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Rohingya Refugee Response

WFP Bangladesh | Information Booklet

April 2022

Photos: WFP/Nihab Rahman

WFP



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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Humanitarian Response in the Rohingya Camps

CONTEXT

By end-March 2022, there were over 926,500* Rohingya refugees living in the Cox's Bazar area ([UNHCR, 2021](#)), including 22,780 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 major fire outbreaks in the camps and monsoon flooding. The COVID-19 crisis has heightened vulnerabilities among refugees with 95 percent considered moderately and highly vulnerable by end-2021 ([REVA-5, 2022](#)).

**Latest UNHCR population figures indicate 926,500 refugees in Bangladesh; WFP food assistance reached 892,000 people in*

Cox's Bazar due to relocations and absentees

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.

QUARTER 1 IN NUMBERS

892,400 refugees received food assistance



212,700 women and children reached with nutrition services



42,400 people engaged in food assistance for assets



197,700 of the most vulnerable given fresh food voucher top-up



35,800 women and men engaged in self-reliance activities



197,000 students reached with fortified biscuits






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Host Community Interventions

CONTEXT

Situated in Bangladesh’s cyclone belt, Cox’s Bazar is one of the country’s most underdeveloped and disaster-prone districts. In 2021, high and moderate vulnerability in the host community remained as high as 2020, reflecting households’ limited ability to recover their pre-COVID-19 economic capacity (REVA-5, 2022). This can be attributed to the contractions of the pandemic lockdowns, which has led to a decline in economic activity, especially within the informal sector. Economic recovery continues to be challenged by supply shortages, high fuel costs and inflation, recurrent monsoon flooding and import disruptions.

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. WFP continues to scale up its aggregation centres in 2022, which link local farmers, including WFP livelihood beneficiaries and FAO farmers’ groups, to competitive markets and Fresh Food Corners in the refugee camps. In 2021 WFP launched its forecast-based financing mechanism, whereby cash assistance is delivered before a disaster strikes, helping to minimize household losses and the need for humanitarian assistance in the wake of climate shocks.

QUARTER 1 IN NUMBERS

187,500+ host community members supported



45,040 women engaged in the livelihoods programme



3,120 people engaged in food assistance for assets

FFA

14,100 women and children reached with nutrition services



US\$ 687K worth of produce sold by livelihoods participants



125,300 students reached with fortified biscuits





General Food Assistance

WFP delivers food assistance to refugees throughout all 33 camps in Cox's Bazar. Each month, families receive an e-voucher to redeem food items of their choice at WFP assistance outlets. **Digital systems** are in place to enhance accountability and Building Blocks, a shared humanitarian platform for coordinated assistance delivery, is used to capture transactions in all but two camps. In line with international humanitarian standards, WFP ensures all refugees receive a minimum 2,100 kcal of nutritious food to meet their daily dietary needs.

At the onset of any camp emergency, affected households receive an immediate six-day ration of fortified biscuits. Crisis-affected refugees are then provided with hot meals and/or one-off in-kind basket until WFP can re-integrate them into regular food assistance.



892,400 people received WFP food assistance across 33 camps each month

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- WFP delivered e-voucher food assistance to the entire refugee population every month. Families could purchase up to 25 food items at WFP's 21 e-voucher outlets, and up to 19 items at Fresh Food Corners.
- Following the major Camp 16 and Camp 5 fires in January and March respectively, WFP provided rapid food assistance to some 900 households, reaching affected refugees with fortified biscuits and hot meals until they regained the capacity to cook their own foods. A community kitchen managed by WFP partner, World Vision, became functional in January and supported WFP partners with more than 20,600 hot meals, and another kitchen managed by BRAC, is ready to operate.
- In March WFP began piloting the sale of fresh fish on ice in two outlets. Two new local NGOs came on as WFP partners to support localization and resource access.

WFP PLANS

- To establish another community kitchen near the camps to produce hot meals at scale in emergencies.
- To open additional e-voucher outlets to minimize the distance people must travel to access food.



Fresh Food Corners

While WFP continues to support refugees with monthly food assistance, access to nutritious foods and dietary diversity remain poor among the most vulnerable. With limited income-generating opportunities, refugees tend to adopt negative coping strategies to meet their food needs, such as reselling assistance, borrowing money and buying on credit.

Since introducing Fresh Food Corners (FFCs) at its e-voucher outlets, WFP has provided direct access to healthy fresh foods, like vegetables, fruit, and live chicken and fish, to improve the dietary diversity among the most vulnerable households, including child-headed (up to 17 years); women-headed; elderly-headed (60 years and above), and households with persons with disabilities.

All refugees can redeem a portion of their US\$ 12 monthly entitlement at FFCs and the most vulnerable households who cannot be engaged in food assistance activities receive a monthly top-up of US\$ 3 to be redeemed at FFCs.

FFCs also facilitate and strengthen market linkages between contracted retailers in the camp and people in the host community, including participants from WFP's livelihoods programme, FAO farmers groups, other smallholder producers and petty traders. Most food items will be locally produced or purchased, thus improving social cohesion by increasing economic opportunities and agricultural production in host communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- The most vulnerable refugee households received an additional US\$ 3 per person per month to purchase nutritious, protein-rich foods at 20 FFC structures at 19 e-voucher outlets.
- Live fish and chicken were available at all FFC sites.
- 4,388 livelihoods programme participants from the host community sold their products to FFCs in the camps.

WFP PLANS

- With partner support, WFP plans to link FFC retailers with all WFP and FAO aggregation centres in Cox's Bazar.
- WFP will add additional FFCs to existing e-voucher sites to reduce the caseload of existing FFC outlets. It will also scale FFCs to cover 100 percent of Rohingya refugees.

Up to 19 fresh food items available monthly at **19** sites 

197,000 of the most vulnerable refugees provided with an e-voucher top-up of **US\$ 3** each month



Nutrition in the camps

To address malnutrition in the camps, community outreach volunteers screen women and children, and refer identified cases to the nearest integrated nutrition centre. Pregnant and nursing mothers receive Super Cereal (WSB+) under both the treatment and prevention programmes. Children 6 to 59 months old receive Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition or Super Cereal Plus (WSB++) to prevent it.

