



Retail in a Box e-voucher shop in Camp 23 | © WFP/Nalifa Mehelin

WFP Programme Updates

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP assisted 856,663 Rohingya refugees in 34 camps. More than 98 percent (842,939 refugees) received e-vouchers and the remaining 13,724 refugees received in-kind assistance.
- WFP provided e-voucher beneficiaries with USD 11 to be redeemed at 21 outlets.
- Building Blocks, WFP's blockchain-based digital ledger, was operational in 16 outlets, serving 84 percent of the total refugee population.
- WFP opened two new Fresh Food Corners bringing the total to 11. WFP provided around 15 items including vegetables to 114,640 refugees. In December vulnerable households with more than six members purchased fresh food every two weeks, rather than every month.

Nutrition Assistance

- WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 37,635 pregnant and nursing mothers and 175,855 children under 5 at 45 camp nutrition sites.
- WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to 5,235 pregnant and nursing mothers and 7,662 children under 5 at 123 host community clinics.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP engaged 11,621 Rohingya refugees (1,860 women and 9,761 men) in DRR activities and recorded their participation for the disbursement of USD 458,000 through the 'mobile operational data acquisition' system.
- To improve access around the camps, 1,550 m of pedestrian pathways, 823 m² of stairs and 1,250 m of access roads were improved. WFP also maintained 502 m² of slopes, 69 hectares of land and 814 m of drainage.

In Numbers || December 2020

856,663 Rohingya refugees assisted (**52%** women and girls and **48%** men and boys)

73,978 Bangladeshis supported in the host community

Highlights

- WFP launched the first global Retail in a Box (RIAB) pilot in Camp 23 on 6 December; now 2,400 households (11,040 individuals) can receive monthly food assistance through e-vouchers, rather than in-kind. RIAB is a mobile storage unit that enables WFP to rapidly set up retail outlets. It can be used as a solution to kickstart retail networks and ultimately build a reliable market.
- For the first time in Cox's Bazar, WFP started providing monthly allowances to host community women engaged in the livelihoods programme through bKash (a national mobile financial service) and disbursed USD 59,846 to 4,827 women.
- Since September 2020, 311,880 WFP food packets (from products such as Super Cereal, HEB and Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food) and bottles have been collected from the camps and recycled into 240 products (fans, wallets, bags, baskets and mats).
- To assist authorities and communities prepare for schools to reopen WFP constructed WASH blocks in 10 schools, repaired WASH blocks in 11 schools and installed handwashing stations in 120 schools.

Situation Update

- The Government of Bangladesh started relocating Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char island with 1,642 refugees moved in early December and 1,804 at the end of the month. This is in addition to the 306 Rohingya refugees who were rescued at sea and relocated to the island in April, bringing the total number of refugees on Bhasan Char to approximately 3,750.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, in Cox's Bazar, 5,358 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in host communities and 366 in the Rohingya refugee camps.

WFP Programme Updates Continued

Self-Reliance programme in the camps

- WFP engaged 22,220 Rohingya refugees (96 percent of whom are women) in self-reliance activities.
- Rohingya refugees produced 93,501 reusable facemasks in December for refugees and host community members. In total, 708,557 masks were produced in 2020.
- Over 280,000 kg of vegetables was produced from 22,000 micro gardens between March and December. According to partner surveys, 95 percent of households recognized health improvements from increased consumption of vegetables and 46 percent spent less on vegetables.

Livelihoods programme in the host community

- WFP distributed USD 123,523 in allowances to 9,900 women, almost half of whom received their allowances through bKash.
- WFP established seven aggregation centres to link beneficiaries to competitive markets.
- In December, beneficiaries from 1,159 Self-Help Groups saved USD 41,160 in group activities.
- WFP supported 810 women with disabilities in 2020, including devices such as wheelchairs and walking sticks and facilitating their Disability Allowance Card.

Strengthening Community Resilience in the camps¹

- WFP conducted environment and social safeguard screening of 12 community workfare schemes (reforestation, road construction, slope stabilisation, drainage) and 10 training centres.
- Communicating with Communities volunteers visited almost 165,000 Rohingya households (88 percent of the camp population) to gather feedback and disseminate information on COVID-19 prevention and nutrition.
- WFP engaged 148 refugees (28 women and 120 men) in reforestation care and maintenance work.

School Feeding

- WFP distributed 233 mt of high-energy biscuits (HEB) to 186,028 Rohingya households and 82 mt of HEB to 13,540 girls and 12,372 boys in host communities.
- WFP's partner, Room to Read (RtR) Bangladesh, conducted online training for 223 teachers and provided school material to 3,725 students. Teachers at RtR's annual meeting informed that materials have been critical for students to continue studying while schools have been closed.

Gender and Protection

- Together with the Age and Disability Working Group, WFP hosted an online event for International Day of Persons with Disabilities to create awareness around the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on](#)

[the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#) in the Rohingya Response. Over 100 people attended.

WFP Engineering

- WFP engaged 4,175 Rohingya refugees and 1,444 host community members, 346 of whom were people with disabilities, in the workforce.
- WFP completed slope protection; cleaned canals; constructed speed bumps; installed gates and fencing at the Logistics Hub; and constructed a retaining wall and road at the Relief Hospital in camp 3.
- WFP constructed 390 m of road inside the Uttaran residential area to facilitate access to the warehouse.

Common Services

Logistics Sector (LS)

- LS stored 4,341 mt of relief items for 20 organisations across five warehouses in Madhuchara, Balukhali, Unchiprang, Teknaf and the COVID-19 Special Hub.
- In partnership with Humanity & Inclusion-Atlas Logistique, LS transported 2,486 mt of relief items for 20 organisations using 774 trucks.

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- Together with WFP and FAO, FSS organized a holiday market where 18 partners showcased and sold items locally produced by refugee and host communities.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS provided data connectivity to 286 users in 34 sites, including retail outlets, logistic and residential hubs and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres. Almost half of the ETS connected sites are solar powered.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (January - June 2021):

USD 152.6 million

WFP is thankful for contributions in 2019 and 2020 from:

USAID, UK, Australia, Germany, ECHO, Japan, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, France, the Republic of Korea, 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

WFP External Relations and Reports Unit contact: Fenella Henderson-Howat (fenella.henderson@wfp.org)

Additional Resources: [WFP Rohingya Refugee Response reports](#) | [Inter Sector Coordination Group \(ISCG\) reports](#)



Scan here to read the latest [WFP in Cox's Bazar Information Booklet \(October 2020\)](#)

¹ Under the framework of the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief funded by the World Bank