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WFP in Cox's Bazar | Information Booklet

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMMES, INNOVATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, SECTORS AND
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Photos: WFP/Nihab Rahman

July 2021



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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Emergency Response in the Rohingya Refugee Camps

CONTEXT

By end-June 2021, there were over 878,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This includes almost 600,000 in the Kutupalong megacamp, the largest refugee camp in the world, and over 18,000 on Bhasan Char island. The COVID-19 pandemic created a double-layered crisis and heightened vulnerabilities among refugees with 96 percent being reported as moderately and highly vulnerable by end-2020. As evidenced by the major January and March fires in Teknaf and Ukhiya megacamps respectively, ensuring refugees' safety and wellbeing remains a serious challenge with population density reaching 60,000 persons per km² (REVA-IV, 2021).

WFP RESPONSE

Since the start of the crisis in August 2017, WFP has provided food assistance to the camp population, and nutrition services to women and children. This is complemented with life-skills training, disaster risk reduction activities and common engineering services. WFP also facilitates essential shared logistics and emergency telecommunication services and co-leads the Food Security Sector. WFP adapted its programmes to adhere to evolving COVID-19 restrictions, while ensuring lifesaving interventions continue.

2021 Q2 IN NUMBERS

863,000 refugees supported monthly



100 percent of food assistance provided via e-vouchers



200,000 women and children reached with nutrition services



200 women and men engaged in self-reliance activities

FFA

34,500 people engaged in food assistance for assets



184,000 households reached with fortified biscuits



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Interventions in the Host Community

CONTEXT

Cox's Bazar, situated in Bangladesh's southern "cyclone belt", is one of the country's most underdeveloped regions. The COVID-19 pandemic hit the local economy with 51 percent of the host community population reported as moderately or highly vulnerable in 2020, up from 41 percent in 2019. This increase can be attributed to the economic contractions experienced during COVID-19 lockdowns, which led to a decline in economic activity, especially in the informal sector, which absorbs most of the host community labour force ([REVA-IV, 2021](#)).

WFP RESPONSE

WFP supports host community populations through long-term interventions, including nutrition assistance at community clinics, school feeding, livelihoods programmes specifically targeting vulnerable women, and disaster risk reduction activities. In 2021 WFP has expanded its aggregation centres in the host community, which link local farmers, including WFP livelihood beneficiaries and FAO farmers' groups, to fresh food corners in the refugee camps and competitive markets. WFP is also continuing to conduct door-to-door micronutrient fortified biscuit distributions while schools remain closed.

Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

2021 Q2 IN NUMBERS

295,000 members of the host community supported monthly



12,000 women and children reached with nutrition services



45,000 women engaged in livelihoods programme



23 produce aggregation centres established

FFA

250 people engaged in food assistance for assets



109,000+ students reached with fortified biscuits

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HOST COMMUNITY BRIEFS



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General Food Assistance

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > Food assistance delivered to all Rohingya refugees across **34** camps every month
- > **100%** of GFA through e-vouchers with **97%** of transactions through Building Blocks
- > **21** e-voucher outlets and **16** Fresh Food Corners
- > Voucher value increased from **US\$ 11 to 12** to allow beneficiaries to access the same quantity of food as before

OVERVIEW

WFP delivers food assistance to the entire refugee population every month. With the full transition to the e-voucher modality now complete, all beneficiaries receive an electronic voucher to be redeemed across WFP assistance outlets every month.

WFP rapid response ensures efficient emergency intervention. At the onset of any crisis, affected populations immediately receive a six-day ration of micronutrient fortified biscuits. Affected households are then provided with hot meals and/or one-off in-kind basket until they can be re-integrated into the regular e-voucher food assistance programme.

OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure all Rohingya refugees receive a minimum of 2,100 calories of nutritious food** to meet their daily dietary needs.
- **Enhance transparency and accountability** through digital systems (Building Blocks and SCOPE) and complaints and feedback mechanisms.
- **Allow choice and dignity** by providing assistance through e-vouchers which give people greater freedom to select from a range of food items at a time convenient to them.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP delivered food assistance to the entire refugee population every month under e-voucher modality whereby families can purchase over 24 (fixed and flexible) food items at 21 outlets.
- Building Blocks, WFP's Building Blocks, a shared humanitarian platform for coordinated assistance delivery, is used by WFP in 19 out of 21 e-voucher outlets and operational in all 16 Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). By end-June 97 percent of the total refugee population were served under this system.
- Through the 16 operational fresh food corners, WFP made up to 27 locally produced vegetables available for refugees every month. The most vulnerable refugee households (30 percent of the total caseload) received a top up of US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through FFC purchases.
- Live fish and chicken were re-introduced in 13 FFCs.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will establish additional e-voucher outlets to minimize the distance beneficiaries must travel to access food assistance.
- WFP will expand FFCs to all remaining e-voucher outlets.
- Live chicken and fish will be added to the three FFCs that do not yet offer them.

Social Cohesion and Localization of Food Assistance: Fresh Food Corners

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › 16 fresh food corners operating at e-voucher outlets with more than 20 fresh food items available to refugees
- › More than 45,000 most vulnerable refugee households (over 161,000 individuals) were provided with e-voucher top-up of US\$ 3 every month for improved access to nutritious and protein-rich food items

OVERVIEW

WFP continues to support refugees with monthly food assistance, however, the dietary diversity and nutritious food access among the most vulnerable remains poor. Low-income households are highly disadvantaged by ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in the camps, especially within child-, women- or older person-headed households, and those with a family member with a disability, since they have limited access to income opportunities. This prompts the adoption of negative coping strategies, such as reselling assistance, borrowing money and buying food on credit.

Meanwhile, findings from the Refugee Emergency Vulnerability Assessment ([REVA-IV](#)) conducted in late 2020 indicate that 64 percent of refugee households' external purchases are food items, 35 percent of which are fish, vegetables and meat/eggs. Similar findings in previous years prompted WFP to introduce Fresh Food Corners at its e-voucher outlets to provide the most vulnerable households with direct access to healthy fresh foods.

Since then, WFP has been facilitating linkages between its contracted camp retailers and livelihoods programme participants, together with FAO farmers groups, other smallholder producers and petty traders in the host community.

The most vulnerable refugee households receive a monthly top-up of US\$ 3 per individual, which can be redeemed at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). Moreover, FFCs are accessible to all refugees, providing households with the choice to redeem a portion of their US\$ 12 entitlement on fresh fruits and vegetables, live chicken and fish.

OBJECTIVES

- **Improve dietary diversity** among the most vulnerable households, especially through protein-rich items. Households are targeted based on four criteria: child-headed (up to 17 years); women-headed; elderly-headed (60 years and above), and households with persons with disabilities.
- **Strengthen market linkages between camps and host community.** Most food items will be locally purchased or produced to improve social cohesion by increasing economic opportunities and agricultural production in host communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- Live fish and chicken were reintroduced to 13 fresh food corners.
- 2,098 livelihoods programme participants from the host community sold their products to fresh food corners in the camps. This includes 940 women who used WFP's Farm2Go application. An additional 210 FAO farmers were also engaged and sold 8,000 kg worth of fresh vegetables.

THE WAY FORWARD

- By August, WFP will scale up FFCs to cover 100 percent of Rohingya refugees. WFP will continue to re-introduce live chicken and fish in FFCs not yet offering these items.
- With partner support, WFP is aiming to link FFC retailers with all 33 WFP and FAO aggregation centres in Cox's Bazar.
- Aggregation Centre committees run by WFP livelihoods beneficiaries will receive capacity strengthening on farming skills, including year-long production, and record-keeping.

Integrated Nutrition Assistance in the Camps

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > 200,000 women and children supported each month at 45 Integrated Nutrition Centres
- > 15,000 children were referred to the nutrition treatment programme every month. A total of 2,600 were new admissions.

OVERVIEW

To address malnutrition in the camps, WFP offers prevention and treatment services to children and pregnant and nursing mothers.

- **Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme:** As part of the prevention programme, children between 6 and 59 months receive Super Cereal Plus (WSB++) while pregnant and nursing mothers receive Super Cereal (WSB+).
- **Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme:** In the treatment programme, children under 5 identified as moderately undernourished receive monthly rations of Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) while malnourished pregnant and nursing mothers receive Super Cereal (WSB+).

WFP also provides nutrition counselling and communication to promote the consumption of nutritious food, especially for women and children.

WFP is in the process of phasing out the BSFP for children over 2 years old. To ensure continued growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) and mitigate risks, WFP is providing a \$3 monthly e-voucher top-up per child on condition of attending GMP. The Cash-Based Transfer pilot was launched in February 2021.

