

Overview of all HEKS/EPER COVID-19 Interventions in and around the Rohingya Camps

Context



The Rohingya are living in conditions of hardship. Crammed together in tiny makeshift shelters of 17m² per family made from bamboo and plastic, many of the refugees already suffer from poor nutrition and poor health. In such an environment with a population density of up to 70'000 people per square kilometer, the virus is difficult to be contained.

On May 14th the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in a Rohingya camp, but official figures among Rohingya stayed low and reached in November 2020 350 cases. The low figure is partially related to the Rohingya's hesitation to get tested, but still, widespread infections in the camps could be prevented so far. Seeing the dynamics of the pandemic infection numbers might still rapidly increase.

Since late March 2020, the Bangladesh government implements measures of social distancing which include movement restrictions. These restrictions have a significant impact on people's incomes also for the host community living around the camps. "Non-essential" NGO programs in the camps have been temporarily put on hold by the government, and quarantine centers were established to treat and host infected Rohingya.



Objective

To support the most vulnerable people in and around the Rohingya Camps, to prevent or slow down the spread of COVID 19, and to support them recovering from the shock.

Target groups

- Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh with a focus on the cluster of Camps 14, 15, and 16.
- Bangladeshi Host Community living close to camp 14,15 and 16.



Completed Interventions

HEKS constantly analysis the situation and adds interventions based on needs in the Field. By December 2020, the following activities were completed or ongoing:

Distributions to the Elderly

All 3,500 households with elderly household members in Camp 13, 15, and 16 received masks and shelter material allowing families to construct a protected sleeping place for the elderly (own sleeping mat, separation wall with tarpaulins). The package has a value of 40 USD.



Distributions in the Host Community

When movement restrictions became imposed by the government, HEKS/EPER distributed food support to 1,500 vulnerable households.



Information on COVID 19

HEKS/EPER promotes handwashing and explains Corona prevention mechanisms to Rohingya and the host community through demonstrations. Additionally, weekly audio programs are produced and broadcasted. Since the Covid-19 outbreak, the programs focused on the direct impact of the pandemic on people, as well as on mitigating its secondary impacts.





Capacity Building on Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Facilities

HEKS/EPER is implementing a comprehensive WASH in health facilities project in all 400 health facilities in the Rohingya camps as well as in the host community of Cox's Bazar District. The staff of the facilities is trained and coached on hygiene and infection control and prevention. All facilities are supported to develop their WASH strategy.



Country: Bangladesh

Project Start: 4/2020

HEKS/EPER No.: 610.427, 610.436 and 610.437

Budget: 1.2 Million USD

Responsibility:

Sebastian Zug, Desk Officer
Humanitarian Aid

Shahid Kamal, Regional
Humanitarian Aid Coordinator

Construction of Hygiene Infrastructure in Government Health Facilities

200 Government Facilities are supported to construct or repair relevant infrastructures like water supply including chlorination systems, handwashing stations, and latrines. The interventions will improve hygiene in the facilities in general, and strongly contribute to infection control and prevention during the COVID pandemic.



Equipping Government Quarantine Centers with Hygiene Infrastructure

Installation of washing machines, water pumps, and waste bins, along with distribution of hygiene material in 5 Government Quarantine Centers located in Upazila Health Complexes. In one of the centers, a waste management zone was constructed.



Temperature Checkpoint

Three Checkpoints were constructed by HEKS at the entry of Camp 14, 15, and 16, where Rohingya and NGO workers can have their temperature checked and wash their hands.





Cash Assistance

HEKS/EPER supported 1'900 highly vulnerable households from the host communities with unconditional cash support worth 4'000 BDT. This will allow them to compensate for reduced livelihood opportunities related to COVID-19 restrictions.



Cash for Work

HEKS/EPER implement a cash for work program and generating income for vulnerable households and improving community infrastructure. The focus of the work was repair and maintenance of rural earthen and brick soled roads.



The COVID-19 Interventions are supported by



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