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Report No: PAD00222

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

PROJECT APPRAISAL DOCUMENT

ON A

PROPOSED CREDIT

IN THE AMOUNT OF SDR 145.4 MILLION

(US\$192.5 MILLION EQUIVALENT)

OF WHICH

SDR 119 MILLION (US\$157.5 MILLION EQUIVALENT)

FROM THE IDA 20 WINDOW FOR HOST AND REFUGEES

AND A

PROPOSED GRANT

IN THE AMOUNT OF SDR 119 MILLION

(US\$157.5 MILLION EQUIVALENT)

FROM IDA 20 WINDOW FOR HOST AND REFUGEES

TO THE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

FOR AN

INCLUSIVE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOST COMMUNITIES AND DISPLACED ROHINGYA POPULATION

PROJECT

MAY 3, 2024

Social Protection & Jobs
South Asia

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(Exchange Rate Effective March 31, 2024)

Currency Unit = BDT

BDT 109.75 = US\$1

US\$ 1.32 = SDR 1

FISCAL YEAR

July 1 - June 30

Regional Vice President: Martin Raiser

Regional Director: Nicole Klingen

Country Director: Abdoulaye Seck

Practice Manager: Cem Mete

Task Team Leaders: S. Amer Ahmed, Sabah Moyeen, Md. Rafi Hossain

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AM	Accountability Mechanism	JRP	Joint Response Plan
CERC	Contingent Emergency Response Component	LC	Learning Center
CPCM-SOP	Child Protection Case Management Standard Operating Procedures	LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
CPF	Country Partnership Framework	MIS	Management Information System
DDM	Department of Disaster Management	MEFWD	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
DGFP	Directorate General of Family Planning	MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services	MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
DPE	Directorate of Primary Education	MoPME	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering	MoSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
DRP	Displaced Rohingya Population	NAP	National Adaptation Plan
DSS	Department of Social Services	NGO	Non-Government Organization
EGPP	Employment Generation Program for the Poorest	OCC	One-Stop Crisis Centers/Cells
EGPP+	Employment Generation Program for the Poorest Plus	PDO	Project Development Objectives
EMRCR	Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response	PD	Project Director
ES/E&S	Environmental and Social	DPD	Deputy Project Director
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan	PHC	Primary healthcare
FAPAD	Foreign Aided Projects Audit Department	PIU	Project Implementation Unit
FM	Financial Management	POM	Project Operations Manual
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	PPSD	Project Procurement Strategy for Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	PSC	Project Steering Committee
GoB	Government of Bangladesh	PWD	Persons with Disabilities
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee	ROSC II	Reaching Out-of-School Children Project II
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism	RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
GRS	Grievance Redress Service	RSS	Rural Social Service
HC	Host community	SASA	Start, Awareness, Support Action
HED	Health Engineering Department	SNSP	Safety Net Systems for the Poorest
HELP	Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives Project	STEP	Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement
HGSP	Health and Gender Support Project for Cox's Bazar District	UN	United Nations
HSD	Health Services Division	UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
IA	Implementing Agency	WFP	World Food Program
iBAS++	Integrated Budgeting and Accounting System	WFS	Women-Friendly Spaces
IBM	Iterative Beneficiary Monitoring	WHR	Window for Host Communities and Refugees
IDA	International Development Association	WYSC	Women and Youth Support Centers
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence		



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DATASHEET

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Beneficiary(ies) Bangladesh	Operation Name Inclusive Services and Opportunities for Host Communities and Displaced Rohingya Population		
Operation ID P500727	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification Moderate	

Financing & Implementation Modalities

<input type="checkbox"/> Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Series of Projects (SOP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fragile State(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Performance-Based Conditions (PBCs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Small State(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Intermediaries (FI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fragile within a non-fragile Country
<input type="checkbox"/> Project-Based Guarantee	<input type="checkbox"/> Conflict
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred Drawdown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responding to Natural or Man-made Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Procurement Arrangements (APA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hands-on Expanded Implementation Support (HEIS)

Expected Approval Date 30-May-2024	Expected Closing Date 30-Jun-2028
Bank/IFC Collaboration No	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve access to human capital services for vulnerable host communities and displaced Rohingya population.

Components

Component Name	Cost (US\$)
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Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	70,000,000.00
Supporting Education Opportunities for Children	60,000,000.00
Enhancing Social Care and Economic Empowerment	50,000,000.00
Healthier Communities	135,000,000.00
GBV Response and Prevention	35,000,000.00
Contingent Emergency Response	0.00

Organizations

Borrower: People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Directorate of Primary Education, Department of Social Services, Directorate General of Health Services, Department of Disaster Management, Directorate General of Family Planning

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Directorate of Primary Education, Department of Social Services, Directorate General of Health Services, Department of Disaster Management, Directorate General of Family Planning

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**Maximizing Finance for Development**

Is this an MFD-Enabling Project (MFD-EP)? No

Is this project Private Capital Enabling (PCE)? No

SUMMARY

Total Operation Cost	350.00
Total Financing	350.00
of which IBRD/IDA	350.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	350.00
IDA Credit	192.50
IDA Grant	157.50



IDA Resources (US\$, Millions)

	Credit Amount	Grant Amount	SML Amount	Guarantee Amount	Total Amount
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR)	157.50	157.50	0.00	0.00	315.00
Total	192.50	157.50	0.00	0.00	350.00

Expected Disbursements (US\$, Millions)

WB Fiscal Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Annual	0.00	5.00	140.00	140.00	65.00	0.00
Cumulative	0.00	5.00	145.00	285.00	350.00	350.00

PRACTICE AREA(S)

Practice Area (Lead)

Social Protection & Jobs

Contributing Practice Areas

Social Sustainability and Inclusion; Health, Nutrition & Population; Education

CLIMATE

Climate Change and Disaster Screening

Yes, it has been screened and the results are discussed in the Operation Document

SYSTEMATIC OPERATIONS RISK- RATING TOOL (SORT)



Risk Category	Rating
1. Political and Governance	● Moderate
2. Macroeconomic	● Moderate
3. Sector Strategies and Policies	● Substantial
4. Technical Design of Project or Program	● Moderate
5. Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	● Substantial
6. Fiduciary	● Substantial
7. Environment and Social	● Moderate
8. Stakeholders	● Moderate
9. Other	● Substantial
10. Overall	● Substantial

POLICY COMPLIANCE

Policy

Does the project depart from the CPF in content or in other significant respects?

Yes No

Does the project require any waivers of Bank policies?

Yes No

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL

Environmental and Social Standards Relevance Given its Context at the Time of Appraisal

E & S Standards	Relevance
ESS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2: Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Relevant
ESS 4: Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant



ESS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Relevant
ESS 8: Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 9: Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

NOTE: For further information regarding the World Bank’s due diligence assessment of the Project’s potential environmental and social risks and impacts, please refer to the Project’s Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS).

LEGAL

Legal Covenants

Sections and Description

ARTICLE IV — REMEDIES OF THE ASSOCIATION 4.01. The Additional Event of Suspension consists of the following, namely, that the Recipient no longer has an adequate refugee protection framework. 4.02. The Additional Event of Acceleration consists of the following, namely, that the event specified in Section 4.01 of this Agreement occurs and is continuing for a period of thirty (30) days after notice of the event has been given by the Association to the Recipient.

SCHEDULE 2 Section I. Implementation Arrangements A. Institutional Arrangements. 1. The Recipient shall establish within three (3) months of the Effective Date, and thereafter maintain throughout the implementation of the Project, a Ministerial Project Steering Committee (PSC) for each of MoDMR, MoPME, MoSW, HSD, MEFWD and MoWCA, each with the composition, mandate, functions, staffing and resources satisfactory to the Association.

SCHEDULE 2 Section I. Implementation Arrangements A. Institutional Arrangements. 2. The Recipient shall establish within three (3) months of the Effective Date and maintain throughout the period of implementation of the Project a project implementation unit (PIU) at each of DDM (DDM-PIU), DPE (DPE-PIU), DSS (DSS-PIU), DGHS (DGHS-PIU), DGFP (DGFP-PIU) and MoWCA (MoWCA-PIU), with the composition, mandate, functions, staffing and resources satisfactory to the Association.

SCHEDULE 2 Section I. Implementation Arrangements A. Institutional Arrangements. 3. The Recipient, through DPE, shall not later than four (4) months from the Effective Date, enter into memorandum of understandings, to provide fund transfer in a form of a grant (the “LGED Grant” and “DPHE Grant” respectively), with, respectively, each of LGED and DPHE for the purpose of providing a grant to LGED and DPHE to carry out activities under Part 2.1(i), under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association, including a requirement that all the provisions applicable to DPE under this Agreement would apply to LGED and DPHE mutatis mutandis.

SCHEDULE 2 Section I. Implementation Arrangements A. Institutional Arrangements. 4. The Recipient, through each of DGHS and DGFP, shall not later than four (4) months from the Effective Date, enter into memorandum of understandings to provide fund transfer in a form of a grant (the “HED Grant”) with the Health Engineering Department (“HED”) for the purpose of providing a grant to HED to carry out activities in HCs under Parts 4.2 and 4.4, under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association, including a requirement that all the provisions applicable to DGHS and DGFP under this Agreement would apply to HED mutatis mutandis.

SCHEDULE 2 Section I. Implementation Arrangements B. Project Operations Manuals 10. The Recipient shall, through each of DDM, DPE, DSS, DGHS, DGFP and MoWCA, implement the Project in accordance with the provisions of the Project Operations Manuals.



SCHEDULE 2 Section I. Implementation Arrangements B. Project Operations Manuals 13. The Recipient shall, through each of DDM, DPE, DSS, DGHS, DGFP and MoWCA, ensure that collection, storage, usage, or processing of personal data are carried out with due regard to appropriate data protection and privacy standards and practices.

SCHEDULE 2 Section I. Implementation Arrangements F. United Nation Agencies 1. The Recipient shall enter into appropriate standard form of agreement(s) when entering into a contract with a UN Agency for the Eligible Expenditures under Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Grant table and all Categories of the Credit table in Part A of this Section III.

Conditions

Type	Citation	Description	Financing Source
Effectiveness	Adequate Refugee Protection Framework	The Association is satisfied that the Recipient has an adequate refugee protection framework	IBRD/IDA
Disbursement	Withdrawal Conditions	No withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the Signature Date.	IBRD/IDA
Disbursement	Withdrawal Condition	No withdrawal shall be made under Category (1) of the Grant table and Categories (1) and (4) of the Credit table, unless and until the Project Operations Manual for Part 1 is prepared by the Recipient, approved by the Association, and adopted by DDM in accordance with Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement	IBRD/IDA
Disbursement	Withdrawal Condition	No withdrawal shall be made under Categories (2), (3) of the Grant table and Categories (5) and (9) of the Credit table, unless and until the Project Operations Manual for Part 2 is prepared by the Recipient, approved by the Association, and adopted by DPE in accordance with Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement	IBRD/IDA



Disbursement	Withdrawal Condition	No withdrawal shall be made under Category (4) of the Grant table and Categories (2) and (6) of the Credit table, unless and until the Project Operations Manual for Part 3 is prepared by the Recipient, approved by the Association, and adopted by DSS in accordance with Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.	IBRD/IDA
Disbursement	Withdrawal Condition	No withdrawal shall be made under Category (5) of the Grant table and Categories (7) and (9) of the Credit table, unless and until the Project Operations Manual for Part 4 is prepared by the Recipient, approved by the Association, and adopted by DGHS and DGFP in accordance with Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.	IBRD/IDA
Disbursement	Withdrawal Condition	No withdrawal shall be made under Category (6) of the Grant table and Categories (3) and (8) of the Credit table, unless and until the Project Operations Manual for Part 5 is prepared by the Recipient, approved by the Association, and adopted by MoWCA in accordance with Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.	IBRD/IDA
Disbursement	Withdrawal Condition	No withdrawal shall be made for Emergency Expenditures under Category (7) of the Grant	IBRD/IDA



		<p>table and Category (10) of the Credit table, unless and until all of the following conditions have been met in respect of said expenditures: (i) (A) the Recipient has determined that an Eligible Crisis or Emergency has occurred, and has furnished to the Association a request to withdraw Financing amounts under Category (7) of the Grant table and Category (10) of the Credit table; and (B) the Association has agreed with such determination, accepted said request and notified the Recipient thereof; and (ii) the Recipient has adopted the CERC Manual and Emergency Action Plan, in form and substance acceptable to the Association.</p>	
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I. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A. Country Context