OBJECTIVES

- **Malnutrition rehabilitation and treatment:** WFP aims to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with malnutrition among pregnant and nursing mothers and young children.
- **Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC):** To ensure sustained change for cases of malnutrition, WFP conducts communication activities and utilizes tools that positively influence behaviour, knowledge and attitudes around nutrition, hygiene and social protection.

- **Active case finding:** WFP engages community outreach volunteers to screen and identify malnourished women and children who are then referred to the nearest nutrition centre. Beneficiaries who require regular assistance are closely followed and supported through home visits. During the last trimester, pregnant women receive services at home. WFP is also providing training to caregivers on how to screen children for malnutrition and self-refer them to nutrition sites.
- **Promoting an inclusive approach:** Services are tailored to ensure everyone can participate. For instance, breastfeeding corners at nutrition sites provide safety and privacy for mothers and spur them to come to the facilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP continued to provide nutrition services, ensuring the safety of staff and beneficiaries. WFP distributed 1,000 mt of nutrition supplements every month.
- WFP continued its US\$ 3 e-voucher pilot for children between the ages of 3 and 5. The pilot reached an average of 2,000 children per month in Q2.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will pilot a lentil-based, locally produced food commodity for pregnant and nursing mothers as an alternative to SuperCereal. This supplement aims to improve the effectiveness and outcomes of WFP's curative and preventive supplementary feeding programmes. The three-month trial will assess product acceptability, utilisation and effectiveness.
- The US\$ 3 cash pilot for children will be scaled to ten additional camps.
- WFP will finalize an SBCC strategy for the US\$ 3 pilot to increase consumption of fresh food products. Launch will occur after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.



School Feeding Programme in the Camps

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › With learning centres still closed, up to **183,959** households reached with **686** mt of fortified biscuits at General Food Assistance sites
- › **397** volunteers engaged for packaging, delivery and distribution of biscuits

OVERVIEW

WFP's school feeding programme for registered refugees was first launched in 2002 with the goal of improving children's learning by addressing the root causes of hunger and micronutrient deficiencies that can have consequences on their cognitive growth.

WFP provides a packet of 50 g of micronutrient fortified biscuits to children in the camps every day. These locally-produced biscuits are fortified with 14 vitamins and minerals, and provide approximately half of the daily micronutrient requirements for a child between 3 and 14 years. From 2019, WFP also started distributing dates to children.

WFP partners with the Bangladesh Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and BRAC to support emergency school feeding in over 4,200 learning centres across the camps. In line with the national de-worming campaign and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, WFP also facilitates de-worming campaigns twice a year for Rohingya children who attend learning centres.

OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure that hunger is not an impediment to a child's overall development.**
- **Improve children's learning capacity** by providing them with fortified biscuits for

every school attendance day.

- **Build capacity and promote community participation** by engaging refugee teachers and volunteers in the programme.
- **Address root causes of hunger and micronutrient deficiencies** among refugee children. A WFP study shows that fortified biscuits consistently reduce anaemia prevalence and improve micronutrient status—in particular iron, vitamin A, iodine and folate.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- The planned expansion of activities to new learning centres in the camps was not possible due to the ongoing closure of educational institutions across Bangladesh. Instead WFP reached 183,959 Rohingya households through blanket distribution of fortified biscuits at general food assistance sites.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will continue biscuit distribution and deworming campaigns in all camps throughout the year.
- Door to door biscuit distribution in camps will start in August 2021.

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Resilience Building in the Camps: Self-Reliance

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > Over **200** Rohingya refugees engaged
- > **543,908** WFP food packets collected and upcycled into **2,549** products
- > **Three** women and men with disabilities engaged in self-reliance activities

OVERVIEW

Under the self-reliance programme, WFP supports refugees to enhance their resilience through skills development activities such as homestead vegetable gardening, aquaculture and tailoring.

In autumn 2020, WFP launched the Circular Food Assistance project which, through upcycling waste into useful products, provides skills development and income opportunities for Rohingya youth, women and people with disabilities while also creating a cleaner camp environment. The project won the WFP Innovation Accelerator award and was also selected for the SPRINT, an intense six-month acceleration programme that helps innovators and start-ups reach proof-of-concept and develop prototypes ready for implementation.

In 2021 WFP is scaling-up self-reliance activities targeting at-risk youth (both women and men), extremely vulnerable individuals such as older people and persons with disabilities and women-headed households.

OBJECTIVES

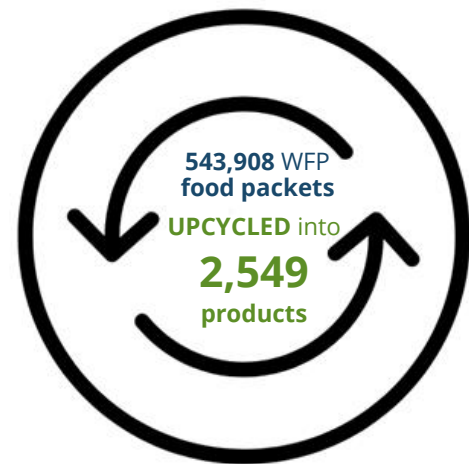
- **Strengthen food security and access to fresh foods** through urban agriculture interventions, including aquaculture and seed production.
- **Support economic empowerment**, focusing on demand created by the camp.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP engaged 239 Rohingya refugees in self-reliance activities across 30 camps.
- Since September, over half a million WFP food packets and bottles have been collected from the camps and upcycled

into 2,549 products (e.g. fans, wallets, bags, baskets, mats, pillows, cards, dust bins, photo frames, tiffin boxes, window shutters, notebook covers, and jewelry).

CIRCULAR FOOD ASSISTANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 2020



THE WAY FORWARD

- Once lockdown restrictions are eased, Communications with Communities (CwC) activities will continue with 72 volunteers to disseminate information on COVID-19 awareness, General Food Assistance, Nutrition Services and the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism across 31 camps.
- When designing programming, WFP plans to focus on demand coming from the camps, such as services, skills, and items required for delivering humanitarian assistance or by the Rohingya.



Resilience Building in the Camps: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › **34,455** refugees engaged in DRR activities through food assistance for assets
- › Together with FAO and UNHCR, WFP maintained **331,307** tree seedlings across **23** camps covering **113.73** hectares
- › To prepare for the monsoon, WFP constructed **2,086 m** of brick guide wall, stabilized **9,318m²** of slope, cleaned **279,832 m** of drains and re-excavated **4,167 m** of canal
- › To improve access around the camps, WFP (re)constructed **5,076 m** of pedestrian pathways, **4,373 m²** of stairs and **860 m** of access road

OVERVIEW

WFP continues to undertake disaster risk management activities for critical construction and maintenance of community assets. Through the food assistance for assets programme, refugees engage in DRR works and receive cash assistance in return.

Since the major influx in 2017, WFP's response has transitioned from immediate life-saving assistance to targeted programmatic interventions to improve resilience in communities. In this regard, disaster risk reduction activities aim to prevent and reduce risks from natural disasters, strengthen resilience and assist with capacity-building for Rohingya refugees.

Access to key roadways and social infrastructure are critical to ensuring the continuation of essential humanitarian operations and communication across the camps. It is especially important to mitigate the harmful effects and prevent further damages from natural disasters such as cyclones and heavy rains. WFP maintains regular coordination and collaboration with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Camp-in-Charges, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Forest Department and other relevant UN agencies including FAO, IOM and UNHCR.

OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen and build resilience** through building and rehabilitating community assets and improve accessibility to reduce disaster risk in Rohingya refugee camps.
- **Improving accessibility to humanitarian actors and communities:** Building bridges, strengthening drainage systems and roads to improve access to markets, food assistance or nutrition sites.
- **Site improvement and disaster risk mitigation:** Slope protection, perimeter

fencing and dam construction to reduce soil erosion.

- **Community engagement and outreach:** Engaging refugees in multi-sectoral community services as outreach volunteers, on topics such as fire safety and emergency monsoon or cyclone preparedness.
- **Social inclusion and protection mainstreaming:** WFP encourages participation of differently abled people and age groups.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP focused on monsoon preparedness work, such as slope stabilization, drainage clearance and re-excavation of canals, while continuing to improve access around the camps. WFP engaged 5,066 women and 28,389 men, of which 529 were people with disabilities.
- In collaboration with FAO and UNHCR, WFP maintained 331,307 tree seedlings across 22 camps covering 114 hectares.
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP continued to ensure worker safety by disinfecting work sites, maintaining strict social distancing and mask-wearing, and installing portable handwashing facilities.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will continue to support the RRRC in strengthening coordination of disaster risk reduction efforts across all the camps with an emphasis on cyclones, flash floods and fire risks.

