



World Food Programme

WFP Bangladesh Situation Report #31

October 2019



837,910 people assisted

October 2019



Number of arrivals since the influx (August 2017)	745,000
Current Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar (including prior arrivals)	911,566
Population in the mega-camp (Kutupalong - Balukhali)	613,290
Arrivals since 2018	15,247

In Numbers

911,556 Rohingya refugees in camps

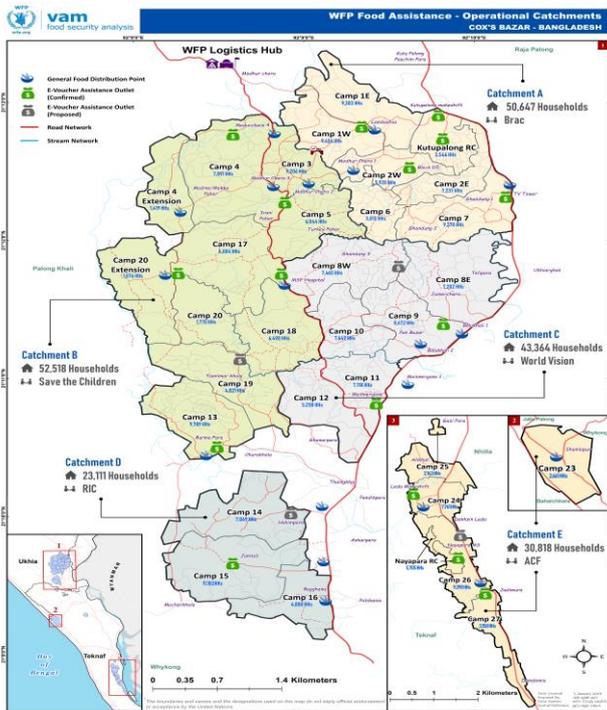
1,245,000 people in need

837,910 people assisted in October through a combination of:

- in-kind (**394,955 individuals**)
- e-voucher (**442,955 individuals**)

Highlights

- o To observe **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, WFP in Cox's Bazar launched a series of events to raise awareness and initiate action, involving beneficiaries and staff. Gender equality is key to ensuring food and nutrition security, hence raising awareness on any form of violence associated to gender identities is considered critical to meeting the sustainable development goals.
- o WFP worked to improve the sustainability and environmental impact of interventions, by replacing plastic shopping bags with paper bags at the e-voucher outlets.
- o In collaboration with cooperating partners, WFP started a display centre where weekly training sessions will be organized on handicrafts and other essential life-skills.



Situation Update

- **Cyclone Bulbul:** In early November, severe cyclonic storm Bulbul hit northern Bangladesh. The coastal areas (Cox's Bazar, Chittagong port) received heavy rainfall prior to landfall. WFP supported the affected 100 families with immediate relief (high energy biscuits and hot meals) as part its rapid response assistance.
- As per [media](#) reports, 122 Rohingya refugees were rescued from a sinking boat, as they fled to Malaysia. Through 2019, more than 500 Rohingya refugees have been subjected to illegal trafficking on the promise of a better life and work.

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- **Displacements in Rakhine State:** Over the last few weeks, 851 people in Kyaukme and Namhsan townships of Shan state were displaced by armed clashes between the Myanmar military and the ethnic armed group Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), according to the Department of Disaster Management of Myanmar.
- WFP plans to scale up the e-voucher assistance to reach the entire refugee population by mid-2020. To ensure beneficiaries have access to a real-time market environment, WFP is piloting the fresh fish, chicken and vegetable corner in two outlets. Depending on the initial response and impact on dietary diversity of the refugees, this would be scaled up across other e-outlets.