- Bangladesh has achieved significant social and economic progress in recent decades, though challenges remain. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth has averaged 6.4 percent between 2010 and 2023.** Extreme poverty¹ fell to 5.0 percent in 2022 from 9.0 percent in 2016. However, the pace of poverty reduction has slowed, with widening urban inequality. Bangladesh faces a substantial balance of payments deficit and rising inflation amid post-pandemic global economic challenges. The fiscal deficit has widened with rising subsidies and low tax revenues. Real GDP growth is projected at 5.6 percent in FY24, but elevated inflation remains a concern. Structural reforms are essential to sustain growth, focusing on domestic resource mobilization and overall fiscal policy, further tightening monetary policy and tackling vulnerabilities in the financial sector. From 2016 to 2022, poverty incidence annually declined by 2.1 percentage points (US\$ 3.65 poverty line) and 0.7 percentage points for extreme poverty (US\$ 2.15). Currently 30 percent of the population (51.3 million people) lives in poverty (US\$ 3.65). Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate change, ranking seventh in the Global Climate Risk Index.
- Bangladesh is currently hosting around one million Displaced Rohingya Population (DRP) from Myanmar.**^{2,3} Most are residing in camps in Cox’s Bazar District of Chattogram Division, and 33,000 DRP on the island of Bhasan Char in Noakhali District.⁴ Around 70 percent of the DRP inflow are women and children, and half are less than 15 years of age. Given the extremely high population density in the camps, livability is a concern, including major air and water pollution.⁵
- The DRP remain highly vulnerable despite international assistance which is progressively shrinking.** Financing shortfalls for critical humanitarian services for the DRP and host community (HC) managed by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and United Nations (UN) partners have led to scaling back support to DRPs in the camps.
- There is no legislation specifically governing refugee and asylum affairs, and the legal status of the DRP in Bangladesh presents some challenges.** Despite not being a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Statelessness Conventions, Bangladesh has ratified the main human rights instruments, and has specified that repatriation of Rohingya refugees must take place in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner. Government policy directives limit DRP movement outside the camps, hampering access to formal education, wage-earning employment or trade, and Bangladeshi businesses are unable to invest, operate, or hire Rohingyas in the camps.
- Since the initial DRP inflow in 2016, there has been some progress in GoB’s positions regarding the DRP.** The 2022 UN-GoB agreements on skills development have created formal mechanisms by which Rohingyas are able to engage

¹ Based on the international poverty line of US\$2.15 a day (using 2017 Purchasing Power Parity).

² The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) refers to the Rohingya temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh as Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN). DRP and FDMN refer to the same population. The GoB has established a National Task Force on FDMNs, referred to in this document as the “National Task Force”.

³ As of December 31, 2023, there are 971,904 Rohingya individuals jointly registered by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Rohingya who had arrived in early 1990s are designated as “refugees” by the GoB in the joint registration conducted with UNHCR. All other Rohingyas who arrived after 1992 up until 2016 (and had remained unregistered) and those who arrived after the August 2017 inflow were classified by the GoB as FDMN while UNHCR considers them *prima facie* refugees as other Rohingyas. A designation of “refugee” to those who had arrived in early 1990s does not imply a legal status as far as the GoB is concerned.

⁴ UNHCR (2024) Bhasan Char Population Factsheet as of December 31, 2023.

⁵ The population density in Cox Bazar camps ranges between 2,002 to 57,714 people per sq. km, well in excess of the average for Bangladesh (1,130 per sq km), the highest globally (excluding city-states).



in skills training and paid activities. Livelihood opportunities have gradually expanded to include broader service delivery (including education), and approval of production centers to manufacture products for distribution within the refugee camps. Aside from services, improvements have been made in accepting construction of durable infrastructure particularly for public goods, e.g., some double-story education facilities, reusable material for shelters, and vehicular roads to improve the in-camp connectivity. Given the protracted crisis, and in the face of dwindling donor resources, reducing the cost of hosting the DRP is critical, and this continues to be an on-going topic in the World Bank's engagement with the government.

B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

6. **The DRP residing in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char are extremely challenged across multiple indicators of human development, although some outcomes have improved since first arrival.** As of 2022, 24.3 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffered from acute malnutrition (wasting) while 43.4 percent suffered from chronic malnutrition (stunting).⁶ Immunization rates have improved – now above 60 percent compared to less than four percent upon arrival in Bangladesh – although risks remain, as illustrated by the diphtheria outbreaks in 2018. In terms of learning and literacy, the DRP have greater access to learning than when they first arrived. In 2019, 62 percent of adults had never attended school, adult literacy was only 23 percent, and only 59 percent of 12-year-old DRP children attended school.⁷ The provision of learning opportunities in the camps has improved these statistics. For example, 64 percent of 12-year-old DRP children attended school in 2023. When looking at adolescents, the improvement is even greater, creating the conditions for greater adult literacy and for a DRP community with greater human capital.

7. **The HC in Cox's Bazar is generally less developed than the rest of the country, and there are perceptions that the Rohingya presence has negative impacts on the real incomes, welfare, and livelihoods of the hosts.** These impacts are perceived more acutely due to Cox's Bazar's historically lower development relative to national averages.⁸ There has been massive inflationary pressures and disrupted livelihoods as a result of the DRP inflow, increasing demand for goods and services, while also disrupting the local labor market. Historically, the health system in Cox's Bazar and neighboring districts has struggled with inadequate human resources, deployment and retention of health professionals, and weak waste management systems at the health facilities. Essential services, including health services, have been under significant pressure due to excess demand, as well as resource diversion from non-government organizations (NGOs) and other actors. There have also been perceptions in the HC of the DRP presence contributing to diversion of schoolteachers and NGO workers to the camps, perceived social impacts due to proximity to the camps such as increased child-marriage, polygamy and gender-based violence (GBV), theft and proliferation of illegal drugs. These pressures contribute to the tension between the host and DRP communities. Furthermore, most surveyed HC residents believe that the DRP have damaged safety in their neighborhoods.⁹

8. **Access to essential services and economic opportunities for women, elderly, persons with disabilities (PWD), and other marginalized people is also challenging in both host and Rohingya communities.** This is due to (i) limited capacity among service providers to provide targeted and specific services; (ii) a shortage of multi-sectoral support services and limited accessibility; and (iii) restrictive social norms, stigma attached with the identity of vulnerable groups, and lack of awareness. Gender gaps persist in education, health, and economic outcomes.¹⁰ Fear of sexual harassment and violence

⁶ UNCHR (2022) Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey.

⁷ World Bank (2023) Cox's Bazar Analytical Program; World Bank (2019) Status of School-aged Children in Cox's Bazar.

⁸ In 2019, the prevalence of stunting among children under age five, wasting, and the percentage of children underweight was at 35, 10, and 29 percent, respectively in Cox's Bazar, compared to the national averages of 28, 9.2, and 22.6 percent, respectively (Bangladesh Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019).

⁹ World Bank (2023) Cox's Bazar Analytical Program.

¹⁰ UNHCR, CARE, and ActionAid, 2020.



limits mobility of women and their participation in social and economic activities. For example, only two percent of Rohingya girls – compared to 15 percent of Rohingya boys – aged 15-18 years have access to learning in the camps. Access to health services is also constrained due to lack of female staff for gender-appropriate care, especially for adolescent girls. PWD in both host and Rohingya communities experience violence and discrimination that restrict their social participation and access to services, and more constraints in being able to access economic opportunities.

9. **GBV is a serious challenge in both the host and DRP communities.** Bangladesh has the highest rates of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and child marriage in the region, and Rohingya women and girls are at even higher risks of GBV in the camps.¹¹ Child marriage within the camps is significantly higher than national rates, and sexual assault, cases of polygamy, abandonment, and the risk of human trafficking have been rising over the years. Prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression associated with GBV is high and there is limited access to integrated psychosocial support.¹² Furthermore, adolescent girls, children, and transgender individuals face additional risks of GBV and barriers in accessing services given the intersectionality of vulnerabilities. Constrained GBV service provision driven by limited financial and human resources; inadequate skills and capacity to provide quality survivor-centred services; and norms influencing help-seeking behaviour prevents GBV survivors from accessing lifesaving essential services. These challenges are compounded for certain groups, such as adolescent girls, given the high rates of child marriage in the DRP communities.

10. **Some improvements in the human development outcomes of the DRP can be attributed to sustained investments in social service delivery, along with adjustments in the GoB policy that have facilitated this service delivery.** In the area of education, the GoB allows the use of the Myanmar curriculum and skills development programs in the camps. Rohingya were also covered in the country's COVID-19 response, including the vaccine response. Through joint registration with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), GoB continues to issue individual identity documents to Rohingya refugees, which for many Rohingyas is the first time having an identity document.

11. **The World Bank has supported a comprehensive refugee response (both host and DRP) covering a range of areas to improve human development outcomes.** The Reaching Out of School Children II (ROSC) (P131394) financed non-formal education to DRP children in the early days of the inflow and was critical in, not just financing primary/pre-primary learning, but also in providing foundational services at a time when the focus of support was humanitarian in nature. Activities through the Safety Net Systems for the Poorest (SNSP) Project (P132634) and the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response (EMRCR) Project (P167762) have been providing temporary employment and cash transfers to working age DRP from the most vulnerable households, supporting household consumption, as well as bolstering social cohesion in the Cox's Bazar camps. The Health Sector Support Additional Financing (P167672) and the Health and Gender Support Project for Cox's Bazar District (HGSP) (P171648) have been providing primary healthcare, GBV response/prevention, and nutrition support, including immunization to almost the entire DRP community. The HGSP engagement has also built service delivery systems, including strong referral systems, whereby DRP are able to access critical services outside the camps.

12. **The World Bank's development financing has been a critical complement to the humanitarian response, which has been declining.** The annual Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis – managed by the GoB and UN partners – coordinates financing for critical humanitarian services for the DRP and HC. The 2023 JRP needed US\$876 million but was only 49 percent funded as of December 2023. For example, after the reduction in food assistance provided by WFP, 78 percent of DRP were estimated to not have sufficient food in 2023 (up from 44 percent in November 2022).¹³ Other initiatives such as the financing for Learning Centers (LCs) in the DRP communities – the primary vehicle for

¹¹ Fifty-four percent of women report facing IPV at some point in their life, and 51 percent were married as children.

¹² Tay et al. (2019) The culture, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of Rohingya refugees: a systematic review.

¹³ WFP, 2023, Donor Partner Briefing.



education for DRP children authorized by the GoB – is expected to expire in December 2024. Absent continued financing, the already poor educational outcomes of DRP children are likely to worsen, leading to youth and adults with lower productivity and employability prospects.

13. **Sustainability of the support to the host and DRP communities relies on strengthening development activities in Chattogram Division, while also creating economic opportunities for the DRP to become self-reliant.** Long-term sustainability entails strengthening the social services (covering education, livelihood opportunities, social protection, healthcare, GBV response and prevention, and protection) in order to build, protect, and utilize the human capital of the host and refugee communities, with stability of financing for these services. Sustainability will also require allowing refugees to be able to engage in economic activity that will reduce the fiscal burden of financing consumption support, and access to other services. Policy directives limit DRP movement outside the camps, hampering the ability to access formal education, wage-earning employment, or the ability to trade. Bangladeshi businesses are unable to invest, operate, or hire Rohingyas in the camps. These restrictions impact the long-term sustainability of Bangladesh’s hosting of the DRP due to the inability of Rohingyas to earn incomes and increase their own financing of consumption.

14. **Reducing the cost of hosting by facilitating self-reliance among the DRP will mean taking advantage of the policy space afforded by the GoB, in parallel with the continued provision of critical social services to build and preserve human capital.** The GoB used to only allow limited livelihood opportunities such as small-scale homestead gardening and *ad hoc* skills training until 2020. However, the 2022 UN-GoB agreements on the *Skills Development Framework* and the *Engagement of Volunteers for the FDMNs* has created formal mechanisms by which DRP are able to engage in skills training and paid activities. Cash assistance is also permitted through the volunteer and cash-for-work programs and the use of cash in the camps over time; livelihood opportunities have gradually expanded to include broader service delivery, and manufacturing. The GoB has also started approving production centers, such as those for jute production, undergarments, and sanitary napkins, to manufacture products for distribution within the refugee camps. The GoB also allows greater openness to economic opportunities on Bhasan Char.