Resilience Building in the Camps: Community Workfare and Services

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › Conditional food assistance transfers provided to **157,000** displaced Rohingya population through US\$ 2 e-voucher top-up to be redeemed at fresh food corners
- › **33,455** displaced Rohingya population engaged in community workfare activities
- › **2,090** Rohingya volunteers received trainings for portable skills, life skills and awareness-raising

PROGRAMME

WFP is implementing the “Strengthening Community Resilience” component of the World Bank funded Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response project in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) of the Government of Bangladesh. The project covers the 32 unregistered camps and aims to increase the wellbeing and entitlements of the most vulnerable households, reducing the likelihood of youth idleness and improving living conditions in the camps through community services and community workfare.

OBJECTIVES

- **Improving safety and living conditions** of the displaced Rohingya population.
- **Enhancing self-reliance** and address potential conflict with host community.
- **Revert environmental degradation.**

PROJECT SET-UP

From June to November 2020, the project implemented training on COVID-19 prevention and awareness campaigns while ensuring COVID-19 safety. Since October 2020, the project has gradually resumed activity implementation under both the community services and community workfare sub-components as planned as WFP shifted to the “new normal” in the camps.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- US\$ 2 e-voucher top-up was provided to over 43,600 extremely vulnerable households (157,000 individuals) in 32 camps upon their attendance at relevant awareness sessions, including COVID-19 prevention.
- WFP constructed 16,000 m of drainage, 7,500 m of pathways, 8,600 m² of stairs and 2,500 m of brick guide wall; protected 4,000 m² of slopes; constructed/rehabilitated

1,500 m of access road; cleaned/rehabilitated 246,000 m of drainage; maintained 331,000 tree seedlings across 114 hectares of land; and re-excavated 8,300 m³ of canals.

- WFP engaged 5,066 women and 28,389 men (529 of whom were persons with disabilities) in disaster risk reduction activities under community workfare.
- WFP trained 2,090 participants on basic life skills (trust and friendship, problem solving, managing stress and emotions, positive thinking), health, COVID-19 prevention and environmental awareness.
- 757 Rohingya youth received skills development training on carpentry, masonry, and supervisory skills. 1,182 youth volunteers were engaged in community services projects, such as cleaning courtyards, trash bins and drains; carrying drinking water and groceries; assisting in community road and shelter repairs; and tree planting).
- WFP conducted 103 environmental impact screenings in 32 camps to ensure that planned activities (tree plantation, road maintenance/ construction, slope stabilization and drainage) did not have an adverse impact on ecosystems and communities.
- 31 Rohingya Food Security Committees re-were formed.

THE WAY FORWARD

- RFSC volunteers (currently stationed at 15 e-voucher outlets) will be present at all food assistance sites in coming months to continue sensitizing beneficiaries on COVID-19 prevention.
- Once strict COVID-19 restrictions in camps are eased, trainings for adolescents on basic vocational skills, such as wood/bamboo carpentry, plumbing, and

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Voices from the field: Upcycling initiative

In the refugee camps, most household waste ends up in the canals, which risks causing floods during the monsoon. Foods purchased from WFP's e-voucher outlets have minimal packaging, but aluminium wraps are required for fortified foods and special nutritional products.

WFP offsets the production of waste through upcycling, which helps to keep the camp environment clean, keep groundwater safe and prevent floods.

Aside from the environmental benefits, the upcycling centre is also creating opportunities for Rohingya women.

"My life is much better now- I can send my children to school," said Sayeda, a Rohingya woman who makes different types of bags and masks using upcycled material and her skills as a tailor.

"Now that I have started to earn, I am treated well by other people in my community."

Since September 2020, Sayeda and dozens of other women have been visiting the upcycling centre to transform WFP packaging into reusable materials and handicraft items.

SCAN TO READ THE
FULL STORY



Protecting trees and communities



For coastal communities in Cox's Bazar, the **massive Garjan trees create a natural barrier against the devastating impact of cyclones, landslides and flooding.** However, following years of deforestation and the devastating cyclones of 1991 and 1994, many of the trees have disappeared.

In response to the deforestation crisis, WFP is working with the Forest Department, FAO, and local communities to preserve these essential forests for future generations—employing night guards to prevent logging and engaging local communities to stabilize land.

Since the start of reforestation, over 2,000 hectares of forest land has been restored, and 880 Garjan trees saved.

"Before the 1994 cyclone, it was so dense that sunlight couldn't pierce through," said Habibur Rahman, a Forest Guard whose family relies on the forests. **"If it weren't for these trees, we would have lost all our farmland."**

"These trees protected us from the cyclone," said Mir Ahmed, a local resident. **"We would have surely been swept away otherwise."**

SCAN TO WATCH
THE VIDEO



Social Safety Net in the Host Community: Disaster Risk Reduction

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › 247 participants (180 men and 67 women) received cash entitlement via food assistance for assets programme
- › All distributions transitioned from cash assistance to mobile money transfer. Participants now receive entitlements through bKash (a national mobile financial service)

OVERVIEW

WFP has operationalized the disaster risk reduction programme for the prevention and reduction of risks from natural disasters, with the objective of strengthening resilience and capacity development of the most-vulnerable host community population. WFP maintains coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and Bangladesh Forest Department for fostering dialogue on host community development. WFP is implementing the Disaster Resilience Programme for the host communities in close consultation with the District Administration of Cox's Bazar.

In May 2021, WFP rolled out forecast-based financing programme in Teknaf. Ahead of the rainy season, households receive training on how to best prepare for heavy rainfall and related hazards, so that they can protect their livelihoods and assets before a disaster. Meteorological forecasts trigger electronic payments to households likely to be affected, and families are alerted via text message.

OBJECTIVES

- **Strengthen the resilience and capacity development** of the most-vulnerable host community population.
- **Community-based environmental protection:** Together with the Bangladesh Forest Department and FAO, promoting reforestation and restoration of damaged environments through planting of fast-growing species, bag gardening/vegetation for soil retention, seedling production and nursery propagation.
- **Emergency preparedness:** Rehabilitating existing cyclone shelters and improving access to key community infrastructures.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- In June, WFP activated forecast-based financing in the Teknaf host community for the first time. With significant rainfall accumulation predicted (150 mm over 72 hours), BDT4,100 per household was distributed to a total of 991 households through mobile money transfer (bKash) in anticipation of flash flooding.
- WFP made access improvements at two cyclone shelters in Teknaf through road and drainage repair and reconstruction, and ramp installation. Works at six additional shelters are underway in Ukhiya and Teknaf to improve access.
- Initial stage technical assessments were completed for 30 cyclone shelters in Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia, identifying the scope of work required for building rehabilitation.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will commence rehabilitation work at 30 cyclone shelter buildings in remote, underserved, cyclone-prone areas of Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia.
- The "last mile" to 62 more cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf will be improved.
- In consultation with the Department of Agriculture and FAO, WFP will improve irrigation, water systems, culverts, reservoirs and solar energy at sites in Chakaria, Ramu, Teknaf and Ukhiya.
- Under the technical leadership of FAO, WFP will maintain and plant 2,000 hectares of trees in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Chakaria, Ukhiya, Teknaf and Ramu for land stabilization and erosion control.

Social Safety Net in the Host Community: Livelihoods Programme

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › 45,152 women engaged in five sub-districts
- › US\$ 95,019 raised and saved by 1,130 self-help groups
- › 829 women with disabilities and 3 self-help groups dedicated to women with disabilities

OVERVIEW

The “Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition” (EFSN) livelihoods programme targets vulnerable women in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia. In 2021, WFP is supporting 45,500 beneficiaries: 25,500 of whom are enrolled in the EFSN programme and 20,000 who already graduated the initial two-year programme and are now provided with technical support for market linkages and value chain development in their third year.

Selected women are enrolled in a multi-year programme through which they have access to entrepreneurial skill development and life-skills trainings. Participants are supported with a monthly subsistence allowance of BDT 1,050 (US\$ 12) and are organized into self-help group (SHG) which act as a platform for them to enhance financial accountability by 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 (US\$ 180) to start diversified income generating activities with a combination of on-farm and off-farm businesses to mitigate risks. Each member also receives a group grant of BDT 4,500 (US\$ 54) to collectively invest in group businesses.

OBJECTIVES

- **Address the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition** through empowering women economically.
- **Enhance resilience** through trainings in social networking, financial inclusion, disability inclusion and social and behavioural-change communication.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP supported 10,000 women to manage their own businesses and income effectively and take collective actions on mitigating gender-based violence and early marriages. So far in 2021, US\$ 96,155 has been raised and saved in collective bank accounts by livelihoods self-help

groups.

