

# JAM Cox's Bazar 2021

UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Mission Report  
Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, July 2021

## Contents

List of tables .....	4
List of figures.....	4
ACRONYMS.....	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	7
Summary findings and recommendations of the 2021 JAM .....	8
1. CONTEXT .....	12
1.1. Description of population and operational context .....	12
1.2. Coordination mechanisms .....	13
1.3. Major developments: 2019-2021 .....	13
1.3.1 COVID-19 outbreak .....	13
1.3.2. Fire outbreak incident.....	14
2. INTRODUCTION TO JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION (JAM) .....	15
Key achievements since 2019 JAM.....	15
2.1. Specific objectives of Joint Assessment Mission (JAM).....	15
2.2. Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) methodology .....	16
2.3. Limitations .....	16
3. MAIN FINDINGS .....	17
3.1. Food security and socio-economic status .....	17
3.1.1. Status of food assistance.....	17
3.1.2. Beneficiary perceptions on food assistance .....	17
3.1.3. Vulnerability and coping strategies.....	18
3.1.4. Household food consumption patterns and dietary diversity .....	19
3.1.5. Recommendations .....	20
3.2. Nutrition status and underlying causes.....	21
3.2.1. Nutritional status of refugee population .....	21
3.2.2. Causes of malnutrition .....	22
3.2.3. Quality and coverage of nutrition programmes .....	23
3.2.4. Integration of nutrition sites .....	24
3.2.5. Nutrition programme coverage .....	24
3.2.6. Programme modifications due to COVID-19 .....	25
3.2.7. Coordination, capacity building and information management.....	25
3.2.8. E-voucher pilot project for BSFP and beneficiary perspectives .....	26
3.2.9. Recommendations .....	26
3.3. Self-reliance .....	26
3.3.1. Refugee skills, capacities, and potential for self-reliance .....	26

3.3.2. Current self-reliance opportunities for refugees .....	28
3.3.3. Refugees' perceptions on self-reliance programmes.....	28
3.2.4. Recommendations .....	29
3.4. Cash-based interventions/transfers (CBI/CBT) .....	29
3.4.1. Institutional background and advocacy requirements .....	29
3.4.2. Minimum expenditure basket (MEB), market assessments and evidence base .....	29
3.4.3. Procurement of Financial Service Provider (FSP) .....	30
3.4.4. Recommendations .....	30
3.5. Energy and environment .....	31
3.5.1. The impact of the refugee influx and the "greening" concept .....	31
3.5.2. LPG cooking fuel programme and pressure cooker pilot. ....	31
3.5.3. Other environmental rehabilitation components.....	33
3.5.4. Recommendations .....	33
3.6. Access to basic services .....	34
3.6.1. Health.....	34
3.6.2. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).....	35
3.6.4. Education and school feeding .....	36
3.7. Protection and accountability mechanisms.....	37
3.7.1. Key protection issues .....	37
3.7.2. Complaints feedback and response mechanisms .....	39
3.8. Data and system inter-operability.....	40
3.8.1. Data sharing agreements and interoperability solutions .....	40
3.8.3. Recommendations .....	41
3.9. Needs-based targeting and prioritisation .....	41
3.9.1. Progress and challenges.....	41
Recommendations.....	42
3.10. Host communities and social cohesion .....	43
3.10.1. Impact of refugee influx on the host community .....	43
3.10.2. Host community supported programmes.....	43
3.10.3. Opportunities for further collaboration between refugee and host population in food and non-food needs and social cohesion.....	44
3.11. Monitoring systems and joint assessments .....	45
LIST OF REFERENCES.....	46
ANNEX 1 Terms of Reference for Joint Assessment Mission (JAM)- Cox's Bazar 2021.....	48
ANNEX 2: PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION TOOLS .....	57
Guide for focus group discussions with refugees .....	57
Guide for key informant interviews with partners and sector coordinators.....	58

## List of tables

Table 1: Package of nutrition interventions in Cox's Bazar refugee camps.....	32
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## List of figures

Figure 1. Refugee population .....	12
Figure 2. Proportion of households below MEB with/without food assistance.. .....	19
Figure 3. Trend in food consumption score: 2017-2020 .....	20
Figure 4. Food expenditures break down for refugees based on REVA-4 .....	20
Figure 5 Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among refugee children (6-59 months) .....	21
Figure 6 Prevalence of stunting among refugee children (6-59 months).....	22
Figure 7 Prevalence of anaemia among refugee children (6-59 months).....	22
Table 1: Package of nutrition interventions in Cox's Bazar refugee camps.....	23
Figure 8. Sources of income for refugee households. Source: REVA 3. ....	28
Figure 9. Most vulnerable refugees according to REVA 2 FGDs and their proportion in the camps. ....	<b>Error!</b>

