



## Situation Updates

- Cox's Bazar municipality has been declared a "Red Zone" due to high rates of COVID-19 cases. The area is under a strict lockdown with markets only open on Sundays and Thursdays.
- The first [Rohingya refugee died](#) from the novel coronavirus in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar while undergoing treatment at an isolation center. So far, there are 30 confirmed cases in the camps and nearly 15,000 Rohingya are under self-isolation as a precautionary measure.
- UNHCR inaugurated the first two Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centers (SARI ITCs) for both Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi communities in Cox's Bazar District.
- The recent rainfalls caused by the start of the monsoon season in Cox's Bazar has caused landslides and flooding, affecting more than 35,000 refugees.
- WFP and other humanitarian organizations are on standby for emergency response activities as well as actively conducting monsoon preparedness work and maintaining precautionary measures at all distribution sites.

## In Numbers | | May 2020

**859,808** refugees in the camps

**100 percent** of the population provided with general food assistance

**600,000** host community members are targeted as part of the Covid-19 special support

## Highlights

- WFP has successfully transferred 80 percent of the refugee population to the digital food assistance modality. More than 700,000 refugees are receiving food through WFP electronic voucher outlets. By September 2020, WFP aims to cover 100 percent of the refugee population to the e-voucher support.
- With the beginning of the monsoon rain, refugees are more exposed to the COVID-19 risks in the camps. WFP has activated its monsoon rapid response activities to support refugees impacted by landslides and floods. WFP has assisted 10,000 refugees affected by the rains with hot meals and high energy biscuits.
- As part of COVID-19 programmatic adaptations, WFP has integrated the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) into General Food Assistance, facilitated by the SCOPE platform. Beneficiaries can now receive specialized nutrition products at the WFP food distribution points. A blanket ration of three kgs per month of SuperCereal (WSB++) is being provided to all households in the refugee camps. In addition, to reduce congestion at the distribution points, beneficiaries have received a double ration of the SuperCereal for the months of June and July.
- In collaboration with co-operating partners (CPs) BRAC and Action Aid, WFP has started mask production in nine skills development centres in the camps 1E, 4, 7, 8E, 11, 16, 21, and 22. Currently, 106 beneficiaries are involved in the production and 50,000 masks have been produced with 36,539 already handed over to stakeholders.
- WFP had engaged 40 livelihood programme beneficiaries from host community in mask production to distribute among local members in collaboration with local government. So far, 12,000 masks have been produced.

## 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) package. So far, 125,000 individuals have received the package containing five kgs of High Energy Biscuits, 60kg of rice or 27 kgs of pulses and 6 litres of vegetable oil per household per month.
- From June, WFP plans to support 4,500 individuals in isolation and quarantine centres.
- Under SSHC activities, 6,176 households (27,800 individuals) have received cash assistance of BDT 4,500 each in Teknaf and Ukhiya during the month of May.

#### *For the refugees*

- WFP continues to preposition buffer food stocks to continue critical life-saving assistance in and around the camps. WFP has close to 50 mt of High Energy Biscuits prepositioned across 15 containers in the camps and has enough food in its warehouses to feed the entire camp population for 1.5 months.
- WFP plans to preposition tie-down kits and tarps at all WFP sites and distribute food drums to refugee households to protect food from the rain.
- Beneficiaries under both in-kind and e-voucher modalities receive their entire monthly food basket in one visit to decongest the distribution sites. Additional porters have been engaged to support households transport the increased quantity of food.
- To protect older people from COVID-19, WFP has arranged for Rohingya households with older persons to appoint a representative to receive food rations on their behalf. This pilot will target 4 camps in June and scale up to other camps from July.
- As a temporary measure to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the camps, WFP will increase the quantity of food items in the e-voucher food basket from June.

#### **Assessments**

- In May, WFP conducted the “COVID-19 Impact on Refugees and Host Community in Cox’s Bazar” to assess the household food security situation, market access, livelihood disruptions and COVID-19

awareness and related concerns. Key findings are:

- Nearly seven out of ten families in the refugee community and four out of ten families in the host community had an acceptable diet.
- In the host community, seven out of ten respondents mentioned not having enough food to eat, mainly because of lack of money.
- Household income levels have been significantly impacted by livelihood disruptions with families generally losing between BDT 1,000 to BDT 3,000 a week.
- Restrictions on movement and travel were highlighted as the main concern by refugee and host community respondents.
- Food shortages were mentioned as concerns by refugee households and shortages of medication by the host community households.
- Refugees mentioned the tom-toms, NGOs messages and neighbors as being the main sources of information for Covid-19.

#### **WFP Programme Updates**

##### *General Food Assistance*

- WFP continues to provide the entire refugee population with food assistance through e-vouchers (80 percent) and in-kind (20 percent) modalities. In May, WFP reached a total of 858,569 individuals (185,342 households) through these modalities. 714,182 individuals and 144,387 individuals were assisted through the e-voucher and in-kind modalities respectively
- In May, WFP transferred USD 6.5 million through the 16 e-voucher outlets and Bangladeshi retailers engaged in the food assistance supply chain.

