



## WFP Bangladesh

### Rohingya Refugee Response

Situation Report #24

15 March 2019

#### In Numbers (Inter-sector Coordination Group)

**745,000** refugee arrivals since August 2017.

**15,247** refugee arrivals since January 2018.

#### During February:

**890,000 refugees** received food assistance

**126,538 families** received in-kind food

**66,577 families** received e-voucher assistance

#### Highlights

- Over **60 percent** of the refugee population have received WFP assistance card (powered by SCOPE), which will facilitate access to e-voucher modality from general food assistance.
- The SCOPE card distribution also enables expansion of WFP's multi-wallet services to other humanitarian partners, including Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distribution and WASH NFIs (soap) in collaboration with UNICEF.
- An inter-agency **All-male Cooking Competition** was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day in WFP campus. This reinforced the interlinkages between food security, environmental sustainability and gender parity.

#### WFP Response (February)

##### WFP Rohingya Refugee Emergency Response

Budget 2019	Total Require- ments (USD)	Total Re- ceived (USD)	Six months Gap (March- August)
	<b>285.99 million</b>	<b>121 million</b>	<b>83 million</b>

#### Situation Update

- Recently as reported, the Government of Bangladesh has [expressed](#) its intent to action upon the relocation plan of Rohingya refugees to Bhasanchar island.
- Cox's Bazar remains extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, including cyclones and floods. WFP is ramping up its emergency preparedness and response mechanisms for the forthcoming cyclone season: rehabilitating cyclone shelters, strengthening roads and prepositioning relief items in strategic storage space in the camps and warehouses across Chittagong and Cox's Bazar town.



#### Cyclone and Monsoon Preparedness

- WFP continues to support Government line ministries and local departments, to strengthen existing modalities for steadfast and robust action in case of natural disasters. In this regard, WFP is partaking in an inter-agency simulation exercise aimed to reinforce the emergency preparedness mechanisms.
- WFP engages in slope and hill stabilization to fasten relocation of the population most at-risk of landslides and floods in the camps, as part of the inter-agency Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP). Further, structural reinforcement of WFP supply lines (distribution centres), drainage and canal excavation in the camps,

bridge and drainage channel construction works are ongoing.

#### WFP's Rapid Response Plan

- WFP has adopted an agile response, adopting most **effective and context-specific** modalities for assistance and common service delivery to address the needs of the population that is vulnerable to disasters.
- In the immediate aftermath, WFP is providing high energy biscuits (HEB) ration and one-off in-kind food assistance ration (rice, pulses and oil). Cooked meals are also provided where access to essential resources and sustainable fuel is limited.
- Additionally, WFP provides three week ration to displaced/relocated families, new arrivals and protection referrals as part of its rapid response. In the first 24 hours HEBs and one-off food ration is provided in the next 72 hours. Eventually these families are integrated to routine general food assistance programme in the closest distribution point within three weeks.



#### Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In February, WFP assisted **over 890,000 refugees** through in-kind food and e-voucher assistance. Of the total refugee population, e-voucher assistance was provided to **324,000 households** in the camps, and vouchers worth **USD 2.7 million** were redeemed across **21 e-voucher outlets**.
- In addition to 12 mandatory food ration, WFP recently introduced **eight flexible seasonal items** (including fruits and vegetables) to increase beneficiaries' dietary diversity and allow competition amongst the contracted retailers.

- During February, WFP assisted **181,000 children under 5 years of age** and **36,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women** through malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes across **38 nutrition centres** in the camps and **86 health clinics** in the host communities.



### School Feeding

**Refugee camps:** During February, WFP expanded its school feeding activities in the refugee camps to **2,289 learning centres** and reached **206,000 children** with locally produced micro-nutrient-fortified biscuits.

**Host community:** School feeding is on-going across **557 schools** in the host communities reaching **144,000 children**. In an effort to increase students' reading capacity and incentivize parents to encourage children's participation, WFP is leading the Read Play Festival across all schools in the host communities.

## Livelihoods Strengthening Programmes

### Self-Reliance for Refugees:

- In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) WFP launched ten new Women-Led Community Centres (WLCCs), catered to both host and refugee communities. This will enhance the capacity and resilience of the targeted population through tailored income-generating skills development.
- Mobile repairing training started in BRAC skill development centres for 60 adolescent boys in two refugee camps.
- 12 participants/staffs from partner organizations are participating in aqua culture and horticulture training.

### Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition

**(EFSN):** EFSN targets women from the most vulnerable households in the host communities. Currently **20,000 women** are participating in the project. WFP also assists physically challenged participants with special devices to ensure their full-fledged participation in EFSN activities.

### Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Project (SAFE)

- SAFE addresses protection, environment and food insecurity concerns by providing affected population from both host and refugee communities with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and cooking stoves.
- Over **125,000 households** are targeted by the end of the year.



### Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- In February, **8,500 refugees and 1,900 locals** participated in cash for work activities.
- WFP has rehabilitated **27 cyclone shelters** in the host community and work is ongoing on **13 other shelters**.

- WFP has partnered with UN Women for structural rehabilitation and ground preparation to establish women-led market spaces in the camps.

### Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP)

- SMEP is developing a version of flood model to support with strategic planning of new road networks and shelter relocations.
- **1,700 refugees** engaged in heavy engineering works everyday.



### Supply Chain (SC)

- During February, WFP delivered more than **10,781.605 metric tonnes** of food commodities. SC ensured timely delivery and successfully avoided pipeline break through effective and continuous coordination with relevant authorities. Presently, eight retailers are on board to ensure diversity and quality service to the refugees in the e-Voucher shops.

### Clusters and Common Services



### Logistics Sector

- During February, the Logistics Sector handled **7,740 mt of cargo** for 28 organizations.
- A Mobile Storage Unit Erection Training and Cyclone Preparedness Drill was held on 19-20 February 2019, with 25 participants from 18 different organizations.



### Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS will support the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in upgrading UN Security communications system. It will also provide internet connectivity to the Balukhali transshipment point.
- ETS is supporting the International Organization of Migration (IOM) with programming of radio services.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

- In February, **116 calls were received** by the WFP call centre, of which 62 calls were responded to immediately. 62 percent of the callers were women.
- Most calls were inquiries about distributions, requests to include new members, as well as concerns linked to delays in cash transfer or fingerprint issues. WFP ensures prompt and timely redressal of complains registered.

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