

## FINAL REPORT

# MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY PLUS PROGRAMME (SAFE+2)

No. RFP/HCR/CXB/2023/004

## SUBMITTED TO



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## Abbreviations

AAP	Accountability to Affected Population
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
BDRCS	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
CiC	Camp in Charge
CNRS	Centre for Natural Resource Studies
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DCI	Data Collection Instrument
DoE	Department of Environment
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ERT	Elephant Response Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDMN	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
FFS	Farmer's Field School
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSS	Food Security Sector
GBV	Gender-based violence
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HH	Households
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KII	Key Informant Interview
LPG	liquefied petroleum gas
MPTFO	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PwD	Persons with Disability
REVA	Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment
RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Office
SAFE+	The Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme

## Executive Summary

The Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE+2) programme objectives are to enable Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazar District to access cleaner energy, support the region's environment and ecosystems, and provide skills development and livelihoods to refugees and Bangladeshi host communities. The programme is currently in its second phase (July 2022 - March 2025) and builds upon successes and lessons learned that were obtained during the programme's first phase (January 2019 – June 2022). The SAFE+2 programme is jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM - UN Migration), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

This Mid-Term Evaluation aims to generate evidence on the programme's outcomes and impacts and guide the remainder of the programme's implementation period. The generated information is foreseen to provide actionable advice to the programme's key stakeholders and to guide similar (future) initiatives to achieve sustainable results. The main objective of this evaluation is to evaluate the programme's performance against the desired results articulated in the foundational programme document and Result Framework.

This evaluation adopted a mixed-method approach with a quantitative survey, qualitative information collection, and secondary document analysis. The survey took place in March 2024. The total sample size for the quantitative survey was 712, covering 120 households from the host community and 592 from the Rohingya community. 16 FGDs were conducted separately with the host and Rohingya community of male and female beneficiaries. A total of 22 Key Informant Interviews were conducted with the Camp in Charge (CiC), SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads, Heads of (Sub) Offices from relevant agencies, other UN Agency staff, staff from partner organisations implementing SAFE+2 activities, officials from the Department of Environment and Department of Forest from Cox's Bazar district and local community leaders are known as Majhi.

## Key Evaluation Findings

### Programme Performance and Effectiveness

This programme distributed LPG to 100% of the targeted 200,000 refugee households located in 33 refugee camps within 2023. A total of 1,797,092 refills have been provided to these households in 2023. All the Rohingya HHs received 10.42 (12kg) LPG refills around the year. Through this, LPG distribution has saved 13,390 hectares of forest (based on Bangladesh Forest Inventory in 2017). Additionally, the use of LPG has caused a reduction of 375,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually<sup>1</sup>. In this case, the baseline estimated value is 407,000, and the alternative target in the programme document is 655,000 annually. WFP and IOM with technical support from FAO has planted trees covering 105 hectares of land (32 in 2022 and 73 in 2023) engaging community people through Cash for work. As a result, 11.69% of the environment and ecosystems were rehabilitated during this time (See Figure 6). Through the execution of all activities, this intervention was successful in managing 1,279 tonnes of Carbon sequestration. As per the evaluation findings, 36.3% of farmers and producers successfully increased their production and market sales in 2023 compared to 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> based on the methodology adopted by the Stanford University study for the Human Health and Environmental Costs and Benefits of Liquefied Petroleum Gas vs. Firewood for Cooking in the Rohingya Refugee Camp, Bangladesh in 2019. This study set the benchmark for the estimate.

Through this increased production and market sales, the resilience of a portion of farmers and producers has increased.

### **Impact of the programme**

This intervention was planned to reach an estimated 200,000 refugee households as direct beneficiaries. According to the UNHCR data registration after the inception of SAFE+2, 100%<sup>2</sup> of the target Rohingya households have been covered by the LPG provision. This coverage of the LPG provision has had a positive impact on the Rohingya communities in many ways.

According to the reporting of the surveyed Rohingya households, the impact of LPG provision on their daily lives is reduced cooking time (84%), a neat and clean kitchen (71.1%), low cost (68.7%), no need to collect firewood (59.5%), pain-less cooking with reduced health problems (57.6%), and increased safety (54%). Deforestation has also decreased due to using LPG instead of firewood. 13,390 equivalent hectares of forest have been protected, while 375,300 tonnes<sup>3</sup> of carbon dioxide emissions have been abated. As per our findings, about 5.9% of the Rohingya community is engaged in the maintenance of tree plantations at a minimum cost of wages. Now, they are becoming aware of the direct and indirect benefits of forest conservation/protection. In response to the impact of forest conservation on their day-to-day life, they mentioned many options of benefits like providing shades (88.3%), cooler temperature (68.8%), landslide risk mitigation (34.1%), minimising cyclone damage (34.4%), providing fruits (33.6%) and herbal medicine (23.8%). The conflict between the host and the Rohingya community over natural resource extraction, use of water bodies, etc., has decreased in the meantime. It is also mentionable that the Department of Forest has helped this programme develop a land stabilization method, promoting the plantation of various fast-growing indigenous species and replant in the area, which was previously national forest land. The local leaders and Camp in Charge took the initiative to resolve the conflicts. They engaged the relevant GoB authorities when and where needed. Further, the capacity of these communities to resolve this conflict has also increased. As per our findings, an average 2.6 number of conflicts between the community and plantation protectors generally occurred in 2023 every year, and 1.2 times initiatives per conflict were carried out to resolve those conflicts. However, most (43.5%) of the conflicts were managed by the joint coordination of the host and Rohingya community.

The training provided to males and females has a noteworthy impact on increasing agricultural production. The increase in average agricultural production in 2023 (789 kg) is higher than in 2022 (749 kg), which is evidence of the impact of training on the host community. As per their reporting, the average price of this production was 37,193 Tk. in 2023 and 21,329 Tk. In 2022.

### **Efficiency**

According to the Annual Programme Narrative Progress Report, the total approved budget is USD 282,039,934. In 2022, Canada and Sweden were the main donors of this programme, with Norway joining in 2023. All UN agencies (FAO, IOM, UNHCR, and WFP) received \$11,438,564 from July to December 2022. Additionally, Canada, Norway and Sweden transferred \$15,739,441 in 2023, and based on the provided fund, FAO, IOM, UNHCR, and WFP executed a few of the designed activities.

Under strategic priority 1, LPG has been provided to 100% of Rohingya households, while pressure cookers have been distributed to 85,000 households. The total annual prioritized budget for 2023 was \$33.2 million. The achievement within this budget is highly satisfactory and cost-effective. Under

<sup>2</sup> As per discussion with UNHCR, the LPG refills have been provided to all the Rohingya households targeted under the strategic priority 1.

<sup>3</sup> Targeted HHs (194,937 HH) received 10.42 (12kg) LPG refills around the year. The average HH size is 5.31. The estimate followed the estimation methodology adopted at baseline. The number of households at the baseline was 211,382.

Strategic Priority 2, there was a \$0.9 million budget deficit against the required annual prioritized budget of \$2.8 million in 2023, while \$1.9 million were available. However, the achievements within the available budget were effective, mentionable, and visible. Under Strategic Priority 3, the annual prioritized budget was \$ 1.2 million in 2023. However, the budget spending for these activities had a noteworthy impact on the achievement of increased market sales, training received by host communities, and yearly increased production.

### **Relevance**

The project's goals, outcomes, and outputs were connected to the government's policies and strategies for improving the condition of both the Rohingya and the host communities. This is highly aligned with the Government's Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all; SDG11: Sustainable cities and human settlements aim to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable; SDG 13: Climate Action and Synergies.

### **Accountability to Affected Population**

As per the evaluation, all the implementing partners have successfully followed the Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) framework by designing the programme's proposal and activities to execute these activities at the field level. As per the discussion before, this programme has successfully responded to the affected population, including displaced Rohingya refugees and the surrounding host community affected by the Rohingya influx, including women, girls, children, Persons with disabilities, and elderly people. This evaluation found that the accountability of the UN implementing agencies toward the affected population was active, effective, visible, functional, and responsive.

### **Lesson Learned**

- LPG distribution is the most optimum solution for cooking fuel in Cox's Bazar. All the Rohingya households use LPG as the best cooking option instead of firewood.
- LPG use and pressure cookers have helped decrease cooking time, increasing the cooking days without using firewood. As a result, the use of firewood has reduced.
- The roadside, Riparian and slope tree plantation has been an effective initiative for restoring the environment. Rohingya's engagement in maintaining and caring for the forest land provide economic opportunity through Cash for Work.
- This programme's initiatives to resolve conflicts over natural resources are effective, as most of the surveyed Rohingya and host communities reported that conflicts have decreased recently.
- Training, awareness, support, and market linkage mechanisms can help increase agricultural production.
- This programme has established Aggregation Centres as a facility for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally or regionally produced food products".
- This intervention has provided LPG to a mentionable portion of female-headed households, elderly people, and persons with disabilities.
- Women's inclusion in training might increase agricultural production.



## Recommendations

### Strategic Priority 1:

- All households should be provided with pressure cookers to minimize the cost of cooking and the use of firewood.
- Rohingya households should receive refresher training on the use and benefits of LPG and pressure cookers.

### Strategic Priority 2:

- Community awareness interventions should be provided to the host and Rohingya communities, focusing on the reasons for environmental damage, its devastating impact and steps that need to be taken to restore the environment at the individual and community levels.
- Community awareness interventions should be provided to the host and Rohingya communities, focusing on the conflict of natural resources and how to solve the problems mutually. This programme may develop a mechanism-chain for resolving these conflicts.

### Strategic Priority 3:

- This programme should ensure more women's engagement in food production with a robust monitoring system.
- This intervention should take more initiatives to strengthen the Aggregation Centre by increasing the producer capacity through training and motivation activities.
- The programme should strengthen the e-commerce platform by popularising the Farm2Go App.
- The programme should reprioritize the activities according to the budget available to the implementing agencies. As per the requirements, selected SAFE+2 activities may be reduced.

### Overall:

- The MPTF and bilateral funding model is efficient but has some disadvantages to implementing the activities according to the workplan due to funding constraints. To avoid this problem, the program should reprioritize the activities as per the timeline and availability of funds and clarify which target will be achieved at the end of the program.

## Chapter 1: Evaluation Approach and Methodology

### 1.1 The SAFE+2 programme and evaluation context

The Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE+2) programme objectives are to enable Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazar District to access cleaner energy, support the region's environment and ecosystems, and provide skills development and livelihoods to refugees and Bangladeshi host communities.

The programme is currently in its second phase (July 2022 - March 2025) and builds upon the successes and lessons learned during its first phase (January 2019—June 2022). This initial phase of the programme implemented by FAO, IOM, and WFP included its own mid-term evaluation and end evaluation, of which the results, recommendations, and lessons learned can be shared.

After the launch of SAFE+2, the activities have been executed for the last eighteen months (1.5 years). As a result, it aims to evaluate the programme to explore the achievements and impact towards the set target of the programme goals based on the outcome and output indicators and the programme beneficiaries. The evaluation has also attempted to investigate the attainments of strategic priorities set for this programme. Additionally, the findings captured from this mid-term evaluation depict the programme's performance, effectiveness, relevance, impact, resource allocation and utilization, and durability. Finally, it is also expected that the lessons learned, and recommendations drawn from this evaluation will show the way to further programme implementation toward achieving the ultimate goal at the end of the programme.

### 1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the Evaluation

**Purpose:** To generate evidence on the programme's outcomes and impacts and guide the remainder of the programme's implementation period. The generated information is foreseen to provide actionable advice to the programme's key stakeholders and to guide similar (future) initiatives to achieve sustainable results. The Mid Term Evaluation also contributes to organizational knowledge management by capturing lessons learned and supports advocacy activities and donor reporting requirements.

**Main objective:** To evaluate the programme's performance against the desired results articulated in the foundational programme document and Result Framework.

**Specific objectives:**

- **Fit-for-purpose & organizational synergies:** Assess whether the project has adequately responded to the short, medium, and long-term challenges expressed in the project documents, including through expected synergies of a multi-sectoral approach.
- **Planning & performance:** Assess the project's overall performance from planning and implementation by identifying the programme's key strengths and gaps and recommending future improvements.
- **Capturing lessons learned:** Produce and document vital lessons learned and innovations/best practices that may contribute to future strategies, interventions, and knowledge management.

- **Durable approaches:** Consider durable approaches to the programme in the context of Cox's Bazar's humanitarian funding situation and potential exit strategies in the operation's funding climate.
- **Beneficiary participation:** Better understand what the programme has achieved regarding the participation of its beneficiaries in terms of planning and programming.
- **Gender and disability:** Inform how the programme has supported gender and disability mainstreaming.
- **Outcome-level indicators:** Provide inputs and analysis on impact and outcome-level indicators captured in the programme's Results Framework.
- **Rightsizing:** Assess and recommend how the programme can be better tailored and rightsized to the context of its allocated resources to optimise achieving its stated objectives. In this context, assess and advise which (reporting) indicators can be removed and which activities can be deprioritised from the programme's Results Framework in the programme's current set-up and, in conjunction with the programme's partners.

### 1.3 The Applied Methodology

An appropriate research design was adopted to facilitate the smooth sailing of research operations. This made the proposed evaluation as efficient as possible, yielding maximum information with minimum effort (time, cost, etc.).

