



World Food Programme

WFP Bangladesh Rohingya Refugee Response

Situation Report #39 June 2020



Situation Updates

- Red Zone restriction has been removed in Cox's Bazar municipality. The municipality was previously declared a Red Zone area due to the higher rate of COVID-19 cases. So far, Cox's Bazar has [nearly 3,000 confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19 in the host community. In the refugee camps, there have been 54 confirmed cases and five deaths. The Government of Bangladesh and humanitarian organizations are synchronizing efforts to increase testing capacity in Cox's Bazar.
- The official monsoon season is ongoing in Cox's Bazar. Landslides, heavy winds, and flooding have affected more than 55,000 refugees since early June. WFP has also [activated the rapid response activity](#) while maintaining COVID-19 precautionary measures at all distribution points, providing high energy biscuits, one-off dry food rations and cooked meals to the displaced households.
- Over 300 Rohingya refugees rescued by the Bangladesh Navy remain on [Bhashan Char Island](#). Bangladesh has invited [UNHCR](#) with other UN agencies to undertake a protection visit to the Bhashan Char Island to ascertain the humanitarian situation and immediate needs of the refugees.

In Numbers || June 2020

860,356 refugees in the camps*

(51% children, 45% adult, 4% older persons and 1% persons with disability)

100 percent of the population provided with general food assistance

Over 500,000 host community members are targeted as part of the COVID-19 special support

Highlights

- WFP continues to provide blanket food assistance to 100 percent of the refugee population through e-voucher (87 percent) and in-kind (13 percent) modalities for food assistance. In June, WFP opened a new e-voucher outlet in Unchingprang camp, bringing the total number to 17 outlets and 36 shops in the camps. WFP plans to reach 100 percent of the refugee population with e-voucher assistance by the end of 2020. Nearly USD 9 million was transferred through e-voucher outlets in June.
- The World Bank is contributing an additional USD 2 transfer to support the nutritional response to COVID-19 for over 700,000 refugees in the camps, beginning in June and lasting for four months.
- In June, WFP served 578 households with one-off general food distribution and high energy biscuits as well as provided 4,620 hot meals through Rapid Response Assistance.
- To continue critical life-saving assistance in and around the camps, WFP has prepositioned enough food in its warehouses to feed the entire refugee population for six weeks in case of an emergency.
- WFP has developed [a monsoon mapping tool](#) which will help to prioritize maintenance works for damaged sites across all camps during the monsoon season.
- In collaboration with Cooperating Partners BRAC and Action Aid, WFP continues mask production in eight skills development centres with 95 refugee women and they have produced 92,000 masks. In addition, WFP also engaged 34 livelihoods programme beneficiaries from the host community in mask production to distribute among local members in collaboration with the local government.
- Nutrition support through the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) is now jointly distributed with food assistance in retail outlets to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

COVID-19 Emergency Response

For the local community

- WFP continues to support the most vulnerable host community population under its Special Support to Host Community (SSHC) programme. Over 500,000 individuals are targeted in three phases under SSHC programme. As of the end of June, WFP supported over 80,000 unique households from Ukhiya, Teknaf, Ramu, Pekua, Moheskhal, Khutubdia, Cox's Bazar town and Chakoria subdistricts.
- Under phase one, which aims to provide lifesaving food assistance to isolation and treatment centers and quarantine facilities, WFP supported 4,473 individuals in three isolation and six quarantine centres.
- Under phase two, WFP aims to support the most vulnerable population in Ukhiya and Teknaf with a one-off cash and variable in-kind food distribution. By the end of June, WFP reached 23,721 households of the livelihoods programme with a cash distribution of 4,500 BDT (USD 53) and a special support package, including 5 kgs of high energy biscuits per person plus 27 kg of yellow split peas and 6 litres of oil per household. Cash distribution was completed in Ukhiya and Teknaf in June, and food distributions are to be completed in early July.
- Under phase three, WFP aims to provide support to the most vulnerable population in the other subdistricts of Cox's Bazar district with a one-off cash and variable in-kind food distribution. In-kind food distributions reached 52,041 households as of the end of June. Cash distributions throughout the subdistricts will begin in July.
- In collaboration with ICCO, WFP is currently designing hoardings on cyclone preparedness and COVID-19 prevention messages in key locations of the host community. WFP Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is also conducting a door-to-door messaging initiative on COVID-19 transmission prevention.
- WFP worked with Radio Naf on a programme about changes to food distributions in the camps which is also being broadcast at food distribution points. As part of the general food assistance, volunteers have also been trained to disseminate key messages at e-voucher outlets.