C. Relevance to Higher Level Objectives

15. **The Project aligns with the World Bank Group’s Bangladesh Country Partnership Framework (CPF; FY23-27) (High-Level Outcome A on Jobs and High-Level Outcome B on Socio-Economic Inclusion) and IDA20 priorities.** It aligns with the principles and objectives of the Window for Host and Refugees (WHR) in the areas of (i) mitigating the shocks of the inflow; (ii) creating economic opportunities for host and refugee communities; and (iii) facilitating sustainable solutions to protracted situations. Bangladesh was eligible for the Refugee Sub-Window under IDA18, and meets the IDA20 WHR eligibility since it hosts more than 25,000 refugee , which has been found acceptable, and its protection framework for the DRP continues to be found adequate.

16. **UNHCR has confirmed that the protection framework for refugees continues to be adequate for the purpose of the WHR in Bangladesh, fulfilling a requirement for WHR eligibility.** The adequacy of the refugee protection framework was confirmed in the 8th Update to the UNHCR Refugee Protection Assessment covering July – December 2023, prepared in January 2024, and communicated to the World Bank in March 2024. The UNHCR Refugee Protection Assessment is prepared every six months, based on their continuous surveillance in the camps, and dialogue with stakeholders. The assessment can be updated on *an ad hoc* basis if warranted by events identified during UNCHR’s usual surveillance. The GoB’s encampment policy remains in effect and thus restricts freedom of movement of DRP outside the camps and Bhasan Char. Additionally, there has been an increase in incidents of violence, as well as GBV and violence against children. The GoB continues to attempt relocation of DRP from camps in Cox’s Bazar to Bhasan Char, but generally respects the principle of voluntariness and allowing family visits between the island and the camps in Cox’s Bazar. The GoB engages



constructively in multi-stakeholder efforts to leverage the Global Compact on Refugees, with senior GoB officials participating in the High-Level Meeting on Rohingya Refugees in Bangkok in October 2023 and the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2023. Taken together, UNHCR concludes that while the delivery of protection remains work in progress as in many refugee situations, the protection framework in Bangladesh is adequate for the purpose of the WHR.

17. **The Project is consistent with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of Bangladesh (2023-2050) through its linkage to multiple goals set by the NAP, specifically ensuring protection of women, socially disadvantaged and other vulnerable groups.** The Project also aligns with the country's National Plan for Disaster Management (2021-2025) by incorporating climate change-related courses and disaster risk reduction into the awareness program for school students as well as rehabilitating existing health, education, and social infrastructure, and with the country's climate strategies. In addition to alignment, the Project will address gaps in the adaptation agenda by supporting social development to act on climate change adaptation among the youth population of Cox's Bazar.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Development Objective

PDO Statement

To improve access to human capital services for vulnerable host communities and displaced Rohingya population.

PDO Level Indicators

- Displaced people and people of host communities provided with services and livelihoods (number)
- People who have received quality health, nutrition, and population services (number)
- Students supported with better education (number)
- Visits to use psychosocial services and case management services for gender-based violence response and prevention in all facilities, host community and camps (number)

B. Project Components

Component 1: Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance (US\$30 million equivalent (credit); US\$40 million equivalent (grant))

18. **This component will be implemented by the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), and will support the following activities:**

- i. Provision of wages and stipends to beneficiaries in host communities under the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest Plus (EGPP+).
- ii. Provision of wages and stipends to beneficiaries in DRP communities under the DRP Community Services/Works Program.
- iii. Administration, management, monitoring and coordination of Project activities by the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) for Component 1.



19. **DRP beneficiaries would be provided short-term work opportunities through expansion and innovation of the Community Services/Works Program that has been operating in the camps under SNSP (P132634).** Activities will be tailored to the conditions in the camps and Bhasan Char, and leverage the expanded range of activities that the GoB permits on human capital development and community work. Wages and stipends to beneficiaries for on-the-job-learning would enable purchase of essential goods from WFP e-voucher shops and fresh food corners, which have been critical for consumption support. Activities would be guided by the community services/works implementation guidelines (adapted from the EMRCR Project Operational Manual), the “Guidance on the Engagement of Volunteers for the Rohingya Refugees/Camps”, and the GoB-UN agreements on skills and volunteers.¹⁴ Data on beneficiary profiles, work attendance, payments, etc. would be administered via WFP’s in-house platform, as has been the case under the EMRCR Project and the SNSP Project.

20. **In the host community, the interventions would support the EGPP+ which is the shock-responsive window of DDM’s national poverty-targeted public works program.** It has been operating in Cox’s Bazar district since FY22, and operated in five other districts in the country in FY23. It will provide temporary employment in Cox’s Bazar district to individuals from the poorest households, and would follow the prevailing EGPP+ Implementation Guidelines.¹⁵ Temporary employment activities would include public works (e.g., disaster-resilience of homesteads, rural road repair, embankment strengthening for flood protection, etc.) and community services (e.g., enhance disaster resilience of camps, caretaking, social mobilization to address GBV, providing/participating in skills trainings etc.) for which wages and stipends would be paid. This program would thus provide critical income support and employment to a segment of the host community who are likely facing the most economic pressure as a result of the refugee inflow. The EGPP+ in Cox’s Bazar, currently supported under the SNSP Project is being administered via a temporary management information system (MIS). Going forward, all EGPP+ data (i.e., beneficiary profiles, work attendance, payments, etc.) would be administered under the comprehensive safety net program MIS, being developed under the SNSP Project.

Component 2: Supporting Education Opportunities for Children (US\$40 million equivalent (credit); US\$20 million equivalent (grant))

21. **This component will be implemented by the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), and will support the following activities:**

- i. Host communities, through (i) need-based renovation of school infrastructure and furniture for selected schools; (ii) development and delivery of teaching and learning materials, supplementary reading materials and other necessary supplies; (iii) piloting of school feeding, (iv) expansion of remedial education, (v) provision of school health and psychosocial support, social awareness and social mobilization and (vi) management, monitoring and evaluation and capacity enhancement of the teachers, officials and relevant stakeholders.
- ii. **DRP communities through:** (i) establishment of need-based new LCs, (ii) operation of learning centers, including need-based refurbishment of existing need-based LCs; (iii) delivery of education services; (iv) development, production and delivery of teaching and learning materials and supplementary reading materials, (v) provision of stipends as attendance incentives for families of students; (vi) provision of psychosocial support for **DRP children and adolescents.**
- iii. Administration, management, monitoring and coordination of Project activities by the PIU for Component 2.

¹⁴The EMRCR Project Operational Manual was issued by MoDMR on July 30, 2019, to govern the implementation of **DRP community services/works program** in FY20-22. The World Bank provided no objection on the same date. The EMRCR Project Operational Manual was subsequently applicable for the community services/works program during FY23-24 under the SNSP Project.

¹⁵The EGPP+ Implementation Guidelines were issued by MoDMR on January 31, 2021, to govern the implementation of the program window as part of the Safety Net Systems for the Poorest (SNSP) Project. The World Bank provided no objection on February 2, 2024.



22. **The learning activities for DRP children will be through comprehensive support to service delivery through the LCs, while also supporting the children's households and the children themselves with additional support to improve retention and engagement.** The quality of the service delivery will also be supported by verification of the monitoring reports every six months, and annual needs assessments to guide follow-on interventions.

23. **For the HC, activities will focus on improving the quality of basic education and enhancing retention of students.** DPE will hire private service providers for activities such as awareness and social mobilization, monitoring and evaluation of implementation, and piloting school feeding. Awareness activities will cover topics that include, *inter alia*, social norms related to gender (e.g., child marriage), hygiene, environmental sustainability, and climate change. For small refurbishment works, DPE will follow the existing Primary Education Development Plan 4's modalities for small refurbishment.

Component 3: Enhancing Social Care and Economic Empowerment (US\$25 million equivalent (credit); US\$25 million equivalent (grant))

24. **This component will be implemented by the Department of Social Services (DSS), under the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), and will support the following activities:**

- i. Host communities through (i) minor refurbishment and renovation of child protection facilities; (ii) training and services to beneficiaries of the Rural Social Service (RSS) livelihood program; and (iii) provision of stipends for beneficiaries of the RSS livelihood program.
- ii. DRP communities, through (i) child protection services and (ii) social care services for elderly and PWDs.
- iii. Administration, management, monitoring and coordination of Project activities by the PIU for Component 3.

25. **In the DRP communities, the Project will finance the DSS social care and protection activities for vulnerable groups across the lifecycle.** For children, the Project will support the continuation and expansion of the DSS child protection services for DRP children. The activities will be guided by the DSS Child Protection Case Management Standard Operating Procedures (CPCM-SOP), the Child Protection Sub-Sector Strategy, and the Case Management SOP for Cox's Bazar.

26. **For the HC, funds will help support economic empowerment of the poor and vulnerable through the RSS livelihood program, by expanding complementary services and stipends.** DSS will provide training and stipends to the expanded RSS beneficiaries. The expanded RSS program will complement the poverty targeted EGPP+ program that DDM will be implementing in the host communities, by addressing the needs of a different group of poor and vulnerable in improving their livelihoods and incomes. In addition to the economic empowerment activities, the Project will support the DSS child protection services in Chattogram Division, by refurbishing and renovating DSS' existing child protection facilities to enable their utilization, and enhance the learning environment. It will also support capacity improvements to help manage child protection cases systematically. Activities will be guided by the CPCM-SOP.

27. **For social care services for the elderly, the Project will support the case management systems and social care services for elderly persons at risk of abuse or neglect in both HC and for the DRP.**



Component 4: Healthier Communities (US\$80 million equivalent (credit); US\$55 million equivalent (grant))

28. **This component will be implemented by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of the Health Services Division (HSD), and the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (MEFWD) – both of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) – to support:**

- i. Essential health, nutrition, and population services to be implemented by DGHS in the host communities and DRP communities.
- ii. Works for refurbishment and renovation of selected health facilities to be implemented by DGHS in the host communities and the DRP communities.
- iii. Essential maternal, child health, and family planning services to be implemented by DGFP in the host communities and DRP communities.
- iv. Works for refurbishment and renovation of selected health facilities to be implemented by DGFP in the host communities and the DRP communities.
- v. Administration, management, monitoring and coordination of Project activities by the PIU for DGHS under Component 4
- vi. Administration, management, monitoring and coordination of Project activities by the PIU for DGFP under Component 4.

29. **Subcomponent 4.1 - Activities will be implemented by DGHS. Funds will be used to finance primary healthcare and nutrition activities in both host and DRP communities including improving the readiness of facilities at different tiers of the health system.**¹⁶ The activities will include (i) repair and renovation of the physical infrastructure of the existing required facilities; (ii) deployment of required human resources for health to complement the existing workforce and ensure adequate services in existing and upgraded facilities catering to the additional health needs due to the inflow of DRP; (iii) provision of required medical and non-medical supplies and equipment based on needs assessments; (iv) uninterrupted supplies of medicines and vaccines; (v) functional referral system amongst the facilities including purchase, operation and maintenance of two water ambulances; (vi) provision of training for all categories of health workers, using standard protocols and training packages applicable to different types/levels of healthcare; (vii) operationalize medical waste management; (viii) provision of behavior change communication interventions (viii) and ensuring regular monitoring and supervision.

30. **Subcomponent 4.2 - Activities will be implemented by DGFP. Funds will be used to finance maternal health, child health and family planning services in both host and DRP communities.** The activities will include (i) repair and renovation of the physical infrastructure of the existing required facilities; (ii) deployment of required human resources for family planning services; (iii) ensuring supply of contraceptives, medicines, equipment; (iv) strengthening referral linkages with higher level facilities; (v) capacity building for quality service delivery and (vi) operationalize medical waste management in DGFP facilities.

Component 5: GBV Response and Prevention (US\$17.5 million equivalent (credit), US\$17.5 million equivalent (grant))

31. **This component will be implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), and will support the following activities:**

¹⁶ These facilities include community clinics, upazila health complexes, union sub centers and district hospitals in select districts of Chattogram division; health posts and primary healthcare centers located within the camps in Cox's Bazar district and the health facilities in Bhasan Char.



