

# Cox's Bazar Food Security Sector Partner Activity Highlight January – March 2022<sup>1</sup>



## Overview of the Food Security Sector - FSS Joint Response Plan and FSS activities

The Food Security Sector (FSS) is committed to saving lives through the coordination of appropriate, efficient and well-resourced food security responses in major emergencies. The FSS in Cox's Bazar was established in 2017 and is led by FAO and WFP, and co-chaired by BRAC (since May 2021). Within the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the FSS is a platform to strengthen food security and livelihood response through operational coordination, information sharing and identifying food security related priorities and solutions.

### Sector Objectives as per 2022 Joint Response Plan, Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis JRP

#### 1. Ensure and sustain the timely provision of life-saving food assistance for Rohingya Refugees/ FDMNs.

Partners: 1 JRP appealing partner (WFP) and 6 implementing partners (BRAC, CODEC, RIC, SCI, YPSA, WVI)

Partners: 7 JRP appealing partners (AMAN, CAID, DRC, UNHCR, UN Women, WFP, WVI) and 8 implementing partners (AAB, BRAC, CODEC, Cordaid, DSK, HelpAge, Mukti, NGO Forum) 1 non-JRP programme partner (CWW) and 1 implementing partner (SARPV)

#### 3. Enhance livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable host communities in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh, while supporting social protection interventions and promoting climate resilient practices to help address the impacts of climate change.

Partners: 10 JRP appealing partners (BRAC, FAO, UNHCR, WFP, DRC, IOM, Oxfam, PIB, UN Women, WVI) and 11 implementing partners (Shushilan, CNRS, Mukti, CB, CODEC, RIC, Cordaid, Prottyashi, YPSA, AAB, SHED) | 4 non-JRP programme partners (CWW, GIZ, Solidar Suisse, Tdh) and 2 implementing partners (VSO, SARPV)

#### Population targeted (Food Security Sector, JRP 2022 data):

- 902,066 Rohingya Refugees  
Entire Refugee population in all camps.
- 378,715 Bangladeshi Host Community  
Calculation based on Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment **REVA 5** data on vulnerability and consideration of impact of COVID-19.

#### Key needs:

- All refugees need food assistance
- 45% Rohingya households with inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline)
- 38% of host community households with inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline) and 39% employing crisis or emergency livelihoods-based coping strategies (REVA 5).

<sup>1</sup> Data presented in this highlight is based on 5W reporting, partners' inputs and FSS joint field visits.

## Sector's Activities

### Trainings:

- 5W reporting (2 separate trainings in **English** and **Bangla**), 8 February 2022, 65 participants from 23 different organizations.
- Power BI (training **materials**), 24 February 2022, 25 participants from 11 different organizations.
- Emergency, Preparedness and Response (EPR) and Anticipatory Actions including Forecast-based-Financing (training materials: **day 1**, **day 2**), 29-30 March, 40 participants from 30 different organizations.

### Workshops:

- FSS Lessons learned workshop based on a field visits to Aggregation Centers and Farmer Groups (workshop **materials**), 23 February 2022, 35 participants from 19 different organizations.



Small group discussion during lessons learned workshop

Photo ©Anna Rzym, FSS



Joint field visit

Photo ©Nearmul Akhter, FSS

### Joint field visits:

- Homestead gardening in the camps (4 sites: Concern Worldwide, UNHCR/ Mukti Cox's Bazar, WFP/BRAC, WFP/CODEC), 13 January, 20 participants from 10 different organizations.
- Aggregation Centers and Farmer groups in Teknaf (4 sites: DCA, FAO/Shushilan, UNHCR/CNRS, WFP/Shushilan), 9 February, 27 participants from 14 different organizations and the Department of Livestock Services
- Aggregation Centers and Farmer groups in Ukhiya and Ramu (4 sites: FAO/Shushilan, HELVETAS/Shushilan, VSO, WFP/RIC), 10 February, 25 participants from 12 different organizations and the Department of Agricultural Extension.
- Non-Food Items (NFI) production in the camps (4 sites: PRANTIC, UNHCR/NGO Forum for Public Health, UN Women/ActionAid, WFP/Cordaid), 9 March, 20 participants from 13 different organizations.

