

Macro Site Planning

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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Map

MACRO SITE PLANNING 2022

BACKGROUND / AIM

The MSP Macro Settlement Plan is a spatial long-term strategy aiming:

- to structure the camp through an incremental re-planning process
- to supports the creation of a more resilient, safe, equitable and resource-efficient settlement
- to gives direction rather than destination
- it's a coordination tool – “humanitarian management tool”
- it can work as a legacy plan

Key objectives of the Macro Plan are to enhance disaster resilience, consolidate facilities, improve connectivity and living conditions, and rehabilitate environment



Camp 18 The Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre

Dynamic Planning

The "MSP Macro Settlement Plan" is dynamic and on the one hand follows the events to record and document, on the other hand it discusses and describes the possible developments under the assumption of the scenarios, which could change pending always on the current political situation, so this planning can never be static.



The dynamic MSP dashboard

For this reason, within the ISCG, we will attempt to make all data and plans available online in the future for relevant implementing partners, donors, authorities and agencies, in the basic dashboard system, developed by colleagues of the information management unit of IOM.

Explanation of activities, General remark of MSP work 2022

Macro, meso and micro plans have been developed and refined over the years, and recommendations have been made to the responsible parties. Participation in forums such as ISCG (Inter Sector Coordination Group), SMSD (Site

4/4 Q. A. PERIOD

SUMMARY MSP PERIODE 4/4 BY END OF DECEMBER 2022

Management and Site Development), and other working groups to share findings was valuable.

The condition of the camps has improved significantly since 2019, especially the expansion of the infrastructure should be mentioned here. The progressive greening of the settlements is also clearly noticeable and visible despite the continuing increase in the number of refugees.

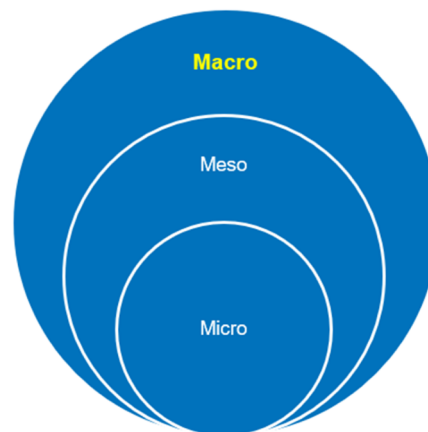
The original untamed settlements have been gradually replaced by more spatially structured settlements, even if the density causes various problems due to the enormous pressure for housing, especially in terms of housing hygiene and safety, the lack of structural fire protection should be mentioned here.

Although the hazards have been recorded and mapped, some buildings are still being constructed in areas exposed to flooding and landslides, and in some cases even with unsuitable house types. This is all due to the scarcity of land resources and the pressure of some implementors.

Through continuous data collection since 2018 displayed on the footprint, its known where in the camps it's too dense and planning and where implementation measures responses are needed to improve people's living and security conditions.

Challenges and Density - Establishing of the MSP Working Group

The big point of all MSP is the footprint or the density of the mega camp with all the associated risks especially the very high fire risk and the inadequate escape and access routes situation to the settlements. Do discuss and display such Issues the coordinator had many discussions including long term engaged fire protection experts/consultants. In addition, he has set up the MSP Working Group and convened relevant settlement planners and security experts. The group meets fortnightly.

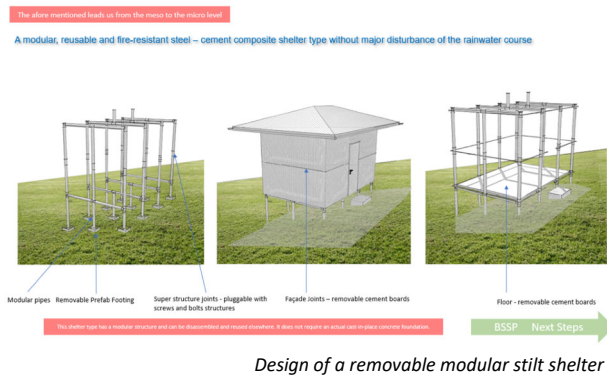


Macro view goes into Micro level and vis versa

**About sustainability, recyclability of shelter materials.
Public relation and exchanges with authorities**

The MSP coordinator attended a 2-day workshop with all the camp directors (CIC's) organized by the Shelter Sector to find out or let's say to hear from them on suggestions what alternative materials could be used in the future to alleviate the safety concerns or improve the structural deficiencies that are associated with high maintenance costs. The outcome of the workshop was rather modest, as the representative bodies were directed towards the first target by the respective authorities, namely the repatriation of the refugees. As similar event was held at the ASF 22 end of November in Dhaka where we have as MSP group presented MSP and launched discussion on the change and reformation on shelter materials.

