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# WFP in Cox's Bazar | Information Booklet

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMMES, CROSS-CUTTING THEMES, SECTORS AND INNOVATIONS

Photos: WFP/Nihab Rahman, 2020

**OCTOBER 2020**





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# EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS

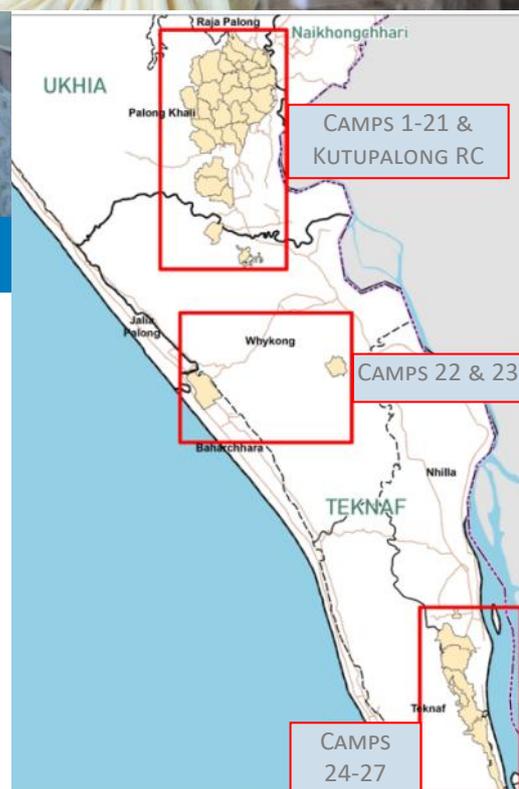
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## SNAPSHOT

**Total Refugee Population** | 862,277 people  
52% women and girls | 48% men and boys  
52% children | 45% adults | 3% older persons |  
1% persons with disabilities

Per the most updated Government/UNHCR figures.



## CONTEXT

August 2020 marked three years since the mass exodus of Rohingya refugees to Cox's Bazar when over 745,000 people, including more than 400,000 children, fled persecution in Myanmar. As of September 2020, over 860,000 Rohingya refugees—almost double the Bangladeshi host community population—reside across 34 camps. This includes almost 600,000 refugees in the Kutupalong mega camp, the largest refugee camp in the world.

Although the situation has stabilized and all refugees continue to receive humanitarian assistance, they still face major challenges, particularly the lack of regular income and livelihood opportunities. Pre-COVID-19 in late 2019, 94 percent of all Rohingya refugees reported as highly and moderately vulnerable and in continued need of humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs (REVA III, April 2020).

## WFP RESPONSE

Since the start of the crisis, WFP has provided food assistance to the camp population and nutrition services to pregnant and nursing mothers and young children. This assistance is complemented with life-skills training, disaster risk reduction activities and common engineering services. WFP also facilitates essential shared Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication services and co-leads the Food Security Sector.

In March 2020, WFP rapidly adapted its programmes with the outbreak of COVID-19 to adhere to government restrictions while ensuring lifesaving interventions continue.



[SCAN HERE TO READ THE 3-YEAR COMMEMORATIVE REPORT \(SEPTEMBER 2020\)](#)

## IN NUMBERS



**860,000** Rohingya refugees supported monthly



### GENERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE (GFA)

**856,400** Rohingya refugees reached every month  
97% through e-vouchers and 3% in-kind



### INTEGRATED NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

**200,000** women and children reached with treatment and preventive nutrition services



### SELF-RELIANCE

**27,000** Rohingya refugees engaged in 2020



### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

**104,000** volunteers engaged in 2019 and 2020



### SCHOOL FEEDING

**276,300** Rohingya refugee students enrolled



### SITE MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING PROJECT (SMEP)

**1,450** m road built in 2020 and **13** km in 2019



# INTERVENTIONS IN HOST COMMUNITIES

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## SNAPSHOT

Total Population in Cox's Bazar District | 2,289,990 people

49% women and girls | 51% men and boys

53% children | 42% adults | 5% older persons

Per the 2011 Population Census



## CONTEXT

Cox's Bazar, situated in Bangladesh's southern "cyclone belt", is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and is one of the most underdeveloped regions of Bangladesh. The influx of Rohingya refugees is perceived to have put considerable pressure on the local economy, affecting the livelihoods of the Bangladeshi population. The situation remains challenging for both the refugees and the host communities.

The COVID-19 crisis has further affected these already vulnerable host communities with national and regional lockdowns impacting income opportunities, households' purchasing power and threatening food security. At the height of the crisis, 50 percent of host community households were primarily dependent on external food assistance by different humanitarian agencies and only 3 percent had their own produced yields to consume ([COVID-19 Impact, August 2020](#)).

## WFP RESPONSE

WFP supports host community populations through long-term interventions, including nutrition assistance at community clinics, school feeding, livelihoods programmes specifically targeting vulnerable women and disaster risk reduction activities.

In response to COVID-19, WFP is providing food and cash assistance to over half a million people through Special Support for the Host Community (SSHC) in all eight sub-districts. Food assistance has also been provided to people in government isolation and quarantine facilities.



SCAN HERE TO READ THE LATEST  
[HOST COMMUNITY BRIEF](#)  
(OCTOBER 2020)

## IN NUMBERS



**700,000** Bangladeshis in the host community supported monthly



**COVID-19 SSHC**  
**113,100** vulnerable households



**INTEGRATED NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
**7,000** women and children reached with treatment and preventive nutrition support



**LIVELIHOODS**  
**30,000** host community women reached in 2020  
**USD 2 million** saved by **1,200** self-help groups



**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)**  
**104,000** volunteers engaged in 2019 and 2020



**SCHOOL FEEDING**  
**134,500** host community students enrolled

# GENERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE (GFA)

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## IN NUMBERS

Food assistance delivered monthly to an average of **856,400** Rohingya refugees across **34** camps. **97 percent** of GFA provided through e-vouchers and **77 percent** channelled through Building Blocks, **20** e-voucher outlets and **3** in-kind distribution points in October.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

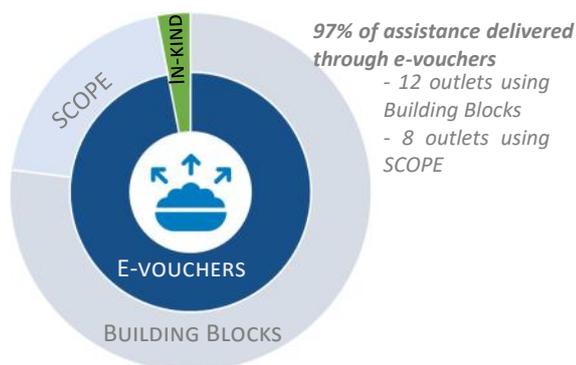
WFP delivers food assistance to the entire refugee population every month. The majority of assistance is provided through e-vouchers where beneficiaries receive USD 12 per person per month to be redeemed across 20 WFP contracted local retail assistance outlets in the camps. The remaining caseload receive in-kind food rations (30 kg rice, 9 kg lentils and 3 litres vegetable oil) tailored to accommodate an individual nutrient requirement of 2,100 calories. Rations are adjusted per family size and distributed across three sites.

Through Fresh Food Corners and Farmers' Markets, WFP creates market linkages for fresh produce, connecting small holder producer/farmers, aggregators and traders to WFP's food supply chain.

## INNOVATIVE INTERVENTIONS

- **Building Blocks and SCOPE:** To enhance transparency and accountability, WFP has introduced blockchain technology to transfer beneficiary entitlements within a "closed-loop system".

### GFA BY TRANSFER MODALITY, OCTOBER 2020



- **Fresh Food Corner:** To enhance dietary diversity, a separate section, in four e-voucher outlets, is dedicated to selling fresh vegetables to improve the nutrition status of refugee populations and contribute to the local economy and agricultural production in host communities.

- **Farmers' Market:** An initiative to link smallholder host community farmers with micro and medium retailers while helping to stimulate the local economy and improve relations and social-cohesion between refugee and host communities. WFP piloted the initiative in late 2019. However, due to COVID-19, the pilot was halted in March 2020 as physical distancing could not be maintained at the markets.

## EMERGENCY RAPID RESPONSE

WFP rapid response ensures effective and efficient emergency intervention. At the onset of a crisis affected populations are assisted with one in-kind food basket or a six-day ration of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) Within two weeks, affected families are then re-integrated into the regular food assistance. Depending on access to cooking facilities, refugees can also receive cooked meals or dry food and WFP provides rice for community kitchens. In October, WFP provided general food distribution, HEB and hot meals to over 35,000 beneficiaries.

## COVID-19 ADAPTIONS

The COVID-19 outbreak compelled WFP to alter food assistance delivery. From April 2020, WFP shifted from a value voucher to a commodity voucher system to minimize transmission risks to beneficiaries, retailer, Cooperating Partner and WFP staff. To address market fluctuation and preserve beneficiaries' purchasing power, monthly entitlements were increased from USD 10 to USD 12. To reduce contact and ensure physical distancing, beneficiaries received 11-14 pre-packaged food items once a month.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will scale-up e-voucher modality transfers for all refugees and integrate Fresh Food Corners in ten outlets.
- Farmers' Markets will resume in early 2021 and gradually scale-up to cover households who currently receive in-kind assistance. WFP aims to open eight Farmers' Markets throughout the first half of 2021.
- WFP will shift back to value vouchers by the end of 2020.



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### MITHU'S STORY

“I am very happy since I started going to the Farmers’ Market,” says Mithu Barua, a farmer empowered by a WFP project to sell her produce in Kuputalong camp during the Farmers’ Market pilot phase in late 2019/early 2020. “At times, if I have any loss, I feel bad. But I am happy today because I had a good sale today.”

“After arriving, I organize my shop and start the machine,” she says. “I have to do everything. I don’t get breaks ... [but] I can bear the expenses for the education of my sons. I can eat better and can buy better clothes.”

FULL STORY [HERE](#)

### RAMIDA'S STORY

Ramida was one the first shopper through the door at WFP’s newly opened stores in January 2020 which served 50,000 people every month. As staffers read to her the list of foods she could choose from, a smile spread across her face. She stocked up on dried fish, fruit, vegetables, spices, eggs, as well as staples such as rice, flour, sugar and oil.

“I will cook a fish and egg curry for dinner tonight,” she explained “We’ll eat the fruits which my daughter will be very excited about.” Pointing to her card, Ramida added: “I have never shopped like this before but I am happy because I can buy many things with this.”

FULL STORY [HERE](#)



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## IN NUMBERS

200,000 women and children supported every month at 45 Integrated Nutrition Centres

160,000 children received Vitamin A capsules

140,000 children screened and referred to the nutrition treatment programme

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

To address Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), WFP provides prevention and treatment services to children under 5 (CU5) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in the camps.

### Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP):

As part of the prevention programme, children between 6 and 59 months receive rations of fortified Wheat Soya Blend (6 kg Super Cereal Plus/WSB++). PLW receive 6.75 kg Super Cereal/WSB + mixed with vegetable oil.

### Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP):

As part of the treatment programme, CU5 identified as moderately undernourished receive monthly rations of 3 kg of Plumpy Sup (RUSF) for malnutrition rehabilitation. PLW identified as malnourished receive 6.75 kg Super Cereal/WSB+ mixed with vegetable oil.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Malnutrition rehabilitation and treatment:** WFP aims to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with malnutrition for PLW and CU5.
- **Social and behaviour change communication:** To ensure sustained change for cases of malnutrition, WFP conducts various communications activities on a regular basis and utilizes tools that positively influence behaviour, knowledge and attitudes around nutrition, hygiene and social protection.
- **Active case finding:** WFP engages community outreach volunteers to screen and identify malnourished women and children who are then referred to the nearest nutrition centre. Beneficiaries who require regular assistance are closely followed and supported during home visits and during the last trimester, pregnant women receive services at home. WFP is also providing training to caregivers on how to screen their children for malnutrition and self-refer to the nutrition sites.
- **Promoting an inclusive approach:** Services are tailored to ensure everyone—women, men, older people, people who have chronic conditions and people with disabilities—can

participate. For instance, breastfeeding corners at every nutrition site provide safety and privacy for mothers and encourage them to come to the facilities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- In collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR, WFP has successfully integrated moderate acute malnutrition treatment and preventive services with other nutrition services in 45 nutritional centres across the camps.
- The 2019 SMART survey revealed the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate significantly reduced since the influx to over 10 percent.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP continued to provide nutrition services and ensured the safety of staff and beneficiaries through improved Infection, Prevention Control of COVID-19 at nutrition facilities. WFP also implemented joint distribution of Super Cereal for BSFP beneficiaries with food assistance and provided double rations to reduce the frequency of visits and limit interactions.
- During Nutrition Action Week, together with Cooperating Partners, WFP reached 160,000 children with Vitamin A capsules and screened and referred 140,000 children to the specific nutrition treatment programme.

## THE WAY FORWARD

In 2021, WFP plans to provide treatment and preventive services that were previously hampered by COVID-19. This includes:

- Strengthening growth monitoring and social behaviour change communication services that were strongly hampered during the pandemic.
- Piloting cash-based assistance, to replace in-kind assistance, for children between the ages of 3 and 5. Households will be able to redeem USD 3 per child per month to purchase fresh food at e-voucher outlets.
- Introducing a locally produced food commodity to be used by PLW as survey and anecdotal evidence shows that Super Cereal is not well received.

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## IN NUMBERS

7,000 women and children supported every month at 123 clinics

69,000 women trained in measuring their children's MUAC at home

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Since 2011, as part of the Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition programme, WFP has been providing tailored nutrition assistance to treat moderate acute malnutrition for children under 5 (CU5) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). The nutrition programme has been scaled up to assist more than 7,000 women and children across five sub-districts in Cox's Bazar.

WFP also engages the host community population through Social and Behaviour Change Communication sessions on a range of topics such as nutrition, health, hygienic preparation and storage of food including WFP supplementary food.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM):** Children identified with MAM in the host community receive monthly rations of 6 kgs of Super Cereal Plus/WSB++ for malnutrition treatment. Pregnant and breastfeeding women identified as malnourished receive 6.75 kg Super Cereal/WSB+ mixed with vegetable oil.
- **Improve livelihoods of local community women:** WFP engages women community nutrition volunteers to conduct weekly "Courtyard Sessions" for beneficiaries on the issues of nutrition, health, hygiene preparation and storage of food supplements. The volunteers are paid USD 90 (BDT 7,700) on a monthly basis and the income contributes to their family and local economy.
- **Enhance community-level knowledge:** WFP's nutrition programme plays a significant role in raising awareness among women beneficiaries, their families and communities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2020, WFP expanded its services to two new sub-districts in Cox's Bazar (Pekua and Kutubdia).
- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health and nutrition workers' access to households has been restricted. To allow women to screen their children at home, WFP has trained 69,000 mothers on how to monitor and measure their children's nutrition status using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) bands. WFP is also distributing double rations at nutrition clinics to reduce the frequency of visits and limit interactions.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- Continue to proactively engage government partners and Cooperating Partners for operational implementation.
- Continue nutrition services through integrated nutrition facilities with UNICEF and Action Against Hunger.

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## IN NUMBERS

Self-reliance activities ongoing in **30** camps

**27,000** Rohingya refugees engaged in 2020 to date

**22,000** refugees received agriculture inputs in 2020

**140** mask making participants (**125** women and **15** men) produced **486,500** masks

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP's Self-Reliance for refugees programme started in July 2018. The programme supports refugees to enhance their resilience through skills development activities such as homestead vegetable gardening and aquaculture as well as trainings on centre-based production activities such as mask making. The programme has supported 27,000 Rohingya refugees to date in 2020.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen food security and access to fresh foods** through urban agriculture interventions, including aquaculture and seed production.
- **Support economic empowerment**, focusing on demand created by the camp itself.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- WFP has established self-reliance activities in 30 Rohingya refugee camps.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP is engaging 125 women and 15 men to make reusable cloth masks to be distributed in the camps and host community. By the end of October 2020, more than 486,566 masks, including 230,028 child-sized masks, were produced. WFP is also engaging women with disabilities and women with family members with disabilities in mask packaging activities.
- So far in 2020, more than 22,000 participants received agricultural inputs and relevant training on vegetable production so enabling them to grow their own food and promote dietary diversity.
- WFP established 16 fish ponds in the camp for fish production and consumption.

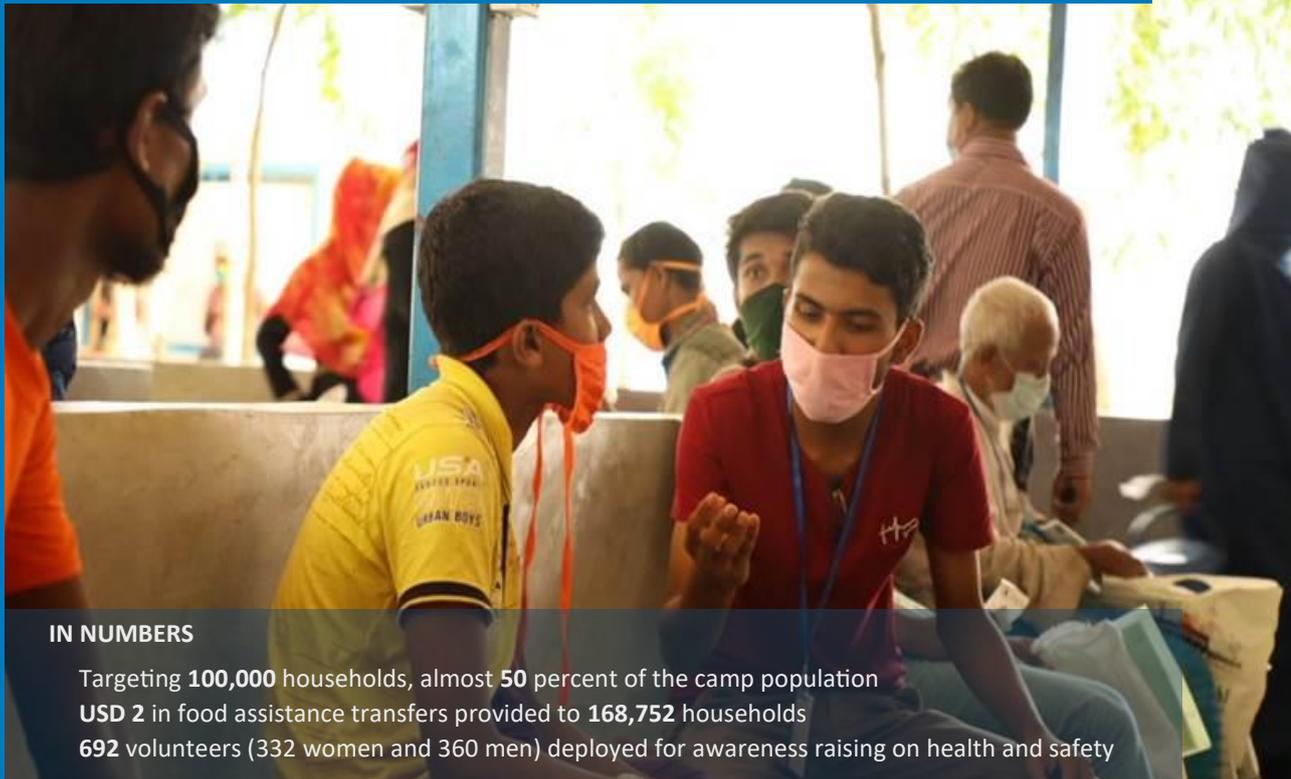
- In September 2020, WFP launched the Circular Food Assistance project which, through upcycling waste into useful products, provides skills development and income opportunities for Rohingya youth, women and people with disabilities while also creating a cleaner camp environment. The project won the WFP Innovation Accelerator award and was also selected for the SPRINT, an intense six-month acceleration programme that helps innovators and start-ups reach proof-of-concept and develop prototypes ready for implementation.
- In October 2020, WFP started the reusable sanitary pad production pilot engaging 10 women in Camp 22.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- In 2021 WFP will scale-up Self-Reliance activities to cover over 60,000 households. Targeting criteria include at-risk youth (both women and men), extremely vulnerable individuals such as older people and persons with disabilities and women-headed households.
- To enhance income generation, WFP plans to focus on demand coming from the camp-based needs, such as services, skills, and items needed for delivering humanitarian assistance, or by the Rohingya themselves.

# COMMUNITY WORKFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE CAMPS

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## IN NUMBERS

Targeting **100,000** households, almost **50** percent of the camp population

**USD 2** in food assistance transfers provided to **168,752** households

**692** volunteers (332 women and 360 men) deployed for awareness raising on health and safety

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP is implementing the “Strengthening Community Resilience” component of the World Bank funded Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response project in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the Government of Bangladesh. The project covers the 32 unregistered Displaced Rohingya Population camps in Cox’s Bazar and aims to increase the well-being and entitlements of the most vulnerable households, reducing the likelihood of youth idleness and improving living conditions in the camps through providing community services and community workfare. The project started in June 2020 and will run for one year.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Improve safety and living conditions** of the displaced population.
- **Enhance self-reliance** and address potential conflicts with the Bangladeshi community.
- **Revert environmental degradation** in the camps.

