



World Food Programme

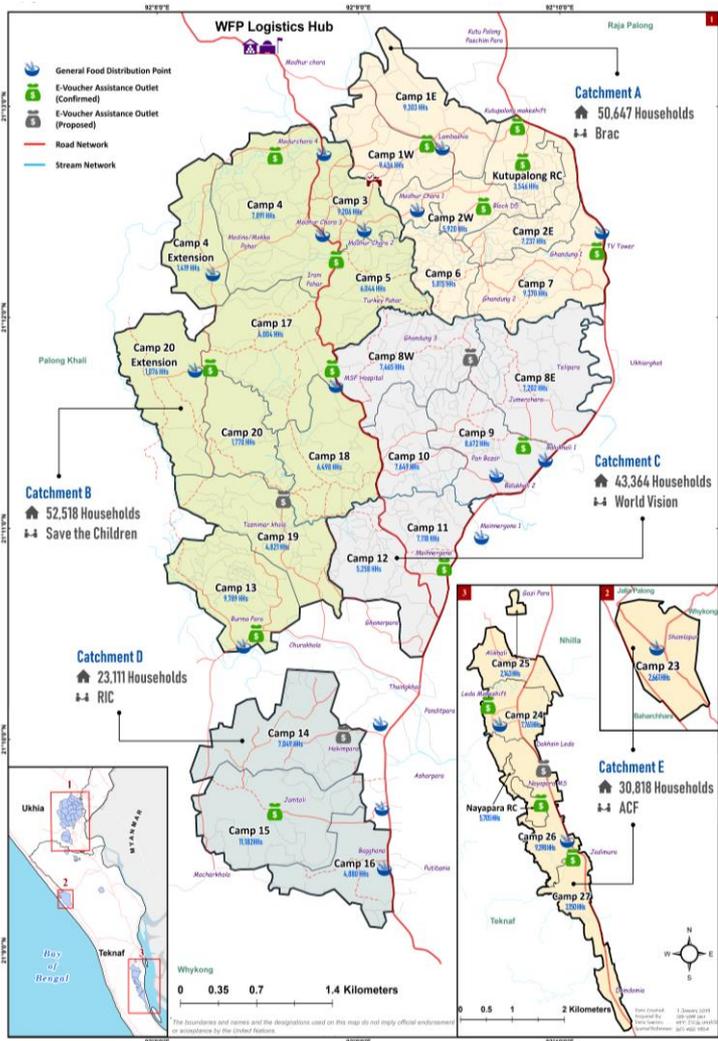
WFP Bangladesh Rohingya Refugee Response Situation Report #33 December 2019



844,505 people assisted in December 2019

Through a combination of:

- **In-kind** (390,290 people – 47 percent)
- **e-voucher** (454,215 people – 53 percent)



In Numbers¹

1,245,000 people in need in both the host and refugee communities

844,505 people assisted in December 2019

Highlights

- **WFP opens two new e-voucher assistance outlets:** As of January 2020, WFP will be covering all 34 camps with food assistance. Early January, WFP opened two additional e-voucher outlets in the camps, and has transitioned more than 7,800 refugees to the e-voucher modality.
- **'Greening' the WFP food assistance outlets:** In an attempt to reduce plastic consumption in the camps, WFP has been reducing plastic consumption across its e-voucher outlets. Refugees are encouraged to bring re-usable bags and reduce consumption of plastic bags in the outlets. Most of the e-voucher outlets use the paper bags which has reduced plastic consumption significantly.
- **The Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR have completed Phase II of their joint registration exercise,** meaning every refugee in the camps now has a GoB/UNHCR SMART Card. From 1 February 2020, WFP will be re-aligning its data using the SCOPE system.

Situation Update

- **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and Chair Emeritus of BRAC, a major partner of WFP globally, passed away on 20 December 2019:** WFP joined the larger humanitarian community in mourning his loss and celebrating his achievements in Bangladesh and globally.

¹ Figures as per the 2019 Joint Response Plan For Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis ([2019 JRP](#))

Photo: Two of 6,000 refugee women who participated in the vegetable gardening led by the Self Reliance programme.

- **Myanmar sends nearly 200 Rohingyas captured at sea to Rakhine camps:** Nearly 200 Rohingya Muslims [arrested](#) at sea last month by Myanmar's navy after a voyage of hundreds of kilometres have been sent back to Rakhine state, officials reported. Seasonal calmer waters have seen an increase in the number of Rohingyas putting their lives in the hands of traffickers in a desperate bid to reach Malaysia or Indonesia by boat.

