

O&M requirements for a large solar scheme:

The case study of the Solar Powered Water System in Camp 12, Rohingya refugee crisis, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

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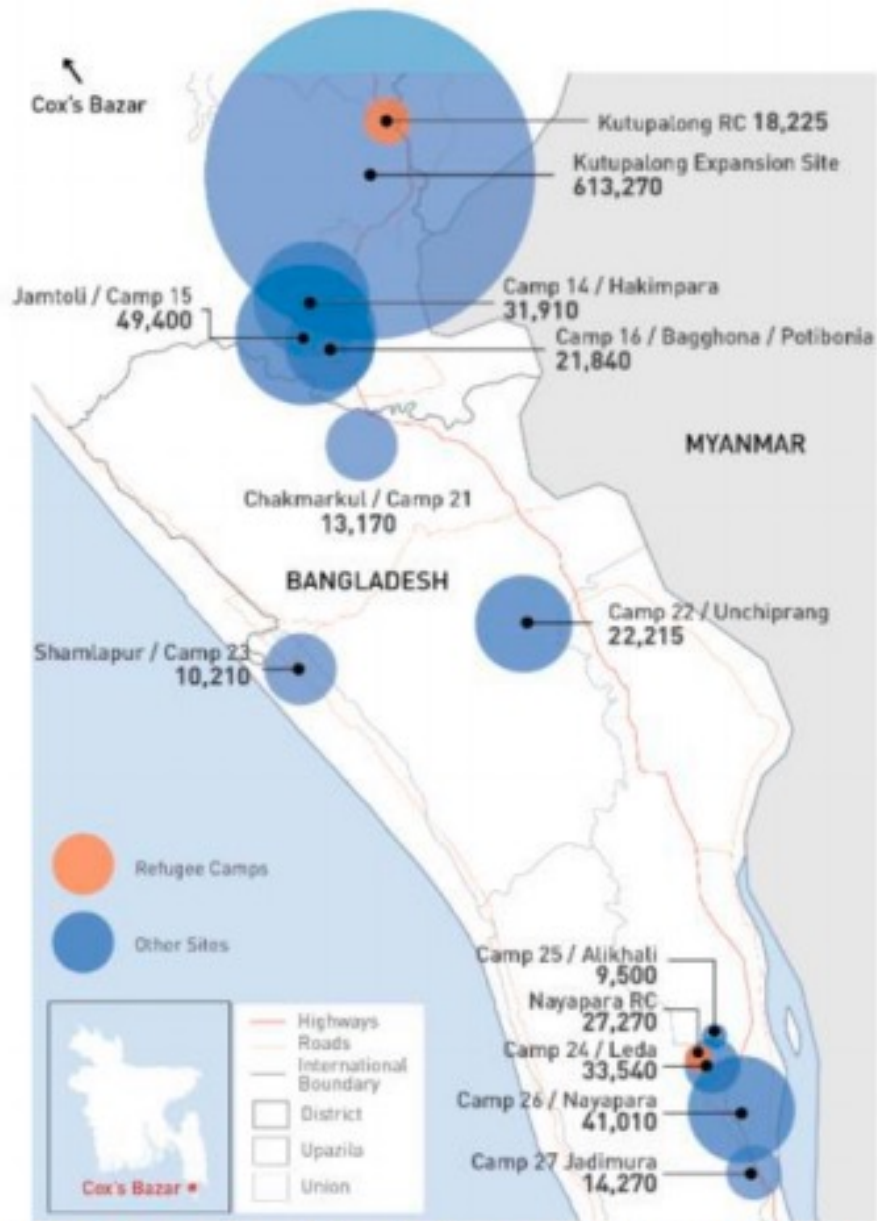
Baudoin Luce

