



World Food Programme

## Highlights

In 2020, WFP continued to support Bangladeshi host communities through long-term interventions, including nutrition assistance at community clinics, school feeding, livelihoods programmes specifically targeting vulnerable women and disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities.

In response to COVID-19, WFP provided cash and in-kind food assistance to over half a million people through Special Support for the Host Community (SSHC) in all eight sub-districts between April and November 2020. WFP continued nutrition services for malnourished women and children throughout the COVID-19 pandemic while livelihoods, DRR and school feeding activities were adapted in response to COVID-19.

WFP continues to expand coverage of nutrition services in Cox's Bazar and started scaling up DRR activities and livelihoods support to other sub-districts beyond Ukhiya and Teknaf.



## 2020 In Numbers

(as of 31 December 2020)



**700,000 people** assisted in the host communities



**570,000 people** received assistance through SSHC



**14,000 women & children** received nutrition treatment



**30 cyclone shelters** rehabilitated



**135,000 children** enrolled in school feeding programme



**30,000 women** enrolled in livelihoods programme

## Special Support for Host Community (SSHC): April—November 2020

Through COVID-19 SSHC programme, WFP provided in-kind rice, high-energy biscuits, pulses, oil and cash distributions of USD 53 (BDT 4,500) to vulnerable host community households. By the end of November, WFP completed all cash disbursements and had reached 113,072 households (570,000 people, disbursed USD 7 million, distributed 5,500 mt of food distributed and provided 1,400 hot meals to people in government supported isolation and quarantine centres.



SSHC distribution in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, 2020

## Disability inclusion in WFP programmes

WFP implements an integrated approach to support the participation and engagement of persons with disabilities across all its programmatic interventions. This includes consulting directly with people with disabilities in camps and host communities on barriers and enablers to accessing WFP services; increasing opportunities for valued roles for people with disabilities (e.g. in livelihoods, committees, volunteers, labourers); developing relationships with disability specific organizations in Cox's Bazar; utilising WFP's reach through cooperating partners to communicate basic messaging on disability inclusion in all WFP programmes.

### Voices from WFP livelihoods programme participants with disability

WFP engaged 810 women with disabilities in the Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) livelihoods programme in 2020. In collaboration with Humanity and Inclusion, WFP trained national partners, Resource Integration Centre and Shushilan, on basic disability inclusion principles and conducted physical disability assessments for its beneficiaries. Furthermore, WFP established linkages with the Government Department of Social Service for accessing services and the National Disability Development Foundation to provide assistive devices to beneficiaries with disabilities. Under the EFSN programme, WFP also formed specific groups to empower women with disabilities and ensure easy access to self-help group shelters considering their disability.



*"I used to be treated like I'm invisible. People were not keen to interact with me as my eye is different. Now that I proved I am capable enough to support myself and family I have lot more opportunity to communicate with others where I also learn more than before"*

Bashanti Shil (50), Ukhiya

**Bashanti Shil** used to be a day labourer. Since her husband passed away seven years ago she had to support her two sons alone. She can not work for long hours due to her vision impairment and is now receiving treatment from a hospital that WFP connected her to.

She joined the WFP EFSN programme in 2018 and discovered her talent for growing vegetables and rearing goats, chickens and cows. In the beginning Bashanti consulted with other members in her SHG whenever she struggled with her new businesses, but now she is the one providing advice to neighbours. Bashanti enjoyed the financial training the most and is glad that she can now focus on how to grow her business instead of having to survive day-to-day.



*"I could not interact with people without my sister. I always had been feeling left behind and not counted in the community. Now People recognizes my capability. I'm only grateful for this opportunities"*

Mariam Begeum (53), Ukhiya

**Mariam Begeum** is unable to speak and always needed her sister by her side to help her communicate. When Mariam first joined the EFSN programme in 2018 it took time for other participants and programme staff to understand her without her sister's assistance. However, after continuous effort, everyone can now understand her through her body language. She learnt tailoring through the EFSN programme and enjoys making ladies' clothes. People in her neighbourhood regularly come and buy her products.



# WFP Host Community Programmes

## Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) livelihoods programme

WFP started the EFSN programme in 2012, targeting the most vulnerable women in Cox's Bazar. Selected women are enrolled into a two year programme through which they have access to entrepreneurial skills 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 Groups (SHG) which act as a platform to enhance financial accountability through 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- and off-farm businesses. Each member also receives a growth grant of BDT 4,500 (USD 54) to invest in group businesses and the best group members are awarded BDT 5,000 (USD 60) for their performance. In December, for the first time in Cox's Bazar, WFP started providing monthly allowances to beneficiaries through bKash (a national mobile financial service).

In 2020, WFP focused on creating market linkages and linked 18,849 women from EFSN programme to food markets inside the refugee camps, including WFP's Fresh Food Corners. WFP also established seven aggregation centres to link livelihoods beneficiaries to local and camp markets.

### School Feeding



While schools were closed for most of 2020, WFP distributed high energy biscuits, dates, child-sized cloth facemask and studying materials to students through home delivery.

To assist authorities and communities prepare for schools to reopen, in December, WFP constructed WASH blocks in 10 schools, repaired WASH blocks in 11 schools and installed handwashing stations in 120 schools

### Disaster Risk Reduction



In 2020, WFP engaged 979 women and 6,181 men, among whom 19 are people with disabilities through food assistance for assets. In response to COVID-19, WFP installed 120 handwashing stations (43 permanent and 77 portable) in 70 rehabilitated cyclone shelters. WFP also installed visibility banners on COVID-19 awareness.

WFP launched forecast-based early action in Teknaf to provide assistance before disaster strikes to extremely vulnerable Bangladeshi households living in areas prone to flooding.

### Nutrition



WFP expanded nutrition assistance in the host community in 2020 and assisted 14,000 women and children every month at 123 community clinics.

To enable women to screen their children at home, WFP trained 69,000 mothers to measure their child's Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) at home and reduce visits to the clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Looking ahead



**EFSN is scaling-up to reach 15,000 vulnerable women** in the most disaster prone areas of Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia. This support is essential as these sub-districts are currently underserved.



**Farmers' Markets, linking host community farmers with Rohingya refugees, will resume in March 2021.** WFP aims to open eight Farmers' Markets by mid-2021.



**WFP will launch a new pilot project** to develop innovative solutions in producing saline tolerant horticulture crops and selected varieties of halophytes to address food insecurity, provide livelihood opportunities and rehabilitate degraded soil.



**Home-grown school feeding cooked meals** will be provided in Teknaf for 26,000 children in 109 schools and expand school meals to Cox's Bazar Sadar.

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