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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

October 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-September 2021, there were almost 903,000* Rohingya refugees living in the Cox's Bazar area ([UNHCR, 2021](#)), including over 18,000 living on Bhasan Char island. With population density reaching 60,000 persons per km², ensuring refugees' safety and wellbeing remains a serious challenge compounded by disasters like monsoon flooding and the massive March 2021 fire. The COVID-19 crisis has heightened vulnerabilities among refugees with 96 percent considered moderately and highly vulnerable by the end of 2020 ([REVA-IV, 2021](#)).

*WFP food assistance reached 869,000 beneficiaries due to relocations and absentee households

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 continues to adjust and innovate its programming in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, while ensuring lifesaving interventions continue unabated.

2021 Q3 IN NUMBERS

869,000 refugees received food assistance



177,700 most vulnerable received fresh food voucher top-up



200,000 women and children reached with nutrition services



30,320 women and men engaged in self-reliance activities

FFA

26,600 people engaged in food assistance for assets activities



302,600 students reached with fortified biscuits

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SITUATION REPORTS





Interventions in the Host Community

CONTEXT

Situated in Bangladesh's cyclone belt, Cox's Bazar is one of the country's most underdeveloped and disaster-prone districts. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the local economy considerably with 51 percent of the host community population moderately or highly vulnerable in 2020, up from 41 percent in 2019. This can be attributed to the contractions of the pandemic lockdowns, which led to a decline in economic activity, especially within the informal sector ([REVA-IV, 2021](#)). Economic recovery continues to be challenged by supply shortages, high fuel costs and inflation, recurrent monsoon flooding and import disruptions.

2021 Q3 IN NUMBERS

433,000 individuals received special COVID-19 cash assistance

317,200 members of the host community supported monthly



11,000 women and children reached with nutrition services



44,100 women engaged in the livelihoods programme



2,260 people engaged in food assistance for assets activities



74,420 students reached with fortified biscuits

WFP RESPONSE

WFP supports the host community via long-term interventions, such as nutrition assistance at local clinics, school feeding, livelihoods programmes for vulnerable women and disaster risk reduction activities. In 2021 WFP has scaled up its aggregation centres, which link local farmers, including WFP livelihood beneficiaries and FAO farmers' groups, to competitive markets and Fresh Food Corners in the refugee camps. Last quarter WFP also launched its innovative forecast-based financing mechanism, whereby cash assistance is delivered before a disaster strikes, helping to minimize both household losses and the need for humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of climate shocks.

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HOST COMMUNITY BRIEFS



General Food Assistance

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > Food assistance delivered to **869,000** Rohingya refugees across **34** camps
- > **100 percent** of GFA via e-vouchers with **97 percent** of transactions via Building Blocks
- > **22** e-voucher outlets and **19** Fresh Food Corners operational
- > More than 5,510 Rohingya households supported with rapid food assistance during severe monsoon floods that started in July

OVERVIEW

WFP delivers food assistance to refugees throughout the 34 camps in Cox's Bazar. With the transition to e-vouchers completed in April 2021, all beneficiaries receive an electronic voucher to be redeemed across WFP assistance outlets each 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. Depending on access to cooking facilities, affected households are then provided with hot meals and/or one-off in-kind basket until they can be re-integrated into regular e-voucher food assistance

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 Q3)

- In response to severe monsoon flooding from 27 July to mid-August, WFP reached more than 5,510 Rohingya households with fortified biscuits and up to 18,230 people with two cooked meals a day. A

one-off in-kind food ration was also provided to 161 refugee households. WFP partners disseminated public service announcements about how flood-affected households could access WFP food assistance and nutrition services, as well as general protection messages. Refugee households could notify the Help Desk to have lost documentation replaced.

- During the flood response, a further 552 host community households were supported with HEB and 2,900 people with two cooked meals a day at 13 community evacuation shelters.
- WFP delivered food assistance to the entire refugee population every month under the e-voucher modality. Families could purchase up to 24 food items at WFP's 22 e-voucher outlets, and up to 20 items at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs).
- Building Blocks, WFP's Building Blocks, a shared humanitarian platform for coordinated assistance delivery, is used by WFP in 20 out of 22 e-voucher outlets and operational in all 19 FFCs. By end-September up to 97 percent of the total refugee population were served under this system.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP plans to establish two community kitchens in the camps to enhance emergency preparedness and response.
- Over the next year, WFP will establish additional e-voucher outlets to minimize the distance beneficiaries must travel to access food assistance.

Social Cohesion and Localization of Food Assistance: Fresh Food Corners

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › **Nineteen** Fresh Food Corners operating at e-voucher outlets with up to **20** fresh items available to refugees
- › More than **49,500** most vulnerable refugee households (over **177,700** individuals) were provided with an 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, among the most vulnerable, dietary diversity and access to nutritious foods remain poor. With limited income-generating opportunities, refugees are prompted to adopt negative coping strategies, such as reselling assistance, borrowing money and buying food on credit.

The Refugee Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-IV), conducted in late 2020, demonstrated that increased dietary diversity significantly reduces the sale of assistance and the adoption of negative coping strategies. In addition, 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 vulnerable households with direct access to healthy fresh foods. Since then, WFP has been facilitating market linkages between its contracted camp retailers and livelihoods programme participants, FAO farmers groups, other smallholder producers and petty traders in the host community.

All refugees can redeem a portion of their US\$ 12 monthly entitlement at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). Moreover, the most vulnerable households who cannot be engaged in other food assistance activities receive a monthly top-up of US\$ 3 per person to be redeemed on vegetables, fruit, live chicken and fish from the FFCs.