### Events:

- International Women's Day (co-organizers: FSS, WFP, FAO & UN Women): 10 March. Fair for products from livelihoods and self-reliance projects: 500+ items sold by 11 stalls. Total transaction value: 185,730 BDT. Organizations: AAB, BRAC, CARE, Cordaid, CWW, IOM, NGOF, Prottiyashi, RIC, Shushilan, UN Women, VSO, WFP, WVI.

### Bi-weekly coordination meetings with partners' presentations:

- **11 January:** Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Recommendation Dr. MD. Akhlas Uddin Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture Extension Cox's Bazar.
- **25 January:** Digital Partnerships in humanitarian assistance/ WFP. Vitamin - A Enriched Orange Flashed Sweet Potato for Smallholders' Nutrition and Income: A Preliminary Results from the Farmers' Practices in Cox's Bazar/ FAO and CIP.



Fair during International Women's Day

Photo ©Nihab Rahman, WFP

- **8 February:** Joint Market Monitor for Cox's Bazar December 2021/WFP VAM Unit. Innovation and Practices of Climate Resilience Livelihoods/VSO Bangladesh.
- **22 February:** EETWG: Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Rehabilitation (SuLMER) of Shoa Ma'r Jhiri Watershed Area in Camp 1W & 2W in relation to Food Security and Livelihood activities.
- **8 March:** Blueprint GBV Risk Mitigation - by UNHCR/UNICEF - GBV Sub Sector. Results of Comprehensive Gender Analysis on "Four Years on: Shifting Gendered Perceptions and Experiences" – GIHA.
- **22 March:** Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-5) Summary Report, WFP.

Total number of organizations that joined FSS bi-weekly coordination meetings: 45 (Government 2, INGO 21, NNGO 17, UN 5).

**Livestock meetings:**

- **26 January:** Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition, presentation on Livestock by Shushilan/ WFP.
- **2 March:** Livestock activities presented by Solidarités International and Practical Action.

## Highlight of Partners' Activities

### I. Food assistance in the camps (strategic objective 1)

#### General Food Assistance:

**WFP** together with its implementing partners (**BRAC, CODEC, RIC, SCI, YPSA, WVI**) delivers food assistance to the entire refugee population in 33 camps through General Food Assistance (GFA) programme. Each month all households receive an electronic voucher with a top up value of 12\$ per person to be redeemed across 21 e-voucher outlets and 20 Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). Further, 30% of the beneficiaries who are most vulnerable based on specific criteria are targeted with a top-up of 3\$ for the FFCs. In the 1st quarter of 2022, beneficiaries could purchase up to 26 food items at e-voucher outlets (10 fixed items and 16 flexible items) and up to 20 items at Fresh Food Corners (FFCs). Households that meet vulnerability criteria are supported with porter services to help carry heavy loads from e-voucher outlet to their homes. WFP uses Building Blocks, humanitarian platform for coordinated assistance delivery, based on blockchain technology to facilitate transactions at e-voucher outlets.

For further information contact: [rokibul.alam@wfp.org](mailto:rokibul.alam@wfp.org)



E-voucher Outlet

Photo ©Sayed Asif Mahmud, WFP



Fresh Food Corner

Photo ©Sayed Asif Mahmud, WFP

Fresh Food Corners are one of the markets for locally produced vegetables. It is an important economic opportunity for local farmers in Cox's Bazar, benefitting both the refugees and host community. WFP has been facilitating market linkages between its contracted camp retailers, aggregation centres and farmer groups by WFP, FAO and other agencies, as well as other smallholder producers and small-scale traders in the host community. WFP led market linkage initiatives managed to match up to 5 percent of the whole FFCs demand with its supported farmers. To link Aggregation Centers and Farmers Groups with the FFCs, please contact [namiko.motokawa@wfp.org](mailto:namiko.motokawa@wfp.org) and [alberto.nicoli@wfp.org](mailto:alberto.nicoli@wfp.org).

