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WFP Bangladesh Situation Report #59

February 2022

In Numbers

892,000 Rohingya refugees assisted

356,240 Bangladeshis supported in the host community

Highlights

Increased international prices are expected to have a direct impact on retail commodities and WFP's negotiations for Long Term Agreements.

Media reports indicated that 1,654 Rohingya were transported from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char on 16

February. As of 28 February, UNHCR indicated 20,160 people were living on the island.

WFP resumed skills training in the camps, discontinued since 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. 10,510 women were trained in homestead gardening and 198 women were trained in vocational skills training.

The two-year government resilience-building project funded by the World Bank was successfully completed by the end of February.

The fifth [Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment \(REVA-5\)](#) found that 95 percent of all refugees are moderately or highly vulnerable, (96 percent in 2020). In the host community, overall vulnerability increased, with 52 percent of the population being moderately or highly vulnerable.

Situation Update

- On 25 February, there was a fire in Camp 7 which damaged some shops and a hospital. Rohingya in the camp claimed that 30 makeshift houses and 15 shops were destroyed in the fire.
- As the transmission of COVID-19 continues to decline, the government withdrew health restrictions on 22 February.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported 22,296 COVID-19 cases in the Cox's Bazar host community and 5,693 cases in the Rohingya camps since pandemic tracking began. By 17 February, two-thirds of the population of Bhasan Char had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

WFP Response

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP provided 892,000 Rohingya refugees¹ with food assistance through 21 operational e-voucher outlets. The most vulnerable 196,000 people received an additional US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through purchases at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs).
- Refugees were able to purchase more than 40 food items. US\$ 11.8 million worth of food was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers which benefits the local economy.²

Nutrition Assistance

- In the refugee camps, WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 40,790 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and 151,500 children under 5. An additional 17,015 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 3,680 PLW and 5,860 children under 5.
- WFP supported NGO partners on Bhasan Char island to dispatch nutrition commodities to 4,190 pregnant and nursing women, and children 6-59 months of age given their urgent needs.
- WFP distributed 644 mt of specialized nutritious foods in the camps, along with 19 mt on Bhasan Char and 58 mt in the host communities.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP engaged 7,620 refugees and 669 host community members in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. To improve access around the camps, WFP constructed/rehabilitated 619 m of access road, 2.7 km of drains, 3 km of pedestrian pathways and 893 m² of stairs. To reduce soil erosion and landslide risks, WFP stabilized 2.3 km² of slope and constructed 384 m of brick guide wall.

¹Latest UNHCR population figures indicate 923,179 refugees; WFP food assistance reached 892,000 beneficiaries due to relocations and absentee households

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

Strengthening Community Resilience in the Camps³

- WFP engaged 6,990 refugees in community workfare activities and trained 2,420 Rohingya in volunteer services and 2,020 refugees in skills development.

Self-Reliance Programme in the Camps

- WFP engaged 12,200 refugees (10,800 women and 1,400 men) in self-reliance activities, including 176 people with disabilities.
- Under WFP's aquaculture initiative, 510 kg of fish and 31 kg of vegetables were harvested from 12 pond areas and shared amongst 280 households. As part of homestead gardening, 9,000 families received 18,280 kg of vegetables in February.
- At the WFP recycling centre, 22,000 packets and bottles were collected and cleaned, and 270 new handicraft products were created by 129 self-reliance programme participants.

Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- In February, participants from 1,776 self-help groups saved US\$ 210,000 in group bank accounts.
- Vegetables, fish, and chicken worth US\$ 228,000 were harvested by 12,600 livelihoods programme participants. 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.

School Feeding

- Biscuit distribution was still suspended in the camps in February due to government-imposed COVID-19 restrictions.
- Within Cox's Bazar, WFP operated the school feeding programme in five sub-districts and reached 124,000 host community children with 217 mt of biscuits at 377 schools through take-home rations. WFP will continue to run school feeding in Moheshkhali and Pekua until May 2022.
- Due to COVID-19 prevention measures, Bangladeshi students continued a combination of at-home and in-person learning until schools opened again on 22 February, after a one-month closure. To keep families motivated, Room to Read (RtR) reached 83,300 individuals as part of the SMS campaign on education and COVID-19 awareness and provided telephone content and 48 read-aloud videos on cable TV.

Gender and Protection

- WFP supported 106 protection-related referrals to facilitate food assistance, and trained 144 staff on gender, protection, and disability inclusion.
- Protection missions continued following up on extortion and protection issues. WFP is coordinating with field-level protection partners to address these concerns and minimize risks.

WFP Engineering

- Under the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), WFP engaged 1,330 Rohingya in engineering works, including 194 women and 54 people with disabilities. To maintain vehicle access, WFP completed construction of 150 m of road, 405 m of guide walls, two pipe culverts and cleared 398 m³ of waste in camps 4, 15 and 18. For monsoon preparedness, WFP cleaned 2,940 m of canals and drainage, and constructed 205 m of slope protection in camp 3 and 4.
- After the 9 January fire in camp 16, WFP continued supporting volunteers and machinery for debris clearance and reconstruction of damaged shelters.

Sectors

Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector stored 291 m³ of relief items for five organisations in the Madhuchara warehouse.
- In February, the logistics sector trained 24 partner staffs in pharmacy management.

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS organised two training sessions on FSS 5W Response Tracker (Bangla and English sessions) on 8 February and had 65 participants from 23 partner organisations during both sessions.
- FSS has developed and finalised the sector workplan for 2022 and tentative training schedule for 2022 based on partners' inputs from the Training Needs Assessment survey.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- Security telecommunications services were provided to 945 users from 11 UN agencies. Data connectivity was provided to 416 users in 41 sites.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (Mar – Aug 2022): US\$ 160 million
WFP is thankful for contributions from: US, UK, Australia, Germany, EU, Japan, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, France, the Republic of Korea, 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.