WFP Response

Emergency Preparedness:

- WFP has stocked up 525 mt of high energy biscuits in Cox's Bazar warehouses and 43.5 mt of other food items as part of the contingency planning for emergency distribution. This year, WFP has assisted 30,000 refugees and host community beneficiaries as part of the rapid response assistance.
- WFP plans to continuing rehabilitation of 40 cyclone shelters in 2020 as part of its regular risk mitigation activities. WFP also plans to revamp its programmes in food assistance for assets and disaster risk mitigation to reflect the emerging needs and contextual demands of the population in Cox's Bazar.
- In November, WFP continued to assist 226,000 children under five and pregnant and lactating women with malnutrition treatment and prevention services. At the same time, WFP assisted more than 9,500 women and children across 87 nutrition sites in the host areas. In addition, community volunteers and trainers regularly provided social and behaviour change communication training and specialized sessions on healthy eating habits, gender-based violence and other social issues.
- WFP SCOPE database realignment is undergoing with the UNHCR-Government registry. More than 200,000 beneficiary data is aligned. WFP in Cox's Bazar is supporting the South Sudan Country Office in identifying duplicates, this would support to save more than US\$ 600,000 spent on assisting this population.

Assessments:

- WFP completed its second post distribution monitoring (PDM) survey on rice capping results. Some key findings include the impact of purchasing behaviour (two times more fruits, animal products etc.) and the fewer adoptions of negative coping strategies.
- The Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) assessment was complemented in Cox's Bazar, which assessed gaps in nutrient intake. These finding will inform national policies and actions on nutrition among the vulnerable population. A key finding was that general food assistance reduces beneficiary expenditure on food supplies by more than 45 percent.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Through the general food assistance, WFP successfully reached 96 percent of its targeted population. WFP assisted 53 percent of the entire caseload through the 12 e-voucher assistance outlets. These outlets provided a wide variety of more than 20 different food items for the beneficiaries to choose from, including fresh fruits and vegetables, using the assistance card (powered by SCOPE).
- WFP continues to assist 20,000 participants with life-skills training to generate a sustained income and strengthen interfamilial relations. Reportedly, it has contributed to a significant increase in dietary diversity of the participants (almost 30 percent) alongside their decision-making capabilities and financial autonomy.
- WFP, in collaboration with IOM and FAO, continues to integrate participants of the livelihoods programme into the safe access to fuel and energy project, where liquified petroleum gas is provided to beneficiaries as a safe source of cooking fuel.
- Through this programme, women formed 816 self-help groups. Over a period of 12 months, USD 500,000 was saved across all these self-help groups.

Livelihood Programme

For Host Community:

- These savings provide the women with an opportunity to start their own business, earn an income and contribute to household financial decisions. WFP also provided vocational training and awareness sessions on nutrition, gender and healthy eating habits to strengthen the participants' community level decision-making capabilities.

- **In the refugee camps**, WFP continues to reach 8,000 participants in 23 centres through the self-reliance project. This includes a range of trainings such as embroidery, tailoring, repair and maintenance work. The third phase of the programme aims to diversify the range of activities focussed on different vulnerable groups including at-risk men, adolescents and women.

School Feeding Programme

- In the refugee camps, WFP assisted a total of 389,613 students with high energy biscuits across 4,240 learning centres.
- In the host community schools supported by the government, WFP supported 139,234 children with the high energy biscuits. In addition, WFP provided tailored literary training and awareness sessions, particularly to parents and other members of the community. In October, WFP organized more than 20 sessions across three sub-districts in Cox's Bazar (with 50 percent women participants).

Retail

- WFP is taking innovative retail-focused initiatives to improve service delivery across its programmatic interventions. This includes the introduction of paper bags in the assistance outlet (in Teknaf) and a vegetable and chicken/fish corner which will improve access to fresh items for the beneficiaries.

Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP)

- WFP, as part of SMEP (IOM and UNHCR as partners) has completed a helipad construction in camp 20 extension which would also be used for emergency evacuation. In addition, WFP stabilized and repaired 3,352 m³ of slopes and roads for safe relocation of populations under high-risk of landslides and flooding.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The food security sector continued to support 23 organizations in their food assistance to more than 879,100 individuals in the camps and Konarpara.
- In addition, the food security sector supported 178,905 individuals in the host communities which they coordinate.

Logistics Cluster

- In October, the logistics cluster handled 834 mt of cargo for eight different humanitarian organizations. This included food and non-food items to the affected population.
- The logistics cluster finalized the Joint Response Plan which identifies gaps and priorities for the next programme cycle. The final estimated budget to provide logistics support for the emergency operation remains at USD 1.4 million.

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