#### 1.3.1 Evaluation Design

This evaluation employed a comprehensive mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies to gather insights and data from diverse primary and secondary sources. The documentation review thoroughly examined various SAFE+2 project documents, including proposals, narratives, financial reports, activity reprioritisation plans, monitoring data, budget allocations, and annexes. Additionally, it encompassed reviewing documents, results, and lessons learned from past initiatives related to cleaner cooking and safe access to Fuel and Energy for comparative analysis. The quantitative component focused on acquiring data related to impact and outcome areas. At the same time, the qualitative aspect delved into nuanced aspects such as access to cleaner cooking energy, improved natural resource management, green skills development, livelihoods, climate resilience, food security, and reduced exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) and disaster risks. Qualitative techniques included conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with programme beneficiaries and Key Informant Interviews (KII) with various stakeholders, encompassing UN agencies' staff, SAFE+2 coordinators, strategic priority leads, agency heads, partner organizations' staff, government officials, community leaders [Camp in charge (CiC) and Majhi], and the Rohingya refugees and host communities in the Cox's Bazar District.

The comparable baseline statistics of the target outcome indicators were available from the end-line evaluation report of the earlier phase of SAFE, the results framework developed for SAFE+2, and the indicator-based performance assessment of the annual programme narrative progress report (July 2022 to December 2022).

### 1.3.2 Evaluation Framework

The midterm evaluation was generated by addressing all the specific objectives mentioned in the ToR. The approach to addressing all the specific objectives is given below.

**Table 1: Evaluation Framework**

Specific Objectives	Evaluation Questions	Evaluation strategy
<b>Fit-for-purpose &amp; organizational synergies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess whether the project has adequately responded to the short-, medium-, and long-term challenges expressed in the project documents, including through expected synergies of a multi-sectoral approach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme/monitoring progress report review</li> <li>KII findings</li> </ul>
<b>Planning &amp; performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the project's overall performance from planning and implementation by identifying the programme's key strengths and gaps and recommending future improvements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative findings</li> <li>Quantitative findings</li> <li>Programme based Secondary documents review.</li> <li>Outcome and output indicators assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Capturing lessons learned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce and document vital lessons learned and innovations/best practices that may contribute to future strategies, interventions, and knowledge management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative findings</li> <li>Review of programme documents related to lessons learned and best practices.</li> <li>Activity progress report</li> </ul>
<b>Durable approaches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend durable approaches to the programme in the context of Cox's Bazar's humanitarian funding situation. Recommend potential exit strategies in the context of the operation's funding climate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative findings</li> <li>Quantitative findings</li> <li>Programme based Secondary documents review.</li> <li>Outcome and output indicators assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Beneficiary participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand better what the programme has achieved regarding its beneficiaries' participation in planning and programming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative findings</li> <li>Quantitative findings</li> <li>Outcome and output indicators assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Gender and disability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform how the programme has supported gender and disability mainstreaming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative findings</li> <li>Quantitative findings</li> <li>Programme based Secondary documents review</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome-level indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide inputs and analysis on impact and outcome-level indicators captured in the programme's Results Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantitative findings</li> <li>Outcome and output indicators assessment</li> <li>Monitoring data</li> </ul>
<b>Rightsizing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and recommend how the programme can be better tailored and right sized to the context of its allocated resources to optimise achieving its stated objectives. In this context, assess and advise which (reporting) indicators can be removed and which activities can be deprioritised from the programme's Results Framework in the programme's current set-up and, in conjunction with the programme's partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative findings</li> <li>Activity progress report</li> <li>Review of objective, outcome, and output indicators</li> <li>Programme documents related to budget source and availability</li> </ul>

### 1.3.3 Selection of Programme Outcome Indicators and Programme Aspects

This evaluation adopted the programme indicators presented in the published ToR under the three strategic priorities. In addition, this evaluation also attempted to assess the programmatic aspects as mentioned in the ToR. Table 2 deals with the sources and data collection methods based on the outcome indicators and programme aspect review.

**Table 2: Midterm Evaluation indicator mapping**

Indicator	Sources of Data/Information	Data Collection methods
Outcome 1: Targeted households have safe and sufficient access to cleaner cooking energy to meet their basic needs.		
# Equivalent hectares forest protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Official of Cox's Bazar District Environment and Forest Development</li> <li>Satellite imagery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documents Review</li> <li>-KII</li> <li>-Satellite imagery for the land use land cover (LULC) changes using remote sensing</li> </ul>
# Tones carbon dioxide emissions abated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beneficiary survey</li> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Official of Cox's Bazar District Environment and Forest Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documents Review</li> <li>- Household survey (adopting the methodology developed by Stanford University for SAFE)</li> <li>-KII</li> </ul>
Outcome 2: Environment and ecosystems rehabilitated to strengthen community resilience to mitigate conflict over natural resources, disasters, and climate shocks.		
% Of land/ ecosystems rehabilitated in Cox's Bazar through Programme interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Official of Cox's Bazar District Environment and Forest Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Secondary Documents Review</li> <li>-KII</li> <li>-Satellite image (FAO will share the specifications)</li> </ul>
Tones carbon dioxide sequestered through Programme interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Official of Cox's Bazar District Environment and Forest Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Documents Review</li> <li>-KII</li> </ul>
% Of conflicts over natural resources successfully managed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Host and Rohingya beneficiaries</li> <li>CIC</li> <li>Majhi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Documents Review</li> <li>-HH Survey</li> <li>-KII</li> <li>-FGD</li> </ul>
Outcome 3A: The resilience of vulnerable host communities, especially women, is sustained		
% Of farmers and producers with increased market sales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Host and Rohingya beneficiaries</li> <li>Other UN Agency staff</li> <li>Government agency officials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Documents Review</li> <li>-HH Survey</li> <li>-KII</li> <li>-FGD</li> <li>-Observations (aggregation centres)</li> </ul>
Gender		

Indicator	Sources of Data/Information	Data Collection methods
% Approximate number of women and girls (individuals) report reduced hours spent on unpaid care work due to SAFE+2 activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host beneficiaries (Women)</li> <li>Rohingya women and girls</li> </ul>	-HH Survey -FGD
% Of Rohingya households enrolled in SAFE+2 programme activities where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on using transferred resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rohingya beneficiaries</li> </ul>	-HH Survey -FGD
Women's autonomy index for (a) skills development activities in the refugee community and b) livelihood activities in the host community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host and Rohingya beneficiaries (Women)</li> </ul>	-HH Survey  (The livelihood activity index analysis methodology is available from WFP. Skills development activities index not prepared)
<b>Programmatic aspects that are to be reviewed</b>		
Aspect-1: The degree of synergy obtained between the SAFE+2 partners, assessing where partners build upon and complement each other's mandate and strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Project Staffs</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities</li> </ul>	-KII -Discussion meeting
Aspect-2: The degree to which innovative approaches have been explored and tried	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Project Staffs</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Host and Rohingya beneficiaries</li> </ul>	-KII -FGD
Aspect 3: The degree to which lessons learned from other programmes, including other cleaner cooking programmes in humanitarian settings, can and still be considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads</li> <li>Staff from Partner organisations that implement SAFE+2 activities.</li> <li>Host and Rohingya beneficiaries</li> <li>Other UN Agency staff</li> <li>Relevant other NGO's</li> </ul>	-KII

### 1.3.4 Data Collection Approach

This evaluation adopted the following different data collection methods and approaches as given below:

- Quantitative Survey
  - Household Survey with Rohingya and host community
- Qualitative Information Collection
  - Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
  - Key Informant Interview (KII)
- Structured observation
- Secondary Documents Review

### 1.3.5 Sample Distribution and Sample Selection Strategy

The evaluation targets specific groups and themes aligned with strategic priorities outlined in the ToR. For gender-related indicators, focusing on women in Rohingya and host communities was emphasised by multiple strategic priorities (described in Table 3). Environmental assessments, covering land use and cover dynamics, involved remote sensing, document analysis, and KII for both Rohingya and host communities. The evaluation also addresses abated carbon dioxide emissions, employing analysis and

insights from previous documentation reviews. This targeted and thematic approach ensured a comprehensive understanding of the programme's impact across different dimensions.

### Quantitative Survey Method

The sample size of workers was determined using the well-known statistical formula for binomial probability. It assumed a two-tailed hypothesis considering a 95% confidence interval and a 5% level of precision. The sample size was also adjusted by a design effect 1.5 to account for the multi-stage sampling.

$n = \frac{Z^2 PQ}{e^2} \times deff$	Where n = Estimated Sample Size, P=0.5 (proportion of target indicator), Q = 1-P, Z= 1.96 (Standard normal variate value at 95% confidence level), e =0.05 (Precision level), deff = Design effect=1.5.
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The total number of samples was distributed purposively among the Rohingya and Host communities. The total number of samples was distributed purposively among the Rohingya and Host communities. To address outcome 3A: % of farmers and producers with increased market sales farmers and producers was added as respondents. The table has outlined the distribution of samples among different types of respondents. The household-level beneficiaries include 592 samples organised into 30 clusters. Additionally, a targeted group of 120 farmers and producers from the host community comprised 10 samples in a single cluster. The evaluation involved 712 samples spread across 40 clusters, ensuring a representative and comprehensive assessment of the programme's impact on Rohingya and host communities. The sampled population was selected using a multi-stage cluster sampling design.

**Table 3: HH Sample Distribution as per the target Communities, Respondents, and Clusters**

Respondents	Target Community	Number of Samples	Number of Clusters
Household level beneficiaries	Rohingya community	592	30
Farmers and producers	Host community	120	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>712</b>	<b>40</b>

### Qualitative Information Collection

**Focus Group Discussion (FGD):** FGDs with the mentioned group provided enough information about their status and the underlying reasons for that, as well as their needs, constraints, and opinions on programme intervention. The primary data collection method employed was Focus Group Discussions (FGD), categorised by the gender of the beneficiaries of the programme and local community members. The respondents, consisting of male and female beneficiaries, participated in four FGDs in host communities and camps. 16 FGDs were conducted separately with the host and Rohingya community of male and female beneficiaries.

### Key Informant Interview (KII):

Key Informant Interviews (KII) included a diverse range of individuals, such as Camp in Charge (CiC), SAFE+2 Strategic Priority leads, Heads of (Sub) Offices from relevant agencies, other UN Agency staff, staff from partner organisations implementing SAFE+2 activities, officials from Department of Forest and Department of Environment in Cox's Bazar district and local community leaders known as Majhi. Each category of respondents was allocated a specific number of interviews, resulting in 22 Key Informant Interviews. This structured approach ensured comprehensive insights from key stakeholders, contributing to a holistic understanding of the strategic priorities and activities within the SAFE+2 programme.



*On-site observation:* HDRC staff visited the SAFE+2 activities in the Cox's Bazar District refugee camps and host community. HDRC team visited the sites in conjunction with the SAFE+2 Partner, as mentioned below.

- Aggregation centre
- Fresh Food Corner
- LPG and Pressure Cooker distribution centre

#### **Document Review:**

Project document review helped gather information related to research topics and list possible sources of existing information based on the availability of sources. Following is an indicative list of documents reviewed for the inception report.

- Assessment Report on the Impact of LPG distribution among the Rohingya and Host communities of Cox's Bazar South Forest division on forest resources developed by IUCN and UNHCR
- Assessment of fuel wood supply and demand in displacement settings and surrounding areas in Cox's Bazar District developed by FAO and IOM
- End Line Evaluation Report of SAFE Plus
- Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-6) Report developed by WFP.
- Review Of Clean Cooking Options for Refugee Settings Cox's Bazar Bangladesh developed by UNHCR.
- ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT OF SAFE+2\_ REPORTING PERIOD: 6 JULY 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2022
- Indicator Based Performance Assessment of SAFE+2: July 2022 – 31 December 2022
- Assessment report on Pressure Cooker Use and LPG Refill Cycle Adjustment developed by IUCN and UNHCR
- Human Health and Environmental Costs and Benefits of Liquefied Petroleum Gas vs. Firewood for Cooking in the Rohingya Refugee Camp, Bangladesh
- Event Report on Linkage Workshop with Relevant Stakeholders: Market Linkage Livelihood Unit, Cox's Bazar
- Women Autonomy Index (Gender equality and women's empowerment)
- Proposal of Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE Plus 2)
- Result Framework of SAFE Plus 2
- Elrha-R2HC\_Research-Snapshot on impacts of providing cooking fuel in refugee camps.
- Reprioritized Activity Plan of (SAFE Plus 2)

### **1.3.6 Quality Assurance Mechanism**

The data collection involved 12 field personnel divided between two teams. The field personnel were trained for three days, and one day was dedicated to field practice. The field practice ensured that the tab-based application was running without error. The teams uploaded data daily, and a reviewer checked the data consistency. The fieldwork was completed in two weeks.

Qualified supervision and monitoring team performed quality control during data collection teams during Fieldwork. The supervisors maintained close contact with the teams under their responsibility and with the core team. In addition, field control tables (data quality tables) were run to detect systematic errors during field data collection. In case of such systematic data errors, the core team followed up with field personnel and the responsible team through discussion.