IOM WASH Tech. Officer in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

May 6, 2021

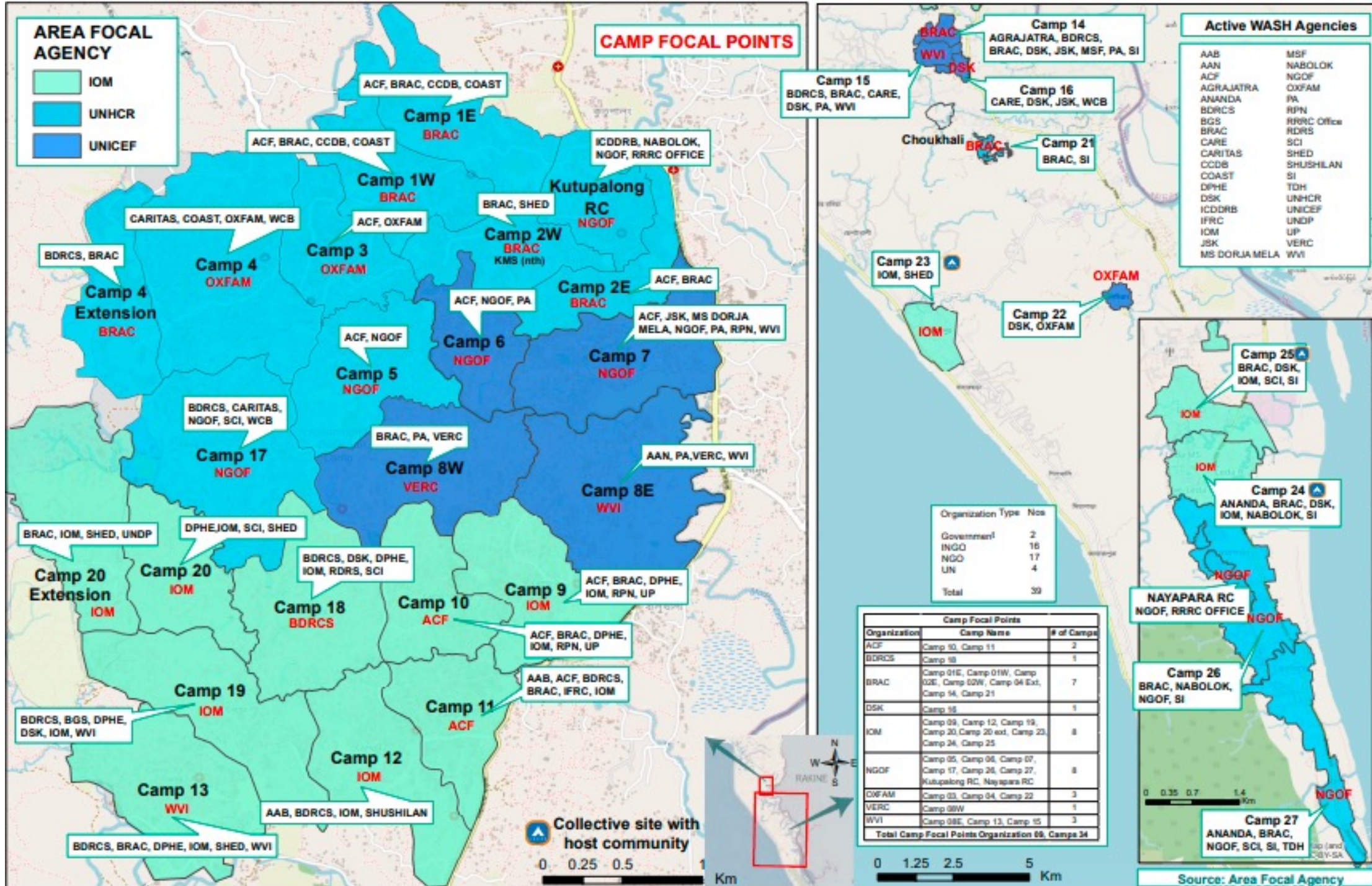


Refugee sites in the Cox's Bazar District



- 34 camps in Cox's Bazar district hosting around 855,000 refugees
- Significant influxes have occurred in 1978, 1992, 2012, and in 2016 from Rakhine State, in Myanmar
- The largest influx took place in August 2017 when over 700,000 Rohingya refugees fled across the border into Bangladesh
- Since 2017, over 685,000 refugees are located within the Kutupalong Expansion Site referred to as the Mega Camp
- 170,000 refugees located in camps further south down the Cox's Bazar Peninsula.

Operational presence map



Introduction – Solar Powered Water (SPW) scheme in C12

The System was commissioned in July 2019

This project is a collaboration between IOM, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Bangladesh Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) funded by PRM and the government of Japan.