## Ad hoc distributions

Some organizations may provide ad hoc food distribution on top of WFP's General Food Assistance, especially during religious festivals such as Ramadan, Eid ul Fitur or Eid ul Azha. To ensure harmonized and coordinated food assistance, it is requested that all partners coordinate through FSS for the best use of resources while avoiding gaps and overlaps.

Key recommendations:

- Choosing food items that are complementary to what is already available through General Food Assistance (to avoid resell of food and to improve dietary diversity).
- Ensuring food safety (to avoid contamination and health issues for beneficiaries e.g., diarrhoea).
- Avoiding waste production (to minimize use of plastic and other high-polluting materials, as drinking water is available in all camps it is recommended NOT to distribute bottled water).
- Ensuring equal access to distribution (to include vulnerable beneficiaries, transparent targeting of beneficiaries).

Before Ramadan 2022, FSS with multiple organizations (AMAN, Moonlight Development Society, MSI, PRANTIC, SDI, SBSKS, Qatar Charity) jointly developed a recommended Ramadan Food Basket per household. Food items included into the basket: chickpeas (2kg), puffed rice/ muri (1kg), dates (1kg), soybean oil (1 litre), sugar (1kg), juice powder/ for Shorbot (500 grams), Kheshari lentils (2kg), flattened rice/ chira (1kg), Bangla shemai (1kg), onion (1kg), hot masala (100 grams), milk powder (200 grams).



Logistics hub and emergency response site

Photo ©Sayed Asif Mahmud, WFP

## Emergency preparedness:

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. Depending on access to cooking facilities, affected households are then provided with hot meals and/or one-off in-kind basket until they can be re-integrated into regular e-voucher food assistance. For larger scale, sudden onset disaster response, additional partners will assist distribution.

Usual scenario:

Emergency-> fortified biscuits -> hot meals -> reintegration into e-voucher outlets (once households have received LPG cylinders, cooking utensils and their shelters have been rebuilt).

Cross sectoral actions (examples):

- Targeting of beneficiaries, especially ones who relocated to neighbouring camps (SMSD, CiC, Protection, shelter/NFI, Food Security, Wash)
- Replacement of lost documents (SMSD, CiC, Scope cards WFP, Family ID UNHCR)
- Information sharing (SMSD, CiC, Communication with Communities Working Group)
- Water supplies and waste management (SMSD, WASH)
- Rebuilding of shelters, distribution of LPG cylinders and cooking utensils (SMSD, CiC, Shelter NFI)
- Porter services (SMSD, Shelter NFI, FSS)

## Contingency plan for emergency food assistance:

- **Fortified biscuits:** 75 MT (5 MT in each storage facilities) have been pre-positioned at 15 storage facilities in and around the camps to be distributed to the affected population within identified catchment areas to provide 2,100 kcal per day to 22,000 people for a week or 45,000 people for 3 days. Additional 1,005 MT (288 MT in Cox's Bazar and 500 MT in Chittagong) can be made available.
- **In-kind food ration:** pre-positioned 1,800 MT of food (rice, lentils and oil) as contingency plan to support 50,000 people for one month.
- **Cooked meals:** up to 10,000 cooked meals can be provided per day.
- **In-kind rolling contingency stock:** 3,264 MT of rice, 297 MT of oil, and 144 MT of lentils prepositioned across retailer e-voucher outlets to support caseload for 15 days.