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 Q3)

- Three new Fresh Food Corners opened in August, bringing the total to 19 sites.
- Live chicken and fish were introduced at four FFCs bringing the total to 17 FFCs with these popular items.
- Through its 19 FFCs, WFP made over 20 locally produced foods available for refugees every month. The most vulnerable refugee households (30 percent of the total caseload) received an additional top up of US\$ 3 per person per month to increase their dietary diversity through FFC purchases.
- 154 livelihoods programme participants from the host community sold their products to FFCs in the camps.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will increase the number of FFCs to cover 100 percent of Rohingya refugees, and will continue to add live chicken and fish to outlets without the popular items.
- With partner support, WFP is aiming to link FFC retailers with all 33 WFP and FAO aggregation centres in Cox's Bazar.

Integrated Nutrition Assistance in the Camps HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › Each month **200,000** women and children supported at **45** Integrated Nutrition Centres
- › **14,000** children referred to the nutrition treatment programme every month, of which 3,200 were new admissions.

OVERVIEW

To address malnutrition in the camps, WFP offers prevention and treatment services to children below 5 years of age and pregnant and nursing mothers.

- **Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP):** 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 (TSFP):** 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 is in the process of phasing out the BSFP for children over 2 years old. However, to ensure continued growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) and mitigate risks, WFP is providing a US\$ 3 monthly e-voucher top-up per child on condition of attending GMP. The 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 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. 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 provide safety and privacy for mothers and encourage them to come to nutrition sites.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- When refugees faced difficulties accessing services during the monsoon, community outreach teams conducted home visits to the most critical nutrition beneficiaries – acutely malnourished children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.
- WFP distributed 860 mt of supplementary nutrition rations every month following COVID-19 prevention measures.
- WFP continued its US\$ 3 cash pilot for children between the ages of 2 and 5. The pilot reached 17,540 children in Q3.

THE WAY FORWARD

- The US\$ 3 cash pilot for children will be scaled up to additional camps upon approval from authorities.
- WFP will finalize an SBCC strategy for the US\$ 3 pilot to increase consumption of fresh food products.
- WFP will pilot a lentil-based, locally produced food commodity for pregnant and nursing mothers.



School Feeding Programme in the Camps

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › With learning centres still closed, **834** mt of fortified biscuits distributed at General Food Assistance sites and door-to-door, reaching 302,600 Rohingya children
- › **417** 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.

In the camps WFP provides a 50 g packet of fortified biscuits per child per 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.

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 school feeding.

- **Address root causes of hunger** and micronutrient deficiencies among refugee children.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- In July and August WFP distributed biscuits at e-voucher outlets, reaching more than 184,000 households with 455 mt of biscuits. In September WFP reached 302,600 individual students with 378 mt of biscuits through door-to-door distribution. In total WFP distributed 834 mt of micronutrient fortified biscuits during Q3.

THE WAY FORWARD

- From 22 September, learning centres began to re-open in the camps after 18 months of closure due to the nationwide lockdown. From the next quarter, WFP will resume giving biscuits to school children attending lessons at the learning centres.
- With the re-opening of Learning Centres, teacher and volunteer orientations will continue on biscuit distribution, storage of biscuits and COVID-19 precautions.
- WFP will support the successful completion of the deworming campaigns in all camps in October.



Resilience Building in the Camps: Self-Reliance

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > More than **30,320** Rohingya refugees engaged, including **853** people with disabilities
- > Over **50,800** WFP food packets collected and upcycled into **500** products

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 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 Q3)

- WFP engaged 30,319 Rohingya refugees in self-reliance activities across 30 camps. Its new disability and age inclusion project targets 300 refugees with disabilities.

- To support refugees under strict lockdown, WFP adapted its planned self-reliance programming and instead distributed winter agricultural inputs with pictorial training materials to 19,500 people.
- WFP started both centre- and home-based mask production with 111 participants who produced 55,400 masks
- WFP engaged 53 CwC volunteers across 31 camps to disseminate information on COVID-19 awareness, general food assistance, nutrition services and WFP's complaints and feedback mechanism.
- Since September, over half a million WFP food packets and bottles have been collected from the camps and upcycled into 2,718 products, including wallets, bags, baskets, dust bins, and jewellery.

THE WAY FORWARD

- 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.
- WFP will move its persons with disabilities activity beyond the pilot phase, further develop tailored opportunities for vulnerable groups, and make its activities more nutrition-centred.

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

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > Over **18,900** refugees engaged in DRR activities through food assistance for assets
- > Together with FAO and UNHCR, WFP maintained **386,000** tree seedlings across **23** camps covering **114** hectares
- > To prepare for the monsoon, WFP constructed **1.7 km** of brick guide wall, stabilized **4 km²** of slope and cleaned **117 km** of drains
- > To improve access around the camps, WFP (re)constructed **4.6 km** of pedestrian pathways, **1.7 km²** of stairs and **366 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 2017 refugee influx, WFP's response has transitioned from immediate life-saving assistance to targeted programmatic interventions to improve resilience in communities. 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 resilience** through building and rehabilitating community assets; and restore the environment and improve accessibility to reduce disaster risk and improve living conditions in the camps.
- **Improving accessibility to humanitarian actors and communities:** Building bridges, and 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 as outreach volunteers on topics like monsoon and cyclone preparedness, and fire safety.
- **Social inclusion and protection mainstreaming:** WFP encourages the participation of people with disabilities and different age groups.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- 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 almost 2,400 women and more than 16,500 men, of which 183 were people with disabilities, while maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols.
- In collaboration with FAO and UNHCR, WFP maintained 386,000 of tree seedlings covering 114 hectares of land in 23 camps.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will continue to support the RRRC in strengthening coordination of disaster risk reduction, especially that related to cyclones, flash floods and fire risks.
- Together with UNHCR and IOM, WFP is implementing a drain cleaning and waste management study to be published in 2022. This study will help humanitarian actors develop a robust joint operational plan for implementation across all camp areas.

