



World Food Programme

WFP Bangladesh

Rohingya Refugee Response

Situation Report #18

10 September 2018

In Numbers

706,360 refugee arrivals since August 2017. The new arrivals joined over 200,000 refugees who had fled earlier.

During August: 865,500 refugees received food assistance, with nearly a quarter of them receiving food assistance through e-vouchers.

Highlights

- WFP and partners have launched the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) pilot project for refugees, with distributions of cooking stoves and gas cylinders.
- WFP's response to meet the needs of the Rohingya refugees and the most vulnerable in the host community costs USD 20 million per month.

WFP Rohingya Refugee Emergency Response

	Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
Phase II (March -Dec 2018)	242.6 m	108 m

WFP Response (August)



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Although the monsoon rain has decreased during the reporting period, relocation of the refugee families is ongoing from high risk zones as well as those being displaced due to damaged shelters and to reduce camp congestion to the newly developed camp extension sites. WFP is assisting the relocated families with a combination of micronutrient fortified biscuits, cooked meals as well as food distributions depending on people's access to cooking and storage.
- Food distributions (rice, lentils and fortified vegetable oil), with quantities adjusted according to family size, take place on a fortnightly basis.
- Refugees receiving e-voucher assistance are able to use their Assistance Cards at 18 outlets to access food including fresh vegetables, spices, dried fish, eggs, pulses and rice. WFP has launched a multi wallet pilot with UNICEF introducing hygiene items in the shops.
- Nutrition support interventions are ongoing for children under five years of age and pregnant

and breastfeeding women in the camps and within the local community. The women and children receive a monthly ration of a nutritious wheat soya blend (to make porridge) as well as nutrition counselling and growth monitoring. WFP has also introduced Ready to Use Supplementary Food for malnutrition treatment.

- 271,130 refugee and host community children are receiving fortified biscuits in schools and learning centres daily. The biscuits are locally produced in Bangladesh. WFP also supports complimentary literacy improvement activities in the host community such as providing school furniture including classroom benches and display boards, establishing libraries and providing teacher training.
- Disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities such as slope stabilisation, reinforcing WFP assistance sites and strengthening shelters for cyclone preparedness are ongoing. WFP with IOM and other partners are also constructing bamboo bridges to improve access in the camps. A joint assessment has been conducted with FAO for a reforestation project in the camps. During August, 4,000 refugees were engaged in DRR activities for a daily cash remuneration.
- Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition: The third phase of this livelihood activity for economically vulnerable local host community women is ongoing. The women are provided with monthly subsistence allowance and a one-off cash grant to set up income generating activities. Enterprise development trainings for the women participants are currently ongoing.

Photo: Refugees receiving cooking stove and gas cylinder—SAFE project launch. ©WFP/ Tazbir Tanim.

- Self Reliance: WFP and partners (BRAC, UNFPA and UN Women) aim to enhance the self reliance of refugee women and adolescent girls by strengthening their skills and knowledge and providing necessary trainings. For this pilot project, initially 2,100 participants have been selected.
- WFP is working with partners IOM and FAO, providing its beneficiary and transfer management system, SCOPE for a multi-agency cooking gas project, SAFE. FAO has started distributing cooking stoves and gas cylinders among 2,500 refugee families, using WFP's SCOPE system.

Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP)

- WFP, IOM and UNHCR continue to conduct site maintenance and engineering work such as repairing roads, preventing road collapses and slope stabilization. WFP engineers are focusing on enabling access by constructing roads and bridges. SMEP is also working on drainage maintenance.

Supply Chain

- Limited warehouse capacity, reduced access in the camps due to the monsoons and resultant weight restrictions on vehicles posed several challenges to maintain an uninterrupted delivery of food commodities. In August, nearly 12,372 mt of mixed food commodities were delivered for WFP programmes.
- Work is ongoing for the construction and rehabilitation of a transshipment point near the camps to further augment WFP's logistics capacity. Further, a new logistics hub (Uttaran) is now operational.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The Sector continues to ensure coordination between partners on coverage of food assistance and monsoon rapid response mechanisms for refugees as well as livelihoods activities for refugees and host community. The focus is to ensure an adequate response to the needs and balanced coverage of services across the geographical area.
- The Sector is also coordinating the emergency cyclone preparedness plan with all partners.
- The Sector is facilitating a mid-term review for the Joint Response Plan to prioritise activities for the rest of the year.



Logistics Sector

- The Sector continues to consolidate and maintain physical road access constraints information through a [Physical Road Access Constraints Map](#).
- The Logistics Sector continues to provide 6800 m³ of common storage space through three logistics hubs.
- Considering the increased demands on the limited road network and infrastructure in and around the camps, the sector is advocating with relevant authorities to ensure uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian relief items can be maintained. An Access Working Group has been established to address these issues.



Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has agreed to allow NGO and INGO partners of UN agencies to access UN security radio network, given they comply with certain requirements. ETS will assist in ascertaining compliance of partners.
- ETS has started handing over equipment such as generators and projectors to partners to support information hubs across the camps as well as to strengthen capacity at the local government offices in the camps.



Resourcing Update

- WFP has received recent contributions from Russia, France and United Kingdom.
- WFP urgently needs more funds to continue life-saving assistance for Rohingya refugees and ensure the progress made so far with the host community does not suffer due to increased emergency needs.

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