

COLORS OF HOPE PARTNERING FOR RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

A photographic journey into the lives of displaced Rohingya living in Bangladesh and the communities that host them

Advisors

Ashlee Betteridge, Johny M Sarker

Editorial Committee

Mahmud A H Patwary, Md Qazi Shamim Hasan, Mutasim Billah, Nahida Arefin Nitu, Sabrina Idris, Shafiques Saleh, Shahidul H Khan, Sutanuka Sayanti Barua

Published by

Communications and Advocacy Working Group (CAWG) Consortium Management Unit (CMU) AHP Bangladesh Consortium

Cover & Graphics

Hasib Ahmed

Cover Photo

M R Hasan

Photo

Farzana Akhtar, Hasan Zobayer, Khandakar RH Shumon, Rubina Hoque Alee

ISBN

978-984-35-4402-5

Concept & Design



Publication rights © AHP Bangladesh Consortium

This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.





MESSAGE

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is hosting nearly one million displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar after the massive influx in 2017. To support the GOB and this cause, CARE Bangladesh has been responding to this humanitarian crisis since the beginning.

Since its start in July 2020, CARE Bangladesh has led the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Bangladesh Consortium, which consists of the six Australian NGOs, namely: CAN DO, CARE, Oxfam, Plan, Save the Children, and World Vision, funded by DFAT. This project, much known as AHP III, has been coordinated by a Consortium Management Unit (CMU).

The CMU and its Communication and Advocacy Working Group (CAWG), a group from all six agencies, have produced numerous communications materials highlighting the progress of the AHP III. I am pleased to see that the CAWG has now produced a photo book, an innovative way to showcase the results of the AHP III Bangladesh Consortium.

I would like to thank CMU, and the CAWG for their hard work and contributions to documenting the 'stories of change' in the lives of the Rohingyas and the host communities visible through this photo book. I am also very grateful to DFAT for the support.

Ramesh Singh Country Director, CARE Bangladesh



MESSAGE

The Communication and Advocacy activities of the AHP III Bangladesh Consortium were spearheaded by Consortium Management Unit (CMU). This involved creating and leading the Communication and Advocacy Working Group (CAWG), creating content, managing social media, and collecting field stories. Additionally, they initiated the formation of AHP III Bangladesh's social media presence, including Facebook, YouTube, and a website.

In the early stages of the second year of the consortium, CMU and CAWG produced a video documentary that highlighted the key thematic areas and overall activities of the consortium. They also created numerous case stories and newsletters, as well as ten animation videos, which was a significant accomplishment.

During the third and final year of the consortium, CMU produced 12 videos, six of which focused on the host community and six on the camp community, to showcase the key achievements of the consortium's activities. Similarly, the CMU and the CAWG decided to produce a photo book to share the consortium's results.

This photo book is a visual representation of the change throughout the AHP Bangladesh Consortium phases. I believe this book will enable your window to peep into the life-changing magnitude of the project participants.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues in the field for their relentless efforts, the heads of the agencies and their implementing partners, the steering committee members, members of technical working groups, members of AHP Support Unit, and my colleagues in the Consortium Management Unit.

Congratulations to the Communication and Advocacy Working Group members, Ashlee Betteridge from AHP Support Unit and BoxOffice, who worked hard to bring this book to the table possible.

Thanking you,

Johny M Sarker Consortium Unit Manager, DFAT-AHP III CMU





PREFACE

This photo book provides a glimpse into the initiatives taken by the AHP Bangladesh Consortium addressing the ongoing needs of displaced Rohingya and affected host communities. In 2017, the Rohingya people of Myanmar were forcibly displaced, leaving them with an uncertain future. The massive influx of displaced people created a severe humanitarian crisis.

In response to that crisis, and with the support of the Australian Government, the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Bangladesh Consortium stepped forward to save lives, alleviate suffering, and uphold human dignity. The goal was to deliver a well-coordinated and inclusive program in strong partnership with national and local partners.

This book showcases the impact of the program, which provides accessible and inclusive primary education, protection services, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and health services to meet basic needs. Moreover, the program's ongoing efforts to enhance self-reliance through livelihood initiatives and resilience through disaster risk reduction were reflected in this book.