To ensure sustained change, WFP closely follows those who require regular assistance and uses strategies, like social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), to positively influence behaviour, nutrition knowledge and hygiene. WFP also provides caregiver training on how to screen for malnutrition and self-refer to nutrition sites.

19,700 women & children were treated for malnutrition at 45 sites each month

193K women and children received rations to prevent malnutrition every month



ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- WFP distributed 2,100 mt of supplementary nutrition rations among 39,200 women and 140,700 children.
- A further 19,700 children 24 to 59 months old were supported through the nutrition e-voucher pilot in which caregivers receive a US\$ 3 e-voucher top-up per child per month to buy nutritious foods at WFP outlets. This is part of WFP's planned phase out of blanket feeding for children over 2 using specialized rations.
- After the Camp 16 fire in January, WFP replenished the supplements of 417 people who lost them in the blaze.
- WFP conducted research on the utilization and sale of food assistance and nutrition supplements by refugee households, together with opportunities to enhance the consumption of diverse foods.

WFP PLANS

- Conduct a deworming campaign and mass screening in the camps together with UNICEF and UNHCR.
- Finalize vendor selection and terms of reference for a new SBCC strategy to increase the consumption of fresh foods under the US\$ 3 cash pilot.



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School Feeding in the camps

The school feeding programme for registered refugee children was first launched in 2002 to improve learning capacity by addressing the root causes of hunger and micronutrient deficiencies that affect cognitive growth. Together with the Bangladesh Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and BRAC, WFP now supports school feeding in 4,200 camp learning centres, ensuring that hunger is not an impediment to a child's overall development. WFP provides a 50 g packet of locally-produced biscuits per child per day, which are fortified with 14 vitamins and minerals and provide half of the daily micronutrient requirements for a child 3 to 14 years. In line with national de-worming and together with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, WFP also facilitates biannual deworming campaigns for children attending learning centres.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- From January to March, 147,500 reusable cloth face masks were distributed to learners at the camp learning centres.
- A surge in COVID-19 cases led to country-wide closures of educational facilities from 21 January to 1 March, disrupting the planned February distribution. WFP resumed biscuit distribution upon learning centres' gradual reopening on 2 March.

WFP PLANS

- To facilitate deworming campaigns in all camps in 2022
- To provide learning centre orientations to Rohingya volunteers and teachers on safe food handling, cleanliness, record keeping, and empty packet collection and disposal.

197K
children

reached with
275 mt of biscuits



404
volunteers

engaged to package, deliver
and distribute biscuits daily



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Self Reliance

WFP's self-reliance programme supports refugees to enhance their resilience through skills development activities like homestead vegetable gardening, seed production, aquaculture and tailoring. The aim is to strengthen access to fresh foods and food security amongst the most vulnerable, and support refugees' economic empowerment, focusing on demand created by the camps. Under the award-winning Circular Food Assistance project, for example, Rohingya youth, women and people with disabilities upcycle waste into useful products, create a cleaner camp environment and gain new skills and income opportunities in the process.

In 2021 WFP scaled-up activities targeting at-risk youth and extremely vulnerable individuals, such as older people, persons with disabilities and women-headed households.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- Under the aquaculture project, 1,655 kg of fish and 343

35,800
refugees

**engaged in 31 camps,
including 654 people
with disabilities**

476,400
kg vegetables

**harvested from
18,700 vertical
gardens**



kg of vegetables were harvested from 12 pond areas and distributed among 560 households.

- WFP's disability and age inclusion project engaged 750 elderly refugees and people with disabilities in training and production activities, including fishing net and prayer cap making; pickle canning; and handicraft and bamboo goods production.
- Programme participants collected and recycled almost 83,600 food packets from the camps and upcycled them into 1,540 products, including wallets, bags and baskets.
- WFP engaged 58 Communications with Communities volunteers across 31 camps to disseminate information on COVID-19 awareness; general food assistance; nutrition services; gender, protection, disability inclusion; prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; and WFP's complaints and feedback mechanism.

WFP PLANS

- A 14-week food package will be distributed to people with disabilities with moderate and severe malnutrition.
- WFP will pilot a new project on indigenous food preservation techniques and cooking to enhance awareness of how to retain the highest nutritional value from foods and manage food waste.



Disaster Risk Reduction in the Camps

Through the food assistance for assets programme, refugees engage in disaster risk management activities and receive cash assistance in return. To reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience, WFP builds and rehabilitates critical community assets; undertakes site improvement and environmental restoration; and improves access to assistance sites with bridges and roads. WFP also strengthens drainage systems to reduce the risk of flash floods and excessive rainwater. Works are coordinated in 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. Refugees are engaged as community outreach volunteers to spread awareness on topics like monsoon and cyclone preparedness, and fire safety.

Over half a million

tree seedlings maintained with FAO and UNHCR

42,400 refugees

engaged, including 1,114 people with disabilities



ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- In preparation for the monsoon, 6.7 km² of slope was stabilized and 1.8 km of brick guide wall constructed. An additional 149 km of secondary and tertiary drains were regularly cleaned to ensure proper drainage.
- WFP coordinated with FAO for reforestation, fertilizer and maintenance activities, and completed fencing at all tree plantation sites to reduce soil erosion.
- To improve access to assistance sites around the camps, WFP constructed or reconstructed 11.1 km of pedestrian pathways, 3 km² of stairs and 1.6 km of road.

WFP PLANS

- 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 conducting a 2022 drain cleaning and waste management study to help humanitarian actors develop a robust joint operational plan for implementation across all camp areas.



Community Workfare and Services

At the end of February, WFP successfully completed the two-year resilience-building component of the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response project funded by the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

The project covered the 31 unregistered camps and sought to increase the safety, wellbeing and entitlements of the most vulnerable households, improving living conditions through community services and workfare.

By reversing environmental degradation and enhancing refugees' self-reliance, it also worked to address potential conflict with host community and reduce the likelihood of youth idleness.