For the refugees

- To avoid supply chain disruptions during this monsoon season and the pandemic, WFP prepositioned a buffer

stock of rice, yellow split peas, oil, and high energy biscuits, totaling 2,222 mt, across warehouses in June. This amount is fully dedicated to rapid response and can immediately serve 300,000 individuals for two weeks. In addition, WFP has another 10,000 mt of food stocks in its warehouses, which can be called upon to feed the entire refugee population for 1.5 months.

- General food assistance recipients are only paying one visit per month to receive both in-kind and e-voucher modalities from distribution sites to avoid congestion and physical contact. WFP is also distributing double rations of nutrition assistance both for the malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes at general food assistance sites. Additional porters have been engaged to support households in transporting the increased quantity of food.
- To protect the elderly population, WFP has arranged for Rohingya households with older persons to appoint a representative to receive food rations on their behalf. This pilot was targeted at four camps in June and will be scaled up to other camps from July.

Assessments

- In June, WFP [conducted market monitoring](#) to assess concerns related to the market retail price condition in Cox's Bazar. Key findings are:
 - Mixed price trends were observed across the markets. Prices of rice, red lentils, chicken peas, vegetable oil and onions prices remained stable or declined, but chicken and egg prices considerably increased.
 - Due to heavy rains and flooding in major rice production areas in the norths of the country, rice traders expressed concerns on potential supply disruptions.
 - Food availability in the markets remained stable, but affordability continued to be the biggest problem: purchasing power dropped by an average of 42 percent in June compared to pre-crisis period. The drop was much higher for daily wage labourers at 73 percent.
 - Due to income drops, a shift in dietary patterns was observed with many households opting for less preferred or cheaper food with low nutritional value.
 - Livestock trade was significantly impacted, with demand for livestock products being atypically low. Farmers and traders stand to lose more with Eid al-Adha festivals coming up, as it is the peak season for livestock business in the country.
 - Local camp markets are experiencing increased demand for fresh foods, but supply levels remained low hence prices have risen. This follows

suspension of WFP's fresh food corners and Farmers' Market due to COVID-19.

- Movement restrictions threaten to disrupt agricultural activities through labour shortages and high input costs, which could lead to acreage contractions and low yields in future.

WFP Programme Updates

General Food Assistance

- In June, WFP supported 745,271 individuals through e-voucher and 108,981 individuals through in-kind modalities.
- Building Blocks support is operational in six assistance outlets and currently serving 313,000 Rohingya refugees in the camps. The other 11 e-voucher outlets are using the SCOPE system.

Nutrition Assistance

- WFP has opened 16 new nutrition centres under Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN) programme in Pekua subdistrict. WFP currently has 116 nutrition centres operational in the host community.
- In June, WFP assisted 25,700 pregnant and nursing women and 180,300 children under five in the refugee camps and in the host community under the malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes.
- WFP is implementing the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme across all the 45 nutrition sites in the camps and 106 sites in the host community.
- Active case finding of referral for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) was conducted at the community level through community nutrition volunteers and mother-led approaches to assessing malnutrition.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP resumed DRR activities from early June both in camps and the host community. In June, WFP engaged 3,100 refugee cash work workers in camps and 3,500 host community cash for workers from Ukhiya, Teknaf and Ramu subdistricts.
- In coordination with Bangladesh Forest Department, WFP is preparing for the next plantation in host community inhabited areas (Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu subdistricts) during this monsoon season.
- As part of monsoon preparedness, DRR continues drainage clearance in five camps and 12,700 m of drainage was cleared in June. Also, maintenance of the existing reforestation sites across 17 camps is ongoing. Activities operate with minimal participants and by maintaining physical distancing with strict hygiene and safety measures observed.
- In the host community, DRR completed cyclone shelter rehabilitation at 25 locations in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- In coordination with Bangladesh Forest Department, DRR will start maintenance of 180 ha of forest land in the host community in Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu.

Primary assessment is completed in all sites.

School Feeding

- WFP will resume high energy biscuit distribution in camps from early July. Distribution will be conducted at food distribution points to avoid crowding and will cover all the households in the camps.
- In the host community, WFP is continuing door-to-door distributions of high energy biscuits to students by maintaining all safety guidelines. The first round of biscuit distribution was completed, and 134,400 students received biscuits. The second round of distribution will start from mid-July.

Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP)

- Critical projects related to COVID-19 and monsoon preparedness continue to provide uninterrupted access within and towards the camps. Key achievements in June include:
 - **Main Kutupalong drainage clearance:** total of 7,710 m of drainage cleared in camps 1E, 2E, 13, 19 and 20.
 - **Local Government Engineering Department assistance outlet repairing work, camp 4:** 1,300 litres of rainwater pumped, 26 m³ of earthwork completed for base preparation, 3.84 m³ of concrete laid for structural foundation, 13.53 m³ of brickwork with mortar completed for retaining wall, 115.7 m³ of settled brick pavement and 10.2 m² of new brick soling removed, and 74 pieces of precast concrete slabs used to create a temporary pedestrian path.
 - **Access road to WFP assistance outlet, camp 20 ext.:** 41 m³ of earthwork finished, 10 m³ of macadam with 5 m³ of lime/cement completed to improve the subgrade, 995 m² of brick pavement laid with geotextile, and installation of 861 pieces of L shaped pre-casted drainage slabs.
 - Material prepositioned in the 20 Forward Operation Bases and Madhurchara Hub for rapid response and maintenance activities.

Cross-Cutting Themes

- WFP organized four cycles of online training courses with Self-Reliance's Cooperating Partners: two on Gender and two on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). WFP also conducted an online orientation session on Gender and PSEA with DRR's new Cooperating Partners.
- WFP supported 13 protection referrals from other humanitarian partners in June. WFP facilitated protection mainstreaming training at a DRR workshop and conducted protection monitoring at different WFP distribution sites.
- WFP also held a bilateral meeting with international NGO Humanity & Inclusion regarding assistance to people with disabilities.

Common Services

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS and the Transfers Working Group held a workshop on cash and voucher assistance in the host communities to take stock of existing experiences to define a coordinated and effective way forward.
- FSS is coordinating closely with Communications with Communities Working Group on complaint feedback mechanisms for food assistance.
- FSS is jointly developing a child protection tip sheet with Child Protection Sub-Sector to mainstream child protection in food security and livelihoods.

Logistics Sector

- In June, 655 m³ of relief items were received into common storage on behalf of seven organisations, making a total of 4,260 m³ of relief items stored on behalf of 19 organisations in Madhu Chara, Balukhali, Unchiprang, Teknaf and the COVID-19 Special Hub in Cox's Bazar district.
- The Cox's Bazar COVID-19 Special Hub is now open for all humanitarian agencies. It comprises five mobile storage units and a temperature-controlled storage area, totalling 1,650 m². It has been handed over to Handicap International-Atlas Logistique. The hub received four consignments, including oxygen and PPE items (gowns and surgical masks) from three partners including Food for the Hungry (FH), World Food Programme (WFP) and Humanity & Inclusion (HI).
- The Logistics Sector in partnership with HI-Atlas transported 2,118 m³ (1,131 mt) of relief items using 308 trucks for 12 organisations, including UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs.
- The Logistics Sector facilitated vehicle access to all humanitarian actors identified as performing critical activities in the camps. WFP supports seven check-posts in Ukhiya and Teknaf, in which humanitarian vehicles are inspected to ensure access only to those pre-approved by the Government of Bangladesh.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS is currently providing data connectivity to staff from 10 UN agencies and nine NGOs. Security telecommunications services are provided to UN Agencies in the Ukhiya mega camp and other operational areas, including Cox's Bazar city and Teknaf.
- The establishment of a Long-Term Agreement (LTA) for the supply and delivery of self-standing telecommunications towers is being finalized. The final review and approvals are expected to be completed by mid-July.
- ETS conducts regular assessment, installation and maintenance support to hubs and sites in the camps. Building Blocks also receives support services for its

sites, such as network stress tests, performance benchmarking, and fine tuning.

Funding Outlook

- **Funding requirement for July - December 2020:** USD 127 million.

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WFP Representative and Country Director:

Richard Ragan

WFP Emergency Coordinator (a.i):

Zeff Kapoor

For more information contact WFP Reports, Analysis and Information Management Unit

Talley Diggs (talley.diggs@wfp.org)

Ukhengching Marma (ukhengching.marma@wfp.org)

Additional Resources:

- [For all previous WFP Rohingya Refugee Response reports on ReliefWeb](#)
- [For all previous Inter-sector Coordination Group Reports on ReliefWeb](#)