Resilience Building in the Camps: Community Workfare and Services

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › Over **18,900** displaced Rohingya population engaged in community workfare activities; Almost **3,860** youth volunteers were engaged in community services projects
- › **5,700** volunteers received training on portable skills, life skills and awareness-raising for COVID-19 prevention, nutrition, hygiene, early marriage and environment
- › Conditional food assistance transfers provided to over **176,000** Rohingya through US\$ 2 e-voucher top-up to be redeemed at Fresh Food Corners

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.

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.

OBJECTIVES

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

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- US\$ 2 e-voucher top-up was provided to over 49,000 extremely vulnerable households (176,400 individuals) in 32 camps upon attendance at awareness sessions, including COVID-19 prevention.
- WFP constructed 6 km of drainage, 4.6 km of pathways, 1.7 km² of stairs and 1.7 km of brick guide wall; protected almost 4 km² of slopes; constructed/rehabilitated 366 m of access road; cleaned/rehabilitated over 180 km of drainage; and maintained almost 386,000 tree seedlings across 114 hectares

of land in 23 camps.

- WFP engaged over 1,440 women and almost 12,770 men (of whom 173 were persons with disabilities) in disaster risk reduction activities under community workfare.
- WFP trained 4,850 participants on basic life skills, health, COVID-19 prevention and environmental awareness. Almost 3,860 of participants were youth volunteers engaged in light works as part of community services.
- 849 Rohingya youth received skills development training on carpentry, masonry, and supervisory skills.
- Nineteen Refugee Food Security Committee (RFSCs) were trained on how to support general food distribution, identify extremely vulnerable individuals, and conduct awareness sessions for the refugee population. In total 28 of 31 committees have been trained.
- WFP conducted 31 environmental and social impact screenings in 32 camps to ensure that planned activities (tree plantation, road maintenance and construction, slope stabilization and drainage) did not have an adverse impact on ecosystems and communities.

THE WAY FORWARD

- RFSC volunteers, currently stationed at 15 e-voucher outlets, will be present at all food assistance sites in the coming months to continue sensitizing beneficiaries on COVID-19 prevention.
- Adolescent trainings on basic vocational skills, such as wood/bamboo carpentry, plumbing, and masonry, will be held in small groups until government restrictions are eased and trainings can resume in full force.

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Voices from the field: Monsoon flooding

On 27 July, heavy monsoon rainfall began in Cox's Bazar, leading to flash floods, waterlogging and landslides across the refugee camp areas. The massive floods damaged the homes of thousands of Rohingya families, as well as camp infrastructure and WFP retail outlets.

In response, WFP deployed its engineering team to the field and provided rapid food assistance to those affected. Like thousands of people, Mohammed in Kutupalong megacamp was displaced from his home:

"With the rain, our house was completely submerged," noted Mohammed (pictured above in purple). **"We are staying at a neighbour's house because ours is flooded. We are getting support from WFP, rice and biscuits, so we are holding up. I have a family of four, so I am extremely grateful for the assistance."**

Throughout the emergency response, WFP engineers continued their pre-monsoon work to stabilize hill slopes and prevent landslides. By 1 August, WFP had provided rapid food assistance (hot meals and fortified biscuits) to 20,000 people in the camps and the Teknaf host community.

[SCAN TO WATCH
THE SHORT VIDEO](#)



Special support for Host Communities



Through its Special Support for the Host Community Programme (SSCH), WFP has been distributing unconditional cash assistance to 100,000 vulnerable families affected by the economic fallout of COVID-19.

From August 2021, this funding has been helping families through a particularly challenging time across all eight sub-districts of Cox's Bazar.

First implemented from April to November 2020, last year's edition offered a lifeline to close to 600,000 people with US\$7 million in cash, plus food rations and hot meals for patients in isolation or in quarantine centres. The 2021 programme is designed jointly by WFP and the Government to complement existing social safety net programmes.

"My husband works at a photo studio," explained beneficiary Mitu (pictured above with her daughter).

"During the COVID-19 lockdown last year, his studio was closed for a very long time."

"We received 2,500 taka from WFP to help make ends meet. I'll spend this money on food, medicine and fish."

[SCAN TO READ
THE STORY](#)





Social Safety Net in the Host Community: Disaster Risk Reduction

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › 2,260 participants (1,918 men and 342 women) received cash entitlement via food assistance for assets programme
- › Thirty cyclone shelters handed over to the District of Cox's Bazar

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 Q3)

- During the heavy monsoon rains in August, WFP activated forecast-based financing in the Teknaf host community. BDT 4,100 per household was distributed to 1,320 households through mobile money transfer (bKash) in anticipation of flash flooding.
- WFP made access improvements (road and drainage repair/reconstruction, ramp installation) at 46 cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf and rehabilitated nine cyclone shelters in Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will complete access improvement works and rehabilitation of 30 cyclone shelters in remote, underserved areas of Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia.
- WFP will construct digital billboards at three points in the Cox's Bazar beach area to share messages related to the cyclone early warning system and COVID-19 prevention.
- 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 (July—September 2021)

- › More than **44,100** women engaged in **five** sub-districts
- › **US\$ 217,000** raised and saved by **1,734** self-help groups

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 45,000 beneficiaries: 25,000 of whom are enrolled in EFSN, and 20,000 who already graduated the two-year programme and are now provided with technical support for market linkages and value chain development.