**Accuracy Assessment for LULC:** The evaluation adopted ArcGIS 10.8 to assess the accuracy of classified images. Randomly generated reference points were compared to user-assigned classes.



### 1.3.7 Challenges of the Evaluation and Mitigation Measures

- One of the challenges was understanding the Rohingya community's colloquial local language, which is similar to the dialect of Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas of Cox's Bazar District. It was also difficult for us to communicate with the Rohingya and host community using their local language as it is unknown to us. For this reason, we deployed the local educated and skilled data enumerators and provided intensive training to collect the most accurate data and information.
- There is always a growing concern over the Bangladesh-Myanmar border as the Myanmar internal conflict intensifies, causing major displacement of people fleeing towards the border<sup>4</sup>. The evaluation also faced a difficult situation during field data collection because of the concern created by Myanmar's internal conflict. As a result, it obtained permission to collect data from the RRRC after the decrease in the Bangladesh-Myanmar border concern. Therefore, it took more than one month to finish this evaluation.
- It was challenging to monitor and review the reforestation activities without the help of Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) officials and programme personnel. There were always restrictions on visiting all places because of conflict over natural resources between the Rohingya and the host community. Finally, we managed to visit the reforestation places with the respective permission.
- This programme has not set any baseline and target value against its many outcome and output indicators. So, measuring the degree of achievement based on the outcome indicators is challenging.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/growing-concern-bangladesh-myanmar-conflict-intensifies-causing-major-uptick-people>

## Section 2: The Programme Design and Strategic Priorities

### 2.1 Strategic Priorities and Outcomes

The stated goal of the SAFE+ 2 programme is- “Refugee and host communities will become more climate-resilient, and food secure as well as less exposed to gender-based violence (GBV) and disaster risks through sustained access to cleaner cooking energy, improved natural resource management, and green skills development and livelihoods.” As a second phase of the programme, the programme maintains the same goal but is refocused on three main strategic priorities.

The programme’s first strategic objective is to positively impact the nutrition, health, and protection status of 200,000 Rohingya refugees in the Cox’s Bazar District by providing them with access to cleaner energy for cooking purposes. Under this strategic objective, the programme distributed cylinders of liquified petroleum gas (LPG). LPG provisions have positively impacted environmental restoration efforts by removing the need for refugees to collect firewood. While research earlier found LPG to be the safest, cleanest burning, scalable, and most cost-efficient cooking fuel source for the refugees in the Cox’s Bazar area, alternative cooking fuel options continue to be assessed in the year 2023/24.

The SAFE+2 programme’s main expected Outcome under Strategic Priority One, ‘Access to Cleaner Energy,’ is that targeted households have safe and sufficient access to cleaner cooking energy to meet their basic needs. This is done through three Outputs: Output 1: Refugee households have continual safe access to cleaner cooking fuel (LPG); Output 2: Targeted households have access to energy-efficient, reliable, and modern cooking equipment; Output 3: Energy needs and alternatives are assessed.

The second programme objective is to directly contribute to the environment and ecosystems in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps and the Cox’s Bazar District host community through restoration, disaster risk reduction, and conflict mitigation efforts. Partners’ work in this area focuses on greening the refugee camps and surroundings through planting, preventing erosion and landslides through slope stabilisation, and watershed activities. This objective also focuses on natural resources management, refugee/ host community relations, and environmental research.

The expected outcome under Strategic Priority Two, ‘Environment and Ecosystems,’ is that the environment and ecosystems are rehabilitated to strengthen community resilience and mitigate conflict over natural resources, disasters, and climate shocks. This is done through the following three outputs: Output: 2.1 Environment and socio-ecological knowledge are managed; Output: 2.2 Watersheds are managed, and ecosystems rehabilitated; Output: 2.3 Community Capacity to manage conflicts over natural resources is strengthened.

The third programme objective focuses on enhancing the resilience of the Rohingya refugee population and the Bangladeshi host community by implementing environmentally friendly skills development, livelihoods, and self-sustainability activities. Beneficiaries receive the possibility of obtaining cash for work. Rohingya refugees are provided with greener skills through training and cash for work activities.

The expected Outcome under Strategic Priority Three is to increase the resilience of vulnerable host communities and Rohingya refugees. Outcomes here have been segregated into vulnerable host communities and Rohingya refugees, respectively. Outcome 3A ensures that the resilience of vulnerable host communities, especially women, is sustained. This is targeted through the following

Outputs: Output 3A.1 Market and value chain analysis is conducted to identify sectors for green economic growth; Output: 3A.2 Vulnerable host community households produce environmentally sustainable products and services; Output: 3A.3 Established on- and off-farm producer groups are linked to markets.

## 2.2 Expected Impact of the Programme

### 2.2.1 Strategic Priority 1: Access to Cleaner Energy

#### **Short term impact**

The continuation of the LPG assistance to Rohingya households will enable food preparation, avoid risk exposure to GBV during firewood collection, and prevent the exploitation of 533,630 tonnes per year of firewood from the mixed hilly forest, which is approximately equivalent to 10,700 hectares and 655,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions abated.

#### **Long term impact**

Access to safe energy will reduce the risk of trauma associated with GBV and support good health, food security, and nutrition, especially for growing children. The prevention of firewood consumption across and around camps and the combined effort of reforestation under Strategic Priority Two of this Programme will restore the depleted natural resources of denuded hills and slopes, reducing the risk of landslides and soil loss, recharge underground water reserves, and re-establish critical habitat for biodiversity.

### 2.2.2 Strategic Priority 2: Energy and Environment

#### **Short-term impact**

Land stabilisation and reforestation activities will contribute to the immediate protection of Rohingya refugees and host communities by reducing the risks of flash flooding and landslides and contributing to climate resilience and related adaptation measures. Ecosystem rehabilitation will support the conservation of biodiversity and habitat of the endangered Asian Wild Elephant. Community-based Human Elephant Contact (HEC) mitigation measures will continue to protect the refugees and Elephants from harm by managing human-wildlife contact in an informed and coordinated way. Knowledge management, including assessments conducted, will inform watershed, sustainable land use, and natural resource management planning, monitoring, and evaluation to guide implementation while supporting coordination between partners and stakeholders.

#### **Long-term impact**

Interventions under Strategic Priority Two will contribute to the responsible management of natural resources in the area aligned with the climate action plan of the GoB through improved agricultural practices and diversified income opportunities for local farmers and forest-dependent communities. They will contribute to institutional strengthening of government and civil society involvement in sustainable natural resource management and governance. They will also contribute to biodiversity conservation and ensure better ecosystem functionality while strengthening social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

### 2.2.3 Strategic Priority 3: Resilience

#### **Short-term impact**

Interventions will increase environmentally and economically sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthen market linkages to improve earning opportunities for vulnerable communities. It will also increase communication opportunities and trust between refugees and host communities.

#### **Long-term impact**

Interventions will contribute to creating more resilient households and increasing the peaceful coexistence between the Rohingya and host communities. Localising the humanitarian response creates market opportunities for local producers, with more extensive and diverse markets offering better chances for increasing producers' marginal profit.

## 2.3 Gender

SAFE+2 partners are committed to ensuring gender mainstreaming and empowerment through gender-sensitive approaches at each level of the intervention, with the integration of women receiving specific attention. All participants in the SAFE+2-supported self-help group/income generation activities are female. As for self-reliance activities, over 60% of participants are female, while in DRR/reforestation activities, 30% of participants are female. Stanford University/ ICDRR research confirmed that SAFE+ LPG distributions reduce GBV and support gender participation and empowerment by increasing the time for girls and boys to participate in education.

All site development and management activities are gender—and diversity-sensitive, with the most vulnerable households considered a priority for assistance and support. During LPG distributions, SAFE+2 partners ensure that community engagement considers age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming and that there are dedicated queues and other services for women at the distribution points.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Proposal: Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE Plus 2)

## Section 3: Key Findings of The Evaluation

### 3.1 Household Background Information

#### Host Community

The total sample was 120 for the host community, comprising 14.2% males and 85.8% females. Nearly one-third (30%) of our surveyed host community respondents were more than 45 years old, while one-fifth (21.7%) were between 35 to 39 years and 40 to 44 years (See Annex Table 23). As many as 90.8% of the respondents are married, a few (5%) are widows, and 3.3% are divorced or separated (See Table 24). Less than two-thirds (60.8%) of the surveyed households had 4 to 6 household members, and one-fifth (21.7%) had 7 to 9 family members. The average household size was counted for 5.7 family members (See Annex Table 26). Nearly half of the (47.5%) surveyed host households had under-5 children, and about three-fifths (61.1%) of the u-5 children were school-going children (See Annex Table 27). As per their reporting, 72.5% of households had adolescents, while 93.1% of these adolescents were used to going to school. Only 9.2% of these adolescents are engaged in income-generating activities (See Annex Table 27). It is also observable that only 15% of households had elderly people. This evaluation also accounted for 2.0% of households having persons with disabilities. The most mentionable disabilities were Physically Impaired (52.9%), sight Impaired (17.6%), cognitive Impaired (11.8%), and Speech Impaired (11.8%) (See Annex Table 28). Lastly, the average earning member of the host community is 1.3 people, while the average household income was 12,415 Tk (See Annex Table 29).

#### Rohingya Refugee Community

The total sample was 592 for the Rohingya community, comprising 29.2% males and 70.8% females. Our surveyed Rohingya community has been staying in Bangladesh for 6.1 years on average (Annex Table 25). Nearly one-third (29.2%) of our surveyed Rohingya community respondents were more than 45 years old, while one-fifth (21.6%) were between 24 and 29 years old, with 17.2% for 30 to 34 years. A mentionable number of Rohingya (14%) were between 35 and 39 years old (See Annex Table 23). As many as 84% of the respondents are married, a few (9.5%) are widows, and 3.4% are divorced or separated (See Annex Table 24). More than two-fourths (55.4%) of the surveyed households had 4 to 6 household members, while one-fifth (20.8%) had 7 to 9 family members, and 20.1% had 1 to 3 members. The average household size was 5.2 family members (See Annex Table 26). More than two-fourths (56.6%) of the surveyed Rohingya households had under 5 children, and about half (51%) of the u-5 children were school-going children (See Annex Table 27). As per their reporting, 55.9% of households had adolescents, while 76.4% of these adolescents were used to going to school. Only 12.1% of these adolescents are engaged in income-generating activities (See Annex Table 27). It is also observable that only 11.7% of households had elderly people. This evaluation has also accounted that 13% of households have persons with disabilities, while most mentionable disabilities were Physically Impaired (35.1%), cognitively Impaired (29.9%), Speech Impaired (13%), and sight impaired (13%) (See Annex Table 28).

### 3.2 Programme Performance and Effectiveness

The SAFE+2 implementing partners, especially FAO, IOM, UNHCR, and WFP, have executed, to some extent, a list of planned activities per the developed outcomes set under the strategic priorities based on the available budget. It is mentionable that some activities have not been fully executed because of fund shortages in 2023, while it is expected that these will be done in 2024-25 based on the availability of funds. However, it is noticeable that the achievements captured through this mid-term evaluation are visible against all the baseline values and targets.

Under strategic priority 1, this programme, under the direction of IOM and UNHCR, provided LPG and partially pressure cookers to the Rohingya communities as per planned activities. However, 100% of targeted Rohingya households have been provided LPG, and 85,000 have been provided pressure cookers. Pressure Cookers have so far only been distributed in the UNHCR managed camps while a further distribution in IOM managed camps is under discussion.

Under strategic priority 2, FAO in partnership with IOM and WFP, carried out a list of activities like revegetation, slope revegetation, roadside plantation, and cash-for-work for tree and forest maintenance.

Under strategic priority 3, WFP and FAO integrated the Family Farming System (Agriculture, Livestock, and Fishery), the development of Aggregation/Collection Center guidelines, and the capacity development of farmers' aggregation centres.

### **Achievements against its target Outcome Indicators**

The programme's stated goal is that "Refugee and host communities will become more climate-resilient, and food secure as well as less exposed to gender-based violence (GBV) and disaster risks through sustained access to cleaner cooking energy, improved natural resource management, and green skills development and livelihoods." This evaluation was designed to consider this goal and the outcome indicators mentioned in the terms of reference.

This evaluation has assessed the effectiveness of this programme based on the outcome indicators to draw an evidence-based achievement against all the outcome indicators set under the three strategic priorities. This finding has helped us understand the degree of success in achieving its target and how the programme should be designed to fulfil its full target within the rest of the period.

### **Strategic Priority 1: Cleaner Cooking Energy**

Under this strategic priority, access to cleaner energy is focused on providing cleaner and more efficient cooking energy sources by supplying LPG and energy-efficient cooking equipment to reduce deforestation and mitigate climate change. The outcome indicator is: "Targeted households have safe and sufficient access to cleaner cooking energy to meet their basic needs."

The programme's Strategic Priority 1 focused on 'Access to Cleaner Energy', which included the LPG refill cylinder distribution according to the projected time schedule as per the household size. This programme has also done first-time or replacement stoves and training. These activities aim to decrease the use of firewood among Rohingya households. As a result, deforestation will be stopped, and carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced because of less use of firewood. In 2023, this programme distributed LPG to all targeted Rohingya households in 33 refugee camps in 2023. An annual total of 1,797,092 refills have been provided to these households in 2023. 194,937 HHs<sup>6</sup> received 10.42 (12kg) LPG refills around the year. IOM and UNHCR are playing a vital role in distributing these LPGs to the enlisted Rohingya households. This evaluation has found the effectiveness of the result drawn through the execution of the designed programme activities.

