



HOST COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE

BACKGROUND

World Vision has served in Cox’s Bazar district—one of Bangladesh’s poorest areas—for more than 30 years. Seventeen percent of the people here live below the extreme poverty line, compared to the national average of almost 13 percent. Our new integrated 12-year development programmes and immediate interventions focus on the Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts. Residents here have borne the socio-economic brunt of the Rohingya refugee influx that began in August 2017. Today, refugees constitute more than a third of the local population. According to a recent UNDP report, the cost of daily essentials in this area have risen by about 50 percent, while wages of day labourers have decreased. Some 2,500 households have fallen below the poverty line. World Vision is helping people cope with the changing economics by learning new skills and diversifying their livelihoods.

DONOR



2,855 people (including 428 women) earned income as day labourers on disaster-risk reduction construction projects.

6,000 people can find safety during a storm in 10 renovated schools that double as cyclone shelters.

30,000 community members are participating in two integrated 12-year long-term development programmes.

16,887 seniors, widows and persons with disabilities received cash assistance totaling USD 1.3 million, funded by UNHCR

15,871 ultra-poor residents are receiving skills training to increase income, financial literacy, disaster preparedness, child protection and gender awareness.

31,374 people are participating in cash-for-work, livelihood and income-generating activities, savings groups, and health and nutrition sessions supported by USAID Food for Peace.

IMPACT

Vulnerable children and their families in Bangladesh’s poorest district have educational and income-generating activities to help build their self-reliance.

SUPPORT COUNTRIES





CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE GIVES SENIORS, WIDOWS AND THE DISABLED POWER OF CHOICE

“I’m going to use this money for my school fees,” says Jasmine, 11, laughing as she clutches the taka notes in her hand. “I’m so happy today.”

Jasmine and her grandfather, Ali, 65, recently celebrated their shared good fortune. Identified by their communities as being especially vulnerable, they received support from World Vision’s social safety-net programme, operated in partnership with UNHCR and the Cox’s Bazar district government.

A total of 16,887 seniors, widows and people with disabilities in Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts received cash assistance (totaling USD1.3 million) to help ease the pressure of rising costs due in part to the influx of 1 million refugees in their community two years ago.

Residents in this area welcomed the refugees as they surged across the border. They carried food from their tables onto the streets to feed families who hadn’t eaten for days. Although already one of country’s poorest communities, they didn’t count the cost of caring. Today some might say they are paying the price. Following the influx, living conditions deteriorated significantly for the 500,000 residents in the host communities bordering the camps.

To help address this, as part of the safety net programme, seniors and widows selected by their communities received

6,000 taka each (about USD80); persons with disabilities each received 8,400 taka (USD101).

Ali says he is saving the funds he received for Jasmine’s education. He struggles to find the money for Jasmine’s education, along with her special medical needs. Ali has consulted with many doctors about his granddaughter’s mobility disability. Jasmine walks with a limp, but her challenges haven’t hindered her from excelling academically. Ali has big plans for her future: he sees Jasmine becoming a doctor and is saving the cash assistance he received for her future career.

“Jasmine is a special child, and she will need a stable job one day,” says Ali, smiling proudly at his granddaughter as they walk hand-in-hand. “As a doctor, she will be able to care for people who face the same challenges.”

World Vision’s cash-based assistance allows people to meet their needs in dignity and become more resilient. The funds are disbursed without restrictions meaning recipients can choose how they spend their money. This benefits the local economy as people buy essential goods in local stores and pay for local services. Recipients use the cash assistance to pay their rent, buy medicines, pay off debts or even start businesses.