- i. Provision of GBV response and prevention services to the host communities and DRP communities.
- ii. Provision of works for refurbishment and renovation of facilities in the host communities and the DRP communities.
- iii. Training and livelihood program with seed financing for select GBV survivors in the host community.
- iv. Administration, management, monitoring and coordination of Project activities by the PIU for Component 5.

32. The Project will support direct provision of comprehensive GBV response and prevention services in both DRP and host communities ensuring confidentiality and security in service provision, while also building core capacity for service delivery in MoWCA. The activities will include screening, case management, psychosocial support, multisectoral referral, and mental health support through the One-Stop Crisis Centers/Cells (OCC), Regional Trauma Counseling Centers, Shelters, Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS) in the HC in Chittagong Division, and WFS and Women and Youth Support Centers (WYSC) in the DRP communities. The funding will include (i) operational costs of the facilities; (ii) deployment of human resources; (iii) refurbishment and renovation of existing facilities; (iv) provision of goods, equipment, furniture; (v) strengthening systems such as helplines, a GBV Management Information System, and databases; (vi) training and livelihood program with seed-financing for select GBV survivors in the host community; and (vii) capacity building of service providers. The component will also finance GBV prevention activities in both communities including (i) Social Behavior Change Campaigns, and awareness raising; (ii) men and boys' engagement through the "Start, Awareness, Support Action" (SASA) tool; (iii) child marriage prevention activities; (iv) strengthening local networks such as clubs and committees; and (v) promoting life skills. GBV prevention and response services will be inclusive for all and will allow greater access for men and transgender communities. The seed financing will be a direct cash transfer from the PIU to beneficiaries using banking or mobile financial services. The Project will support the institutional capacity building of MoWCA through training staff, strengthening monitoring and reporting systems, review and implementation of policy and plans, and enhancing coordination with key stakeholders such as the MoHFW to ensure comprehensive GBV response and prevention services.

Component 6: Contingent Emergency Response (US\$0 million)

33. This component will support provision of immediate response to an Eligible Crisis or Health Emergency, as needed to provide support for the benefit of the host communities and the DRP communities.

C. Project Beneficiaries

34. The beneficiaries are residents of Chattogram Division who are eligible for the IDA-financed services being provided in the host communities, and all DRP living in the camps of Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. The activities will target the poor and vulnerable, children, youth, elderly, women and PWDs. The HC is defined as all of Chattogram Division outside the DRP community. The DRP community refers to the DRP camps in Cox's Bazar district and Bhasan Char. The Project will provide services to at least 980,000 beneficiaries in the host and DRP communities, of which 480,000 will be from the DRP.



D. Results Chain



E. Rationale for Bank Involvement and Role of Partners

35. **As the protracted crisis of the Rohingya refugee inflow continues, there is a growing importance of development assistance in the host and DRP communities relative to humanitarian support.** The development needs in the host and DRP communities are extensive, and supporting multiple competing priorities within and across communities requires the mobilization of multisectoral expertise which the Bank has in-house, and which it can complement with experience in forging durable solutions in similar situations of protracted displacement among other engagements in fragile contexts. In this regard, the World Bank is able to draw on analytical and operational expertise from a range of engagements in natural disaster response (even from the South Asia portfolio), refugee and protracted refugee engagements (e.g., from Colombia, Jordan, and Türkiye, *inter alia*), and fragile areas (e.g., Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), West



Bank and Gaza, and South Sudan, *inter alia*). The multisectoral and comprehensive approach is critical to be able to address social cohesion and political economy concerns in the host and DRP communities.

36. **The World Bank coordinates with UNHCR to ensure that the protection framework remains adequate during implementation.** In the DRP communities, it is expected that select specialized UN agencies will be procured by the GoB to deliver services over the Project period. In both communities, development partners, civil society organizations, and NGOs are expected to play a key role in stakeholder engagement to ensure that Project beneficiaries can participate in the decision-making process of the Project activities. Given the broad array of bilateral financing of interventions by other development partners, the World Bank will continue regular consultations for coordination of responses and support. The Project will also engage at the strategic level with relevant multilateral and national bodies. These include, *inter alia*: (i) the relevant GoB agencies; (ii) the Strategic Engagement Group – cochaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Heads of Mission of the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR; and (iii) the UN’s Inter-Sector Coordination Group.¹⁷

F. Lessons Learned and Reflected in the Project Design

37. **The Project design reflects lessons learned from previous Bank engagements to strengthen resilience, livelihoods and human capital in contexts of forced displacement.** Interventions draw on (i) global evidence; (ii) operational experience; and (iii) projects from the Bangladesh portfolio that support host and DRP communities in Chattogram Division.^{18, 19} Five key take-aways are reflected in the interventions:

- a. The need for input-based financing: Given the complex situation on the ground with the inflow of DRP in a division with already poor human development outcomes, the existing projects have found that the primary hurdle for effective service delivery is insufficient inputs (e.g., equipment, human resource etc.), especially in the absence of functional national programs in the DRP communities. This Project has thus been designed as an input-based financing mechanism to quickly mobilize resources for the needs of the host and DRP.
- b. The importance of social cohesion: According to the social cohesion global study, more interaction between hosts and displaced yields greater social cohesion.²⁰ Cross-country evidence suggests that host perceptions of displaced households are driven by perceived rather than the actual levels of assistance received by the displaced. Stakeholder consultations in Cox’s Bazaar suggest that a contributing factor to the decline in HC perceptions of the DRP is a sense that development finance is being diverted from priorities in the HC to the DRP. This Project, drawing on these lessons, has been designed to be conscious of addressing perceptions of bias in the HC by having parallel – but need-based – interventions across communities.
- c. Economic impacts are felt across the income distribution, so broader and more comprehensive interventions are needed – In Bangladesh, similar to other contexts, poor and vulnerable households in the HC have been the most affected by the DRP inflow, since the DRP who work outside the camp informally are the most likely to compete with HC poor in the labor market. These households are also most impacted by the associated inflationary pressure. Through the SNSP Project, the poor have been protected by social safety nets. However, there are near-poor and vulnerable households who also face economic pressures but may have different needs from the poorest. Global reviews of economic inclusion programs, supplemented by a survey of such initiatives in

¹⁷ Relevant GoB agencies include key central ministries, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as bodies like the National Task Force.

¹⁸ World Bank (2023) *World Development Report 2023*; World Bank (2017) *Forcibly Displaced: Toward Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts*

¹⁹ UKAID, World Bank, and UNHCR (2023.) Program Brief: Learning from the Evidence on Forced Displacement.

²⁰ World Bank (2022) *Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Synthesis of New Research*



Bangladesh, highlight the need to tailor support packages to address the unique and multifaceted constraints, capabilities, and aspirations of each beneficiary group; and their design should be informed by a profiling of beneficiaries.²¹ Drawing on such international lessons, along with recent experience from jobs operations in Bangladesh (P174085, P149605) the Project will expand access to finance and packages of services to enhance income-generating opportunities for the vulnerable and near-poor HC through the RSS Program.

- d. Linking GBV response and prevention services to other social services. GBV-related services in the HGSP were successful in innovatively using health services as an entry point for GBV survivors. However, cross-country evidence of successful GBV programs suggests that survivors need to be linked to livelihood opportunities, as a pathway out of harmful relationships and economic dependencies.²² This Project will support inter-agency coordination to link GBV survivors to other services, such as child protection services, or livelihood programs.
- e. Vulnerable children, PWDs, and elderly are among the most impacted by the crisis and need social care: Forced displacement has been found to exacerbate vulnerabilities faced by children, PWDs and elderly in host communities and amongst the displaced. While concerted efforts to address mental health and trauma have been a part of the humanitarian effort in Bangladesh, the 2020 JRP noted the urgent need for scaled-up psychosocial support for under-18 children. Drawing on lessons from Jordan (P170529) and the DRC (P166763), the Project aims to strengthen referral pathways for mental health services outside the camps and address lack of such services within camp settings. Evidence from social protection programs highlight how improving and digitizing case management systems for social care can cost-effectively improve access and well-being for elderly and PWDs.²³

III. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

38. **This Project’s institutional and implementation arrangements reflect the unique nature of the development challenge that it is trying to address, while respecting the GoB’s requirements, i.e., consistency with the GoB’s rules of business, policy positions on DRPs, and the explicit request for a comprehensive and multi-sectoral response.**

39. **Components 1, 2, 3, and 5 will be implemented by DDM, DPE, DSS, and MoWCA, respectively. Component 4 will be implemented by DGHS and DGFP.** DGHS will implement activities related to primary healthcare, nutrition, immunization, provision of medicines, refurbishment of facilities under their management, and the procurement, operation, and maintenance of the water ambulances. DGFP will implement activities related to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, including family planning and refurbishment of facilities under their management. DDM, DPE, DSS, DGHS, DGFP, and MoWCA will each be an implementing agency (IA).

40. **Each IA will have a PIU, and will be responsible for implementation, coordination, procurement, monitoring and supervision of their respective component, and will coordinate with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) as needed.** MoWCA will also coordinate with MoSW on protection issues, and with MoHFW to ensure the

²¹ Ahmed, Alaref, Azam, Moqueet and Saha (2023) *Moving Up the Ladder: Economic Inclusion of Safety Net Recipients in Bangladesh*; World Bank (2021) *The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021: The Potential to Scale*

²² World Bank (2023) *Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response in World Bank Operations: Taking Stock After a Decade of Engagement (2012-2022)*

²³ Levin, Munoz-Boudet, and Rosen (2015) *Why should we care about care: The role of informal childcare and eldercare in aging societies in the ECA region.*



continued functioning of the screening and referral points established in health facilities under HGSP to keep the referral chain intact and continue training of all frontline workers on GBV screening. DPE will use the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), while DGHS and DGFP will use the Health Engineering Department (HED) for the procurement and contract implementation of minor works related to the refurbishment of facilities in the host communities.

41. **UN agencies will be contracted by the PIUs, to carry out all tasks related to the DRP given their comparative advantage in similar refugee and fragility related contexts in delivering quality and timely work.** They may also be contracted for specific tasks, as needed, for the host community activities.

42. **The parent Ministry or division of a Ministry of each PIU will establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC) to provide operational guidance, monitoring and evaluation, support, coordination with other relevant entities, and overall supervision of, and informing the relevant GoB authorities of project progress and issues related to their respective parts of the Project.** The PSCs will thus be established at MoDMR, MoPME, MoSW, HSD, MEFWD, and MoWCA. Each PSC will be chaired by the Secretary/Senior Secretary of the Ministry of division the Ministry.

B. Results Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

43. **The arrangements will follow those described in the Results Framework (Section VII).** To complement the data collected through administrative sources, the Project will apply the World Bank's Iterative Beneficiary Monitoring (IBM) tool for rapid and frequent beneficiary data collection, and analysis. The Project will also leverage the World Bank's regular poverty surveillance and measurement program in the host and DRP communities.

C. Sustainability

44. **In the host community, sustainability of Project interventions is based on the alignment of project-financed activities with national programs and policies.** Safety net, livelihood, and child protection activities implemented in the HC by DDM and DSS finance strengthening national programs that the IAs already implement, and project financing will serve to expand the coverage in the HC and build capacity in the agencies that will benefit the national programs that are financed through the recurrent budget. The livelihood and safety net programs implemented by DDM and DSS are also enhancing the income generating ability of the HC beneficiaries for self-reliance beyond the time of the project implementation. DPE's HC school feeding and outreach programs are scalable activities. They are also policies of the GoB that are being piloted by the Project, and which will allow the Project to support development of guidelines that will inform the eventual national rollout using recurrent budget. Activities to be implemented by DGHS and DGFP are complementary to the 5th Health Sector Program, and investing in capacities for services which GoB financing can eventually support. The activities being implemented by MoWCA build on the GoB supported national Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women which serves both host and DRP communities. Project financing enables the gradual scale-up of government capacity, while also supporting the development of a nationally scalable model.

45. **In the DRP community, the social services provide investments in, and protect the human capital of the DRP, especially children and youth.** While the DRP currently have mobility restrictions, the social services will enhance the productivity and employability of DRP when there is a change in the policy environment, repatriation, or resettlement in a third country. These are enduring investments which are critical for the long-run self-reliance of the DRP.



