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In Numbers

867,000 Rohingya refugees assisted

113,392 Bangladeshis supported in the host community

Highlights

August 25 marked four years since more than 700,000 people fled violence in Myanmar to Bangladesh. WFP has supported refugees and host communities with life-saving and life-changing assistance.

As part of the 2021 Special Support for Host Communities programme, WFP began a one-time cash distribution to 100,000 of the most vulnerable Bangladeshi households in Cox's Bazar district. The assistance will help families disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis in all eight sub-districts and support the Government's ongoing response to the COVID-19 crisis.

WFP opened three new Fresh Food Corners (FFCs) bringing the total to 19. Live fish and chicken were available at 15 FFCs, one more than in the previous month.

In phase one of the Government's COVID-19 vaccination campaign, 36,900 refugees aged over 55 (86 percent of the target) were vaccinated from 10-23 August.

Situation Update

- July's heavy [monsoon rains](#) continued into August and throughout the month, [2,689 households \(12,485 individuals\)](#) were affected by flash floods, waterlogging, and landslides. WFP continued providing biscuits and hot meals across affected camps.
- The national lockdown for COVID-19 ended on 19 August, although pandemic restrictions, such as limits on gatherings, remained in the camps. As of 29 August, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) reported](#) 16,548 positive cases in the host community and 2,883 cases in the camps.

WFP Response

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP assisted 867,000¹ Rohingya refugees with food assistance through 22 e-voucher outlets. The most vulnerable 49,500 households received an additional US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through food purchases at Fresh Food Corners.
- Twenty food items were available for purchase and almost US\$ 10.9 million² worth of food was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers.
- 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 serving non-registered refugees.

Nutrition Assistance

- In the refugee camps, WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 38,700 pregnant and lactating women and 159,000 children under 5.
- In the host community, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to 4,700 pregnant and lactating women and 6,400 children under 5.
- WFP distributed 1,050 mt of specialized nutritious foods. As part of the ongoing nutrition pilot, refugee households could redeem an additional USD 3 per child per month at e-voucher outlets in selected camps. In August, 6,470 children between the ages of 3 and 5 were supported under this initiative.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP engaged 2,430 refugees in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. To improve access around the camps, WFP constructed/rehabilitated 700 m of pedestrian pathways, 480 m² of stairs and 28 culverts. To mitigate the effects of the monsoon, WFP constructed 500 m of brick guide walls and 1,300 m of drains, stabilized 830 m² of slopes, and maintained 331,307 tree seedlings across 22 camps.
- WFP engaged 106 host community members to improve cyclone shelter access in Ukhiya and Teknaf.



Scan here to read the latest WFP in Cox's Bazar Information Booklet

¹Latest UNHCR population figures indicate 895,500 refugees; WFP food assistance reached 867,000 beneficiaries due to relocations and absentee households

²Also includes top-ups from the nutrition cash pilot and the Strengthening Community Resilience programme.

WFP Response Continued

Strengthening Community Resilience in the Camps³

- WFP trained 223 Rohingya participants in volunteer services. Through volunteer services, youth and Rohingya Food Security Committee members provided COVID-19 awareness messages to refugees across 12 camps.
- WFP assisted 178,000 of the most vulnerable Rohingya individuals with conditional food assistance transfers at Fresh Food Corners, including 1,880 people with disabilities.
- WFP conducted environmental and social safeguards screenings of five community service and community workfare sites to ensure activities do not have adverse impacts on ecosystems and communities.

Self-Reliance Programme in the Camps

- WFP engaged 2,020 women and 2,350 men in self-reliance activities in August, including 361 people with disabilities. Some participants received agricultural inputs; others produced masks, or engaged in recycling or Communications with Communities (CWC).
- Twenty-six thousand juvenile fish were released in ponds in camps 4 and 5. Once mature, the fish will be harvested by the aquaculture project participants; there are 12 ponds, each reaching 20 to 30 households.

Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- Participants from 1,730 self-help groups saved a total of US\$ 55,000 through group activities in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua, and Kutubdia. Vegetables worth US\$ 159,900 were sold through 23 aggregation centres.
- WFP trained 1,690 women on tailoring, entrepreneurship development and value chain development in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Teknaf. The 500 participants (406 women and 94 men) in the climate adaptive agriculture project in Teknaf received training on halophyte cultivation and monthly subsistence allowance.
- WFP carried out livestock vaccination events at 31 locations, which reached 35,400 animals in the host community belonging to livelihoods participants and non-participants alike.
- WFP provided 831 livelihoods beneficiaries with general eyecare services in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

School Feeding

- In the camps, WFP supplied fortified biscuits at e-voucher outlets, reaching 184,000 households. Each household received 25 packets of fortified biscuits with a total of 230 mt of biscuits distributed.
- In the host community, WFP reached 48,500 children with 182 mt of fortified biscuits. Each child received 50 packets of biscuits at home. WFP also reached 39,700 students in Teknaf with hygiene kits.
- As schools remain closed, WFP worked with Room to Read Bangladesh (RtR) to encourage learning in the host community. With WFP support, RtR conducted home-based meetings with 7,340 parents and aired five new read-aloud videos on TV. It also reached 4,400 people as part of the SMS campaign on education and COVID-19.

Gender and Protection

- WFP supported 18 protection-related referrals including six previously referred women to facilitate food assistance.
- WFP trained 57 partner and WFP staff (43 women, 14 men) on gender, protection, and disability inclusion.

WFP Engineering

- Under the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), WFP engaged 4,070 Rohingya and 12 host community men.
- To maintain vehicle access, WFP completed construction of an additional 330 m of roads in the camps and 811 m of retaining wall.

Sectors

Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector stored 3,167 m³ of relief items for 19 organisations across four warehouses in Madhuchara, Balukhali, Unchirang and Teknaf.
- The Sector and HI-Atlas conducted eight trainings and reached 78 humanitarian workers from 26 organisations.
- In partnership with Humanity & Inclusion-Atlas Logistique (HI-Atlas), the Logistics Sector transported 181 m³ of relief items for two organisations using two trucks as part of the monsoon flood response.

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS, WFP and FAO jointly organized a two-day online training on monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning attended by 73 participants from 32 partner organizations.
- FSS developed a scoping survey to further understand partners' livestock activities and needs, and to support strengthened coordination of livestock interventions.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS provided data connectivity to 459 users in 36 sites, including retail outlets, logistics and residential hubs, and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres.
- Security telecommunications services were also provided to 931 users from 11 UN agencies.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (September 2021 - February 2022): US\$ 150.4 million

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Additional Resources:

- [WFP Rohingya Refugee Response reports](#)
- [Inter Sector Coordination Group \(ISCG\) reports](#)

³ 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.