



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR – FLASH REPORT #2

EMERGENCY MONSOON PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

24th of June

Following the start of the monsoon rains last 9th of June 2018, landslides, floods, and water logging have had a serious impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya population living in the camps. Access has been restricted, key roads, drainage channels and various structures were also reported seriously damaged.

Food Security Sector: food assistance includes distributions of dry food items (GFD), cooked meals and high energy biscuits. As part of the emergency preparedness and plan, the delivery of cooked meals and high energy biscuits should be scaled up following the incidents, while dry food distribution should continue through GFD distribution points as planned, including e-voucher outlets that provide the refugee population (about 214,000 people enrolled) 19 food items. Ready to eat package vouchers are also planned to be delivered as part of the emergency response within the programme of fresh food assistance.



Overall, the first week of heavy rains did not have a major impact on **food distribution points**, e-voucher outlets or cooked meals distribution points (structures), however DRR programmes have been readjusted according to the new priorities as they have been emerging from the ground and a constant monitoring needs to be implemented to keep track of possible damages and to quickly intervene to fix them (repairing infrastructure, unblocking drainages, cleaning up erosion and landslides, etc.) whenever they occur.

As of June 24th, an estimated 2,785 refugees have been displaced, to whom emergency food rations, cooked meals and HEB have been delivered. Moreover, relocations are ongoing (mostly towards Camp 4 Extension and Camp 20 Extension) and as per agreed upon procedures and processes, food assistance has been, and will continue to be, provided to those who have been relocated.



Access:	“Portering system”:
To avoid further degradation of road conditions, between June 11 th and 13 th traffic was temporally restricted on the roads within Kutupalong camp. Only trucks less than 3 Tons were allowed to pass on the roads. (see Log Cluster access map for constant updates) ¹	D5 to Modur Chara 1: On 11 th of June, the first portering system was activated: porters were mobilized in order to reach the food distribution point (trucks could not reach the DP).
Food distribution points and e-voucher outlets:	GFD (General food distribution)²:
Water logging was registered at Baghona on 10 th of June: however, the distribution point was accessible again the day after. Overall, e-voucher outlets were not damaged, however some access issues were registered proximity (water logging, mud) in the immediate. Beneficiaries reached the e-voucher outlets in lower numbers than the usual monthly average but distributions are taking place normally and monitoring is ongoing.	The 18 th Round of the current GFD cycle is currently underway: targeting families 4-7 and 8+. Distribution started on June 23 rd and will end on 30 th of June, planning to reach 102,128 HHs .
High Energy Biscuits (HEBs):	Cooked meals and Emergency Dry Food packages (EDF)³
WFP issued 30mt HEB to implementing partners to respond to the first requests. 30mt will be enough to give emergency support to 8,000 families (emergency ration is 50 packs of 75g per family, to last them for 3 days). 2,000 families have been reached with HEBs. Between 16 and 23 rd June, SCI prepositioned 20MT (from the sus-mentioned 30 mt of HEBs which were issued by WFP) in 8 different locations around and close to camps in support of beneficiaries who lost their food stocks and cooking capacity. So far, 237 Households have been recipients of these HEBs (each family received 1 carton of HEBs weighing 17.5 Kg). Thus, the total amount of HEBs distributed for the past week is 4.1 mt.	COOKED MEALS: As of 24 June, ACF reported distribution of cooked meals to about 8,415 individuals in camp 18, camp 11, Leda and Chakmarkul and also to those who were relocated to Camp 4 Extension, in the last 10 days. EDF parcels were distributed to cover the gap in the provision of cooked meals to 72 HHs (some with more than 6 family members) affected by flash floods. On 17 June, ICRC donated 90 EDF parcels to ADRA for immediate distribution (since the heavy rains, the ICRC has donated a total of 246 EDF parcels to ADRA). An additional 86 EDF parcels out of the 150 parcels donated by ICRC on 13 June were distributed in Unchiprang. Given the normalization of the situation, HHs who had been affected by floods and landslides were able to return to their original shelters and the remainder EDF parcels remain in sites in case of new emergencies.
Food stockpiling:	Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
On planning: new areas are currently being explored following the evolution of the situation on the ground and based on assessments of key roads which are/have been affected. Containers with HEBs will be positioned inside the camps.	Activities are ongoing and prioritization of distribution points and e-voucher outlets have been done according to assessments on levels of criticality of the incidents.

