	10	
		No new nurseries were established during the reporting period. Nonetheless, the target was overachieved during the earlier quarters and to date, ten forestry nurseries have been established to raise seedlings for the coming rainy season. The over achievement is due to cost sharing with other donor funding within the programme. About 50% of this action, however, was directly funded by DFID contribution.						

B. SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

● Short project description

The primary aim of the SAFEPlus programme is to contribute to the overall food and nutrition security, empowerment, and resilience of 125,000 Rohingya and host community households in Cox's Bazar. To achieve this, the programme has four objectives, the first of which is to address the urgent cooking fuel needs of Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar by introducing alternative, clean cooking fuel and technology. The second objective focuses on livelihoods and income generation for the heavily impacted host community through training and input provision, and the third objective is the training of selected Rohingya with a focus on women in areas such as kitchen gardening, tailoring, baking, and basket weaving for their livelihoods application. The fourth objective aims at mitigating negative environmental impacts through land and forest rehabilitation. The objectives address short, medium and longer-term challenges with activities benefitting both the Rohingya and host community populations, thereby contributing to social cohesion.

This is the third quarter interim report for the second phase of DFID funding (£3.6 million from October 2019 to June 2020), which is targeting 31,220 households with LPG, as well as planting 100 hectares of forest land. This funding therefore directly contributes to environmental sustainability by halting destruction of forestry resources and replanting already deforested areas. As of 30 June 2020, a total of 21,371 out of the planned 31,220 household had been reached with LPG.

● Changes in context and assumptions upon which the project is based

The assumption and needs under which this programme was developed are still valid. The COVID-19 pandemic which was not foreseen during the programme development phase has significantly affected its implementation as distribution of LPG and cooking stoves to new beneficiaries, livelihoods, self-reliance, and forestry activities had to be suspended due to the lockdown and movement restrictions. The situation has begun to improve as movement restrictions are slowly being eased. As the operational area depends on tourism and remittances, both of which have significantly declined due to the COVID-19 lockdown, more locals are experiencing financial uncertainty and higher rates of poverty and require support. This is also true for the host community LPG beneficiaries who were supposed to begin buying LPG refills using proceeds from their livelihoods support during this period; they are not able to afford these refills because they cannot optimally implement livelihoods activities due to COVID-19 restrictions and associated lack of economic opportunities. These households have expressed the need for the programme to continue supporting them with refills until the end of the year.

Overall report summary

● What is working?

Despite the COVID-19 challenges, the programme continued to provide LPG to Rohingya Refugees and host communities, as well as providing cash transfers to vulnerable host community members comprising mainly of female headed households. Recent studies have shown that LPG distribution continues to have positive impacts on Rohingya and host communities. According to the 2019 IUCN¹ study, access to LPG has decreased the demand for firewood by 80% for Rohingya and 53% for host communities. Meanwhile, the 2019 REVA report² shows that household expenditures on cooking fuel by Rohingyas have decreased from 14% to 2%. Anecdotal stories show that LPG distribution in the host community has also resulted in changing attitudes towards the Rohingya Refugee response. Since SAFEPlus started its distributions, there is a sense among local Bangladeshis that the most vulnerable in the host community are also supported and that the sub-districts hosting the camps don't have to suffer as a result of sharing some of their natural resources with the refugees. Meanwhile, forestry nurseries were in high demand and the SAFEPlus procurement process generated income in the local communities, and the labor entailed enabled Cash-for-Work beneficiaries to access income as well. These planting materials are ready and will be planted once the NCE is granted, furthering the greening initiatives ongoing in and around the camps that

¹ Impact of LPG distribution among the Rohingya and Host communities of Cox's Bazar South Forest division on forest resources, IUCN, December 2019

² Refugee influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment, 2019 (WFP led)

have contributed to replenishing the local ecosystem which has benefits among affected populations, including increased shade and land stabilization.

- **What needs improvement?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges, especially for the elderly and those infected with COVID-19 whom are not able to visit the LPG distribution depots to collect LPG refills. This added challenge means that the programme has to provide home delivery porter services to beneficiaries in need and those unable to access the services otherwise. This is carried out in close collaboration with the health and site management teams. In addition, at the LPG distribution depots, there is a need for continuous improvement of hygiene and physical distancing measures. The other area for improvement is the need to increase LPG cooking efficiency and reduce the overall cost of the LPG programme.

