WFP Response

Life-saving Food and Nutrition Assistance

- During October, WFP assisted 673,800 refugees through in-kind GFA.
- 210,764 refugees through E-vouchers.

During October:
- 884,564 refugees received General Food Assistance (GFA)
- 673,800 refugees through in-kind GFA.
- 210,764 refugees through E-vouchers.

School Feeding: Rohingya refugees and host community (SF)

- During October, WFP expanded school feeding activities to 1,515 learning centres and reached 158,700 refugee children with locally produced micronutrient fortified biscuits. Some 64 teachers were provided with teachers training in the host community on how to provide better instructions in Bangla language to students. SF is ongoing across 557 learning centres and reaches out to 144,000 host community children.

Cyclone Preparedness and Risk Mitigation

- As a preparatory measure, food is being pre-positioned in Cox’s Bazar as a monthly revolving stock for rapid response, general food assistance, and/or school feeding programme. Rapid response food provision will include a week of High Energy Biscuit ration. GFA rations will be reprogrammed for hot meals and community kitchens, for/when people do not have access to cooking facilities or food storage.
- Furthermore, WFP has received support from the Office of U.S Foreign Disaster Assistance and is readily liaising with the Government, including the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), to ensure proper response mechanism for the ongoing cyclone season.

Photo: A refugee woman with an assistance card. ©WFP/Saikat Majumdar
Livelihood and Self Reliance Activities

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities: are being implemented through cash for work. WFP planted over 82,000 seedlings of trees for reforestation and landscape restoration, with technical guidance from FAO. WFP has also started rehabilitation work on 14 cyclone shelters in Teknaf, an area prone to cyclones. Discussions are being held to collaborate on joint DRR activities with UNHCR and UNWOMEN in the refugee camps.

Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN): The third phase of this livelihood activity for economically vulnerable local host community women is ongoing in Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-districts. WFP is working towards scaling up the programme to include women from Maheshkhali, Kutubdia and Pekua.

Self Reliance: Preparatory work with UNFPA is ongoing to include an additional livelihood and prevention of Gender Based Violence focused intervention for 2,000 women and girls. Monthly cash distributions of USD 12 has been disbursed.

SAFE: WFP with partners IOM and FAO, through its beneficiary and transfer management system, SCOPE, is providing cooking and stove fuel. During October, 11,899 families received the first refill of cooking and stove fuel/Liquified Petroleum Gas through SCOPE.

Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP)

• SMEP continues to repair, construct and pave roads, build bridges and culverts, implement site levelling and slope stabilisation works, as well as cleaning and strengthening of drainage channels in refugee settlements. During October, a joint meeting was held between SMEP and the Local Government Engineering Department to understand infrastructural development plans and to ensure local government support while implementing activities.

Supply Chain

• During October, WFP delivered more than 12,600 metric tones (mt) of commodities. Two mobile storage units with storage capacity of 800 mt have been installed at the transhipment point and function as the extended delivery point after the closure of Ukhiya hub.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

• The sector has coordinated the review of the 2018 Joint Response Plan and developed a priority list of activities for the last quarter of 2018. The sector is working with more than 30 partners on the JRP for 2019. In addition, the sector is also collaborating with the REACH team to undertake a Multi-sector Needs Assessment for the Host community and has incorporated Food Security Sector indicators in the survey tool.

Logistics Sector

• During October 4,502m$^3$ of cargo from 8 organisations was handled at the Madhuchara Logistics & Engineering Hub and the Teknaf Logistics Hub. A stock of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) is in store for rapid deployment following a cyclone event should the need arise. Furthermore, Standard Operating Procedures for preparing MSUs and storing relief items have been developed and shared with humanitarian organizations.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

• International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for ETS support for information hubs and will be supported with equipment and connectivity.

Resourcing Update

• WFP has received recent contributions from Denmark, USA-OFDA, USA FFP and UNCERF.

• WFP urgently needs more funds to continue life-saving assistance for Rohingya refugees and ensure continued services to affected host community.

Contacts

• Dipayan Bhattacharyya, Country Director, a.i Dipayan.bhattacharyya@wfp.org
• Peter Guest, Emergency Coordinator, peter.guest@wfp.org
• Seetashma Thapa, Operational Information Management/Reports Officer for Cox’ Bazaar Seetashma.thapa@wfp.org
• Ukhengching Marma, Reports Assistant, ukhengching.marma@wfp.org