So, the majority result of the workshop was clear - status quo, no change, basically continue with "improved" bamboo* and tarpaulins. However, the availability of mature high-quality bamboo is going close to zero due to the high consumption of the last years, and even well treated bamboo with boracic acid, if cut too young and immature, is very susceptible to insects and therefore the maintenance of the shelters is getting higher every year, noting that the financial resources of the UNHCR have been cut by 30% next year, aggravated by the 10% local inflation.



Existing bamboo stilt shelter built into flooding area

The Dilemma

The pressure on the part of the donors for sustainability and reusability of building materials is enormous and is in contradiction with the kind of restrictive attitude of the local and national authorities, a dilemma. Proposals and solutions to this are made in the presentation, although this is micro-area but cause of the quantity and the impact as such overall it needs to be considered in the overall context of the macro-plan. However further and better Ideas and suggestions for the discussion are still very welcome.

PROJECTS 2022 -2024

Pilot projects

UNHCR shelter unit have reached a milestone on the meso and micro level, as we were able to realize a settlement in Camp 17 with 20 Shelters, built in steel pipes (Stilt Shelter), but the coverings are still conventional i.e., composite of bamboo braids and tarpaulins on walls and roofs, because Government didn't allow yet to go further. At least on behalf of the MSP we have encouraged the shelter unit in its quest for innovation and in the implementation of new improved and more sustainable building structures.



Pilot Camp 17 Shelters, built in steel pipes (Stilt Shelter)



**Bamboo consumption since 2017: 19.5 million sticks, length 6m - Source UNHCR 2022 Data*

Reflection: Rainwater retention vs further increase in surface sealing

The largely ground fills and compaction, which alter the natural water courses and lead also to the rapidly swelling creeks and rivers, should be prevented, for this reason a stilt construction to separate the floor and the terrain would be much more effective to generate a more rain water retention area under the houses, also mounting gutters und subsequently rainwater collection barrels at the houses could reduce the runoff velocities additionally and rain water harvesting for grey water use and gardening.

THE BLUE GREEN NETWORK

The Madhuchara Canal Restoration Project Start 2023

The Madhuchara area comprises part of Camp 1E to 8E. This is basically some 7 km long hilly stream. Some 7,512 Refugee people of 1,565 households have been living in this catchment area and some 42 Acre host community people of... HHs are also living with refugees in this catchment. After SuLMER, this next phase in a larger scale Madhuchara project intends to manage the water and drainage in a fashion so that houses and facilities will not be inundated by flood, water pollution could be abated, and that refugee’s health, livelihood and wellbeing will be benefitted.

Hereby with this project, we are now moving from the smaller to a large scale by including total 9 Camps and crossing from Northwest to Northeast the outer camp borders, and the learned knowledge and experience from the SuLMER project will be applied 1 to 1.



The Madhuchara Canal Restoration Project Start 2023

SuLMER Project Construction 2022 -2023

As the sustainable Land Management and Environmental Rehabilitation SuLMER Pilot Project.

The project is nearing completion and public interest was significant this year. Many interested people and donors visited the important and prestigious renaturation project to inform themselves.

To remind here, some of the expected benefits of such rehabilitation’s projects are:

- To reduce risks of disasters such as extent of flooding, erosion, and landslides
- To decrease soil erosion and run-off while improving the water quality and the health of plants, fish, and animals living in and around the water due to riparian planting

Social mobilizing

It is essential to ensure maintenance and to assure the cleaning of the riverbed in the long term. It seems that on the one hand there are still difficulties in mobilizing residents and on the other hand conservation education programmed involving children and youth are necessary to clean and keep the riverbed clean. Appropriate programmed should be discussed again within the UN agencies and subsequently implemented. Especially now for upcoming projects on a larger scale like the Madhuchara Canal Restoration Project, where social mobilization must go hand in hand with the recreation of the canal.