- **How is the project being adapted to address improvement areas?**

The programme has increased the number of porters to support in carrying out home deliveries for the elderly and to homes of those affected by COVID-19. As the number of active cases in the Rohingya camps increase, the programme will continue reviewing the number of porters to continue providing a dignified service to beneficiaries. The programme is also conducting a pressure cooker pre-pilot to assess the savings that can be achieved from LPG costs by employing more efficient cooking approaches through using pressure cookers as opposed to ordinary pots. The assessment has been suspended to limit the spread of COVID-19, though preliminary results already indicate that use of pressure cookers would result in over 25% savings on LPG costs. The programme has also instituted measures to ensure health and safety of both staff and beneficiaries. The measures are meant to improve hygiene practices such as handwashing, as well as physical distancing at LPG distribution depots. Such measures include:

- Improving the lay out of the LPG depots so that beneficiaries can properly queue
- Calling one block at a time to come to the LPG depot to receive LPG refills
- Handwashing using soap among all beneficiaries as they join the queues (IOM is provided handwashing facilities, soap, and hand sanitizers at all LPG depots)
- Queuing beneficiaries at least 1m apart
- Distributing LPGs to beneficiaries over 60 years of via a door-to-door service
- Hiring porters to carry LPG cylinders for all extremely vulnerable households (sick and/or pregnant and lactating women, among others) from the LPG depots to their shelters
- Minimizing the need for manual contact via thumb print activation as beneficiaries can tap their SCOPE Cards onto the scanner and a voucher is automatically printed
- Sensitizing beneficiaries on COVID-19 and how best to prevent transmission
- Providing face masks to staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries to wear during distribution

- **Is the project on track to deliver its activities?**

The programme has not met the target for LPG distribution among new beneficiaries, as well as planting of forestry areas. The activities have been affected by the COVID-19 lockdown movement restrictions. All the other milestones have been achieved. The programme has request for a NCE from the donor and once granted, the programme intends to ensure the remaining households will receive LPG and 100 hectares of the degraded land will be planted.

- **What were the key lessons learned?**

- Continuous learning and adaptation play an important role in strengthening the SAFEPlus programme. Teams conducted Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) that supported in confirming the need for and how best to alter the refill schedule, while an on-going pressure cooker pre-pilot which has had promising results regarding time- and LPG cost-saving actions, in turn providing useful planning information.
- Timely engagement of government authorities helps secure their buy-in, enhancing the relationship between implementing agencies and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB).
- By supporting both host and Rohingya populations, the programme contributes to social cohesion efforts and reduces tension between the communities as the host communities appreciate the benefits from the programme.

- There is great value in having several organizations with different specialties working together on an integrated programme, leading to greater efficiency and impact.
- Through closely working with relevant government departments, it was possible to better assess and fully understand the needs of host community beneficiaries. This is expected to result in increased programme sustainability.
- Working in close collaboration with sectors like WASH, Health, Protection, Site Management and Shelter/NFI enabled the programme to properly respond to COVID-19 needs faced by the Rohingya Refugees as hand washing facilities were installed, LPG distribution depots were improved and those infected by COVID-19 were identified and supported with home deliveries.

C. ADDITIONAL DELIVERY, MONITORING, AND REPORTING QUESTIONS

1. Delivery, monitoring or reporting challenges (if any)

COVID-19 has impacted implementation of LPG and forestry activities. As stated above, the host community LPG delivery slowed down as new beneficiary selection could not be finalised in a timely manner due to the lockdown. Forestry planting activities could not be implemented in a timely manner, resulting in an underachieved target regarding the planted forest area. The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) household survey has been postponed to instead focus efforts on limiting the spread of COVID-19.

2. What do communities want to see changed in how the project is being delivered and/or improved in delivery? Do you have regular feedback mechanism in place?

The previous PDM report indicated that some households ran out of LPG before their next refill date. This may be resolved by use of pressure cookers. IOM has also been informed that host community beneficiaries who have already received their sixth, and final, refill from the programme are not able to afford the refills on their own due to the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on livelihoods opportunities and the already fragile economy. These households have requested the programme to continue providing refills until the situation improves and locals can resume their economic activities.

3. Are there any proposed adjustments to log-frame, delivery plan and / or budget?

Yes, the programme log-frame has been adjusted to reflect the requested No-Cost Extension through.

4. Please provide a short statement about how the project is performing according to the OECD DAC criteria³

The SAFEPlus programme is still very relevant in the context of Cox's Bazar as environmental degradation and food security are continuous challenges. The LPG, livelihoods, reforestation, and land stabilization activities have proved to be the appropriate interventions to achieve the desired outcomes and objective. So far, households benefiting from LPG have reduced their use of firewood and other biomass resources, therefore limiting tree cutting. The complementing interventions of the SAFEPlus programme have allowed IOM and partners to provide comprehensive support to beneficiaries. Apart from mitigating the impact on the environment, the project is contributing to alleviating Protection risks as women and girls no longer must walk long distances looking for firewood. Despite the current economic challenges, soon households receiving LPG and livelihoods (food and income security) support will continue refilling on their own, using resources generated through the livelihoods activities.

5. Please describe whether any protection & inclusion (age/gender/disability) issues arising and actions taken?

In the wake of COVID-19, all beneficiaries of 60 years of age and older and those infected with COVID-19 are being provided with LPG at their houses through a door-to-door distribution service, ensuring they remain supported through this programme while also limiting associated health risks. Other vulnerable beneficiaries are being supported with porters to help them carry the cylinders from the depot to their houses.

6. Please note any red flag issues (fraud, safeguarding etc) arising (if any) and actions taken to report/mitigate them?

³ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

So far no issues have been raised.

