



WFP Bangladesh

Rohingya Refugee Response

External Situation Report #30

25 September 2019

Situation in Numbers (ISCG figures)

- Total Refugee Population: **911,556**
- Refugees arrived since 2017: **745,000**

WFP Food Assistance in Numbers (August):

842,100 refugees assisted through a combination of:

- **In-kind:** 422,631 refugees
- **E-voucher:** 419,469 refugees

Highlights:

- WFP continues to scale-up electronic voucher modality of food assistance to cover almost half of the refugee population, 419,000 individuals. WFP is also exploring the scope of using blockchain technology as an alternative service-delivery medium.
- In a joint venture, WFP and FAO planted 317,000 seedlings across 152 hectares of land contributing to environmental sustainability and disaster mitigation. WFP continues to engage with the inter-agency coordination group for cyclone preparedness and mitigation.
- WFP's rice-capping pilot revealed positive results on the dietary pattern and food consumption score on part of the beneficiaries (reveals the primary monitoring assessments). WFP plans to scale-up the pilot in three other camps by October.



WFP Funding Requirements

Budget 2019	Total Requirement	Total Received	Six months gap (September— February)
USD	286 M	269 M	17 M

✓ WFP Monthly Achievements (August)

- **Monsoon Emergency Rapid Response:** **35,170** refugees were assisted with high energy biscuits, one off in kind assistance and cooked meals.
- **School Feeding:** **244,467** children assisted in **2,683** learning centres in the camps and **139,234** in **488** host community schools.
- **Nutrition:** **23,909** pregnant and breastfeeding women and **184,358** children under five assisted in the camps; **3,841** pregnant and breastfeeding women and **5,548** children under five in the host community.
- **Supply Chain:** Total food distributed **7,439.081 mt.**

Situation Update

- In early September, Cox's Bazar experienced unusually heavy rainfall of 200-300 mm. More than 28,000 refugees were affected in a span of 72 hours. WFP promptly responded with high-energy biscuits and cooked meals to the displaced and affected families, maintaining a response time of six hours. WFP's engineering team was on the ground for immediate repair work and asset rehabilitation. On the request of the local government administration, WFP provided support to 800 host families displaced during rain and flooding.
- As part of monsoon preparedness, WFP continues distribution of plastic food drums used for safe storage of food items. So far 65,594 households (hhs) have received

these containers and WFP plans to reach 165,000 hhs by end of 2019. In addition, FAO has distributed 18,000 food drums in different camps.

- Dengue epidemic has raised huge concerns country-wide. In the last month, in Cox's Bazar 236 cases of dengue was reported, with 36 cases reported in the refugee camps.

Integrated food and nutrition assistance:

- WFP continued to assist majority of the refugee population with in-kind food items of rice, lentils and vegetable oil in 19 food distribution points. WFP will scale-up e-voucher assistance to provide greater access to diverse and more nutritious food items.
- Currently 11 e-voucher outlets (25 shops) managed by WFP contracted local retailers assist close to 50 percent of the refugee population. WFP plans to open additional three outlets (6 shops) by year-end which will bring more than 70 percent of the refugee population within this modality.
- As a pilot WFP set up a fresh vegetable corner in Jadimura e-voucher outlet, as an effort to provide fresh local farmer's produce at the shops. This has enhanced beneficiaries' shopping experience and increased the frequency of their visit to the shops. In the next month, WFP plans to scale it up in three more camps: Balukhali makeshift, Burmapara and Camp 13.
- Through the SAFE plus programme, 883,332 refugee and 23,589 people from host community have received liquified petroleum gas, a safer and environmentally friendly option of cooking fuel.
- In August, 993.826mt of nutritious supplementary food was distributed among beneficiaries in the camps and host community.
- WFP continues to run treatment and prevention services across 51 centres in the camps (28 integrated sites with prevention, treatment and outpatient therapeutic services) and 87 centres in host community.

School Feeding:

- WFP continues to engage students and parents in innovative learning sessions. One such literary awareness event was organized this month with 2,420 participants including 703 parents and 44 teachers.

Livelihood activities:

For refugees:

- WFP continues to engage 6,620 refugees across 24 skill centres in the camps in the second phase of the programme. By end of the year, 15,000 more participants will receive skills and micro-entrepreneurial related trainings.
- These training programme allows participants to engage in productive activities with longer-term benefits. This month, 1,613 refugees (facilitated by cooperating partner BRAC) received their completion certificate.

For the host community:

- The third phase of livelihood programme with 20,000 host community women is ongoing that provides participants with a cash grant to start their own business and life-skills training complemented with basic literacy and numeracy sessions. Participants are also encouraged to engage in group savings as an effort to invest their money in entrepreneurial venture. In the last year, through 816 self-help groups they have saved USD 453,000 in the banks.
- Some 14,000 participants from the livelihoods programme have been included in the SAFE plus programme. Through this initiative, liquified petroleum gas is provided to host community and refugees to encourage usage of safe cooking fuel. It also contributes to protection concerns, as often times people are prevented for venturing into unsafe places to collect firewood, which otherwise is the primary source for cooking in this region..

Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP):

- 1,849 workers were mobilized in the camps for heavy engineering and land-stabilization activities.
- SMEP continues to engage in repair and rehabilitation work as part of the preparedness for the forthcoming cyclone season. This month, access road to Uttaran hub, slope stabilisation in hill 11, 12 were some of the major activities undertaken.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- 111 calls were received related to food distribution, SCOPE card error, Assistance card issues. WFP addressed all the requests with relevant programme units.

Cross-cutting: Gender, Protection and Disability Inclusion

- WFP conducted focussed group discussions with pregnant and breast feeding women in 10 camps to identify reasons behind re-selling of super-cereals. This would help address major challenges faced by beneficiaries.
- WFP gender team is involved in designing a multi-agency project on using reusable sanitary napkin for Rohingya adolescents and women. This will improve menstrual hygiene management and mitigate risks associated with sexual and reproductive health.

- WFP disability advisor has trained 165 staff on disability inclusion from different units. A dedicated action plan has been developed mapping out approaches to and opportunities for disability inclusion across programmes.

Clusters and Common Services

Logistics Sector (LS):

- In August, LS handled 9,1506mt of cargo for 17 organizations.
- LS has initiated roads assessment exercise in the refugee camps to ascertain road conditions and accessibility. This will help to determine the most suitable routes for delivery of relief items and support with the traffic monitoring exercise.

Food Security Sector (FSS):

- FSS partakes in the livelihoods working group actively responsible for exploring newer avenues for livelihoods generation for population most in-need.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS):

- ETS participated in the inter-sector coordination group simulation exercise which aimed to test the effectiveness of the 72 hour cyclone response plan. Discussions centered around major challenges to communication during emergency and highlighted the importance of radio connectivity as a critical medium.
- WFP is planning to conduct an assessment with other UN agencies to identify connectivity gaps in the camps.

Major Donor Missions facilitated:

- USAID (US Ambassador to Bangladesh and USAID Deputy Mission Director, the HA Cell (including Marsha Michel) and US Holocaust Museum.
- Ambassador of Netherlands, delegation from ECHO and Canadian High Commission.

Contacts

- Richard Ragan, Country Director
- Peter Guest, Emergency Coordinator
- Baisali Mohanty, OIM and Reports Officer
- Ukhengching Marma, OIM and Reports Assistant