18,700
refugees

engaged in
community
workfare



12,000+
youth

engaged in awareness,
light works and skills
development campaigns

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- US\$ 3 e-voucher top-up for fresh food items was provided to over 195,600 extremely vulnerable individuals per beneficiary per month upon participation in awareness sessions, including COVID-19 prevention and control.
- Under community workfare, WFP engaged almost 3,700 women and 15,000 men (of whom 559 were persons with disabilities) in disaster risk reduction activities. Before its completion, WFP linked the skilled labour force developed by the project to relevant activities in the camps within and beyond WFP programmes.
- As part of skills development, over 2,000 refugee youth received technical and vocational education and training on carpentry, masonry and plumbing. Training completion certificates and a toolbox containing 14 to 20 tools were also provided.
- 10,100 volunteers received training on life skills and awareness-raising for COVID-19, disaster risk reduction, nutrition, hygiene, early marriage and the environment.
- WFP conducted 28 environmental and social safeguards screenings to ensure planned activities did not have an adverse impact on ecosystems and communities.

Voices from the field



“There were many ponds in Myanmar near our home, but we did not know how to grow fish”

NUR LEARNS AQUACULTURE IN THE CAMPS

Nur is among 30,000 Rohingyas in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps learning vegetable gardening or fish culture through WFP’s self-reliance programme. Learning how to grow vegetables and fish gives refugees the chance use their time productively, while complementing WFP food assistance and preparing them for a sustainable return to Myanmar.

“There were many ponds in Myanmar near our home, but we did not know how to grow fish,” explained Nur Kayas. “Here in the refugee camp, we learned how to prepare and take care of the pond to cultivate fish. We feed the fish and water the gardens around the pond. Twenty of us decided to take care of this garden so that we can have vegetables whenever we want. We also receive fish to consume regularly based on how many are in the pond.”



SCAN TO READ
[NUR'S STORY](#)

KULSUMA SELLS A NEW CROP IN LOCAL MARKETS

Climate-adaptive agriculture is essential to operating in soil with elevated levels of salinity. In Teknaf, WFP is assisting almost 500 members of the host community to transform saline environments into productive agricultural space, from the selection of new seed varieties to novel irrigation techniques.

Cherry tomatoes provide smallholder farmers with a good profit margin as they are newly-traded in the sub-district and considered an exotic food item.

“I have never seen cherry tomatoes [before]. While the regular tomatoes sell for 50 taka, these sell for 100!”

Kulsuma is one of hundreds of vulnerable women targeted under WFP’s livelihoods programme, which seeks to transform entire communities through empowering women socially and economically.

“We could not grow vegetables here because of the soil’s salinity and I used to run my family with only my husband’s income.”

“After receiving the seeds and growing our crops, we are able to sell them and make a better living.”



“I have never seen cherry tomatoes [before]. While the regular tomatoes sell for 50 taka, these tomatoes sell for 100!”



SCAN TO WATCH
[KULSUMA'S STORY](#)



Disaster Risk Reduction in the Host Community

To prevent and reduce risks from natural disasters, WFP is implementing the Disaster Resilience Programme for host communities in close consultation with the District Administration of Cox's Bazar. WFP works to enhance social safety nets for host communities through cyclone shelter rehabilitation and access improvements, and landslide risk management. Together with the Bangladesh Forest Department and FAO, WFP also prioritizes reforestation and restoration of damaged environments, through planting of fast-growing species, bag gardening, seedling production and nursery propagation.

In coordination with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and Bangladesh Forest Department, WFP collaborates on host community development, including agricultural infrastructure strengthening to help communities protect their crops and get their produce to market. WFP trainings, policy documents and evidence generation also help strengthen the capacity of government and partners.

Through the forecast-based financing programme, households receive training on how to best prepare for hazards and protect their assets ahead of torrential rain and cyclone storm surges. Meteorological forecasts trigger mobile money payments to those likely to be affected.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- In consultation with the Department of Agricultural Extension and FAO, WFP continued to improve irrigation and water systems in three sub-districts under the joint project to enhance agricultural infrastructure and production. In Teknaf, Ukhiya and Cox's Bazar Sadar, 16.45 km³ of canal was re-excavated or newly excavated to improve farmers' irrigation networks. An additional 825 m of market linkage and access road was constructed and rehabilitated in Cox's Bazar Sadar and Teknaf, and 148 m of guide wall was completed at an Ukhiya aggregation centre in collaboration with FAO.

WFP PLANS

- To conduct a need-gap analysis to assess the existing agriculture infrastructure system in Cox's Bazar, the competitiveness of the sector, barriers and opportunities.

3,120
people

engaged including
583 women





Livelihoods in the Host Community

The Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) programme aims to address the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition through the economic empowerment of vulnerable host community women. Under EFSN, 24,900 women are being engaged in multi-year livelihoods programming with a focus on entrepreneurial and life skills to enhance resilience. Each participant is supported with a monthly subsistence allowance of BDT 1,050 (US\$ 12) and, following training and the submission of a business plan, a substantive cash grant of 18,000 (US\$ 212) to start income generating activities. Each participant also receives BDT 5,000 (US\$ 58) to invest in collective businesses through Self-Help Groups. A further 19,700 EFSN graduates are given technical and logistical support for value chain development through WFP aggregation centres, which promote social cohesion

by linking communities to retail shops inside the camps.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- Participants received training in all five EFSN locations: Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia,
- The WFP shop in Cox's Bazar sold US\$ 2,760 worth of handicrafts made by participants' off-farm businesses.
- US\$ 695,000 worth of fresh foods were sold by 13,310 women via 25 WFP aggregation centres. The vegetables, fish, and chicken were sold in local markets and WFP's Fresh Food Corners in the Rohingya camps.
- WFP provided 84 beneficiaries with assistive devices, eyecare treatment or referrals to other services. In March, a new disability specific self-help group was formed in Teknaf for a total of six such groups.