Camp	Population	Population Coverage:
12	22,976	86% of the camp population
19	6,385	29% of the camp population
Total	29,361	



Introduction – Key design considerations

1. Target water supply: 587 m³/day (9 hours of pumping on average per day) and 20 liters/person/day.
 2. provide a community tap stand within 100m of all beneficiary households, despite the hilly terrain (sphere standards: < 500m)
 3. Provide enough taps to reach 100 people / tap (sphere standards: 250 ppl/tap).
 4. To supply water to 53 communal facilities
 5. Storage capacity: 570 m³ (6 tanks of 95 m³ each – Oxfam T95 type)
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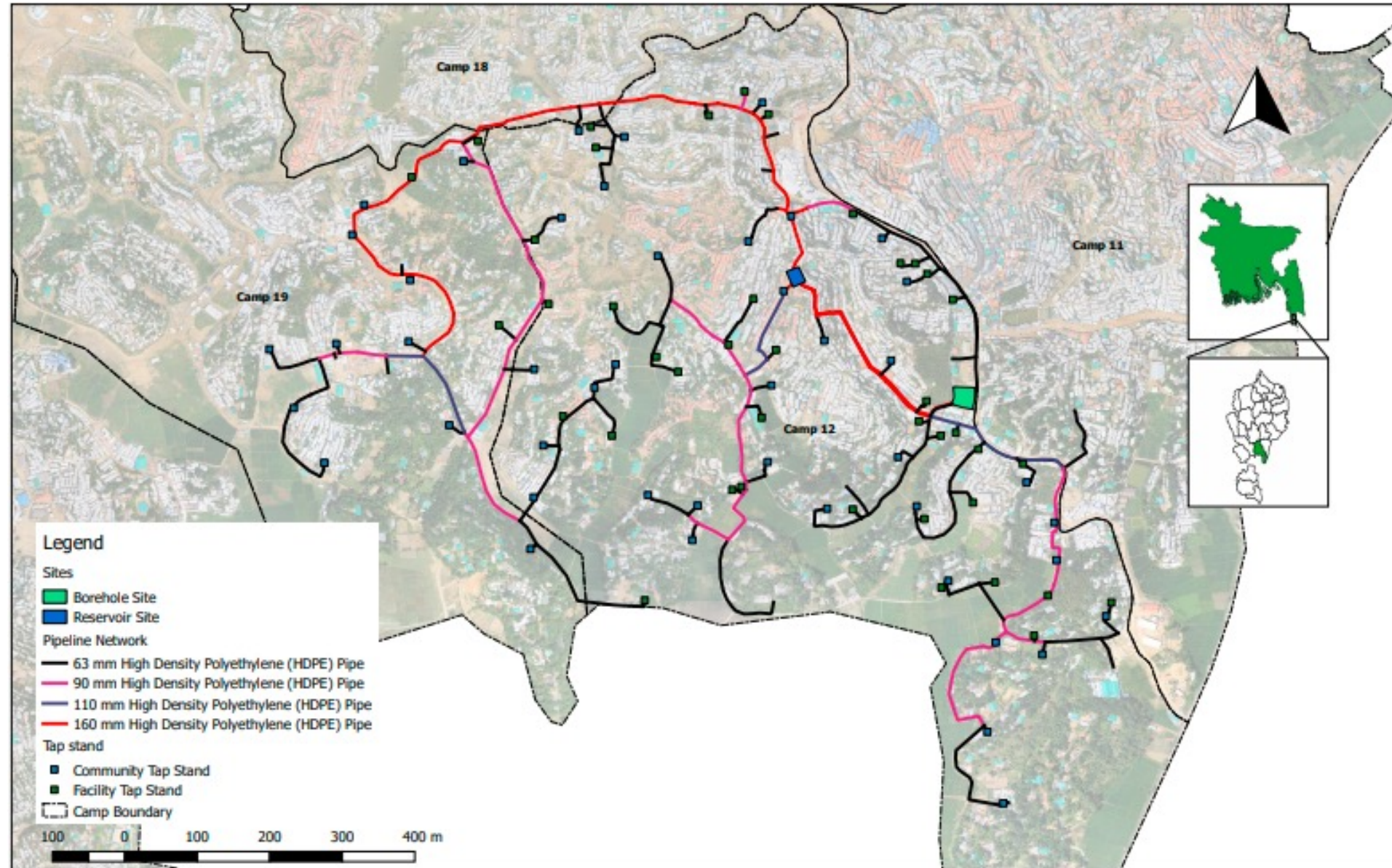