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<sup>6</sup> Number of registered households by December 2023 as per UNHCR

**Table 6: Mid-term achievements of 'Access to Cleaner Energy' based on outcome Indicators in comparison with Baseline.**

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term	Target	Comments
Outcome 1: Targeted households have safe and sufficient access to cleaner cooking energy to meet their basic needs				
# Equivalent hectares forest protected	10,700 <sup>7</sup>	13,390	10,700	1,797,092 refills to 194,937 HHs (annually)
# Tonnes carbon dioxide emissions abated.	407,000 annually (Using Stanford University/ ICDDR baseline data) <sup>8</sup>	375,300 annually (Using Stanford University/ ICDDR baseline data)	407,000 (Stanford/ICDDR baseline)  655,000 annually (J-MSNA baseline)	194,937 HHs received 10.42 (12kg) LPG refills around the year. Average HH size 5.31.

This evaluation identified that in the absence of LPG every Rohingya household would require an average of 5.3 kg of firewood per day, equivalent to 159 kg per month, meaning that every household would require the same amount of firewood every month. The amount of firewood needed has been saved by using LPG. Through this, LPG distribution has saved 13,390 hectares of forest, higher than the baseline and target value (10,700). Additionally, the use of LPG has caused a reduction of 375,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. In this case, the baseline estimated value was 407,000. It is assumed that the reason for not achieving the 'carbon dioxide emissions abated target' is the Rohingya community's number of households. It should be noted that the baseline of 407,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> was calculated in 2019, prior to the opening of Bashan Char, with a total number of households of 211,382. The reduction compared to the baseline can therefore be explained by the reduction of the number of households in Cox's Bazar<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment: SAFE+2 reporting period 06 July 2022- 31 December 2022

<sup>8</sup> Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment: SAFE+2 reporting period 06 July 2022- 31 December 2022

<sup>9</sup> The research team from Stanford has revised their calculation during the development of the mid-term evaluation albeit with the same baseline number of households.

## Strategic Priority 2: Environment and Ecosystems

This strategic priority focused on ecosystem rehabilitation, environmental conservation, and climate action, strengthening refugee-host community relations, and mitigating conflicts over natural resources. SAFE+2 partners, executed a list of activities like revegetation of land, slope revegetation, and roadside plantation<sup>10</sup>. WFP continues cash-for-work to plant, maintain, and look after the planted and afforested land. WFP and IOM are implementing field projects, while FAO provides planting materials and technical guidance for the reforestation and restoration of ecosystems. This evaluation has counted the effectiveness of these activities at the field level through an assessment of the outcome indicators. It is to be noted that not all the planned activities have been executed due to a shortage of funds. However, the partial activities already carried out have a practical impact. During this programme, WFP, UNHCR and IOM with technical support from FAO supported tree plantation covering 105 hectares of land (32 ha in 2022 and 73 ha in 2023). As a result, 11.69% of ecosystems were rehabilitated during this time<sup>11</sup> (See Figure 6 and Table 7). Through the execution of all activities, this intervention was successful in managing 1,279 tonnes of carbon sequestration<sup>12</sup>.

**Table 7: Mid-term achievements of “Environment and Ecosystems” based on outcome Indicators in comparison with Baseline.**

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term	Target
Outcome 2: Environment and ecosystems rehabilitated to strengthen community resilience to mitigate conflict over natural resources, disasters, and climate shocks.			
% Of land/ecosystems rehabilitated in Cox’s Bazar through Programme interventions	TBD	11.69%	TBD
Tonnes carbon dioxide sequestered through Programme interventions	TBD	1,279	TBD
% Of conflicts over natural resources successfully managed	0 <sup>13</sup>	30.4%	TBD

Under the indicator: “Community's capacity to manage conflicts over natural resources”, a list of activities like human-elephant conflict mitigation by supporting households with training and logistics for conflict resolution was planned by this programme. However, a shortage of funds has postponed some of these activities from 2023 to 2024. It is discussed that the programme will execute these activities after receiving the available funds. However, this evaluation reveals that communities has resolved one-third of the total conflicts (30.4%) as per the survey data. These conflicts over natural resources are solved mainly by joint coordination between the host and Rohingya community and the government and camp, including the camp in charge (CiC) (See Annex Table 3). All activities related to this outcome must be completed for better effectiveness.

## Strategic Priority 3: Resilience

Strategic priority 3 attempted to strengthen resilience and existing livelihood capacities while preventing further environmental harm due to negative coping strategies and unsustainable agriculture practices. Outcome 3A is: “The resilience of vulnerable host communities, especially women, is sustained.”

As per the findings, under outcome 3A, FAO and WFP have managed to perform a few activities like different climate-smart agriculture programmes to facilitate learning and exchange of best practices, development of integrated Family Farming Systems (Agriculture, Livestock, and Fishery) guidelines, development of Aggregation/Collection Center guidelines and strengthening of the existing network

<sup>10</sup> Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment SAFE+2 reporting period 06 July 2022- 31 December 2022

<sup>11</sup> Analysed using GIS data specifics shared by FAO. The methodology is described in annex.

<sup>12</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment: SAFE+2 reporting period 06 July 2022- 31 December 2022



and capacity of farmers' aggregation centres. But many of the planned activities are incomplete because of a shortage of funds.

Table 8: Mid-term achievements based on outcome Indicators in comparison with Baseline.

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term	Target
<b>Outcome 3A: The resilience of vulnerable host communities, especially women, is sustained</b>			
% Of farmers and producers with increased market sales.	TBD	36.3%	TBD

In the meantime, this evaluation has found that about 76.7% of the surveyed 120 host community households received training under this programme. As a result of the programme activities, this evaluation has accounted for 36.3% of farmers and producers with increased market sales. It is mentionable that those who have received agricultural training are engaged in production. Per producer, the average production of 2023 is 789 kg, which is higher than the average production (749 kg) of 2022 (See Annex Table 5). It is also noticeable that 61.7% of our survey host community sells their production through the Aggregation Centre (See Annex Table 6), which underlines that a value chain market for the produced goods has been developed. As per the evaluation findings, 36.3% of farmers and producers successfully increased their production and market sales. Through this increased production and market sales, the resilience of a portion of farmers and producers has increased.

***"After receiving training from the Aggregation Centre on homestead gardening, I have started producing different types of vegetables. This has provided me with a great opportunity to use these vegetables for the family and earn money by selling them in the market sometimes."***

***One of the Community women of Ukhia Upazila***

#### Gender Dimension:

SAFE+2 has paid particular attention to the gender and vulnerable groups to strengthen gender mainstreaming and empowerment by adopting a gender-sensitive approach at each level of the intervention. According to the secondary documents, this programme has ensured 22% of female headed HH for LPG distribution. Additionally, this programme has provided LPG to 12.5% of households with at least one person with a disability and 17.1% of households with elderly people<sup>14</sup>.

Additionally, based on the survey, this evaluation found that many more females (88.9%) have received agricultural training than the number of males (11.1%) (See Annex Table 7). Additionally, 62.1% of women and girls have reported that they have been able to reduce the hours spent on unpaid care work due to involvement in the SAFE+2 programme.

Table 9: Mid-term achievements based on outcome Indicators in comparison with Baseline and Target

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term	Target
a: % approximate number of women and girls (individuals) who report reduced hours spent on unpaid care work due to SAFE+2 activities.	TBD	62.1%	TBD
<b>b: The percentage of Rohingya households enrolled in SAFE+2 programme activities where women, men, or both women and men decide to use transferred resources.</b>			
% Of men in Rohingya households make decisions on the use of transferred resources.	TBD	31.2%	TBD
% Of women in Rohingya households make decisions on the use of transferred resources.	TBD	40.3%	TBD

<sup>14</sup> SAFE II Annual Narrative Report: Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment SAFE+2 reporting period 06 July 2022- 31 December 2022

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term	Target
% Of both men and women in Rohingya households make decisions on using transferred resources.	TBD	28.5%	TBD

Additionally, SAFE+2 provided the Rohingya communities with LPG refills, skill development training, a pressure cooker, e-voucher provision, and income-generating opportunities from skill development training. This evaluation attempted to assess the decision-making process for using these transferred resources. As per the findings, about 40.3% of Rohingya women decide to use these transferred resources, while 31.2% of men make this decision.

The Women's Autonomy Index measures the extent of women's autonomy manifested through several key dimensions, such as their access to income, mobility, freedom of expression, and others<sup>15</sup>. This programme has already provided a number of resources and training to the host community and the Rohingya Community. This evaluation also tried to measure women's condition regarding their access to income, mobility, and freedom of expression by using the women's autonomy index (See Annex 2).

**Table 10: Score for the Women's Autonomy Index**

Women's Autonomy Index for			
Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term	Target
(a) skills development activities in the refugee community	TBD	0.46 (out of 1.0) Or 2.3 (out of 7.0)	TBD
b) livelihood activities in the host community	TBD	0.49 (out of 1.0) Or 3.43 (out of 7.0)	TBD

As per the evaluation findings, the women of the refugee community engaged in skill development activities have a score of 0.46 (out of 1.0). The alternative description is that they have an average of 2.3 out of 7 points, meaning they are strong enough in nearly two and a half of the 7 indicators. At the same time, the average score for the host community women is 0.49 (out of 1.0), meaning that they are strong in more than 3 out of 7 indicators Please see Box 1 below.

Box-1: Assessment of Women's Autonomy Index
<p><b>All the sampled respondents of Both the Rohingya and the Host community were asked about the status of 7 indicators as given below:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Did you (Beneficiary/selected woman) earn income in the past 12 months?</li> <li>2- How much did you contribute to the HH income on average for each month in the last 12 months (in BDT)?</li> <li>3- How much was your contribution in the planning income-generating activity that you were a part of?</li> <li>4- How much was your contribution to the management of the income-generating activity that you were a part of?</li> <li>5- How much was your contribution in execution of the income-generating activity that you were a part of?</li> <li>6- Who makes the <b>decision</b> regarding spending the money?</li> <li>7- What is the major challenge you have faced while executing the IGA?</li> </ol> <p>We assessed their decision-making freedom based on the 7 indicators mentioned above. We considered any response of yes or contribution in each indicator to be their freedom to make a decision.</p>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.indikit.net/indicator/327-women-s-autonomy-index>

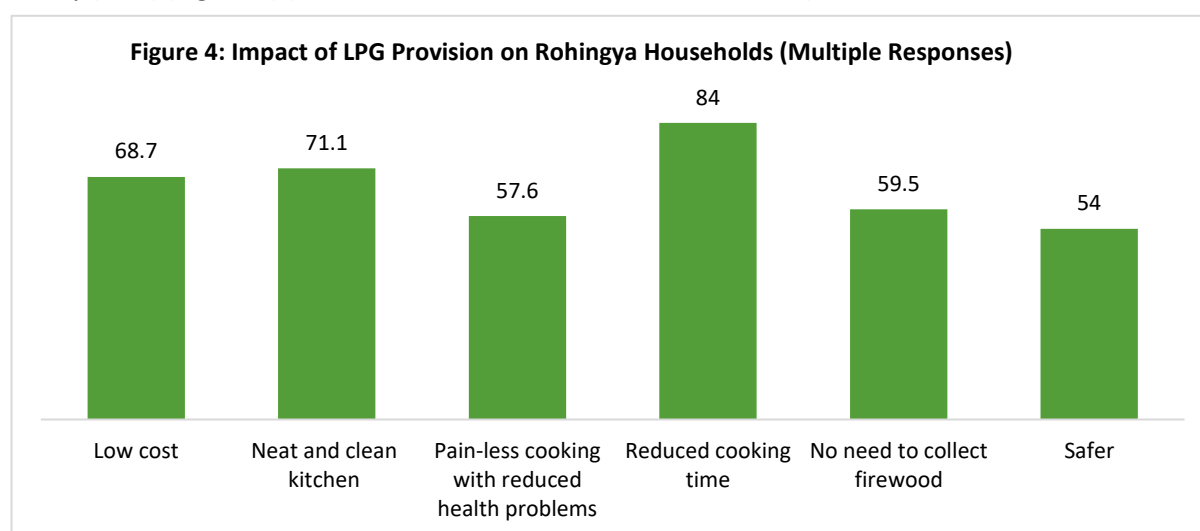
### 3.3 Impact of the Programme

This section has attempted to assess the effect of the programme interventions on beneficiaries, including Rohingya and the host community. This evaluation is an attempt to measure the effectiveness of organizational activities and judge the significance of changes brought about by those activities.

#### Impact of Programme Activities Executed under Strategic Priority 1: Cleaner Cooking Energy

All our surveyed Rohingya households are receiving LPG under this programme, while 85,000 have already received pressure cookers (See Annex Tables 10 and 11). This intervention was planned to reach an estimated 200,000<sup>16</sup> Refugee households as direct beneficiaries. As per the UNHCR data registration after the inception of SAFE+2<sup>17</sup>. All the Rohingya households have been covered by the LPG provision, which has positively impacted the Rohingya communities in many dimensions. It is noteworthy to mention that if all the LPG-provided families are distributed pressure cookers, there could be a reduction of approximately 11.3% in LPG usage. However, the data reveals that gas savings vary across families<sup>18</sup>. So, the programme should consider taking all the target Rohingya households under the provision of pressure cookers.