SuLMER Restoration Project Start 2022



2/4 - 3/4 Q. A. PERIOD

FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2022, NO RESPONSIBLE MSP COORDINATOR WAS ACTIVE. THEREFORE, NO REPORTS WERE PREPARED NOR SUBMITTED

1/4 Q. A. PERIOD

MACRO PLANNING - MAIN ACTIVITIES (F. TONATELLI)

Technical development of the MSP

Sector spatial gaps and accessibility assessment were extended to include Teknaf and the southern camps and are being updated following the finalization of the facility mapping (feb 2022). IOM and UNHCR site planning team are developing camp-level maps for unbuildable and developable lands under a common initiative, led by SMSD, Shelter/NFI and E&ETWG. More detailed structure plan is in the workplan but with different aims and modalities between agencies.

Maps and GIS files

<https://unhcr365.sharepoint.com/:f:/t/apac-bangladeshoper-ShelterandSitePlanningUnit/ErLorJLepgVLhxcJZajgSBUbKFB0iR8GkB11zH-ZmxX5uQ?e=coRgtV>

Sectors Engagement

Sectors and TWGs directly related to the built environment (SMSD, Shelter, E&E, WASH, Nat Haz, ERP, SWM) were engaged and different working modalities were set-up.

An MSP presentation has been developed and tailored versions are being presented in different forums, from sectors to donor meetings, SMSD, Shelter, E&E sectors have reinforced their collaboration with aligned workplans. A template for camp-level maps has been developed among these sectors to be presented to CiCs and partners, within a series of jointly planned workshops.

Presentations

<https://unhcr365.sharepoint.com/:f:/t/apac-bangladeshoper-ShelterandSitePlanningUnit/EnyvhwgKnKhBjslrHjexlRMBnVsraRHznOT-R4uJZgulMw?e=WtTINx>

Report and other products (superseded)

https://unhcr365.sharepoint.com/:f:/t/apac-bangladeshoper-ShelterandSitePlanningUnit/EjwDpraieXxKo7hd7-TraQB2pu1zaB0_3tN8d9Y_vVwGg?e=0C5kCO

Site Planning & Cross cutting issues

The GBV Risk Mitigation and Safety Audit was substantially commented and reviewed for the Shelter/NFI and SMSD sectors parts, including considerations on good practices and minimum standards for shelter, settlement planning and site development. Main reference were the site planning standards, endorsed by SAG as of 21 August 2019:

- graphic guidelines
https://www.dropbox.com/s/5gbuuchirhtgje6/190828_Site%20Planning%20Graphic%20Guidelines.pdf?dl=0
- planning standards
https://www.dropbox.com/s/c2bep53c0j5c75o/190827_Shelter%20and%20Site%20Planning%20Standards.pdf?dl=0

Although these standards have been rendered outdated and not relevant by the subsequent events and government policies, they still are the only available guidelines for site development and should be revamped as a fundamental step for camp replanning.

Meso-level planning and camp-level structure plans

No common approach was possible to establish between IOM and UNHCR on camp-level meso planning on one side for clashing agendas and priorities, on the other for the different internal organization. IOM started a series of workshop limited to with their SD staff and partners for the development of meso-level plans and are proceeding with limited coordination.

UNHCR developed a workplan for engaging with all UNHCR units and partners for the definition of a camp-level structure brought forward by Asif and Sultan with support from Masika. The plan also comprised activities at sector and

IOM-UNHCR site planning collaboration

So far there is no system in place for systematic and regular coordination, harmonization and feedback between IOM and UNHCR site planner, although several avenues of collaboration have been set up and reinforced while their role has been re-established within SMSD and Shelter Sector and the E&E TWG. Site planning meetings were resumed in November, although slowed down in 2022. The teams have been working together on several themes:

- Camp-level engagement with CiCs for natural risk protection,
- Plantation planning and alignment with MSP provisions,
- LGED projects,
- Temporary Debris Management Sites,
- Post-fire reconstruction guidelines, etc.