##### *Nutrition Assistance*

- In May, WFP assisted 23,783 pregnant and nursing women and 170,969 children under-5 in the refugee camps and in the host community under the prevention and treatment programmes.
- WFP is implementing the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme across all 45 nutrition sites in the camps and 90 community clinics in the host community. Due to provisional changes, an increase in the number of admissions for children under-5 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) has been observed in the camps.
- WFP, in partnership with CPs, has trained 1,500 mothers on measuring their children’s mid upper arm circumference at home. This is to minimize movement of refugees in the camps during COVID-

### *Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)*

- WFP resumed DRR activities from early June both in camps and host community.
- DRR conducted assessments to install hand basins in 30 cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- WFP is continuing the care and maintenance of planting sites in the refugee camps with a minimal number of participants and by strictly maintaining physical distancing and strict hygiene and safety measures. These safety measures include regular health screening by infrared thermometer, disinfecting the sites, establishing portable hand washing station and avoiding any physical contact between laborers.
- The team is conducting a rapid assessment to identify the impact of Cyclone Amphan and COVID-19 lockdown on the reforestation sites in preparation for the planning of next planting season.

### *School Feeding*

- From May, WFP has been providing door-to-door high energy biscuits distributions to students in the host community. Safety guidelines were provided to CPs such as wearing a mask and avoiding physical contact with household members to follow during the distributions.
- As of 31 May, 45,396 students (boys: 21,772 and girls: 23,624) were reached. A total of 170,233 mt of high energy biscuits were distributed. Each student received 50 packets of 75 gm biscuits for the month
- WFP held a meeting with Sesame Workshop Bangladesh to discuss ways to start new activities during COVID-19.

### *Engineering*

#### Site Maintenance and Engineering Project

- Critical projects related to COVID-19 and monsoon preparedness within the camps continue. Projects that focus on improving humanitarian vehicle access were prioritized and included access to: a Field Isolation Unit (FIU) in camp 20 ext., water-crossing point (culvert) in camp 5, phase II of Lambashia retaining wall, and material and machinery support.

#### Key achievements:

- 5,390m of drainage clearance completed in camp 8W and 11.
- Culvert and access road to an isolation and treatment centre in camp 5 complete.

- Machinery support included a generator from Save the Children transported to a construction site (Field Isolation Unit) in camp 21 and relocate 10 prefabricated units (accommodation) for IOM medical staff working in the Field Isolation Unit.
- 20-ton crane and two 1.8mØ pipes provided to IOM to repair of the collapsed culvert in Unchiprang, camp 22.
- Total of 2,488 volunteers engaged in construction sites (15 persons with a disability (PwD), 316 females and 2,157 males).

#### Facility management

- Six MSUs installed at the new WFP Logistics Base in Cox's Bazar which is a common storage service for humanitarian actors.
- Two handwashing stations installed at the Cox's Bazar office.
- Drawing and estimates completed to improve disability access points and facilities at the Cox's Bazar office.
- Renovations work completed at nutrition sites in camps 5, 6, 8W, 10, 7, 8E, and 9.

#### **Cross-Cutting themes**

- The Gender Unit, in collaboration with the Inter-sectoral coordination group's GenderHub, organized a gender awareness session for the Food Security Sector partners.
- The Gender Unit supported the Livelihood Working Group (LHWG) on farming and non-farming activities with presentations on recommendations for gender sensitive programming.
- The Gender Unit initially organized three batches of orientations for Livelihoods partners, but they had to be cancelled due to the lockdown and movement restriction in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

#### **Common Services**

##### *Food Security Sector (FSS)*

- WFP drafted a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the protecting elderly people project to ensure optimum safety for older persons from in the camps through home delivery. In line with the inter-sectoral plan, the pilot will target 365 households in Camp 14, 20 Extension, 23 and Kutupalong RC.
- The Livelihoods Working Group (LHWG), together with Communication with Communities Working Group (CwCWG) has developed messages for wearing and washing cloth masks which were

reviewed and approved by the Health Sector in Cox's Bazar.

- UNHCR, World Vision and United Purpose distributed agricultural inputs to 12,135 host community households in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- As part of the preparedness actions for Cyclone Amphan, FSS updated the list of camp focal points for food security response and mapped out partners' capacity for rapid food distribution and facilities including containers with support from Logistics Sector. FSS is continuing to cross-check partners' beneficiary lists to avoid duplication of assistance.

### *Logistics Sector*

- In May, 855 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items were received into common storage on behalf of five organisations, bringing the total to 4,096 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items stored on behalf of 17 organisations in Madhu Chara, Balukhali, Unchirang and Teknaf logistics hubs.
- Humanity and Inclusion and Atlas Logistique started the storage services in Unchirang and transportation service in Cox's Bazar district under the Logistics Sector. In May, 612 m<sup>3</sup> (74 mt) relief items were transported for five organisations.
- The Logistics Sector has adapted its Concept of Operations (ConOps) to the specific needs of the humanitarian community. The ConOps Map and SOPs for COVID-19 related storage and transport services have been published on the [Logistics Sector Bangladesh webpage](#).
- The Logistics Sector loaned one generator to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to support the Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) Isolation Treatment Centre in Camp Shamlapur.
- To contain the effects of Cyclone Amphan and minimise losses, the Logistics Sector partially activated the 72 hours Cyclone Preparedness Plan. As part of the plan, cargo stored inside the Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) were wrapped with.

### *Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)*

- ETS is providing connectivity in 21 sites, including the Windy Terrace Hotel which is a common meeting area in Cox's Bazar where some staff also reside.
- The ETS is currently providing data connectivity to staff from 10 UN agencies and 3 NGOs and security telecommunications services are provided to the UN Agencies in the mega camp in Ukhiya and other operational areas including Cox's Bazar city and Teknaf.

- As part of preparedness measures for Cyclone Amphan, the ETS prepositioned equipment at Ukhiya in the event services needed to be restored. Following the cyclone, the ETS checked all security telecommunications systems.

### **Funding Outlook**

- **Six months funding shortfall (June 2020 – August 2020):** USD 32.83 million.

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### **Additional Resources:**

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