## PROJECT SET-UP

What was initially planned as a 15-month long project was divided into implementation phases in response to COVID-19. Phase 1, spanning June to November 2020 aimed to ensure food security through community services in the camps during the pandemic. Phase 2 is expected to end in August 2021 and will roll out community workfare along with inclusive community services activities as was originally designed. The progression from Phase 1 to 2 will be gradual with an overlapping period.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Amid rising COVID-19 cases in the camps, a tailor-made programme, “Communicating with Communities” was set up to engage young Rohingya volunteers for awareness-raising in the camps. The volunteers disseminated messaging among beneficiaries using the e-voucher outlets on COVID safety and other health-related issues.
- Scaling up from the initial planned 100,000 beneficiaries, food assistance transfers were made to 168,752 households to enhance food security and social cohesion in the camps during the COVID-19 lockdown. These were made using e-vouchers supported by the SCOPE and Building Blocks platforms. By attending the awareness-raising sessions run by Communicating with Communities volunteers, the beneficiaries received increased food assistance transfers.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The project will implement activities under both of its sub-components: community services and community workfare. The community services activities will focus on skills development, food assistance to extremely vulnerable households, and volunteer services. The community workfare activities will include site improvement, disaster risk reduction, accessibility improvement, and community-based environmental protection activities such as tree-planting.



# LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME IN THE HOST COMMUNITY

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## IN NUMBERS

USD 830,000 saved by 1,191 self-help groups in 2020  
703 participants with disabilities  
39,480 households reached with special support in response to COVID-19 in Ukhiya and Teknaf

SCAN HERE TO SEE LAILA'S  
RECYCLING BUSINESS

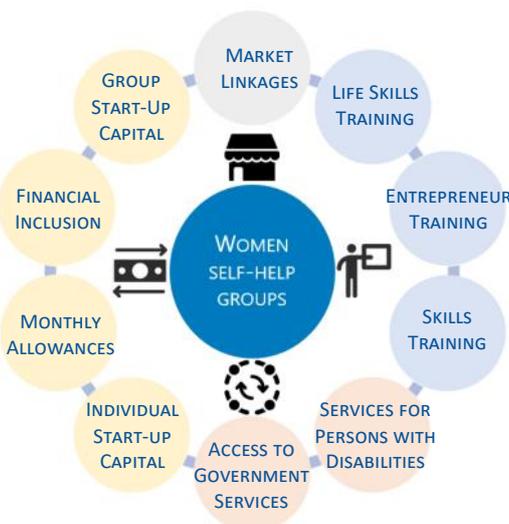


## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP's "Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition" (EFSN) livelihoods programme targets the most vulnerable women in Cox's Bazar. In 2020, WFP is supporting 30,000 vulnerable women under two livelihoods programmes: EFSN (20,000 women) and the SAFE Plus project (10,000 women).

Selected women are enrolled in a two year programme through which they have access to entrepreneurial skill development and life-skills trainings. Participants are supported with a monthly subsistence allowance of BDT 1,050 (USD 12) and are organized into Self-Help Group (SHG) which act as a platform for them to enhance financial accountability by monthly savings. Following the completion of trainings and the submission of a business plan, each group member receives a substantive cash grant of BDT 15,000 (USD 180) to start diversified income generating activities with a combination of on-farm and off-farm businesses to mitigate risks. Each member also receives a growth grant of BDT 4,500 (USD 54) to invest in group businesses.

## PROGRAMME MODEL



In 2019, 20,000 EFSN women already completed their two year project cycle. However, 2020 was a special pilot whereby WFP provided one more year of monthly allowance and trainings for these women

to focus on market linkages. An additional 10,000 women were enrolled in 2020 and will complete the full cycle, graduating at the end of 2021.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Address the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition** through empowering women economically.
- **Enhance resilience** through trainings in social networking, financial inclusion, disability inclusion and social and behavioural-change communication.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- So far in 2020, participating women have organized themselves into 1,191 SHGs and taken collective actions on mitigating gender-based violence and early marriages. Over USD 830,000 (BDT 70,872,402) has been raised and saved in collective bank accounts by these SHGs.
- A WFP participatory assessment conducted in January 2020 showed that women's involvement in household decision making, as well as the level of confidence and respect increased in the household and the community.
- In response to COVID-19, WFP assisted more than 40,000 households in Ukhiya and Teknaf participating in the EFSN programme through the Special Support to Host Community (SSHC) programme. Through SSHC, WFP provided in-kind rice, HEB, pulses, oil and USD 53 (BDT 4,500) to COVID-19 affected households.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP has extended the project to also focus on market linkages supporting 10,000 women until December 2020. This extension will help link EFSN business groups to food markets inside the camps, including the WFP-led Farmers' Markets and Fresh Food Corners.
- The programme is being scaled up to reach an additional 15,000 women in the most disaster prone areas of Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia.

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## RASHEDA'S STORY

Rasheda is from Patabari village in Ukhiya. Her husband, Sultan is a day labourer and struggles to find work. Before joining the WFP EFSN livelihoods programme, Rasheda felt she was a burden on her family and there were days when they had nothing to eat.

Rasheda joined the self-help group, Jam in Rajapalong which she is now president of. Every month she participates in meetings and trainings and can now feed her family thanks to the monthly subsistence allowance from WFP. With the substantive cash grant, Rasheda bought ten native chickens and vegetable seeds. She managed to sell some of the chickens and vegetables at the local market and made enough money to buy a cow.

Rasheda hopes she will be able to sell the cow after ten months and buy two Australian cows with the profits to expand her business. She "hope[s] one day I also help others poor family in my community with my knowledge and training I got from WFP".



## HAMIDA'S STORY

Hamida is from Hnila Union, Teknaf. She married very young and now has five daughters. As her husband is an irregular fisherman they struggle with a steady income. Hamida always wanted to contribute to her family income. In 2019 she joined the EFSN programme and after getting an Entrepreneurship Development training and grant of USD 180 (BDT 15,000) she started a fish cultivation and pigeon rearing business. Hamida then saved enough to reinvest in a third business, goat farming. She now has 14 goats, 50 pigeons and fish in her pond which altogether will be worth USD 1,080 (BDT 90,000).

Hamida is now considered a successful entrepreneur in her area as she proudly said, "my group members were so inspired by my successful business that they started goat farming as group businesses and often asks for my suggestions on that matter."



# FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ASSETS/DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE CAMPS

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## IN NUMBERS

- 294,600 tree saplings and 280,000 grass saplings planted
- 7,900 m of access roads constructed
- 48 bamboo bridges constructed
- 11,500 women and 92,500 men volunteers (200 are people with disabilities)

SCAN HERE TO SEE  
REFORESTATION  
IN ACTION



## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

More than three years into the humanitarian response, WFP continues to undertake disaster risk management activities. Since the influx, WFP's response has transitioned from immediate life-saving assistance to targeted programmatic interventions to improve resilience in communities. In this regard, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme aims to prevent and reduce risks from natural disasters and strengthen resilience with capacity-building for Rohingya refugees.

Access to key roadways and social infrastructure are critical to ensuring the continuation of essential humanitarian operations and communication across the camps. It is especially important to mitigate the harmful effects and prevent further damages from natural disasters such as cyclones and heavy rains. WFP maintains regular coordination and collaboration with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Camp-in-Charges, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Forest Department and other relevant UN agencies including FAO, IOM and UNHCR.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen and build resilience** through building and rehabilitating community assets and improve accessibility to reduce disaster risk in Rohingya refugee camps.
- **Improving accessibility to humanitarian actors and communities:** Building bridges, strengthening drainage systems and roads to improve access to markets, emergency food or nutrition assistance sites.
- **Site improvement and disaster risk mitigation:** Slope protection, perimeter fencing and dam construction to reduce soil erosion.
- **Community engagement and outreach:** Engaging refugees in multi-sectoral community services as outreach volunteers, on topics such as fire safety and emergency monsoon or cyclone preparedness.

- **Social inclusion and protection mainstreaming:** WFP encourages participation of differently abled people, different age cohorts, special periodization for vulnerable households as participants, including women-headed households.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- In collaboration with FAO, WFP planted 294,600 tree saplings and 280,000 grass saplings across 117 hectares in 2019 and 2020.
- WFP constructed 48 bamboo bridges covering over 2,000 m in 2019 and 2020.
- WFP constructed 900 m of access roads, 17,600 m of access pathways and 1,477 m of access stairs in 2019 and 2020.
- WFP engaged 11,500 women and 92,500 men, among whom 200 are people with disabilities, as volunteers in DRR activity in 2019 and 2020.
- WFP conducted several COVID-19 awareness sessions and took initiatives to ensure worker safety including disinfecting the sites, strictly maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and portable handwashing facilities.

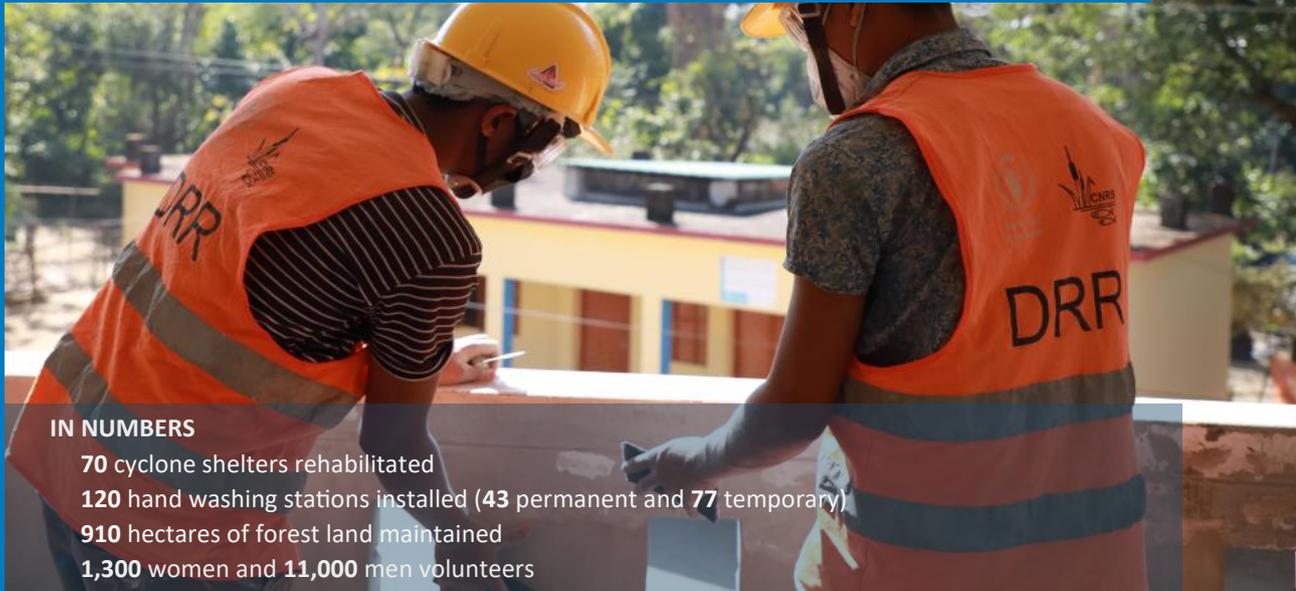
## THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will continue to support the RRRC in strengthening coordination at camp level.
- WFP will install digital screens to disseminate DRR and COVID-19 risk reduction messages throughout the camps.



# FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ASSETS/DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE HOST COMMUNITY

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## IN NUMBERS

- 70 cyclone shelters rehabilitated
- 120 hand washing stations installed (43 permanent and 77 temporary)
- 910 hectares of forest land maintained
- 1,300 women and 11,000 men volunteers

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In Cox's Bazar, WFP has operationalized the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme for prevention and reduction of risks from natural disasters, with the overall objective of strengthening resilience and capacity development of the most-vulnerable host community population.

WFP maintains effective coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the Bangladesh Forest Department for fostering dialogue on host community development.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen resilience and capacity development** of the most-vulnerable host community population.
- **Community-based environmental protection:** In collaboration with the Bangladesh Forest Department and FAO, promoting reforestation and restoration of the damaged environment through plantation of fast-growing species, bag gardening/vegetation for soil retention and seedling production and nursery propagation.
- **Emergency preparedness:** Rehabilitating cyclone shelters and evacuation centres.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Structural rehabilitation has been done in 70 existing cyclone shelters at schools in Ukhiya and Teknaf in 2019 and 2020.
- In response to COVID-19, WFP installed 120 foot-operating handwashing stations (43 permanent and 77 portable) in all rehabilitated cyclone shelters.
- As of October 2020, care and maintenance of the reforestation activities was executed in 910 hectares of forest land in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ukhiya, Teknaf and Ramu sub-districts.
- A manual on "Community-based Cyclone Early Warning System", a product of the Cyclone

Preparedness Programme, has been developed in collaboration with the MoDMR and with technical support from the Humanitarian Leadership Academy.

- WFP completed the earth-filling activity of 500 Garjon trees between January and March 2020.
- WFP engaged 1,300 women and 11,000 men volunteers in DRR activities in 2019 and 2020.
- WFP conducted several COVID-19 awareness sessions and took initiatives to ensure worker safety, including disinfecting the sites, strictly maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and portable handwashing facilities.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will scale up DRR activities to other sub-districts of Cox's Bazar beyond Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- WFP plans to build community resilience in the host community by improving access, including community access road, pathways and culverts to the rehabilitated 70 cyclone shelters in the next phase of host community intervention.
- WFP will work to improve access to the 70 rehabilitated cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- To digitalize and better disseminate cyclone preparedness and COVID-19 awareness messages, WFP will install screens at district and sub-district level.
- In Teknaf, WFP will implement Forecast-based Financing in flood prone communities to address multi-hazard preparedness. Recognizing the specific vulnerabilities of targeted households, WFP aims to build and strengthen multi-hazard preparedness efforts at the local level with a focus on forecast-based early action. As part of this action, WFP will support 3,000 households in Nhila, Sabrang, and Teknaf Sadar in the Teknaf Upazila with assistance for two years while strengthening early warning systems at the local level.

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## IN NUMBERS

276,300 students reached with High Energy Biscuits since July 2020

Supports students at 4,200 learning centres

500 volunteers engaged to deliver HEBs in camp learning centres

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP's school feeding programme for registered refugees was first launched in 2002 with the goal of improving children's learning by addressing the root causes of hunger and micronutrient deficiencies that can have consequences on their cognitive growth.

WFP provides a packet of 50 g of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to children enrolled in learning centres in the camps every day. These locally-produced HEBs are fortified with 14 vitamins and minerals, and provide approximately half of the daily micronutrient requirements for a child between 5 and 11 years. From 2019, WFP also started distributing dates to almost 160,000 children.

WFP partners with the Bangladesh Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and BRAC to support emergency school feeding in over 4,200 learning centres across the camps.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure that hunger is not an impediment to a child's overall development.**
- **Improve children's learning capacity** by providing them with HEBs for every school attendance day.
- **Build capacity and promote community participation** by engaging refugee teachers and volunteers in the programme. Nearly 500 refugee volunteers are engaged to deliver HEBs at the camp learning centres.

- **Address root causes of hunger and micronutrient deficiencies** among refugee children. A WFP study shows that HEBs consistently reduce anaemia prevalence and improve micronutrient status—in particular iron, vitamin A, iodine and folate.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- In line with the national de-worming campaign and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, WFP facilitates de-worming twice a year for Rohingya refugee children who attend learning centres.
- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and closing of learning centres, WFP initiated joint distributions of general food assistance, HEBs and super cereal at food distribution points. WFP reached almost 276,300 students through these joint distributions.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- If the COVID-19 situation continues, WFP plans to provide HEBs to children enrolled in learning centres through door-to-door household distributions.
- WFP aims to reach 285,000 refugee children by the end of 2020. However, this is dependent on the re-opening of learning centres.

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## IN NUMBERS

- 134,500 students enrolled across 520 schools
- 659,400 storybooks distributed
- 141,000 reusable child-sized cloth masks distributed

SCAN HERE TO SEE  
HOW WFP IS DOING  
SCHOOL FEEDING  
FROM HOME



## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP's school feeding programme started in 2001 and operates across the five sub-districts of Cox's Bazar (Ukhiya, Teknaf, Pekua, Kutubdia and Moheshkhali). In collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, WFP provides High Energy Biscuits (HEB) and dates to pre-primary and primary school children in Government schools, approved "madrassas" (Islamic schools) and NGO-run schools. To enhance the effectiveness of the programme, school feeding is accompanied by an "essential learning package" that benefits the whole community through community mobilization, health, hygiene and nutrition activities, de-worming campaigns and school vegetable gardening activities.

The WFP school Feeding programme in Ukhiya and Kutubdia sub-districts is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme and the Government of Bangladesh. This programme provides additional literacy and nutrition activities; capacity strengthening of Government education officials, teachers and School Management Committees (SMC); improves WASH facilities and increases awareness around health, hygiene, gender equality, women's empowerment, human trafficking and child marriage.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure hunger is not an impediment to a child's overall development and improve learning** by addressing short-term hunger and promoting development of cognitive capacities.
- **Contribute to the Government of Bangladesh's policy of universal primary education by improving access to basic education** of school-aged children, particularly those living in poverty-prone areas.
- **Build capacity and promote community participation in the management of the schools** by engaging community members in trainings

and capacity building activities.

- **Improve literacy of school-aged children and quality of education** through early grade learning interventions.
- **Conduct de-worming activities** in all primary schools twice a year in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Promote gender equity and women's empowerment** through community mobilisation workshops. Through local partners, WFP develops the leadership skills of women to enable them to play an active role in SMCs which make decisions regarding the welfare of the children and development of the school.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

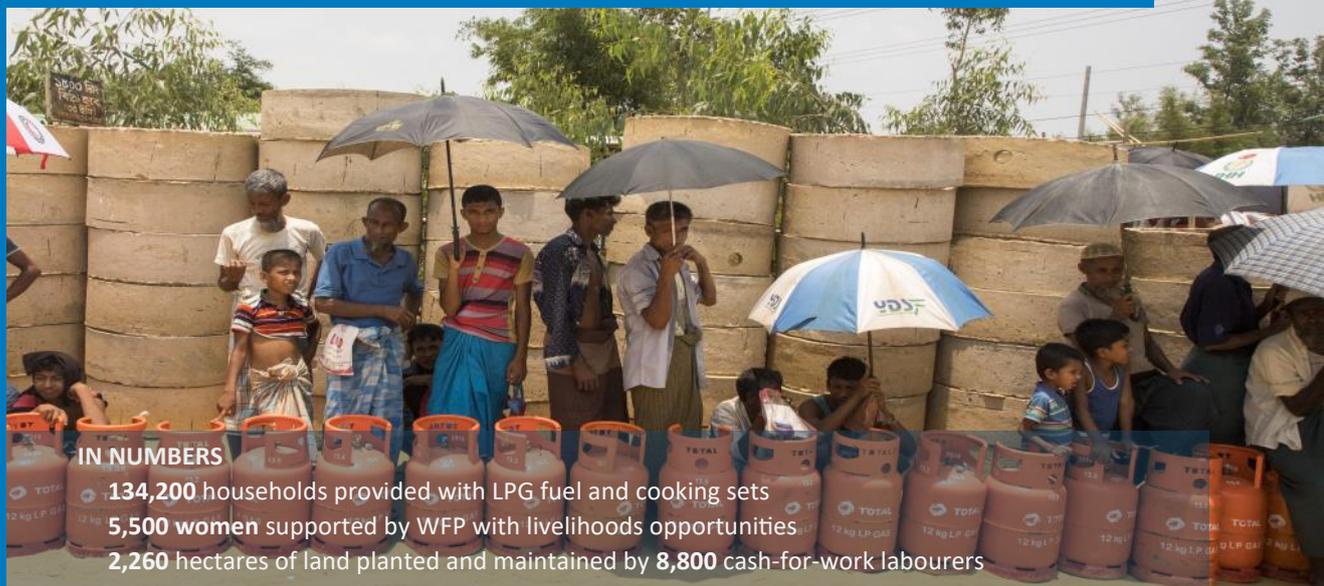
- Since January 2018, WFP distributed 659,400 story books in classroom libraries in Ukhiya and Kutubdia sub-districts.
- Due to the nationwide school closure during the ongoing pandemic, WFP is implementing door-to-door biscuit distribution. The initiative was taken to ensure continuation of nutritional intake of children amid school closure.
- WFP distributed 141,000 reusable child-sized cloth masks made by self-reliance participants.
- In partnership with Sesame Workshop, WFP developed child appropriate health, hygiene and nutrition materials and organized trainings of trainers for local partner and government staff.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will begin providing Home-Grown School Feeding cooked meals in Teknaf for 26,000 children in 109 schools and expand school meals to Cox's Bazar Sadar.
- WFP will continue the USDA McGovern-Dole-funded literacy improvement activities in Ukhiya and Kutubdia for 45,000 children in 138 schools.



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## IN NUMBERS

134,200 households provided with LPG fuel and cooking sets

5,500 women supported by WFP with livelihoods opportunities

2,260 hectares of land planted and maintained by 8,800 cash-for-work labourers

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

SAFE Plus is a joint UN project between WFP, FAO and IOM aiming to address cooking fuel needs, environmental degradation and food security for 125,000 Rohingya and affected host community households in Cox's Bazar.