According to the reporting of the surveyed Rohingya households, the impact of LPG provision on their daily lives is reduced cooking time (84%), a neat and clean kitchen (71.1%), low cost (68.7%), no need to collect firewood (59.5%), pain-less cooking with reduced health problems (57.6%), and increased safety (54%) (Figure 4) (Please see Annex Table 14 for more details).



Along with the LPG provision, as many as 85,000 of the Programme's targeted households have received pressure cookers, while 87.5% of them use them frequently as per the reporting of the surveyed refugee households. They generally use this pressure cooker an average of 6.5 times a week (See Annex Table 20).

<sup>16</sup> Proposal: Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE Plus 2)

<sup>17</sup> Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment SAFE+2 reporting period 06 July 2022- 31 December 2022

<sup>18</sup> Assessment Report on Pressure Cooker Use and LPG Refill Cycle Adjustment conducted by UNHCR and IUCN

***“We are delighted and impressed with this LPG and Pressure Cooker, as these cooking materials, including LPG, have saved money and tension from collecting firewood. Additionally, purchasing firewood from the market costs a considerable amount of money, and collecting firewood from the forest was embarrassing for us.”***

***One of the FGD Participants from Rohingya Camp***

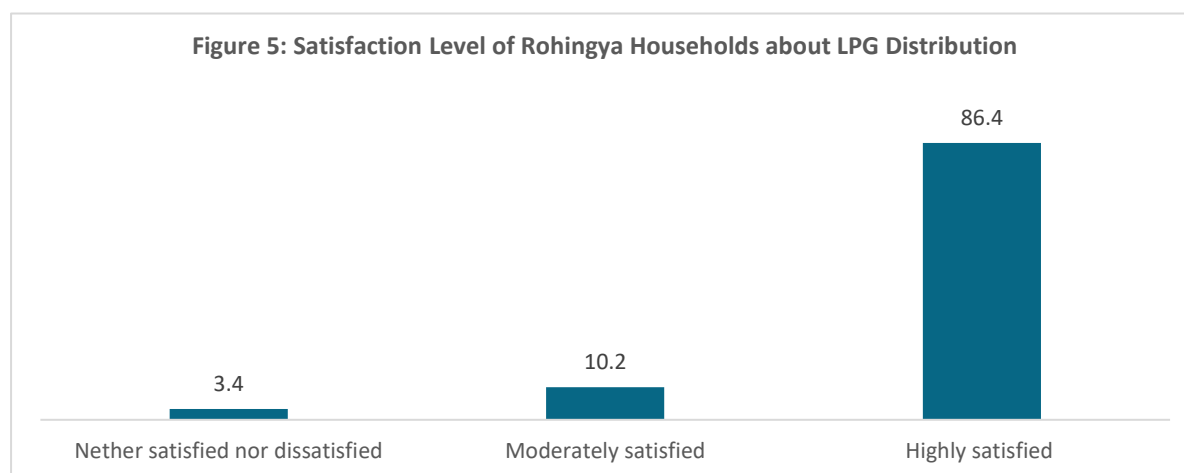
Per our FGD findings at Ukhiya and Teknaf, women and other adolescent girls and boys were primarily responsible for collecting wood from the forests and markets. However, it was always challenging for the women and adolescents collecting firewood because they sometimes became the victims of harassment and abuse. So, there was always tension among these women and adolescents. They even observed such incidents that were embarrassing for them. Another important impact is that they need not be worried about cooking even if the weather is rough or rainy because of LPG availability. A few of them have also added that cooking with a pressure cooker has saved them money and time.

***“Mostly women and girls were responsible for collecting firewood from forestland and the market. So, there was always a concern about being abused, but LPG distribution has significantly reduced women’s tension and concern in this regard. Additionally, pressure cookers have helped save money, time, and cooking energy. Consequently, we hardly need to collect firewood from the forest and market.”***

***FGD Participants of the Rohingya Community from Teknaf Upazila***

Additionally, deforestation has decreased due to using LPG instead of firewood. 13,390 Equivalent hectares of forest have been protected, while 375,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions have been abated (See Table 6). However, this LPG provision has a greater impact on the Cox’s Bazar environment through the protection of forest land.

Around 86.4% of households are highly satisfied, while 10.2% are moderately satisfied with the distribution of LPG and cooking materials. Very few households (3.4%) are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (Figure 5).



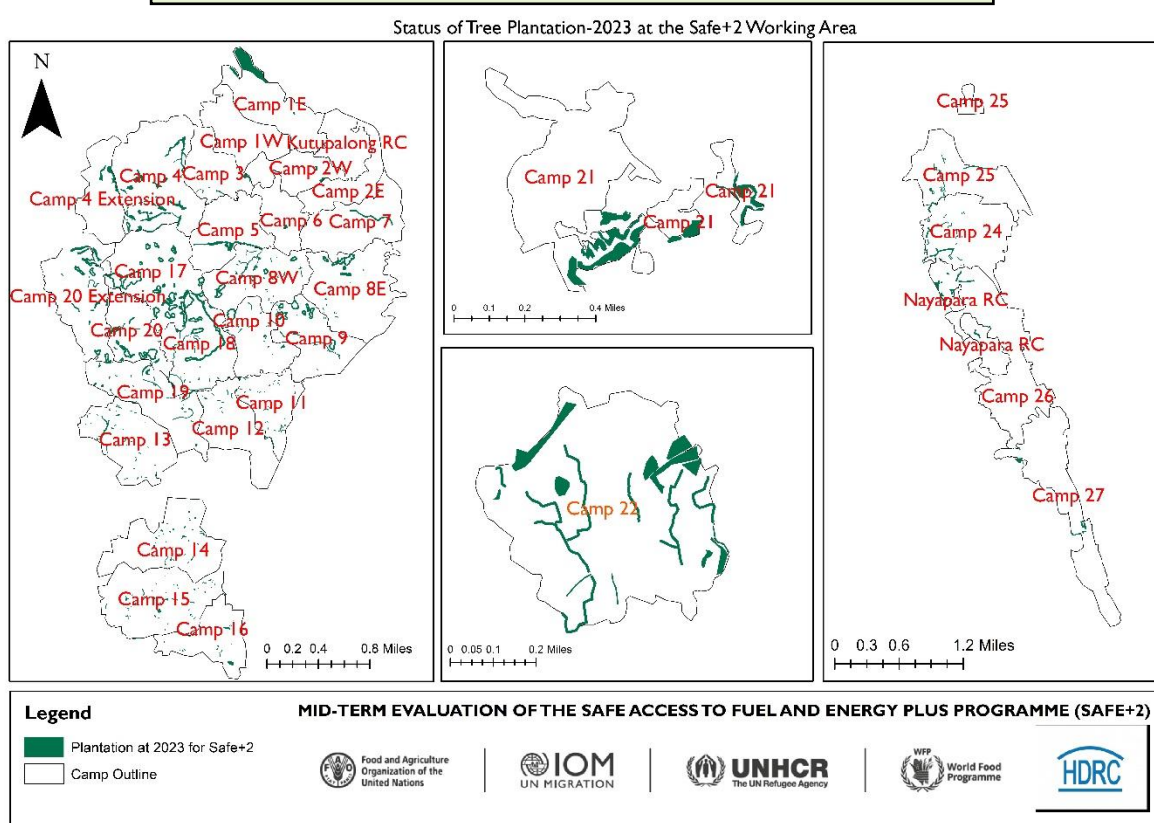
***“The LPG distribution has played a vital role in reducing deforestation by decreasing the demand for firewood among the Rohingya community, which would have been cut from forest land. Thus, this programme has protected us from deforestation and carbon dioxide emissions.”***

***Assistant Conservator of Forests, Teknaf Upazila***

## Impact of Programme Activities Executed under Strategic Priority 2: Environment and Ecosystems

This intervention focuses heavily on mitigating the environmental impacts of the refugee influx and restoring the local ecosystems in refugee and host community watersheds in Cox's Bazar District. The 2017 influx of Rohingya refugees led to extensive ecological damage, mainly deforestation, due to the clearing of forest land and the terracing of hills for the refugee settlement, and the denuding of forests for firewood. More than 7,000 hectares of forest in refugee and host communities have been extremely damaged or lost<sup>19</sup>. Considering this situation, the programme's primary intention was to decrease deforestation through LPG provision to the Rohingya community. Under this strategic priority, tree plantation, including revegetation of land and slope, is also important to restore and rehabilitate the ecosystem. This intervention is working on enhancing community awareness and capacity for environmental management.

**Figure 6: GIS Identification of Tree Plantation in 2022 and 2023**



<sup>19</sup> A UN Joint Project to Address Cooking Fuel Needs, Environmental Degradation and Food Security for Rohingya Refugees and Affected Host Communities (Proposal: Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE+2))

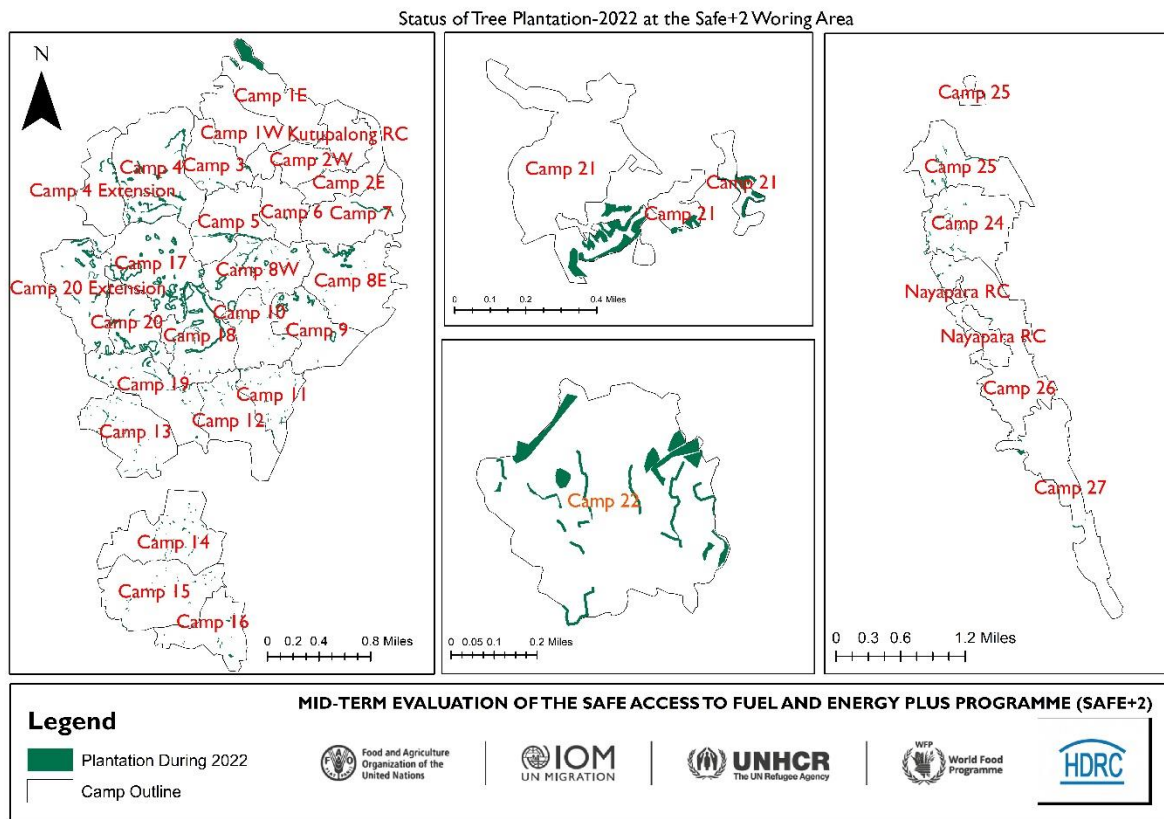
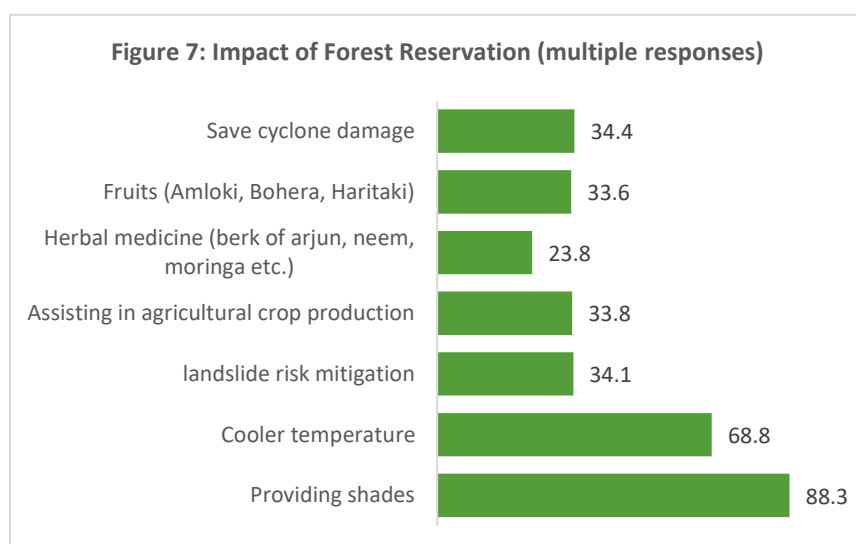


Figure 6 shows the tree plantation areas as per the camps of Teknaf and Ukhiya located under Cox's Bazar district. Green marks the places where trees were planted in 2022 and 2023. SAFE+2 partners have planted trees covering 105 hectares of land (32 hectares in 2022 and 73 hectares in 2023) during SAFE+2. As per evaluation findings, about 5.9% of the Rohingya community is engaged in the maintenance of tree plantations at a minimum cost of wages (the wage is 525 BDT for skilled persons and 350 BDT only for unskilled persons). Now, they are becoming aware of the benefits of forest reservations. In response to the opinion about the impact of forest conservation on their day-to-day life, they mentioned many options of benefits like providing shades (88.3%), cooler temperature (68.8%), slide risk mitigation (34.1%), protecting against cyclone damage (34.4%), providing fruits (33.6%) and herbal medicine (23.8%) (See Figure 7). It is also mentionable that the Department of Forest has helped this programme develop a land stabilization method, promoting the plantation of various fast-growing indigenous species and replanting in the area, which was previously national forest land.