Fortified biscuits production in Jashore

Photo ©Sayed Asif Mahmud, WFP

## II. Homestead gardening and farming activities in the camps and host communities (strategic objective 2 and 3)

**Camps:** In the 1st quarter of 2022 eight Food Security Sector (FSS) partners have been engaged in camp homestead gardening initiatives reaching 34% of the **households in the camps**. The existing initiative includes components such as agricultural training and input distribution (i.e., seeds, sacks), and most of the FSS partners have introduced and implemented gardening activities using modern techniques, overcoming challenges such as limited space and water access. FSS partners can source compost for their gardening activities from the **Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)** operated by WASH sector partners. The gardening initiative is providing the Rohingya with vegetable production capacity at the household level, which is supporting critical access to more nutritious and diverse diets.

**Host Communities:** Agricultural projects in the host community address the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition and increase local vegetable production. Based on FAO's data, local farmers' vegetables supplies meet 40-50 percent of the market demand. Multiple organizations operate **Aggregation Centers and Farmers Groups**. One of the markets for locally produced vegetables is the Fresh Food Corner (FFC) in the camps.

Useful resources: FAO, WFP, and FSS. 2022. **Homestead gardening guidelines: Vegetable production for household consumption using minimal space in Rohingya camps and host communities**. Cox's Bazar.



Beneficiary is showing a pumpkin in her vegetable garden

Photo ©Anisur Rahman, Concern Worldwide

**Concern Worldwide** and its implementing partner **SARPV** under BPRM funded project supports 26,371 HHs in the camps (9 camps: 4,5,6,10,13,14,15,16,22) and 4,639 HHs in host community (14 sites in Haldiapalong and Rotnapalong Union). Both communities received 5 types of vegetable seeds (two types used for beds methods and three for pit methods) and orientation session on seed sowing, gardening methods, intercultural operation such as composting, mulching, sex pheromone trap and sack gardening. During harvesting period, a total of 2,961 cooking demonstration sessions were held in the camps (2,338) and host community (623) where beneficiaries contributed with vegetables from their garden. Cooking demonstrations aimed to enable beneficiaries to better utilize food, underlying the importance of food diversity and balanced diet which eventually contributes to improved nutrition status.

For further information contact:  
[Zillur.Rahman@concern.net](mailto:Zillur.Rahman@concern.net)

2 FAO, 2020, Rapid Market Assessment on Vegetables, Fish and Livestock Value chain in Cox's Bazar, [URL](#)

**FAO** with its implementing partner **Shushilan**, provided support to 20,000 farming families in 4 sub-districts of Cox's Bazar (e.g., Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Ukhiya and Teknaf). FAO distributed 70 MT Boro Rice seed (BRRI dhan28) among 3,536 farmers of Cox's Bazar Sadar and bamboo and broom grass seedling with fertilizers (Cow dung, Compost, Urea and TSP) among 1,380 households of Ukhiya and Teknaf. FAO conducted 10 organization development training for 10 Aggregation Centre Management Committee members and provided 2 days-long training for Project Staffs on livestock and fish farming. FAO contracted a private company Smartmech for the capacity building of the aggregation center management committee and proper utilization of the FAO provided productive assets e.g., farm machinery to support farmers' production. The aggregation centers are part of the digital village center (DVC) network operated by the digital service provider (DSP). The Centres are village level one-stop service delivery and knowledge sharing hub for rural farmers.



Farmer is harvesting Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato in Cox's Bazar Sadar Cox's Bazar

Photo ©FAO

In partnership with the International Potato Center (CIP) FAO introduced new crop: Vitamin A enriched Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP). The OFSP varieties are rich in beta-carotene (the precursor to Vitamin A). It is a good source of nutrition from relatively inexpensive investment and an option for affordable nutritious solution for the low-income population of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

For further information contact: [mst.amin@fao.org](mailto:mst.amin@fao.org)