Alignment and harmonization of data across agencies present some difficulties. The structure of a common harmonized database structure was developed with IOM and UNHCR, but did not progress as spatial attributes, collection modalities, maintenance and other factors could not be agreed upon. Progress has been made for SD assessments, where UNHCR has agreed to adopt the SMSD proposed template in their GIS based SD scope assessment modality, under pilot now.

GIS common data structure

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e6IMvocRalO04eyNRz1fD5b3d-noAdkA/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116516280701323988453&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

Link MSP with ongoing projects and activities

Engagement in this area has been ad hoc and based on the willingness of the specific partners to include a macro-settlement lens in the projects. Example of successful cases are: (i) identification of temporary debris management sites for each camps together with SWM and ERP TWG (ii) post-fire replanning reconstruction in camp 16

2023 FORECAST

2022-2024 – ASSUMPTIONS

- **MSP ACTIVITIES AND SITE PLANNING SITE DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT**

1. Protection & Solutions Strategy

Key Strategic overall Operational Priorities 2022-2024

- 1.1. Strengthening the protection environment and promoting increased access to critical protection services
- 1.2. Improving the well-being of persons of concern by fostering self-reliance and ensuring adequate living conditions
- 1.3. Facilitating solutions and complementary pathways
- 1.4. Strengthening partnerships with the Government, catalyzing strategic partnerships, increased localization, and support to host community.

Assumptions, Challenges/ Gaps and Opportunities

- Overall relations between the Government and UN Agencies remains constructive
- Voluntariness of return respected but return / relocation encouraged
- Conditions in Myanmar remain largely unchanged
- No major improvement in living conditions in camps
- Provisions of basic assistance in camps continues
- More complex security and protection environment with increased restrictions
- Decreased resources due to financial limitations and current increase of inflation
- Development institutions remain only partially active in the area and engaged, but face financial challenges

2. Needs 2023 - 2024

The Operational Priority number 2, “ensuring adequate living conditions”, gives the overall objective for the Shelter and Settlements Planning unit.

From Sphere Handbook:

The concept of “adequacy” means that housing is more than four walls and a roof. It underlines the importance of including a settlement lens, cultural identity, and the availability of services in a shelter response.

Shelters and settlements are inter-related and need to be considered. “Shelter” is the household living space, including the items necessary to support daily activities. “Settlement” is the wider locations where people and community live.

The topography and population density are distributed differently within this area, producing different effects on the efficiency of space use, on the quality of life of refugee and host population, and on the environment.

and 5, with the introduction of fire breaks, identification of escape routes and assembly temporary debris management sites points, and the proposal of alternative locations for shelter and facilities in hazardous areas (iii) SuLMER project.

Coordination on planned road infrastructure (SMEP+WB+ADB) continued across AoR, with adjustment in road location and alignment received by LGED. Locations for WB funded projects identified as per MSP approach and with active participation of IOM and UNHCR Site Planning and SM teams, SMSD partners, LGED, Fire brigade, RRRC.

- temporary debris management sites
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U3c_ZBhedIMCBv4E-F2Fyw6zTpydpB6Z/view?usp=sharing
- fire incident camp 16
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zTHILshot9egORT6R3p8BEWx7SIR58pg/view?usp=sharing>
- LGED fire station locations
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DDkVLMxYD3hE-81N2FgeA0qaMrP_MGyY/view?usp=sharing

SETTLEMENT PLANNING ACTIVITY PLAN 2022

Awareness on land suitability and introduction to planning for CiCs

SMSD, Shelter sectors, E&E and Nat Haz. TWG have agreed on a common workplan for engaging with CiCs and RRRC.

The agreed engagement strategy focuses on natural disaster risk and environment as entry point for discussion with the Government. CiCs are being targeted for the first engagement in workshops for Awareness on land suitability and introduction to planning.

A template for camp-level maps has been developed by IOM and UNHCR site planes and agreed among the sectors to be presented to CiCs and partners, within a series of jointly planned workshops.

During the 1st week of April there will be the first pilot with the CiC in Camp 8w and 17. Following workshops will be fine-tuned afterwards, to be completed before monsoon.

Self-improvement and develop resilience and will be more cost-efficient in the longer term.