46. **Services in the DRP community will be mostly provided by specialized UN agencies procured by the IAs.** Support in protracted refugee situations such as the DRP hosting situation in Bangladesh could be delivered through more financially sustainable means if private sector, government institutions, or NGOs were directly providing the services. While the use of UN agencies in this particular project is necessary to reduce the risk of discontinuity of services, and consistency with GoB policy requirements, the Project will support any GoB initiatives to ensure inclusion of local capacity building and localization strategies in contracts with procured UN agencies.

IV. PROJECT APPRAISAL SUMMARY

A. Technical, Economic and Financial Analysis

47. **The proposed project is expected to benefit the entire population of Chattogram Division by strengthening the delivery and utilization of critical services and programs.**

48. **Safety nets and livelihoods programs will boost consumption, incomes, and resilience at the household level.** Participation in the EGPP was found to boost overall household consumption by 7.7 percent to 10.6 percent on average. Data from the ongoing SNSP program shows that if EGPP maintained its transfers to the level of the regular program, the targeted increase in coverage through component 1 would be expected to reduce poverty rates in Cox's Bazar by an estimated 1.3 to 2.0 percentage points. With the increased transfers proposed under the shock-responsive EGPP+ window, the poverty impacts are expected to be at least three times as great. Among the DRP, the community services/works program will directly impact beneficiary households. Under the EMRCR Project, the transfers covered between 12 percent to 18 percent of the minimum expenditure basket. Estimates suggested that such transfers would reduce the poverty rate for the Rohingya community (using the minimum expenditure basket) by about 10 percentage points. Impact evaluations of RSS's micro-credit program highlight the need to provide training on trades and business development to boost incomes of beneficiaries. Livelihoods impacts from skills training, savings incentives and enhanced coverage under RSS are expected to generate multiplier effects on the local economy.

49. **Interventions supported by Component 2 shall ensure children and adolescents (5-14 years) from the host and DRP communities are able to access and continue basic education.** Economic analysis of interventions financed by ROSC II for expanding quality and access of schooling and vocational training (similar to the activities under Component 2) had an internal rate of return of 23 percent. A large part of the benefits accrues from wage-premium for ROSC II primary school completers, suggesting a potentially high rate of return for a focus on basic education for HCs and DRP communities as well.

50. **Growing evidence shows that investing in health, nutrition, population, GBV and child protection response services at district level and below can lead to high-quality and cost-effective care for people.** The economic impacts of the Project may include (a) prevented/reduced healthcare expenditures, and costs related to GBV incurred by patients/households; (b) prevented individual income loss, through labor lost due to morbidity; and (c) prevented costs to the health system for care of patients and to the state for taking care of GBV survivors. With benefits accruing over a 10-year period, the health, nutrition, population, and GBV services (as implemented in HGSP and proposed in this Project) are estimated to have an internal rate of return of 54 percent. Existing interventions in Cox's Bazar district under the HGSP (P171648) shows that investing in health, nutrition, population and GBV response services at different tiers of the health facilities can lead to high-quality and cost-effective care for people. For Bangladesh, a study conducted by Care International estimated the cost of GBV to be US\$2.3 billion or 2.10 percent of GDP nearly equaling the country's entire Health and Nutrition budget for that year.



51. **The Project is complementary to the proposed Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives Project (HELP, P501274) to expand and improve access to basic services and build disaster and climate resilience of the host communities and DRP.** Through the project the GoB intends to support a more inclusive and medium-term approach to development interventions in the Chattogram Division, including Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char, for the benefits of both the host communities and DRP. The proposed HELP Project would build on the EMRCR Project and follow multi-sectoral approach spanning water, sanitation, hygiene, basic infrastructure, energy, emergency response, and related capacity building.

52. **The Project is aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement on mitigation and adaptation.** The Project has been screened for climate change impacts and disasters. Education, health, social protection, and social sectors are particularly vulnerable to climate change related hazards but are also critical for social resilience to climate shocks and stresses. The potential risks to the infrastructure of these sectors would be significantly reduced through the rehabilitation of these facilities to climate resilient standards. The climate-resilient design measures could include structural strengthening, drainage improvement for flood control, and use of weather-resistant material, *inter alia*. Furthermore, the Project will support cash transfers (i.e., wages under EGPP+ and stipends to DRP volunteers) for climate-vulnerable community members. These measures will strengthen the noted sectors against shocks and reduce climate risks and damages. In terms of mitigation, the Project supports activities that are on the MDB List of Universally Aligned, e.g., education, human health, social cohesion, social work activities, social protection, cash transfers (i.e., wages under EGPP+ and stipends to DRP volunteers), and capacity building. Furthermore, the buildings selected for refurbishment under the Project will be designed to be Bangladesh National Building Code 2020 compliant on energy efficiency and can therefore be considered universally aligned. The operation is not at a material risk of having a negative impact on the country’s low-Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions pathway.

B. Fiduciary

(i) Financial Management

53. **All agencies demonstrate readiness for project implementation as they have prior experience implementing World Bank funded projects.** From the financial management (FM) perspective, the project design is complex because it involves an unusually high number of agencies, the intricacy of activity selection, and multiple implementing partners and finances a mixed nature of costs, grants, etc. The key Risk section identifies the risk mitigation measures. Considering satisfactory implementation of the mitigation measures, the residual FM risk is assessed as substantial. Mitigation measures include hiring additional capacity, training, and close monitoring. Specific actions to improve capacity and internal controls, and thereby mitigate FM-related risks will need to be taken by each IAs. These include:

- Appointment of experienced FM personnel at all PIUs (with Terms of References acceptable to the Bank). All consultants and staff with fiduciary duties will be provided regular training to ensure compliance with necessary requirements.
- Mainstreaming Integrated Budgeting and Accounting System (iBAS++) with separate Budget and Accounts Classification System codes respective Ministries for fund flow, budgeting and accounting, and preparation of quarterly interim un-audited financial reports; and
- Additionally, a risk-based internal audit by an independent audit firm will be performed each year over the Project term with Terms of References acceptable to the World Bank.



54. **Funds flow, accounting, and financial reporting: For utilization of eligible project expenditures, DDM, DPE, DSS, DGHS, DGFP, and MOWCA will each maintain separate Designated Accounts (DAs) in the form of Convertible Taka Special Accounts, to be opened in a nationalized commercial bank acceptable to the World Bank to receive the IDA Credit funds.** IDA Credit funds will flow to the DAs based on submission of withdrawal applications, in Client Connection, by the authorized signatories representing each IA (i.e., Component/Category). Each agency must designate an alternate signatory to ensure unhindered flow of funds. Disbursements will initially be made on an advance and replenishment basis, based on regular statements of expenditure. IDA Grant funds will be disbursed directly to UN agencies and firms for payments due. For UN agencies the fund disbursements will be based on issuance of UN commitment and formal approval of the IAs.

55. **LGED and DPHE will have Memoranda of Understanding with DPE as Partners with the Project to implement all works related activities under Component 2.** DPE, will make transfers from the DA to the Partners (which are DPHE and LGED). Similarly, DGHS and DGFP will partner with HED to implement all works-related activities in the host community under Component 4. DPE, DGHS, and DGFP will make transfers from the DA to the Partners as Grant Transfers to LGED, DPHE, and HED. LGED, DPHE, and HED will each open separate bank accounts, and the Project will have one Grant Transfer category. LGED, DPHE, and HED will submit monthly Statements of Expenditures to respective PIUs, within 15 days from the end of the month. Detailed operational guidelines on reporting and fiduciary safeguards will be described in the Project Operations Manual (POM) of the respective IA.²⁴ No further transfer from DAs would be made for other cost centers, other than the above.

56. **Audit and oversight arrangement: There are no overdue audit reports for any of the IAs.** Each PIU shall prepare a separate interim un-audited financial report from its accounting system, on a quarterly basis as per the format agreed with the World Bank and submit to the Bank for review and clearance within 45 days from the end of each quarter. Each PIU will prepare the project Annual Financial Statements that will be submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office of Bangladesh within three months of the end of each fiscal year. The annual audit will be conducted by the Foreign Aided Projects Audit Department (FAPAD) under the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General. FAPAD will express an opinion on the project financial statement in accordance with international standards of auditing and submit the report within six months of the end of the fiscal year. The auditor is required to provide a detailed Management Letter containing auditor's observations of the internal controls and compliance with financial covenants in the Financing Agreement.

57. **Payment of wages, stipends, and seed financing: Wages and stipends to HC beneficiaries in Component 1 and 3 will be paid through mobile financial services.** In the case of wages and stipends to DRP beneficiaries, payments will be made through the WFP e-voucher platform for traceability of funds. Funds will be transferred to WFP or the responsible specialized UN agency hired by the IA for the activities, and the funds will be transferred on to the beneficiaries' e-voucher. Beneficiary details will be recorded by the responsible UN agency as part of beneficiary records. Expenditures under these payments will be recognized on receipt of utilization reports and when the funds are transferred to eligible beneficiaries. Seed financing under Component 5 will be cash transfers to eligible beneficiaries in the host community by the PIU using banking or mobile financial services. Beneficiary details – name, national identification number, registered mobile number will be mentioned in the cash transfer record sheet. Expenditure under seed-financing will be recognized on receipt of utilization report and when the funds are transferred to the eligible beneficiary. The bank or mobile financial service operator will report back to the PIU after batch of transfers to confirm the transactions. The POM for Component 5 will include details of the seed financing, disbursement mechanism, and beneficiary selection process.

²⁴ GoB documents will reflect the partnership arrangements between LGED, DPHE, and HED and their respective PIUs through Memoranda of Understanding.



58. **Sequencing:** Financing of wages and stipends under EGPP+ (under Component 1) would only be eligible for expenditures made from January 1, 2025.²⁵ This will avoid any risk of double payment for the same expenditures claimed under the SNSP Project. Similarly, the financing of Component 4 for health, nutrition, and population services will not commence till after the financing for these activities close under HGSP in June 2024, aside from PIU-related costs.

59. **The Regional Vice-President approved a request to finance food expenditures for activities under Component 2.** The Project has an exemption to the Country Financing Parameters for Bangladesh to finance two water ambulances as well as fuel for running these specialized vehicles, for activities under Component 4. Any expenditures that cannot be financed in view of Country Financing Parameters would be financed by counterpart financing.

(ii) Procurement

60. **Applicable procurement procedures:** Procurement under the proposed Project will follow the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Fifth Edition, September 2023 (“Procurement Regulations”) and the provisions stipulated in the Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD) and the procurement plan that may be updated from time to time with the World Bank’s approval. The Project will be subject to the World Bank’s Anticorruption Guidelines, dated October 15, 2006, revised in January 2011, and as of July 1, 2016. The proposed Project will use the Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement (STEP) to plan, record and track procurement transactions.

61. **Procurement Entities:** DDM, DPE, DSS, DGHS, DGFP, and MoWCA will conduct their own respective procurement. DPE may use the LGED and DPHE, while and DGHS and DGFP may use HED for the minor works related to the refurbishment of facilities.

62. **Procurement methods and approaches:** The appropriate procurement methods and approaches for each procurement activity will be specified in the procurement plan. Activities in the host community requiring procurement of services will be implemented by competitively procured entities, which could include UN agencies.

63. **Use of UN agencies:** Procurement of goods or services for all activities in the DRP community and selected activities in the host community will be implemented by select specialized UN agencies. UN agencies will follow the principles of localization and sustainability, and it is expected that the discussions between the GoB and the respective UN agencies on the scope of work will include the agencies’ respective strategies for localization, and capacity building of any subcontracting local NGOs. Existing World Bank instruments and standard forms of agreements will be used to engage relevant UN agencies as suppliers and service providers, including technical assistance in the delivery of the interventions. Agreements with any UN agencies will be subject to prior review by the World Bank. UN agencies may also be selected when deemed appropriate for activities in the host community. UN agencies will only be selected for cases in which direct government execution through the national systems of the IAs may not be possible or when advantages are clear.

64. **PPSD and Procurement Plan:** The IAs will prepare their respective PPSDs. The initial procurement plans will specify each contract to be financed under the proposed Project and the procurement method, market approach, estimated cost, established timelines for completion of the key milestones in the procurement process, World Bank’s review requirements etc. The procurement plan will be uploaded and maintained in STEP and updated at least once annually or as and when necessary, during implementation. A General Procurement Notice will be published on the World Bank’s website and United Nations Development Business Online.