The AHP Bangladesh Consortium is a partnership of six NGOs, including CARE, the EKOTA Consortium (CAN DO), Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, and World Vision. Coordinated by the Consortium Management Unit (CMU), the AHP Bangladesh Consortium partners

implement project activities in 23 refugee camps and 9 adjacent host communities, with a special focus on gender, disability inclusion, and localization.

This book is a testament to the power of partnerships and the resilience of communities in the face of adversity. We hope this photo book will help you to venture into the impacts made by the AHP Bangladesh Consortium during the third phase of its response, and help us to continue to advocate for the needs of displaced people and raise awareness of their plight.

CONTENTS



Education



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)



Health



Gender and Protection



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Wash)



Food Security and Livelihoods



About AHP Response In Bangladesh





Education

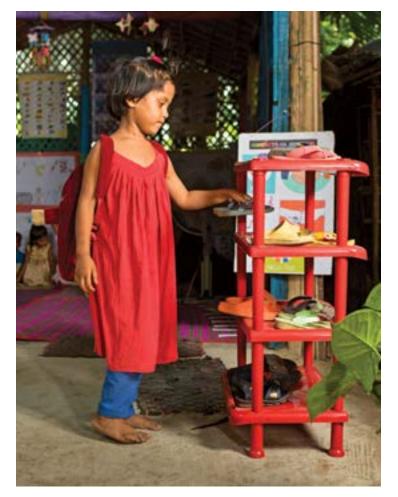
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

Providing equitable and inclusive access to education while ensuring safety and dignity for both Rohingya and host community children is one of the focus of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership. The aim is to help them achieve learning outcomes throughout their lives.

Early childhood education is a key priority, being provided to, through Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDs), Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBKs) (preschools), and Learning Centers (LCs). Community members and caregivers are being educated on the importance of early childhood education through awareness sessions. Activities also include providing school-aged informal education through learning centers, creating girl-friendly spaces, and establishing youth clubs.

 Reach
 MALE 15,088
 FEMALE PERSON WITH DISABILITY TOTAL 35,384







Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK Centers) provide pre-primary education to community children. The joyful atmosphere of rhymes and storytelling sessions is kept up by supporting the good health of children through lessons about hygiene practices and the significance of safe water.







"Mom makes toys for me at my school." Education is more fun when parents engage in making toys for children at the centers, which feels like home.

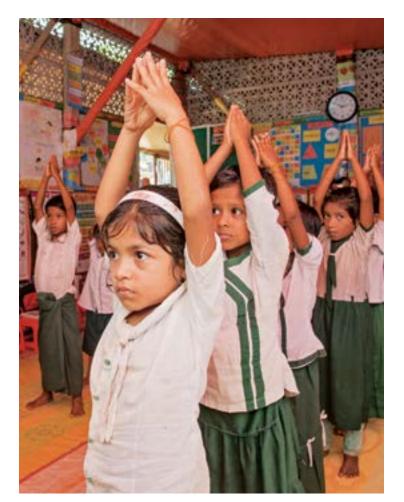




These centres play a crucial role in nurturing the cognitive development of these underprivileged children in remote areas that helping them later to get enrolled in government primary schools. In these SBKs children actively engage in a diverse range of recreational activities alongside their studies.











At the Child Learning Center, children actively engage in a variety of activities, including academic study, physical exercise, and indoor games. Throughout these activities, mentors or teachers are present to ensure interactive sessions, creating an engaging learning environment.





Parenting sessions are conducted regularly that create a positive impact at the family level. As a result, children often engage in conversations with their parents, sharing details about their studies and other aspects of their experiences at the center when they return home.











With the goal of promoting early childhood development, the ECD Centers offer a range of sessions that incorporate both indoor and outdoor games. These centers create a pleasant learning environment for children, utilizing a variety of tools to provide education in an engaging and interactive manner.

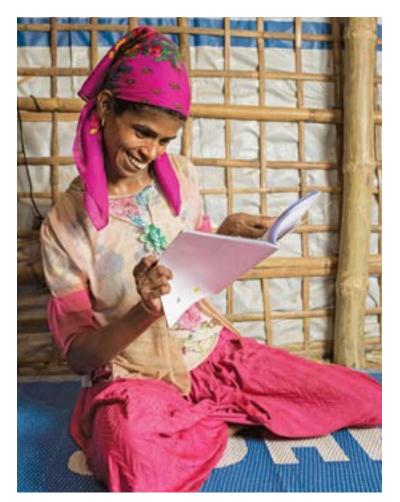




ECD Centers promote the inclusion of children with disabilities, offering a supportive environment for their active participation in indoor and outdoor games, producing holistic development.











