



Strengthening Watershed Management and Environmental Rehabilitation in Rohingya Camps



Acted Bangladesh
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Background

Acted began operations in Bangladesh in 2018, responding to the needs of Rohingya populations who fled Myanmar's Rakhine State due to persecution. Our teams implement IM, WASH, Protection, Emergency and SCCCM intervention projects in the country to support the most vulnerable populations.

The primary objective of the Watershed Management (WM) project is to enhance the overall health, well-being, environment and livelihoods of the refugees and host community population in the area. To this end, Acted - as coordinating partner - involves government agencies and implementing partners of UNHCR units (WASH, Health, Education, CBP, Energy & Environment, Livelihood, FSM, Shelter and SD) through camps and sector specific coordination meetings. In camp 1W and 2W, Acted monitors and provides support on a need basis such as stream excavation, deepening of the stream, slope stabilization, stream bedside and stream embankment.

For the primary drains in UNHCR camps, Acted provides technical support and support for waste transport to the SMS partners. SMS volunteers oversee monitoring of Drains, identify the channels to be cleaned and raise awareness among the camp residents regarding solid waste management.

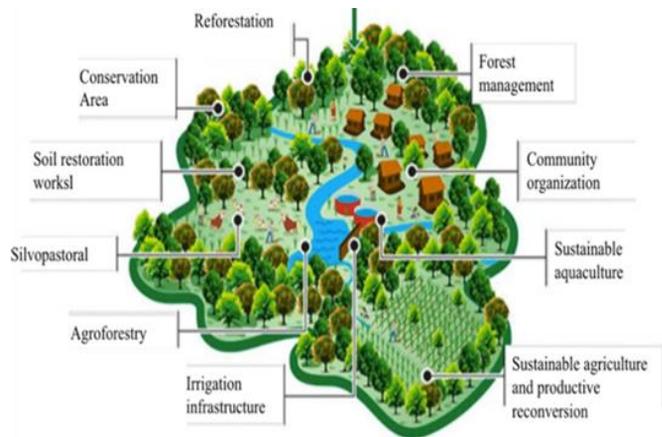


Figure: Vision of SuLMER project

Key numbers on the project



10,796 individuals benefitted



330 different tree seedlings planted in the SuLMER area in coordination with different sector actors



12,754 meters of stream cleaned and installed **37** waste traps.



1,995 community people were sensitized through **653** community awareness sessions



16,654 cubic feet of waste removed from the SuLMER stream



1,703 meters of stream bank protection



82 Cash for Work (CfW) opportunities created



Stakeholder Coordination

Acted coordinated with CiCs, CMOs, and sectors including SMS, WASH, CBP, and E&E through camp-level meetings, sector coordination meetings, and joint site visits. Achievements included constructing retention walls, steel bridges, and bamboo bridge repairs. Additionally, Acted facilitated riparian plantations with seedlings, waste trap installation, rehabilitated water reservoirs, to enhance resilience and environmental sustainability.



Community Engagement

Acted and conducted 653 awareness sessions and door-to-door visits, reaching 1,995 people. Camp cleaning campaigns raised public awareness, with active participation from local leaders in protecting the SuLMER site. Collaboration with livelihood sectors has created opportunities for women through over-stream gardening, improving living conditions, and fostering social cohesion between refugees and host communities.



Environmental Rehabilitation

The WM project is actively contributing to **environmental rehabilitation** through stream cleaning, tree plantation, waste management, and infrastructure repair. By engaging community members in clean-up drives, awareness sessions, and sustainable gardening, the project restores degraded ecosystems, improves watershed functionality, and promotes long-term environmental stewardship in the camps. These efforts ensure a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient environment for both host and displaced communities.



The **Watershed Management** project aligns with Acted's 3ZERO vision by fostering **Zero Exclusion** through community-led approaches that engage refugees and host communities in rehabilitation activities. It promotes **Zero Poverty** by creating livelihood opportunities via riparian planting and ecosystem restoration. Additionally, **Zero Carbon** is supported through reforestation efforts, enhancing environmental sustainability and disaster resilience.

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