²⁵ These expenditures are documented in iBAS++ reports for program code (120001922000000) and economic code (3211134).



C. Legal Operational Policies

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60	No

D. Environmental and Social

65. **The Environmental and Social (ES) risk for the Project is rated as Moderate.** Environment risk includes those associated with medical waste generation. Social risk may emanate from potential exclusion of vulnerable groups, risks associated with Occupational Health and Safety, and community health and safety, *inter alia*. There is no impact due to land acquisition, resettlement, cultural heritage issues etc. The ethnic communities living in hill tracts and Cox’s Bazar will benefit from the Project and there is likely no negative impact on them. Labor influx is also unlikely. The IAs have experience in project implementation under Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and safeguards. The Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) risk is rated as Substantial. The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) contains actions and measures the IAs will adopt to address ES issues, and notes that the Project will not finance any activities that will have high/ substantial ES risk and impacts. The ES instruments prepared for this Project include the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ESCP, Labor Management Procedure, and SEA/SH Action Plan. The Project Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary was disclosed online on March 13, 2024.²⁶ The ESCP was disclosed online by the GoB on March 6, 2024, and by the World Bank on March 13, 2024.^{27, 28}

66. **Gender: Widespread GBV, especially intimate partner violence and child marriage, is deepening gender inequalities.** At the same time, weakness in GBV service delivery driven by limited financial and human resources, inadequate skills, and capacity among service providers and norms influencing help-seeking behavior is preventing GBV survivors from accessing lifesaving essential services. The Project addresses this critical gender gap through activities that aim to expand and improve GBV service provision, bring behavioral change around GBV and help-seeking and build institutional capacity of service providers. This Project also targets several areas – training, livelihoods, and basic education - where there are clear gender gaps in both the refugee and host communities. The interventions are designed to target female beneficiaries, and relevant indicators (including PDO level indicators) are gender disaggregated. The specific indicator that will measure bridging the identified gender gap is “Percent increase in number of women and girls utilizing psychosocial services and case management services provided through OCCs and WFS/WYSC.”

67. **Citizen engagement (CE) and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM): The Project’s Citizen Engagement will include several approaches with the project GRM, beyond resolving grievances, tailored to receive feedback from the beneficiaries.** In addition, the project management will carry out regular community-based monitoring involving the grassroots level stakeholders and beneficiaries, along with social audits to generate beneficiary feedback. The PIUs will act with relevant follow-up actions and revert to the feedback providers to close the loop. Each PIU will have GRMs tailored to receive citizen feedback in addition to resolving potential grievances, including GBV and SEA/SH, with each PIU

²⁶ <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099031324065031089/p5007271b357da0921b9cb12bac43ff0abd>

²⁷ <https://modmr.portal.gov.bd/site/page/5b42f3e3-abb6-48d9-87a1-cd69ed9d8db3>

²⁸ <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099031324065011260/p5007271c34d040b41850c1eac8136f4146>



responsible for tracking their own GRM. Multiple channels, including digital platforms, will be put in place to receive complaints and concerns, with feedback incorporated into implementation, as required. These identified citizen engagement indicators are duly included in the Project's results framework. The two related indicators will be included in the Project's results framework and are "Percentage of grievances resolved and feedback provided to the beneficiaries", and "Percentage of follow-up actions completed based on the findings of the community-based monitoring".

68. **Details on the GRM will be laid out in the POMs, including on the range of mechanisms available for registering grievances.** These will include phone, text message, voice message, WhatsApp (or other messaging app), email, and letters through post or drop boxes at public facilities. As will be noted in the GRM sections of the POMs, the GRM will be accessible to all, including groups such as children and PWDs. For children, the POMs will outline consultations at LCs and ad hoc meetings to enhance awareness of how children can reach responsible adults, such as teachers, health workers, and other service providers who they may come into contact with, and who are trained to recognize signs of abuse. UN agencies working on child protection in the camps will also utilize their GRMS to complement the project GRM.

69. **The project specific GRM that will be established, to be described in the POMs, and implemented in the Project will have the following operating principles:** i) comprehensive documentation of all complaints received; ii) communication of resolutions to the complainants; iii) continuous monitoring of all cases until resolution; and iv) ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities, children, and other vulnerable populations. Grievance Redress Committees (GRC) will be established for each camp, tasked with the evaluation and resolution of each grievance. Subsequent to the committee's resolution, grievances will be escalated to either the service provider or the relevant authority for the implementation of remedial actions. In instances where the camp-level GRC is unable to resolve a grievance, the matter will be escalated to the Project Director (PD), who is required to notify the World Bank. Grievances that are too complex for resolution via the Project GRM will be forwarded to the office of the RRRC for further adjudication. Within the host community, local GRC members will be appointed across relevant upazilas to assemble the committees as necessary, depending on the emergence and location of grievances. Grievances may be submitted through multiple channels including telephone, SMS, site managers, and complaint drop-boxes located at all construction sites. In host communities, additional channels include union parishad offices and upazila level offices of the IAs. If UN agencies are involved in the camps, their GRMs may also be utilized. Comprehensive contact details including postal and email addresses and phone numbers, along with the locations of local IA offices, will be publicized in GRM leaflets. These will be distributed extensively across public facilities and community gathering points, as outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and presented in local languages. The same contact details will serve to collect feedback on the GRM's responsiveness and the experiences of the complainants, which will be meticulously documented. A classification system for grievance categories will be developed to both prioritize cases and streamline their resolution. Any complaints related to SEA/SH or GBV connected to the Project will be directly reported to the relevant staff in PIU, adhering to strict protocols for confidentiality. These cases will be addressed in line with the Gender, SEA, and SH Action Plan.

V. GRIEVANCE REDRESS SERVICES

70. **Grievance Redress. Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a project supported by the World Bank may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance mechanisms or the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS).** The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the Bank's independent Accountability Mechanism (AM). The AM houses the Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of Bank non-compliance with its policies and procedures, and the Dispute Resolution Service, which provides communities and borrowers with the opportunity to address complaints through dispute



resolution. Complaints may be submitted to the AM at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the attention of Bank Management and after Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's GRS, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/GRS>. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's Accountability Mechanism, visit <https://accountability.worldbank.org>.

VI. KEY RISKS

71. **Overall risk is Substantial, with Political and Governance, Macroeconomic, Stakeholder Technical Design, and Environment and Social risks rated Moderate.** The macroeconomic and political environment is stable, and bolstered by an active IMF program under the Extended Credit Facility, Extended Fund Facility, and Resilience and Sustainability Facility. The technical design is complex due to the number of IAs, but the risks are mitigated by the fact that all agencies have extensive experience with IDA-financed projects, and almost all Rohingya-focused activities are extensions or scale-up of interventions that have been supported by the World Bank or development partners. The design also reflects operational lessons from those activities. While there have historically been tensions between the host and DRP communities, recent evidence from the Cox's Bazar Panel Survey suggests that the host community recognizes the economic benefits of the refugee presence. Mitigation measures are embedded in the project design, specifically having every implementing agency provide services in both communities, with active communication that the additional host community services are made possible due to financing made available because of the refugee presence. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the implementation support plan of the project both include intensive stakeholder engagement with members of both communities, and with active engagement of relevant GoB entities, civil society groups, and the development partners with active engagements in the DRP community.

72. **Sector Strategies and Policies, Institutional capacity for Implementation and Sustainability, Fiduciary, and Other: Refugee Protection risks are rated Substantial.**

- **Sector Strategies and Policies Risk is Substantial.** – Host community activities that will be financed are all activities that the respective line ministries are mandated to do under GoB rules of business, and support sector strategies or national programs. For DRP community activities, policy directives constrain the ability of the Rohingya to earn incomes and increase their own financing of consumption. As such, much of the costs of service provision will need to continue to come from external financing or the public sources, presenting fiscal pressures that could threaten continued service provision in the future. However, the activities are aligned with relevant GoB policies and guidelines.
- **Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability Risk is Substantial.** Implementation of this Project requires involvement of five ministries (spanning six IAs), which is an unprecedented number of IAs for a project in the Bangladesh portfolio. These ministries span almost the entire range of counterparts in the Human Development portfolio of Bangladesh. Moreover, guidance from the relevant GoB authorities on project activities for the DRP will limit the duration of contracts for service implementation in the DRP communities, which will require regular contract modification that will increase procurement times. The mitigation measures include an enhanced implementation support plan which expands the size of the implementation support team with specialized technical staff from the relevant Global Practices to support IAs, as well as additional staffing for compliance and procurement. A technical design element to note is that, with the exception of the DSS activities in Component 3, all activities are expansions of activities that have been implemented in other projects in the Bangladesh portfolio, including in other Rohingya-response projects. As such, most activities will leverage existing and tested operational modalities. Mitigation measures will also include the Country Management Unit's



engagement with the Prime Minister's Office, Economic Relations Division (ERD), and other relevant GoB authorities to ensure smooth coordination and execution of planned activities.

- **Fiduciary Risk is Substantial.** The risk is Substantial due to the unusually high number of agencies involved, the intricacy of activity selection, and the modality of the interventions. Mitigation measures include hiring additional capacity, training, and close monitoring. While several risk-mitigating measures have been incorporated into the design of the FM implementation arrangements, a number of additional measures will also be taken to improve overall FM capacity and performance. Residual risks will be managed through proactive and continuous supervision and close dialogue with the GoB. Procurement risks include possible delays related to technical preparation, evaluation, and award processes. There will be four additional mitigation measures for procurement in addition to strict adherence to the World Bank Procurement Regulations. First, IAs will prepare and submit quarterly procurement progress monitoring reports with a copy to the World Bank, providing the status of the technical preparation and procurement process of each procurement activity against the approved procurement plan, identifying the bottlenecks, and recommending corrective measures. Second, IAs will use the GoB's electronic procurement system where acceptable to the World Bank. Third, IAs will assign at least two full-time procurement staff (who received training in government procurement). Fourth, if there is need for additional support and acceptable to the World Bank, procurement consultant(s) may be hired. Fifth, relevant personnel in the IAs will complete the World Bank's procurement and STEP training.
- **Other: Refugee Protection Risk is Substantial.** The DRP are heavily concentrated in 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and in Bhasan Char with limited opportunities for livelihoods and restricted mobility. With the decline in humanitarian assistance, economic conditions in the camp are depressed, and there has been a noticeable deterioration of the security situation. In the event of new and additional DRP inflows into Bangladesh, there could be coordination issues in Bangladesh that inadvertently stress the adequacy of the protection framework, such as the report of an incident of refoulement in April 2024. The World Bank is engaged with UNHCR on an on-going basis as they monitor the situation. It is not indicative of *de facto* or *de jure* changes in the GoB policy commitments to provide the DRP with international protection, and hence, does not affect the adequacy of the refugee protection framework at this time. The mitigation measures for refugee protection include the World Bank's continued engagement with relevant GoB authorities, continued coordination with UNHCR (and other relevant UN agencies), the promotion and expansion of GRM mechanisms, an increase in the number of points of contact for the DRP for prevention and responses to protection issues (e.g., through the GBV response and prevention, and the child protection services). In the event that the country no longer has an adequate refugee protection framework, as assessed by UNHCR, remedial actions include suspension of financing, as noted in Article IV of the Financing Agreement.



