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WFP and partners at hand as fire strikes Cox's Bazar

In Numbers

891,000 Rohingya refugees assisted

256,000 Bangladeshis supported in the host community

Highlights

Following the 9 January fire in Camp 16, WFP supported 2,380 individuals, delivering fortified biscuits and 71,800 hot meals in laminated paper boxes to reduce waste. WFP replenished

the stocks of specialized nutritious foods for all 417 nutrition programme beneficiaries who lost them.

WFP has not yet implemented its own programmes for the refugees on Bhasan Char, but dispatched nutrition commodities for distribution by NGOs to 4,710 pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and children aged 6-59 months given their urgent needs.

In Cox's Bazaar WFP beneficiaries produced 108,000 kg of winter vegetables for their own consumption from homestead gardens. The harvest came from crops that self-reliance programme participants planted in September 2021.

The user satisfaction rate on Logistics Sector services stood at 95 percent.

Situation Update

- On 2 January a fire in Camp 20 Extension damaged an IOM Severe Acute Respiratory Infection and Isolation and Treatment Centre (SARI ITC) and several shelters. Another larger fire in Camp 16 on 9 January damaged or destroyed over 400 shelters, 188 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and two learning centres, affecting over 400 refugee and 30 host community households.
- Media reported that 705 refugees were relocated to Bhasan Char on 5 January. As of 31 January, UNHCR indicated almost 17,600 people were living on the island.
- After reopening for four months, schools across Bangladesh and learning centres for refugee children in Cox's Bazar were closed from 21 January due to increased COVID-19 cases across the country.
- In line with new COVID-19 prevention measures, humanitarian agencies were required to reduce their footprint in the camps by half, as of 25 January, and gatherings across Bangladesh were restricted to 50 people or less.
- A second round of COVID-19 vaccinations took place in the refugee camps and by 31 January, 100,610 of the targeted population had received their second shot of the vaccines.

WFP Response

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP provided 891,000 Rohingya refugees¹ with food assistance through 21 operational e-voucher outlets. The most vulnerable 182,000 people received an additional US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through purchases at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs).
- Refugees were able to purchase 44 food items. US\$ 11.9 million worth of food was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers.²

Nutrition Assistance

- Only half rations of Super Cereal Plus were provided to children enrolled in the prevention of acute malnutrition programme due to global supply chain breaks of the specialized commodity.
- In the refugee camps, WFP brought on six new cooperating partners and provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 38,840 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and 143,430 children under five. An additional 19,700 children aged 24 to 59 months were supported through WFP's nutrition e-voucher pilot; mothers received US\$ 3 per child per month to purchase nutritious foods.
- Bangladeshis in the host community received WFP malnutrition treatment services for 3,990 PLW and 5,980 children under 5.
- WFP distributed 657 mt of specialized nutritious foods in the camps, along with 19 mt in Bhasan Char and 63 mt in the host communities.

¹Latest UNHCR population figures indicate 920,994 refugees; WFP food assistance reached 891,000 beneficiaries due to relocations and absentee households

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

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

WFP engaged 13,700 refugees in DRR, including 442 people with disabilities. To improve access around the camps, WFP constructed/rehabilitated 297 m of access road, 2.16 km of drains, 5.8 km of pedestrian pathways and 572 m² of stairs. To prepare for the next monsoon, WFP stabilized 2.17 km² of slope and constructed 410 m of brick guide wall.

Strengthening Community Resilience in the Camps³

- WFP engaged 11,700 refugees in community work, trained 2,520 refugees and conducted environmental and social safeguard screening at 21 community work sites to ensure activities do not have adverse impacts on ecosystems and communities.

Self-Reliance Programme in the Camps

- WFP engaged 10,300 refugees (8,900 women and 1,400 men), including 110 people with disabilities in self-reliance activities.
- WFP's aquaculture initiative produced 1,145 kg of fish and 312 kg vegetables, shared among 280 households.
- At the WFP recycling centre, 25,900 packets and bottles were collected and cleaned, with 542 new handicrafts created by 132 self-reliance programme participants.

Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- In January, participants from 1,734 self-help groups saved US\$ 206,000 in group bank accounts.
- Vegetables, fish, and chicken worth US\$ 228,000 were harvested by 12,700 livelihoods programme participants. The items were sold in local markets and FFCs in the camps through 25 WFP aggregation centres located within 1.5 km of women's homes.

School Feeding

- WFP distributed 86 mt of fortified biscuits to 143,000 refugee children at 2,478 learning centres.
- In Cox's Bazar, WFP's school feeding programme in five sub-districts reached 119,000 host community children with 113 mt of biscuits at 377 schools. WFP will run school feeding in Moheshkhali and Pekua until May.
- Due to COVID-19, Bangladeshi students continued at-home and in-person learning until schools closed again on 21 January. To keep families motivated, WFP partner, Room to Read Bangladesh, lent 9,180 school story books to 4,190 students, and provided telephone content and 54 read-aloud videos on cable TV.

Gender and Protection

- WFP supported 66 protection-related referrals to facilitate food assistance, and trained 103 staff from two new national GFA partners on gender, protection, and disability inclusion.
- Protection missions continued following up on extortion and protection issues. WFP is coordinating with field-level protection actors to address these concerns and minimize risks.

WFP Engineering

- Under the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), WFP engaged 463 Rohingya in engineering works, including 27 women and nine people with disabilities. Participants cleaned 1 km of canal; and helped clear debris from the 9 January fire. Under the joint fire safety project, SMEP completed assessments to select water tank sites for Camp 9.
- WFP constructed two onsite, temporary storage units to support the resumption of road construction work in camps 14 and 18.

Sectors

Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector ran an initial assessment of current environmental practices within partner supply chain and logistics units to understand the type of waste generated through supply chain operations, as well as existing processes to manage waste.
- An updated [camp road map](#) and a [video showcasing 2021 achievements](#) were published. In January, 947 m³ relief items were stored for eight organisations.

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS coordinated emergency food assistance to two fire incidents, working to ensure no overlap, and promoted solid waste reduction in emergency distributions.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- Security telecommunications services were provided to 936 users from 11 UN agencies. Data connectivity was provided to 364 users in 39 sites.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (Feb – Jul 2022): US\$ 171.6 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

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.