



*An FAO-supported farmer
from Cox's Bazar.*



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COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

PROGRESS SUMMARY

JANUARY TO APRIL 2021

Cox's Bazar, a vulnerable district in south-eastern Bangladesh, is a priority area for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The region, which has a Bangladeshi population of 2.65 million people, hosts the largest refugee camp in the world with 884 000 Rohingya¹ who reside in 34 makeshift camps. The area is prone to monsoon landslides and seasonal cyclones.

FAO supports 141 400 beneficiaries and provides technical expertise to food security and environment sector partners through an integrated approach. In the transition from an emergency to resiliency response, FAO tailors support to the needs, priorities, and context of the affected populations with a focus on strengthening the connection between livelihoods and the environment.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

> Response to the fire-affected refugee camps:

48 300

people affected
directly, losing
shelter, belongings,
and food.

75

hectares of land
inside the camp
impacted.



Conducted an environmental assessment including preparation of damaged tree catalogue, assessment of vegetation cover, soil and water quality, in collaboration with the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group (EETWG).



Developed an environment and disaster risk mitigation advocacy note with the EETWG.



Developed land restoration guidelines that recommended several plantation techniques: slope stabilization, roadside, riparian, and homestead.

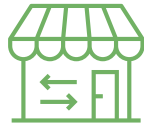
¹ Joint Bangladesh-United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Population Factsheet; March, 2021.

> **FAO-World Food Programme strategic partnership**



30 000

Rohingya households across 34 camps to be supported to improve their nutritional status.



2 000

farmers to be connected to markets through aggregation centres.



1 000

households to benefit directly from natural resource management activities.



165 000

Individuals from 33 000 households will benefit directly.

> **Global Network Against Food Crises**

Commencement of new four-year project under the European Union-FAO Global Network Against Food Crises Alliance.

PROACT:
Resilience Strengthening through Agri-Food Systems Transformation in Cox's Bazar.

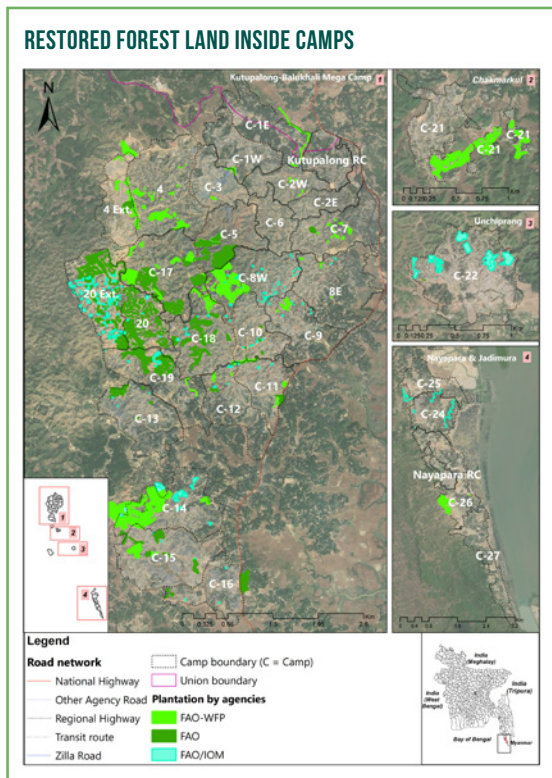
101 750
direct beneficiaries

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- Promote high value crop production for host community.
- Connect farmer groups to aggregation centres.
- Support dry fish production and pond fish culture.
- Promote climate resilient agriculture.
- Environmental restoration: reforestation and land stabilization.

> **Rohingya response**

Humanitarian and environmental interventions inside the refugee camps include fire response, technical leadership of homestead gardening, reforestation, disaster risk reduction, and promotion of innovative technologies such as dry season planting.



SIX

vegetable cultivation systems identified through a rapid assessment of homestead vegetable gardening with special emphasis on environmental context, economic values, and management practices.

259

hectares of degraded forestland restored and maintained.



Grass and native species identified, in collaboration with the Forestry Department, to remediate the soil, provide cover, and act as fire deterrents.



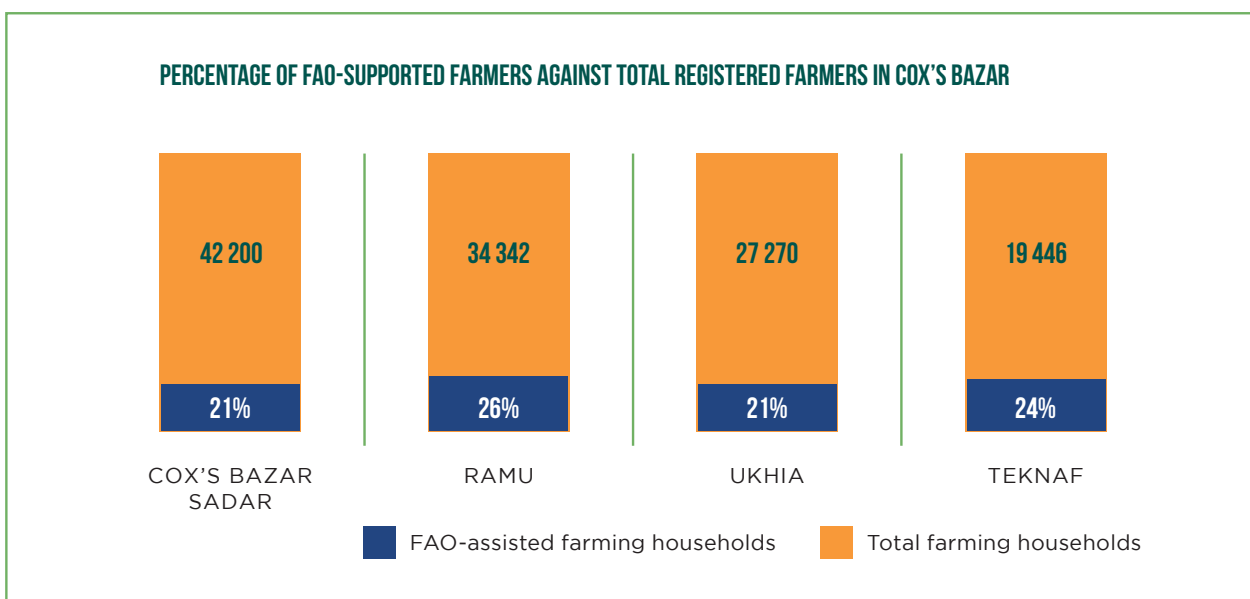
Scaled up the innovative dry-season plantation technologies in 10 hectares inside camps.