Under EFSN, women have access to entrepreneurial skill development and life-skills trainings. They are supported with a monthly subsistence allowance of BDT 1,050 (US\$ 12) and are organized into Self-Help Groups (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 18,000 (US\$ 212) to start income generating activities.

In June 2021, 500 participants (406 women and 94 men) were also enrolled in WFP's new climate-adaptive agriculture project which aims to enhance farmers' food security and ensure sustainable production.

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.
- **Promote market linkages and social cohesion** by linking EFSN-run aggregation centres to retail shops inside the camps

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- WFP supported 15,500 women to manage their own businesses and income effectively and take collective actions on mitigating gender-based violence and early marriages. In 2021, over US\$ 416,000

has been raised and saved in collective bank accounts by self-help groups

- Through its 23 operational aggregation centres, WFP continued to link smallholder farmers with local markets and WFP's Fresh Food Corners in the Rohingya camps. US\$ 484,551 worth of vegetables was sold by participants living within a 1.5 km radius of the women-run centres.
- The WFP shop in Cox's Bazar sold US\$ 1,280 worth of handicraft products made by livelihoods programme participants, such as pottery, woven goods and textiles.
- WFP carried out livestock vaccination for host community members, including programme participants, at various locations in Ukhiya and Teknaf. More than 88,000 animals were vaccinated.
- As part of its disability inclusion efforts, WFP provided 2,370 beneficiaries with general eyecare screening services in Ukhiya and Teknaf. Glasses were provided to 132 participants and 110 beneficiaries got cataract surgery free-of-charge.
- WFP trained 20,100 participants in tailoring, entrepreneurship and value chain development, disaster risk reduction, as well as saline tolerant summer and winter crop production, and halophyte production.
- Under the climate-adaptive agriculture project, WFP and its partner ICCO (part of Cordaid) introduced innovative agri-techniques, crop insurance, and drip and solar powered irrigation systems to 500 Teknaf-based beneficiaries.

THE WAY FORWARD

- In Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia, participants with disabilities will have the opportunity to receive assistive devices, and vision and hearing related services.
- Two aggregation centres are being constructed as part of the Resilient Landscaping project to bring the total to 25 sites.

Social Safety Net in the Host Community: Integrated Nutrition Assistance

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › 11,000 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 nutrition and health topics. The volunteers are paid US\$ 90 on a monthly basis which contributes to their family and the local economy.
- **Enhance community-level knowledge:** WFP’s nutrition programme plays a significant role in raising awareness on nutrition and health among women, their families and communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services at 129 host community clinics. During the 27 July-mid August monsoon floods, WFP activated a mobile nutrition team to provide services to host communities with critical service gaps.
- Every month WFP assisted almost 6,300 host community children under 5 and more than 4,600 pregnant and nursing mothers across five subdistricts of Cox’s Bazar (Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Kutubdia and Pekua).
- In partnership with its partner, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), WFP conducted SMART nutrition surveys in Kutubdia and Pekua sub-districts. Findings indicate high acute malnutrition rates according to WHO standards, meaning the two populations require strengthened nutrition and health interventions.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will continue to proactively engage government and cooperating partners for operational implementation.

Social Protection in the Host Community: School Feeding

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › In Ukhiya, Teknaf and Kutubdia **74,420** students received **323 mt** of fortified biscuits and hygiene kits in preparation of safe return to school
- › Remedial package provided to almost **14,200** students in Ukhiya and Kutubdia by WFP partner Room to Read (RtR) as part of school reopening in September

OVERVIEW

WFP's school feeding programme is operational in three 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. It provides literacy and nutrition activities and capacity strengthening of government education officials, teachers and school management committees (SMC) as well as improved WASH facilities.

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 Q3)

- In July 2021, WFP handed over its school feeding programmes in Moheshkhali and Pekua to the Government.
- Over 2,000 'Little Doctors' were trained to support public health initiatives in their schools, such as COVID-19 prevention, the upcoming national deworming campaign and primary health check-ups.
- WFP distributed 323 mt of fortified biscuits and reached 74,420 students in Ukhiya, Teknaf and Kutubdia. Each child received a 75 g biscuit packet per school day for a total of six packets per week. Distribution shifted from door-to-door delivery to at-school distribution with the reopening of primary schools in September.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will begin providing home-grown cooked meals in Teknaf for almost 22,200 children in 68 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

- › Cox's Bazar is the first WFP operation to build e-voucher outlets. **100 percent** of the total refugee population receive food assistance through e-vouchers, of which **up to 97 percent** 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 percent 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 100 percent 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).

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS

The WFP Multi-Wallet team has been supporting humanitarian agencies to utilise WFP corporate tools and digital platforms across the Rohingya response since 2018. WFP is currently assisting IOM, UNICEF and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) in digitizing their humanitarian assistance distribution in Cox's Bazar as follows:

- Supporting IOM as it provides liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to almost 463,000 refugees in 18 camps across Ukhiya and Teknaf, and distributes transitional shelter kits in Camps 22 and 24. In Quarter 4, IOM plans to use WFP's SCOPE platform to pilot hygiene kit distribution.
- Facilitating soap distribution for more than 249,000 UNICEF beneficiaries in eight camps using Building Blocks.
- Assisting BDRCS' distributions of menstrual hygiene kits to almost 11,400 female beneficiaries, and general hygiene kits and hygiene top up kits to more than 31,600 beneficiaries via SCOPE.