Beneficiary selling vegetables in the Collection & Sale Center, Jaliapalong

Photo ©Helvetas

**Helvetas** with its implementing partner Shushilan supported 7,000 Households of 5 unions under Ukhiya Upazila through technical and mentoring support from the project Local Service Provider. Additionally, 1,056 commercial households received agricultural kits including 5 types of seeds, 20 kg compost, 10 pieces of the yellow card, 5 pieces of sex pheromone trap and 2 pieces of fencing net. The project developed a seasonal crop production calendar for vegetable cultivation considering local context. In the 1st quarter of 2022, 5 Farmer Produce Collection & Sales Centers have been operational with the transaction value of 2,679,433 BDT. Each collection center is run by a management committee (7-9 members). The management committee collects the market price list from the local & distant markets and shares the information with traders & farmers. To facilitate transportation of the vegetable from farmers to the collection center, the management committee provided its own vehicle (van). Throughout the project duration, women's involvement in vegetable production and marketing has significantly increased.

For further information contact: [Jahangir.kabir@helvetas.org](mailto:Jahangir.kabir@helvetas.org)

**Mukti Cox's Bazar with IVY (Japan Platform funded project)** implements homestead gardening project inside Teknaf camp 24, reaching 939 beneficiaries. The main objective is to enhance capacity through training of agriculture techniques and effective practices such as: mixing soil and compost, transplanting seedlings to sacs, efficient watering, adequate response to diseases and mutual learnings. Beneficiaries received gardening kits, including quality bamboo shelf, sacs, compost and seedlings. Seedlings are produced by host community farmers, with the special focus on their quality. Due to space limitation, vertical garden methods are utilized. Additionally, seedling sac is set up on bamboo shelf to mitigate the risk of vegetables destruction during disasters (e.g., heavy rains, flash floods). In the next phase, the project will focus on growing leafy vegetables through hanging garden method, utilizing compost provided by the MRF of IOM-DSK.

For further information contact: [hayashi@ivyjapan.org](mailto:hayashi@ivyjapan.org)



Beneficiaries during gardening kit distribution

Photo ©Rony, Mukti Cox's Bazar



Beneficiary in front of her homestead garden

Photo ©UNHCR

**UNHCR**, in collaboration with **CNRS** and **Mukti Cox's Bazar**, has been implementing a project to increase household food production and income to reduce the vulnerability of the poor and extreme poor 3,500 host community households and improve nutrition and inclusion of the 8,000 refugee households. The project activities focus on agricultural production, emphasising women empowerment and market linkages. All the project targeted households received seeds, agricultural inputs, and training on 'homestead vegetable production or income generation skills', especially vertical agriculture skills for the refugee. Refugee households use their narrow spaces around their house using buckets and sacks for plantation, and choose climbing vegetable species suitable for consuming both leaves and fruits.

For further information contact: [rajum@unhcr.org](mailto:rajum@unhcr.org)

The safe food promotion project of **VSO Bangladesh** introduced women as farmers through direct engagement of 5 youth clubs with 150 active members in the Host Community. The project provided training to 164 youth and farmers on agroecology by the facilitation of an agriculture officer from the Department of Agricultural Extension. The project promotes 'high yielding and high-value product' which inspires farmers in agro-based farming toward profit-making business. The youth volunteers have been supporting crop aggregation from farmers' fields and rickshaw vans supplying vegetables in the sales center and local market. The safe food promotion project set up sales and service centers for the sale of farmers' products. Along with this, youth entrepreneurs supply, some high-value vegetables such as capsicum and carrots are directly supplied to restaurants.

