



# MONSOON PREPAREDNESS 2019

## BANGLADESH REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE

### INTERVENTIONS

World Vision has conducted extensive disaster risk reduction work to help make the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh safer during the annual June-October rainy season.

- **23,000** m<sup>2</sup> slopes stabilized to prevent landslides
- **393** metres pathways/ground levelled
- **13** bridges and culverts built
- **4.1** km drains constructed
- **3.7** km canals cleaned
- **1.6** km roads constructed

### MONSOON FACTS

Almost **1 MILLION** refugees in the camps live in flimsy bamboo-and-tarp shelters built on eroding hillsides. They are at risk of floods, landslides, waterlogging and housing collapse during the monsoons.

Up to **2,500 mm** of rain falls on average annually in this area.

### DONORS

Canada

unicef

UNOPS

WFP  
World Food Programme



**13,973**

refugees hired (including 1,478 women) as short-term construction workers, earning USD37 on average to help feed their families. Supported by World Food Programme.



**1,400**

adults and children in five camps trained on the national three-flag storm warning system.



**2,855**

local residents (including 428 women) earned much-needed income as day labourers.



**970**

latrines and 432 bathing cubicles stabilized in four camps.



**3,000**

hygiene kits ready to be distributed and 2,000 shelter kits stockpiled.



**10**

schools renovated in local communities to double as cyclone/monsoon shelters, providing protection for up to 6,000 residents in one of Bangladesh's poorest areas.

### IMPACT

Children and their families are safer, thanks to this disaster risk reduction work. The camps are more accessible and less likely to be cut off during the monsoons.

### SUPPORT COUNTRIES





## CASH-FOR-WORK PROGRAMME EMPOWERS ROHINGYA REFUGEE WOMEN

Hamida fills sandbags alongside her all-women team of construction workers. Clad in long, black burkhas and tightly wrapped head scarves, they are helping to build a bamboo bridge over a sewage trench. The odour is overwhelming; the heat sweltering.

In the Rohingya refugees' conservative Muslim culture, it's uncommon for women to work outside the home, especially doing manual labour. But Hamida and her teammates—all young widows—are willing to test tradition if it means making some money to help feed their children. They are among the hundreds of women participating in World Vision's innovative cash-for-work programme in the refugee camps that are now home to almost 1 million people.

"We don't care what kind of work we are given. We fill bags with sand and cement, level pathways and weave bamboo fences while men do the heavier work," says Hamida. She lost her husband during the genocidal violence in Myanmar in August 2017. Suddenly she became the sole breadwinner for her two children Ayatullah, 8 and Rashidullah, 11.

"It's difficult for a woman to earn money here in the camp," says Hamida. In Myanmar, she and her husband ran a small quarter-acre farm, gardening and caring for their three cows and five goats. Hamida never expected to be a widow at age 40 or to have to find a way to feed her children on her own.

She's not alone. In the camps, there are 32,684 female-headed households, according to the UNCHR. World Vision is

providing work for thousands of refugees enabling them to earn some income while constructing roads, pathways, drains and bridges across the camps' muddy, sloping terrain.

Teams of refugees work in rotations to ensure that many families can participate in the programme. Unskilled workers earn 350 taka (USD4.50) per day—a fair wage comparable with local rates for casual daily labour.

Being able to work helps the refugees regain their self-esteem and dignity. No one wants to be dependent on aid. Earning an income gives women and men choices and a sense of control over their lives—something many feel they lost in the frantic flight from Myanmar.

Cash in hand from her first pay, Hamida can purchase what she needs for herself and her children. "My children used to ask me for good food when they were hungry, but I couldn't afford it. After earning this money, I am so happy. It's a support for me as my husband is no longer with me. I can go to the market to buy food for my children. I bought a hen and some vegetables, as well as some apples and grapes."

Hamida also had enough money for some new clothes. Most people only own one change of clothing. "I bought new shirts and pants for my two boys, and a skirt, a scarf and a piece of cloth for myself," she says, smiling.

This cash-for-work programmes has equipped workers like Hamida with new skills while building community cohesion.