- WFP extended the programme to focus on market linkages with smallholder farmers and by end-June had 23 operational aggregation centres to link smallholder farmers with local markets and WFP’s Fresh Food Corners in the Rohingya camps. Centres are run by women supported by WFP and aggregate produce from beneficiaries living within a 1.5 km radius
- US\$ 287,025 worth of vegetables were sold by livelihoods participants through 23 WFP aggregation centres.
- WFP trained 9,636 people in nutrition, 1,243 in post-harvest management, 421 in advanced agriculture and 57 in tailoring.
- In June, WFP opened a shop in Cox’s Bazar which sells handicrafts made by livelihoods programme participants. Items for sale include stools, pottery, beadwork, textiles, woven bamboo mats and baskets, all made by individual and group businesses.
- In the same month, WFP launched a new pilot on climate adaptive agriculture. Five hundred men and women will receive skill development training, seeds and fertilizer as part of the project.

THE WAY FORWARD

- In 2021, WFP will open an additional two aggregation centres (also part of WFP’s Resilient Landscaping project) to bring the total to 25 sites.
- 15,000 EFSN beneficiaries in Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia will receive the one-off substantive cash grant topped up by BDT 3,000 (approx. US\$ 35) due to inflation.
- When COVID-19 restrictions ease, participants with disabilities will have the opportunity to receive vision and hearing assessments.



Social Safety Net in the Host Community: Integrated Nutrition Assistance

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › 10,000 women and children supported every month at 129 clinics
- › 314 community nutrition volunteers deployed

OVERVIEW

Since 2011, as part of the Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition programme, WFP has been providing tailored nutrition assistance to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) among young children and pregnant and nursing mothers. WFP also engages host communities through Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) sessions on a range of topics such as hygiene, good preparation and storage of food (including WFP supplementary food), nutrition and health.

OBJECTIVES

- **Treat MAM:** Children identified with MAM in the host community receive monthly rations of Super Cereal Plus (WSB++) for malnutrition treatment. Pregnant and nursing mothers identified as malnourished receive Super Cereal (WSB+) mixed with vegetable oil.
- **Improve livelihoods of local community women:** WFP engages women as community nutrition volunteers to conduct active case finding, nutrition counselling and conduct weekly “Courtyard Sessions” for beneficiaries on issues surrounding hygiene, good preparation and storage of food, nutrition and health. The volunteers are paid US\$ 90 on a monthly basis and the income contributes to their family and local economy.
- **Enhance community-level knowledge:** WFP’s nutrition programme plays a significant role in raising awareness among women, their families and communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP assisted more than 3,243 pregnant and nursing mothers and 9,199 children under 5 every month across five sub-districts of Cox’s Bazar: Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Kutubdia and Pekua.
- WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services at 129 host community clinics.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will continue to proactively engage government partners and Cooperating Partners for operational implementation.
- WFP will continue nutrition services through integrated nutrition facilities and ensure coordination with UNICEF/ACF in providing such services in host communities.
- Together with UNICEF and WFP partner, Action Against Hunger-Action Contre La Faim (ACF), WFP will conduct surveys to assess the nutrition situation in host communities and to inform future programming.

Social Protection in the Host Community: School Feeding

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › Up to **135,901** students reached per month with **829** mt of fortified biscuits distributed through home distributions in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali and Pekua
- › **147,486** students in Ukhiya and Kutubdia received hygiene kits and literacy materials
- › **766** host community volunteers engaged in packaging and door to door distribution

OVERVIEW

WFP's school feeding programme is operational in five sub-districts of Cox's Bazar. In collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, WFP provides fortified biscuits and dates to pre-primary and primary school children in Government and NGO-run schools as well as in approved "madrassas" (Islamic schools). WFP also provides an "essential learning package" to benefit the whole community through community mobilization; de-worming campaigns; and health, hygiene, nutrition and school vegetable gardening.

The programme in Ukhiya and Kutubdia is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme and the Government of Bangladesh. This programme provides literacy and nutrition activities, and capacity strengthening of government education officials, teachers and school management committees (SMC). It also improves WASH facilities and increases awareness around health, hygiene, gender equality, women's empowerment, human trafficking and child marriage.

As schools have been closed across Bangladesh since March 2020, WFP has distributed fortified biscuits to directly to students' homes.

OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure hunger is not an impediment to a child's overall development and improve learning** by addressing short-term hunger and promoting development of cognitive capacities.
- **Contribute to the Government's policy of universal primary education by improving access to basic education**, particularly for children living in poverty-prone areas.
- **Build capacity and promote community participation in the management of the schools** by engaging community members in trainings and capacity building activities.
- **Improve literacy of school-aged children and quality of education** through early grade learning interventions.

- **Promote gender equity and women's empowerment** through community mobilisation workshops. Through local partners, WFP develops the leadership skills of women to enable them to play an active role in SMCs.
- **Conduct de-worming activities** in all primary schools twice a year in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP reached up to 135,901 students with fortified biscuits every month. Each child received 25 biscuit packets.
- WFP partner, Resource Integration Centre (RIC), completed the last of three rounds of hygiene kit distribution. 147,486 children were reached in Ukhiya and Kutubdia.
- WFP partner Room to Read (RtR) distributed 42,625 exercise books to 9,147 students in Ukhiya and Kutubdia. Desks and bookshelves were also distributed to 137 government primary schools and 347 desks provided to teachers.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will continue door-to-door distribution until schools reopen.
- WFP will continue the USDA McGovern-Dole-funded literacy improvement activities in Ukhiya and Kutubdia for 45,017 children at 138 schools.
- WFP will begin providing home-grown cooked meals in Teknaf for 25,256 children in 109 schools and expand school meals to Cox's Bazar Sadar. WFP will construct infrastructure, including school kitchens, to support cooked meals provision in Ukhiya and Kutubdia from 2022.

Digital Solutions and Innovations

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › Cox's Bazar is the first WFP operation to build e-voucher outlets. **100%** of the total refugee population receive food assistance through e-vouchers, of which 96% is served through Building Blocks.
- › Internet-of-things-based sensors now capture and monitor temperature and humidity in WFP warehouses in real time.
- › Market assessment tool collects prices from local markets to support price negotiations with e-voucher retailers, so WFP achieves the best value for money for the people it serves.

LEADING INNOVATIONS IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

WFP's emergency operation in Cox's Bazar leads in innovating food assistance to respond to a humanitarian crisis and feed the world's largest refugee camp. Embracing new technologies to provide life-saving food and nutrition support to Rohingya refugees as well as to assist the host community, WFP is leveraging innovation and digital solutions to achieve Zero Hunger (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) in Cox's Bazar.

INNOVATING FOOD ASSISTANCE: E-VOUCHERS AND BUILDING BLOCKS

- **E-vouchers** are a dignified approach to food assistance whereby refugees can choose from a range of food items each month, including fresh produce. 100% of Rohingya refugees have received food assistance through e-vouchers since April 2021.
- **Blockchain:** Building Blocks is a blockchain-based platform for inter-agency coordination and online entitlement delivery. All Fresh Food Corners and e-voucher outlets serving refugees who came to Bangladesh from 2017 onwards are now serviced by Building Blocks.
- **SCOPECARD for offline entitlement delivery:** SCOPECARDS are used in offline distribution points to provide food, LPG, hygiene kits, shelter kits, and other items. SCOPECARDS are used by WFP, IOM, and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).

bKASH MOBILE MONEY TRANSFER

- At the end of 2020, WFP started a partnership with financial service provider, bKash, to provide mobile money to host community beneficiaries. Livelihoods beneficiaries now receive their monthly subsistence allowances through mobile money, and participants in the disaster risk reduction programme in the host community also receive assistance via bKash.
- Currently SCOPE is being used to support 24,971 women from the host community for transfer management using bKash.

FORECAST-BASED FINANCING

In May 2021, WFP rolled out forecast-based cash assistance under the disaster risk reduction programme to better respond to climate shocks, such as flooding and cyclones. Forecast-based financing is an innovative mechanism through which early preparedness and action is pre-planned based on credible meteorological forecasts. It is implemented before a disaster strikes, helping minimize losses and damage, and reducing the need for humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of climate-related hazards.