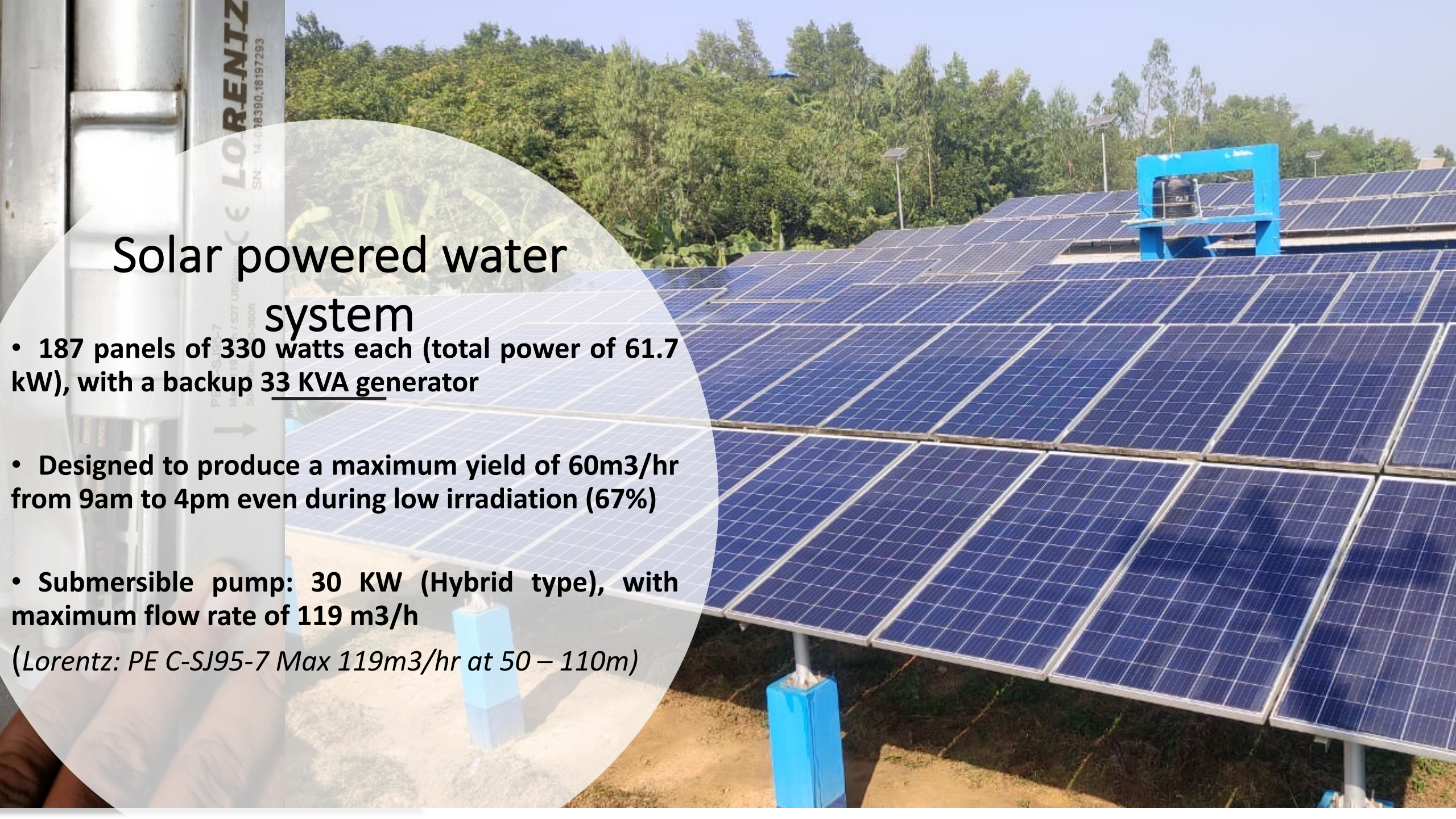
Fire response in Camp 9:
Water trucking support
from C12 Solar system



Water network specifications

- 9.9 km of HDPE pipe installed.
- Total area: 0.88 km²
- 358 taps installed for the community and facilities
- Ratio: 106 ppl/tap





Solar powered water system

- 187 panels of 330 watts each (total power of 61.7 kW), with a backup 33 KVA generator
- Designed to produce a maximum yield of 60m³/hr from 9am to 4pm even during low irradiation (67%)
- Submersible pump: 30 KW (Hybrid type), with maximum flow rate of 119 m³/h
(Lorentz: PE C-SJ95-7 Max 119m³/hr at 50 – 110m)

Solar pumping system

- Daily Average: 135 KWh
 - Maximum in Feb : 163 KWh
 - Minimum in Jul: 100 KWh
- Total energy produced = 550 days * 135 = 74 250 KWh
- Daily output in average: 502m3/day
- Maximum yield of 60m3/hr from 9am to 4pm