Digital Solutions: Building Blocks

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › Operational in **20** e-voucher outlets, **41** shops, **19** fresh food corners and **450+** mPOS (mobile point-of-sale) devices
- › Up to **97** percent of refugees served through Building Blocks
- › **Over US\$ 134 million** in food assistance 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 Q3)

- When Building Blocks was first introduced in March 2020, it served 46,000 refugees at one assistance outlet. By end-September 2021, it served up to 850,000 refugees across 20 sites with more than US\$11 million of assistance per month.
- To date, US\$2 million of UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance has been processed in more than 460,000 Building Blocks transactions.
- Integration of Building Blocks with other WFP corporate solutions and systems continued, ensuring business continuity planning, and maximizing outreach, advocacy and visibility of the network among stakeholders.

THE WAY FORWARD

- **Pursue 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 members are 100 percent 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 which will also benefit the host community.
- **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.

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

UN Partnerships

OVERVIEW (July—September 2021)

- › 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, WFP also provides partners with SCOPE digital services for non-food items

SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL & ENERGY (SAFE) PLUS

SAFE Plus is a joint project between WFP, FAO and IOM aiming to address cooking fuel needs, restore and protect the environment, create livelihoods opportunities for host communities and build the resilience of refugees. SAFE Plus is not a stand-alone project for WFP, but rather embedded across existing interventions. The first phase of the project will run until end-2021.

- Over 100,000 households in 18 camps are regularly receiving liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refills for cooking and, since January 2021, nearly 30,000 host community households have received refills.
- Over 16,600 host community members have been supported with livelihood opportunities by IOM and WFP.
- Over 5,400 Rohingya refugees have been engaged in skill building activities, such as kitchen gardening, tailoring, upcycling and basket weaving.
- Over 260 hectares of trees in the camps, and 2,000 hectares in the host community, have been replanted with 2.3 million seedlings from supported host community nurseries.



SCAN TO WATCH THE
[SAFEPLUS VIDEO](#)

WFP-UNHCR JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION

The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) is a joint effort led by UNHCR and WFP every two years to revise the areas of cooperation outlined in the UNHCR/WFP Memorandum of Understanding (2011). Conducted from April to July, the 2021 JAM allows both organizations to assess progress and achievements since the first Cox's Bazar JAM report and Joint Plan of Action (JPA) from 2019. The JAM 2021 documents the food security and nutritional status of the Rohingya refugee population, reviews the adequacy of UNHCR and WFP programmes and identifies appropriate interventions. JAM recommendations are concretized into specific activities compiled in the JPA for 2021-2023.

WFP-FAO AGREEMENT

Signed in April 2021, this landmark UN-UN agreement aims to enhance self-reliance, livelihoods, and natural resource management in the refugee camps and host community.

SITE MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING PROJECT (SMEP)

WFP, IOM and UNHCR jointly established SMEP to support the Government of Bangladesh with emergency preparedness, response and rehabilitation in the Rohingya camps.

See page 25 for more on SMEP





NGO Partnerships

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > 23 NGO and INGO partners collectively handled **US\$ 41.1 million**
- > Of this total **ten** national and local NGO partners handled **51 percent** of all contracts

OVERVIEW

WFP would not be able to achieve what we do without all our Cooperating Partners. From July to September 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 51 percent of all contract value.

PROPORTION OF FUNDS GOING TO NATIONAL VERSUS INTERNATIONAL NGO PARTNERS

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



INTERNATIONAL NGOs:

- Action Aid
- Action Against Hunger
- CARE
- Christian Aid
- Concern Worldwide
- ICCO (part of Cordaid)
- HelpAge International
- Helvetas
- Relief International
- Save the Children
- Solidarities International
- World Concern Medair
- World Vision

Food Security Sector

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- › **Thirty-three** reporting partners reached over **868,500** Rohingya refugees with life-saving food assistance and resilience building activities
- › In addition **253,300** Bangladeshis in Ukhiya and Teknaf, along with **264,400** Bangladeshis in non-JRP areas in the host community, were supported with food assistance and resilience building



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. The 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 intersectoral linkages prioritizing food security needs and responses.
- **Monitor implementation and outcomes** of activities 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:** Identify priority gaps that cannot be covered by any partner and inform lead agencies' action.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- During the July-August monsoon floods, FSS worked with partners to ensure coordination of emergency assistance, including distribution of dry breakfast snacks to complement hot meals in the camps and host community, and emergency cash support in the host communities.
- As part of monsoon response and preparedness, FSS coordinated with ISCG and sectors on a joint flood impact assessment planned by WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) and IOM Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM).
- FSS coordinated 33 organizations to ensure timely and effective life-saving food assistance and livelihood support for Rohingya refugees and host community members in line with the 2021 JRP via information sharing and technical support (see [interactive monthly dashboards](#)).

THE WAY FORWARD

- Improve food security information for decision making by supporting evidence generation and analyses to identify needs and gaps with local and international actors and government officials.