For WFP, SAFE Plus is not a stand alone project, but embedded across existing interventions. Component 2 (livelihoods in the host community), 3 (self-reliance in the camps) and 4 (Disaster Risk Reduction) are implemented under WFP's existing programme activities.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Provide alternative cooking fuel:** Collaboration between IOM and WFP whereby IOM uses the multi-wallet feature of the WFP beneficiary and transfer management platform (SCOPE) to distribute the LPG cooking gas and sets.
- **Promote income generating opportunities in the host community:** WFP and IOM generate non-agricultural income generating activities for vulnerable host community households while FAO supports farmers and fisherfolk with inputs and training.
- **Engage Rohingya refugees in skills training and capacity building:** WFP and IOM engage women and men in portable skills building activities to enhance self reliance in the camps.
- **Environmental restoration:** All three agencies work together to restore degraded forest, prevent landslides and soil loss, recharge underground water reserves and re-establish critical habitat for biodiversity. FAO provides technical inputs and capacity while WFP and IOM engage labourers through cash-for-work.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

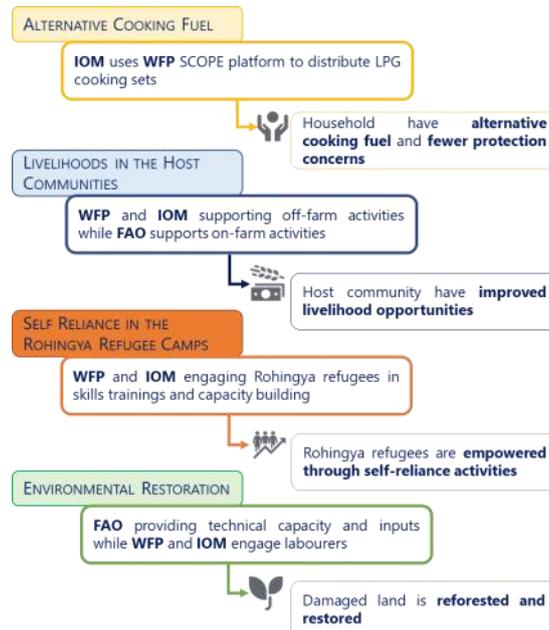
- Thanks to IOM and WFP joint efforts, every household in IOM managed camps and 28,500 host community households have access to LPG. LPG distribution has reduced firewood demand by 80 percent in Rohingya and 53 percent in host communities (International Union for Conservation of Nature study, 2019).

- WFP is engaging 5,500 women in livelihoods programmes whereby participating women organize themselves into self-help groups and receive monthly allowances, trainings and a business grant to develop their own businesses.
- As of October 2020, 2,000 hectares in the host community and 260 hectares in the camps have been planted and maintained by 8,800 labourers.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- Going forward, WFP will focus will be on linking livelihood beneficiaries to markets and transition from cash in hand to mobile money payments through bKash.
- Through September to December 2020, the SAFE Plus project will support around 50 Rohingya refugees as part of WFP Self-reliance recycling project and a further 2,000 refugees through different non-agricultural activities including mask production and packaging, sanitary pad production and the road safety project.

## PROJECT PILLARS



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## IN NUMBERS

- 1,450 m of road built in 2020 and 13 km new road built in 2019
- 1,500 m of hillside repaired, 1,400 m of riverbanks protected and 80,000 meters of canals dredged to reduce monsoon and cyclone risks in 2020
- 110 Rohingya Women's Committee leaders trained

SCAN HERE TO SEE  
SMEP AT WORK



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Access to the refugee camps is critical to the humanitarian response, particularly given Cox's Bazar's geographic vulnerability during cyclone and monsoon seasons. In 2018, WFP, IOM and UNHCR jointly established the Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP) to support the Government of Bangladesh in emergency preparedness, response and rehabilitation.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Enhance accessibility:** SMEP builds, repairs and rehabilitates roads and bridges to connect camps, improve access and ensure continued access to essential facilities (e.g. hospitals and assistance outlets).
- **Maintain well-functioning drainage systems:** SMEP carries out drainage clearance work within the camps, monitors the performance of the drainage channels during monsoons and ensures repair and maintenance.
- **Prevent landslide and soil erosion** through land and slope stabilization work.
- **Emergency repair and recovery:** SMEP has established 23 Forward Operating Bases, which are crucial operation centres across the Ukhiya and Teknaf camp areas with crews of workers (refugee and members of the host community) equipped with engineering supervision and machinery.
- **Coordination:** SMEP liaises with the Bangladesh military and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) to identify gaps and issues of site management.
- **Capacity Development:** SMEP works to strengthen capacity of the Local Government Engineering Department and build resilience for emergency response.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Through building, repairing and rehabilitating roads and bridges (including four steel bridges), SMEP has provided vehicle access to 20 refugee camps since 2018.
- Since January 2020, SMEP has built 1,450 m of roads providing access to camps and key facilities. In 2019, SMEP built 13 km of new road and maintained 14 km of road across 18 camps.

- To reduce monsoon and cyclone season risks in 2020, SMEP repaired 1,500 m of hillside, protected 1,400 m of riverbanks and dredged 80,000 m of canal.
- In March 2018, upon RRRC request, SMEP mobilized engineers, heavy machinery and a significant workforce to expand the Kutupalong-Balukhali site by over 100 acres for safe relocation of Rohingya refugees.
- In 2018, SMEP managed the construction of the Madhuchara Logistics and Engineering hub, which includes five mobile storage units and workshops for machine maintenance. SMEP continues to support any required maintenance and upgrading work.
- SMEP has designed the flood model version 2.0 to be used for monsoon preparedness.
- To increase inclusion and disability access, SMEP introduced a flexible child day care centre for women participating in cash-for-work activities. SMEP is also engaging people with disabilities in income-generating opportunities.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, SMEP trained 110 Rohingya Women's Committee leaders in Teknaf on COVID-19 prevention, identification of symptoms, and care-seeking methods, which enabled women to obtain information they need to protect their families and communities. In response to the outbreak of the pandemic, the labour force was reduced by 75 percent and proper safety equipment provided to workers.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- SMEP will continue to engage in a multitude of emergency repair and rehabilitation works, including slope stabilization; construction of roads, bridges, culverts, and temporary water reservoirs; reinforcement of bridges and hills with terracing and infrastructure repairs.
- SMEP is preparing the groundwork for a Rohingya Women's Marketplace that women traders can access to set up small scale businesses.
- WFP, in partnership with IOM and UNHCR, will continue to build resiliency against the effects of inclement weather, such as landslides and monsoon flooding, and increase the number of safe spaces for the relocation of impacted refugees.

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## IN NUMBERS

**52 percent** of Rohingya refugees supported through General Food Assistance are women and girls  
**30,000** women supported in host community livelihoods programmes in 2020  
 More than **25,000** women and **3,000** men supported through self-reliance programmes in 2020  
**70,00** girls and **63,000** boys in the host community and **142,000** girls and **134,000** boys in the refugee camps reached through the school feeding programme in 2020

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP Gender Unit works with each programme throughout the project cycle to ensure gender objectives are mainstreamed across all activities. Trainings and capacity building exercises are conducted with WFP staff and Cooperating Partners on basic concepts, frameworks and programmatic approaches. WFP also conducts advocacy and awareness activities, such as the 16-Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV), in collaboration with other agencies.

## OBJECTIVES

**GOAL:** Enable WFP to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment across all activities and ensure the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed.

- Strengthen adapted food assistance addressing the different needs of women, men, girls, boys and people with disabilities.
- Increase women's participation in food security and nutrition programmes.
- Enhance decision-making by women and girls in households, communities and societies.
- Promote safe and dignified food assistance for women, men, girls, boys and people with disabilities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- WFP General Food Assistance programme has transitioned 97 percent of assistance to e-voucher modality. This is especially important for women as it gives them a voice and choice in what food they receive. As much as possible, assistance cards are issued in the name of the senior woman of the household, which contributes to enhanced decision-making capabilities and control over resources. Every distribution site has segregated waiting areas, toilet facilities, breastfeeding corners and help desks managed by at least one-woman staff/volunteer.

- Twelve percent of the WFP Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP) workforce are women in 2020. Based on consultations with women, SMEP introduced a flexible childcare facility to support women with young children.
- WFP livelihoods programme in the host communities aims to address the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition through empowering women economically. Through this intervention, women are being organized into self-help groups that provide a forum for entrepreneurship development, life-skills training and a safe communal space to share any challenges and lessons learned. These groups also provide a support structure to tackle issues such as domestic violence.
- WFP self-reliance programme in the camps aims to mostly target women, especially those heading a household who show higher levels of vulnerability, to strengthen capacities and build resilience through portable skills trainings (e.g. tailoring, mobile phone repairing and mask making). Women also receive life skills training and behaviour change communication including functional literacy to strengthen their decision-making power at household level.
- In May 2020, WFP undertook a Rapid Gender Assessment to understand the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on women, girls, men and boys and other vulnerable populations. The goal was to inform WFP's gender-integrated and inclusive food and nutrition assistance to better serve beneficiaries in the context of COVID-19.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP aims to engage in wider public advocacy for gender mainstreaming. On International Women's Day in March 2020, WFP organized a Photo Exhibition on Breaking Gender Stereotypes.
- WFP will develop more inclusive programmes, such as FAO and WFP's growing partnership whereby host community women farmers are integrated to provide additional food assistance to refugees through the Farmers' Market.

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



### MINARA AND ROKEYA'S STORIES

Minara and Rokeya are from two different generations of Rohingya women but come from the same village in Myanmar. Three years after fleeing their home, their shelters are in the same part of the refugee camp where they now live. Both have become leaders in their community.

“Life was very beautiful in Burma,” says Rokeya (70 years). “We lived happily. But I lost my mother in my childhood, so I couldn’t study. I had to work for a living and took care of my children and my family. I want my sons and daughters to be educated. I want to see equality.”

“I studied till grade 10 in Myanmar,” says Minara (29 years). “Here, I teach girls. In the beginning, people in the community didn’t take it easily.”

“In Myanmar, there were no female Rohingya leaders. Now, after coming to Bangladesh and being a refugee, I am also a leader and I want to show the world that all women have equal rights. I want to show them a world of peace.”

“Education is very important for the Rohingya women,” says Rokeya. Knowledge is a great treasure. It’s a big thing. I go to the meetings on Coronavirus. There are women in my camp block, I give them advice like, ‘don’t quarrel with each other, stay in peace, maintain cleanliness, don’t do anything that can make you sick.’