¹ **Logistic Cluster** road Access map: <https://logcluster.org/map/bangladesh-physical-access-constraints-map-14-june-2018>

² **GFDs** are not provided by camp, but through different distribution points that may cover more than one camp/site. GFDs are delivered on a fortnightly cycle and are tailored according to the family size/Kcal intake.

³ **EDF** parcels contain: beaten rice 4 kg, water 2 litres for beaten rice preparation, energy biscuits BP5 1 kg, sugar 0.5 kg and chocolate bars (1 packet has 10 bars). They are meant to cover the nutritional needs of a HH with an average of five members over a period of two days.



FSS RESPONSE: Lessons Learned from 1st Week of Emergency Food assistance

On Thursday 21st of June, a team of ICRC and FSS staff jointly conducted an informal and rapid post-distribution exercise aimed at capturing some feedback on the distribution of hot meals, ready to eat packages and HEBs, as part of the FSS emergency strategy. The team discussed – thanks to the facilitation of UNHCR colleagues - with a group of displaced women as a result of the monsoon rains (10th of June) in Chakmarkul. The below **recommendations** come out of this exercise and can be taken as general advice and in many ways, some of these may have limitation in being “context/camp specific” (e.g. Chakmarkul and its proximity to the road and markets, rains that lasted for a few days with the possibility of a rapid recovery, etc.)⁴. One key take-home recommendation is therefore that an in-depth PDM and focus group discussions could be explored and seriously considered to be undertaken at both Sector and Agency levels.

Distribution of Cooked Meals: cooked meals were dispatched in a timely manner in Chakmarkul and delivered with the support of operational partners. There were some delays between food dispatch and actual delivery⁵: actors involved in cooked meals distribution concurred that, as a lesson learned, a better system of closing the gap is possible. Related, the packaging of these cooked meals showed the need for improvement. On food preference: *khichuri* (a Bangladeshi traditional recipe) was distributed. In general, however, it was clear that refugees seem to prefer different food and they asked for plain rice and curry. In addition, they asked for cash to be able to access markets for fresh food (especially seasonal fruits were mentioned such as bananas and mangoes).

Incentives/DRR: a number of women during the small focus group confirmed that men engaged on DRR activities accessing incentives have contributed to increase access to food and household dietary diversity.

Emergency package response (dry food): Refugees gave very positive feedback on the dry food distributions of the smaller emergency packages (EDF).

HEBs Distribution: Mothers of small babies (6-48 months) were pleased to have received HEBs and used these to feed their children. It was reported that children at this age have difficulties to be fed with rice. **Super cereal/porridge** may be a good option to be used for these children as part of the emergency response.

Cooking Ability and Facilities: Women indicated that in general, they were able to cook their food during the displacement, by accessing facilities of their relatives/friends living in proximity. It was clear that multiple flexible approaches will be needed, because those refugees could offer their facilities for 2-3 days only. LPG distribution remains the best way for food utilization, and will have a direct and indirect impact on families displaced and those who share their resources. **Communal Kitchens** may be established in some “temporary camp” where displaced refugees are provided with temporary shelters. Dry food may be directly delivered to these kitchens in case of need, covering immediate needs in more effective and timely way. **Kitchen Utensils** were in some case missing: FSS actors to link with Shelter NFI Sector. Some items, particularly HEBs and porridge need utensils for adequate preparation for child feeding.

Communication can be improved: it is important to inform displaced people on the food assistance that they will receive during the period of displacement and clarify that access to dry food rations will be resumed as soon as they return back to their shelters or are able to cook their own food, something that refugees expressed as their preference. On **Field Coordination**, FSS focal points/operational partners could benefit from actively participating to field level meetings particularly in case of emergency: communication with CiCs, Army Camp Commanders, and SM agencies is key on food assistance and FSS strategy. This is also a good environment to clarify food related issues, to discuss challenges and beneficiaries’ feedback.

⁴ Do No Harm Principles and Protection Guidelines must always be applied, especially during emergency distributions and throughout the monsoon season in particular, a period where several forms of vulnerabilities and protection risks may increase.

⁵ a) cooking time; b) meals preparation and packaging; c) transportation d) distributions; minimize the time between a, b, c, d – and ensure that meals are consumed and not stored (food safety measures).