***Because of the Rohingya refugee influx in Bangladesh, our environment has already been partially damaged and is still in continuation. The tree plantation and the revegetation programme currently being executed are important initiatives to recover and restore the damage. However, this initiative is not enough for a full recovery; it is praiseworthy.***

***Assistant Conservator of Forests, Teknaf Upazila***





As per the reporting of the surveyed Rohingya households, the conflict between the host and the Rohingya community over natural resources has decreased in the meantime. Further, the capacity of these communities to resolve this conflict has also increased. Per our findings, an average of 2.6 conflicts occurred every year, and initiatives were taken 1.2 times per conflict to

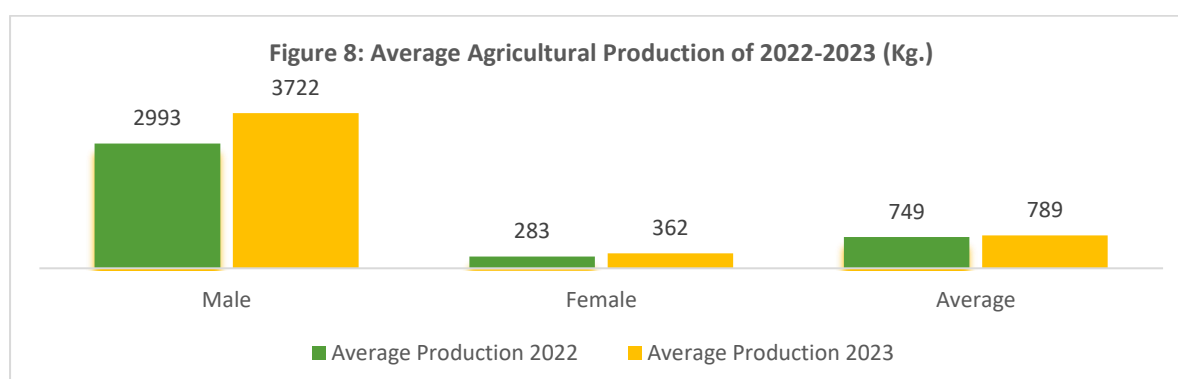
resolve those conflicts. However, most (43.5%) of the conflicts were managed by the joint coordination of the host and Rohingya community. In a few cases, CiC officers or the government (13%) took the initiative to resolve these conflicts (See Annex Table 3). As per our qualitative findings, there were many more conflicts between host and Rohingya communities in the previous years. The main reason for this conflict was to access natural resources. For example, collecting firewood from the forestland was a crucial cause of this conflict. At present, the intention of the Rohingya community to collect firewood from forestland has decreased because of getting the facility of LPG provision. They are also becoming aware of the negative impact of deforestation.

***Recently, the conflict over natural resources between the host and Rohingya community has significantly decreased compared to previous years. Most of the time, host and Rohingya communities resolve these conflicts by arranging dialogue between them. Sometimes, CiC and government officials help resolve this problem.***

**FGD participant of Rohingya Community, Ukhiya Upazila**

### Impact of Programme Activities Executed under Strategic Priority 3: Resilience

Under this strategic priority, this intervention aims to increase environmentally and economically sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthen market linkages to improve earning opportunities for vulnerable communities. As per the survey findings, this has increased communication opportunities and trust between the refugee and host communities. As a result, households have been more resilient by expanding market opportunities for local farmers and producers with their increased production and sales. Considering this, this programme has strengthened links between production in the host community and needs in the Rohingya camps (e.g., fresh vegetables), as discussed below.



As per our findings, 76.7% of our surveyed host community had received training, while this training was provided to many more women (88.9%) than men (11.1%) (See Annex Table 16). Most of the females (69.3%) received agricultural farming and homestead gardening (15.9%), poultry farming (4.5%), and tailoring (5.7%). Most males took Agriculture farming (81.8%) (See Annex Table 18).

The training provided to males and females has a noteworthy impact on increasing agricultural production. The increase in average agricultural production in 2023 (789 kg) is higher than in 2022 (749 kg), which is evidence of the impact of training on the host community. As per their reporting, the average price of this production was 37,193 Tk. in 2023 and 21,329 Tk. In 2022 (See Annex Table 5). Along with this, nearly one-fourth (24%) of our surveyed Rohingya households received IGA training, while women participants (74.6%) were higher than males (25.4%) (See Annex Table 19). As per the discussion with the Rohingya community, they ensured that most Rohingya women are engaged in vegetable production through homestead gardening. Through this production, they fulfil their food need.

***“Before the Rohingya influx, we only produced rice and did not consider commercial production of vegetables. But after the Rohingya influx in Bangladesh, we started producing vegetables commercially and have had a big opportunity to sell these food products through Aggregation Centres. As a result, we are making profits. The UN Agencies have provided us with this opportunity by arranging training for us.”***

***Women Participants of Host Community Women, Ukhiya Upazila***



### 3.4 Efficiency

This evaluation found that this programme achieved mentionable results within the available budget based on the activities executed in this period. However, the implementing agencies needed more funds to carry out all the planned activities. The results are visible, measurable, and logical as per the budget spent for execution at the field level.

However, the information related to budget and funding sources has been accumulated from different documents like safe access to fuel and energy plus, phase 2 (safe+2) annual programme narrative progress report reporting period: 6 July 2022 – 31 December 2022, SAFE+2 Reprioritized Activity Plan (2023 - March 2025) and technical proposal: Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE Plus 2).

#### Source of Fund for this Programme

Evaluating the efficiency based on funding requirements and available funding at the mid-term of the programme is challenging, especially as funding under strategic priorities 2 and 3 has been shifted to 2024 for implementation. Further, a significant proportion of the budgeted activities under SAFE+2 is funded outside the programme through bilateral contributions. Until the end of 2023, under strategic priority 1, 69% of the activities have been funded outside the SAFE+2 programme, while for priority 2, 66% and under priority 3, 92% were funded outside the programme. As of December 2023, only 13% of the initially required \$282 million has been allocated through the program. To use the available funding efficiently, SAFE+2 partners have developed in 2023 a budget for prioritised activities that estimates the financial requirements at \$100 million.

Table 11: Amount of Funds Provided by the Donors until end of 2023<sup>20</sup>.

Donors	Contributory Amount until 2023 (USD)
Canada	16,850,469
Sweden	7,505,322
Norway	2,822,213
Total	27,178,004

Per the Annual Programme Narrative Progress Report, the total approved budget of the entire programme is USD 282,039,934. Canada, Sweden, and Norway are the main donors to this programme. All UN agencies (FAO, IOM, UNHCR, and WFP) received \$11,438,563 from July to December 2022 and \$15,739,441 in 2023, resulting in a total of \$27,178,004 received funding until the end of 2023. Based on this provided fund, FAO, IOM, UNHCR, and WFP executed a few of the designed activities, but not all. Other implementation activities have been shifted to 2024 and 2025 from 2023.

Table 12: Amount of Funds received by the UN Agencies until 2023 from Donors

UN Agencies	Disbursement Amount until 2023 (USD)
FAO	4,168,356
IOM	9,767,050
UNHCR	9,748,261
WFP	3,494,337
Total Fund Received	27,178,004

<sup>20</sup> Funding does not include 1% MPTF administrative fee

Until the end of 2023, under strategic priority 1, 69% of the activities have been funded outside the SAFE+2 program (\$25M within SAFE+2 and \$30M bilaterally). Under strategic Priority 1, all the target Rohingya households (1,95,000) have been provided LPG refills; 85,000 households have received pressure cookers. It is pointed out that the “Assessment Report on Pressure Cooker Use and LPG Refill Cycle Adjustment” was designed to study the consumption patterns of LPG use in the camps after the distribution of pressure cookers to estimate the expected savings and adjust the refill cycle accordingly. This led to a revision of the refill cycle in summer 2023, which led to 11.3% of the total cost savings. Only UNHCR has distributed pressure cookers in 2023, and estimated savings are \$1.4 million compared to the \$1.67M procurement cost for pressure cookers, indicating an approximate cost recovery within 15 months.

Table 13: Breakdown of the Received Funds based on MPTF and Bilateral (June 2022-December 2023)<sup>21</sup>

Strategic Priority	MPTF (Million)	Bilateral Fund (Million)
Strategic Priority 1	\$ 25	\$ 30
Strategic Priority 2	\$ 6	\$ 23
Strategic Priority 3	\$ 3	\$ 41
Total	\$34	\$94

Under Strategic Priority 2, 79% was funded outside of SAFE+2 (\$6M within and \$23M outside). FAO and WFP executed a list of activities with a mentionable degree of achievement after the end of 2023. The main problem is that this programme did not set any baseline or target, so it is difficult to compare either with baseline or target. However, the achievements made in 2023 are visible and measurable, as shown in Table 14. It is noteworthy that some activities have been shifted for the year 2024.

Under Strategic Priority 3, 92% were funded outside the programme (\$3M in SAFE+2 and \$41M outside of the programme). the budget spending for these activities had a noteworthy impact on the achievement of increased market sales, training received by host communities, and yearly increased production, as mentioned in Table 13. It is mentionable that a few activities have been shifted from 2023 to 2024. As of December 2023, only 13% of the initially required \$282 million have been allocated.

### **Fund Mechanism (Multi-Partner Trust Fund and Bilateral fund), Advantages, and Challenges**

Regarding the funding mechanism, it is important to note that the project's original budget (\$282M) has never officially been changed, and the reprioritised budget of \$100M identifies the cost of prioritised activities. SAFE+2 activities, as described in the programme document, are either funded through a) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (which is the funding from Canada, Sweden, and Norway - please see table below) or b) through bilateral contributions from donors directly to one of the 4 partners for specific activities or c) have not been funded at all.

A further complication is that while costs for LPG are relatively straightforward, i.e., the cost of LPG distribution to all HH in Cox's Bazar is clearly defined as monthly requirements, the activity stops if no funding is available, leading quickly to negative impacts. In comparison, costs for pillars 2 and 3 are more related to the scale of the intervention, and the activities are more flexible to be shifted or scaled up or down depending on funding. A big advantage of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund is that donors have committed to funding over the entire project period, which allows the partners to shift funding within that time frame. This is advantageous as time-bound funding (for example, leftover funding at the end of the year) can be used instead of SAFE+2 funding, which can be shifted to the next year. Due to the

<sup>21</sup> Discussion with SAFE+2 programme implementers.

complex funding structure, a transparent overview of which activities are funded under SAFE+2 and bilaterally is sometimes difficult but requested by donors.

Table14: Availability of Yearly Fund for SAFE+2 in USD (2022-2025)

Donor	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Canada (GAC)	11,438,563	5,411,906	5,490,341	0	22,340,810
Sweden (SIDA)	0	5,784,125 (tranche 1)			
		1,721,197 (tranche 2)			
Norway	0	2,822,213	1,970,000	1,970,000	6,762,213
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,438,563</b>	<b>15,739,441</b>	<b>7,460,341</b>	<b>1,970,000</b>	<b>36,608,345</b>

### Shifting of SAFE+2 Activities in 2024 from 2023

Under strategic Priority 1, LPG provision has been ongoing since 2022 and will continue for 2024 and 2025. The distribution of pressure cookers to the entire population is also under consideration and shifted to 2024. As per the secondary documents, there is a gap between the required and available budget to continue these activities until March 2025.

Under strategic priority 2, environmental rehabilitation and eco-DRR projects - technical support, plantation, and plantation materials are implemented in 2023. However, a few activities were shifted to 2024. These are:

- Strengthen community co-management approach to support forest-dependent households in dealing with conflicts over natural resources,
- Youth engagement in environmental conservation activities supported with training on project design, M&E, advocacy, organisational management, and input support.
- Developing a communications strategy to raise community awareness on protecting wildlife and natural resources,
- Preparation and dissemination of communication and IEC materials.