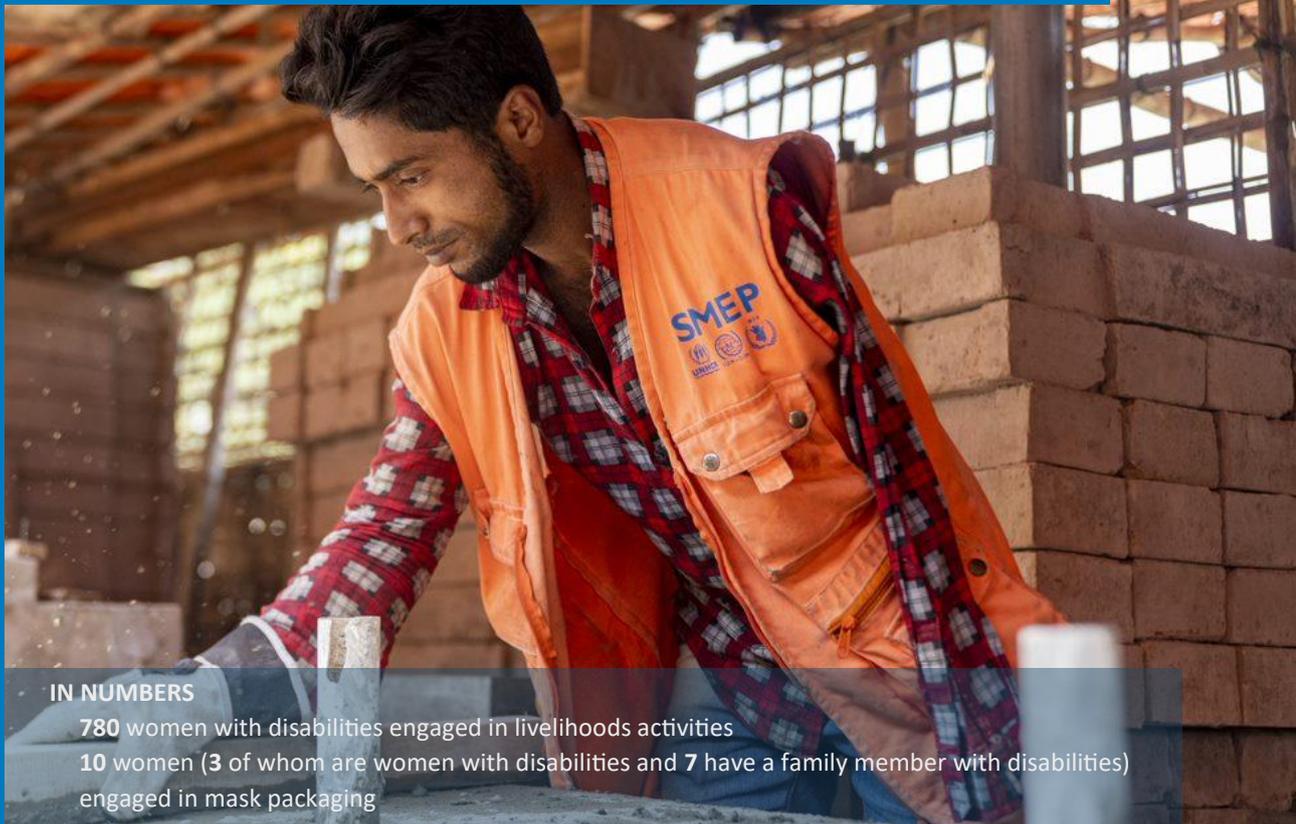
“[But] when our kids ask about how their own country looks like, I feel bad. They don’t know now. The kids don’t know.”

“Our sons and daughters don’t know Burma,” says Minara. “By showing photos of our houses, I tell them, ‘This is Burma. This is our place.’ At the time I was coming from Burma, my daughter was 6. She’s turned 9 now. Till this age, she hasn’t been able to study at all.”

“I want my daughter to be a lawyer because I couldn’t do anything for her rights. I can’t study at this age. I want my daughter to study law so that she can do what she wants.”

FULL STORY [HERE](#)

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## IN NUMBERS

780 women with disabilities engaged in livelihoods activities

10 women (3 of whom are women with disabilities and 7 have a family member with disabilities) engaged in mask packaging

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP implements an integrated approach to support the participation and engagement of persons with disabilities across all its programmatic interventions.

## OBJECTIVES

- Ensure all WFP programmes disaggregate data by disability (and sex and age).
- Consult directly with people with disabilities in camps and host communities on barriers and enablers to accessing WFP services.
- Increase opportunities for valued roles for people with disabilities (e.g. in livelihoods, committees, volunteers, labourers)
- Develop relationships with disability specific organizations in Cox's Bazar.
- Utilise WFP's reach through Cooperating Partners (CP) to communicate basic messaging on disability inclusion.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Self-reliance mask packaging activities are engaging women with disabilities and women who have family members with disabilities. WFP is currently engaging ten women (three of whom are women with disabilities and seven have a family member with disabilities) in mask packaging activities.
- WFP has recently launched a recycling project which has been designed to engage people with disabilities in creating livelihood opportunities out of WFP's food assistance by-products.
- WFP is providing assistive and flexible nutrition services to parents with disabilities and/or children with disabilities.

- Through the livelihoods programme, WFP targeted 780 women with disabilities in Ukhiya and Teknaf host communities providing adapted livelihood opportunities. WFP also collaborated with Humanity and Inclusion to train national CPs (Resource Integration Centre and Shushilan) on basic disability inclusion principles; conducted physical disability assessment for its beneficiaries and established linkages with government department of Social Service for accessing services and National Disability Development Foundation to provide assistive devices to beneficiaries with disabilities.
- WFP provides porter services to households headed by a person with a disability, child-headed households and households headed by older people (above 60 years) when collecting food assistance from WFP outlets.
- WFP Site Maintenance Engineering Project is engaging people with disabilities in income generating activities.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP is exploring opportunities to increase leadership roles of women with disabilities in livelihoods self-help groups (SHG), SHG executive committees and union standing committees. To date, two SHGs whereby all 60 members are women with disabilities have been formed.
- Once schools reopen in host communities, WFP will collect sex, age and disability disaggregated data of school feeding programmes.



## IN NUMBERS

Over 500 protection referral cases supported in 2019 and 2020 to date  
286 calls received through the Hotline to date in 2020

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP's protection work is streamlined across the programme ensuring the rights and safety of beneficiaries during the implementation of activities.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure protection during food assistance delivery:** To reduce any existing risks while providing food assistance, WFP ensures that the geographical selection of distribution sites considers beneficiaries' vulnerabilities; provides access to clean and safe drinking water, a breastfeeding corner and crowd control measures; and offers a porter service to alleviate the burden of carrying heavy food rations. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP has also ensured that good hygiene practices and physical distancing is maintained with temperature checks and hand washing points at e-voucher outlets.
- **Protect beneficiary data:** WFP uses SCOPE to ensure data is protected. Using the new blockchain technology, Building Blocks further protects beneficiaries' data as individuals are issued with an encrypted ID or code number to distinguish them from others without revealing their true identities.
- **Enhance accountability:** A Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (hotline and helpdesks) is in place across all programmes and regular community consultations are organized with community leaders, religious leaders, persons with disabilities and beneficiaries to understand challenges faced and potential protection risks.
- **Ensure protection is mainstreamed across all activities and assessments:** WFP conducts protection mainstreaming trainings and situational awareness raising sessions for staff and Cooperating Partner (CP) staff and volunteers. Disability inclusive questions are included in all community consultation questionnaires.
- **Contribute to women empowerment and gender equality:** Through the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE Plus) project, WFP ensures women and girls do not have to collect firewood, therefore reducing potential protection risks.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- To assess the extent of protection mainstreaming and understand the challenges beneficiaries face in accessing services and how vulnerable people are included, WFP has carried out protection analysis exercises in different programmes.
- WFP operated joint helpdesks with the IOM and referred 50 cases, where beneficiaries who did not have family attestation had protection concerns, to UNHCR. Extremely vulnerable individuals were also referred by WFP to UNHCR to select alternative collectors at SCOPE alignment points.
- So far in 2020, over 240 protection referral cases have been supported including female headed households, child headed households, Gender-based Violence (GBV) survivors, persons with disabilities, older people and pregnant and lactating women.
- Monthly protection monitoring has continued since the COVID-19 outbreak and Focus Group Discussions have been held with Rohingya refugees, contributing to the WFP Global Community Engagement Strategy.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- Conduct larger scale trainings for all WFP and CP staff and volunteers on protection mainstreaming, disability inclusion, GBV, child protection and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- Introduce GBV and child protection referral pathways for WFP, in collaboration with the Protection Working Group.
- Through community consultations and protection monitoring, identify challenges and gaps faced by people with disabilities and older people receiving WFP services.
- Raise staff and CPs awareness on data protection, assess knowledge gaps and organize trainings on data protection.

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES


### IN NUMBERS

55 reporting partners targeting 1.8 million people throughout Cox's Bazar District  
Coordinated response-wide mask production and distribution of more than 2.5 million masks by the end of September 2020 to respond to COVID-19

### OVERVIEW

The Food Security Sector (FSS) is committed to saving lives through the coordination of appropriate, efficient and well-resourced food security responses in major emergencies.

The FSS in Cox's Bazar was established in 2017 in response to the Rohingya crisis with the WFP and FAO as lead agencies and co-chaired by the national NGO, BRAC. Within the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the FSS is a platform to strengthen food security and livelihood response through operational coordination, information sharing and identifying food security related priorities and solutions. The FSS established the Livelihoods Working Group to strengthen coordination of livelihoods and self-reliance activities in the host communities and Rohingya refugee camps.

### OBJECTIVES

- **Support service delivery:** Provide a platform to ensure service delivery is driven by the agreed strategic priorities and develop mechanisms to avoid duplication.
- **Inform and support strategic decision making for the humanitarian response:** Lead joint situation and response analyses, including the identification of gaps, duplications, obstacles in the FSS response and inter-sectoral linkages in prioritizing food security needs and responses.
- **Monitoring implementation:** Monitor the implementation and outcomes of activities undertaken in the framework of FSS strategic plan.
- **Contingency planning:** Lead joint contingency planning for potential new events or set-backs.
- **Training and capacity building:** Identify and prioritize training needs of different stakeholders.
- **Planning and strategy development:** Develop and adapt plans in line with the humanitarian

strategic priorities and ensure application and adherence to existing standards and guidelines. In liaison with other sectors, closely coordinate the planning and implementation of the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis Joint Response Plan.

- **Advocacy:** Undertake advocacy activities on behalf of partners and the affected population.
- **Provider of last resort:** Inform sector lead agencies of priority gaps that cannot be covered by any partner and inform action by sector lead agencies.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- The FSS coordinated 55 organizations to ensure timely and effective support for 1.8 million Rohingya and host community individuals in Cox's Bazar District.
- The FSS initiated and coordinated response-wide local mask production and distribution to support the District health response and promote local income generating opportunities.

### THE WAY FORWARD

- Proactively steer the coordination of the food security and livelihoods response through promoting minimum standards, developing guidance on technical issues and advocacy with relevant local and international actors and government officials as COVID-19 response.
- Improve food security information for decision making by supporting evidence generation and analyses to identify needs and gaps in coordination with relevant local and international actors and government officials.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



SCAN HERE TO SEE MASK  
MAKING IN ACTION

## MOYUNA'S STORY

Moyuna is a single mother who fled Myanmar in 2017 with her two children. Though she receives food assistance and other humanitarian aid she is unable to buy other necessities we take for granted. There are few income opportunities for refugees living in the camps which has increased their vulnerability over the two-and-a-half years they've been living in Bangladesh.

Moyuna receives around USD 0.17 per mask she produces and the masks are distributed to refugees in the camps. Although the money allows her some freedom to buy extra food and essential medications, she says that isn't why she's working on the project.