Digital Solutions: Building Blocks

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › Operational in **19** e-voucher outlets, **40** shops, **16** fresh food corners and **400** mPOS (mobile point-of-sale) devices
- › Up to **97%** of refugees served through Building Blocks
- › Over US\$ **100 million** in food assistance (**2.2 million** transactions) has been processed via Building Blocks since March 2020 launch



SCAN TO SEE BUILDING
BLOCKS IN ACTION

OVERVIEW

Building Blocks (BB) is an inter-organizational assistance coordination and online digital transfer management system based on blockchain technology. For food assistance, WFP deposits value into a beneficiary's Building Blocks digital account. Beneficiaries can spend this value at WFP assistance outlets through WFP-partnered retailers. At the end of each month, transaction data stored on Building Blocks is used for reconciliation with retailers, who are reimbursed based on actual expenditures. Working with retail partners based in Bangladesh, rather than importing commodities for direct distribution, helps spur sustainable development and boost the local economy. A record of the transaction is updated in real-time on the blockchain, enabling organizations across the humanitarian sector to ensure individuals are receiving the right assistance, at the right time.

OBJECTIVES

- **Provide coordinated, well-targeted and transparent assistance to common beneficiaries.** Many agencies have their own closed systems for beneficiary information management and assistance delivery. Since these systems are generally not integrated, the outcome is siloed assistance, with high probabilities of exclusion and inclusion errors. Building Blocks allows agencies to maintain their own proprietary systems for information management while delivering assistance through a neutral, collectively owned, jointly governed platform.
- **Increased convenience and choice.** By having all assistance available in one place, beneficiaries enjoy an improved user experience. For example, in some outlets, beneficiaries can redeem their WFP food and UNICEF soap entitlements in a single transaction.
- **Ensure greater security and privacy for refugees.** Sensitive information is not stored on Building Blocks which works off anonymous identifiers that are mathematically scrambled to increase security. Building Blocks is a private blockchain network and is only accessible to approved members.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- When Building Blocks was first introduced in March 2020, it served 46,000 refugees at one assistance outlet. By end-June 2021, it served 850,000 refugees at 19 sites.
- Continuing to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Building Blocks rolled out a pre-order functionality in June which further streamlines the beneficiary experience in the outlets and reduces the overall time the beneficiary needs to spend in the outlet by reducing manual and duplicated efforts required from staff.
- To date, US\$ 1.5 million of UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance has been processed in more than 330,000 transactions on Building Blocks.

THE WAY FORWARD

- **Demonstrate inter-agency collaboration.** WFP is in discussion with agencies who have expressed interest in becoming a member or co-owner of the platform. There is no hierarchy on Building Blocks: all network members are 100% equal co-owners, co-operators, and co-governors of the network.
- **Provide “cash-like” assistance that increases choice and convenience.** By connecting small Bangladeshi retail shops in the camps to Building Blocks, WFP hopes to enable refugees to spend part of their entitlements in public markets. This will allow refugees to purchase food and other items flexibly, at better prices, and also benefit the host community. A pilot is currently being explored.
- **Explore information management use cases.** Applications deployed on the Building Blocks network are available for free to other network members. One such application, WFP's financial value transfer app, facilitates the transfer of items with financial value, such as food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items, cash and other items which can be saved, traded and/or consumed. In future, related applications (e.g. for the transfer of informational value, such as education credentials and supply chain) could be developed and deployed by BB network members.

UN Partnerships

OVERVIEW

- > WFP works closely with all United Nations agencies present in Cox's Bazar through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and has direct partnerships with FAO, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR and UNFPA
- > In addition to joint projects implemented with FAO, IOM and UNHCR, WFP also provides SCOPE digital services for non-food items to partners such as IOM, UNICEF and the Bangladesh Red Cross

SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL & ENERGY (SAFE) PLUS

SAFE Plus is a joint project between WFP, FAO and IOM aiming to address cooking fuel needs, environmental degradation and food security for 125,000 Rohingya and affected host community households in Cox's Bazar. SAFE Plus is not a stand alone project for WFP, but rather embedded across existing interventions.

- All three agencies have worked to replant 2,000 hectares of trees in the host community and 259 hectares of trees in the camps using 2.3 million seedlings produced from the nurseries.
- Over 100,000 refugee families in 18 camps are regularly receiving liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refills for cooking. Since January this year, nearly 30,000 households in the host community have also received LPG refills.
- FAO supported 1,440 agriculturists with on-farm activities and 988 fisherfolk with fishing materials and trainings. IOM and WFP are supporting a further 11,837 host community members with livelihood opportunities.

WFP-FAO AGREEMENT

A mid-term review of this landmark UN-UN agreement is planned for end-July. This review will allow for updates related to COVID-19 impacts, including workplan and implementation adjustments. The WFP-FAO agreement aims to enhance self-reliance, livelihoods, and natural resource management in the refugee camps and surrounding host community.

SITE MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING PROJECT (SMEP)

See page 25 for SMEP achievements

WFP, IOM and UNHCR jointly established SMEP to support the Government of Bangladesh in emergency preparedness, response and rehabilitation. Its objectives are to **enhance accessibility** through building and rehabilitating camp roads and bridges, to maintain well-functioning drainage systems prevent landslide and soil erosion through land and slope stabilization work. SMEP also focuses on emergency repair and recovery, capacity development of the Local Government Engineering Department and coordination with the Bangladesh military and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) to identify gaps and issues of site management.



NGO Partnerships

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > 23 NGO and INGO partners who collectively handled **US\$ 36.4 million**
- > Of this total, **ten** national and local NGO partners handled **54 percent** of all contracts

OVERVIEW

WFP would not be able to achieve what we do without all our Cooperating Partners. From April to June 2021, WFP implemented activities through 23 partners, including ten national and local NGOs. WFP regards localization as critical to mobilize resources efficiently and sustainably and to build upon the existing human resources, civil society and market structures from the local to the national level. To this end, the ten national and local NGO partners handle over 54 percent of all contract value.

PROPORTION OF FUNDS GOING TO NATIONAL VERSUS INTERNATIONAL NGO PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL NGOs:

- Action Aid
- Action Against Hunger
- CARE
- Christian Aid
- Concern Worldwide
- HelpAge International
- Helvetas
- ICCO Cooperation
- Relief International
- Save the Children
- Solidarities International
- World Concern Medair
- World Vision



NATIONAL NGOs:

- BRAC
- Caritas Bangladesh
- Centre for Natural Resource Studies
- Community Development Centre
- Eco Social Development
- Nabolok
- Resource Integration Centre
- Shushilan
- Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable
- The Society for Environment and Human Development

Food Security Sector

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)



COX'S BAZAR
FOOD SECURITY
SECTOR

- > 28 reporting partners reached over **865,000** Rohingya refugees and **330,000** Bangladeshis in the host community with life-saving food assistance and resilience building activities
- > Formed the Skills Development Technical Working Group jointly with Education Sector to advance skills development initiatives in Cox's Bazar District

OVERVIEW

The Food Security Sector (FSS) is committed to saving lives through the coordination of appropriate, efficient and well-resourced food security responses in major emergencies. The FSS in Cox's Bazar was established in 2017 and is led by FAO and WFP, and co-chaired by BRAC. Within the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the FSS is a platform to strengthen food security and livelihood response through operational coordination, information sharing and identifying food security related priorities and solutions. FSS Livelihoods Working Group strengthens coordination of livelihoods and self-reliance interventions to build the resilience of the Rohingya and host communities.

OBJECTIVES

- **Support service delivery:** Provide a platform to ensure service is driven by the agreed strategic priorities and develop mechanisms to avoid duplication.
- **Inform and support strategic decision making for the humanitarian response:** Lead joint situation and response analyses, and identify gaps, duplications, obstacles in the FSS response, and inter-sectoral linkages prioritizing food security needs and responses.
- **Monitor implementation and outcomes** of activities conducted under the FSS strategic plan.
- **Lead joint contingency planning** for potential new events or set-backs.
- **Training and capacity building:** Identify and prioritize stakeholders' training needs.
- **Planning and strategy development:** Develop and adapt plans in line with humanitarian strategic priorities, and ensure adherence to existing standards and guidelines. Closely coordinate planning and implementation of the Joint Response Plan (JRP) with other sectors.
- **Undertake advocacy** activities on behalf of partners and the affected population.

- **Provider of last resort:** Inform lead agencies of priority gaps that cannot be covered by any partner and inform action by lead agencies.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- FSS coordinated 28 organisations to ensure timely and effective life-saving food assistance and livelihood support for Rohingya refugees and host community individuals in Cox's Bazar District in line with the 2021 JRP through information sharing and technical support (see [monthly dashboards](#)).
- FSS facilitated coordination meetings to advance the WFP-FAO agreement signed in April and will continue to do so until the end of 2021.
- FSS facilitated training opportunities on [nutrition](#), [accountability to affected population](#) and [gender](#) to over 100 individuals from partner organizations.
- Together with the WASH sector, FSS jointly developed a [guidance note on waste avoidance and management in emergency food distributions](#).