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: coxsbazar.fss@wfp.org
Web: fscluster.org/rohingya_crisis

Emergency Telecommunications Sector HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > Data connectivity provided to **481** humanitarians in **36** sites since January
- > Security telecommunications services provided to an average of **934** humanitarians per month across **11** UN agencies

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 Q3)

- To prepare for monsoon season, the ETS assessed equipment installations in all sites and worked with the WFP Engineering team to ensure all masts and towers were sufficiently robust to withstand heavy wind and storms.
- The ETS responded to flood damage after heavy rains affected an International Organization for Migration (IOM) site in mid-July. Connectivity equipment and

services were restored, and water-proof protection was installed to mitigate future water damage.

- ETS provided data connectivity services to 36 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.

THE WAY FORWARD

- In 2021 the Sector plans to provide data connectivity to 55 sites and expand its connectivity network. The ETS is currently working with potential partners and conducting assessments on connectivity needs in the camps.
- 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

E-mail: bangladesh.ets@wfp.org

Web:

etcluster.org/emergencies/bangladesh-refugee-crisis

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Logistics Sector

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > 50 partners | 4 warehouses | 4,084 m³ storage
- > 3,711 m³ of relief items stored for 19 organizations
- > Sixteen training sessions for 156 staff from 90 organizations



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 Q3)

- The Logistics Sector, in collaboration with the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), maintained the Humanitarian Access Project (HAP) and refreshed the database to remove unused vehicle passes. The HAP is a fully digital system for validating humanitarian vehicles accessing the operational area, thereby reducing delays

and bottlenecks caused by manual checks at security forces' checkpoints.

- During the flood response, the Logistics Sector held an ad hoc coordination meeting attended by 12 organizations and published a map illustrating [flood impacts on road access](#). The Logistics Information Exchange - Physical Access Constraint [[LOG IE \(PAC\)](#)] platform was used by humanitarian actors 269 times to view road access constraints in the camps.
- Based on a warehouse capacity assessment, the Sector published a [Warehouse Location Map](#) to indicate storage availability for emergency preparedness and planning.
- At month-end, a planned phase out of partner storage services occurred in Balukhali, Leda and Unchiprang hubs. Hi-Atlas will provide ongoing partner storage at the Leda and Unchiprang hubs, on request and as available until end-December. The Balukhali hub was handed over to WFP.
- The Logistics Sector facilitated 16 trainings, some in collaboration Handicap International, and trained 156 participants from 90 organizations.

THE WAY FORWARD

- The Sector plans to organise further trainings with national NGOs to strengthen their logistics capacities and bolster the relationship with national partners.

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: bangladesh.clustercargo@wfp.org

Web: logcluster.org/sector/bangl17



Engineering

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > **10,970** refugee volunteers (**1,030** women and **9,940** men) engaged, including **141** people with disabilities
- > **1.1 km** of road and **1.2 km** retaining wall constructed in the camps, and **7.5 km** 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 by maintaining vehicular access via roads and bridges.
- **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, and prevent landslide and soil erosion through land and slope stabilization.
- **Facilitate rapid response** through the pre-positioning of materials and other supplies.
- **Support capacity development** of the Local Government Engineering Department and coordinate to identify gaps and issues of site management with the Bangladesh military and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC).

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- During the July-August monsoon floods, SMEP supported humanitarian actors with construction materials and non-food items to quickly rehabilitate key infrastructure and minimize risks in areas vulnerable to landslide. 2,870 volunteer labourers were mobilized in the camps for drainage clearance and repair, and in support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) site development team's rehabilitation work.
- SMEP constructed 1.1 km of new road providing vehicular access to camps and key facilities. As part of monsoon preparedness, 1.2 km of brick retaining wall was constructed and 7.5 m of canals cleaned.
- Following the massive 22 March fire, SMEP continued repairing slopes and drainage in affected areas of Camp 8W.

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.

Protection, Gender and Disability Inclusion

HIGHLIGHTS (July—September 2021)

- > **7,090** refugees with disabilities receive general food assistance (GFA) every month; **52 percent** of refugees receiving GFA are women and girls
- > **81** protection referral cases supported in the camps
- > **88** percent of self-reliance beneficiaries are refugee women
- > In the host communities, nearly **100 percent** of livelihoods programme participants are women and **1,400** women with disabilities were engaged

OVERVIEW

WFP works to streamline protection, gender and disability inclusion to support the participation of all beneficiaries across its programmatic interventions, and to ensure their rights and safety. Trainings and capacity building exercises are conducted with WFP staff and Cooperating Partners on basic concepts, frameworks, and programmatic applications of gender-transformative approaches.

Food assistance cards are issued in the name of the senior woman of the household, which contributes to enhanced decision-making and control over resources. Every distribution site has segregated waiting areas, toilet facilities, breastfeeding corners and help desks managed by at least one-woman staff member/volunteer.

At nutrition sites, priority is given to pregnant and nursing women with disabilities, and caregivers of children with disabilities. Assistive and flexible nutrition services are provided to both parents with disabilities and children with disabilities.

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 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.
- **Mainstream protection 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:** WFP integrates gender equality and women's empowerment across all activities, and works to address the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys. 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.
- **Ensure all WFP programmes disaggregate data by disability, sex and age:** WFP consults directly with people with disabilities in the camps and host



communities on barriers and enablers to accessing its services. It also develops opportunities for valued roles for people with disabilities in committees, and as volunteers and labourers.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q3)

- During the July-August monsoon floods, WFP developed and shared key protection messages to enhance the safety of the flood-affected refugees.
- In September, WFP launched its new disability and age inclusion project targeting 300 people with disabilities and elderly refugees through the Self-Reliance programme. Participants will be engaged in production activities tailored to their abilities, which will enable them to contribute to their households' food security in the camps. They will also receive life skills training on topics such as nutrition, literacy and disaster risk reduction.
- A WFP Cox's Bazar-specific booklet on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was developed to be used at field-level.
- WFP developed a protection code of conduct in Bengali and English for food retailers operating in the refugee camps. A standard operating procedure for porter services was also created for ensuring minimum standards for accountability, protection and safety.
- WFP held a capacity strengthening workshop for Food Security Sector (FSS) partners on how to prioritize safety and dignity in food security activities, and avoid doing harm using Accountability towards Affected Populations (AAP) approaches.