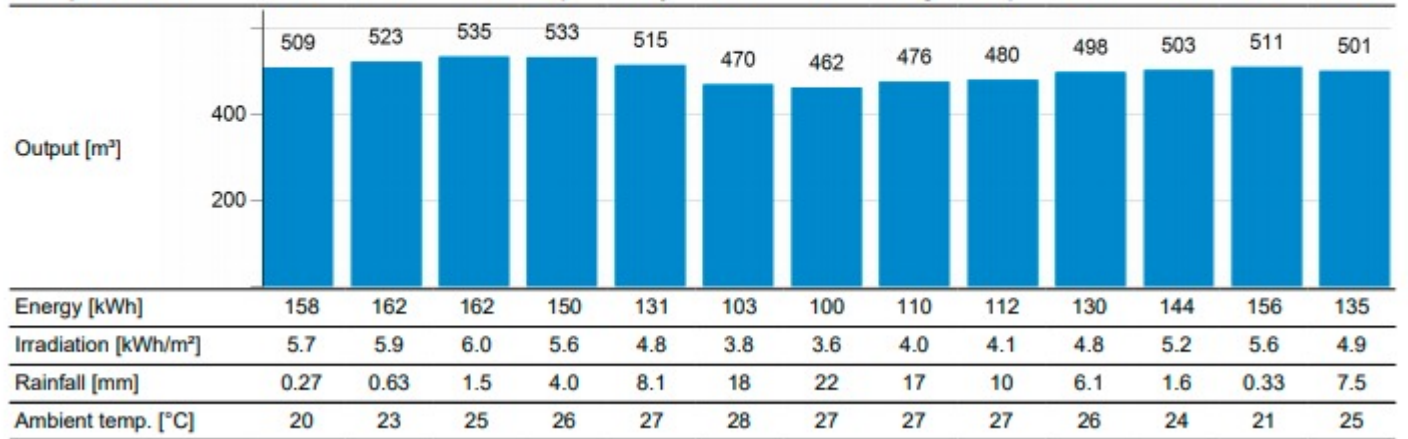
SunSwitch setting in PumpScanner

min. 200 W/m²

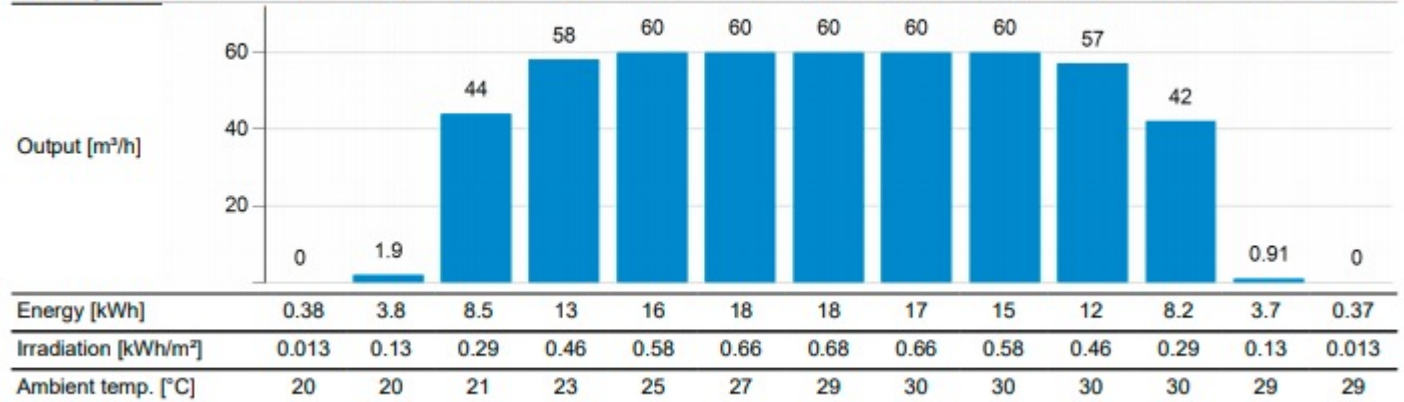
Daily output in average month

501 m³

Daily values



Hourly values



O&M: handover and preventive maintenance with contractor.

- *Proper handover of system:*
 - ✓ *System performance tested*
 - ✓ *Training of staff*
 - ✓ *User's Manual*
- *Define clear terms in the agreement with contractor including:*
 - ✓ *Maintenance schedule for Solar PV system*
 - ✓ *2 years warranty for system and 5 years extension for pump, motor and controller.*
 - ✓ *To plan spare parts for key elements: Solar panels; submersible pump, etc.*

O&M: the team

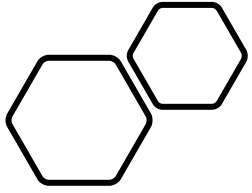
- *Designed to minimize operation and maintenance requirements*
- *Team of 10 Rohingya volunteers living in the camps.*
- *One IOM engineer to supervise the team and monitor the system*



