



World Food Programme

WFP Bangladesh Rohingya Refugee Response

Situation Report #41 August 2020



Communication with Communities volunteer in action at a food distribution point
Photo: WFP/Brook Dubois

WFP Programme Updates

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- To provide extra nutrition during COVID-19, super cereal and high energy biscuits were distributed to all Rohingya households jointly with food assistance.
- WFP used Building Blocks blockchain technology in eight outlets to reach over 400,000 refugees (47 percent of the refugees). The other nine outlets continued to use the SCOPE platform. All e-voucher outlets will gradually shift to the Building Blocks system aligning with UNHCR data, subject to stable internet connectivity.

Nutrition Assistance

- WFP assisted nearly 33,000 pregnant and nursing women and 187,271 children under five in the camps and in the host community through the malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes. WFP implemented the treatment programme across 45 nutrition sites in the camps and 106 clinics in the host community.
- WFP opened six new clinics in the host community (four in Pekua and two in Teknaf). Distributions will start in September to provide treatment services for the children and women in the local community.
- WFP celebrated World Breastfeeding Week 2020 with an awareness campaign for staff.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP continued maintenance activities in reforestation sites in 17 camps and planted 18,000 seedlings.
- In the host community, improvements of access roads to 70 cyclone shelters is ongoing and over 40 hand washing stations have been installed in the rehabilitated shelters.
- WFP engaged 278 refugees in the camps through cash-for-work activities.

In Numbers || August 2020

860,000 refugees in the camps*

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

Over 500,000 people in the host community continued to receive assistance through a COVID-19 special support programme.

Highlights

- On 19 August, WFP reached a data sharing agreement with UNHCR, the first of its kind globally, for biometric data transfer. The agreement will enable the two agencies to align beneficiary data and improve the provision of life-saving services.
- 88 percent of 860,000 refugees received WFP assistance through e-vouchers, offering 13 food items through 17 outlets. The other 12 percent of refugees received in-kind assistance at five distribution sites. WFP aims to transfer all beneficiaries to the e-voucher modality by the end of 2020.
- WFP launched Building Blocks at two additional e-voucher outlets, bringing the number of outlets using blockchain-based technology to eight out of 17.
- 18,000 seedlings were planted at 17 sites in the camps as WFP kicked off the tree plantation for 2020.
- Communications with Communities (CwC) volunteers were deployed to food distribution points to disseminate COVID-19 awareness messages using posters/pictures and directly communicating with the refugees.

Situation Updates

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission restored 3G/4G mobile services at Rohingya camps, however, the mobile network coverage does not meet operational needs. The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) will continue to provide connectivity services in Cox's Bazar to support the humanitarian community and WFP's operations.
- Heavy monsoon rain in Cox's Bazar damaged shelters and other infrastructure in the camps. WFP provided one-off general food assistance to 45 households, high energy biscuits to 343 households, and hot meals to 1,943 affected refugees.

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

WFP Programme Updates Continued

Self-Reliance Programme in the Camps

- As of 31 August, over 235,000 masks, including 114,000 child-sized masks, had been produced by 140 female participants. In addition, packaging of masks began in the camps with a target of producing 19,500 mask packages for distribution.
- WFP provided agricultural support and vegetable seeds to 6,439 refugees (94 percent female).

Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- Regular income-generating activities and Self-Help Group (SHG) formation continued for 18,269 women. The SHGs saved USD 24,788 in group savings.

School Feeding

- In the camps, a second distribution of high energy biscuits was completed among 183,946 households. A total of 230 mt of biscuits were distributed, with each household receiving 25 packets of 50 g biscuits.
- In the host community, door-to-door distribution of 50 packets of 75 g high energy biscuits reached 63,557 students in five sub-districts. Along with biscuits, over 9,000 masks and 39 mt of dates donated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were distributed to students.
- Funded by McGovern Dole (MGD) programme, stationery was distributed to 23,418 students in the host community. Exercise books were distributed to over 8,000 students in Grades 1 and 2 from 75 primary schools in Ukhiya.

WFP Engineering

Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP)

- WFP continues to conduct regular repairing and maintenance projects related to COVID-19 as well as monsoon and cyclone preparedness in the camps. Following heavy rains in early August, WFP provided reparation work and riverbank protection.
- WFP also completed hillside stabilization and repair work to food distribution sites across the camps.

Cross-Cutting Themes

- WFP organized an orientation on disability-inclusive COVID-19 response for staff.
- In collaboration with the Gender Hub, WFP finalized a Gender Action Plan for the Food Security Sector, which received endorsement from sector partners.

Assessments

- WFP published the findings of [Cox's Bazar Urban Vulnerability Assessment](#), which was conducted in June, to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on livelihoods and access to food and other essential needs. According to the report, livelihoods have been adversely impacted by the lockdowns, with 58 percent of households stating that they did not receive any income from their primary sources since April.

Common Services

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS is coordinating with the livelihoods working group on planned and ongoing seed distribution in camps. FSS has requested to share seed distribution plans from partners and is developing training modules to ensuring better coordinated agricultural interventions.
- FSS developed a child protection tip sheet for food assistance with the Child Protection Sub-Sector.

Logistics Sector

- The sector received 987 m³ of relief items into common storage on behalf of seven organisations. In total, 4,312 m³ of relief items are stored on behalf of 14 organisations in Madhuchara, Balukhali, Unchiprang, Teknaf and COVID-19 Special Hub in Cox's Bazar district.
- In partnership with HI-Atlas, the Logistics Sector transported 3,441 m³ of relief items for 15 organisations, including UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, using 356 trucks.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS is currently providing data connectivity services to 196 users in 26 sites including e-voucher outlets, logistics hubs, Camp-in-Charge (CIC) offices and humanitarian hubs.
- ETS is coordinating the provision of critical data connectivity in 22 Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres and Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITC).

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (September - December 2020): USD 128 million.

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Additional Resources:

[Previous WFP Rohingya Refugee Response reports](#)

[Previous Inter Sector Coordination Group reports](#)