On 19 August, WFP launched Building Blocks at two additional e-voucher outlets. 18,000 seedlings aged 278 refugees were planted. However, CwC, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, has been installed in the rehabilitated shelters in 17 camps. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission restored 3G/4G mobile services at Rohingya camps, however, the mobile network coverage does not meet operational needs. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission continued to provide connectivity services in Cox’s Bazar to support the humanitarian community and WFP’s operations. Heavy monsoon rain in Cox’s Bazar damaged shelters and other infrastructure in the camps. WFP provided one-off general food assistance to 45 households, high energy biscuits to 343 households, and hot meals to 1,943 affected refugees.

In Numbers || August 2020
860,000 refugees in the camps*
(51% children, 45% adult, 4% older persons and 1% persons with disability)

Over 500,000 people in the host community continued to receive assistance through a COVID-19 special support programme.

**Highlights**

- On 19 August, WFP reached a data sharing agreement with UNHCR, the first of its kind globally, for biometric data transfer. The agreement will enable the two agencies to align beneficiary data and improve the provision of life-saving services.
- 88 percent of 860,000 refugees received WFP assistance through e-vouchers, offering 13 food items through 17 outlets. The other 12 percent of refugees received in-kind assistance at five distribution sites. WFP aims to transfer all beneficiaries to the e-voucher modality by the end of 2020.
- WFP launched Building Blocks at two additional e-voucher outlets, bringing the number of outlets using blockchain-based technology to eight out of 17.
- 18,000 seedlings were planted at 17 sites in the camps as WFP kicked off the tree plantation for 2020.
- Communications with Communities (CwC) volunteers were deployed to food distribution points to disseminate COVID-19 awareness messages using posters/pictures and directly communicating with the refugees.

**Situation Updates**

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission restored 3G/4G mobile services at Rohingya camps, however, the mobile network coverage does not meet operational needs. The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) will continue to provide connectivity services in Cox’s Bazar to support the humanitarian community and WFP’s operations.
- Heavy monsoon rain in Cox’s Bazar damaged shelters and other infrastructure in the camps. WFP provided one-off general food assistance to 45 households, high energy biscuits to 343 households, and hot meals to 1,943 affected refugees.

*As per the most updated Government/UNHCR figures.*
Assessments

WFP published the findings of Cox’s Bazar Urban Vulnerability Assessment, which was conducted in June, to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on livelihoods and access to food and other essential needs. According to the report, livelihoods have been adversely impacted by the lockdowns, with 58 percent of households stating that they did not receive any income from their primary sources since April.

Common Services

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS is coordinating with the livelihoods working group on planned and ongoing seed distribution in camps. FSS has requested to share seed distribution plans from partners and is developing training modules to ensuring better coordinated agricultural interventions.
- FSS developed a child protection tip sheet for food assistance with the Child Protection Sub-Sector.

Logistics Sector

- The sector received 987 m³ of relief items into common storage on behalf of seven organisations. In total, 4,312 m³ of relief items are stored on behalf of 14 organisations in Madhuchara, Balukhali, Unchiprang, Tekaf and COVID-19 Special Hub in Cox’s Bazar district.
- In partnership with HI-Atlas, the Logistics Sector transported 3,441 m³ of relief items for 15 organisations, including UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, using 356 trucks.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS is currently providing data connectivity services to 196 users in 26 sites including e-voucher outlets, logistics hubs, Camp-in-Charge (CIC) offices and humanitarian hubs.
- ETS is coordinating the provision of critical data connectivity in 22 Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres and Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITC).

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (September - December 2020): USD 128 million.

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Additional Resources:
Previous WFP Rohingya Refugee Response reports
Previous Inter Sector Coordination Group reports