The youth clubs create awareness among the younger generation about the prevention of child marriage, the importance of weather warning messages etc. Youths with disability actively participate in the clubs' activities, developing self-discovery. The clubs also incorporate literacy initiatives and indoor games as part of their activities.



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy.

Max Mayfield

Cox's Bazar is prone to natural disasters, including two cyclone seasons per year, which pose a significant threat to its inhabitants. Disaster preparedness is a crucial aspect of the Joint Response Plan, aiming to build resilience in both camp and host community settings and to safeguard the affected populations. The Australian Government is also committed to enhancing disaster preparedness in disaster-prone regions like Cox's Bazar.

AHP partners are working together to reduce disaster risk. Environmental, social, natural, and other risks are taken into consideration for this. Community-based disaster management and climate change adaptation programs are being supported to mitigate landslides during the monsoon season. Emergency support has been provided to the camp residents, and cash-forwork program has been introduced to support the resilience of the Rohingya community, while carrying out works to improve camp safety.

Reach





FEMALE **4,315**



PERSON WITH DISABILITY

TOTAL 8,411





Stairs with railings and slope stabilizers have been constructed to minimize everyday risks in the Rohingya camps. Vegetables and fruit trees are also planted on the slope stabilizers to control earth erosion and make the camps green.





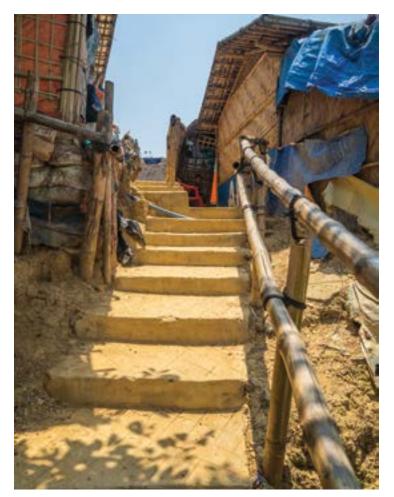
Colors of Hope: Partnering for Rights and Dignity







In the host community, the once-filled canal has been re-excavated, effectively unlocking its versatile potential for various purposes at the local level. As a result, the re-excavation has made commuting easier for local residents, and the productivity of paddy crops in the surrounding land has notably increased.







Ramps and stairs with railings have been constructed in Rohingya camps for smooth movement of the population including the children, elderly, and people with disabilities.







The community members, including persons with disabilities, actively engage in repairing the damaged roads. Among them is a person who not only participates in this effort but also works as a skilled mason. Additionally, this individual, with assistance from the project, constructed a platform over the drain in front of their house.







Ensuring a secure living environment is a common aspiration. In order to address the vulnerability of certain households to natural disasters, financial and technical assistance is being provided to promote the sustainability of their homes.







Small communities known as Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been established. These SHGs hold regular meetings to promote mutual support and empowerment. Certain members within these groups hold golden cards, which grant them access to various benefits. Other members of the SHG group also benefited from the gold card holders.



Health

Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more.

Pope Francis

Health posts are providing comprehensive essential health services, in line with international humanitarian standards. Through the AHP response, health centres have been constructed, and along with health posts partners are also providing support to access first aid, outpatient consultations, child vaccination, sexual and reproductive health information and medicine, including contraception, infant and young child feeding, COVID-19 awareness, adolescent care, mental health support, outreach services, and more.

Reach





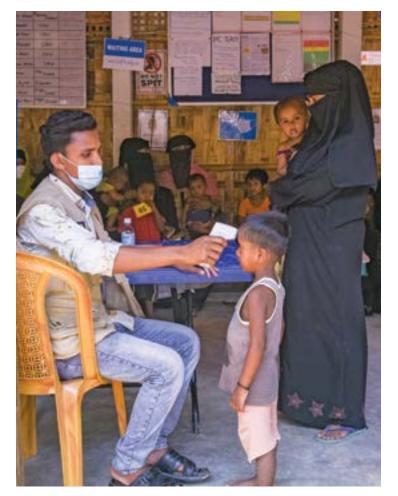
FEMALE 79,462



PERSON WITH DISABILITY 702

TOTAL 116,322









Health posts and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Care Centers offering comprehensive medical facilities. Upon arrival, patients have their temperature taken and are then guided to the waiting room. During this waiting period, they receive sessions on basic health care, including personal hygiene, before receiving the specific services they need.