For further information contact: [Shafiqur.Rahman@vsoint.org](mailto:Shafiqur.Rahman@vsoint.org)



Demonstration plot with sunflowers

Photo ©Riad Arefin, VSO

To strengthen food security and nutrition, **WFP** is implementing Agriculture and Aquaculture activities with 30,000 Rohingya beneficiaries through co-operating partners (**BRAC**, **CODEC** and **WVI**) in multiple camps of Ukhiya and Teknaf. In the 1st quarter 28,000 participants from 28,000 households have been trained on vertical gardening for Summer Season. At the end of March, CPs started agri-inputs distribution and 244 beneficiaries received vegetable seeds (5 types) and non-seeds agri-inputs (muli and borak bamboo, sack bag, vermi compost, watering can, pictorial training materials). To utilize the limited space in camps, multi-layer gardening, sac culture and vertical gardening has been introduced. WFP also continues fish culture in 16 ponds in camps of Ukhiya Upazilla. The loamy soil from the pond is stored on the embankment of the pond and is used for vegetable growing, as well as medicinal plants.

For further information contact: [diane.broinshtein@wfp.org](mailto:diane.broinshtein@wfp.org)

18,784 host community beneficiaries were involved in farming activities in 5 Upazilas (Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia) through WFP's livelihoods programs implemented by RIC, Shushilan, Care Bangladesh and Cordaid. Among them, 2,130 beneficiaries received different types of vegetable seeds and 791 groups received crop calendar and charts to ensure year-round production. Beneficiaries are organized into groups which help enhance financial accountability by monthly savings and serve as a social-safety net. Throughout the program, beneficiaries have access to entrepreneurial skill development and life skills trainings, business grant and subsistence allowance as well as market linkage opportunities. To market beneficiaries' produce, WFP established 25 Aggregation Centres in Ukhiya and Teknaf, providing 24 tomtoms and 48 smart phones to facilitate market linkage process. Moreover, WFP is also introducing new technologies: 2 drip irrigation, 5 solar powered irrigation systems and 3 trico compost pits were installed in Teknaf.

For further information contact: [alberto.nicoli@wfp.org](mailto:alberto.nicoli@wfp.org)



Beneficiaries returning home after harvesting eggplants

Photo ©Sayed Asif Mahmud, WFP



Nutrition Session

Photo © Krishan Mollick, WVB

**World Vision Bangladesh** has been directly implementing homestead gardening activities targeting mothers as beneficiaries in camp 8E and camp 19. Activities aim to enhance women empowerment and contribute to family nutrition by increasing access to fresh vegetables. During the 1st quarter of 2022, WVB provided orientation sessions and input support (6 types of seeds, hand sprayer, water jar, bag, bamboo, organic manure) to 575 beneficiaries. WVB has also established a Cooking and Learning Centre (CLC) with a demo garden where women can learn from each other through "Lead Mother approach". Each CLC has 5 lead mothers, and each lead mother monitors 5 peer mothers. Lead mothers act co-facilitators in learning sessions and share awareness messages among peer mothers through door-to-door visit.

For further information contact: [jnanottor\\_chakma@wvi.org](mailto:jnanottor_chakma@wvi.org)

## Food Security Sector contact information:

Coordinator: Pramila Ghimire, 01713456737, [pramila.ghimire@wfp.org](mailto:pramila.ghimire@wfp.org)

Co- Coordinator: Hossain Rahman Raiyan, 01844559309, [hossain.raihan@brac.net](mailto:hossain.raihan@brac.net)