45,040 people engaged in 5 Cox's Bazar sub-districts (99% women)



US\$ 660K IN SAVINGS collectively set aside by 1,776 self-help groups

WFP PLANS

- To increase the volume of food sold to aggregation centres to further localize WFP's humanitarian response
- To scale the 2021 climate-adaptive agriculture pilot to introduce more farmers to salt-resistant crop production and expand EFSN to additional sub-districts



Nutrition in the Host Community

Since 2011, WFP has been providing tailored nutrition assistance to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in the host community as part of the Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition programme. Children identified with MAM receive monthly rations of Super Cereal Plus (WSB++) while pregnant and nursing mothers receive Super Cereal (WSB+).

WFP's nutrition programme plays a significant role in enhancing community-level knowledge on nutrition and health. Local women are engaged as community nutrition volunteers to conduct active case finding, nutrition counselling and Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) sessions. These weekly "Courtyard Sessions" cover topics such as hygiene, good preparation

and storage of food (including WFP supplementary food), nutrition and health. Volunteers receive US\$ 90 monthly, which supports their family and the local economy.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- WFP assisted **8,900** children 6-59 months and **5,200** pregnant and nursing mothers across five subdistricts of Cox's Bazar (Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia).
- WFP facilitated nutrition training for 430 frontline community workers and volunteers.

WFP PLANS

- To prepare alternative service modalities and preposition commodity supplies ahead of the monsoon season
- To conduct mass MUAC screening in hard-to-reach areas
- To start growth monitoring and promotion activities at the community level

185 mt of supplementary nutrition rations distributed through **129 community clinics** 

9,600 women & children treated for malnutrition every month on average



School Feeding in the Host Community

Operational in five sub-districts of Cox’s Bazar, WFP’s school feeding programme contributes to the government policy of universal primary education, particularly for children in poverty-prone areas. To ensure hunger is not an impediment to learning and overall development, WFP provides fortified biscuits and dates to pre-primary and primary school children in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, and conducts learning interventions to improve child literacy and education.

WFP engages community members in trainings to promote participation in the schools’ management, and provides an essential learning package to benefit the whole community through school vegetable gardening; health, hygiene and nutrition sessions; and biannual de-worming campaigns together with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

In Ukhiya and Kutubdia, funds come from the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- WFP fortified biscuit distributions reached 125,300 students in the Ukhiya, Moheshkhali, Pekua, Teknaf and Kutubdia sub-districts. Each child received a 75 g biscuit packet per school day for a total of six packets per week.
- The Government closed schools from 21 January to 1 March due to high rates of COVID-19 in Bangladesh. During the countrywide closures, 218 mt of biscuits were distributed as take-home rations.
- Room to Read trained 820 teachers and aired up to 62 read-aloud videos on TV each month as COVID-19 continued to limit school hours.

WFP PLANS

- To continue school feeding in Pekua and Moheshkhali until the June 2022 handover back to the Government.
- Resume on-site support and capacity building for teachers in Ukhiya and Kutubdia, and begin community-based literacy support for children

WFP’s partner, Room to Read, provided literacy materials to

30,630 students

125K children

reached with **494 mt** of fortified biscuits





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Innovation & Digital Solutions

INNOVATING FOOD ASSISTANCE

- **E-vouchers** are a dignified approach to food assistance whereby refugees can choose from a range of food items each month, including fresh produce. Cox's Bazar is the first WFP operation to build e-voucher outlets.
- Building Blocks is a **blockchain**-based platform for inter-agency coordination and online entitlement delivery. Since 2021, all e-voucher outlets serving unregistered refugees have been serviced by Building Blocks.
- **SCOPECARDS** are used in offline distribution points to deliver entitlements, including food, liquefied petroleum gas, hygiene and shelter kits; and are used by WFP, IOM and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).



100% of e-voucher transactions processed through Building Blocks among unregistered refugees in Cox's Bazar



100% of the Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar received food assistance through e-vouchers

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

- After the major January and March fires, the Digital Solutions unit reprinted and distributed 300 lost SCOPECARDS and rolled out an intervention for distributing LPG refills and stoves, which supported 442 households.
- In February WFP began designing a digital tool to increase the efficiency of camp nutrition operations.
- First piloted in 2021, the Farm2Go mobile and web app will be relaunched in May, linking farmers and their cooperatives to WFP camp retailers and local markets.

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2018, WFP has supported humanitarian agencies use its corporate and digital platforms to digitize their assistance for the Rohingya population. In 2022, WFP tools:

- Supported IOM distributions of LPG in 17 camps; and WASH supplies, hygiene and shelter kits in 4 camps each
- Facilitated UNICEF soap distribution for more than 257,000 refugees in eight camps
- Assisted BDRCS to distribute hygiene & menstrual kits, and non-food items to 46,600 Camp 12 beneficiaries



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Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping

Food security analysis, commonly known as Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) is a core area of the World Food Programme's work and forms the basis for the design of all of its operations. VAM provides geospatial and economic analysis, food security monitoring and assessments, post-shock assessments and thematic analysis. The information VAM supplies allows WFP and the larger humanitarian community to design evidence based programming through determining the most appropriate type and scale of intervention. VAM also monitors monsoon flooding, cyclones and crises like the 2022 conflict in Ukraine, and provides analysis for early warning. The VAM unit has been operational since 2017 in Cox's Bazar.

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS

Together with the Food Security Sector, WFP conducted the fifth Rohingya Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) exercise in November 2021 to better understand the needs of Rohingya refugees and the host community. The assessment sought to assess how many people were food insecure and socio-economically vulnerable and what actions were required to improve their lives and

livelihoods. Published in early 2022, [REVA-5](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the current vulnerability of refugees and host community members in support of the 2022 Joint Response Plan. VAM also conducts ad-hoc emergency food security and essential needs assessments, including the March 2022 assessment of Bhasan Char.

MARKET MONITORING

WFP has conducted [market monitoring](#) of Cox's Bazar since 2017 and published three joint monitors with FAO in 2021. Market monitoring provides regular updates on: food and non-food item prices (wholesale, retail, petty trade), labour costs, and the overall market environment. Findings are visualized in a user-friendly manner and are published externally for the benefit of the larger humanitarian community. Price data serves as (a.) an alert system for changes and volatility, such as that created by the conflict in Ukraine, (b.) a measure of market functionality and (c.) a reference for humanitarian organizations designing cash and voucher activities in the Rohingya response. WFP uses the data for monthly price negotiations with the contracted retailers operating in e-voucher outlets in the camps. In the first quarter of 2022, VAM also conducted its first market assessment of Bhasan Char.