In the camps, women receive ANC and PNC services at the health posts. These essential healthcare services are provided by trained midwives who specialize in supporting and caring for pregnant and new mothers.







Trained doctors and midwives at healthcare centers provide family planning counseling and services. Through counseling, individuals are encouraged to consider family planning and explore both short-term and long-term birth control options. Many choose to receive various long-term birth control methods, including implants, at these centers.







People of all ages of Rohingya community seek medical care from the health centers. In addition to general treatment offered by specialist doctors, these centers also provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services through counselors.







Apart from regular treatment, these health centers offer various other facilities to persons with disabilities. Dedicated volunteers are available to assist with transportation to and from the center, ensuring accessibility for all. Furthermore, the centers are equipped with disabled-friendly toilets to ensure accessibility and convenience for persons with disabilities.











After receiving medical treatment, patients obtain the prescribed medications from the dispensaries within the health care centers, following the guidance of the doctor. Trained pharmacists dispense the medications, offering guidance on how to effectively take them.







Through the outreach programme of the health posts, women receive various essential services, including ANC, PNC checkups, family planning, and SRH. Additionally, programs such as yard meetings are conducted to raise awareness among women. The service also prioritizes the needs of disabled individuals, ensuring their utmost care and attention.







Expert doctors from the health care centers provide capacity-building training to volunteer service providers, enabling them to deliver quality services in the community. Once trained, these volunteers then organize and conduct health care and awareness programs in the community, fostering wellness and knowledge among the residents.





Gender and Protection

Achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, girls and boys. It is everyone's responsibility.

Ban Ki- Moon

AHP Bangladesh Consortium aims to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection issues in the affected communities.

The implementing partners are working together to ensure and enhance access to survivor-centered services by responding to individual needs, preventing, and mitigating GBV risks in the Rohingya camps. Partners are working to ensure women and girls have access to Girls' Safe Space (WGSS), including Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) facilities where they can receive case management service, psychosocial support, and life skills training. They are also working on women's economic empowerment, and social norms change through engaging men & boys as a main counterpart as well as engaging with Gender diverse population.

The AHP Bangladesh Consortium collaborates with the government, the UN, other organizations, and sectors to enhance protection services, promote human rights, and provide survivor-cantered protection mechanisms for survivors of GBV and child protection issues in the affected communities.

Reach MALE FEMALE PERSON WITH DISABILITY TOTAL 23,281 27,777 2,802 51,209





Besides getting awareness of child protection and rights, the gender-segregated child groups experience psychological development through storytelling, drawing, and other fun activities.







The members of the child group strive to develop relationships with each other through regular imitation and acting. Along with this, they learn about awareness issues at the family level. The results of these activities can also be observed in improving communication within their families.



Disability Support Committee discusses and awareness is raised to prevent psychosocial and emotional abuse. Additionally, members of the Community-Based Protection Community (CBPC) actively create awareness about psychosocial and emotional abuse by visiting households.







Adolescents are regularly engaged in sessions at the Adolescent Center to address important topics such as child marriage, gender sensitivity, and hygiene. Additionally, recreational activities like chess, carrom, and reading books are utilized to raise awareness among them regarding these issues.







Many youth club members have experienced fundamental changes in their personal lives. Apart from preventing her own child marriage, this girl in the picture is also taking the initiative to make others aware. Moreover, she has gained the confidence to resume her discontinued education.









Various local initiatives have been undertaken to empower women. By establishing youth clubs and conducting awareness programs, these women are gaining valuable skills, growing in confidence, becoming more courageous, and embracing self-empowerment.





Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

We shall not defeat any of the infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation, and basic health care.

Kofi Annan

Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar face challenges such as high population density, insufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, and limited access to basic supplies like soap, which hinder effective hygiene practices. Consequently, they are highly susceptible to disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

Through AHP, implementing partners have been working to deliver improved and equitable WASH conditions by providing essential supplies such as soap, building latrines, and constructing handwashing facilities in the Rohingya and nearby host communities in Cox's Bazar.

Other services provided include safe water supply, hygiene promotion, construction of latrines and bathing cubicles, solid waste management, Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTP), and water networking systems with a focus on the needs of women, girls, people with disabilities and the elderly. Inclusive and accessible toilets in Rohingya camps have been an area of priority.

