



# WFP Bangladesh Situation Report #57

December 2021

## In Numbers

**888,000** Rohingya refugees assisted

**289,000** Bangladeshis supported in the host community

## Highlights

WFP is preparing for operations on Bhasan Char including IT services, cargo transport and a small office in Chittagong.

These depend on protection measures, freedom of movement and funding for the operation.

WFP has not formally started programmes for the Bhasan Char population, however WFP dispatched nutrition commodities through existing NGOs on the island to 4,370 pregnant and nursing women, and children 6-59 months of age given their urgent needs.

Construction of mobile firefighting units began at WFP's Balukhali hub as part of SMEP's joint fire response [project launched in September 2021](#) with technical partner, Helvetas/MOAS.

Two new aggregation centres were opened in Ukhiya and Teknaf to connect small-scale Bangladeshi producers with local markets.

## Situation Update

- From 17-18 December, the Government of Bangladesh relocated 555 refugees (149 households) to Bhasan Char. On 23 December, a small group of refugees were facilitated to leave Bhasan Char to visit family in the Cox's Bazar camps; they were transported via Navy ship and bus, similar to the first visit in late November.
- In the camps, a second phase of COVID-19 vaccinations targeting Rohingya aged 18 to 55 years old was completed, and by 29 December, 79 percent of the target population had received their first dose.
- Authorities relocated the last households out of Camp 23 (Shamlapur) as part of the camp's gradual closure which began in January 2021. WFP closed its facilities and will continue to support relocated refugees in their newly-assigned camps.
- The [UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar](#) visited Bangladesh from 13-19 December. He stressed the need for security, access to education, health care and livelihood opportunities for the Rohingya, as well as voluntariness and freedom of movement with respect to Bhasan Char.

- Refugees were able to purchase up to 42 food items at e-voucher outlets and FFCs. In total US\$ 11.4 million worth of food was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers.<sup>2</sup>
- WFP provided rapid response assistance to 122 households, mostly due to Camp 23 relocations.

### Nutrition Assistance

- In the refugee camps, WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 39,300 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and 158,300 children between 6-59 months. In selected camps, an additional 19,700 children 24 to 59 months of age were supported as part of WFP's ongoing nutrition e-voucher pilot, whereby households receive nutritious food equivalent to US\$ 3 per child.
- In the host community, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to 4,400 PLW and 6,110 children between 6-59 months.
- WFP distributed 1,090 mt of specialized nutritious foods among refugees, including 20 mt in Bhasan Char.

### Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP engaged 32,900 refugees in Disaster Risk Reduction activities, including 647 people with disabilities. To improve access around the camps, WFP constructed/rehabilitated 850 m of access roads, 4.3 km of drains, 6 km of pedestrian pathways and 672 m<sup>2</sup> of stairs. To prepare for next year's monsoon season, WFP stabilized 1.4 km<sup>2</sup> of slopes and constructed 1.2 km of brick guide walls, while also maintaining 422,300 seedlings in collaboration with FAO and UNHCR.

## WFP Response

### General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP provided 888,000 Rohingya refugees<sup>1</sup> with food assistance through 21 operational e-voucher outlets. The most vulnerable 181,000 people received an additional US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through purchases at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs).

<sup>1</sup>Latest UNHCR population figures indicate 918,841 refugees; WFP food assistance reached 888,000 beneficiaries due to relocations and absentee households

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

## WFP Response Continued

- WFP engaged 3,740 host community members to improve “last mile” access to 13 cyclone shelters and re-excavated 6 km<sup>3</sup> of canals to improve irrigation networks for agricultural infrastructure.

### Strengthening Community Resilience in the Camps<sup>3</sup>

- WFP engaged 18,900 refugees in community workfare activities, and trained 2,530 Rohingya in volunteer services and 5,270 refugees in skills development.
- To ensure activities do not have adverse impacts on ecosystems and communities, WFP conducted safeguards screenings of 11 community workfare sites.

### Self-Reliance Programme in the Camps

- WFP engaged 14,840 refugees (13,300 women and 1,540 men), including 754 people with disabilities in self-reliance activities.
- Through the vertical gardening initiative, 5,800 refugees received agricultural inputs to grow their own vegetables, including 641 households affected by the massive March 2021 fire. To help stem the spread of COVID-19, 120 trained tailors produced 57,000 masks.
- Participants harvested 340 kg fish from 12 ponds, which were distributed to 105 households. An additional 420 kg of vegetables from around the fish ponds were distributed to 170 households and 19.5 kg of harvested mushrooms reached 50 households.

### Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- In December, participants from 1,734 self-help groups saved a total US\$ 188,000 in group bank accounts.
- Livelihood programme participants harvested vegetables, fish, and chicken worth US\$ 378,000. The items were sold in local markets and Fresh Food Corners in the camps through 25 WFP aggregation centres located within 1.5 km of women’s homes.
- WFP partners installed two drip irrigation and five solar-powered irrigation systems in Teknaf under the climate-adaptive agriculture project to enable beneficiaries to produce a greater yield, generate more revenue and enhance their food security.

### School Feeding

- WFP distributed 84 mt of fortified biscuits to 123,000 refugee children at 2,017 learning centres.
- In the host community, WFP reached 136,000 children with 117 mt of biscuits at 434 schools, and distributed hygiene kits to 140 schools in Ukhiya and Kutubdia.
- Due to COVID-19 prevention measures, Bangladeshi students continued a combination of at-home and in-person learning. To keep families motivated, WFP partner, Room to Read Bangladesh, lent out 38,000 school story books and provided telephone content.

### Gender and Protection

- WFP supported 46 protection-related referrals to facilitate food assistance, and coordinated with the Gender Based Violence (GBV) sub-sector to ensure continuous food supply to GBV survivors relocated to safe shelters within the camps.

## WFP Engineering

- Under the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), WFP engaged 2,250 Rohingya in engineering works, including 95 people with disabilities. To support well-functioning drainage systems in the camps, participants cleaned 4.5 km of drainage and sent 510 m<sup>3</sup> of segregated waste to the landfill, and constructed 390 m of pathways and 30 m of roads to maintain and improve camp access.
- WFP added an entry ramp to the Camp 15 e-voucher outlet to improve accessibility.
- In the host community, WFP added a waiting shed at one nutrition clinic to create more clinic space, and added a perimeter wall at another to enhance safety.

## Sectors

### Logistics Sector

- In December, 895 m<sup>3</sup> relief items were stored for nine organisations. The Sector also donated 20 containers, six mobile storage units and one prefab unit to 12 partners and facilitated five trainings, for a total of 16 organisations and 67 people.

### Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS and WFP organized a winter market on 12 December to promote livelihoods and self-reliance initiatives, and showcase local production. BDT 390,000 worth of products were sold by 21 organizations.

### Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS expanded its data connectivity network from 39 to 40 sites with the addition of the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) offices in Cox’s Bazar. Data connectivity was provided to 535 users.
- Security telecommunications services were provided to 969 users from 11 UN agencies.

## Funding Outlook

**Operational requirement (January 2022 – June 2022):** US\$ 188.6 million

**WFP is thankful for contributions from:** US, UK, Australia, Germany, EU, Japan, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, France, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Qatar, World Bank, UN CERF and private donors.

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### Additional Resources:

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



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

<sup>3</sup> Under the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief funded by the World Bank. Community workfare activities are reported under DRR.

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