COLLABORATIVE EVIDENCE GENERATION WITH STRATEGIC KEY PARTNERS

To support the creation of cutting-edge analysis, WFP has established partnerships with the World Bank, UNHCR and FAO for collaborative evidence generation. For instance, UNHCR and WFP conducted the 2021 Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) and Joint Plan of Action to inform programme interventions for Rohingya refugees and host communities over the next two years.

REMOTE FOOD SECURITY MONITORING (MVAM)

WFP established an in-house remote data collection centre in 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated movement restrictions mandated by the Government of Bangladesh. This helped WFP mitigate virus transmission when conducting its [joint 2021 flood impact assessment](#) with IOM, and also conduct surveys in new, hard-to-reach and remote areas of Cox's Bazar, including the northern sub-districts of [Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia](#).

WFP PLANS

With increasing overlap between humanitarian and long-term development assistance, more evidence is required to inform decision-making. Together with key stakeholders, including the World Bank and FAO, WFP will enhance its resilience analysis and measurement to understand beneficiary wellbeing in Cox's Bazar and contribute to strengthened community resilience through programme interventions.





UN Partnerships

WFP works closely with all United Nations agencies present in Cox's Bazar through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group 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

Started in 2018, SAFE Plus is a joint programme between FAO, IOM and WFP aiming to address cooking fuel needs, restore and protect the environment, create livelihoods opportunities for host communities and build the resilience of refugees. The second phase of the programme is currently under development and will start from July 2022 under the coordination of UNHCR.

WFP-FAO AGREEMENT

Signed in April 2021, this landmark UN-UN agreement aims to enhance self-reliance, livelihoods, and natural resource management in 32 refugee camps and four sub-districts of Cox's Bazar: Ukhiya, Teknaf, Sadar and Ramu. The project targets 30,000 Rohingya households to enhance self-reliance and 3,000 host community households to enhance food production and promote market linkages through

livelihoods activities.

SITE MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING PROJECT (SMEP)

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

ENGAGEMENT ON BHASAN CHAR

UN engagement on Bhasan Char is to support and complement the work of the Government, in charge of the overall response, as well as Bangladeshi NGOs, who have been delivering critical assistance on the island. WFP aims to provide food, nutrition, and livelihoods assistance to the population on the island; as well as common logistics and information communications technology services to humanitarian actors, based on the gaps and needs identified, and in line with the WFP Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026). The Protection Framework of the 2022 Joint Response Plan, which guides the overall humanitarian response for Rohingya refugees, and is implemented in full partnership with the Government, will continue to underpin all activities and services of the response in Bhasan Char, as well as Cox's Bazar.



NGO Partnerships

WFP would not be able to achieve what we do without all our cooperating partners. In 2022, WFP has been implementing activities through 18 partners, including seven national and local NGOs.

The continued localization of assistance is an important priority for WFP as it seeks to mobilize resources efficiently and sustainably, and build upon the existing human resources, civil society and market structures from the local to the national level. To this end, our seven national and local NGO partners are handling over 62 percent of 2022 contract value.



NATIONAL NGOS

- BRAC
- Community Development Centre
- Resource Integration Centre (RIC)
- Shushilan
- Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV)
- The Society for Health Extension & Development
- Young Power in Social Action

INTERNATIONAL NGOS

- Action Aid
- Action Against Hunger
- CARE
- Christian Aid
- Concern Worldwide
- HelpAge International
- Helvetas
- Cordaid
- Islamic Relief
- Save the Children
- World Vision



Food Security Sector

Around the world, the Food Security Cluster saves lives by coordinating appropriate, efficient responses in emergencies. Established in 2017, the Food Security Sector (FSS) in Cox's Bazar is led by WFP and FAO, co-chaired by BRAC and provides a platform to strengthen food security and livelihood responses. Through operational coordination, information sharing and identification of food security priorities and solutions, FSS supports strategic decision-making for the humanitarian response. FSS identifies food security gaps, duplications, obstacles and intersectoral linkages; leads joint contingency planning for potential new events or set-backs; and acts a provider of last resort, informing lead agencies of priority gaps that cannot be covered by any partner. FSS also closely coordinates the planning and implementation of the Joint Response Plan (JRP) with other sectors.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- FSS coordinated emergency food assistance after the January and March fire incidents, working to ensure no overlap and promoting strong solid waste management.
- The [Homestead Gardening Guidelines for Rohingya Camps and Host Communities](#) were co-authored and published by the FSS, FAO and WFP.
- Monthly partner field visits were conducted to share good practices, lessons learned and challenges, and FSS facilitated four trainings on 5W activity mapping, Power BI for data visualization, and emergency preparedness and response for 130 staff from 44 organizations.

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR PLANS

- Continue monthly field visits to facilitate partner coordination; support planting season planning for the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group; and support the Skills Development Technical Working Group with information management.

308K
Bangladeshis

reached by 28
reporting partners
(JRP/non-JRP areas)



20 reporting partners provided
life-saving food assistance and
resilience-building to

892k
refugees

CONTACT INFORMATION

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fscluster.org/rohingya_crisis



Emergency Telecommunications Sector

Led by WFP, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is a global network that works together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies as designated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

In Bangladesh the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) was activated in 2017 to facilitate the humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugee crisis. As voice and data services are extremely limited in the camps, the ETS provides: (i) augmented radio (VHF) network for UN staff safety, security and operations; and (ii) data connectivity for digitized assistance and communication between humanitarian workers. ETS coordination and information management activities strengthen advocacy, ensure the swift delivery of services, facilitate information sharing for decision-making, and maximize the use of resources.

43
sites

provide connectivity to 492 humanitarians from 15 UN agencies & NGOs



940

humanitarians from 11 UN agencies provided security communications services on average each month

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- In 2022, the ETS added five new hospitals to the ETS data network on behalf of four NGOs, including the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. WFP outlets, logistics hubs, nutrition sector sites, and other UN agency and NGO locations continued to operate with ETS services, and data connectivity was expanded at two Doctors Without Borders (MSF) facilities to increase their reach.
- In March, new equipment was installed at the data connectivity tower in Teknaf to make it easier for new sites to be added in future, and four Teknaf relay sites were upgraded to improve the existing network.