O&M: regular activities

- To carry out regular jar test and to prepare the chlorine solution for the in-line disinfection system.
- To test the free residual chlorine (FRC) on daily basis at tap stands level - $(0.3\text{mg/l} < \text{FRC} < 0.5\text{mg/l})$





O&M: regular activities

- Regular repair & maintenance work done by technician & volunteer group. Repair of taps, pipeline, tanks, etc.
- Clean 1 reservoir/ week (each tank cleaned every 6 weeks)



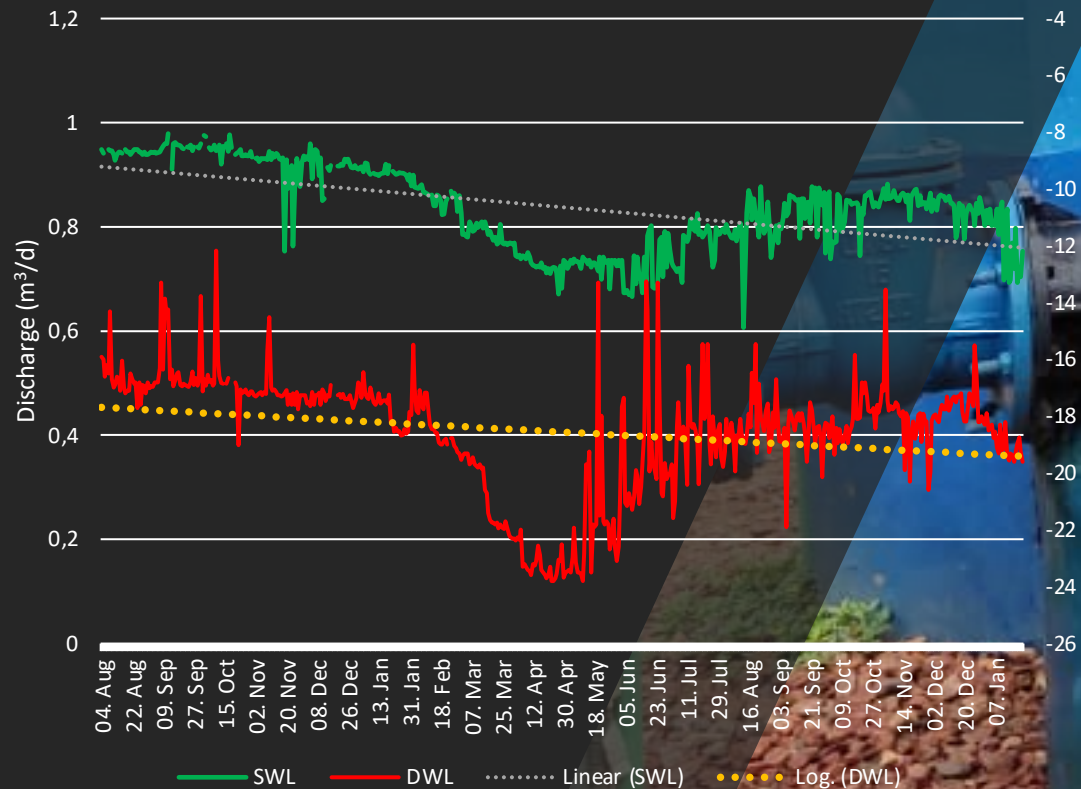
Solar panel O&M:

cleaning: 2
times per week.



