WFP Bangladesh Rohingya Refugee Response Situation Report #50 May 2021



# **WFP Programme Updates**

World Food

## General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP assisted 862,875 Rohingya refugees in 34 camps with food assistance through e-vouchers.
- 23 food items were available to purchase at 21 e-voucher outlets. Almost US\$ 11 million worth of food was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers.
- Through 15 Fresh Food Corners, WFP made 19 types of locally produced vegetables available. The most vulnerable 39,393 households received an additional US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through purchases at Fresh Food Corners.
- Building Blocks, a blockchain-based platform for inter-agency coordination and online entitlement delivery, was operational in all Fresh Food Corners and all e-voucher outlets in the nonregistered camps.

## Nutrition Assistance

- In the refugee camps, WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 39,064 pregnant and lactating women and 161,701 children under 5 across 45 nutrition sites.
- In the host community, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to 3,886 pregnant and nursing mothers and 6,186 children under 5 at 129 clinics.
- WFP supported 2,091 children between the ages of 3 and 5 in the e-voucher pilot through which households can redeem an additional US\$ 3 per child per month at the e-voucher outlets. The pilot will scale up to ten additional camps by year end.

## Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP engaged 6,164 refugee volunteers in DRR in May.
- To improve access around the camps, WFP constructed/ reconstructed 1,249 m of pathways, 1,609 m<sup>2</sup> of stairs and 115 m of access road. In preparation for the monsoon, WFP constructed 624 m of brick guide walls and 1,517 m of drains, stabilized 1,892 m<sup>2</sup> of slopes and cleaned 65,848 m of drains. WFP also maintained 94 ha of tree seedlings with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

# In Numbers | May 2021

#### 862,875 Rohingya refugees assisted

**143,545** Bangladeshis supported in the host community

# Highlights

- From 1 May, WFP increased the General Food Assistance (GFA) value from US\$ 11 to US\$ 12, aligning with food price inflation and increased vulnerability identified in the <u>Refugee Influx</u> <u>Emergency Vulnerability Assessment</u> (REVA-4) released in April 2021. The value increase will allow beneficiaries to access the same quantity of food as previously.
- WFP re-introduced live fish and chicken in eight additional Fresh Food Corners; ten outlets now offer these popular items.
- WFP expanded its livelihoods programme to Moheskhali, Pekua and Kutubdia with 14,097 new host community women supported with monthly subsistence allowances and training.
- The <u>2021 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the</u> <u>Rohingya Refugee crisis</u> was launched. The plan outlines the needs of Rohingya refugees and their host communities, plus United Nations and NGO partner operations under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh. It targets over 884,000 refugees and 472,000 of members of the host community requiring US\$ 954 million.

# Situation Update

- The nationwide lockdown imposed on 5 April was extended to 31 May amid growing COVID-19 cases countrywide. The Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) issued a list of critical services authorized in the camps on 11 May and locked down five of the 34 camps from 20 to 31 May. WFP's lifesaving food assistance and nutrition interventions continued, complying with government restrictions.
- On 31 May, a large group of refugees living on Bhasan Char demonstrated during the visit of a high-level UNHCR delegation.



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

# **WFP Programme Updates Continued**

## Strengthening Community Resilience in the Camps<sup>1</sup>

- WFP screened 29 community workfare schemes (tree plantation, road maintenance and construction, slope stabilization and drainage) to ensure activities do not adversely impact ecosystems and communities.
- WFP supported the re-formation of 31 Rohingya Food Security Committees.

# Self-Reliance Programme in the Camps

- 87 Rohingya refugees collected and cleaned 30,000 food packets to recycle.
- Since September 2020, participants have recycled 542,310 WFP food packets into 2,460 products.

# Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- Beneficiaries from 858 self-help groups saved US\$ 14,742 in group activities in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- WFP trained 300 women on post-harvest management in Ukhiya.
- Vegetables worth US\$ 82,970 (10.8 million kg) were sold through 23 aggregation centres.

# School Feeding

- WFP distributed 230 mt of fortified to 183,843 Rohingya households. Each household received 25 packets of biscuits at GFA sites.
- WFP distributed 268 mt of fortified biscuits to 89,668 host community children. Each child received 50 packets of biscuits at home. Students in Ukhiya and Kutubdia received hygiene kits.
- As school remained closed, WFP worked with Room to Read Bangladesh (RtR) to keep students, parents, guardians, teachers and government officials motivated about children's education and learning at home. With WFP support, RtR distributed 3,332 exercise books and remedial packages to 1,980 students in Kutubdia, and aired 58 read-aloud videos of 30-minutes duration on national and local TV. RtR also reached 14,705 individuals through the SMS campaign on education and COVID-19 awareness.

## Gender and Protection

• WFP trained 136 partner and WFP staff on gender, protection mainstreaming, accountability to affected populations (AAP), disability inclusion, the Do No Harm principle and protection messaging.

## **WFP Engineering**

- Under the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), WFP engaged 2,621 Rohingya volunteers and 750 host community members.
- To maintain vehicle access, WFP completed construction of 685 m of road and 80 m of brick retaining wall in camps 20, 2E, 2W and 5, and built 1,000 m of road in the host community.

• In preparation for the monsoon, WFP drained and cleaned 2,709 m of canals in camps 2E and 10.

## Sectors

### Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector stored 3,521 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items for 44 organisations across four warehouses in Madhuchara, Balukhali, Unchiprang and Teknaf.
- In partnership with Humanity & Inclusion-Atlas Logistique (HI-Atlas), the Sector transported 154 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items for two organisations using 11 trucks.
- To prepare for the monsoon, the Logistics Sector assessed access roads for six camps.
- A <u>blog post</u> on the Logistics Sector's response to the March 22 fire was published on Logistics Cluster's website.

# Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS trained 32 partners on the NutVal (Nutrition Value of Food) application in collaboration with WFP's nutrition unit. The spreadsheet app calculates the macro and micronutrient content of food rations and supports the design of nutritionally complete food baskets.
- FSS facilitated coordination meetings to advance the WFP-FAO agreement signed in April and will continue to do so until the end of 2021.

## Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

• ETS provided data connectivity to 404 users in 37 sites, including retail outlets, logistic and residential hubs, and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres. Security telecommunications services were also provided to 1,010 users from 11 UN agencies.

## **Funding Outlook**

# **Operational requirement (June – November 2021):** US\$ 168 million

WFP is thankful for contributions 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Under the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief funded by the World Bank. Community workfare activities are reported under DRR.

Note: This Operational Report is based on best available information at the time of production. Future updates may vary as new information becomes available.

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