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World Food Programme



# WFP Bangladesh

## Rohingya Refugee Response

External Situation Report #28

18 July 2019

### Situation Overview: In Numbers (ISCG figures)

- Total Refugee Population: **913,000**
- Refugees arrived since 2017: **745,000**

### WFP Food Assistance in Numbers (June)\*

- In June a total of **846,000 refugees** were assisted by WFP through a combination of:
  - **In-kind:** 440,000 refugees
  - **E-voucher:** 406,000 refugees

\*Close to 30,000 refugees, in two camps, Unchirprang and Chakmarkul, are assisted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as WFP is not operational there.

### Highlights

**Rice Capping in Teknaf:** To address the reselling of WFP commodities in markets, WFP introduced a cap of BDT 450 on the value of electronic voucher entitlements that refugees can spend on rice. With the cap, each family can buy 14 kg of rice (2 kg more than given through in-kind assistance). The remaining can be spent on buying other commodities available at the outlets.

**Monsoon Response:** Cox's Bazar refugee camps were adversely impacted by heavy rain and resultant landslides. WFP provided immediate food assistance, including high energy biscuits and/or one-off in-kind food ration to over **11,500 affected refugees**.

### WFP Funding Requirements

Budget 2019	Total Requirements	Total Received	Six-Month Requirement (July to November)
USD	<b>286 M</b>	<b>197 M</b>	<b>28.7 M</b>

### WFP Monthly Achievements (June)

- **School Feeding:** **245,698** children assisted in learning centres in the camps and **139,057** in host community schools.
- **Nutrition:** **24,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women and **173,700** children under five assisted in the camps; and **6,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women and **9,500** children under five in the host community.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** **3,000** workers were engaged in cash-for-work activities in the camps and host communities, including **750** women.
- **Supply Chain:** Total food distributed **8,448 mt**

### Situation Update

#### WFP Monsoon Response

- In comparison to 2018, monsoon this year has led to heavier rainfall and landslides, adversely affecting low-lying areas. Cox's Bazar is one of the ten districts under high-risk of monsoon damages. In the refugee camps, thousands of refugees were affected, with hundreds displaced during the first two weeks of July.
- WFP assets, including distribution sites and access roads, were severely affected. WFP is engaged in urgent repairs and reconstruction of the affected assets to avoid disruptions to its activities.
- As part of monsoon preparedness, WFP started to distribute plastic food containers for safe storage of food items from monsoon rains and during the cyclone season. Over 1,300

refugees receive these plastic containers every day. WFP plans to distribute approximately **160,000 plastic containers**.

- WFP has prepositioned emergency **contingency stocks** at strategic locations for effective preparedness and response. This includes **41 mt** of high energy biscuits, which have been prepositioned inside the camps, and additional food stocks, which are available in different locations.

#### Integrated food and nutrition assistance:

- In June, WFP assisted over **97,600** refugee households across 19 food sites in the camps with in-kind food assistance (rice, pulses and vegetable oil). A further **89,000** households redeemed their entitlements using electronic voucher cards across 10 outlets (24 shops). In August, WFP will open a new e-voucher outlet in Camp 20 Extension which will target 3,281 households.
- WFP Assistance card is also used to access non-food items delivered by different humanitarian actors. For instance, in two camps — Balukhali and D5 — hygiene soap distribution is ongoing for 15,000 refugee households, with plans to scale it up in two other camps. WFP with IOM also assists refugees and host communities with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), over 45,000 families have received cylinders so far.
- WFP's integrated food assistance is complemented with tailored nutrition programme ongoing across **51 centres** in the camps and **87 centres** in the host community.

#### School Feeding Programme (SFP):

- WFP regular conducts sensitization sessions on health and hygiene for children and social awareness and community mobilization workshops to combat human trafficking, child marriage and gender biases.
- WFP conducted over **100** awareness sessions on health and hygiene followed by quiz competition for **14,000** students, of whom **53 percent** were girls.