Furthermore, under environmental rehabilitation and eco-DRR projects, the upcoming activities for 2024-25 are:

- Technical support,
- Plantation and distributing plantation materials,
- enhancement of indigenous people's capacity for seed production.

In 2023, the programme strengthened community co-management approaches to support forest-dependent households in dealing with conflicts over natural resources. The programme plans to provide capacity development and logistics support to private, partner, and government-owned nurseries and workers in 2024 and 2025. However, there is still a gap between the required and available budget, which is necessary to execute all the activities as per the reprioritised activity plan.

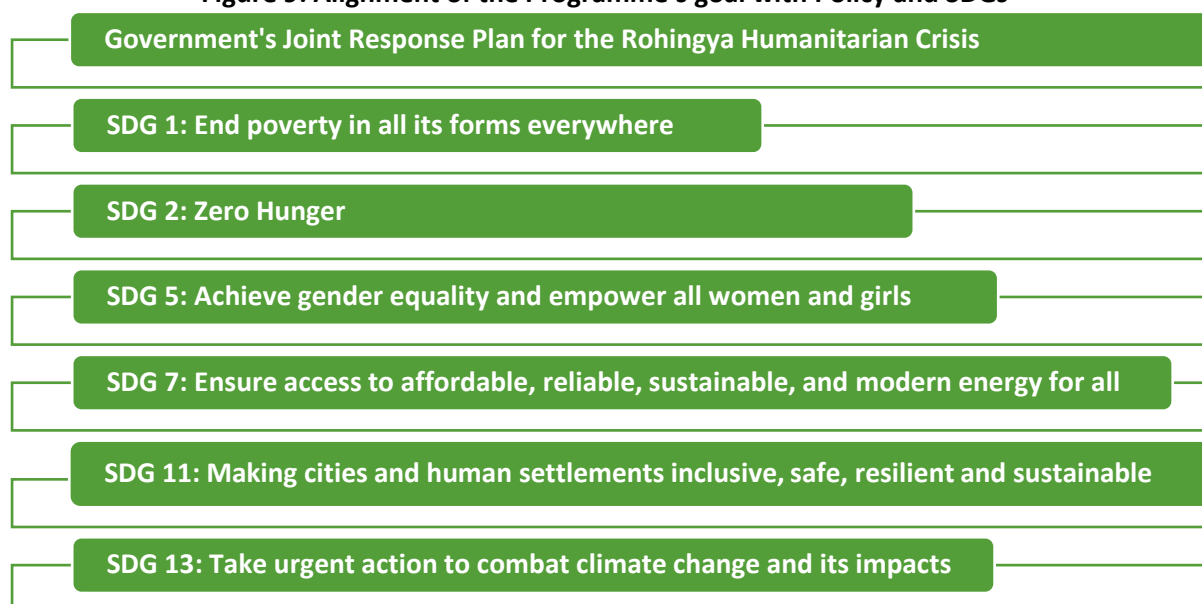
Under strategic priority 3, value chain analysis to identify green economic growth, activity on producing environmentally sustainable products and services, and establishment of linkage between on-and off-farm producer and market were executed in 2023. Based on the reprioritised activity plan, these activities are also expected to be carried out in 2024 and 2025. There will also be a budget shortage for these activities in the coming years.

### 3.5 Relevance and Accountability to Affected Population

#### 3.5.1 Relevance

The project's goals, outcomes, and outputs were connected to the government's policies and strategies for improving the condition of both the Rohingya and the host communities.

**Figure 9: Alignment of the Programme's goal with Policy and SDGs<sup>22</sup>**



#### **Government's Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis**

The Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis<sup>23</sup>, developed by the Government and UN organisation, adopted five strategic objectives as a part of humanitarian responses to the Rohingya community's crisis. There were five strategic objectives.

- Strategic Objective 1: Work towards the sustainable and voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees/FDMNs to Myanmar.
- Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen the protection of Rohingya refugees/FDMN women, men, girls, and boys.
- Strategic Objective 3: Deliver life-saving assistance to populations in need.
- Strategic Objective 4: Foster the well-being of host communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas.
- Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen disaster risk management and combat the effects of climate change.

Additionally, the Programme's strategic priorities are consistent with the target set under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

<sup>23</sup> 2023 Joint Response Plan Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis January - December 2023

**SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

All the activities designed under this programme's strategic priorities are critical to the SDG on poverty reduction. The LPG provision and pressure cooker distribution to the Rohingya community have reduced their cooking costs.

**SDG 2: Zero hunger**

SAFE+2 provided skill development training, leading to increased food security for Rohingya and host communities. The food production has increased.

**SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

This SAFE+2 programme has already targeted all vulnerable populations, especially women, elderly people, and persons with disabilities. According to the secondary documents, this programme has ensured 22% of female headed HH for LPG distribution. Additionally, this programme has provided LPG to 12.5% of households with at least one person with a disability and 17.1% of households with elderly people<sup>24</sup>.

As high as 62.1% of women and girls reported reduced hours spent on unpaid care work due to SAFE+2 activities. Also, 31.2% of men, 40.3%, and 28.5% of both men and women make decisions using transferred resources (See Section Gender).

**SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.**

This intervention reached an estimated 200,000 refugee households as direct beneficiaries of LPG provision as per the UNHCR data registration after the inception of SAFE+2.

**SDG11: Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.**

This programme has aimed to improve host communities' resilience, focusing on marketing systems, the green economy, and approaches to ensure sustainability and scale-up. Under this target, this programme has taken initiatives to increase the host community's capacity. Additionally, this programme has created Farmer's Field School (FFS) and producer groups connected with established Aggregation Centres. It has also arranged market linkage workshops for the producers through Aggregation Centres. This programme has also developed a digital platform by developing an app named "farm2go" to get information about the market and production.

**SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**

LPG distribution to the 194,937 Rohingya households has saved 13,390 hectares of forest. Additionally, the use of LPG has reduced 375,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. This intervention has planted trees covering 105 hectares of land (32 hectares in 2022 and 73 hectares in 2023).

**3.5.2 Accountability to Affected Population**

UNHCR in Bangladesh, mentioned, "We need to look into how to ensure the basic needs of the Rohingyas such as food, health and protection. We need to invest in education and skills development so that the Rohingya refugees become productive members of society<sup>25</sup>."

The sudden need for huge amounts of firewood and water severely impacted the host community and the environment. In response, FAO, IOM, & WFP, in association with the Canadian, Swedish,

<sup>24</sup> SAFE II Annual Narrative Report: Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment SAFE+2 reporting period 06 July 2022- 31 December 2022

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.tbsnews.net/rohingya-crisis/declining-aid-rohingyas-making-it-hard-meet-their-needs-542646>

Norwegian, British, Dutch, Japanese, Australian, Korean, and European Union governments, partnered to develop a USD 117.5 million, 3-year joint programme (June 2018-May 2021)<sup>26</sup>.

The Joint Programme's primary aim is to reduce protection issues stemming from firewood collection, as well as the overall food and nutrition security, empowerment, and resilience refugee and host community households in Cox's Bazar. The programme addresses urgent cooking fuel needs through alternative energy, promotes livelihoods for host communities, empowers Rohingyas, and builds their resilience while restoring environmental damage through reforestation.

Together, SAFE+2 partners empower and build the skills of the refugee population. In the host communities most affected by the crisis, market-based livelihoods and income-generation activities will be supported to raise household incomes. FAO is supporting local agriculturalists in strengthening their production capacity for high-demand and high-nutrient crops, allowing for improved dietary consumption and increased incomes. Through its technical capacity and strong relationship with the Forestry Department, FAO has also begun a multi-year strategy of rehabilitating extensively damaged forest areas and agricultural land.

Reforestation activities are also being carried out in the damaged areas surrounding the camps and host communities through Cash for Work programmes that benefit forest-dependent poor households. The project has been recognised as an example of coordination and innovation in the response. It relies on close partnerships with government partners for implementation and the ongoing support of the development partners to meet the evolving needs of the refugee and host community population<sup>27</sup>.

Undertaken by UN Agencies, the Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-5) report indicates that 95% of all Rohingya households are moderate to highly vulnerable and remain entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance, similar to 2020 (96%)<sup>28</sup>.

***"Accountability to Affected People is an active commitment to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people humanitarian organisations seek to assist" (IASC, 2015).***

Accountability to affected people (AAP) is an active commitment to put vulnerable and affected people at the centre of humanitarian action. It stems from past failures of the humanitarian system to meet the needs and recognise the abilities of people affected by crises. Committing to AAP means empowering people to participate in decisions and shaping programs that affect their lives and livelihoods. A set of definitions and commitments pave the way for truly accountable humanitarian assistance now and in the future<sup>29</sup>. Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is about using power and resources ethically and responsibly.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has five commitments to Accountability to the Affected population as given below:

<sup>26</sup> <https://bangladesh.un.org/en/25179-un-agencies-address-basic-needs-rohingya-refugees>

<sup>27</sup> <https://bangladesh.un.org/en/25179-un-agencies-address-basic-needs-rohingya-refugees>

<sup>28</sup> Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-5) Report

<sup>29</sup> Accountability to affected people Experiences and good practices from FAO Country Offices

**Table 11: AAP's Five Commitments to Affected Population<sup>30</sup>**

Principles	Description
Leadership/ Governance	Demonstrate commitment by ensuring AAP is integrated into country strategies, programme proposals, monitoring and evaluations, recruitment, staff inductions, training and performance management, partnership agreements, and highlighted in reporting.
Transparency	Provide accessible and timely information on organisational procedures, structures, and processes that affect them to ensure they can make informed decisions and choices. Facilitate dialogue between an organisation and its affected populations over information provision.
Feedback and complaints	Actively seek the views of affected populations to improve policy and practice in programming, ensuring that feedback and complaints mechanisms are streamlined, appropriate, and robust enough to deal with (communicate, receive, process, respond to, and learn from) complaints about breaches in policy and stakeholder dissatisfaction.
Participation	Enable affected populations to play an active role in the decision-making processes that affect them through establishing clear guidelines and practices to engage them appropriately and ensure that the most marginalised and affected are represented and have influence.
Design, monitoring and evaluation	Design, monitor, and evaluate the goals and objectives of programmes with the involvement of affected populations, feeding learning back into the organisation on an ongoing basis and reporting on the results of the process.

It's about putting the needs and interests of the people. Community organisations serve at the centre of decision-making and ensure the most appropriate and relevant outcomes for them while preserving their rights and dignity and increasing their resilience to face situations of vulnerability and crisis. In practice, this means that people – including children and adolescents – have a say in decisions that affect their lives, receive the information they need to make informed decisions, have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to provide feedback or to complain, and have equitable access to assistance in proportion to their needs, priorities, and preferences. Affected populations are girls, boys, women, and men with different needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities who are in situations of vulnerability and are adversely affected by poverty, conflict, disasters, or other crises<sup>31</sup>.

UNHCR's Accountability to Affected People (AAP) is a commitment to the intentional and systematic inclusion of the expressed needs, concerns, capacities, and views of persons of concern in their diversity and to being answerable for our organisational decisions and staff actions in all protection, assistance, and solutions interventions and programmes<sup>32</sup>.

As of 2022, FAO is establishing a comprehensive and centralised grievance and feedback mechanism covering the entire programme in Bangladesh. The SOPs for the mechanism have been developed in a participatory manner and approved by the FAO Representative. Since 2018, FAO has been enhancing the livelihoods and resilience of Rohingya refugees and host communities through appropriate, market-driven inputs and training opportunities. Environmental impacts are being mitigated through reforestation, land stabilisation, and restoration of the natural resource base. Community-based

<sup>30</sup> The essential linkages between Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by IASC (Source):

[https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2015-12/aap\\_psea\\_2-pager.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2015-12/aap_psea_2-pager.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Accountability to Affected Populations: A handbook for UNICEF and partners.

<sup>32</sup> Operational Guidance on Accountability to Affected People (AAP) by UNHCR September 2020.



disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities are implemented through cash-for-work programmes to mitigate natural hazards and provide income sources<sup>33</sup>.

In response to the accountability to the affected population, IOM adheres to the IASC understanding of AAP, which defines it as “an active commitment by humanitarian actors to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people they seek to assist<sup>34</sup>.

In WFP, accountability to affected populations is considered a cross-cutting issue. This means that WFP sees AAP as an issue informing all aspects of its response. Examples of AAP initiatives are found in all types of programmes and contexts, from emergency operations to country programmes, and both formal and informal avenues for engaging affected communities are utilised. WFP is accountable not only for achieving results but also for how programmes are implemented. Issues related to staff conduct, prevention of fraud and sexual exploitation and abuse, and humanitarian protection and gender are all a part of the AAP<sup>35</sup>.

It is also evident that all the implementing partners are implementing the planned activities at the field level, taking leadership roles. For example, IOM and UNHCR provide LPG and pressure cookers (only UNHCR) to the Rohingya households under strategic priority 1: Access to Cleaner Energy. They have successfully covered nearly all the vulnerable populations like elderly people, female-headed households, and persons with disabilities. SAFE+3 partners are engaged in tree plantation under strategic priority 2: Environment and Ecosystem. Finally, FAO and WFP are also implementing activities planned under strategic priority 3: Resilience. After contextual analysis and realizing the challenges and social and environmental consequences caused by the Rohingya influx, these organizations prioritized their activities as per the needs of Rohingya and host communities after having dialogues with the representative of the Government, community people, and the other NGOs. These planned activities are evidently helping restore the environmental and ecological system and increase the resilience of the host and Rohingya community and skill development capacity. As a part of monitoring and evaluation, this program has already conducted a few types of research to realize the effectiveness, outcomes, and impact of the activities already executed at the field level to adjust the feedback and complaints provided by the targeted population. Finally, the programme has also ensured the participation of the mostly affected population, as presented in Figure 10.

