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WFP in Cox's Bazar | Information Booklet

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMMES, INNOVATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, SECTORS AND
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Photos: WFP/Nihab Rahman

July 2021



This Operational Report is based on best available information at the time of production.
Future updates may vary as new information becomes available.

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Emergency Response in the Rohingya Refugee Camps

CONTEXT

By end-June 2021, there were over 878,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This includes almost 600,000 in the Kutupalong megacamp, the largest refugee camp in the world, and over 18,000 on Bhasan Char island. The COVID-19 pandemic created a double-layered crisis and heightened vulnerabilities among refugees with 96 percent being reported as moderately and highly vulnerable by end-2020. As evidenced by the major January and March fires in Teknaf and Ukhiya megacamps respectively, ensuring refugees' safety and wellbeing remains a serious challenge with population density reaching 60,000 persons per km² (REVA-IV, 2021).

WFP RESPONSE

Since the start of the crisis in August 2017, WFP has provided food assistance to the camp population, and nutrition services to women and children. This is complemented with life-skills training, disaster risk reduction activities and common engineering services. WFP also facilitates essential shared logistics and emergency telecommunication services and co-leads the Food Security Sector. WFP adapted its programmes to adhere to evolving COVID-19 restrictions, while ensuring lifesaving interventions continue.

2021 Q2 IN NUMBERS

863,000 refugees supported monthly



100 percent of food assistance provided via e-vouchers



200,000 women and children reached with nutrition services



200 women and men engaged in self-reliance activities

FFA

34,500 people engaged in food assistance for assets



184,000 households reached with fortified biscuits



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Interventions in the Host Community

CONTEXT

Cox's Bazar, situated in Bangladesh's southern "cyclone belt", is one of the country's most underdeveloped regions. The COVID-19 pandemic hit the local economy with 51 percent of the host community population reported as moderately or highly vulnerable in 2020, up from 41 percent in 2019. This increase can be attributed to the economic contractions experienced during COVID-19 lockdowns, which led to a decline in economic activity, especially in the informal sector, which absorbs most of the host community labour force ([REVA-IV, 2021](#)).

WFP RESPONSE

WFP supports host community populations through long-term interventions, including nutrition assistance at community clinics, school feeding, livelihoods programmes specifically targeting vulnerable women, and disaster risk reduction activities. In 2021 WFP has expanded its aggregation centres in the host community, which link local farmers, including WFP livelihood beneficiaries and FAO farmers' groups, to fresh food corners in the refugee camps and competitive markets. WFP is also continuing to conduct door-to-door micronutrient fortified biscuit distributions while schools remain closed.

Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

2021 Q2 IN NUMBERS

295,000 members of the host community supported monthly



12,000 women and children reached with nutrition services



45,000 women engaged in livelihoods programme



23 produce aggregation centres established

FFA

250 people engaged in food assistance for assets



109,000+ students reached with fortified biscuits

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General Food Assistance

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > Food assistance delivered to all Rohingya refugees across **34** camps every month
- > **100%** of GFA through e-vouchers with **97%** of transactions through Building Blocks
- > **21** e-voucher outlets and **16** Fresh Food Corners
- > Voucher value increased from **US\$ 11 to 12** to allow beneficiaries to access the same quantity of food as before

OVERVIEW

WFP delivers food assistance to the entire refugee population every month. With the full transition to the e-voucher modality now complete, all beneficiaries receive an electronic voucher to be redeemed across WFP assistance outlets every month.

WFP rapid response ensures efficient emergency intervention. At the onset of any crisis, affected populations immediately receive a six-day ration of micronutrient fortified biscuits. Affected households are then provided with hot meals and/or one-off in-kind basket until they can be re-integrated into the regular e-voucher food assistance programme.

OBJECTIVES

- **Ensure all Rohingya refugees receive a minimum of 2,100 calories of nutritious food** to meet their daily dietary needs.
- **Enhance transparency and accountability** through digital systems (Building Blocks and SCOPE) and complaints and feedback mechanisms.
- **Allow choice and dignity** by providing assistance through e-vouchers which give people greater freedom to select from a range of food items at a time convenient to them.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP delivered food assistance to the entire refugee population every month under e-voucher modality whereby families can purchase over 24 (fixed and flexible) food items at 21 outlets.
- Building Blocks, WFP's Building Blocks, a shared humanitarian platform for coordinated assistance delivery, is used by WFP in 19 out of 21 e-voucher outlets and operational in all 16 Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). By end-June 97 percent of the total refugee population were served under this system.
- Through the 16 operational fresh food corners, WFP made up to 27 locally produced vegetables available for refugees every month. The most vulnerable refugee households (30 percent of the total caseload) received a top up of US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through FFC purchases.
- Live fish and chicken were re-introduced in 13 FFCs.

