



WFP Bangladesh

Rohingya Refugee Response

External Situation Report #29

25 August 2019

Situation in Numbers (ISCG figures)

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

WFP Food Assistance in Numbers (July): WFP assisted a total of **838,400** refugees through a combination of:

- **In-kind:** 430,700 refugees and
- **E-voucher modalities:** 407,700 refugees

Highlights

- 25 August 2019 marked 2-year to the mass exodus, when over 745,000 refugees fled Myanmar to seek refuge in Cox's Bazar, bringing the total population in the camps to 911,000 (approximately). According to media [reports](#), there was a large-scale mass gathering of 200,000 refugees in the camps to observe this day.
- Since the beginning of the crisis, WFP has rapidly responded to the influx and since provided food and nutrition access to over a million refugees and host population, alongside facilitating essential shared services.
- In the month of July, WFP continued to assist over 838,400 refugees with a combination of in-kind food items (rice, lentils and oil) and through e-voucher modality, where an increased variety of food stocks was made available across 11 outlets (25 shops) in the camps.



WFP Funding Requirements

Budget 2019	Total Requirements	Total Received	Six-Month Requirement (August to January)
USD	286 M	269 M	17 M

✓ WFP Monthly Achievements (July)

- **Monsoon Emergency Rapid Response:** Over **12,184** refugees were assisted with high energy biscuits, one-off in kind ration and cooked meals.
- **School Feeding:** **247,334** children assisted in **3,672** learning centres in the camps and **139,057** in **486** host community schools.
- **Nutrition:** **24,500** pregnant and breastfeeding women and **184,200** children under five assisted in the camps; and **4,400** pregnant and breastfeeding women and **6,250** children under five in the host community.
- **Supply Chain:** **9,169 Metric Tonnes (mt)** of food was supplied.



Situation Update

Monsoon Impact on WFP operation:

- Since late June, due to the ongoing monsoon rain, few of WFP distribution sites and other programme locations sustained minor-to-major damages, with lasting impact on operational activities. In comparison to 2018, WFP was better prepared, owing particularly to effective preparedness measures undertaken. WFP managed to respond promptly with essential repair works of the affected infrastructure in a short time frame. A dedicated Engineering team was stationed at the Madhurchara Hub during the monsoon to respond promptly and effectively to weather incidents.
- WFP has distributed over 27,000 food containers (30 Litre capacity) to ensure safe storage of relief items distributed from damages due to the ongoing monsoon and impending cyclone season. In few camps, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) container distribution is also ongoing. WFP targets to reach **160,000 households** by end of 2019.

- **Contingency Stocks:** As part of food prepositioning for emergency preparedness, **43 mt** of high-energy biscuits (HEBs) are stored in **13** containers placed across strategic locations in the camp. This can potentially feed the entire refugee population for a week, should a major disaster hit Cox's Bazar.



Integrated food and nutrition assistance:

- In July, WFP assisted over **430,700** refugees (53 percent of the entire caseload) across **19** food distribution sites in the camps with in-kind food assistance (rice, pulses and vegetable oil). WFP started a pilot with 2,600 households in Shamlapur, of replacing the paper-based food card with the Assistance card to ease the distribution process. It will eventually be scaled up to four more camps. Through the e-voucher modality **407,700** refugees (the remaining 47 percent) were assisted in 11 outlets, managed by WFP contracted local retailers.
- WFP continues to make persistent efforts to reduce selling of any food items. In July, a rice-capping pilot in two e-voucher outlets was introduced i.e., capping the amount of rice on the voucher to 14.5 kgs per person/per month, which is more than the rice provided through in-kind food assistance. As primary monitoring reports suggest, rice capping has led to an improvement in food consumption and dietary diversity on the part of the beneficiaries.
- In the Jadimura e-voucher outlet, WFP initiated the concept of a "vegetable corner" designed to mirror the real-time local markets, aimed at increasing beneficiaries' interest and accessibility to the outlets. In the process, WFP will also engage Bangladeshi farmer cooperatives established by FAO and WFP as well as host community micro-entrepreneurs trained under the livelihoods programme.
- **Multi-wallet:** WFP's Assistance card (powered by SCOPE) is also being used for relief item distribution by other aid agencies, including soaps (by UNICEF) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas through SAFE project (with IOM). As of now, 167,300 refugees have received LPGs in ten IOM camp sites.
- Furthermore, UNHCR is engaged in a verification exercise to identify duplicates in the master database. WFP will gradually align its database (on SCOPE) with UNHCR's to enhance transparency in beneficiary data management processes.

