

WFP Bangladesh Rohingya Refugee Response Situation Report #47 February 2021



A Rohingya women working in the WFP Recycling Centre in Camp 15 © WFP/Nihab Rahman

WFP Programme Updates

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP assisted 857,937 Rohingya refugees in 34 camps. More than 98 percent (844,287 refugees) received e-vouchers and the remaining 13,650 refugees received in-kind assistance.
- Beneficiaries who received e-vouchers were able to purchase up to 23 food items (10 fixed and 13 flexible) at 21 outlets. Over USD 9.6 million worth of food was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers.
- Building Blocks, WFP's blockchain-based digital ledger, was operational in 19 e-voucher outlets.
- Through the 11 operational Fresh Food Corners, WFP provided 16 types of vegetable to 111,236 vulnerable refugees.
- WFP provided rapid response support (high energy biscuits and hot meals) to 2,052 Rohingya refugees, the majority of whom were relocated from Camp 23 to the Kutupalong mega camp.

Nutrition Assistance

- Across 45 nutrition sites in the refugee camps, WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 40,192 pregnant and nursing mothers and 167,476 children under 5.
- In the host community, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to 4,720 pregnant and nursing mothers and 7,247 children under 5 at 119 clinics.

Livelihoods programme in the host community

- In February, beneficiaries from 1,103 self-help groups saved USD 40,017 in group activities.
- WFP trained 4,983 women on post-harvest production and 800 women on organic farming. WFP also conducted training for 12 caregivers of women with disabilities.
- As part of the process to digitalise market linkages, WFP launched the *Farm2Go* pilot in Ukhiya linking 39 groups (1,000 women) with a WFP retailer and local traders from one e-voucher outlet/Fresh Food Corner.

In Numbers || February 2021

857,937 Rohingya refugees assisted

92,171 Bangladeshis supported in the host community

Highlights

- Building Blocks, WFP's blockchain-based digital ledger, launched one year ago in March 2020, is now serving 95 percent of the total refugee population. To date, Building Blocks has processed 1.3 million transactions.
- Through the ten aggregation and collection centres, women from host communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf sold products worth USD 100,801 in February.

Situation Update

- The Government of Bangladesh relocated 2,032 Rohingya refugees (449 households) from Shamlapur (Camp 23) to the Kutupalong Mega Camp throughout the month.
- A boat carrying 90 Rohingya refugees was stranded for two weeks in the Andaman Sea. The boat departed southern Bangladesh on 11 February aiming to reach Malaysia, but the engine had technical issues. Eight refugees died on the boat while the others were rescued by India's coast guard after the United Nations refugee agency called for their immediate rescue.
- A fourth group of 2,818 Rohingya refugees were relocated to Bhasan Char island on 13, 14 and 15 February, bringing the total number of refugees on the island to almost 10,000.
- The Bangladeshi border security forces (BGB) went on high alert along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border following the declaration of a state of emergency in Myanmar.



Scan here to read the latest WFP in Cox's Bazar Information Booklet (January 2021)

WFP Programme Updates Continued

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)¹

- WFP engaged 12,133 refugees in DRR activities.
- To improve access around the camps, 871 m of pedestrian pathways, 1,303 m² of stairs and 511 m of access road were constructed/rehabilitated. WFP also constructed 297 m of brick guide walls, stabilized 280 m² of slopes, cleaned 900 m of drainage, reexcavated 2,066 m of canal and with FAO maintained 364,657 tree seedlings across 19 camps.

Strengthening Community Resilience in the camps²

- WFP conducted environment and social safeguard screenings of 64 community workfare schemes (reforestation, road construction, slope stabilisation, drainage) across 23 non-registered camps.
- Following UNICEF's life skills curriculum, WFP trained 200 adolescent refugees on basic life skills (trust and friendship, problem solving, managing stress and emotions, positive thinking) and 380 refugees on vocational skills (masonry and plumbing).
- WFP supported the re-formation of 14 Rohingya Food Security Committees, and 19 meetings were organized.

Self-Reliance programme in the camps

- Since September 2020, 420,929 WFP food packets and bottles have been collected from the camps and recycled into 809 products (fans, wallets, bags, baskets, mats, shelfs, card holders and photo frames).
- Over 1,000 kg of fish were caught and distributed to 446 Rohingya households and over 500 kg of vegetables produced around the 12 fishponds and distributed to 280 households.

School Feeding

- WFP distributed 228 mt of high-energy biscuits to 182,307 Rohingya households and 138 mt to 73,353 students in host communities.
- In anticipation for schools reopening at the end of March, WFP partner, Room to Read Bangladesh, distributed educational material to 135 primary schools.

Gender and Protection

- WFP supported 20 protection referrals from other agencies to facilitate food assistance.
- WFP trained 1,203 partner staff on gender, protection mainstreaming and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

WFP assessments

 WFP released post-distribution monitoring reports on <u>school feeding take-home rations</u> and the <u>Special</u> <u>Support for Host Communities (SSHC) programme</u>. Both reports highlighted the successes of these programmes.

WFP Engineering

- WFP completed works on a Camp-in-Charge office and canal cleaning in four camps in Kutupalong as well as geotechnical investigations for two Bailey bridges.
- To facilitate warehouse access, WFP constructed 422 m of road in the Uttaran Residential area.

Common Services

Logistics Sector (LS)

- LS stored 1,708 mt of relief items for 16 organisations across four warehouses. Due to reduced needs, the COVID-19 Special Hub was closed, and all stocks released to partners or moved to hubs closer to the camps.
- In partnership with Humanity and Inclusion-Atlas Logistique (HI-Atlas), LS transported 479 mt of relief items for 14 organisations using 112 trucks.
- LS conducted two additional training on warehouse and inventory management with a total of 69 people trained from 36 organisations.

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS continued to coordinate the second round reusable cloth mask distributions. Since December 2020, 800,000 Rohingya refugees have received masks.
- Together with the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, FSS organized a gender mainstreaming training for partners.
- FSS hosted a presentation on the <u>Refugee Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA IV) preliminary findings</u> with over 110 attendees from 50 partner organizations. Results indicated that overall vulnerability increased in refugee and host communities.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

 ETS provided data connectivity to 288 users in 34 sites, including retail outlets, logistic and residential hubs and treatment centres. Security telecommunication services were provided to 860 users from 12 UN agencies.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (March – August 2021): USD 166.98 million

WFP is thankful for contributions in 2019 and 2020 from: US, UK, Australia, Germany, EU, 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.

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

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² Under the framework of the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project of the