VII. RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING

PDO Indicators by PDO Outcomes

Baseline	Closing Period
Improved access to economic opportunities and services	
Displaced people and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
245,625	980,625
➤ Displaced people and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods – Youth (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
	294188
➤ Displaced people and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods – Female (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
116376	604770
Displaced people and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods (additional breakdown) (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
245,625	980,625
➤ of which DRP female (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
58,300	241,600
➤ of which DRP male (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
81,950	238,400
➤ of which DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
140,250	480,000
More children supported for education	
Students supported with better education (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	300,000



➤ Students supported with better education – Youth (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
	50000
➤ Students supported with better education – Female (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	150000
Improved access to health services	
People receiving quality health, nutrition, and population services (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
146,000	560,000
➤ People receiving quality health, nutrition, and population services – Youth (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
	168000
➤ People receiving quality health, nutrition, and population services – Female (Number of people) ^{CR1}	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
	280000
Greater gender equality	
Visits to use psychosocial services and case management services for gender-based violence response and prevention (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
750686	1013426
➤ of which DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
733358	990033

Intermediate Indicators by Components

Baseline	Closing Period
Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	
Individuals receiving short-term work opportunities (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
99625	120625
➤ of which female DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028



28050	41600
➤ of which male DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
56950	58400
➤ of which female host (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
4826	7219
Workdays generated by short-term work opportunities (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
11182500	22425000
➤ of which female DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
2016000	7500000
➤ of which male DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
3024000	7500000
➤ of which female host (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
2027025	2598750
Percentage of grievances resolved and feedback provided to the beneficiaries (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	90
Percentage of follow-up actions completed based on the findings of the community based monitoring (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	90
Supporting Education Opportunities for Children	
DRP learners completing one learning cycle (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	300000
➤ of which female (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	150000
Primary survival rate increased in host communities (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028



79.5	81.5
➤ among female (Percentage)	
83.6	85.6
Enhancing Social Care and Economic Empowerment	
Registered social service cases resolved within services standards (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	75
➤ among DRP (Percentage)	
0	75
Beneficiaries receiving skills training and livelihoods services (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	100,000
➤ of which female host (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	50,000
Healthier Communities	
Number of children (0-11 months) who have received three doses of pentavalent vaccines (disaggregated by gender, host and Rohingya) (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
80000	350,000
➤ of which DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
20000	50000
Number of normal deliveries in public health facilities (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
21000	80000
Number of adolescent girls (10-19 years) receiving iron and folate supplementation at facilities (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
45000	130000
➤ of which DRP (Number)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
30,000	65000
GBV Response and Prevention	
Percent increase in number of visits by women and girls utilizing psychosocial services and case management services provided through OCCs and WFS/WYSC. (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028



0	35
➤ among host (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	35
➤ among DRP (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	35
Percent of frontline workers trained by the project who adequately screened and referred GBV survivors to appropriate services (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	50
➤ among female workers (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	50
➤ among male workers (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	50
Percent change in help seeking behavior for women and men participating in SASA activities. (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	20
➤ among female host (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	20
➤ among male DRP (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	20
➤ among male host (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	20
➤ among female DRP (Percentage)	
Jun/2024	Jun/2028
0	20
Contingent Emergency Response	



Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: PDO Indicators by PDO Outcomes

Improved access to economic opportunities and services	
Displaced people and people of host communities provided with essential services and livelihoods (number)	
Description	This indicator measures the total number of people in the host and DRP communities who directly receive human capital services through this Project. It includes the activities in Component 1; the DRP education activities in Component 2; the host community livelihoods programs of Component 3; the immunization, birth, and nutrition support interventions of Component 4; and the psychosocial service utilization of Component 5. The data for each component will be collected by respective PIUs. The data for this indicator will be collected by host and DRP community status s, in addition to by youth status and gender.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	Administrative data; agency MIS
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports; progress reports, spot check surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DDM PIU, DPE PIU, DSS PIU, DGHS, DGFP, MoWCA PIU
More children supported for education	
Students supported with better education (number)	
Description	This indicator measures the number of DRP children that are directly supported for learning in the DRP communities, and who have completed at least one full learning cycle.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	Administrative data; progress reports; MIS
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports; monitoring surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DPE PIU
Improved access to health services	
People who have received essential health, nutrition, and population services (number)	
Description	This indicator measures the number of host and DRP people who are directly supported in receiving three doses of pentavalent vaccines, delivering births in public health facilities, and receiving iron and folate supplementation at health and nutrition facilities. This data will be aggregated by HSD PIU.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	MIS, DGHS and DGFP and UN progress reports
Methodology for Data Collection	Routine collection by MIS
Responsibility for Data Collection	DGHS PIU
Greater gender equality	
Visits to use psychosocial services and case management services for gender-based violence response and prevention (number)	
Description	The indicator measure the number of visits by women and girls to utilize psychosocial services and case management services provided through One-stop Crisis Centers/Cells in host communities and Women -Friendly Spaces/Women and Youth Support Centers in DRP communities.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	Progress reports
Methodology for Data Collection	Registration book and kobo toolbox from WFS, OCC and other service points
Responsibility for Data Collection	MoWCA PIU



Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	
Individuals receiving short-term work opportunities (number)	
Description	This indicator measures the cumulative number of individuals receiving work opportunities and/or training under (1) EGPP+ (HC), and (2) Rohingya community services/works program (DRP). Data will be disaggregated by HC and DRP as well as by gender within each community sub-indicator. The objective is to ensure poor and vulnerable households have work opportunities to generate income to build resilience while enhancing community assets (i.e., roads, embankments, etc.), and obtaining skills to enhance their employability
Frequency	Semi-annual
Data source	EGPP+ MIS; WFP MIS
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports; site visits; spot check surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DDM PIU
Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	
Workdays generated by short-term work opportunities (number)	
Description	This indicator measures the cumulative number of workdays generated under (1) EGPP+ (HC), and (2) Rohingya community services/works program (DRP). Data will be disaggregated by HC and DRP as well as by gender within each community sub-indicator. The objective is to ensure poor and vulnerable households have access to dignified work income earning opportunities, and thus reduce reliance to negative coping strategies.
Frequency	Semi-annual
Data source	EGPP+ MIS; WFP MIS
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports; site visits; spot check surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DDM PIU
Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	
Percentage of grievances resolved and feedback provided to the beneficiaries (percent)	
Description	This indicator measures the follow-up and resolution of grievance logged by PIU for each component, and aggregated for the Project as a whole, including tracking of resolution.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	PIU administrative data (GRM)
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports, administrative data, spot check surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DDM PIU, DPE PIU, DSS PIU, DGHS, DGFP, MoWCA PIU
Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	
Percentage of follow-up actions completed based on the findings of the community-based monitoring survey	
Description	This indicator measures the follow-up actions taken as a result of the community-based monitoring surveys. The data will be aggregated by DDM.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	PIU report; survey data
Methodology for Data Collection	PIU report, administrative data, spot check surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DDM PIU
Supporting Education Opportunities for Children	
DRP learners completing one learning cycle (number)	
Description	Number of DRP learners completing at least one full year of attendance in the learning centers supported by the operation.



Frequency	Annual
Data source	Administrative data; progress reports; MIS
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports; monitoring surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DPE PIU

Supporting Education Opportunities for Children

Primary survival rate increased in host community (percentage)

Description	This indicator measures the retention rate for students in grade 1-5 in government primary schools in the target area
Frequency	Annual
Data source	Annual Primary School Survey
Methodology for Data Collection	Surveys; spot checks
Responsibility for Data Collection	DPE PIU

Enhancing Social Care and Economic Empowerment

Registered social service cases resolved within services standards (percentage)

Description	This indicator measures the percentage of social services cases registered via digital grievance tracking systems (i.e., the DSS management Online Case Management Systems (OCMS) and Child Protection Information Management System+ (CPIMS+)) which are resolved within a specified period of time. This service standard would be determined and established in relevant policy and procedure documents. Data will be disaggregated by HC and DRP as well as by gender within each community sub-indicator. The objective is to improve response time to incidents of child abandonment, elderly abuse, etc.
Frequency	Semi-annual
Data source	DSS OCMS (HC); DSS CPIMS+ (DRP); administrative data
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports; site visits; spot check surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DSS PIU

Enhancing Social Care and Economic Empowerment

Beneficiaries receiving skills training and livelihoods services (number)

Description	This indicator measures the cumulative number of persons (host community only) receiving skills training and livelihoods services under the RSS program. Data will be disaggregated by gender. The objective is to ensure poor and vulnerable households have additional support to improve their income-generating opportunities over services already provided by RSS (e.g., savings, microcredit, etc.).
Frequency	Semi-annual
Data source	RSS MIS; administrative data
Methodology for Data Collection	MIS reports; site visits; spot check surveys
Responsibility for Data Collection	DSS PIU

Healthier Communities

Number of children (0-11 months) who have received three doses of pentavalent vaccines (disaggregated by gender, host and Rohingya)

Description	Number of children (0-11 months) who have received three doses of pentavalent vaccines (disaggregated by gender, host and Rohingya)
Frequency	Annual
Data source	MIS, DGHS and UN progress reports
Methodology for Data Collection	Routine collection by MIS, DGHS
Responsibility for	DGHS PIU



Data Collection	
Healthier Communities	
Number of normal deliveries in public health facilities	
Description	MOHFW facilities include selected Upazlia Health Complexes, Union Health and Family Welfare Centers, Mother and Child Welfare Centers, and District Sadar Hospitals. 24/7 delivery services should be provided at least for six months in each calendar year.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	Facility Report
Methodology for Data Collection	As per reports prepared by facilities
Responsibility for Data Collection	DGHS PIU
Healthier Communities	
Number of adolescent girls (10-19 years) receiving iron and folate supplementation at facilities (in host and within the camps)	
Description	Number of visits through which adolescent girls aged 10-19 years received iron and folate supplementation at facilities in host (community clinics, union health and family welfare centers, upazila health complexes, district maternity and children welfare centers and district sadar/general hospitals) and within the camps.
Frequency	Annual
Data source	MIS, DGFP and UN progress reports
Methodology for Data Collection	Routine collection by MIS, DGFP
Responsibility for Data Collection	DGFP PIU
GBV Response and Prevention	
Percent increase in number of people utilizing psychosocial services and case management services provided through OCCs and WFS/WYSC.	
Description	The indicator will measure percent increase in number of people (all genders) utilizing psychosocial services and case management services provided through One-stop Crisis Centers/Cells in host communities and Women -Friendly Spaces/Women and Youth Support Centers in DRP communities. The case management services include safety plans and referral to legal, shelter, medical and livelihood services.
Frequency	Six-monthly
Data source	Progress report
Methodology for Data Collection	Registration book and kobo toolbox from WFS, OCC and other service points
Responsibility for Data Collection	MOWCA PIU
GBV Response and Prevention	
Percent of frontline workers trained by the project who adequately screened and referred GBV survivors to appropriate services	
Description	The indicator would capture the outcome of capacity building and measure the share of frontline workers who demonstrated screening and referring GBV survivors.
Frequency	Six-monthly
Data source	Progress report
Methodology for Data Collection	Training check list and assessment tools to measure the changes among frontline worker in terms of capacity for screening; number of survivors referred to OCC, WFS and other sectoral services
Responsibility for Data Collection	MOWCA PIU
GBV Response and Prevention	
Percent change in help seeking behavior for women and men participating in SASA activities.	
Description	The indicator will capture change in help seeking behavior among SASA participants, defined as, using or encouraging GBV uptake. Numerator will be number of men and women who report using or encouraging others to use GBV services



	Denominator will be the number of men and women who report seeing/hearing GBV happening in the community in the past year.
Frequency	Six-monthly
Data source	Pre-post survey (integrated with SASA model)
Methodology for Data Collection	Survey/ assessment report as per the SASA together tool
Responsibility for Data Collection	MOWCA PIU



ANNEX 1: Implementation Arrangements and Support Plan

Implementation Arrangements

- PIU:** The Project will be implemented by six different IAs across five different ministries. Each PIU will have a PD and Deputy Project Director (DPD) assigned by the Ministry of Public Adn. Each PIU will also hire adequate number of consultants for FM and procurement functions, in addition to environmental and social, M&E, and technical specialists. Aside from the PD and DPD, each PIU must have at a minimum a Procurement Specialist, Financial Management Specialist, Environmental Specialist, and Social Specialist. Each PIU will undertake any necessary institutional actions for project implementation.
- PSC:** The IAs will coordinate with their parent ministry or division of a ministry at a strategic level through PSC meetings held twice a year, where any issues will be discussed. The PSCs will also inform relevant GoB authorities of project progress and issues.
- POMs:** Every PIU will be responsible for the preparation of a POM to guide the implementation of their project activities. The POMs will provide detailed operational guidance, monitoring and reporting mechanisms, fiduciary arrangement, procurement procedures and requirements, and project documentation. They will be living documents, to be changed periodically based on mutual agreement with the World Bank for more effective implementation based on the findings from progress reviews and feedback from monitoring agencies while adhering to the agreed protocols of the overall Project. As needed, the POM will draw on existing GoB implementation guidelines and operational plans, which will be clearly noted in the relevant sections of the POMs. For components where refurbishment of facilities are activities (Component 2, 3, 4, and 5), the POMs will include details on the selection criteria of the facilities, or reference the appropriate GoB policy or guideline. For components where activities require the application of eligibility criteria (Component 1 and 3), the POMs will include details on the eligibility criteria of the service, or reference the appropriate policy or guideline. Where activities require collection of data for project administration purposes, the POMs will describe the relevant policies being applied for data protection including Bangladesh's Data Protection Act (and related legislation and policy), the World Bank Group Policy on Data Privacy, and the data protection policies of the UN agencies that will be providing services to the DRP community.
- Given the reliance on existing GoB guidelines and policies for some project activities, the POMs of the following components will refer to appropriate GoB documents, which will include:
 - Component 1 - EGPP+ Implementation Guidelines; DRP Community Services/Works Implementation Guidelines
 - Component 3 - RSS Implementation Guidelines; Child Protection Case Management Standard Operating Procedures; Case Management SOP for Cox's Bazar
 - Component 5 - GBV Response and Prevention Operations Manual

