



**Thank you Bercomac Limitée for your generous gift of replacing a water well that had been destroyed by fire in the Cox's Bazaar Rohingya Refugee Camp #4.**

The refugees in camp 4 are located in settlements on hilly areas of Cox's Bazar. In 2019 ERDO installed water wells to help families access clean water for drinking and combatting diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea.

A massive fire in March 2021 saw flames eat through the plastic sheeting and bamboo-pole housing

structures in seconds, filling the sky with plumes of black smoke. The fire spread rapidly. People grabbed what they could and ran, carrying elderly relatives, children, or the few possessions they had in their arms. The fire flash was so hot that it actually destroyed the existing water wells that ERDO had put in place, melting the PVC piping into the sand and cracking the metal housings and pumps.



Camp 4 was quickly rebuilt; but destruction of the wells caused increased cases of waterborne disease in the fire affected areas. Camp officials quickly had water trucked in from outside the camp and stored on site until new wells could be installed. Once the well Bercomac provided was completed, it was registered with the UN Water Cluster as all ERDO provided wells are. It was tested for arsenic levels and also bacteria and deemed pure. Compared to other areas in the camp where people were still using stored water it was determined that there is a lower prevalence of disease, lower water collection times, higher standards of sanitation, and better access to water sources for the approximately 100 families who use this well.

**Bercomac's gift of clean water continues to impact the lives of approximately 850 individuals every day.**



## New Water Well in Sreemongal Upazila in Moulvibazar District



This well funded by Bercomac is located in a small cluster of houses bordering on the tea gardens (fields) in Sreemongal Upazila in Moulvibazar district. In some of the pictures you can see the bright green of the tea fields in the background. The tea garden workers are from minority groups within the population and work in the fields for very little money.

In these communities bordering the tea fields, there are no safe water sources available and families are poor. Before Bercomac provided a new deep tube-well (300+ feet) the families were forced to use polluted water from the irrigation canals and ditches. As a result, families were suffering from chronic water borne diseases. With the installation of the new well, 30 families now have clean drinking water and safe water for all domestic purposes.



Clean water in Bangladesh is not readily available. The upper layer of ground water contains excessive iron and other harmful minerals that cannot be used for domestic and drinking purposes.

As a normal low lift hand pump cannot lift water from lower layers where safe water is available ERDO installed a deep tube well and our partner PAOB

organized training for tube well users on the maintenance of the tube wells. As part of Bercomac's donation, 2 people from the community have been trained and are now skilled in minor repairs and operation of the tube well allowing the community to manage and maintain their tube well without external support.

The tube well users have agreed to generate a maintenance fund through a small monthly subscription fee from the user families to pay for minor repairs and maintenance costs. The well is registered with local government ensuring that water is tested regularly to ensure arsenic levels remain within safety levels and that the water continues to be safe to drink.

The difference Bercomac has made in this community has been life changing...



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