Source: Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX). 2021. Bangladesh - Outline of camps of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar [online]. [Cited 1 April 2021]. <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/outline-of-camps-sites-of-rohingya-refugees-in-cox-s-bazar-bangladesh>

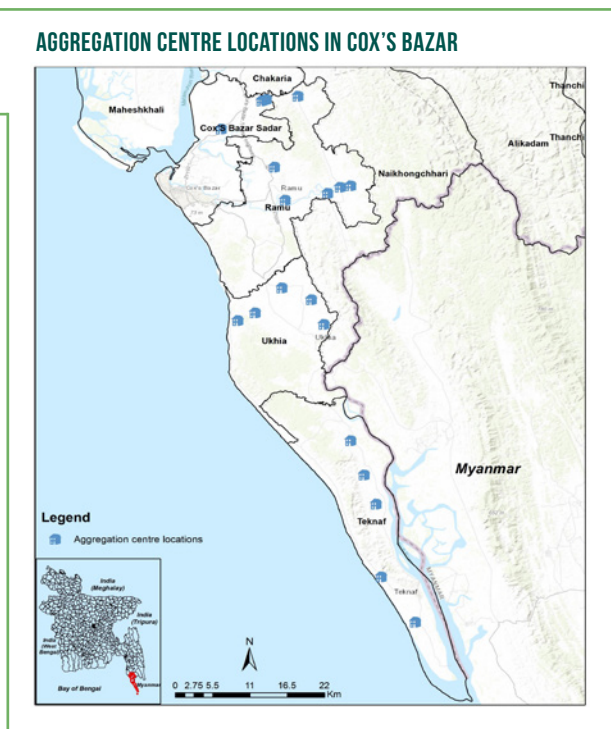
> Building resiliency and promoting integrated agri-economic growth

FAO is working to create and support livelihoods and to build resilience to food insecurity and natural disasters at the household and community levels. Agricultural transformation activities for local

communities include support for food production, agricultural mechanization, Farmer Field Schools, business support for farmers, aquaculture, livestock production, and animal health management.



141 400	beneficiaries provided with agricultural-related support.
28 280	households supported across four sub-districts (Ramu, Sadar, Teknaf, Ukhiya).
360 000	kilograms of vegetables sold through 20 aggregation centres.
28 000	farmers received vegetable seeds.
598	farmer groups included in formal banking system.
USD 116 900	(BDT 9 908 820) saved by 1 002 farmer groups.
230	farmer groups linked with different markets.
156	tonnes of cattle and poultry feed distributed to 2 120 livestock farmers.
USD 21 160	(BDT 1 794 000) invested by 2 220 farmers in agricultural initiatives.
29 000	farmers received seven mobile phone voice messages giving COVID-19 safety advice.



Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2011. Population and Housing Census 2011.

> Restoring socioecological systems

FAO is working to restore socioecological systems throughout Cox's Bazar. Activities include environmental assessments and restoration, biological land stabilization, watershed management, biodiversity protection, elephant conservation, support for plant nurseries, development of early warning systems, and promotion of renewable energy for sustainable agriculture.



- Developed a landslide early warning system based on risk modelling using satellite imagery and meteorological data that will alert people five days ahead of an incident.
- Conducted a Floral Diversity Assessment for the Cox's Bazar South Forest Division.
- Piloted dry-season plantation technology inside and outside the camps with a 100 percent seedling survival rate.
- Developed Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART) guidelines for forest monitoring.
- Developed Agriculture Vulnerability and Hazard Maps of two sub-districts (Teknaf and Ukhiya) for land use planning in agriculture.
- Biodiversity conservation initiatives undertaken include wildlife habitat restoration, reforestation of degraded forest, plus bio-fencing and beehive installation to reduce human-elephant conflicts.

Elephants in the forests of Cox's Bazar. FAO is helping to protect the elephants which are endangered.

> Gender equity and women empowerment

Programme activities aim to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls', in particular Target 5.a., which aims to 'Undertake reforms to give women equal

rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources'. Four in ten beneficiaries in Cox's Bazar are women.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN
FAO-SUPPORTED FARMER
GROUPS IN COX'S BAZAR

35%

COX'S BAZAR
SADAR

46%

RAMU

40%

UKHIA

31%

TEKNAF

FAO's programmes in Cox's Bazar are supported by:

Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

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