As per the evaluation, all the implementing partners have successfully followed the AAP framework, from designing the programme’s proposal and activities to executing these activities at the field level. As per the discussion before, this programme has successfully responded to the affected population, including displaced Rohingya refugees and the surrounding host community affected by the Rohingya influx, including women, girls, children, Persons with disabilities, and elderly people. This evaluation found that the accountability of the UN implementing agencies toward the affected population was active, effective, visible, functional, and responsive.

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<sup>33</sup> Accountability to affected people Experiences and good practices from FAO Country Offices

<sup>34</sup> Accountability to Affected Populations Framework published by IOM.

<sup>35</sup> Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Engaging Affected People by World Food Programme (WFP) (<https://wfp-unhcr-hub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/WFP-0000013057.pdf>)



**Figure 10: The programme's Accountability to Affected Population****Strategic Priority 1: Cleaner Cooking Energy**

- 99.8% of the total (vulnerable) Rohingya population received LPG refills of its programme target population
- 22% female-headed HHs taken under the LPG provision
- 2% of target HHs have PWDs
- 11.7% 13% of target HHs have elderly people

**Strategic Priority 2: Environment and Ecosystems**

- Partners have planted trees covering 105 hectares of land
- 5.9% of the Rohingya community is engaged in the maintenance of tree plantation at a minimum cost of wages
- 30.4% Of conflicts over natural resources are successfully managed

**Strategic Priority 3: Resilience**

- 36.3% of farmers and producers with increased market sales.
- 88.9% females and 11.1% males received agricultural training
- The average production was 789 kGs in 2023 and 749 kGs in 2022

**Gender: Cross-cutting Issue**

- 62.1 % approximate number of women and girls (individuals) who report reduced hours spent on unpaid care work due to SAFE+2 activities.
- 31.2% of men in Rohingya households make decisions on the use of transferred resources.
- 40.3% Of women in Rohingya households make decisions on the use of transferred resources.
- 28.5% Of both men and women in Rohingya households make decisions on the use of transferred resources.

### 3.6 Programme's Durability and Exit Strategy

The duration of SAFE+2 is 36 months, from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. Since its inception, this programme has been running for one and a half years. To achieve the expected result, several reprioritised activities under the designed outcome indicators based on three strategic priorities were executed. This programme encompasses emergency-responsive activities addressing the lifesaving needs of the targeted population. The activities being executed have a long-term socio-economic and environmental impact on the host and Rohingya communities.

For example, LPG distribution has provided security to reduce their cooking cost, health hazards, deforestation, cooking time, conflict with host communities, and carbon dioxide emissions. Similarly, these interventions have also helped land/ecosystems be rehabilitated in Cox's Bazar and develop the capacity of the host and Rohingya community to resolve conflicts over natural resources. Lastly, these interventions have also helped build resilience among host and Rohingya communities by providing agricultural and income-generating training.

So, a sustainable exit strategy must be developed to ensure all the benefits of the programme are maintained. Otherwise, a sudden exit without sustainable or effective planning might have devastating consequences not only for the host and Rohingya communities but also for the environment and ecology of Cox's Bazar district. The preconditions to consider when developing a sustainable exit plan are below.

- The programme should ensure the LPG distribution to the host community in alignment with the government or other international organisations with a subsidised donation even after the project.
- These interventions should continue the LPG refill distribution until the Rohingya communities develop the financial ability to purchase LPG for cooking.
- This programme should try to enhance the capacity of host communities by providing either skill development training or agriculture-based training. Agricultural training should be provided to participants with cultivable land or the opportunity for homestead gardening, while skill development training should be provided to landless people.
- Skill development training should be provided to both the host and Rohingya community. This programme should concentrate on finding a way for the Rohingya to manage two-thirds of their daily costs using this IGA training.
- Community awareness programmes should be arranged regularly for the host and Rohingya community. General knowledge about the restrictions and laws for the Rohingya community and disaster risk reduction should be highly focused as part of awareness.
- Community awareness programmes should always be arranged for the host community regarding assistance to the Rohingya community and what training they received. The market linkage should be strengthened for the host community.
- Tree plantations should be executed nearer or within the camps where deforestation is a serious issue. Watershed management and ecosystem rehabilitation should be planned with the government with a clear target.

## Section 4: Challenges, Key Considerations, and Lessons Learned

### 4.1 Lesson Learned

**Table 12: Lesson Learned, Best Practices, and Key Success Factors**

Areas	Lesson Learned	Success Factors
<b>Cleaner Cooking Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPG distribution is the most optimum solution for cooking fuel in Cox's Bazar. All the Rohingya households use LPG as the best cooking option instead of firewood.</li> <li>LPG use and pressure cookers have helped decrease cooking time, providing security for more cooking days. As a result, the use of firewood has reduced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the Rohingya households are satisfied with the LPG provision.</li> <li>It is proven that the use of LPG has helped reduce deforestation and carbon emission.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment and Ecosystems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The roadside tree plantation has been an effective initiative for restoring the environment. Rohingya's engagement in maintaining and caring for the forest land has allowed them to earn cash.</li> <li>This programme's initiatives to resolve conflicts over natural resources are effective, as most of the surveyed Rohingya and host communities reported that conflicts have decreased recently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rohingya households are satisfied with engagement in caring for the forestland and tree plantation.</li> <li>Both the Rohingya and host communities are not interested in conflicts over natural resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training, awareness, support, and market linkage mechanisms can help increase agricultural production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall agricultural production has increased in 2023 than in 2022. Women's participation both in training and production has increased.</li> </ul>
<b>Aggregation Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This programme has established this Aggregation centre as a facility for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally or regionally produced food products".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the 20 aggregation centres, 13 have already been registered, and others are in the process of registration.</li> <li>Most local producers sell the products they produce through these centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Gender Mainstreaming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This intervention has provided LPG to a mentionable portion of female-headed households, elderly people, and persons with disabilities.</li> <li>Women's inclusion in training might increase agricultural production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The women autonomy index shows that employees have more freedom or ability to make decisions about nearly three of five indicators.</li> <li>About two-fifths of the Rohingya women can make decisions on using transferred resources.</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Challenges and Key Considerations

**Table 13: Area-wise list of Challenges and Key Consideration Issues**

Areas	Challenges	Key Considerations
<b>Cleaner Cooking Energy</b>		
<b>LPG Distribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the households getting LPG are satisfied with this provision. Nearly two-thirds of the households use alternative energy like firewood, borrowing gas from others, and purchasing gas. It would be challenging for this programme to stop LPG distribution without managing an alternative. It might have a huge negative impact on not only the Rohingya community but also the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There should be a clear exit option assuring an uninterrupted LPG supply even after the programme ends.</li> </ul>
<b>Pressure cooker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly half of Rohingya households have yet to get a pressure cooker. Most households generally use pressure cookers, but the frequency can be increased. However, increasing the frequency of use of pressure cookers among the Rohingya is challenging to achieve better output under this programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This programme should try to increase the frequency of pressure cooker use among households.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment and Ecosystems</b>		
<b>Environment rehabilitation and eco-DRR projects -</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This project has taken so many activities under implementation, like revegetated land, slope revegetated, streambank rehabilitation and maintenance, slope stabilisation, drainage improvement, and tree plantation. Finally, it has implemented only tree plantation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The programme should assess these planned activities and determine which activities are essential to execute in the current context. Additionally, this programme should be concerned about the shortage of funds.</li> </ul>
<b>Conflict over Natural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This programme has many planned activities, such as conflicts over natural resources, including the human-elephant conflict and snake rescue. However, it has failed to execute all the activities as intended, making it difficult to achieve the result.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict over natural resources might be a burning issue for the host and Rohingya community. The primary task should be to build up the capacity of these communities to resolve these conflicts.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience</b>		
<b>Market Linkage Development and Aggregation Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This programme has executed a few activities out of all the planned activities but has already completed half of its project timeline. The executed activities are the development of FSS guidelines, making 13 Aggregation centres registered out of 20, arranging exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now, this programme should be more realistic about reprioritising its outcomes and activities, which will ultimately be achievable.</li> </ul>

	<p>visits among the agents of aggregation centres, E-farmer's platform development, and livelihood programme. There are a total of four outcomes under 3A, but there are many activities that have yet to be done. It would be challenging for this programme to achieve an effective result by executing these activities within the duration of the project.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregation centres are mainly used for aggregating, storing, processing, distributing, and/or marketing locally or regionally producing food products. Some host communities are connected with these centres, but not as high as expected. It is a challenge for this programme to make these centres more effective for market linkage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating awareness among the host community</li> <li>• Inclusion of women in this centre more effectively</li> <li>• Many of the community members took training, but many of them are not functionally connected to these centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Shortage of Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is clear that funds are uncertain for many of the planned outcomes and activities. Activities are expected to be executed if funds are available. As a result, most planned activities were not executed in this period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reprioritization of outcomes, outputs, and activities per the available budget. This consideration should be given to the more focused areas within the budget available for the rest of the programme.</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement of Women in Production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More women received agricultural training than men. The evaluation also shows that their engagement in production increased in 2023 than in 2022. After receiving training, a greater part of them remains inactive, especially in production. So, there is potential for creating more resilience among women by engaging them in the production process and market linkage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing more support for women in production as per their needs</li> <li>• Considerations for many more women's involvement in market linkage through Aggregation Centres</li> </ul>

## Section 5: Conclusion and Recommendations

The Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE+ 2) programme was initiated in 2022 in coordination with the GoB, international donors, and FAO, IOM, UNHCR, and WFP to meet the immediate need for practical, safe, and sustainable cooking fuel essential to food security through the provision of LPG, mitigate deforestation, rehabilitate impacted environments, and foster greater social cohesion between refugees and host communities through livelihoods and skills development. In parallel, UNHCR undertook coordinated energy, environment, and resilience interventions in its area of Responsibility.

This evaluation attempted to assess the degree of achievements per the objectives and outcome indicators designed for this programme. Under the developed indicators, this programme executed a list of activities based on the availability of funds. Despite achieving this, this programme needs to perform many activities in the rest of the months to reach the final goal. The recommendations that the implementing agencies can follow for the rest of the months are given below.

### **Strategic recommendations:**

**Contingency Plans and exit strategy:** Conduct a risk analysis of the project to identify risks and scenario planning, especially regarding funding reduction, assess their severity, and develop mitigation measures. Establish a contingency mechanism to address unforeseen challenges, with regular revisions as needed to adapt to evolving circumstances and funding landscape. Sustain and diversify funding sources, maintaining a balance between addressing immediate humanitarian needs and long-term developmental concerns. Develop an exit strategy, particularly for strategic priority 1: provision of clean cooking energy.

**Enhance sustainability:** Advocate with the Government of Bangladesh, showcasing the macroeconomic benefits of involving Rohingya refugees, particularly women and youth, in income-generating activities. Engage donors and partners in policy advocacy initiatives. Explore climate action funding sources to secure more sustainable funding streams. Develop livelihood activities tailored for refugee women to be implemented at the family and block levels within the camps, enhancing their empowerment, safety and reducing social stress.

**Gender Analysis:** While the LPG distribution covers the entire population, prioritize a gender-focused approach across all three strategic priorities of the project. Conduct additional analysis on the role of women in cooking and fuel collection, plantation activities, and livelihood pursuits to inform targeted interventions and support gender equality objectives.

Focus Areas	Operational Recommendations
<b>Access to Cleaner Cooking energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All households should be provided with pressure cookers to minimise the cost of cooking and the use of firewood.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rohingya households should receive refresher training on the use and benefits of LPG and pressure cookers.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community awareness interventions should be provided to the host and Rohingya communities, focusing on the reasons for environmental damage and its devastating impact on us and steps that need to be taken to restore the environment at the individual and community levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment and Ecosystems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community awareness interventions should be provided to the host and Rohingya communities, focusing on the conflict of natural resources and how to solve the problems mutually. This programme may develop a mechanism-chain for resolving these conflicts.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This programme should ensure many more women's engagement in food production with a robust monitoring system.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This intervention should take more initiatives to strengthen the Aggregation Centre effectively by increasing the production of both males and females and enhancing their capacity.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme should strengthen the e-commerce platform by popularising the Farm2Go App.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme should reprioritise the activities per the budget available to the implementing agencies. Many activities should be deducted from the planned activities as per the requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Reprioritising the Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This programme should set the baseline value and the targets as early as possible to measure its final goal and impact.</li> </ul>
<b>Programme Target Setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This programme can replicate the findings of lessons learned and best practices in other areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Aligning the Lesson Learned and Best Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MPTF and bilateral fund model is efficient but has some disadvantages to implementing the activities at the planned timeline. To avoid this problem, the program should reprioritise the activities as per the timeline and availability of funds to achieve the target at the end of the program.</li> </ul>