- SFP is exploring **new monitoring and reporting tools**, to improve oversight on project activities and update reporting requirements for cooperating partners.

### Livelihood activities

#### For refugees:

- Two new skills centres were inaugurated in camp 20 and 21, bringing the total to **24** centres in the camps. Over **6,620** refugees are enrolled in these centres, where they receive technical trainings in skills such as tailoring, embroidery, mobile phone servicing, aquaculture, block printing and the production of sanitary napkins. WFP plans to engage upto **15,000** refugees in its livelihoods activities, by end of the year.

#### For the host community:

- WFP's livelihood programme for the host community currently supports **20,000** women in the host areas.
- Refresher trainings on income-generating activities were provided to **13,200** beneficiaries in Ukhiya and Teknaf to support the development of entrepreneurial skills.
- Aligned with WFP's ongoing efforts to promote participation of people with disabilities, tailored eye-checking sessions were conducted for beneficiaries in Teknaf.

### Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- **Monsoon preparedness** works are ongoing across **24** sites in the refugee camps. This includes bridge repair, slope stabilization, drainage clearance and strengthening and road rehabilitation activities. On an average, 3,000 refugees monthly are engaged in the risk reduction works.
- WFP has started reforestation activities in collaboration with BRAC and the Centre for Natural Resources Studies on **82 hectares** of land in the camps.

### Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP)

- SMEP has stationed **17 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs)** across host and refugee areas. These are used to conduct daily assessments, manage requests on critical infrastructure damages and evaluate landslide threats and the impact of monsoon rains on road access.
- SMEP is prioritizing repair and monitoring works, slope stabilization and road rehabilitation to improve camp access, address soil erosion and water logging. SMEP successfully completed slope stabilization works in Camp 4 Extension prior to heavy downpouring from July.
- WFP is preparing a flood model to map out the flood-prone areas and develop pre-emptive strategies to manage the after-effects of flooding.

### Protection

- WFP conducted six focused group discussions (FGD) involving members of the host and refugee communities. This brings the total number of FGD conducted since January 2019 to 12. These sessions aim at identifying specific concerns of the participants and finding community-based solutions.

### Supply chain

- WFP has prepositioned **6,991 mt** of food commodities for emergency distribution, including during monsoon rains and cyclones. WFP regularly monitors and coordinates with cooperating partners to ensure uninterrupted delivery of food items.
- Warehouse maintenance is ongoing in Cox's Bazar to protect common infrastructure and assets from heavy rainfall. An additional mobile storage unit was positioned in the Madhurchara hub to stock emergency of food and non food items.
- A retail warehouse assessment was conducted to assess storage space which would be available among retailers to store contingency stocks in the event of natural disaster.

### Clusters and Common Services

#### Logistics Sector (LS):

- During June, the LS handled **4,025 m<sup>3</sup>** of relief items for **17** organizations.
- As part of its preparedness activities, LS positioned two tractors at the Madhurchara hub to support towing of vehicles during emergencies.
- LS has launched the Physical Road Access Constraint (PRAC) application online for all partners to use, including the [reporting](#) and [viewer](#) tools. A Bangla version has now been developed as well. The Sector will continue to conduct information sessions and trainings for the core users from partner organizations.

#### Food Security Sector (FSS):

- The FSS is preparing the joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNA), liaising with Inter-Sector Coordination Group, which will provide an analysis of the diverse multi-sectoral needs of refugee and host populations. The analysis combines primary and secondary data, including other assessments and monitoring systems. The data was collected during August and will serve as a basis for post-2019 strategic response planning.

#### Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS):

- ETS is consolidating its internal emergency preparedness and response plans to expand the very high frequency (VHF) safety and security network throughout the camps.
- Research on ETS and Mobile Network Operator services coverage areas continues. A study is being conducted on potential service improvements to the Information Hubs throughout the camps.

### Contacts

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