FACTSHEET
Cox’s Bazar | Covid-19 Livelihoods Response | April 2020

WHO ARE WE?
Food Security Sector (FSS) is led by WFP and co-led by FAO. Within the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in Cox’s Bazar, the FSS is a platform to strengthen the food security response through operational coordination, information sharing, and identifying food security related priorities and solutions (blanket unconditional general food assistance to refugees, transition from in-kind food distribution to e-voucher assistance, and supporting dietary diversity).

Livelihoods Working Group (LHWG): Under the ISCG, the LHWG aims at strengthening coordination of livelihoods activities in the host community and Rohingya refugee camps.

MASK MAKING INITIATIVE
At the onset of the Covid-19 response, LHWG partners transitioned health and safety concerns, risk of decreased supply chain access, as well as loss of livelihood opportunities into a local mask making tailoring initiative. Partners brought this activity proposal to the Civil Surgeon (CS) in Cox’s Bazar who approved of a cloth mask design harmonized with Bangladesh Directorate General of Health Services. The approved mask design is made out of three layers of poplin weave fabric (see how-to video here) - it is important to note, cloth masks are not medical grade personal protective equipment (PPE), rather a minimal protective measure. This design, as well as cleaning instructions in both Bangla and English can be found here. Further, highlights on this initiative can be found below:

• March 24th – The District Commissioner (DC) approved mask making, in line with CS design, as a critical activity in Cox’s Bazar District.
• IOM implementing partners (IPs) in host community initiative have produced over 75,000 masks since March 27th.
• April 15th – RRRC approved mask making as a critical activity for refugee camps, encouraging production of cloth masks.
• UN Women IPs started production in Camps 3, 4 ex, 5, 18 and UNHCR IPs started production in Kutupalong RC and Nayapara RC, WFP IPs are set to start production in both the refugee camps and host community.
• In a multi-sectoral ISCG Covid-19 response initiative - in line with the Covid-19 JRP addendum, the LHWG is requesting to connect partners constructing cloth masks with homecare packages to ensure that vulnerable elderly population and households of patients receiving homecare are equipped with minimum protective measures free of cost.
• In accordance with ISCG recommendations, there is an anticipated need to support through provision of cloth masks, moderate and severe cases at home over the next 9 month period (that cannot access medical facilities) as well as elderly people over 59 (elderly).
• As per cleaning recommendations, it is advised to distribute 2 masks per individual.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
As partners enter into livelihoods activities in response to Covid-19, it is important to ensure continued coordination - kindly reach out to FSS Coordinator, martina.iannizzotto@wfp.org and Deputy Coordinator/LHWG Chair, leah.beaulac@wfp.org for further information.

Further, to support in this effort, the FSS IM team has developed interactive Dashboards updated via a COVID-19 Response Tracker which includes a tab labelled ‘livelihoods support to the health response’ to support in coordinating activities. Please ensure that all information is updated regularly in this tracker. If any issues faced, kindly reach out to IM team (akira.kaneko@wfp.org and ajmerry.hossain@wfp.org for support).

FSS COVID-19 2020 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

SO1 - Expand support to improve food security and compensate for loss of livelihoods of the most vulnerable Bangladeshis in Cox’s Bazar whose livelihoods will be impacted by the pandemic, through food, cash support according to need, and livelihoods initiatives in support of the health response.
SO2 - Secure the continuity of the food supply chain by supporting the food production system, aligning with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) policies and directives in order to ensure continuity of crop, fish and livestock production and marketing throughout the year.
SO3 - Support the District health response in coordination with the Health Sector – provide support to existing and planned isolation, treatment, and quarantine facilities in Cox’s Bazar District and support cross-sectoral homecare packages for vulnerable groups (i.e elderly or patient/family of homecare patients).

Photo By Nadira Islam, UNWomen