THE WAY FORWARD

- Proactively steer the coordination of the food security and livelihoods response through promoting minimum standards, developing guidance on technical issues, and advocating with relevant local and international actors and government officials.
- Improve food security information for decision making by supporting evidence generation and analyses to identify needs and gaps in coordination with relevant local and international actors and government officials.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Emergency Telecommunications Sector

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > Data connectivity provided to 436 humanitarians in 38 sites
- > Security telecommunications services provided to an average of **942** humanitarians per month across 12 UN agencies
- > **37** sites connected in three common operational areas



OVERVIEW

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies. ETC is one of the 11 clusters designated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and is led by WFP.

In Bangladesh, the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) was activated in 2017 to support the Rohingya crisis response. As voice and data services are extremely limited in the refugee camps, ETS' mandate is to provide: (i) augmented radio (VHF) network for UN staff safety/security and general operational support and (ii) data connectivity for digital assistance services and communication between humanitarian workers.

OBJECTIVES

- **Provide telecommunications and data connectivity services** to facilitate the entire humanitarian response and ensure the safety and security of UN staff.
- **Coordinate the ETS response and develop and share operational information** to support decision-making, strengthen advocacy efforts, ensure the swift delivery of services and avoid duplication of efforts.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- ETS provided data connectivity services to 38 sites, including e-voucher outlets, logistics and residential hubs, Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)/ Infection Treatment Centres (ITC), relay sites from where ETS internet signals are retransmitted, and other UN agency locations. Regular assessments, installations and maintenance activities ensure the full operability of these services.

- ETS continued to provide technical staff and equipment to ensure the entire operational area in Cox's Bazar was covered by security telecommunications services. ETS has established and is working to grow an umbrella network across the response, Chātā (meaning umbrella in Bangla), which provides (i) augmented radio (VHF) network and (ii) data connectivity for digital assistance services and communication.

THE WAY FORWARD

- In 2021 the Sector plans to provide data connectivity to additional sites and expand the Chātā connectivity network.
- Owing to the challenging topography in the camps and to ensure continued communications in case of a natural disaster, ETS has ordered cyclone-resilient towers (30 m and 70 m) which will enable the ETS to expand the network. ETS is awaiting government approval to import and erect these towers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Logistics Sector

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > 44 partners | 4 warehouses | 4,084 m³ storage
- > 228 m³ of relief items transported for 4 organisations
- > 5,027 m³ of relief items stored for 19 organisations
- > One training sessions for 15 staff from 7 organisations
- > Three coordination meetings held with 25 organisations



OVERVIEW

As part of the government-led humanitarian response, the Logistics Sector supports the humanitarian community in Cox's Bazar with coordination, information management/geographic information systems (GIS) and facilitation of common logistics support. The sector works in collaboration with the government, humanitarian partners, Inter-Sector Coordination Group and other key stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

- **Coordination** to ensure the humanitarian community has access to resources required for operational support and emergency preparedness while minimising duplication of efforts.
- **Information management** to support operational decision making, respond to logistical challenges and improve the efficiency of logistics responses, especially during cyclone and monsoon seasons.
- **Provision of common logistics services**, such as storage and prepositioned storage assets, to allow rapid scale up and mitigate disruptions due to natural disasters.
- **Capacity strengthening** to develop operational expertise and reduce the need for temporary logistics services, while ensuring participation of local logistic actors and expanding capacity strengthening and preparedness activities delivered in Bangla.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- Cyclone preparedness activities (e.g. cargo wrapping, drainage clearance, securing of mobile storage units) were carried out across all logistics hubs to contain the potential effects of Cyclone Yaas in May.
- As part of monsoon preparedness, access road assessments were completed in nine camps. [Deployable hubs](#) have been prepared for quick response in cases of

emergency in both Madhu Chara and Balukhali.

- In April, the Sector launched the [Logistics Information Exchange-Physical Access Constraint](#) [LOG IE (PAC)] platform. This multifunctional interactive map allows access constraint reporting during an emergency and can also be used for planning and training. Two rounds of LOG IE (PAC) trainings were conducted for WFP staff, partners and sector counterparts.
- In collaboration with the Solid Waste Management Working Group, the Sector identified 50,000 damaged bags for upcycling.
- The Sector organised an online Logistics Induction training in collaboration with Handicap International-Atlas Logistique (HI-Atlas) focusing on warehouse and transportation management. This was held in Bangla with 15 attendees from seven, mainly national, organizations.
- The Sector completed a gaps and needs assessment with 27 logistics professionals from 26 organizations to inform strategic decision-making and the best long term sectoral approach in Cox's Bazar.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Coordination and information sharing will continue focusing on emergency preparedness and response, capacity strengthening, and stronger engagement with national partners and RRRCC counterparts in Cox's Bazar.
- The Sector plans to organise further trainings with national NGOs to strengthen their logistics capacities and bolster the relationship with national partners.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Engineering

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > 12,071 refugees volunteers (2,215 women and 9,856 men) engaged (including 35 people with disabilities)
- > 751 m of road and 1,685 m retaining wall constructed in the camps, and 10,336 m of canals dredged

OVERVIEW

Access to the refugee camps is critical to the humanitarian response, particularly given Cox's Bazar's geographic vulnerability. Through providing essential engineering services, WFP ensures humanitarian and development partners can easily access intervention areas and have safe facilities to store food supplies. WFP Engineering encompasses the WFP, IOM and UNHCR joint Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP) and facility Management team. It also provides technical support to programme units including disaster risk reduction and community workfare activities.

OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure unhindered access** to the camp area through maintaining vehicular access.
- **Provide critical, safe infrastructures and facilities** through site preparation work, rehabilitation and construction.
- **Maintain well-functioning drainage systems** through clearing and strengthening primary drainage channels.
- **Facilitate rapid response** through the pre-positioning of materials and other supplies.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- Following the massive 22 March fire, SMEP continued repairing slopes and drainage in affected areas of Camp 8W.
- SMEP constructed 751 m of new road providing vehicular access to camps and key facilities. As part of monsoon preparedness, 1,685 m of brick retaining wall was constructed and 10,336 m of canals cleaned.

- SMEP began ground assessments for the rehabilitation of the Nayapara reservoir in Teknaf. The reservoir serves more than 25,000 registered refugees and is their sole water source.
- In support of the school feeding programme, WFP Engineering completed 140 sites assessments for of 140 school kitchens in the host community. New kitchens will have the capacity to feed 250 children each.

THE WAY FORWARD

- SMEP will continue to engage in a multitude of emergency repair and rehabilitation works, including slope stabilization; construction of roads, bridges, culverts and temporary water reservoirs; reinforcement of bridges and hills with terracing; and infrastructure repairs.
- Engineering will continue to build resilience against the effects of inclement weather, such as landslides and flooding, and increase the number of safe spaces for the relocation of impacted refugees.
- Reconstruction of 140 school kitchens will begin once procurement is complete COVID-19 lockdown restrictions are eased.

Gender

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › 52% of Rohingya refugees supported via general food assistance are women and girls
- › 44,122 women supported in host community livelihoods programmes; 500 men received training on income-generating activities
- › 90% of self-reliance beneficiaries are women

OVERVIEW

WFP Gender Unit works with each programme throughout the project cycle to ensure gender objectives are mainstreamed across all activities. Trainings and capacity building exercises are conducted with WFP staff and Cooperating Partners on basic concepts, frameworks and programmatic applications of gender-transformative approaches. WFP also conducts advocacy and awareness activities, such as the 16-Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and International Women's Day, in collaboration with other agencies.

OBJECTIVES

GOAL: Enable WFP to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment across all activities and ensure the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed.

- Strengthen adapted food assistance addressing the different needs of women, men, girls, boys and people with disabilities.
- Increase women's participation in food security and nutrition programmes.
- Enhance decision-making by women and girls in households, communities and societies.
- Promote safe and dignified food assistance for women, men, girls, boys and people with disabilities

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- In April 2021, all beneficiaries still receiving in-kind assistance were transitioned to the e-voucher modality. As much as possible, assistance cards are issued in the name of the senior woman of the household, which contributes to enhanced decision-making capabilities and control over resources. Every distribution site also has segregated waiting areas, toilet facilities, breastfeeding corners and help desks managed by at least one-woman staff member/volunteer.
- WFP livelihoods programme in the host community aims to address the underlying

drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition by empowering women economically. Self-help groups formed by participant women also provide a support structure to discuss entrepreneurship as well as broader issues, such as domestic violence.

