



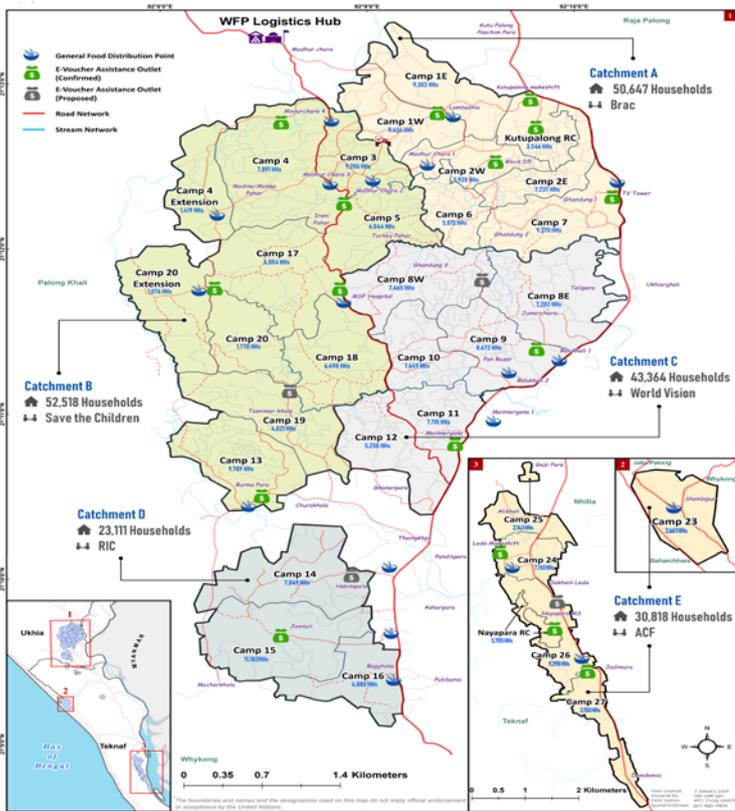
**WFP Bangladesh**  
**Rohingya Refugee Response**  
 Situation Report #32  
 November 2019



**846,000** people assisted  
 in November 2019



<b>Number of arrivals since the influx</b> (August 2017)	<b>745,000</b>
<b>Current Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar</b> (including prior arrivals)	<b>914,998</b>
<b>Population in the mega-camp</b> (Kutupalong - Balukhali)	<b>613,290</b>
<b>Arrivals since 2018</b>	<b>15,247</b>



**In Numbers<sup>1</sup>**

**913,000** refugees in the camps

**1,245,000** people in need

**846,000** people assisted in November 2019 through a combination of:

- in-kind (**396,000 people**)
- e-voucher (**450,000 people**)

**Highlights**

- o WFP Goodwill Ambassador, [Ms Heng Sabry](#), visited WFP operations in Cox's Bazar on 14 November to advocate for Rohingya Refugees. She also spoke further on her experiences in an [interview](#) with Radio Colours FM 101.6 in Bangladesh.
- o WFP submitted its appeal for the 2020 Joint Response Plan requesting US\$ 241 million targeting 158,000 host community members and 840,000 refugees. The Joint Response Plan 2020 is a one-year project document covering the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar.
- o WFP with partners celebrated the Nutrition Action Week (1-5 December) with the overall aim to provide refugee children with Vitamin A supplements. A total of 158,000 under-five children were reached in the refugee camps.

**Situation Update**

- **Discussion with Cox's Bazar District Commissioner on WFP's 2020 plans for host communities:** WFP held a meeting with District Commissioner to discuss, review and plan WFP's district development plans for 2020.
- **State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi defends Myanmar against genocide allegations:** On 11 December, Suu Ki led the Myanmar delegation to the Hague and defended allegations of genocide against the Myanmar Military at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Rohingya refugees [closely watched the ICJ hearing](#).

Photo: Vitamin A provision to children under 5 as part of the Nutrition Action Week. WFP/ Sayed Asif Mahmud

<sup>1</sup> Figures as per the 2019 Joint Response Plan For Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis ([2019 JRP](#))

- **COP 25:** Addressing a [discussion](#) at the COP25 conference, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated: "The presence of 1.1 million Rohingyas has caused an environmental and social havoc in an environmentally critical area, Cox's Bazar, with loss of forest, hills, biodiversity and local livelihood". Hasina further warned that the international community will have to collectively bear the liability for a failure to implement a plan to combat climate change.

## WFP Response

### Emergency Preparedness

- In collaboration with the Forest Department and FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN), WFP started reforestation activities across 1,240 hectares in Ramu, Teknaf, Ukhiya and Cox's Bazar sub-districts in the second week of December. The reforestation activities will continue in 2020.
- WFP continues to take proactive measures to enhance environmental sustainability by successfully planting more than 252,000 trees across 118 hectares in the camps.
- WFP continues to undertake targeted mitigation measures for the host communities through cyclone shelter rehabilitation. More than 40 shelters were rehabilitated in 2018 and an additional 40 are planned for 2020.
- For 2020, WFP is planning to expand its activities in Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities to reflect the emerging needs and contextual demands of the host and refugee populations in Cox's Bazar.