ETS PLANS

- To collaborate with UNDSS to expand the VHF radio network to two Teknaf camp areas where coverage is limited. The ETS will work with local vendors to procure equipment before installations begin in quarter two.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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etcluster.org/Bangladesh-refugee-crisis



WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Logistics Sector

The Logistics Sector in Cox's Bazar ensures that the humanitarian community has access to resources required for operations and emergency preparedness while minimizing the duplication of efforts. By providing common logistics services, such as storage and prepositioned assets, the Logistics Sector supports rapid scale up and mitigation of disruptions in the camps due to natural disasters. The sector also performs an information management function, using geographic information systems to support operational decision making, resolve logistical challenges and enhance the efficiency of responses, especially during cyclones and the monsoon. In its capacity strengthening role, the sector develops expertise and reduces the need for temporary logistics services, while ensuring participation of local logistic actors by increasing the number of activities delivered in Bangla.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- Common storage at the Madhuchara hub was phased out in accordance with the sector's [2021 Gaps and Needs Assessment](#), while maintaining capacity to rapidly upscale as required and its overall coordination role.
- The sector completed its contingency stockpile mapping and published updated maps of the camp roads. The sector held three coordination meetings and organized four training sessions attended by 67 people.
- The sector ran an assessment of environmental practices within its partner supply chain/logistics units to determine the processes in place to manage waste.

LOGISTICS SECTOR PLANS

- To improve resource utilization among partners and reduce environmental impacts related to logistics/supply chain operations in the response
- To organize trainings with a focus on national NGOs to strengthen local logistics capacities and bolster relationships with national partners

655 m³ of relief items stored for 8 organisations 

31 partners  assisted through storage, equipment loans and trainings

CONTACT INFORMATION

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logcluster.org/sector/bangl17



Engineering

Access to the refugee camps is critical to the humanitarian response, particularly given Cox’s Bazar’s geographic vulnerability. Through site preparation work, rehabilitation and construction, WFP Engineering ensures humanitarian partners can easily access critical sites and have safe facilities to store essential supplies. WFP in partnership with IOM and UNHCR encompasses the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), while WFP Facility Management manages construction and maintenance of WFP assistance outlets, offices and warehouses through commercial vendors. WFP Engineering facilitates rapid response through the pre-positioning of supplies; supports capacity strengthening of local government; and coordinates to identify gaps and issues of site management with the Bangladesh military and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC).

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

- To ensure unhindered access in the camps, 443 m of brick road was laid, along with over 2.47 km of road in camps 5, 6 and 18 and 234 m of stairway. A further 689 m³ of waste was cleared from 16,700 m of canals and six pipe culverts constructed to ensure the proper functioning of primary drainage system. To reduce the risk of landslide, 858 m of retaining wall and 1,715 m of slope protection were completed.
- Under the joint fire safety project, 105 water tanks were installed in seven camps; 96 mobile firefighting units were manufactured; and 40 fire safety unit volunteers (SUVs) were trained in Camp 9, including six women.

SMEP PLANS

- To continue to engage in emergency repair and rehabilitation works, prioritizing slope stabilization ahead of the monsoon; construction of roads, bridges, culverts and water reservoirs; reinforcement of bridges and hills with terracing; and infrastructure repairs.
- To continue to build resilience against climate hazards, and increase the number of safe relocation sites for disaster-affected refugees.

1,715 metres of slope protection completed ahead of the monsoon



4,820 refugees engaged (640 women and 4,180 men), including 120 people with disabilities



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Gender, Protection & Disability Inclusion

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.

Every distribution site has segregated waiting areas, toilet facilities, and help desks managed by at least one female 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 risks, WFP (i) selects distribution sites with beneficiary vulnerabilities in mind; (ii) provides clean and safe drinking water, breastfeeding corners and crowd control measures at assistance sites, and (iii)

offers a porter service to alleviate the burden of carrying heavy food rations. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, WFP has also ensured good hygiene practices, physical distancing, temperature checks and hand washing points at all sites.

- **Protect beneficiary data:** WFP's beneficiary management system, SCOPE, ensures beneficiary data is protected. Under Building Blocks, a blockchain-based platform for inter-agency coordination and online entitlement delivery, 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 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 awareness raising sessions for WFP and

partner staff and volunteers. Inclusive questions are included in all community questionnaires.

- **Contribute to women empowerment and equality:** WFP integrates gender 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 works with SAFE Plus agencies to ensure 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 the 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 THIS QUARTER

- WFP supported 311 protection case referrals, receiving 190 referrals for beneficiary support with general food assistance and making 121 external referrals to UNHCR.
- WFP trained 247 WFP partner staff and volunteers on Gender, Protection, AAP and disability inclusion.
- As part of the International Women's Day celebration in March, WFP held a sewing competition and livelihoods fair with 11 partners of the FSS, FAO and Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group in which USD 2,167 worth of products was sold.

- WFP contributed to an AAP tip sheet, designed by the Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS), to address child protection concerns and ensure meaningful access to assistance. To ensure meaningful accountability to affected populations, WFP continued to develop its Community Engagement Strategy (CES).

7,270 refugees with disabilities received general food assistance each month

654 elderly refugees and people with disabilities engaged in self-reliance activities, of which 89% were women

WFP PLANS

- To carry out a beneficiary satisfaction assessment on WFP porter services available through the general food assistance programme.
- To explore entry points for ensuring food support to GBV survivors living in safe shelters through a new a sub-group of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub Sector.
- To host a June 2022 workshop for GFA and Self-Reliance partners based on the GBV risk mitigation safety audit tool developed by the food security and livelihood sectors, and UNHCR GBV team.
- To organize a data protection training for WFP Cox's Bazar staff and cascade down to partners.





