



World Food Programme

WFP Bangladesh Rohingya Refugee Response

Situation Report #42 September 2020



Critical engineering activities continue while maintaining COVID-19 safety measures
Photo: WFP/Brook Dubois

WFP Programme Updates

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP continued joint GFA, Super Cereal and high energy biscuits (HEB) distribution to all Rohingya households across the camps, as part of the COVID-19 response.
- Building on the pilot initiative enabling older people to use a porter or nominate an alternate family member to obtain food assistance during the pandemic, shielding exercises were scaled up across all camps and reached 4,101 households headed by older people.
- WFP recruited 906 Communications with Communities volunteers who are disseminating COVID-19 awareness messages at food distribution points.

Nutrition Assistance

- WFP assisted 37,020 pregnant and nursing women and 187,191 children under 5 through malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes. WFP implemented the treatment programme across 45 nutrition sites in the camps and 123 clinics in the host community.
- In the camps, all 186,102 Rohingya households received rations of 3 kg of Super Cereal Plus (WSB++) at GFA distribution sites providing extra nutritious boosts for the families during the COVID-19 crisis.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP completed the plantation of 6,500 tree seedlings in nine camps covering approximately 6.5 hectares.
- WFP installed 100 handwashing stations (23 permanent and 77 portable) in rehabilitated cyclone shelters, along with 23 visibility banners on COVID-19 key awareness messaging. Digital sign boards, also displaying COVID-19 awareness messages, were installed at marketplaces and beach entry points in the host community.

In Numbers || September 2020

860,000 Rohingya refugees in the camps*

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

113,072 households (570,000 people) in the host community received assistance to date through the COVID-19 special support programme which will be completed at the end of October.

Highlights

- WFP provided food assistance to 854,913 Rohingya refugees in 34 camps. Ninety-four percent (800,426 Rohingya refugees) received assistance through e-vouchers, offering 14 food items at 19 outlets. Building Blocks (BB) was operational in ten outlets while the remaining nine used the SCOPE platform to deliver assistance. About USD 9.5 million worth of food was sold by 12 WFP contracted retailers. In-kind distribution reached 54,487 Rohingya refugees at three distribution points. WFP aims to reach all Rohingya refugees through e-vouchers by the end of 2020 and expand BB technology to all e-voucher outlets by mid-2021.
- WFP continued to expand nutrition assistance to the host community. Eleven new government health facilities started to treat malnutrition in Kutubdia, bringing the number of sites assisted by WFP to 123.
- WFP launched "Forecast-based Financing for host communities" in Teknaf. This will provide assistance before disaster strikes to extremely vulnerable Bangladeshi households living in areas prone to flooding.
- WFP introduced a Mobile Operational Data Acquisition platform to track mask production and packaging activities within the Self-Reliance programme. It will monitor beneficiary attendance, mask production, and cash distribution.

Situation Update

- COVID-19 cases continued to increase in Cox's Bazar. At 30 September, there were 261 confirmed cases in the refugee camps and 4,502 cases in the host community. WFP and other humanitarian agencies continue to coordinate and facilitate assistance to Rohingya refugees and host communities.

*As per the most updated Government/[UNHCR figures](#).

WFP Programme Updates Continued

Self-Reliance programme in the camps

- At 30 September, 359,741 masks, including 192,790 child-sized masks, had been produced by 140 participants (89 percent of whom were women). WFP distributed USD 5,441 as cash entitlement. Mask packaging activities engage ten women, three of whom have disabilities.
- WFP distributed agricultural inputs to 15,370 women and 866 men across 30 camps.

Livelihoods programme in the host community

- WFP distributed monthly allowances to 18,844 women who were able to save USD 31,714 in group accounts in September. An additional 10,000 women were supported through activities linking business groups to food markets inside the camps.
- WFP conducted training on income generating activities, livestock vaccinations and conflict resolution for 248 women's self-help groups.

School Feeding

- A third round of HEB distribution at GFA sites was completed reaching 186,103 households across 34 camps. Each household received 25 HEB packets of 50 g each. COVID-19 awareness messages were also disseminated during distribution.
- In the host community, 80,073 students (42,152 girls and 37,921 boys) in five sub-districts received 50 HEB packets of 75 g and dates through door-to-door distribution. Child-sized masks were also provided in Teknaf and Kutubdia.
- Through its partner, Room to Read Bangladesh, WFP repaired 113 bookshelves and 96 teachers' desks at 67 schools in Ukhiya and Kutubdia.

WFP Engineering

Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP)

- WFP continues regular repair and maintenance work. Critical projects included road and drainage upgrades in seven camps, the construction of a Flu Center at Teknaf Hospital and renovation work at three community clinics in Ukhiya.

Assessments

- WFP published the second monitoring report on [COVID-19 Impacts on Refugees and Host Communities](#). It revealed that at the height of the crisis, 50 percent of host community households were primarily dependent on food assistance and, despite easing of movement restrictions, 30 percent of households had no access to markets in July. Eighty-three percent of host community households and 72 percent of Rohingya refugee households reported being satisfied with WFP assistance.

Common Services

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS coordinated production and distribution of 2.5 million masks by the end of September.
- Partners provided unconditional cash grants to vulnerable host communities impacted by COVID-19 and skill development training in small groups.

Logistics Sector (LS)

- 1,460 m³ of relief items was stored for seven organisations. In total, 5,150 m³ of relief items from 16 organisations are stored across five warehouses in Madhuchara, Balukhali, Unchiprang, Teknaf and COVID-19 Special Hub in Cox's Bazar district.
- The new [Ukhiya Mega Camp road map](#) shows the camp's main roads and their load bearing capacity.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS provided data connectivity to 209 humanitarian workers from 7 UN agencies and 11 international/ local NGOs plus security telecommunications to 674 humanitarians from 10 UN agencies.
- ETS is providing connectivity to 27 sites, including e-voucher outlets, logistics and residential hubs, Camp-in-Charge guesthouse and relay sites. Eleven Severe Acute Respiratory Infection treatment centres and isolation and treatment centres have been provided with critical data connectivity.
- ETS is procuring the first of 15 self-standing towers to improve data connectivity network and establish cyclone resilient infrastructure for humanitarian partners across the Rohingya camps. The towers are expected to be delivered in early 2021.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (October 2020 – March 2021):
USD 160.8 million

WFP is thankful for generous contributions in 2019 and 2020 from: USAID, UK, Australia, Germany, ECHO, Japan, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Qatar, World Bank, UN CERF and Private Donors.

WFP Representative & Country Director: Richard Ragan

WFP Senior Emergency Coordinator: Sheila Grudem

For more information from WFP External Relations and Reports Unit, contact: Talley Diggs (talley.diggs@wfp.org); Fenella Henderson-Howat (fenella.henderson@wfp.org); Ukhengching Marma (ukhengching.marma@wfp.org)

Additional Resources:

[Previous WFP Rohingya Refugee Response reports](#)

[Previous Inter Sector Coordination Group reports](#)