

Guidance Note – Ad hoc Food Distribution

Food Security Sector (FSS) coordinates food assistance across all response actors in Cox's Bazar District. This note provides recommendations for ad hoc food distributions often provided on religious occasions (e.g. Eid, Ramadan). To ensure harmonized and coordinated food assistance, it is requested that all partners coordinate through FSS before seeking approvals from local authorities (CiCs, etc.)

Key recommendations

- **Operational coordination:** to support coordination, partners are requested to cover the entire camp when distributing food, as opposed to targeting blocks or sub-blocks of a given camp.
- **Complementarity:**
 - **Rohingya refugees:** General Food Assistance (GFA) is provided to all households every month by WFP and its cooperating partners. Ad hoc food distributions should complement items in the GFA food basket to improve dietary diversity and avoid resale of food items. Contact FSS (coxsbazar.fss@wfp.org) if you do not have the latest list of food items provided through GFA.
 - **Host communities:** to coordinate with UNO offices to ensure complementarity with food items provided through GoB safety nets
- **COVID-19:** follow [inter-sectoral recommendations for distribution in light of COVID-19](#) to ensure safety of beneficiaries
- **Nutrition:** to avoid negative impact on infant feeding practices and contributing to morbidity and mortality of infants, breastmilk substitutes (e.g. infant formula, milk powder, baby foods) are prohibited as per [UNHCR](#) and [WFP](#) policy
- **Food safety:** avoid raw and prepared food and keep food at safe temperatures to minimize the risk of contamination
- **Hygiene:** wash hands before and during handling food. Wash and sanitize all surfaces and equipment used for handling food and protect food from insects, pests and other animals
- **Localize:** always consider availability of locally produced food first to maximize impact on local community
- **Culture and habits:** consider the culinary habits of the population being served
- **Health:** minimize the use of salt, sugar, chemical additives (e.g. sauces), processed food with high concentration of preservatives
- **Waste:** minimize use of plastic and other high-polluting materials, recycle and compost organic waste when possible
- **Labour:** ensure that gender norms are respected and child labour is not used.

Information sharing

Partners planning for ad hoc food distributions are requested to fill in the [Forecast Matrix](#) and submit to FSS (coxsbazar.fss@wfp.org) to allow FSS to identify underserved areas and guide partners accordingly.