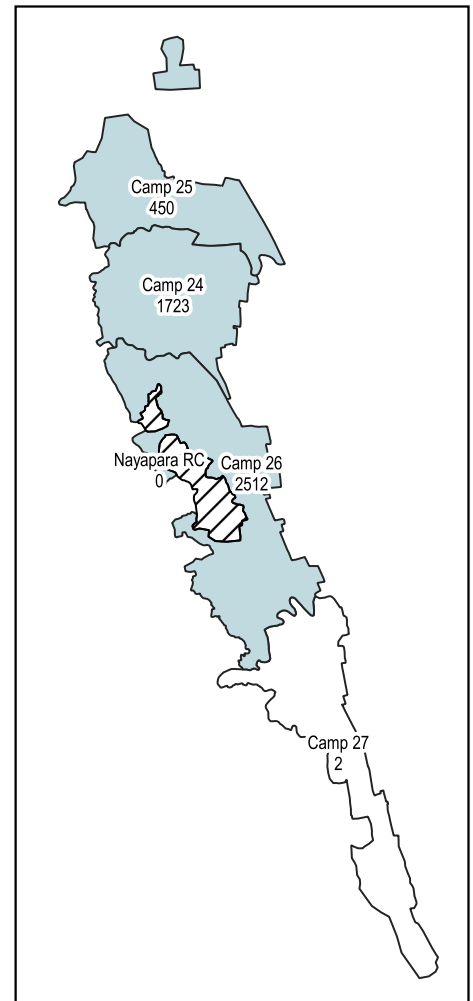
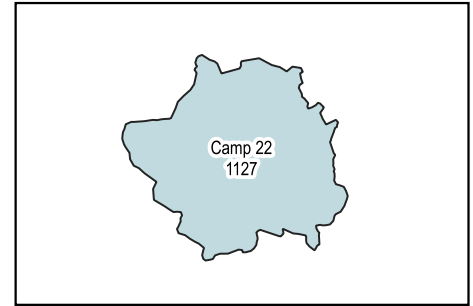
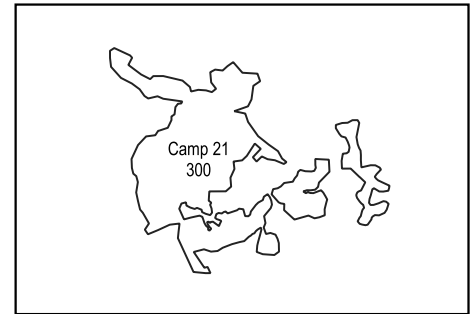
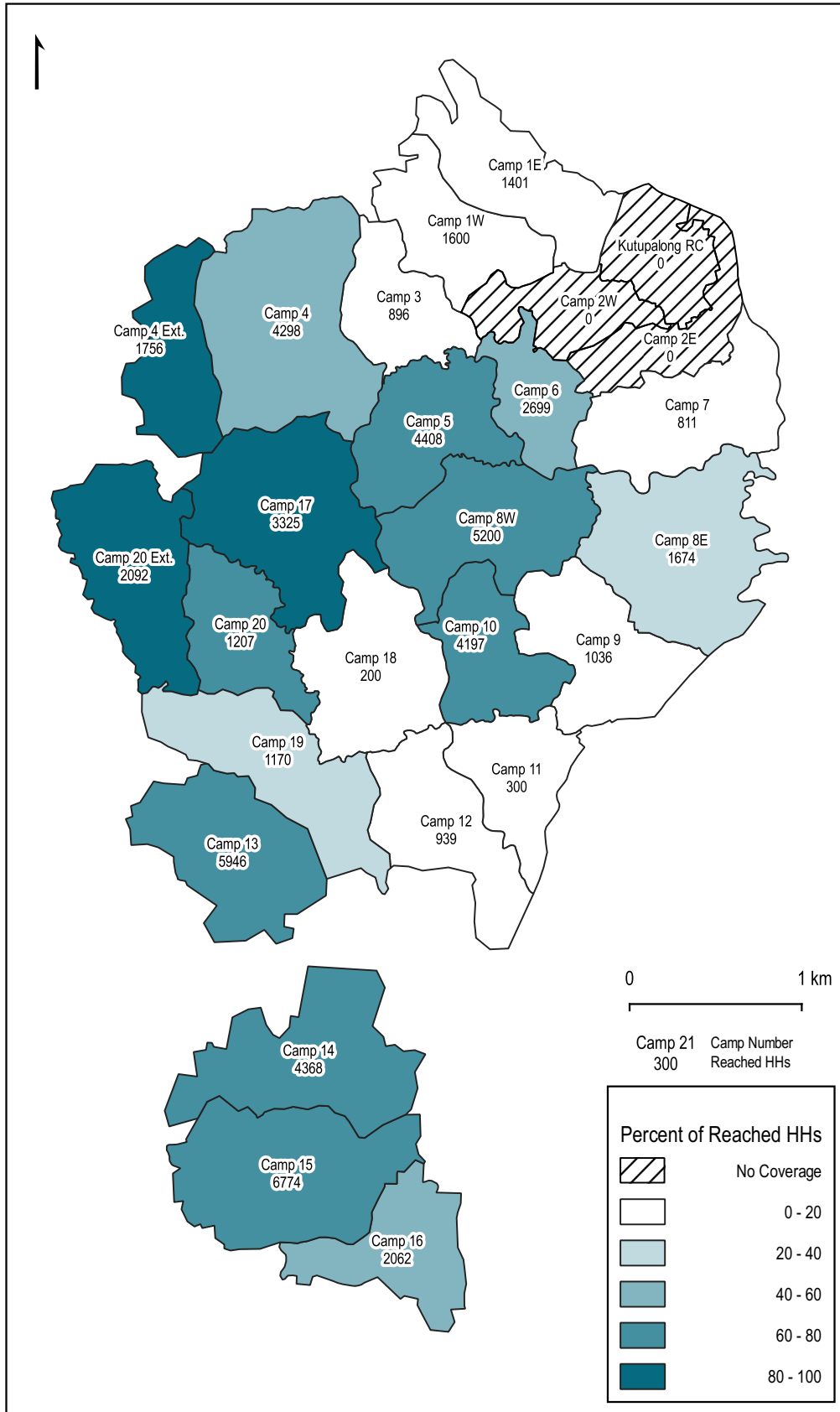
Deputy Coordinator: Anna Rzym, 01730309838, [anna.rzym@wfp.org](mailto:anna.rzym@wfp.org)