WFP also presented survey findings which summarized FSS partners' capacity to mainstream protection and AAP into their activities.

THE WAY FORWARD

- As part of the development of the 2021 Country Strategic Plan for Bangladesh, WFP is preparing its Gender and Age Marker (GaM) tool with gender and inclusion mainstreaming updates. The GaM is an integrated monitoring and reporting tool to help partners understand the extent to which their programmes integrate gender and age differences.
- WFP's regional disability inclusion expert will travel to Cox's Bazar to assess how the programme's regional disability inclusion plan may be operationalized. The initiative is part of the larger roll out of WFP's global Disability Inclusion Road Map for 2020-21.
- WFP will carry out a beneficiary satisfaction assessment on the porter services available through its general food assistance programme.



WFP Environmental Action

MINIMIZING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



Green retail at plastic-free e-voucher outlets
Improved waste management in WFP offices

PROGRAMMING TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT



Initiatives to upcycle and recycle WFP-produced waste
Nature-based disaster-risk reduction solutions

COORDINATING HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

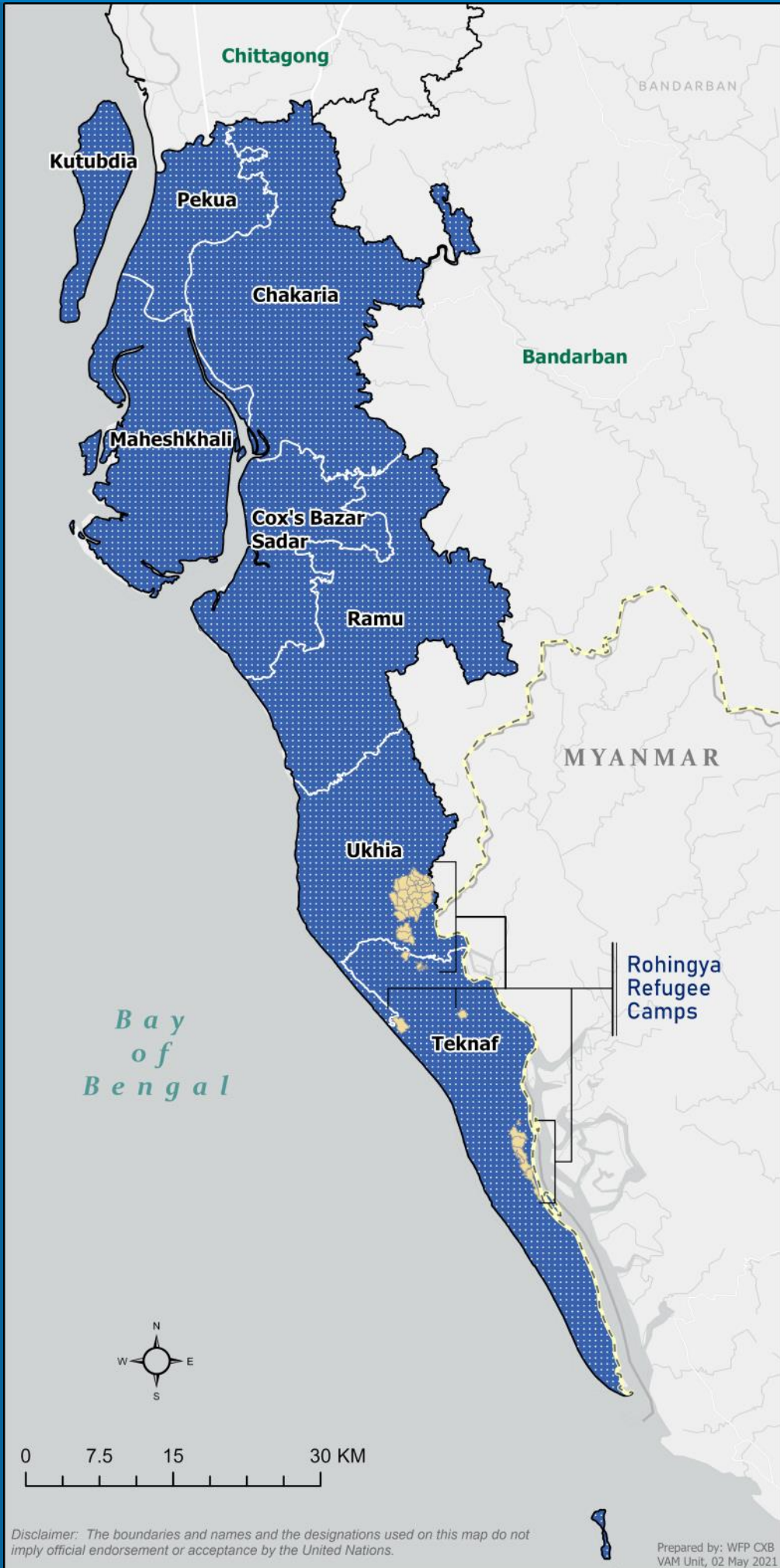


Inter-agency coordination via the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group
Reforestation activities in the camps

