



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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Bangladesh

Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2021

Cox's Bazar is one of the poorest and most vulnerable districts in Bangladesh, with development indicators that are far below the national average. Host to nearly 900 000 Rohingya refugees, the district faces immense pressure on public services and the environment.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security Sector to:

- Enhance livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable host communities and support social protection interventions.
- Strengthen sustainable natural resource management.
- Strengthen the self-reliance of Rohingya refugees to improve household nutrition and develop transferable skills.

Activities



Support livelihoods to enhance food security and nutrition

farmers' group production support | market linkages | improved production systems and technologies | conservation agriculture | livestock inputs and training | environmentally sound homestead vegetable production and training



Environmental rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction

landslide and flash flood mitigation measures | ecosystem-based farming systems | nursery establishment | reforestation | water management and conservation | cash-for-work | capacity building for resource management | ecotourism development



to assist
60 000 people



FAO requires
USD 7.2 million



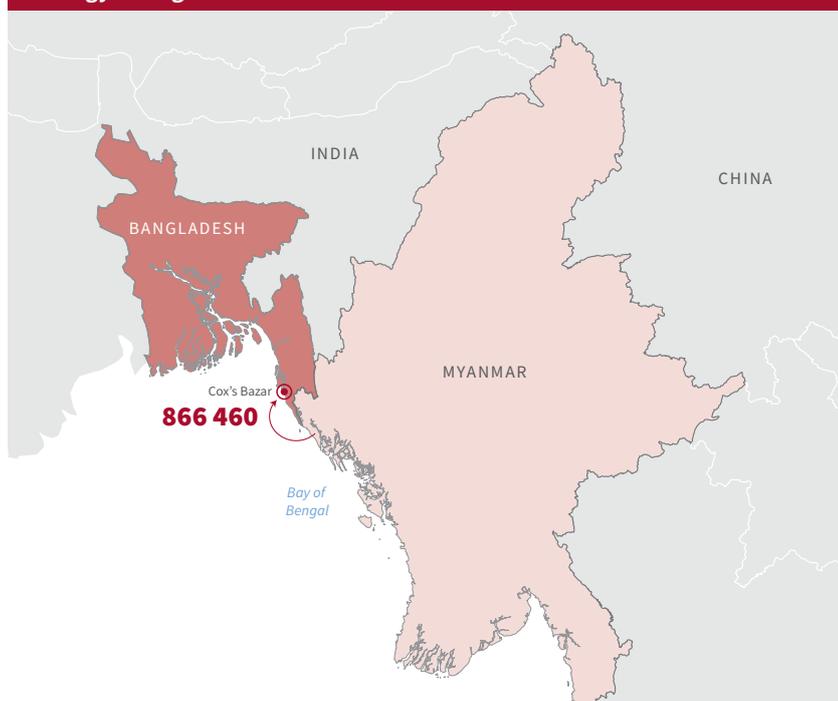
period
January–December 2021

Addressing the food security and livelihood needs of both refugees and host communities will require strengthening food systems, localizing production, enhancing market linkages and strengthening sustainable natural resource management.



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Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar



Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2012. *Southeast Asia map* [online]. [Cited 17 February 2021]. www.un.org/geospatial/content/southeast-asia modified to include data from the Joint Government of Bangladesh / UNHCR Population factsheet of 31 December 2020.

Situation analysis



1.2 million people
food insecure



866 460 Rohingya refugees
residing in camps



93% of households reporting
diminished income due to the
impact of COVID-19

Impact on food security

The already dire conditions of Cox's Bazar, where hundreds of thousands of refugees live in extremely congested camps, have been aggravated by the economic impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Supply chain disruptions and essential health-related movement restrictions have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, leading to the increased cost of inputs that farming, fishing and livestock-raising households – both refugees and hosts – need to keep their livelihoods intact. More than 1.2 million people (of the district's population of 2.65 million) are food insecure.

In addition to shaking the economy, the effects of the pandemic have increased social tension among refugees and host communities, as both vie for severely limited employment opportunities and access to resources.

Households dependent on agriculture need support to increase their production and incomes in a way that is tailored to their specific livelihood – i.e. crop and vegetable production, fisheries, and livestock production. Farming households require high-quality inputs, enhanced irrigation

facilities and improved agro-machinery to reduce production costs. Livestock owners need to build their knowledge on sustainable livestock management and care. Fishing households must be trained on improved aquaculture (or sea safety practices, as applicable) and be provided with a sufficient supply of fish fry and feed. Linkages must be fostered between community groups and the rapidly growing markets to identify gaps and weaknesses in the existing crop, fisheries and livestock supply chains.

The district's increased population, due to the influx of refugees, has created a massive demand for fuel wood, in turn putting severe pressure on local natural resources, services and existing infrastructure. Thousands of hectares of land have been degraded, posing an enormous threat to entire ecosystems. Support is needed to restore degraded lands, mitigate the risk of disasters like flooding and landslides, improve watershed management to conserve ecosystems and ensure sustainable production.

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