

Brac, UNHCR to open 1st two-storey learning centre for Rohingya youngsters

This will be the 39th temporary learning centre that UNHCR has established with Brac since May 2018

Brac, with support from UNHCR, will officially inaugurate the first two-storied temporary learning centre (TLC) at the Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar on Wednesday.

The TLC aims to create more space and educational opportunities for Rohingya youngsters, reports UNB.

Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mohammad Abul Kalam, and Primary and Mass Education Ministry's Joint Secretary (Development) Nesar Ahmed will be attending the inauguration.

Acting Head of Operations and Sub-office for the UN refugee agency in Cox's Bazar Bernadette Castel-Hollingsworth, and Head of Brac Humanitarian Crisis Management Program Mohammed Abdus Salam will also attend the program.

The eye-catching building, painted bright red and yellow, will be able to house up to 240 students studying in two classrooms in three shifts each day.

The design was created by two associate professors at Brac University's architecture department, using local materials and technology, UNHCR said on Tuesday.

Across all the refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar, there are 540,000 children of school age, but only 160,552 have spaces in the TLCs.

There has been a gap of 47% of youngsters between the ages 3 and 14 without any access to education, and more than 97% between the ages 15 and 24 not attending any educational facilities.

Brac's education program Director Dr Safiqul Islam said the two-storied design combats the space crisis in the camps.

"The culturally-sensitive and environment-friendly design allows for a more learning enabling surrounding ensures higher quality education," he added.

UNHCR's Education Officer James Onyango said this was a creative and innovative way to tackle inadequate physical space to guarantee access to educational opportunities for youngsters.

This will be the 39th TLC that UNHCR has established with Brac in 20 different locations in Camp 4 and 17 in Cox's Bazar since May 2018.