### Assessments

- Data collection is ongoing for a multi-sectoral market assessment in an attempt to comprehend the market system in Cox's Bazar, review the shifts in market settings since the refugee influx and assess the capacity of humanitarian agencies to meet forthcoming needs of both the refugee and host communities.
- Field Surveys are ongoing to update the [Rohingya Emergency Vulnerability Assessment \(REVA\) II](#).

## Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In November, WFP assisted over 846,000 refugees through either the in-kind food assistance modality (47%), or the e-voucher modality (53%). Assistance was channelled through 17 in-kind food distribution sites and 12 e-voucher outlets across the camps.
- WFP plans to transition the entire population to the e-voucher modality in 2020, where they have the freedom to choose among a wider variety of more than 20 food items including fresh vegetable and fruits, live and dried fish as well as chicken.
- WFP launches the Farmers' Market pilot project that aims to provide a more natural and familiar shopping experience to the refugees. The Farmers' Market aims to directly link smallholder producers, micro-retailers, and small-scale aggregators from the host communities with WFP's food assistance intervention in the camps.
- WFP continues to assist more than 300,000 children under 5 and pregnant & lactating women from the refugee and host communities with malnutrition treatment and prevention services.

## Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

### Livelihoods activities for host communities

- The third phase of the EFSN project will come to an end in early 2020 and participants selection is ongoing for phase IV, expected to target an additional 25,000 women.
- WFP initiated discussions with smallholder farmers participating in the livelihoods programme to connect them to the WFP Farmers' Market pilot project.
- WFP, in collaboration with IOM and FAO, continues to integrate participants of the livelihoods programme into the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus (SAFE Plus) project, where Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is provided to refugee and host community members as a safe source of cooking fuel, while simultaneously contributing to reforestation activities. More than 14,000 individuals received LPG during the third phase of the project.

## Self-reliance activities for Rohingya Refugees

- WFP successfully completed the second phase of the project, reaching 8,000 refugees throughout 23 training centres across the camps.
- WFP piloted the third phase of the project in collaboration with the cooperating partners BRAC and Action Aid Bangladesh (AAD), targeting an additional 20,000 refugees.
- Currently, BRAC is doing the beneficiary selection. So far, around 10,000 beneficiaries out of 20,000 have been selected for the third phase of the project.
- Regular Skills Development training: Action Aid Bangladesh (AAB) is conducting regular skills development training sessions for 300 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are receiving training on tailoring (170 participants), embroidery and block printing (80 participants), and repair and maintenance of sewing machines and gas burners (50 participants).

## School Feeding

### In the host communities

- WFP continues to provide High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to 140,000 children in 488 schools daily in five subdistricts in Cox's Bazar (Ukhiya, Teknaf, Pekua, Kutubdia and Moheshkali).
- As part of the McGovern Dole funded project, students recognition events were organized in 58 schools in Ukhiya, where 336 students (Girls: 205, Boys: 131) were recognized for their academic and extra-curricular activities.

### In the refugee camps

- HEB distribution is ongoing in 3,872 learning centres across the camps benefitting 257,000 refugee children.

## Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP)

- "Take Care Children" pilot project for Women workers has started in Camp 20 Extension to facilitate and improve women's participation in the SMEP activities by ensuring safe care and feeding of their young children.

## Supply Chain

- Almost 16,000 MT of food and nutrition items were distributed to the refugees in the camps.

## Cross-Cutting

### Gender and Protection

- WFP Cox's Bazar Office celebrated the 16 Days of Activism (25 November to 10 December) with a series of events including various group discussions, cultural and gender inclusive events involving beneficiaries (from the host and refugee communities) and WFP staff. The focus of the event was integrating gender approaches in all aspects of everyday life. The 16 Days of Activism closed with the celebration of the Human Rights Day.

## Clusters and Common Services

### Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS continued to support 23 organizations in their food security assistance to more than 879,000 individuals in the camps, and 179,000 individuals in the host communities.
- WFP launched a survey to manage engagement of partners that are currently implementing cash-for-work activities in the refugee and host communities.

### Logistics Sector (LS)

- As of 30 November, from the start of operation, the LS handled 11,326 MT of cargo for 34 humanitarian organizations. This included food and non-food items to the affected population.
- A Warehouse Location Map including all reported private and public warehouses of the different organisations has been published on the LS Bangladesh [website](#).
- A total of 90 km roads inside the camps have been assessed by the team for the road assessment. The final product of the road assessment will benefit partners with mapping and planning.

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