WFP Response

During September, WFP assisted 668,500 refugees through the GFA across 19 distribution points. Construction of new food distribution sites is underway in camp 20 Extension and camp 4 Extension.

E-voucher modality continues to be the most favoured by the Rohingya refugees, with over 86 percent of the interviewed beneficiaries in the monitoring exercise in September expressing their satisfaction over the current system. During September, WFP also assisted 210,000 refugees through the e-voucher modality, across 18 retail outlets and with a diverse food basket of 19 items including fresh vegetables, spices, dried fish, eggs, pulses, rice and non-food items like hygiene items in the shops. By mid 2019, WFP plans to transition all beneficiaries from GFA to e-voucher modality to ensure greater flexibility and better dietary diversity and 33 additional shops are planned.

Nutrition Assistance:

• Malnutrition prevention and treatment programme remains key to ensure sustainable efforts to increase nutritional status of children under five years of age (CU5) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). During September, 165,000 CU5 and 34,000 PLWs were assisted under Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme across 31 nutrition centres in the camps and 86 in the host community. Additionally, Ready-to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) was distributed in 15 centres and WFP plans to scale it up to 31 sites.

School Feeding: Rohingya refugee and host community

• During September, school feeding activities expanded to 1,300 learning centres and reached 140,000 refugee children with locally produced micronutrient fortified biscuits. WFP also supports complimentary literacy improvement activities in the host community such as providing school furniture including classroom benches and display boards, establishing libraries and providing teacher training.

Cyclone Preparedness and Risk Mitigation

• Cyclone preparedness and risk mitigation measures are underway, including building of cyclone shelters and rehabilitation centres, prepositioning of relief items and machinery, capacity strengthening trainings and awareness programmes. Furthermore, WFP has received support from the Office of U.S Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and is readily liaising with the Government, including the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), to ensure proper response mechanism for the ongoing cyclone season.

In Numbers

725,000 refugee arrivals since August 2017.
13,764 refugee arrival since January 2018.

During September:
878,000 refugees received food assistance
668,500 refugees General Food Assistance (GFA)
210,000 refugees E-voucher assistance

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Livelihood and Self Reliance Activities

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities for cyclone preparedness are ongoing for example resilience building, improving and establishing access roads, strengthening and clearing drainages, reinforcing bridges in the camps. WFP with IOM and other partners have constructed 21 bamboo bridges to improve access in the camps. Preparatory works have started for reforestation activities under the technical guidance of FAO.

Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition: The third phase of this livelihood activity for “economically-vulnerable” local host community women is ongoing. The women are provided with monthly subsistence allowance, a one-off cash grant to set up income generating activities and enterprise development trainings for building skills on entrepreneurship. Also, the participants with disabilities are being assisted with required devices and services to facilitate their full participation in the project.

Self Reliance: WFP and partners (BRAC, UNFPA and UN Women) initially selected 2,100 participants with an aim to enhance the self reliance of refugee women and adolescent girls by strengthening their skills and knowledge and providing necessary trainings. Participants are receiving tailoring and basic literacy trainings which are being conducted at 10 different “women-led” community centres. Plan is to scale it up to include 2000 more women.

SAFE: With partners IOM and FAO, WFP is providing Liquefied Petroleum Gas to beneficiaries through SCOPE, its beneficiary and transfer management system. It started with 2500 beneficiaries and plan is to scale it up to 9000 households.

Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP)

- During the cyclone season, SMEP remains crucial as it engages with site maintenance and engineering works such as constructing and repairing roads, levelling and flattening landslide prone lands to make them safe for relocation.

- SMEP is also actively contributing to cyclone preparedness activities through its engagement with the Inter-sector Coordination Group.

Supply Chain

- WFP Supply Chain is coordinating with the partners to ensure providing good quality food commodities to beneficiaries during the cyclone season. In September, nearly 12,443 mt of mixed food commodities were delivered for WFP programmes.

- As planned, Ukhiya logistics hub will be closed down and two Mobile Service Units (MSUs) will be installed at TV Tower distribution point by the end of October.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The Sector continues to ensure coordination between partners on coverage of food assistance and developing plans and response mechanisms for upcoming cyclone season for the refugees as well as the host communities.

Logistics Sector

- The Sector continues to provide 6800 m³ of common storage space through three logistics hubs. The sector is working with partners on cyclone preparedness initiatives, such as securing containers to preposition relief items close to the camps and reinforcing the MSUs to protect from heavy winds.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS is assisting the NGO and INGO partners of UN agencies to access UN security radio network for ascertaining compliance of partners. Also, a plan has been submitted to Area Security Management Team for reviewing and moving the process forward. ETS is supporting 29 information hubs across the camps with necessary equipment.

Resourcing Update

- WFP has received recent contributions from USA-OFDA, USA FFP and UNCERF.

- WFP urgently needs more funds to continue life-saving assistance for Rohingya refugees and ensure balanced services to affected host community.

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