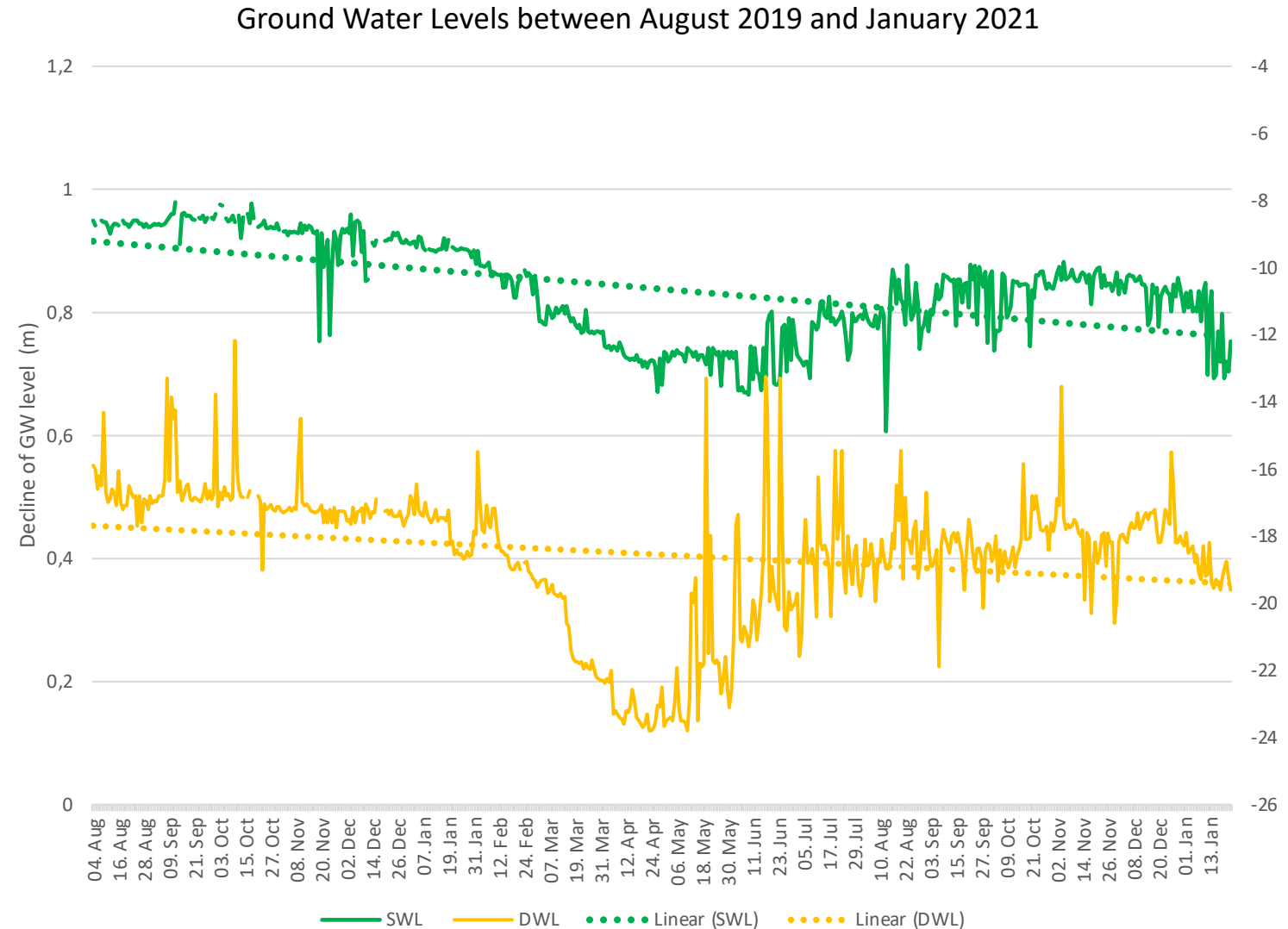
Static and dynamic Water level measurement on daily basis

