



World Food
Programme

WFP Bangladesh

Rohingya Refugee Response Situation Report #13

27 March 2018

In Numbers

671,000 refugee arrivals since 25 August 2017

5,000 estimated new arrivals so far in 2018

196,180 households have received food assistance

165,000 people receiving assistance through cash-based transfers/e-vouchers in March

Highlights

- Phase II of WFP's emergency response is underway, and WFP requires a total of USD 280 million for a sustained response to meet the needs of the Rohingya refugees through the rest of the year.
- WFP has started transitioning refugees from food assistance to cash-based transfers (CBT), and aims to transition all refugees to CBT by the end of the year.
- Preparations are ongoing for the upcoming monsoon season, which is expected to have significant impacts on securing safer settlements, and WFP operations.

Situation Update

- The monsoon season is fast approaching, and is expected to have significant impacts on the refugee settlements. The humanitarian community is undertaking a multitude of preparedness actions.
- Although the influx of refugees from Myanmar has slowed over the past months, 3,236 new arrivals reportedly crossed the border in February, bringing the total new arrivals to more than 5,000 since the beginning of the year, UNHCR reports.
- 80 percent of new arrivals interviewed cited family safety and security as the main reasons for fleeing, and 43 percent cited restrictions on livelihoods as another major reason, in addition to frequent raids and lack of food.
- About 2,500 Rohingya refugees from the Kuna Para "no man's land" (zero line, on the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar), who have been there since the end of August 2017, have been ordered to vacate the area by Myanmar authorities. WFP integrates new arrivals into the ongoing food distribution cycle on a continuous basis.
- Following the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) covering the period from September 2017 to February 2018, the [Joint Response Plan](#) (JRP) for March-December 2018 was launched in Geneva on 16 March, with a total budget of USD 950.8 million.

WFP Response

- Phase II of WFP's emergency response (March-December 2018) commenced this month. As part of the response plan for Phase II, WFP has begun transitioning all refugees from food assistance to cash-based transfer assistance through e-vouchers.

- 165,000 people are receiving food assistance through e-vouchers redeemable at WFP assistance outlets in March, up from approximately 89,000 people in January and February. WFP plans to transition all refugees to food assistance via e-vouchers by the end of the year.
- Planning continues at the WFP office in Cox's Bazar for the forthcoming monsoon season in close collaboration with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), other United Nations agencies, and cooperating partners, and a number of preparedness actions are underway.
- In preparation for the monsoon season, WFP is preparing to implement community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects through a cash-for-work (food assistance for assets) approach, where vulnerable refugees will undertake mitigation and rehabilitation activities in exchange for cash. Key community projects have been identified and WFP is in the process of identifying potential cooperating partners.
- Under a USD 2.7 million grant from Japan for disaster risk reduction through food assistance for assets, a number of preparedness activities are being planned, including the rehabilitation of access roads to major WFP food distribution sites, slope stabilization in high risk areas, rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary drainages, and cash-for-training activities.
- Phase II of WFP's emergency response is currently still only 8 percent funded, and WFP urgently requires USD 11.3 million to extend its food, e-voucher and nutrition assistance until the end of July.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Round 11 of general food distributions was completed on 19 March, reaching a total of 152,316 refugee households (approximately 685,000 people). Round 12 is currently ongoing.
- WFP is scaling up its nutrition outreach, and as of this month, 21 malnutrition prevention and treatment programme sites are operational. To date, more than 157,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 5 years have been enrolled in the programme.



Gender/Protection/Accountability to Affected Populations

- WFP continues to ensure that gender and protection considerations and activities are embedded in the emergency response, including the ongoing monsoon preparedness activities, as well as in ongoing development programmes.
- Ensuring inclusiveness in the upcoming monsoon preparedness activities, Rohingya refugee women are being included in cash-for-work and cash-for-training activities alongside men.
- In host communities surrounding the camps, through the Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) programme, women and their households are receiving training and monthly cash-based transfers to support different livelihood opportunities.



Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector, WFP Supply Chain and Engineering project are working to establish a new hub close to the Kutupalong mega camp. The new hub, located 800 m north of the mega camp, is close enough to allow for food and other relief items to be transported into the camp on foot (by porters) should roads become inaccessible to vehicles during the monsoon season.
- The Logistics Sector hub is now receiving cargo from 19 different partners (Atlas Logistiques/HI, CARE, Christian Aid, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Danish Refugee Council, IFRC (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society), the Government of Bangladesh, International Organization for Migration, Medical Teams International, NGO Forum for Public Health, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, Solidarites International, Terres des Hommes, UNICEF, World Vision, WFP, World Health Organization (WHO), and Water Aid).



Food Security Sector

- As part of the monsoon preparedness activities, the Food Security Sector has arranged a contingency stock of dried foods and micronutrient fortified biscuits for 100,000 people.
- The Food Security Sector is coordinating general distributions with complementary sector members. The sector is further supporting WFP Vulnerability

Analysis and Mapping (VAM) to coordinate market price monitoring with sector partners.

- 24 partners are part of the Food Security Sector in Cox's Bazar including United Nations agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs), and Red Cross/Crescent societies.



Emergency Telecommunications Sector

- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) are working to update and expand coverage of the security telecommunications network in Cox's Bazar. The procurement of equipment has started, and a telecommunications specialist from WFP's Fast IT, Telecommunications and Coordination Support Services Team (FITTEST) has deployed to Bangladesh to lead the upgrade of the common security telecommunications network in Cox's Bazar to meet the needs of humanitarian responders.
- The ETS is coordinating with the Site Management Sector to deploy Internet connectivity services in the refugee camps, and has received approval from authorities to deploy broadband Internet connectivity services to humanitarian staff working in the camps.



Resourcing Update

- Phase II of the WFP emergency response, running from March to December this year, has commenced, with a total requirement of USD 280 million.
- WFP has received contributions of USD 22.8 million for Phase II of the emergency response to date, including:
 - USD 6.2 million from Japan
 - USD 4.1 million from the USA
 - USD 2.37 million from USDA/USA
 - USD 1.5 million from DFAT/Australia
 - USD 1.6 million from the Government of Bangladesh (in-kind contribution)
 - USD 1 million from Switzerland
 - USD 40,000 from the US Friends of WFP
 - USD 10,000 from private donors (United Arab Emirates)



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WFP Rohingya Refugee Emergency Response

	Total Requirements	Total Received
Phase II (March–December 2018)	USD 280.25 million	USD 22.8m