Reach



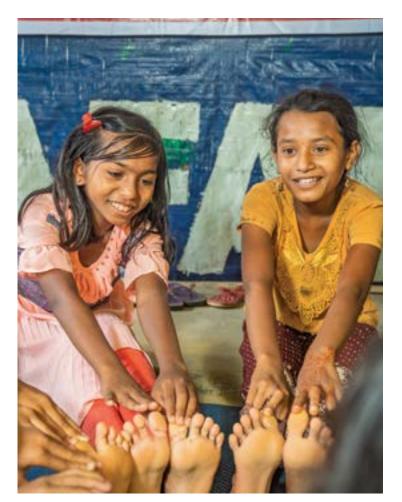


FEMALE 117,340



PERSON WITH DISABILITY 9,191

TOTAL 240,847



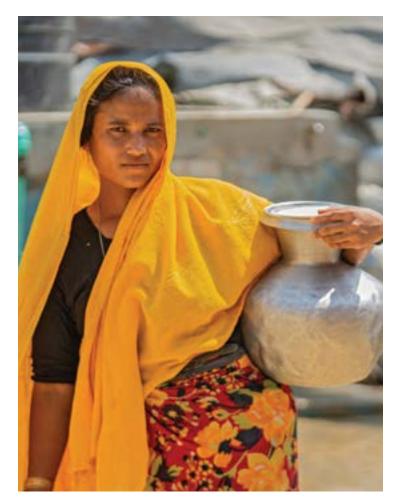




As a part of efforts to promote the healthy well-being of children, counseling sessions are conducted to raise awareness about safe water usage. These sessions aim to encourage children to adopt hygienic practices. Consequently, children are motivated to wash their hands and utilize soap before engaging in various activities.



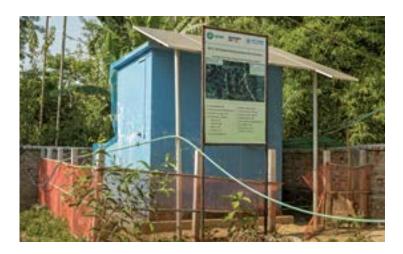








In order to provide the community with safe water, secure water tanks have been installed at various crucial locations. Community members form orderly queues to collect water from these tanks. The availability of safe water empowers community members to carry out their daily tasks and responsibilities with ease and efficiency.







Across all areas with ponds, diverse infrastructure has been constructed to purify the pond water. These efforts aim to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the water. As a result, community members consume the treated pond water without any hesitation. Moreover, community members are ensuring the availability of safe water resources by the utilizing rainwater harvesting infrastructure.











Each shelter in the camps is provided with red and green bins from the project, with the aim of promoting their usage among residents. The red bins are specifically designated for plastic waste, while the green bins are intended for compostable waste. To facilitate waste collection, project volunteers diligently conduct door-to-door visits on a daily basis.









Once the waste is collected, it is transported to the Waste Management Center, where dedicated volunteers carefully sort through the collected waste, separating it according to its type. The necessary waste then undergoes a systematic process to be converted into high-quality compost.





After the compost is prepared, the volunteers package and distribute it among the community members. The members, in turn, utilize the compost to cultivate a wide range of vegetables and crops in their front yards. This practice allows them to make the most of the prepared compost and foster diverse vegetation in their homesteads.











Disability-friendly slopes and toilets have been constructed that significantly improved their quality of life and facilitated persons with disabilities' mobility, making their movement more convenient than ever before.









Dedicated volunteers undertake the task of cleaning drains and collecting mud. In addition, a specialized pipe system is employed to collect human waste from toilets. These waste materials are then carefully processed to produce fertilizer, contributing to sustainable waste management practices.





Food Security and Livelihoods

I saw the world I had walked since my birth and I understood how fragile it was, that the reality was a thin layer of icing on a great dark birthday cake writhing with grubs and nightmares and hunger.

Neil Gaiman

One of the main goals of the AHP III Bangladesh Consortium Project is to improve the economic resilience of the most vulnerable women, people with disabilities, and youth from both Rohingya and affected Bangladeshi host communities. This is being achieved through the Self-Reliance intervention, which focuses on providing diverse income-generating activities life skills training to these groups.

