

WFP Bangladesh

Rohingya Refugee Response

Situation Report #54

September 2021



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In Numbers

869,000 Rohingya refugees assisted

165,425 Bangladeshis supported in the host community

Highlights

On 9 September, most restrictions in the camps were lifted, and UN agencies and partners have since been permitted to host trainings with up to 15 people following COVID-19 protocols.

Under Self-Reliance, WFP launched its new disability and age inclusion project targeting 300 refugees.

Primary and secondary schools [reopened](#) on 12 September, enabling WFP to resume on-site biscuit distributions in the host community.

In the camps, learning centres began [reopening](#) on 22 September. WFP distributed fortified biscuits to refugee students door-to-door as it prepared to resume learning centre distributions from October.

WFP continued its one-time cash distribution to around 100,000 of the most vulnerable Bangladeshi households in Cox's Bazar district. This Special Support for Host Communities programme is assisting households most severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis and supports the Government's overall pandemic response.

Situation Update

- On 29 September, prominent Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah was [killed](#) at his office in Kutupalong megacamp. The next day (30 September), hundreds of refugees gathered in mourning. Ullah's death was widely condemned, and several men have been arrested in connection with his death.
- The second round of COVID-19 vaccinations for refugees 55 years and older took place from 18 to 23 September. The campaign vaccinated 77 percent of refugees in that age group in Ukhiya and Teknaf. As of 26 September, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) reported 17,311 positive COVID-19 cases in the host community and 3,084 cases in the camps.
- [Landslides, wind and other hazards](#) affected 1,733 Rohingya in the camps, including 66 people affected by minor fires.

- Building Blocks, a blockchain-based platform for inter-agency coordination and online entitlement delivery, was operational in all FFCs and e-voucher outlets serving non-registered refugees.

Nutrition Assistance

- In the refugee camps, WFP provided malnutrition prevention and treatment services to 38,500 pregnant and lactating women and 158,900 children under 5.
- In the host community, WFP provided malnutrition treatment services to 4,850 pregnant and lactating women and 6,350 children under 5.
- As part of the ongoing nutrition e-voucher pilot, refugee households could redeem US\$ 3 per child per month at e-voucher outlets in selected camps. In September, 17,540 children between the ages of 3 and 5 were supported under this initiative.

WFP Response

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP assisted 869,000¹ Rohingya refugees with food assistance through the 22 operational e-voucher outlets. The most vulnerable 49,500 households received an additional US\$ 3 to increase their dietary diversity through food purchases at Fresh Food Corners.
- Refugees could purchase up to 24 food items at e-voucher outlets and up to 20 items at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). US\$ 11.3 million worth of food² was sold by 12 WFP-contracted Bangladeshi retailers.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- WFP engaged 3,290 refugees in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. To improve access around the camps, WFP constructed/rehabilitated 1.8 km of drains, 357 m of pedestrian pathways and 574 m² of stairs. To mitigate the effects of the monsoon, WFP constructed 363 m of brick guide walls, cleaned 41.9 km of drains, stabilized 368 m² of slopes and maintained 385,700 tree seedlings.
- WFP engaged 2,150 host community members to improve 43 cyclone shelter access in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia.

¹Latest UNHCR population figures indicate 903,000 refugees; WFP food assistance reached 869,000 beneficiaries due to relocations and absentee households

²Also includes top-ups from the nutrition cash pilot and the Strengthening Community Resilience programme.

WFP Response Continued

Strengthening Community Resilience in the Camps³

- WFP trained 2,970 Rohingya in volunteer services and 3,500 refugees in skills development.
- WFP assisted 177,700 of the most vulnerable Rohingya individuals with conditional food assistance transfers at Fresh Food Corners, including 7,090 people with disabilities.
- WFP conducted environmental and social safeguards screenings of 11 community service and community workfare sites to ensure activities do not have adverse impacts on ecosystems and communities.

Self-Reliance Programme in the Camps

- With the end of most camp restrictions, beneficiary training restarted on tailoring, handicrafts, snack-making, cooking, sewing, and solar panel and gas burner repair.
- WFP engaged 9,610 women and 1,100 men in self-reliance activities in September, including 488 people with disabilities.
- WFP provided regular/specialized agricultural inputs to 10,100 participants and 101 participants produced 52,810 masks. A further 53 engaged in Communications with Communities (CWC) activities and 85 in recycling. At the recycling centres, 28,700 packets and bottles were collected and cleaned, and 308 new handicraft products created.

Livelihoods Programme in the Host Community

- Participants from 1,730 self-help groups saved more than US\$ 54,700 in group activities in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia. Vegetables worth over US\$ 184,000 were sold via 23 aggregation centres.
- WFP trained 11,255 women on disaster risk reduction in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- All 500 participants in the climate adaptive agriculture project in Teknaf (406 women, 94 men) received training on salt-tolerant plant cultivation and winter crops.

School Feeding

- From September, households no longer picked up fortified biscuits from e-voucher outlets. All refugee children were transitioned to the door-to-door biscuit distribution modality and 302,600 children were reached based on the UNHCR learner list.
- With the nationwide resumption of in-person learning, WFP reached 52,600 host community children with 67 mt of fortified biscuits at school. Each child received one packet of biscuits per day. WFP also reached 66,900 students in Ukhiya, Teknaf and Kutubdia with hygiene kits. Over 2,000 'Little Doctors' were trained to support public health initiatives in their schools.
- WFP partner, Room to Read Bangladesh, continued airing read-aloud videos on TV, aired TV ticker tape nudges reminding families about the return to school and distributed remedial education packages to 14,200 students in Ukhiya and Kutubdia.

Gender and Protection

- WFP supported 31 protection-related referrals to facilitate food assistance.
- WFP trained 126 partner staff on gender, protection, and

disability inclusion.

WFP Engineering

- Under the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP), WFP engaged 4,024 Rohingya and six host community men. To maintain vehicle access, WFP constructed an additional 485 m of roads in the camps and cleaned 7.5 km of drainage in five camps.

Sectors

Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector stored 2,670 m³ of relief items for 17 organisations across four warehouses in Madhuchara, Balukhali, Unchiprang and Teknaf. With reduced requirements for short term temporary storage assistance, the sector is retaining only the Madhuchara hub for humanitarian partners starting in October.
- At month-end, a planned phase out of partner storage services occurred in Balukhali, Leda and Unchiprang hubs. Hi-Atlas will provide ongoing partner storage at the Leda and Unchiprang hubs, on request and as available, until end-December. The Balukhali hub was handed over to WFP.

Food Security Sector (FSS)

- FSS, WFP and FAO organized a one-day joint online training on monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning attended 21 partner organizations.
- FSS finalized its gardening tracker dashboard and produced an overview of partners' self-reliance activities and of their planned [coverage of summer seed distribution](#).

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS)

- ETS provided data connectivity to 481 users in 36 sites, including retail outlets, logistics and residential hubs, and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres.
- Security telecommunications services were also provided to 927 users from seven UN agencies.
- The ETS Helpdesk received 44 requests for assistance, and conducted 22 site visits to respond to issues and maintain services.

Funding Outlook

Operational requirement (October 2021 – March 2022): US\$ 151.4 million

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Additional Resources:

- [WFP Rohingya Refugee Response reports](#)
- [Inter Sector Coordination Group \(ISCG\) reports](#)



Scan here to read the latest WFP in Cox's Bazar Information Booklet

³ Under the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief funded by the World Bank. Community workfare activities are reported under DRR.

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