Information Management Officer (IMO), Zolboo Bold-Erdene, 01313097855, [zolboo.bold-erdene@wfp.org](mailto:zolboo.bold-erdene@wfp.org)

Information Management Associate (IMA), Neyamul Akhter, 01313770424, [neamul.akhter@wfp.org](mailto:neamul.akhter@wfp.org)

[website](#)





Partner Presence: Programme/Implementing

Camp 1E	Camp 1W	Camp 3	Camp 4	Camp 4 Ext.	Camp 5	Camp 6	Camp 7	Camp 8E	Camp 8W
WFP/BRAC	WFP/BRAC	UNHCR/Mukti WFP/BRAC	CWW/SARPV WFP/BRAC	UNHCR/Mukti WFP/BRAC	CWW/SARPV WFP/BRAC WFP/CODEC	CWW/SARPV WFP/BRAC WFP/CODEC	WFP/BRAC	WFP/CODEC WVI	CWW/SARPV WFP/BRAC WFP/CODEC
Camp 9	Camp 10	Camp 11	Camp 12	Camp 13	Camp 14	Camp 15	Camp 16	Camp 17	Camp 18
WFP/CODEC	CWW/SARPV WFP/BRAC WFP/CODEC	WFP/CODEC	WFP/CODEC	CWW/SARPV WFP/WVI	CWW/SARPV WFP/WVI	CWW/SARPV WFP/WVI	CWW/SARPV WFP/BRAC	UNHCR/Mukti WFP/BRAC WFP/CODEC	WFP/CODEC
Camp 19	Camp 20	Camp 20 Ext.	Camp 21	Camp 22	Camp 24	Camp 25	Camp 26	Camp 27	
WFP/WVI	WFP/CODEC	WFP/CODEC	WFP/WVI	CWW/SARPV WFP/BRAC	WFP/BRAC WFP/BRAC	WFP/BRAC	WFP/BRAC	WFP/BRAC	

This map is produced by the Food Security Sector to provide a snapshot of homestead gardening activities in the Rohingya refugee camps in the first quarter of 2022, based on partners reporting in the 5Ws (Who does What, Where, When and for Whom).

