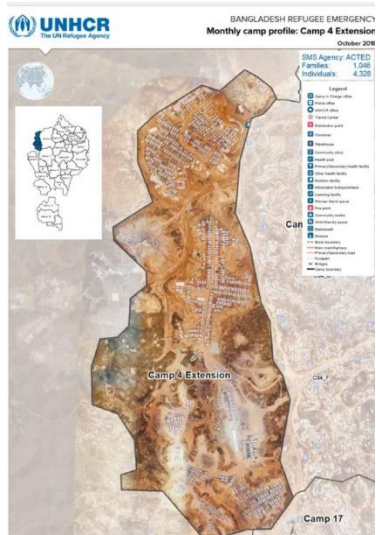




Matching energy needs with private sector expertise in Bangladesh

ICC has launched a project with UNHCR and EDF Group Foundation, on-going since 2017, to provide solar-powered electricity to a section of a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. UNHCR identified the need for an energy solution in the camp, ICC coordinated private sector partnership, and EDF Group Foundation both provided expertise and participated in funding the project. Both UNHCR and ICC involved their local offices at national level.



The joint UNHCR-ICC-EDF power solution project in Bangladesh will help to improve health and hygiene services through the electrification of the health centre (e.g. by allowing use of medical devices and fridges), improve the security of camp inhabitants (particularly women) through the lighting of public places, improve the quality of life in shelters through indoor lighting and power for recharging phones, and improve the economic situation of the camp by extending the working hours of the marketplace.

Project model

A local company, facilitated by the EDF Group Foundation, installed an electrical power plant and will be responsible for the distribution network using solar energy. The EDF Foundation also provided expertise and equipment. ICC Bangladesh helped to select a company from the host community to fulfil a two-year maintenance contract, and members of the refugee community will be trained to support maintenance of the plant and the distribution network. Access to electricity from the network will be subject to a small fee, which will help remunerate the refugee maintenance team, and electricity will also help to create and stimulate income generation in the community through activities at the lighted marketplace.

Integration of Charter of Good Practice principles

This project both fulfils and sustains the Charter of Good Practice for the Role of the Private Sector in Economic Integration of Refugees developed by the Private Sector for Refugees initiative. Involving the community and skilling workers to maintain the project provides not only a sustainable source of energy, but is designed with a vision for long-term economic viability and employment. Fostering inclusion in collaboration with refugees supports entrepreneurship and provides benefits for both refugees and local host communities with a long-term impact. This project is inclusive of refugees as consumers and participants in the business cycle, demonstrating an effective, sustainable model for the economic integration of refugees.