AHP partners are offering various training programs, including livestock rearing, agriculture farming, and skill-based employment training, as well as small-scale business, to support income generation activities. The training focuses on gender and disability-inclusive life skills and business skills development. Cash grants are also provided to support business activities. Sustainability of these income-generating activities is ensured by providing technical and input support, such as market linkage and extension services from the government and private sectors. Additionally, participant groups have been formed to discuss related problems, social issues, required services, and possible solutions.

 Reach
 MALE 6,790
 FEMALE PERSON WITH DISABILITY 10TAL 17,709



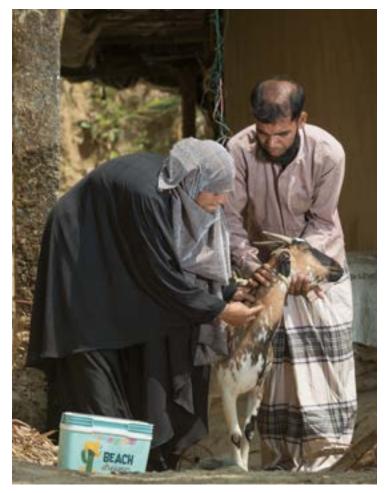


In the host community, women are doing poultry and cattle rearing as their livelihood. This is contributing to their economic empowerment and self-reliance.





Colors of Hope: Partnering for Rights and Dignity







Comprehensive training on essential vaccination services is provided, and door-to-door vaccination activities are carried out for the community's welfare.







Women receive training in handicraft. This training enables them to produce nakshi kantha (a type of quilt), hats, sitting wraps, and fishing nets. These handmade items not only fulfill their family's requirements but also generate additional income when sold. As a result, the family's economy thrives through these productive initiatives.







With these agricultural centers, local residents can now sell the crops they grow in their backyard. This arrangement ensures that farmers receive a fair price for their produce while also satisfying the local demand for nutritious food.







Host community people are provided with the essential resources to establish and manage a variety of businesses, including tea shops and dried fish enterprises, based on local demand. This support is encouraging self-reliance among the local women, and as a result, the wheels of their family's economy are flourishing.







The skilled women in the community not only ensure a better livelihoods but also find solace among the colours of the threads. We hope the colours live in their lives and shine forever.





About the Australian Humanitarian Partnership Response In Bangladesh

In 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, an ethnic minority group in Myanmar, fled their homes in Rakhine State after a violent military crackdown and took refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh. Now, more than a million Rohingya people are housed in 33 camps in the Cox's Bazar district of south-eastern Bangladesh, making it one of the world's largest refugee settlements.

The AHP Bangladesh Consortium is designed to contribute to the overarching DFAT Bangladesh Rohingya and Host Community Humanitarian Package (2020–2023). This Consortium enables broader geographic reach, better coordination of and with the key stakeholders, and improved collective response to the needs of Rohingya and host communities under a consortium mechanism; and the consortium is coordinated by a Consortium Management Unit (CMU).

Partners are working towards all DFAT package high-level outcomes: basic needs, self-reliance, resilience and reform amongst the refugee and host communities. This four-pillared approach is focusing special consideration on gender, localization and inclusion.

The Australian Humanitarian Partnership is a collaboration between the Australian Government, six leading Australian NGOs and their international partners.





Program Locations

CARE

Camp 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 In the host community surrounding the refugee camps

EKOTA Consortium

Camp 2E, 4, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 Ukhiya, Ramu, Moheshkhali, and Cox's Bazar Sadar

OXFAM

Camp 3, 4, 12, 19, 22, 26, and 27 Nhila and Whykong union of host community

PLAN

Camp 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 Teknaf Pourasava, Teknaf Union, and Baharchara

Save the Children

Camp 1E, 4, 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19,20, 21 and 25 Shonarpara, Jummapara and Kalachankhola

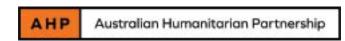
World Vision

Camp 10, 13, 15, and 19 Jaliya Palong, Raja Palong, and Ratna Palong

Acknowledgment

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh and our esteemed donor, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) for their invaluable and generous funding support, which has significantly impacted the lives of both the Rohingya community and the host Bangladeshi community. We would also like to express our deep appreciation to our consortium partner agencies and their local partners for their unwavering commitment and collaborative efforts in addressing the urgent needs of the people we serve. Their collective response has been instrumental in making a positive difference in the lives of those in need.





















Implementing Partners





