ACHIEVEMENTS

- All WFP e-voucher outlets have been plastic-free since November 2020.
- The Camp 15 upcycling centre has been up and running since September 2020. One year later, more than half a million WFP food packets have been upcycled into 2,718 products, such as wallets, reusable shopping bags and jewellery.
- In collaboration with FAO and IOM, WFP has continued the care and maintenance of more than 331,000 tree seedlings across 113.73 hectares of land between June and August 2021.
- Improved solid waste management initiatives are being launched in the WFP Cox's Bazar main office and hub. These will reduce the generation of waste and ensure unavoidable waste is handled in a safe and systematic manner in line with Bangladesh's 2010 national 3R (Reduce – Reuse – Recycle) strategy for waste management, as well as the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector's strategy on solid waste management.
- Launched in April 2021, the Resilient Landscapes project integrates sustainable design into infrastructure around WFP sites. It has used nature-based solutions to rehabilitate slope work near the Camp 17 e-voucher outlet, and is constructing a new, sustainable aggregation centre in the host community using a energy-efficient bamboo structure

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.

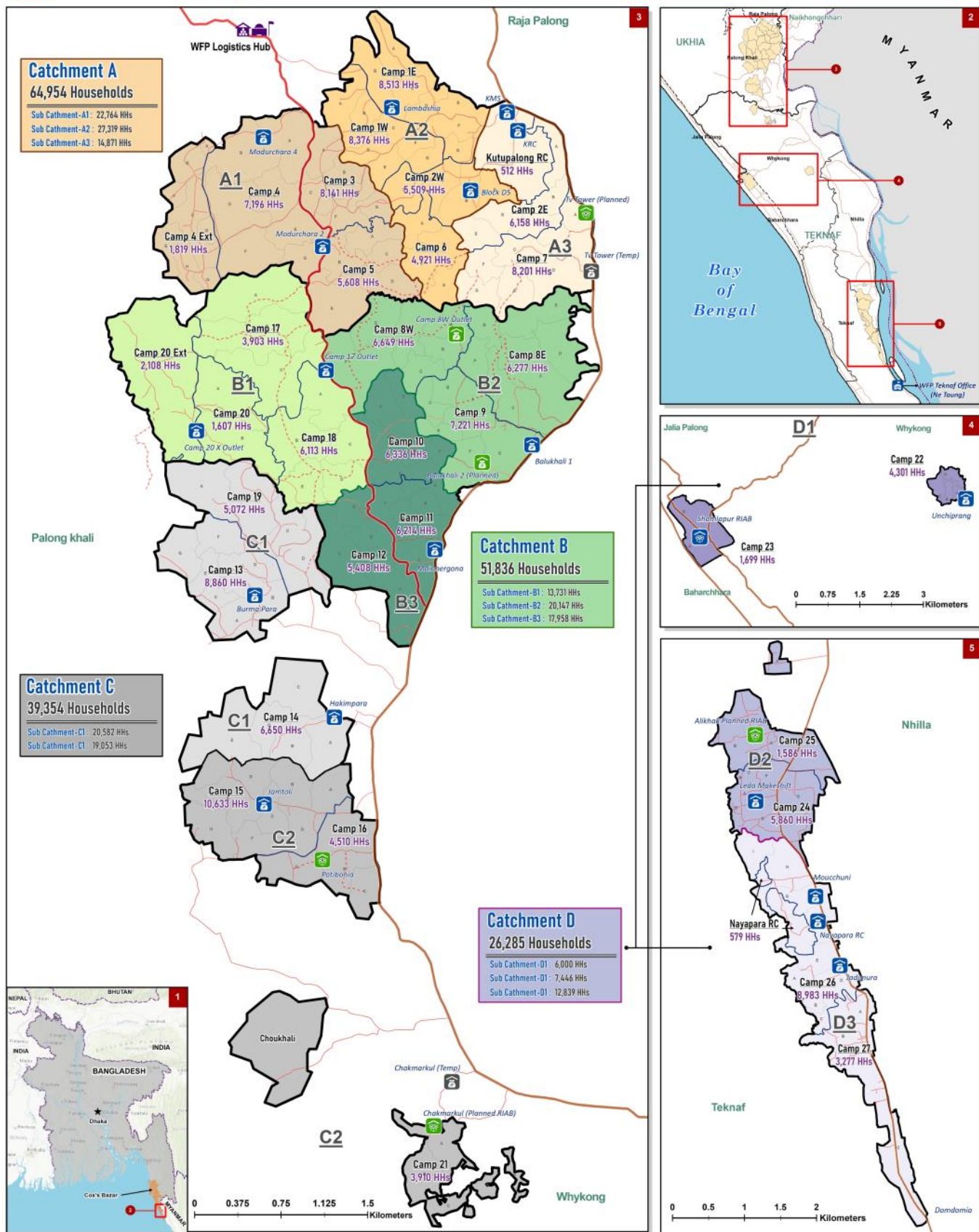
Prepared by: WFP CXB
VAM Unit, 02 May 2021

Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar



vam
food security analysis

WFP Operational Catchments 2021
COX'S BAZAR - BANGLADESH



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-IMM Unit
Date: 02 March 2021
Spatial Reference: GCS WGS 1984

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WFP is thankful for generous contributions from:



World Food Programme

Shaibal Luxury Cottages, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

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Contact

External Relations and Reports:
coxsbazar.externalrelations@wfp.org