"People are dying and suffering because of coronavirus so to help them avoid that situation, I am making these [masks] happily. No matter if I am paid or not, people will be alive and will keep me in their prayer."

The first of Moyuna's masks were distributed to households with vulnerable and elderly people, then to refugees working on critical, life-saving activities with WFP. As more masks are produced through WFP and other humanitarian programs, the goal is to be able to provide every refugee in the camps with at least two masks.

FULL STORY [HERE](#)



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



#### IN NUMBERS

Services provided in **3** common operational areas (Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and Ukhiya)

**282** humanitarians (**28** sites) provided with data connected

**770** humanitarians provided with security telecommunications

SCAN TO SEE A  
MAP OF WHERE ETS IS OPERATING



#### OVERVIEW

In its capacity as global lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), WFP is addressing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs for the Government of Bangladesh, humanitarians and affected communities. Through the establishment of the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) Working Group, WFP and partners ensure a coordinated ICT response, an effective delivery of Information Technology (IT) operations and support to those working on the provision of assistance to the affected populations.

The Sector provides technical staff and equipment to ensure the whole operational area in Cox's Bazar is covered by security telecommunications services.

As voice and data services are extremely limited in the refugee camps, ETS is establishing an umbrella network, Chātā (meaning umbrella in Bangla), which provides: (i) augmented radio (VHF) network for staff safety/security and general operational support and (ii) data connectivity for digital assistance services and communication between humanitarian workers.

#### OBJECTIVES

- **Maintain the provision of existing telecommunications and data connectivity services** to facilitate the entire humanitarian response and ensure the safety and security of staff.
- **Conduct capacity building exercises** to the response community to strengthen emergency preparedness and response skills and to ensure the sustainability of services.
- **Coordinate ETS activities and develop and share operational information** to support decision-making, strengthen advocacy efforts and ensure the swift delivery of services.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since January 2020, the ETS has provided data connectivity services to 282 humanitarians from 7 UN agencies and 11 international/local NGOs and security telecommunications to 770 humanitarians from 10 UN agencies.
- To support the COVID-19 response, the ETS is coordinating the provision of critical data connectivity in 20 Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres and Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITC). This includes 11 sites where ETS is providing direct connectivity and an additional 9 which local ETS partners are supporting.
- Connectivity services are currently provided in 28 sites, including e-voucher outlets, logistics and residential hubs, SARI/ITC treatment centres, Camp-in-Charge offices and relay sites from where ETS internet signals are retransmitted. Regular assessments, installations and maintenance activities ensure the full operability of these services.

#### THE WAY FORWARD

- The ETS is working closely with global ETC partners, Cisco TacOps, Ericsson Response and NetHope to design a new data connectivity network for the use of responders. This will happen thanks to the self-standing towers that the ETS will erect.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**E-mail:** Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org

**Web:** [www.etcluster.org/Bangladesh-refugee-crisis](http://www.etcluster.org/Bangladesh-refugee-crisis)

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### IN NUMBERS

- 45 partners | 5 warehouses | 5,500 m<sup>3</sup> storage
- 5 Mobile Storage Units for the COVID-19 Special Hub
- 45,800 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items stored for 39 organizations (Oct 2017 - Aug 2020)
- 14,200 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items transported for 20 organizations (in 2020)
- 4 training sessions for 52 people from 25 organizations

### OVERVIEW

As part of the government-led humanitarian response, the Logistics Sector (LS) supports the humanitarian community in Cox's Bazar with coordination, information management and facilitation of common logistics support. The sector works in collaboration with the government, humanitarian partners, Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and other key stakeholders.

### OBJECTIVES

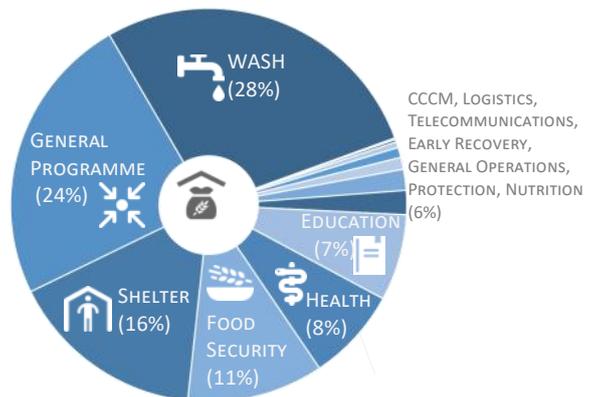
- **Coordination** to ensure that the humanitarian community has access to the resources required for operational support and emergency preparedness and minimise duplication of efforts.
- **Information management** to support operational decision making, respond to logistics challenges and improve the efficiency of the logistical response, especially during cyclone and monsoon seasons.
- **Common logistics services** such as storage, and prepositioned storage assets to allow rapid scale up or to mitigate disruption due to natural disasters.
- **Capacity strengthening** to build operational expertise and reduce the need for temporary logistics services while ensuring participation of local logistic actors and expand capacity strengthening and preparedness activities delivered in Bangla.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- In mid-March 2020, the LS adapted its concept of operation to address the specific logistics needs of the humanitarian community responding to COVID-19. Through its specific COVID-19 response, the LS focused support on the Health Sector while expanding common services to fill any identified gaps. A COVID-19 Special Hub was also established with five Mobile Storage Units (MSU) and temperature controlled storage.
- Between October 2017 and August 2020, the LS stored 45,800 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items on behalf of 39 organizations. In 2020, 14,200 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items were transported for 20 organizations.

- So far in 2020, the sector facilitated four training sessions on basic humanitarian logistics, MSU erection and setup, cyclone preparedness, medical commodities and warehouse management.
- In response to government imposed restrictions in the camps during the height of COVID-19, the LS developed a fully digital system to validate Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) approved humanitarian vehicles and reduce delays and bottlenecks at the checkpoints.
- To reduce road accidents and decrease road deterioration in the camps, the LS prepared [Cargo Limit Recommendations](#) which were published in English and Bangla and circulated to all partners.

### LOGISTICS SECTOR STORAGE BY SECTOR (2020)



### THE WAY FORWARD

- Moving into 2021, the LS anticipates a cautious reduction in COVID-19 specific support activities. Coordination and information sharing will continue focusing on emergency preparedness and response, capacity building trainings and stronger engagement with national level partners.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**E-mail:** [bangladesh.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:bangladesh.clustercargo@wfp.org)  
**Web:** <https://logcluster.org/sector/bangla17>



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## Leading Innovations in Humanitarian Response

WFP's emergency operation in Cox's Bazar leads in innovating food assistance to respond to a humanitarian crisis and feed the **world's largest refugee camp**. Embracing new technologies to provide life-saving food and nutrition support to Rohingya refugees as well as to assist the host community, WFP is leveraging innovation and digital solutions to achieve ZERO hunger in Cox's Bazar.



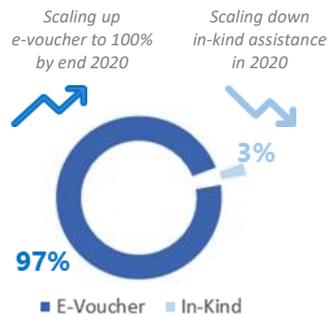
## COVID-19 Response

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP has incorporated innovative adaptations to safely continue programmes in Cox's Bazar:

- Fingerprint authentication replaced by **QR codes** to avoid physical contact in e-voucher outlets.
- **Mask production** in camps and host community.
- **Humanitarian Access Project** introduced to minimize the humanitarian footprint in the camps by monitoring access of approved vehicles with QR codes and checking an average of 700 vehicles entering each day. WFP supports eight security checkpoints.



## Innovating Food Assistance: E-Vouchers and Blockchain



**E-vouchers:** a more dignified approach to food assistance that creates an authentic shopping experience. Refugees can choose from a menu of items each month valued at USD 12.

**Blockchain:** 77 percent of the e-voucher outlets are serviced by Building Blocks, based on blockchain technology. All e-voucher outlets will be using Building Blocks to deliver food assistance by March 2021.

**One card for all assistance:** SCOPE assistance cards are used by refugees to receive food, LPG, soap and hygiene kits through a multi-wallet platform that facilitates collaboration between UN agencies. 110,000 households receive LPG from IOM and soap from UNICEF each month using their SCOPE cards.



## Market Linkages with the Host Community

WFP **strengthens market linkages between refugees and the host community** through a Farmers' Market and fresh food corners at e-voucher outlets. Suspended from April to September 2020 due to COVID-19, WFP resumed four fresh food corners, which will target the most vulnerable 30 percent of households.

### Farmers' Market

**30,000+** Rohingya supported since start in November 2019  
**USD 45,500** average monthly exchange with 13 traders and 12 farmers in WFP livelihoods and FAO programmes

### Fresh Vegetable Corners

In addition to the diverse food items provided through e-voucher assistance, fresh food corners in four outlets offer **vegetables, meat and live fish sold by local farmers.**



## Circular Food Assistance

WFP is piloting a recycling project that reduces **waste and creates livelihoods opportunities** for Rohingya refugees out of WFP's food assistance by-products and waste by upcycling them to create new uses.

- **500 Rohingya volunteers** targeted to collect, clean, and convert food assistance wrappers into aluminium sheets for other purposes, such as reusable bags.
- The project was pitched to WFP's Innovation Accelerator and was selected for funding.



## bKash Financing

WFP will **partner with financial service provider bKash** to provide monthly subsistence allowances to over 28,000 local community women in the Livelihoods programme. This service will enable WFP cash transfers to more quickly and easily reach the beneficiaries while also linking them with formal financial institutions.



## Storytellers Project

WFP trained 30 young Rohingya men and women on storytelling techniques, how to take photos, and the basics of video recording to better **communicate on behalf of their community** and make their voices heard globally.



## Forecast-based Financing

Discussions are ongoing to work with the government on rolling out Forecast-based Financing in Teknaf to better **respond to climate shocks**, such as flooding and cyclones. Forecasts will trigger the release of electronic payments to vulnerable households living in the affected areas.

## HIGHLIGHTS



System based on blockchain technology used to support 72 percent of Rohingya refugees



Online mapping tool developed to identify damaged sites during monsoon season



97 percent of refugees receive food assistance through e-vouchers. Cox's Bazar is the first WFP operation to build e-voucher outlets.



