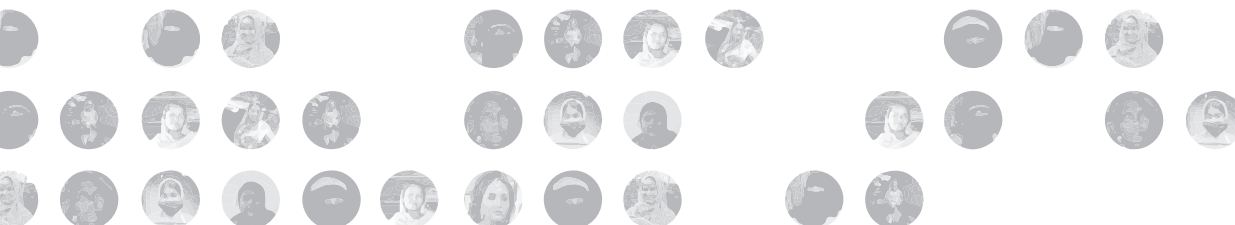




# INVESTING IN RESILIENCE

DRC BANGLADESH - ECONOMIC RECOVERY  
2020 & 2021



**MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK**  
*Danida*

**DRC** DANISH  
REFUGEE  
COUNCIL



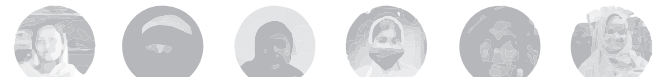
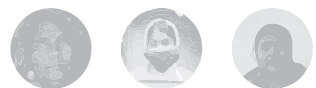
### From the Country Director:

“In August 2017, a fresh outbreak of hostilities triggered the displacement of more than 600,000 Rohingya people from Myanmar, who fled into Bangladesh to seek refuge. This influx sparked the creation of the world’s largest camp complex for the displaced and has not only affected the lives of Rohingya, but also those of the host communities in Bangladesh. An estimated 472,000 local residents in Cox’s Bazar are also in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The Danish Refugee Council is responding to the growing needs as this displacement is turning increasingly protracted and we continue to strive to assist both Rohingya and their host communities to address needs for Protection, improved Economic Recovery, Site Management and Shelter support.

I am pleased to present you a collection of photo stories ‘INVESTING IN RESILIENCE’, this is about aspiring people who are constantly forced to overcome new risks and challenges. We in DRC are supporting people to build more resilient livelihoods through our wide range of Economic Recovery activities.”

## Sumitra Mukherjee

Country Director  
Danish Refugee Council  
Bangladesh



# DRC Sectors in Bangladesh



Protection



Economic Recovery



Humanitarian Disarmament  
& Peacebuilding



Shelter & Settlements



Camp Coordination  
& Camp Management

**WHEN:** In Bangladesh since 2017 providing emergency assistance to Rohingya arriving from neighbouring Myanmar.

**WHAT:** DRC programming in Bangladesh through four DRC sectors: Protection, Economic Recovery, Shelter & Settlements, and Camp Coordination & Camp Management.

**HOW:** DRC works with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) of the Government of Bangladesh and the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) to provide humanitarian assistance in Cox's Bazar.

For more details please visit -

DRC website: [www.drc.ngo](http://www.drc.ngo)

DRC Bangladesh web page:

[www.drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/asia/bangladesh/](http://www.drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/asia/bangladesh/)

DRC Bangladesh dashboard:

[www.drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/asia/bangladesh/dashboard-bangladesh/](http://www.drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/asia/bangladesh/dashboard-bangladesh/)



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**MADE IN COX'S BAZAR**

*Monju Barua, a single mother of one, and physically challenged, dreamed of starting her own tailoring shop. She had the skills and an resolute desire.*

*Monju Barua received DRC emergency cash assistance in 2020 and shortly after opened her own shop.*



**“I get orders, sew the clothes and deliver them. Now, two more women are working for me. I am even able to sustain my daughter’s studies. The help from DRC has made it possible for me to start up this shop. Now, the dream is to further grow and expand my business.”**



*Khadija, a mother of five, lives in one of the 33 Rohingya camps. She was worried about her home - the shelter made from tarpaulin.*

*She learned how to work with lattice and soon after rebuilt her home.*

**“The tarpaulin shelter was not strong enough to protect us from rains or heavy wind, and it was not safe for my children. Thieves can steal easily from tarpaulin shelter. But we have improved the shelter now. I learnt the lattice work techniques from DRC and I built this bamboo wall, and my husband helped me a lot. I have also shared the techniques with the neighbours.”**



**IMPROVING SHELTER WITH BAMBOO**



## WOMEN TAKING THE LEAD

*Sanzida came to Cox's Bazar in August 2017 along with her daughter and her elderly mother. Her husband went missing before they fled.*

*She found a way to provide clothes for her family through the sewing training and also received a sewing machine from DRC.*



**“It is a struggle here to live without a male family member. That is why I took up tailoring. Now, I can make clothes at least for me, my daughter and my mother.”**



*Jahanara Begum, mother of four, lives in Ukhiya. Her husband is a driver. She was searching for a new way to generate additional income for her family.*