7. Overview of changes to project risk and mitigation measures taken

- COVID-19 has emerged as the main issue impacting the programme as movement restrictions continue and preventative measures have been adopted, as stated in section B above.
- The Government of Bangladesh and local leaders continue to support the programme. So far, the Government of Bangladesh, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Camp in-Charges (CiC) and all relevant government institutions and officials have supported the programme, including allowing LPG distributions to continue during lockdown. There was a delay in securing Government of Bangladesh approval, in turn leading to a delay in the formation of a key governance structure (Programme Steering Committee). Due to the delay in forming this governance structure, it was not possible to host and participate in Steering Committee meetings. Key project decisions that were supposed to be made by the Steering Committee instead had to be determined by the heads of agencies. It is expected that once the COVID-19 situation improves, a Steering Committee will be arranged and will absorb key project decision making responsibilities.
- Private sector stability and prices of LPG remain constant. The initial kit prices remained as planned; however, the refill prices have been fluctuating to the project's advantage.
- Currency devaluations did not occur and instead the project benefitted from some exchange rate gains.

D: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

1. Performance on financial issues consistent with reporting period.

SL #	Expenditure Category	Approved Budget	Expenditure	Balance	Remarks
01	Staff and other personnel costs				
02	Supplies, Commodities, Materials				
03	Travel				
04	General Operating and Other Direct Costs				
05	Indirect Support Costs (7%)				
06	UNDP-Fund management fee-1%				
	Total				

E. Attach the updated log-frame Separately.

While this report is independent of the second and third phased of DFID finding, I am attaching the two Log-frames

Annex 1: Programme Photos



The programme is providing porter service to elderly households. Currently, the elderly households have been instructed to remain at home and are being served through home deliveries.



Photo by IOM: Physical distancing and wearing of masks serve as preventative measures for the spread of COVID-19 during LPG distribution.



Photo by FAO: Forestry tree maintenance by Cash-for-Work beneficiaries



Photo by FAO: Manure making supports grass planting for soil and water conservation



Photo by FAO: Land Stabilisation.



Photo by FAO: Cash-for-Work forestry pruning.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT

(Amounts in US dollars)

Project Title: UN Joint-Project to Address Cooking Fuel Needs, Environmental Degradation and Food Security for Populations affected by the Refugee Crisis
 IOM Reference (PRISM Project Code): CS.1024
 Donor Reference/Atlas No. (if applicable): 118760
 Project Duration: 01 October 2019 to 30 June 2020

A. Income

	Amount		Comments
	USD	GBP	
Contributions from DFID November 2019	2,785,178	2,306,127	First tranche of contribution (Aug19' ex rate 1USD=.828 GBP)
Total Income	2,785,178	2,306,127	

B. Expenditure

Particular	Allocated Budget		Expenditure (Previous Periods Based on New Harmonized Reporting Categories) (A)		Expenditure - Current Period (please mention the period) (B)		Total Expenditure C= (A+B)		Balance (Allocated Budget - Total Expenditure)		Comments		
			01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018		01/01/2019 to 31/01/2020				01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018			01/01/2019 to 31/01/2020	
			US\$	GBP	US\$	GBP			US\$	GBP		US\$	GBP
Staff and other personnel costs	203,453	168,459	-	-	101,320	79,992	101,320	79,992	102,133	88,467			
Supplies, Commodities, Materials	3,182,451	2,635,069	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,182,451	2,635,069			
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Contractual Services	82,620	68,409	-	-	72,717	57,125	72,717	57,125	9,903	11,285			
Travel (local and international)	2,106	1,744	-	-	336	261	336	261	1,770	1,482			
Transfers and Grants Counterparts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	59,920	49,614	-	-	1,122	867	1,122	867	58,798	48,746			
Total programme costs	3,530,550	2,923,295	-	-	175,495	138,245	175,495	138,245	3,355,055	2,785,050	-		
Indirect Support Costs / Overhead (7% FAO & IOM; 6.5% for WFP)	247,139	204,631	-	-	12,285	9,677	12,285	9,677	234,854	194,953			
Administrative Agency Cost UNDP													
Total Expenditure	3,777,689	3,127,926	-	-	187,779	147,923	187,779	147,923	3,589,909	2,980,003	-		

Instruction:

- (1) For **Column A -As Adjusted Previous Periods** (Based on New Harmonized Reporting Categories)
 - Please complete "Recon-Previous & Current Period" sheet for Expenditure part following additional instruction mentioned in the said sheet.
 The cells in Column A for Expenditure part will automatically fill in as it were linked to "Recon-Previous & Current Period" sheet.
- (2) For **Column B - Current Period**
 - Please complete "Recon-Previous & Current Period" sheet following additional instruction mentioned in the said sheet.
 - For Revenue part, please fill in based on ZCJ13.
 - The complete New Harmonized Reporting Categories were as follows:

Line #	Line description	Definition of figure to be reflected
1	Staff and other personnel costs	101,320
2	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	-
3	Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	-
4	Contractual Services	-
5	Travel	336
6	Transfers and Grants Counterparts	-
7	General Operating and Other Direct Costs	73,839
8	Indirect Support Costs	12,285
9	Total Received Funds (this project)	2,785,178
10	Agency Earned Interest Income	-
11	Refunds (and project)	if any