Implementation Support Plan

- The Implementation Support Plan reflects the ambition of project activities and lessons learned from past operations in the country and sector. The plan will be reviewed at the conclusion of every Implementation Support Mission to ensure that it continues to meet the implementation support needs of the Project. Key elements of the approach to providing implementation support are:



- a. A core task team will ensure regular dialogue with implementing agencies, will provide implementation and technical support, and conduct regular technical meetings. Due to the broad multisectoral nature of the Project, and the sector-specific expertise needed for quality assurance and implementation support across all components, the team will use an expanded staffing approach. The team will ensure inclusion of sector specialists in social protection, jobs, education, health, and gender, as well as staff covering poverty measurement and private sector development.
- b. The core task team will also be supported by decentralized staff in Bangladesh. In addition to the core task team members based in Dhaka, Washington DC, and other Country Offices, there will be a team member based in Cox's Bazar to support M&E, and to provide real time coordination with the RRRC and implementation partners.
- c. The task team will conduct two implementation support missions every year to review progress, with more frequent missions in the first year, to identify implementation challenges and suggest options for addressing emerging issues. The frequency of implementation support missions will be re-assessed after the first year of implementation.
- d. The IBM tool will be fully deployed in the DRP communities to monitor service delivery, and support identification of implementation challenges and validate results.
- e. The World Bank's procurement, FM, and E&S standards specialists will provide regular implementation support and technical assistance to the counterpart teams during project implementation. These team members will also identify capacity-building needs to strengthen procurement, FM, and safeguard capacity of the implementing agencies, and will provide hands-on implementation support as needed. The World Bank's procurement supervision will be ensured through implementation support in the form of prior review and post review of the contracts. Procurement post review by the Bank will be conducted at least on an annual basis based on need. The World Bank will also provide intensive hands-on-implementation support for Procurement to the IAs to expedite implementation.
- f. As requested by the GoB, the World Bank can provide support for the procurement of necessary UN agencies, even though the contracts are negotiated between the GoB and the UN agencies directly. The permitted hands-on-implementation support to the GoB could include (but not be restricted to) (i) comparison of overheads proposed by agencies in Bangladesh relative to similar activities in other countries; (ii) conducting parallel technical evaluations of proposals to identify cost elements that do not seem essential to delivery; and (iii) supporting implementing agencies to provide supervision that consolidates the number of subcontractors to minimize the overheads related to management of high numbers of subcontractors.
- g. The team will also provide hands-on technical assistance for contract management, as requested. This will include ensuring that UN utilization reports are submitted in a timely fashion, and expenditures are documented in Client Connection.
- h. The Mid-Term Review is envisaged to take place in July 2026. At that time, the team and GoB will review project arrangements and progress, identify any bottlenecks to implementation or emerging priorities, and recommend measures to address them.



ANNEX 2: Government Strategy for Refugees

Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division
WB-3 Section
Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.erd.gov.bd



Record Number: 09.00.0000.061.14.022.18.33 Date: 23/1/2024
Subject: **Strategic Note for Financial Support for Host
Communities and Forcibly Displaced Myanmar
Nationals.**
Reference: World Bank's Letter of September 12, 2023

Dear Mr. Seck,

This letter entitled "*Strategic Note for Host Communities and Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals*" outlines the Government of Bangladesh's wish to access financial support for host communities and Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) through the IDA 20 Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR).

Context

Bangladesh met the required eligibility criteria during the IDA 18 RSW Cycle. This letter will briefly record what efforts have been undertaken since then and indicate what areas of support will be pursued in future. It remains guided by the 2014 Government Strategy Paper on Addressing the Issues of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) in Bangladesh referenced in the letter submitted during the IDA18 RSW eligibility process.

Bangladesh is currently hosting more than one million Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) in Cox's Bazar and the surrounding areas since the most recent forced displacement crisis began in August 2017. Approximately 8,000 acres of land – a reserve forest and wildlife sanctuary – has been designated to provide temporary shelters to FDMNs. As of December 2023, 967,842 FDMNs reside in 34 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of the Cox's Bazar District, surrounding districts of Chittagong Division and on the island of Bhasan Char of Noakhali District. While the Government of Bangladesh is making consistent efforts to ensure that FDMNs can repatriate to their motherland promptly and safely, however various circumstances have caused delays in repatriation. The ongoing displacement crisis impacting Bangladesh is now in its sixth year. It has created a major humanitarian crisis resulting in stress for the host communities that has impacted on livelihoods, employment, healthcare challenges, social disorder, grievance, social fragmentation,

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economic disruption, and safety.

Progress

Despite the ongoing global economic crisis, Bangladesh has generously hosted FDMNs. In the face of this enormous humanitarian challenge, it has had to bear a significant financial and environmental burden and responsibility. The Government has been working to secure basic needs for these vulnerable populations, including food, shelter, health, informal education, social safety net, disaster preparedness, prevention of gender-based violence, and other basic service delivery.

- **Registration:** Data collection on FDMNs according to the agreed form began on June 24, 2018; the registration of 967,842 individuals from 201,126 families was completed as of October 31, 2023. Among the registered FDMNs, more than half of them are children (52%), elderly (4%), and persons with disability (1%). The Social Service Department surveys 43,109 orphans with the help of a2i. A total of 52% of the registered FDMNs are females. It has been identified that approximately 30,000 are newly born each year. In June 2022, the government published a notification announcing a special procedure for issuing formal birth certificates in favor of FDMN children born in Bangladesh. The joint registration of FDMNs is an important part of the ongoing support. It helps maintain FDMN identity and documentation and is the basis for access to assistance provided in the camps. The country is among the countries most at risk of weather-related hazards, with a monsoon season that presents a risk of loss of life and injuries due to landslides, flooding, and communicable diseases. Since 2021, 34,132 individuals (8,776 families) have been relocated to Bhasan Char to ease the density in Ukhia and Teknaf, and people living at high risk of landslides and flash floods have been given priority for relocation.
- **Support of Basic Needs:** Under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, support has been provided since August 2017 to address the ongoing humanitarian challenges. The Government works closely with more than 116 partners, including 10 UN agencies and 106 international and national NGOs. With the support of the World Bank, the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project (EMCRP) has been operational since 2019. A few examples below illustrate the Government of Bangladesh's support of basic needs:
 - **Health:** Over 3,500 healthcare staff, including 306 doctors, 311 nurses, 186 midwives, and 261 paramedics, provide health and medical



services to the FDMNs and host communities. There are five field hospitals, 42 primary healthcare centers, and 91 health posts in the camps and surrounding areas, with 46 facilities operating 24 hours a day. The capacity of Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital and various Upazila Hospitals has been enhanced. The Department of Family Planning also offers family planning and health services to mothers and children through 12 centers.

- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** 9,672 shallow and 4,675 deep tube wells have been installed to ensure water access. The Department of Public Health Engineering has set up some water networks and points with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank funding. For sanitation needs, 44,365 latrines and 23,732 bathing cubicles have been constructed. Efforts made by the Government and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) partners, including the World Bank, have resulted in 85 percent of FDMNs reporting having enough water to meet their needs and 93 percent of sanitation facilities reporting as functional.
- **Environmental management, roads, and disaster preparedness:** over 69.4 km of roads, including 14 roads and one main road, have been constructed. As part of Bangladesh's nationwide response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Government included FDMNs in its National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 for Bangladesh and National Vaccine Development Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines in Bangladesh. Potential landslide areas are demarked jointly by Dhaka University and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).
- **Learning and life skills:** Approximately 5,800 learning facilities have been established or rehabilitated in the camps. Teachers and instructors from FDMNs and the host communities have received training and capacity-building to educate approximately 330,000 FDMN children and adolescents. This education is provided using the Myanmar curriculum and is conducted in the Myanmar language.
- **FDMN relocation in Bhasanchar:** Housing and other infrastructures have been constructed in 432 acres of Bhasanchar of Noakhali district for FDMNs. There are 120 clusters with estimated capacity of 92,160 FDMNs. 34, 132 FDMNs of 8,776 families have been living there. 120 Cyclone Centre, one 20 bedded hospital, 29 schools, 1560 borehole, 38 Mosques & Madrashas have been constructed to facilitate the FDMNs.



There are 35 Learning Center and more than 15 NGOs are conducting livelihood programs in Bhasan Char, such as agriculture, duck farming, aquaculture, vegetable gardening, fishing in the sea, handcrafting (K-Kraft), poultry, shoe making, tailoring, shops, and rearing of sheep and goats.

Going Forward

The Government of Bangladesh is deeply concerned by the sharp funding decrease from the international community in response to this situation. These fiscal constraints are further spiraling the crisis and threatening social stability. In this regard, Bangladesh recognizes the World Bank Group for its effort to help the Government access the IDA20 WHR. According to the current policy, the Government of Bangladesh intends to utilize the allocated grant assistance for time-sensitive projects benefiting the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) and the loan assistance for sustainable development projects aimed at the host communities. Based on the priorities of relevant Ministries/Divisions, the following areas of intervention will be pursued in Chattagram, Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char areas to support the FDMNs and the host communities. These efforts are consistent with the 2014 Government Strategy Paper, the 2018 RSW Eligibility Letter (June 4, 2018), and the 2023 Joint Response Plan.

- Provision of Basic Health, Nutrition, and Population Services: Efforts will be made to establish community clinics for the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) and the host community. Technical support will be provided for training. Planned efforts are underway to provide water ambulances for patients in critical condition, support family planning-related projects and nursing training, and provide food production, supply, and humanitarian aid.
- Provision of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), and Energy Access: Mini waste management and maintenance projects will be implemented. The construction of groundwater reservoirs will continue to ensure clean water access. Solar/renewable energy-related projects, such as street lighting and electrification, will be undertaken.
- Strengthening Environmental Management, Access Roads, and Disaster Risk Management: This includes the construction and maintenance of connecting roads, broadening of existing roads, and construction of jetty approach roads for communication with Bhasan



Char and market development in the neighboring areas. It also involves the assessment of environmental damage, the creation of green belts and afforestation, the construction of various types of roads, small houses in Bhasan Char, and a police camp.

- Support for Learning Centers and Life Skills: This will focus on inclusive services and human capital management, with special attention to women and children. It includes renovating primary schools, school feeding programs for students, and skill development for both the FDMNs and the Host Communities.

Addressing the areas mentioned above, different projects have been identified for implementation as a programmatic approach. Separate components for grants and loans may be included under separate Development Project Proposals (DPP), and the projects will be implemented under the Annual Development Plan (ADP). The tenure of the projects for the FDMNs should be one year. However, based on the requirements, there might be options for rolling over certain activities. It would be highly appreciated if your good office could take the necessary actions.

23-01-2024

Md. Saiduzzaman Khan
Senior Assistant Secretary
Phone: 48115737
Email: ida8@erd.gov.bd

Mr. Abdoulaye Seck, Country Director

Record Number:
09.00.0000.061.14.022.18.33/1(3)

Date: 23/1/2024

Copy for Kind Information and Necessary Action,
1) Joint Secretary, World Bank Branch-III, Economic Relations Division
2) Personal Officer, Wing-2: (World Bank), Economic Relations Division
3) Personal Officer, Office of the Secretary, Economic Relations Division

23-01-2024

Md. Saiduzzaman Khan
Senior Assistant Secretary