- WFP self-reliance programme in the camps mostly targets women (especially those heading a household with higher vulnerability), and strengthens their capacities and builds resilience through portable skills and life skills training, including functional literacy, to strengthen their decision-making power.
- WFP trained 200 (76 women and 124 men) partner staff and general food assistance retailers on gender and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- 20% of the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP) participants were women.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP plans to engage in wider public advocacy for gender mainstreaming and to document best practices around gender equality and women's empowerment.
- WFP is developing posters for effective programme referral and a pocket guide for camp retailers and volunteers on gender and PSEA.
- WFP is developing an analysis of gender- and disability inclusion- related aspects of food security and nutrition. Beneficiaries with disabilities will be engaged to understand the barriers and opportunities experienced in different WFP programmes.

Disability Inclusion

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > **7,079** refugees with disabilities receive general food assistance every month; Households headed by persons with disabilities assisted with porter services to alleviate the burden of carrying heavy food rations
- > **829** women with disabilities engaged in livelihoods activities in the host communities; **Three** self-help groups dedicated to women with disabilities
- > **10** people with disabilities enrolled in SMEP workforce

OVERVIEW

WFP implements an integrated approach to support the participation and engagement of persons with disabilities across all its programmatic interventions.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure all WFP programmes disaggregate data by disability (and sex and age).
- Consult directly with people with disabilities in camps and host communities on barriers and enablers to accessing WFP services.
- Increase opportunities for valued roles for people with disabilities (e.g. in livelihoods and committees, and as volunteers and labourers).
- Develop relationships with disability specific organizations in Cox's Bazar.
- Utilise WFP's reach through Cooperating Partners to communicate basic messaging on disability inclusion.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP continues to provide assistive and flexible nutrition services to both parents with disabilities and children with disabilities. For instance, caregivers receive guidance and support on how to feed children who may have difficulty with eating food with regular consistency due to cerebral palsy or cleft lip. At nutrition sites, pregnant and nursing women with disabilities, and caregivers of children with disabilities, are also given priority.
- In its livelihoods programme, WFP is currently supporting 829 women with disabilities in Ukhiya and Teknaf host

communities, providing adapted livelihood opportunities. WFP promotes leadership roles for women with disabilities in executive committees, union standing committees and self-help groups (SHG), of which three are dedicated to women with disabilities.

- WFP organized an orientation on disability data collection for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) staff and disability inclusion champions across all units. It also organised a lessons learned workshop for disability inclusion champions within the WFP staff team, exploring achievements and opportunities to further strengthen disability inclusion in Cox's Bazar.
- In partnership with Trinity College Dublin, learning experiences on the Washington Group on Disability Statistics questionnaire were shared and applied within WFP programmes.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Once schools reopen, WFP will collect sex, age and disability disaggregated data for the school feeding programme in the host community.
- WFP's self-reliance programme will target 700 persons with disabilities through disability-focused organisations in the camps.
- WFP is developing an analysis of gender- and disability inclusion- related aspects of food security and nutrition. Beneficiaries with disabilities will be engaged to understand the barriers and opportunities experienced in different WFP programmes.

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Protection

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > 79 protection referral cases supported
- > 536 calls received through the hotline
- > 200 WFP and partner staffs trained (76 women and 124 men)

OVERVIEW

WFP's protection work is streamlined across the programme ensuring the rights and safety of beneficiaries during all activities.

OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure protection during food assistance delivery:** To reduce any existing risks while providing food assistance, WFP (i) ensures that the geographical selection of distribution sites considers beneficiaries' vulnerabilities; (ii) provides access to clean and safe drinking water, a breastfeeding corner and crowd control measures and (iii) offers a porter service to alleviate the burden of carrying heavy food rations. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP also ensures good hygiene practices and physical distancing are maintained with temperature checks and hand washing points at all sites.
- **Protect beneficiary data:** WFP uses SCOPE to ensure beneficiary data is protected. Building Blocks further protects beneficiaries' data as individuals are issued with an encrypted ID or code number to distinguish them from others without revealing their true identities.
- **Enhance accountability:** Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (hotline and helpdesks) are in place across all programmes and regular community consultations are organized with community leaders, religious leaders, persons with disabilities and beneficiaries to understand challenges faced and potential protection risks.
- **Ensure protection is mainstreamed across all activities and assessments:** WFP conducts protection mainstreaming trainings and situational awareness raising sessions for WFP and partner staff and volunteers. Disability inclusive questions are included in all community consultation questionnaires.
- **Contribute to women empowerment and gender equality:** Through the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE Plus) project, WFP ensures women and girls do not have to collect firewood, therefore reducing potential protection risks.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP supported 79 protection referral cases, including women and child headed households, gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, persons

with disabilities, older people and pregnant and nursing mothers.

- Supported by UNFPA, WFP organized a GBV workshop for non-GBV-specific actors from WFP and partners.
- A review on GFA complaints and feedback mechanism was conducted. Referral procedures and protection categories were updated based on the findings therein.
- To promote volunteer safety, WFP developed a safe reporting protocol, sensitization messages and a volunteer safety incident form.
- A tailored workshop was delivered on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and the Do No Harm principle for Food Security Sector partners. Further training was conducted on protection and AAP for camp volunteers.
- WFP developed a list of key protection, gender and disability inclusion considerations to be applied in emergency distributions to ensure beneficiary safety.
- Monthly protection monitoring continues with findings shared to inform necessary programme amendments. A January to June 2021 trend analysis was also conducted to inform WFP programmatic adjustments.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Standard operating procedures on WFP porters engaged in the Rohingya camps will be developed. Protection monitoring for the porter service will begin in the next quarter with the objective of identifying the challenges faced by affected people and the scope of protection issues.
- Referral procedures and complaints and feedback mechanism categories are being finalized for the nutrition programme. Online training for WFP partners will take place in quarter two.
- WFP is preparing a Youth and Adolescent-specific protection training for World Bank-funded project volunteers.

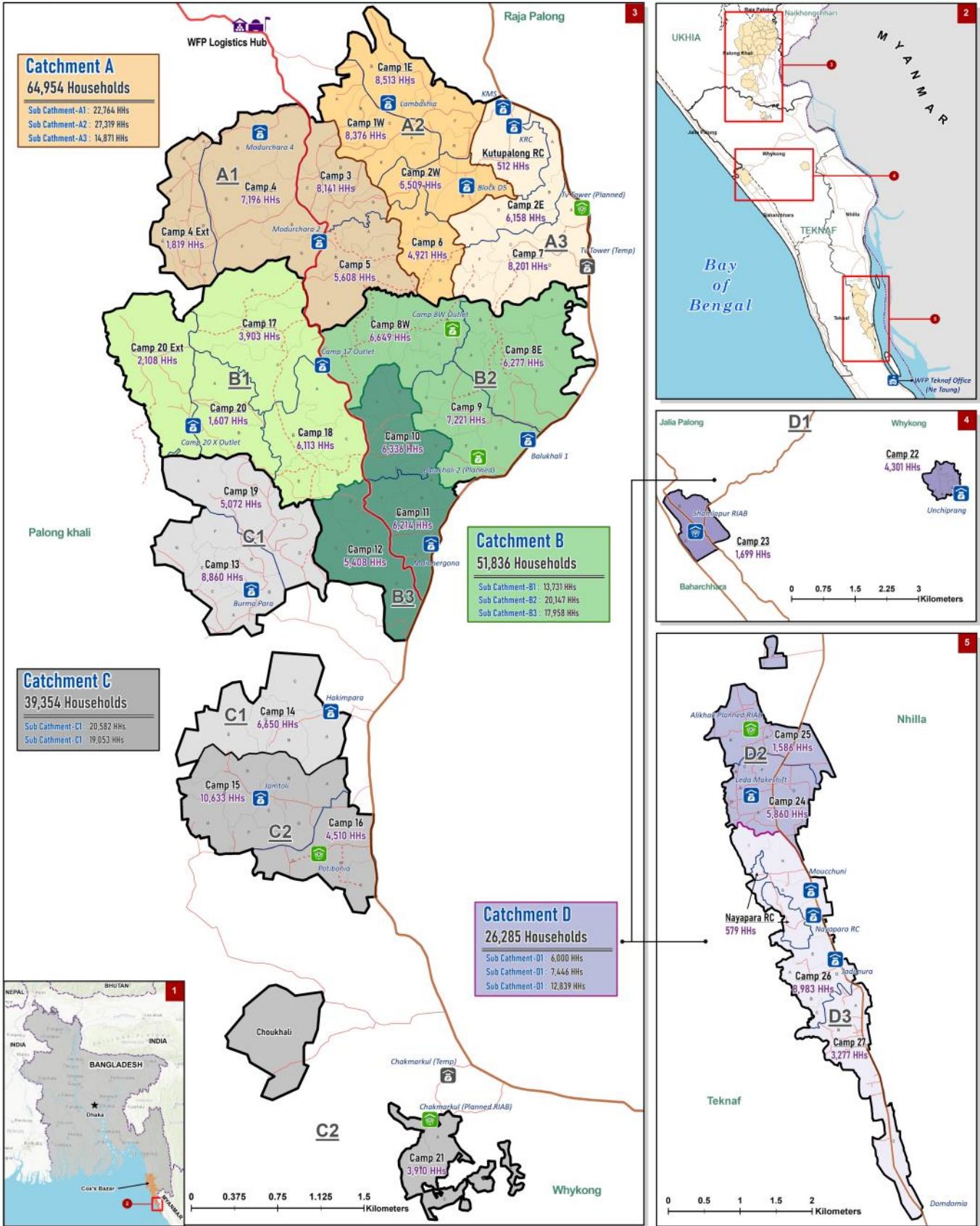


Map of Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's



vam
food security analysis

WFP Operational Catchments 2021
COX'S BAZAR - BANGLADESH



Catchment A
64,954 Households

- Sub Catchment-A1: 22,744 HHs
- Sub Catchment-A2: 27,319 HHs
- Sub Catchment-A3: 14,871 HHs