*Jahanara Begum took part in DRC's handicraft training.*

**“I participated in DRC’s handicraft training, and have made more than 60 items in last three months, earning approximately 12,000 BDT (USD 140). I bought books for my children with half of the earnings, and saved the other half for the future.”**



**CRAFTING FUTURE**





## MAKING UP A FUTURE

*Akhi Barua, a single mother and a victim of child marriage, lost her husband two years ago, when her daughter Tanushri was just a year old. Akhi Barua now lives with her parents.*



**“No one in my family has a steady income. My father works as a part-time construction worker. So, I signed up for DRC’s ‘Make-up Training’ as a way to pursue my dream of opening my own beauty salon. For now, I practise at home while saving money to rent a shop. I hope to find clients in my local community, and especially to prepare for wedding ceremonies.”**



*Runa Akter is a widow and lives with her parents. She was trained by DRC and received a sewing machine. She then began to make masks and clothes. She earned 7,000 BDT (USD 90) in six months and purchased a goat to diversify their livelihoods. Runa Akter is now able to financially sustain herself and is optimistic about the future.*

**“I bought this goat to supplement my income. It provides us with milk. I treasure and take good care of the goat and my sewing machine. Now I’m saving up to buy more goats – and it all started with this machine I received from DRC.”**



**UNCOVERING OPPORTUNITIES**



## HARVESTING RAINWATER

*Water is scarce in Ukhiya, the area where Pratima Barua and her family live. Here rainwater harvesting is now enabling them to do homestead gardening for better and more nutritious meals and income generation.*



**“As the water level is low here, we had to walk a long distance to fetch water. But now that we have this rainwater harvesting tank from DRC, we can use it to water our garden. We grow vegetables for ourselves and sell some at the local market.”**



*Rohingya in the camps who are part of a large family, like Dilara, often depend on aid for food and medicine and struggle to get clothing for all.*

*DRC trained Dilara and other women, who also received sewing machines as a way to manage their needs.*

**“We are two adults and nine children in our family. It is tough to provide clothes for all. This training helped me to learn to make clothes, and I now feel confident that I can give my children the clothes they need, and that they will be warm. If the camp authority allows us to sell the clothes in future, I will try that as well.”**



**STITCHES FOR LIFE**



## MUSHROOMS

*Aysha Begum lives alone, her son lives in another village and her daughter lives with her in-laws. Aysha lost her husband 20 years ago. She received support to cultivate mushrooms, which is now helping her self-sufficiency.*



**“I used to be a day labourer, life was too hard as I live alone. But I have started cultivating mushrooms after receiving training and logistical support. I have earned more than 6,000 BDT (USD 70) in the last two months.”**



*DRC provided poultry to Akhi Barua, a mother of two. She now earns a living and provides for her children's education.*

**“We get eggs, eat them, and occasionally sell some. I also try to save money which has helped me start my own vegetable garden. Eggs and vegetables provide protein and vitamins to my children.”**



**CHICKEN AND EGGS**



## INVESTING IN FUTURE

Sonia Dhar

*Sonia Dhar has two sons and a daughter who has special needs due to mental and physical disabilities. She needs expensive medicine every day.*

*Sonia Dhar participated in craft training to learn new income-generating skills.*



**“My husband is a street vendor, but his income is not enough to buy food, medicine, and cover education and other costs for the family. I will be able to earn money if I can learn new skills and start up a small business.”**



*Shah Alam has for a long time faced challenges in making a living. DRC gave him a cash grant during the COVID-19 pandemic, and soon after he started his own business in Ukhiya Bazar.*

**“I am from a poor family, and decided to invest the money in a small tea stall; one day I hope to make a bigger business.”**



**A SHOP FULL OF HOPE**





## MANAGING WASTE

*DRC waste management volunteers at Rohingya Camp 8E collect garbage from all over the blocks and clean up the environment.*

*They then make compost from the organic garbage for homestead gardening.*



**“Every day, the volunteers collect waste from every corner, so we have clean roads and a healthy environment. It is very important to us and helps to prevent skin diseases. Our children are finally also able to play safely.”**

**- Mohammed Zakir, community member, Camp 8E**



*‘The water is gone, we are farmers living from our land, and we can no longer feed our families!’ This was the situation in Raja Palong area at Ukhiya sub-district. With joint help from DRC, Danida and the local government, two dams were built and have helped more than 500 families rebuild their livelihoods.*

**“I had to work as a day labourer when the water was gone. But I’m a farmer and need water to do homestead farming. This dam has changed my life back to what it used to be.”**

**- Shirajul Hoque, community member**



**BRINGING BACK THE WATER**



## LAND STABILISATION

7.2 km of roadside and 3.2 hectares of households and institutional lands have been covered through tree plantation as part of land stabilisation activity by DRC. Funded by Danida, it created 5,412 man-days of cash-for-work opportunity for 82 community members in both camps and host areas.



**“These trees will protect us from landslides, and we also got the opportunity to earn for 6 months.”**  
- Shamsul Alam, community member, Ukhiya