Going forward, the temporary shelters will need to be continued to be repaired and maintained.

The lifespan of bamboo and tarps in this climate is not more than one year, and during every monsoon and after strong winds and rains there will continue to be thousands of shelters that will need emergency repairs.

In view of the potentially protracted refugee situation UNHCR needs to continue to advocate for replacement of temporary shelters with transitional shelters that permit space rationalization, incremental plan with land use zone, access and drainage network, facility locations.

2.1. Needs: Protection/Education

28 Multipurpose Building Construction 2023

LGED is seeking for plots to realize at least up to 28 double story multipurpose Community Buildings which will be considered as Cyclone shelter. The projects are funded by World Bank. Proposals for available land must be developed in time and together with the CiC's. The aim is to erect such multifunctional buildings in 28 camps to also have shelters available for times of crisis.

2.2. Needs: Protection

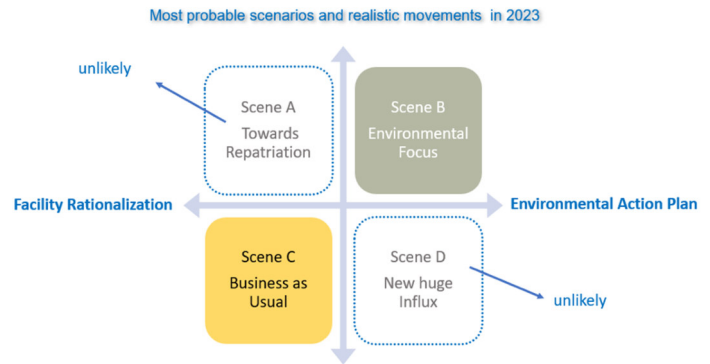
9 Fire Department Building Construction 2022 - 2024

LGED is seeking for plots to realize at least up to 7 more Fire department Buildings. The projects are funded by World Bank. Proposals for available land must be developed in time and together with the CiC's. The aim is to erect such multifunctional buildings in 28 camps to also have shelters available for times of crisis. 2 fire department buildings already in construction.

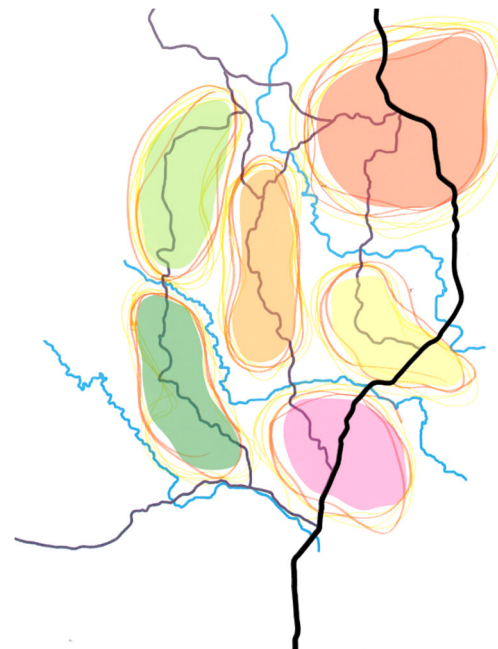
3. Response Strategy 2023

a) Short term and repeated every year
Preparedness for, and implementation of, emergency shelter assistance after strong winds, fire etc. The response is coordinated at camp level by SMS partners and referred directly to Shelter partners for rapid assessment and response.
Short term and repeated every year from January to June
Regular repair and maintenance of the temporary shelters covering all households with maintenance after needs assessment.
Rainwater during the monsoon represents a major risk in terms of flooding, landslides and soil erosion. Adequate drainage in the settlements needs to be ensured.