Catchment B
51,836 Households

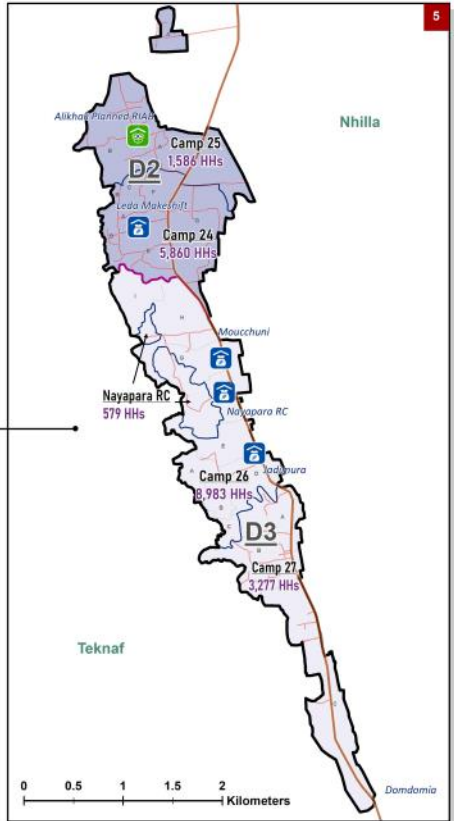
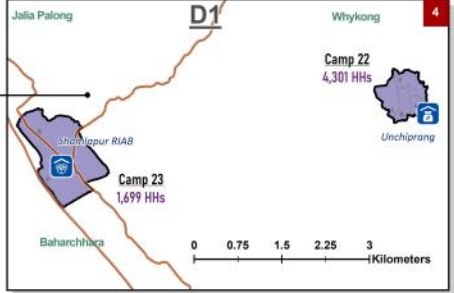
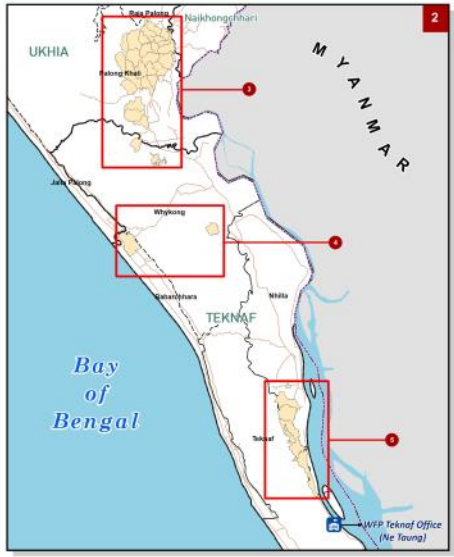
- Sub Catchment-B1: 13,731 HHs
- Sub Catchment-B2: 20,147 HHs
- Sub Catchment-B3: 17,958 HHs

Catchment C
39,354 Households

- Sub Catchment-C1: 20,582 HHs
- Sub Catchment-C2: 19,053 HHs

Catchment D
26,285 Households

- Sub Catchment-D1: 6,000 HHs
- Sub Catchment-D2: 7,446 HHs
- Sub Catchment-D3: 12,839 HHs

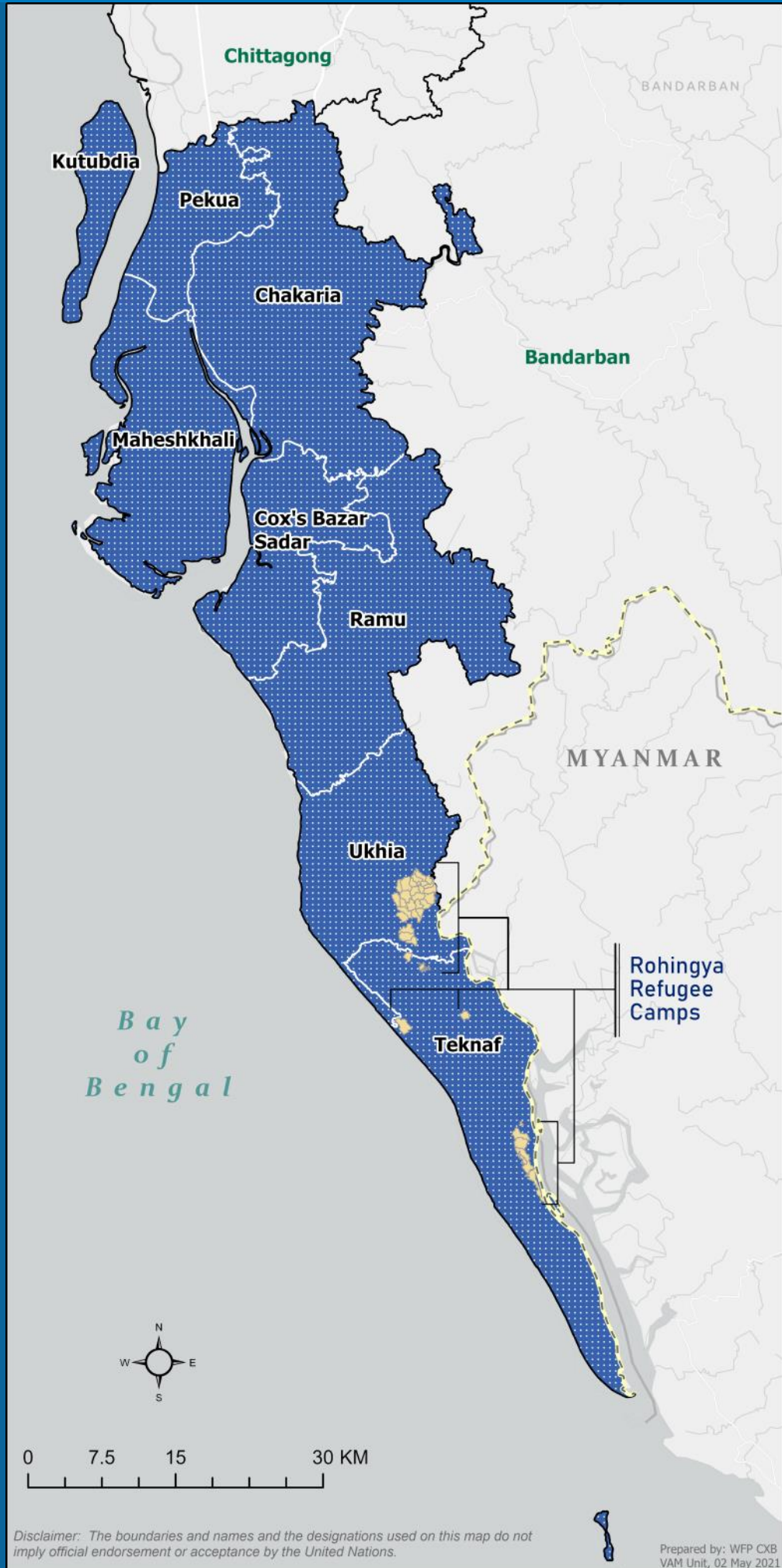


Operational Retail Outlet	Planned Retail Outlet	Planned Retail In A Box (RIAB) Outlet	Highway	 N W E S
Temporary Retail Outlet	Operational Retail In A Box (RIAB) Outlet	Camp Boundary	Army Road	
			Secondary Road Proposed Road	

Data Source: WFP, ISCG, UNHCR
Prepared by: WFP CBS-IRAM Unit
Date: 02 March 2021
Spatial Reference: GCS WGS-1984

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map of Cox's Bazar



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Prepared by: WFP CXB
VAM Unit, 02 May 2021

WFP



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