- **Nutrition Assistance:** WFP continues to provide integrated nutrition assistance to over 184,200 children under five and 24,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women in 51 centres in the camps. Among these, 28 nutrition sites are integrated i.e., prevention and treatment services with the outpatient therapeutic programme is ongoing (for severely malnourished children) in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR.
- WFP continues to assist pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five with treatment services across 87 sites in the host areas.

School Feeding:

- WFP, in partnership with partners, organized tailored sensitization and health hygiene awareness sessions for children in 25 host community schools. Over **7,530** children participated in these sessions.
- WFP also ensures effective coordination and participation of parents with regular involvement in meetings with the teachers: **32** School Management Committee and **109** parent-teacher meeting were conducted in the month of July.

Livelihood activities (for the host community):

- WFP continues to engage over 20,000 Bangladeshis with livelihoods programmes, providing a monthly cash transfer of US\$ 12. During the month of July, the total monthly subsistence allowance distributed was 20,947,500 (BDT) or USD\$ 2,000.
- WFP, in partnership with World Vision, conducted a training on Chimney Dryer for 200 beneficiaries, a local technology for drying fish using solar and wind power. This would help participants engaged in fish cultivation to preserve fish for a longer duration.
- In the year 2020, WFP will target an additional 35,000 women (approximately) across host regions under its livelihoods programme.

Self-Reliance (for refugees):

- WFP continues to provide skill training sessions for 6,620 refugees across 24 skill centres in the camps. By end of 2019, WFP plans to engage **15,000** more participants.
- As part of the aquaculture project, seed distribution was completed for dike cropping in nine ponds inside the camp. WFP also distributed seedlings to 600 beneficiaries, with support from Action Aid. The vegetable gardening project has had significant impact on households access to fresh vegetable, thereby integrating their regular diets with more nutrient rich items.

Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP):

- As part of SMEP, WFP supported with daily assessments, managed critical infrastructure damage, repair and rehabilitation works across the camps mobilizing **700-800** refugee workers daily. Prioritization was given to monsoon damaged sites to continue emergency humanitarian support.
- WFP has commissioned design of the flood model version 2.0 which will help undertake mitigation measures for flood damages as well as manage the after-effects of such weather incidents.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

- In July, a total of **213 calls** (76 percent male and 24 percent female) were received on programmes operational in the camps. WFP continued to respond promptly and take steadfast actions to redress urgent concerns.

Gender and Protection:

- WFP observed the World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2019, remembering the colleagues who lost their lives

working for humanitarian causes. It marks the day when 22 UN colleagues were killed in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad. WFP also launched a photo book themed on “Women Humanitarian”. It featured several female aid workers from Cox’s Bazar, including from partners and other UN agencies, who shared their motivation behind working in the humanitarian sector.

- In July, WFP engaged in addressing **15** protection cases referred by IOM. Since January 2019, WFP has facilitated 15 focus group discussions designed to develop better understanding of several access challenges beneficiaries’ face.
- In the month of July, WFP facilitated 15 informant interview sessions focusing on effectiveness of information dissemination modalities; beneficiaries were questioned to gauge their understanding of different entitlements, including food and nutrition programmes.

Supply chain:

- WFP handled a total of 4,232 mt of food items, including 409 mt of HEBs to ensure uninterrupted service delivery across the camps and in the host community.

Clusters and Common Services:

Logistics Sector:

- During July, it handled a total of **3,600 m³** of cargo for 31 organizations.
- The six-month user satisfaction survey results revealed for common services, management and coordination the satisfaction rates were significantly higher i.e., at 87, 96 and 92 percent respectively.
- The sector also received twelve 20 ft containers for weatherproof storage which is available for six partners at strategic locations in the camp.
- Six temperature-controlled storage containers were positioned in Madhurchara hub for usage by partners, to be used for preserving medicines and essential aid items.

Food Security Sector:

- The sector is undertaking an in-depth joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessments, coordinated by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, with the aim to analyse the evolving needs and food security status of refugee and host population. The findings of this household level survey will serve as a basis for post-2019 strategic response planning. The Sector continues to partake in the Livelihoods Working Group in order to stimulate activities oriented towards improving self-reliance of the vulnerable communities.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector:

- Emergency preparedness and response plans are being drafted for expanding the Very High Frequency safety and security network throughout the camps.

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