Daily Production and Ground Water Levels



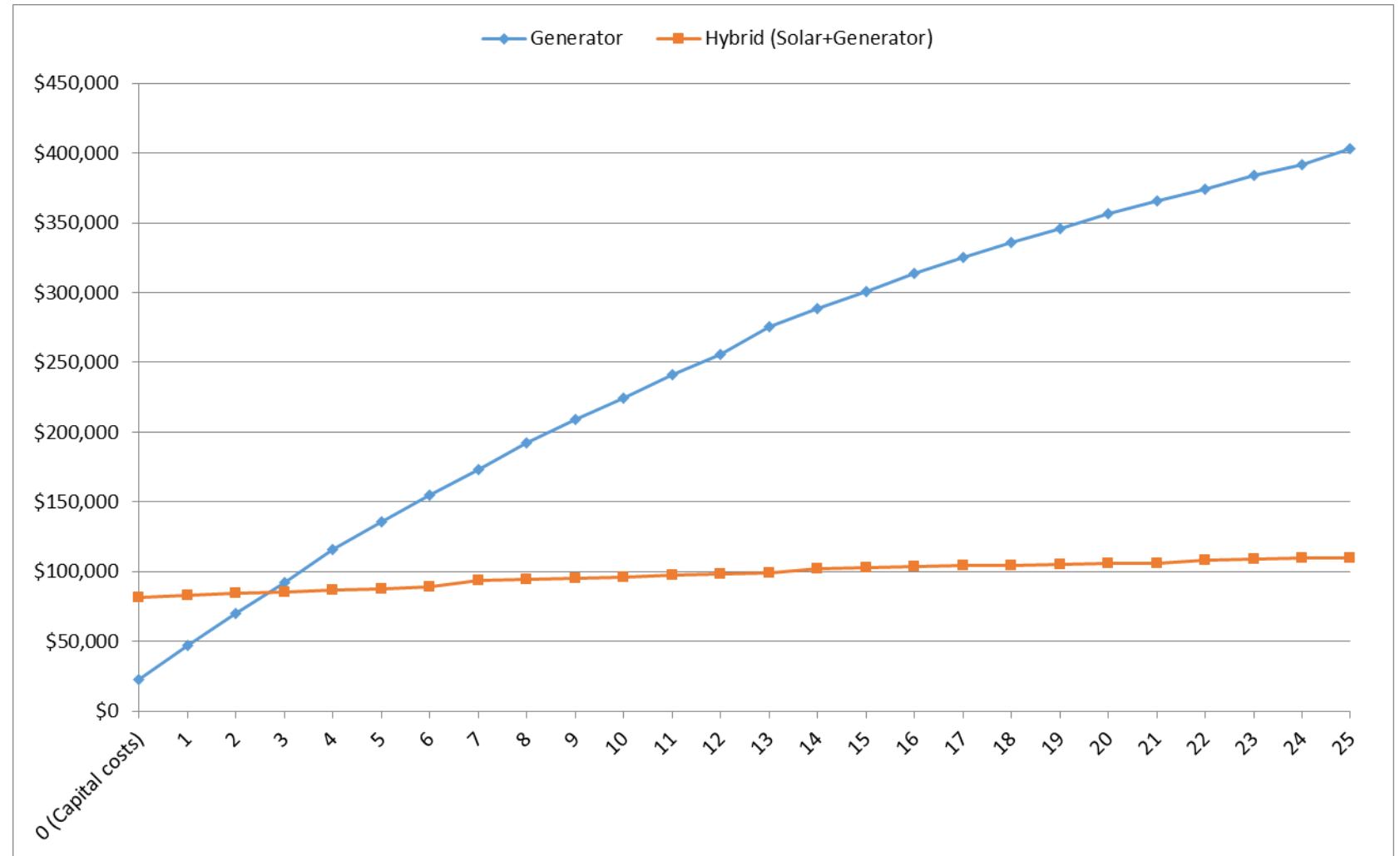
Water level Monitoring:

- Static water level (in green) and dynamic water level (in yellow) measured between August 2019 and January 2021.
- In August 2019; SWL: 8.7m; In August 2020; SWL: 11.4m; **Decline SWL = 2.7 m**
- Coherent with groundwater model developed by IOM , GWR and Dhaka University.
- There is no issue linked to this local decline in the camp as the pump is located at 45m.



Life Cycle cost analysis (1)

Cumulative Cost		
Year	Generator	Hybrid (Solar+Generator)
0 (Capital costs)	\$22,615	\$81,785
1	\$46,857	\$83,098
2	\$69,944	\$84,348
3	\$91,933	\$85,538
4	\$115,812	\$86,672
5	\$135,756	\$87,752
6	\$154,751	\$88,780
7	\$172,840	\$93,732
8	\$192,486	\$94,665
9	\$208,894	\$95,553
10	\$224,521	\$96,399
11	\$241,492	\$97,205
12	\$255,665	\$97,972
13	\$275,479	\$98,703
14	\$288,335	\$102,222
15	\$300,579	\$102,885
16	\$313,876	\$103,516
17	\$324,981	\$104,117
18	\$335,558	\$104,690
19	\$345,631	\$105,235
20	\$356,571	\$105,755
21	\$365,707	\$106,249
22	\$374,409	\$108,631
23	\$383,859	\$109,080
24	\$391,751	\$109,507
25	\$402,784	\$109,914



Life cycle cost analysis (2)

The Return on Investment (ROI) of solar system	32 months
Costs saved with solar after 5 years:	\$48,005
Costs saved with solar after 10 years:	\$128,122
Costs saved with solar after 25 years:	\$292,870
Water supplied in 25 yrs	4 589 875 m ³
Whole life Cost of 1m ³ of water with hybrid system	0.26 USD/m³
Whole life Cost of 1m ³ of water with generator only	0.31 USD/m ³

Conclusion:

The Solar Powered Water System ONLY has the capacity to provide an average of 502m³/day (99% of water distributed)

Return on investment after 32 months and total cost saving after 25yrs of 73%

Proper handover and warranties with the contractor is essential for preventive maintenance and minimize

The O&M is done directly by IOM volunteers trained from the affected population.