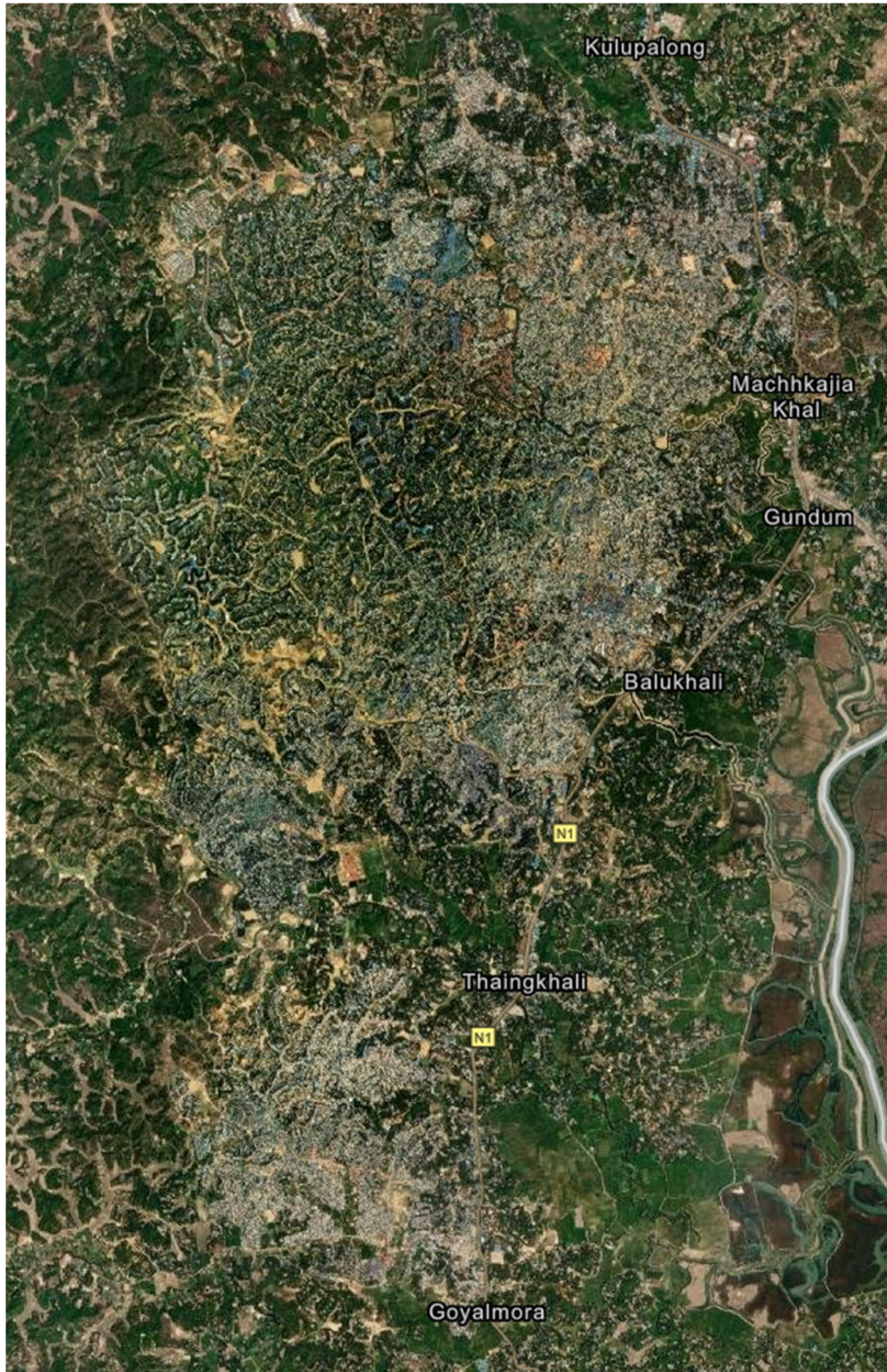
b) Medium term, after continued advocacy
Transitional Shelter construction. More durable shelters using treated bamboo or better removable steel or concrete pillars, based on site plans to ensure minimum standards with facilities.



c) Long term
Regardless of the discussion the discussion with authorities about the opportunity to allow construction of double storey shelters with long lasting removable and reusable bearing frames where and whenever possible.
This is at least the only possibility available to address the high population density, given the “no more land”-policy and assuming refugees will stay in Bangladesh in the foreseeable future and if the growth in the mega camp continues as in the last few years without significant relief, e.g., repatriation or the relocation of refugees to other camps such as Bashan Char.



END



Cox's Bazar on 12/29/2022 Markus Sprenger, Macro Site Planning Coordinator