THE WAY FORWARD

- WFP will establish additional e-voucher outlets to minimize the distance beneficiaries must travel to access food assistance.
- WFP will expand FFCs to all remaining e-voucher outlets.
- Live chicken and fish will be added to the three FFCs that do not yet offer them.

Social Cohesion and Localization of Food Assistance: Fresh Food Corners

HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- › 16 fresh food corners operating at e-voucher outlets with more than 20 fresh food items available to refugees
- › More than 45,000 most vulnerable refugee households (over 161,000 individuals) were provided with e-voucher top-up of US\$ 3 every month for improved access to nutritious and protein-rich food items

OVERVIEW

WFP continues to support refugees with monthly food assistance, however, the dietary diversity and nutritious food access among the most vulnerable remains poor. Low-income households are highly disadvantaged by ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in the camps, especially within child-, women- or older person-headed households, and those with a family member with a disability, since they have limited access to income opportunities. This prompts the adoption of negative coping strategies, such as reselling assistance, borrowing money and buying food on credit.

Meanwhile, findings from the Refugee Emergency Vulnerability Assessment ([REVA-IV](#)) conducted in late 2020 indicate that 64 percent of refugee households' external purchases are food items, 35 percent of which are fish, vegetables and meat/eggs. Similar findings in previous years prompted WFP to introduce Fresh Food Corners at its e-voucher outlets to provide the most vulnerable households with direct access to healthy fresh foods.

Since then, WFP has been facilitating linkages between its contracted camp retailers and livelihoods programme participants, together with FAO farmers groups, other smallholder producers and petty traders in the host community.

The most vulnerable refugee households receive a monthly top-up of US\$ 3 per individual, which can be redeemed at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). Moreover, FFCs are accessible to all refugees, providing households with the choice to redeem a portion of their US\$ 12 entitlement on fresh fruits and vegetables, live chicken and fish.

OBJECTIVES

- **Improve dietary diversity** among the most vulnerable households, especially through protein-rich items. Households are targeted based on four criteria: child-headed (up to 17 years); women-headed; elderly-headed (60 years and above), and households with persons with disabilities.
- **Strengthen market linkages between camps and host community.** Most food items will be locally purchased or produced to improve social cohesion by increasing economic opportunities and agricultural production in host communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- Live fish and chicken were reintroduced to 13 fresh food corners.
- 2,098 livelihoods programme participants from the host community sold their products to fresh food corners in the camps. This includes 940 women who used WFP's Farm2Go application. An additional 210 FAO farmers were also engaged and sold 8,000 kg worth of fresh vegetables.

THE WAY FORWARD

- By August, WFP will scale up FFCs to cover 100 percent of Rohingya refugees. WFP will continue to re-introduce live chicken and fish in FFCs not yet offering these items.
- With partner support, WFP is aiming to link FFC retailers with all 33 WFP and FAO aggregation centres in Cox's Bazar.
- Aggregation Centre committees run by WFP livelihoods beneficiaries will receive capacity strengthening on farming skills, including year-long production, and record-keeping.

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Integrated Nutrition Assistance in the Camps HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL—JUNE 2021)

- > 200,000 women and children supported each month at 45 Integrated Nutrition Centres
- > 15,000 children were referred to the nutrition treatment programme every month. A total of 2,600 were new admissions.

OVERVIEW

To address malnutrition in the camps, WFP offers prevention and treatment services to children and pregnant and nursing mothers.

- **Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme:** As part of the prevention programme, children between 6 and 59 months receive Super Cereal Plus (WSB++) while pregnant and nursing mothers receive Super Cereal (WSB+).
- **Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme:** In the treatment programme, children under 5 identified as moderately undernourished receive monthly rations of Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) while malnourished pregnant and nursing mothers receive Super Cereal (WSB+).

WFP also provides nutrition counselling and communication to promote the consumption of nutritious food, especially for women and children.

WFP is in the process of phasing out the BSFP for children over 2 years old. To ensure continued growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) and mitigate risks, WFP is providing a \$3 monthly e-voucher top-up per child on

- **Active case finding:** WFP engages community outreach volunteers to screen and identify malnourished women and children who are then referred to the nearest nutrition centre. Beneficiaries who require regular assistance are closely followed and supported through home visits. During the last trimester, pregnant women receive services at home. WFP is also providing training to caregivers on how to screen children for malnutrition and self-refer them to nutrition sites.
- **Promoting an inclusive approach:** Services are tailored to ensure everyone can participate. For instance, breastfeeding corners at nutrition sites provide safety and privacy for mothers and spur them to come to the facilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS (2021 Q2)

- WFP continued to provide nutrition services, ensuring the safety of staff and beneficiaries. WFP distributed 1,000 mt of nutrition supplements every month.
- WFP continued its US\$ 3 e-voucher pilot for children between the ages of 3 and 5. The pilot reached an average of 2,000 children per month in Q2.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1067