## IN NUMBERS

608,200 people served monthly through Building Blocks at 77 percent of all e-voucher outlets in October

SCAN HERE TO SEE [BUILDING BLOCKS IN ACTION](#)



## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WFP is scaling up Building Blocks (BB), an online digital transfer management and inter-organizational assistance coordination system based on blockchain technology, in the Rohingya refugee camps. For food assistance, WFP deposits value into the beneficiary's BB digital accounts. Beneficiaries can spend this value at WFP assistance outlets through WFP-partnered retailers. At the end of each month, transaction data stored on BB is used for reconciliation with retailers, who are reimbursed based on actual expenditures. Working with retail partners based in Bangladesh, rather than importing commodities for direct distribution, helps spur sustainable development and boost the local economy. A record of the transaction is updated in real-time on the blockchain, enabling organizations across the humanitarian sector to ensure individuals are receiving the right assistance, at the right time.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Provide coordinated, well-targeted and transparent assistance to common beneficiaries.** Many agencies have their own proprietary, closed systems for beneficiary information management and assistance delivery. Since these systems are generally not integrated, the outcome is siloed assistance, with high probabilities of exclusion (vulnerable populations are missed) and inclusion errors (some households receive duplicated assistance). BB allows agencies to maintain their own proprietary systems for beneficiary information management while delivering assistance through a collectively owned and jointly governed platform.
- **Increased convenience and choice.** By having all assistance available in one place, beneficiaries enjoy an improved user experience. For example, in some outlets, beneficiaries can redeem their WFP food and UNICEF soap entitlements in a single transaction. This has been especially advantageous during the times of COVID-19, as it reduces the number of required interactions.
- **Ensure greater security and privacy for refugees.** No sensitive information (e.g. names, dates of birth or biometrics) are stored on BB

which works off anonymous identifiers (e.g. UNHCR Case IDs) that are mathematically scrambled to increase security. BB is a private blockchain network and is only accessible to approved members.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- When BB was first introduced in the Rohingya refugee camps in March 2020 it served 10,000 households at one assistance outlet. It now (as of October 2020) serves 135,000 households at 12 assistance outlets.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, BB was quickly adapted from biometric authentication to QR code scans of the UNHCR Smart Cards for beneficiary authentication and transactions. The switch to QR codes reduced the likelihood of virus transmission by facilitating contactless interaction between beneficiaries and retailers.

## THE WAY FORWARD

- **Demonstrate inter-agency collaboration.** The BB team is in discussion with agencies who have expressed interest in becoming a member or co-owner of the platform.
- **Provide "cash-like" assistance that increases choice and convenience.** By connecting small Bangladeshi retail shops in the camps to BB, WFP hopes to enable refugees to spend part of their entitlements in public markets. Not only will this allow refugees to purchase food and non-items flexibly at better prices, but it will also benefit the host community.
- **Ensure all WFP assistance is delivered and tracked digitally.** As connectivity across the camps expands, WFP will ensure all types of assistance are delivered through BB (e.g. nutrition, cash-for-work incentives).
- **Explore information management use cases.** For instance, in the camps there are many health providers offering vaccination services and while a common vaccination card exists, refugees often lose it or do not carry it resulting in people getting vaccinated for the same thing multiple times. On BB, the administration of a vaccine can be recorded by a health provider, and all other providers can access the information through the decentralized network.

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## Context

The COVID-19 crisis has further heightened vulnerabilities for both the Rohingya refugees and the host communities. Cases were first reported in Bangladesh in March 2020 and in the Rohingya refugee camps in May 2020. The Government of Bangladesh issued a series of directives to restrict movement within Cox’s Bazar district to contain the spread and directed that all non-essential activities in the camps be suspended.

Throughout 2020, WFP has consistently scaled up, increased and improved food assistance to Rohingya refugee and host communities amid COVID-19 mitigation measures and within restrictions.

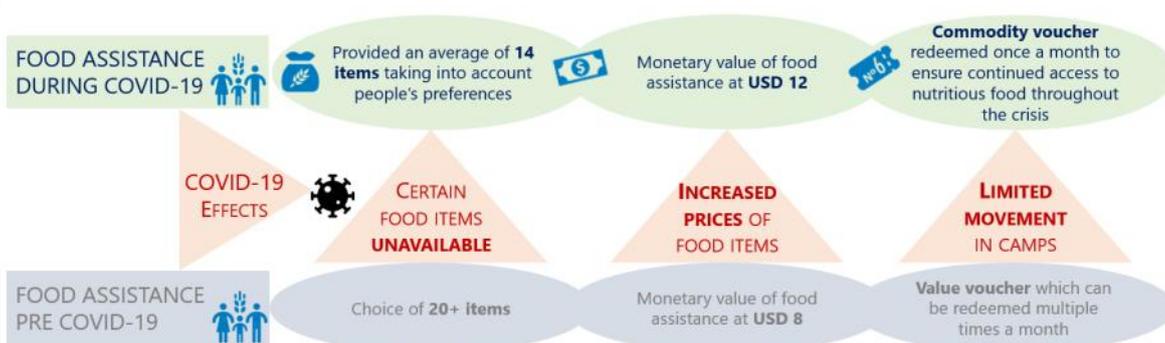
## Temporary change to food assistance modality in the camps

From April 2020, WFP shifted from a value voucher to a commodity voucher system to minimize transmission risks to beneficiaries, retailer, Cooperating Partner and WFP staff. To address market fluctuation and preserve beneficiaries’ purchasing power, monthly entitlements were increased from USD 10 to USD 12. To reduce contact, beneficiaries received 11-14 pre-packaged food items once a month. It should be noted that even before the COVID-19 crisis over 70 percent of refugees preferred a one-off bulk purchase each month and so monthly distributions are unlikely to have had a significant impact on food consumption or patterns of food collection.

WFP ensured that the food basket met refugees’ daily nutritional needs and was diversified to allow consumption of different food groups. Refugees were also consulted to ensure preferred food items were being included in the basket as much as possible.

### Why did WFP change the food assistance modality?

- Providing a fixed food basket **reduced the amount of time people spent in the outlets**, which was vital to ensure physical distancing.
- Lockdowns resulting from COVID-19 put **stress on food supply chains globally** and WFP had to ensure retail partners had enough food for everyone throughout the crisis.



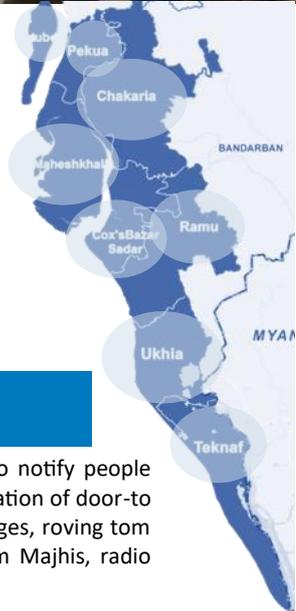
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## Special Support for Host Communities (SSHC)

National and regional lockdowns affected host community households' income opportunities, purchasing power and food security. In response, WFP supported the most vulnerable populations across Cox's Bazar, targeting over a half million people from April 2020. WFP provided in-kind food and cash distribution of USD 53 (BDT 4,500).

By the end of October WFP had reached **113,072 households (570,000 people)**; disbursed over **USD 4.4 million**; distributed more than **5,000 mt of rice and pulses, 130 litres of oil and 350 mt of High Energy Biscuits (HEB)**; and provided **1,390 hot meals to 4,500 people** in government supported isolation and quarantine centres.



## Communication with Communities (CwC)

In coordination with Health Sector and CwC Working Group, WFP scaled up its CwC efforts to notify people about changes to food assistance and COVID-19 precautions. This was done through the mobilization of door-to-door volunteers as well as messaging at food assistance facilities through posters, voice messages, roving tom-toms playing audio messages across all camps and focus group discussions with support from Majhis, radio programmes (in cooperation with BBC Media Action and Radio Naf).

## Improvements made during COVID-19

**E-voucher assistance increased to reach 97 percent of refugee households** and the number of e-voucher outlets increased from 12 to 19 with a total of 41 shops.

**58,920 refugee households received complementary food vouchers** to access items in addition to in-kind food rations.

**Additional porters made available to support households who needed the service.** This service reached over 4,100 older people-headed households in September.



**HEBs and Super Cereal distributed to refugee households and HEBs to host community students** to ensure the continuation of nutritional intake and for children amid school and learning centre closure.

**No touch policy** initiated whereby beneficiaries used contactless cards or QR codes to redeem their entitlements as opposed to biometric and PIN code authentication.

**Humanitarian Access Project** introduced in collaboration with the government to monitor access of RRRC approved vehicles with QR codes and limit the humanitarian footprint in the camps.



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### GOLAM AND JAHIDA'S STORY

Golam and his wife, Jahida, have lived in the Shomiti-para neighborhood for 23 years. Their home, constructed of corrugated iron and bamboo, sits along an inlet that leads from the Bay of Bengal into Cox's Bazar town.

COVID-19 isn't the first crisis they've faced. In 1991, one of Bangladesh's most deadly cyclones ripped through nearby Kutubdia and surrounding regions, resulting in 138,866 recorded deaths and billions of dollars in damage. Most of the families now living in Shomiti-para were displaced from Kutubdia and relocated here.

"After the cyclone in 1991, I started working on a trawler boat. I had an accident in 1995. I was in the hospital for two months. Then I returned to Kutubdia but in 1997 there was another cyclone that completely destroyed everything. Even the boats that were in the sea were blown away. We left and migrated to Cox's Bazar."

The treatment for Golam's injury cost BDT 280,000 (over USD 3,000) and has since prevented him from doing much work. "I started making fishing nets and did other things to make a living. Thus, I gradually rebuilt my life here. Now, I sometimes earn money by drying fish and selling it. [But] I couldn't do anything in the time of Corona. Everything was closed."

His wife, Jahida, 40, normally raises chickens but had to sell them to make ends meet during the lockdown. While schools have been closed but as restrictions have loosened, their 17-year-old son, Delwar, has been able to find work as a rickshaw driver. But Golam isn't sure they have enough money to pay his fees when schools reopen. Delwar may be forced to continue working, relying on informal and unreliable labour when he can, jeopardizing the family's future food security.

"I used to save a portion of money every day for my son's education," he says. "He will have to drive tuk tuks because it will be tough to manage the education expenses for him now."

In August, Golam and his family began receiving monthly food and cash assistance from WFP as part of a joint response to the COVID-19 crisis alongside the Government of Bangladesh. Around 60,000 people in Cox's Bazar town are part of the programme.

"We were hard up at the time. This assistance has helped us a lot. We bought rice, fish, vegetables and medicine. [But COVID-19] is not yet over. At the moment, most people in our neighbourhood are poor. Further assistance will benefit people."



FULL STORY [HERE](#)

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SCAN HERE TO WATCH  
[SAWIID'S STORY](#)



## SAWIID'S STORY

Sawiid and his family have been living in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh since they arrived in September 2017. Today, Sawiid volunteers with WFP to spread awareness about assistance programmes and COVID-19 to other refugees.

"I'm really happy to work with the World Food Programme (WFP) here. We are preventing people from taking risks. It's very important because — I can say it in two words — it's life-saving."

"We hope one day we can go home. Our eldest is almost 12. If I were in Myanmar, she might be in class 9 or 10 now. Now she's totally missed out on her education. I will always think about how we can build the education for our kids — not just my kids, all the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya children who've lost their education."

FULL STORY [HERE](#)



WFP is thankful for generous contributions in 2019 and 2020 from



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