



World Food Programme

WFP Bangladesh

Situation Report #55

October 2021

In Numbers

882,000 Rohingya refugees assisted

214,340 Bangladeshis supported in the host community

Highlights

On 9 October, the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the humanitarian response on Bhasan Char. With this common protection and policy framework in place, UN agencies began planning how to provide services for the Rohingya population living on the island.

Situation Update

- Violence erupted across the country during Durga Puja, the most important Bengali Hindu festival of the year, following rumours that the Quran had been insulted. Seven Hindu temples were vandalized in Cox's Bazaar and tensions prompted the Government to suspend mobile internet services in the district for four days. Police arrested 13 people in relation to the attacks.
- Heightened tensions have characterized the refugee camps since 29 September, when prominent Rohingya repatriation activist, Mohib Ullah, was shot outside his Kutupalong office. Another violent attack occurred on 22 October, killing at least seven people and wounding many others. UNHCR has called for immediate measures to improve security in the camps, the arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators.
- Since April 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 17,640 positive COVID-19 cases in the host community and 3,231 cases in the camps.
- Landslides, wind and other hazards, affected 1,124 Rohingya in the camps, including 66 people affected by 11 minor fires.

WFP Response

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP provided 882,000¹ Rohingya refugees with food assistance through 22 operational e-voucher outlets.

WFP began self-reliance trainings on sanitary pad and burka production, previously on hold due to COVID-19.

Products made by WFP beneficiaries in the host communities began to be sold in the Camp 5 Women's Market supported by UN Women.

Together with the Food Security Sector and FAO, WFP marked World Food Day with an event featuring livelihoods programme partners, beneficiaries and their handicraft products.

WFP completed its last distribution of COVID-19 cash assistance to vulnerable Bangladeshis in Cox's Bazar.

The most vulnerable 49,700 households received an additional US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through purchases at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs).

- Refugees can select from 24 food items at e-voucher outlets and up to 20 items at FFCs. In total US\$ 11.1 million worth of food² was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers.
- Live fish and chicken were added to one more FFC in the camps; 18 of WFP's 19 FFCs now offer the popular items for purchase.

Nutrition Assistance

- In the refugee camps, WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 38,360 pregnant and lactating women and 154,100 children under 5.
- In the host community, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to 4,930 pregnant and lactating women and 6,390 children under 5.
- As part of the ongoing nutrition e-voucher pilot, refugee households could redeem US\$ 3 per child per month at e-voucher outlets in selected camps. In October, 19,600 children between the ages of 2 to 5 years were supported under this initiative.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP engaged 1,130 refugees in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. To improve access around the camps, WFP constructed/rehabilitated 1.1 km of drains, 628 m of fencing, 423 m of pedestrian pathways and 95 m² of stairs. To mitigate the effects of the monsoon, WFP

¹Latest UNHCR population figures indicate 903,000 refugees; WFP food assistance reached 869,000 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

constructed 447 m of brick guide walls, cleaned 198.5 km of drains, stabilized 14 m² of slopes and maintained 423,000 tree seedlings in collaboration with FAO and UNHCR.

- WFP engaged 2,520 host community members to improve 29 cyclone shelter access in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia.

Strengthening Community Resilience in the Camps³

- WFP trained 5,220 Rohingya in volunteer services and 1,450 refugees in skills development, and engaged 314 refugees in community workfare.
- WFP assisted 179,000 of the most vulnerable Rohingya individuals with conditional food assistance transfers at Fresh Food Corners, including 6,900 people with disabilities.
- WFP conducted environmental and social safeguards screenings of 21 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 2,250 women and 735 men in self-reliance activities in October, including 662 people with disabilities.
- WFP provided agricultural inputs to 480 participants; 110 participants produced 56,440 masks. A further 50 refugees were engaged in Communications with Communities (CWC) activities and 85 in recycling. At the recycling centres, 15,070 packets and bottles were collected and cleaned, and 504 new handcraft products created.
- In collaboration with FAO, WFP provided small-scale agricultural inputs to 3,480 beneficiaries affected by the massive fire incident on 23 March.

Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- Participants from 1,730 self-help groups saved a total of USD 147,000 through group activities and a new self-help group for livelihoods participants with disabilities was formed.
- Vegetables, fish and chicken worth USD 158,000 were sold through 23 aggregation centres.

School Feeding

- WFP distributed 64 mt of biscuits to 87,900 refugee children at 1,390 learning centres in the camps.
- WFP reached 59,200 children with 68 mt of fortified biscuits at host community schools.
- WFP partner, Room to Read Bangladesh, continued airing read-aloud videos on TV and TV ticker tape nudges reminding families about the return to school. Remedial education packages were distributed to 812 students across 22 schools in host communities.

Gender and Protection

- UNHCR legal protection unit and WFP are discussing how to jointly advocate and collaborate to ensure refugee households continue to have access to adequate food.
- WFP supported 24 protection-related referrals to facilitate food assistance, and trained 47 partner staff on gender, protection, and disability inclusion.

WFP Engineering

- Under the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), WFP engaged 5,720 Rohingya and two host community members. To maintain vehicle access, WFP constructed 185 m more roads, 91 m of pathways and cleaned 3.6 km of drainage in camps.

Sectors

Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector stored 1,960 m² of relief items for 11 organisations in the Madhuchara warehouse.
- [A Gaps and Needs Analysis](#) was carried out to identify remaining logistic gaps and needs to be addressed by the Logistics Sector. This will be used to develop the Logistics Sector strategy for 2022 and beyond.

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS organized its first livestock coordination meeting with 11 FSS partners. Twenty FSS partners also took part in a protection mainstreaming training.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS provided data connectivity to 496 users in 38 sites, including retail outlets, logistics and residential hubs, two new nutrition sites, and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres.
- Security telecommunications services were also provided to 959 users from seven UN agencies.
- The ETS Helpdesk received 47 requests for assistance, and conducted 29 site visits to respond to issues and maintain services.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (November 2021 – April 2022): US\$ 153.9 million

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WFP Representative & Country Director: Richard Ragan

WFP Senior Emergency Coordinator: Sheila Grudem

WFP External Relations and Reports: Emily Pittman, Anika Asgar and Ukhengching Marma
(coxsbazar.externalrelations@wfp.org)

Additional Resources:

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



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

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.