Environmental action

MINIMIZING WFP'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT



Plastic-free e-voucher outlets with green retail initiatives

Environmental awareness campaigns among refugees

PROGRAMMING TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT



Initiatives to upcycle WFP-produced waste

Slope stabilization and drainage improvement to minimize flood impacts

COORDINATED RESPONSE



Inter-agency coordination via the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group

Coordinated planning for the 2022 planting season

- All WFP e-voucher outlets have been plastic-free since November 2020 and WFP is working with its contracted retailers to further reduce and manage solid waste.
- To integrate environmental considerations into programming, WFP conducted 28 environmental and social safeguards screenings in 31 camps.
- More than 3,000 youth volunteers and Rohingya Food Security Committee members undertook community-based environmental awareness campaigns.
- WFP improved solid waste management at its main office and hub to reduce waste generation and ensure waste is handled in line with Bangladesh's 2010 Reduce-Reuse-Recycle strategy and the WASH sector's solid waste management strategy.
- Through the Resilient Landscapes project launched in April 2021, WFP integrates sustainable design into infrastructure around its assistance sites. WFP has completed two new sustainable aggregation centres in the host community using an energy-efficient bamboo structure, passive cooling, and solar energy.
- Over half a million bottles and WFP food packets have been upcycled at Camp 15's upcycling centre.



WFP in Bhasan Char

In late 2020, the Government of Bangladesh began relocating refugees from the Cox's Bazar camps to Bhasan Char located about 60 km from the mainland. As of the latest UNHCR figures from end-March 2022, nearly 23,000 Rohingya refugees reside on the island.

The Government has decided to relocate up to 100,000 Rohingya refugees to the island in phases. Recognizing the prevailing humanitarian and protection needs of the refugees, UNHCR on behalf of the UN agencies working on the Rohingya humanitarian response, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government in October 2021 to set the policy framework that will guide the UN's humanitarian response on the island based on humanitarian and protection principles and the Government's priorities and policies. UN engagement on Bhasan Char is to support and complement the work of the Government, in charge of the overall response, as well as NGOs who are present and have been delivering critical assistance on the island. WFP is guided by the UN's agreement with the Government, stressing the need for protection measures and freedom of movement for refugees relocated to the island.

Along with other UN agencies, WFP has conducted fact-finding visits to Bhasan Char since November 2021. The findings of the multi-sectoral technical assessments conducted provide a comprehensive mapping of gaps and needs that inform the operational plan for the UN to ensure that the human rights, basic needs, and wellbeing of Rohingya refugees on Bhasan Char are upheld and provided for.

WFP will assist the Government in Bhasan Char as long as activities on the island are sufficiently funded. Staff working to support operations on the island report directly to the Cox's Bazar sub-office.

OBJECTIVES

Based on the gaps and needs identified and in line with the WFP Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, WFP aims to:

- (1.) provide integrated humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable population on the island through food, nutrition, and livelihoods assistance; and
- (2.) provide common logistics and information communications technology (ICT) services to humanitarian actors.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER



Specialized nutrition commodities

provided to 6,300 children under 5, and pregnant and nursing women, to treat and prevent malnutrition



In-kind food assistance

provided to 17,100 refugees in March via one national NGO partner on Bhasan Char (12 items were WFP-funded)



Internet connectivity

provided to four sites since March, including one temporary UN building and three government sites



The first coordination meetings

on Food Security and Common Services held with NGOs, UN and Government actors



Commercial transport contracts established

which other humanitarian actors can enter into for transporting cargo



Published the first Market Assessment

examining the functionality of emerging marketplaces serving the population

The Protection Framework of the 2022 Joint Response Plan, which guides the overall humanitarian response for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, will continue to underpin all activities and services of the response in Bhasan Char, as well as Cox's Bazar, and is implemented in full partnership with the Government.

WFP PLANS

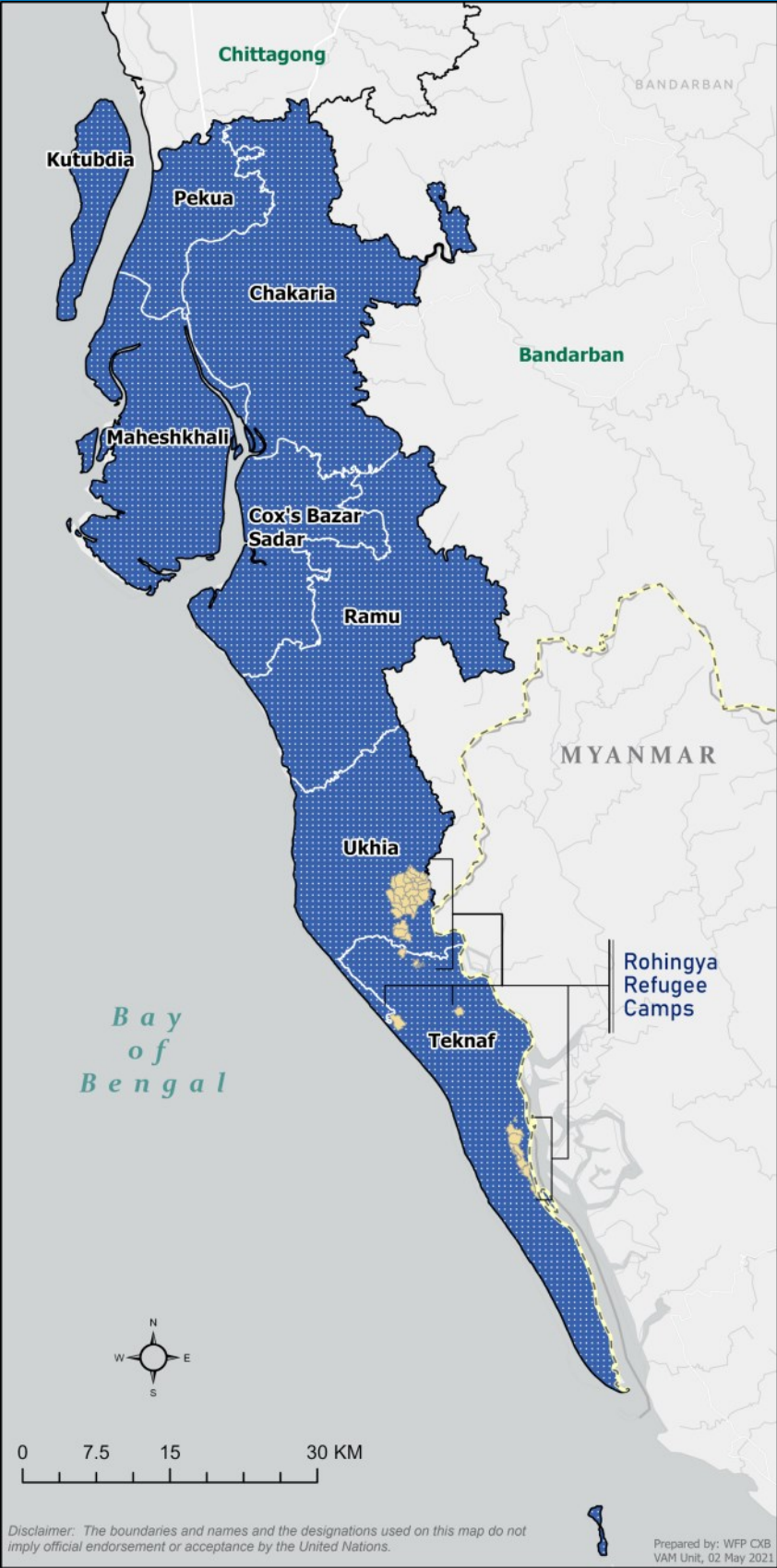
Alongside UNHCR and other UN agencies, WFP will continue to emphasize the two fundamental policy principles central to the Bhasan Char response as enshrined in the MoU with Government:

- (1) relocations and stay on the island occur on an informed and voluntary basis;
- (2) a mechanism for movement of refugees to and from the island will be ensured on a needs' basis.

With adequate funding, WFP will contribute to reduced acute and chronic malnutrition rates, and improved nutritional status among the refugees.



Cox's Bazar sub-district



Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

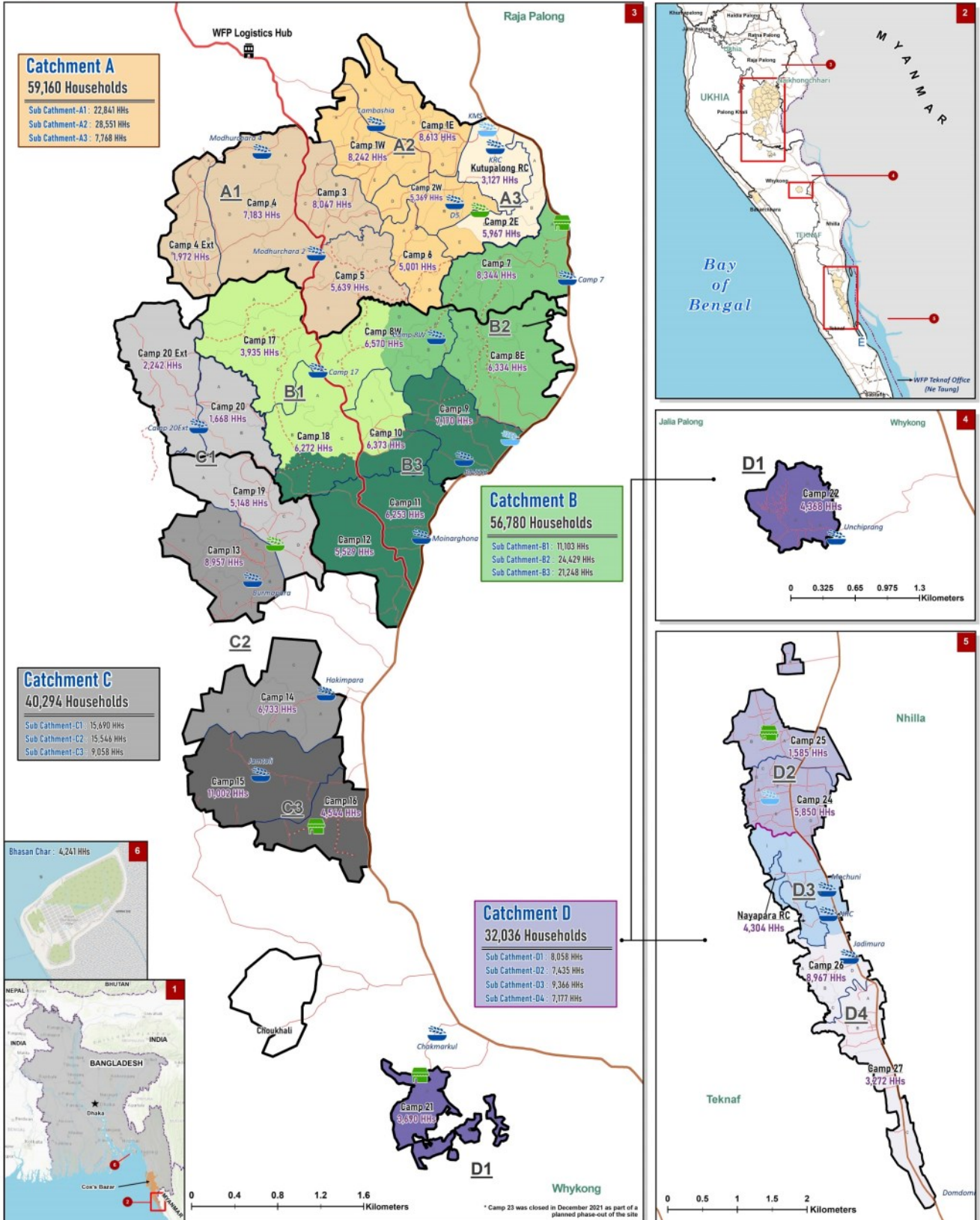


vam
food security analysis

WFP Operational Catchments 2022
COX'S BAZAR - BANGLADESH



COX'S BAZAR
FOOD SECURITY
SECTOR

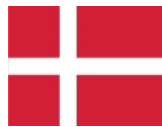


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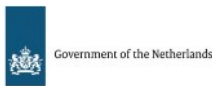
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