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## ACRONYMS

ANC	Antenatal care
API	Application Programme Interface
BB	Building Blocks
BDT	Bangladesh Taka
BIMS	Biometrics Identity Management System
BSFP	Blanket supplementary feeding programme
CBI	Cash-based intervention
CFRM	Complaints feedback and response mechanism
CIC	Camp-in-Charge
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
EETWG	Energy and environment technical working group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDMN	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
FGD	Focus group discussion
FSP	Financial services provider
FSTP	Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender-based violence
GNC	Global Nutrition Cluster
GTAM	Global Technical Assistance Mechanism
HEB	High energy biscuits
ICT	Information and communication technology
IEC	Information, education, and communication
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
iRHIS	Integrated Refugee Health Information System
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JAM	Joint Assessment Mission
J-MSNA	Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
JPA	Joint Plan of Action
LCSI	Livelihood-based coping strategy indicator
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUAC	Mid-upper arm circumference
NCA	Nutrition Causal Analysis
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic care Programme
PDM	Post-distribution monitoring
PNC	Post-natal care
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
rCSI	Reduced coping strategy index
REVA	Refugee influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment
RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner

RUSF	Ready-to-use supplementary food
RUTF	Ready-to-use therapeutic food
SAFE	Safe access to fuel and energy
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SC	Stabilisation centre
SEA	Sexual exploitation and abuse
SEG	Strategic Executive Group
SENS	Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Programme
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment for Relief and Transitions
SOP	Standard operating procedure
TOR	Terms of reference
TSFP	Targeted supplementary feeding programme
TWG	Transfer Working Group
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollars
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSB	Wheat Soya Blend

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This partnership ensured that all relevant secondary data was provided, and technical discussions and interviews were able to take place as planned. A special mention goes to the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), who gave authority for the assessment and primary data collection to take place in the refugee camps under strict prevention measures considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country, including the camps.

UNHCR and WFP JAM team appreciates the refugee leaders, youth, men, and women who took part in key informant interviews and focus group discussions which provided important insight in terms of understanding the overall situation of refugees.

## JAM 2021 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) 2021 for Cox's Bazar Rohingya refugee operation was conducted between April and July 2021, two years after the first Cox's Bazar JAM (2019). With a general objective of reviewing the areas of cooperation outlined in the UNHCR/WFP Memorandum of Understanding (2011), this JAM aims to review the food security and nutritional situation of the Rohingya refugee population established in Ukhia and Teknaf megacamp, including the evaluation of the adequacy of WFP and UNHCR programmes, and the identification of appropriate interventions. An internal evaluation of the 2019 Joint Plan of Action informed the specific objectives of this JAM 2021. The methodology comprised secondary data review, primary qualitative data collection and joint strategic discussions between UNHCR and WFP on the different thematic areas of cooperation.

### Summary findings and recommendations of the 2021 JAM

#### Food security and socio-economic status

Between 2019 and 2020, vulnerability and food security indicators deteriorated, partly attributed to the COVID 19 related restrictions. By November 2020, 96 percent of refugee households were moderately to highly vulnerable and 58 percent had unacceptable food consumption, which confirmed the need of continuing blanket food assistance. The e-voucher modality scaled up from 65 percent in 2019 to all refugees in 2021, who can redeem their vouchers in 21 outlets, including 16 fresh food corners. Although WFP tops-up the e-voucher of the most vulnerable with an additional 3USD per month, 49 percent of households were not able to cover the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and in 63 percent of households monthly food rations did not last till next distribution cycle, mainly due to the limited portion size. In this situation, the persistence of refugees selling part of their food assistance, although reduced from 53 to 32 percent between 2019 and 2020, reflects refugees' need of additional assistance to cover their basic needs. Refugees, especially the most vulnerable, expressed their preference for cash assistance in addition to e-vouchers to cover other needs.

Recommendations include the revision of the e-voucher value considering the future updated MEB; the continuation of the expansion plan for e-vouchers outlets and fresh food corners; the increase in household's ability to cover basic needs by scaling up self-reliance programmes and exploring feasible assistance alternatives, as well as sensitization to optimize the use of assistance provided and generation of further evidence on food needs coverage at individual level.

#### Nutrition status and underlying causes

Although the nutrition status of children under five years has improved since 2017, malnutrition levels remain high. Overall global acute malnutrition (GAM) significantly reduced from 18.2 to 11.4 percent in 2020, but it is in the "high" category, while stunting prevalence (34.1 percent) continues in the "very high" category. The prevalence of anaemia among children 6-23 months (55 percent)

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