WFP Response

Emergency Preparedness

- Reforestation activities continue to proactively enhance environmental sustainability. The WFP Disaster Risk Reduction programme (DRR) started maintenance activities of Shilkhali Garjon forest in Teknaf with technical collaboration from the Department of Forest and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and completed earth filling of 39 Garjon trees.
- WFP continues to undertake targeted mitigation measures for the host communities through cyclone shelter rehabilitation. In 2018-2019, a total of 40 cyclone shelters were rehabilitated, which can shelter close to 40,000 displaced people. WFP is planning on rehabilitating an additional 32 cyclone shelters in 2020. The rehabilitation works of seven cyclone shelters have started.
- WFP, in collaboration with FAO has distributed 145,815 of the 159,000 planned distribution of food drums. These food drums are being used by refugees to keep food and household items dry during the monsoon season, contributing to greater food security. Further, FAO has also distributed additional 11,000 food drums in different camps.
- WFP participated in a simulation exercise hosted by the Inter Sector Coordination Group Simulation Exercise (SimEx) in Teknaf, led by Inter Sector Coordination Group and involving key UN and Government Partners. The exercise tested the Rapid Joint Need Assessment questionnaire and emergency telecommunications using Very High Frequency radios during a cyclone.

Assessments

- WFP is undertaking field survey for the [Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment](#) (REVA) III across all 34 camps. Currently, WFP is undergoing data cleaning for the completed surveys.
- WFP conducted a participatory assessment involving 900 participants from the refugee and host communities' participating in the Self Reliance and Livelihoods programme respectively, through focus group discussions. Some of the key results revealed that livelihoods, skill development activities, have had a positive impact on women's involvement in household decision making, access to services and level of self-confidence as well as their freedom of mobility.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- During December, WFP assisted more than 844,500 refugees with food assistance through 19 in-kind food distribution sites and 13 e-voucher assistance outlets in the camps.
- In January, WFP has taken over two ICRC in-kind distribution sites across two camps in Unchirang and Chakmarkul (Camp 21 and Camp 22), which is an additional caseload of 40,000 refugees. From the end of January 2020, WFP will be assisting 100% of refugee population with food assistance.
- The e-voucher modality for food assistance was scaled up with the opening of a new outlet in Camp 4, targeting an additional 13,685 refugee households in January.
- WFP plans to transition the entire population to the e-voucher modality through 2020, where they have the freedom to choose among a wider variety of more than 20 food items including fresh vegetable and fruits, and animal protein, and increase the refugees' dietary diversity.
- WFP conducted a nutrition coverage assessment in November to evaluate nutrition services across the camps. It was estimated that for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment services is of 77.7 percent and for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment services is of 61 percent.

Livelihoods and Self-reliance

Livelihoods activities for the host communities

- Out of the 20,000 women beneficiaries participating in the Livelihoods Programme, WFP assisted more than 70 percent of the Livelihoods beneficiaries from phase III with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in partnership with the UN Migration Agency (IOM).
- Farmers from WFP livelihoods farmers successfully started participating in WFP Farmers' Market pilot project, selling vegetables and fruits to an average of 6,500 refugees daily.

Self-reliance activities for Rohingya Refugees

- WFP initiated the third phase of the programme, with cooperating partners BRAC and Action Aid Bangladesh, targeting 20,000 vulnerable refugees across the camps. The selection process for self-reliance phase II has been completed.
- WFP continues to deliver regular skills development trainings to 300 refugees. These include tailoring (170 participants), embroidery and block printing (80 participants), repair and maintenance of sewing machines and gas burners (50 participants) trainings.

School Feeding

- A total of 451 mt of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) were transported and delivered in December across the camps and in the host communities.

In the host communities

- WFP continues to provide HEB to 140,000 children in 488 schools daily in five sub-districts in Cox's Bazar (Ukhiya, Teknaf, Pekua, Kutubdia and Moheshkali).
- In an attempt to improve literacy and nutrition awareness among the community, WFP continued to engage with 1,660 students, parents and school management committee members, across host community schools.

In the refugee camps

- WFP continues to provide more than 265,300 refugee children with HEB in 4,010 learning centers across the camps.

Cross-Cutting

Gender and Protection

- WFP, in collaboration with partners, conducted three focus group discussion sessions with female refugees, and their husbands were organized and attended by the WFP protection team from the 18-19 December, targeting beneficiaries attending the tailoring trainings at Camp 11.
- In collaboration with UNHCR and University of New South Wales, WFP Gender team conducted three days of consultations with women in camp 4, to understand common gender-based violence incidents, and potential solutions to related to sexual violence.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS partners are progressively collaborating to expand their geographical coverage of their livelihood's interventions beyond Ukhiya and Teknaf, as well as link their beneficiaries with markets to create more sustainable opportunities for them.
- The Livelihoods Working Group conducted two coordination exercises with partners in the first half of January: the first was conducted with partners working in the host community, and the second with partners implementing homestead gardening in the camps. These are aimed at enhancing coordination and preventing overlaps.
- With the coordination of FSS, World Vision, provided food assistance to 183,000 refugees through Complementary Food Vouchers, which are a top-up to in-kind distribution for enhancing diet diversity.

Logistics Sector (LS)

- During 2019, Logistics Sector handled a total of 37,201 m³ (11,621 mt) of cargo for 34 organizations.
- A total of 126 km of roads inside the camps have been assessed. The final road assessments product will benefit all partners with their mapping and planning exercises.

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