



WFP/UNHCR
REPORT OF THE JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION
BANGLADESH: 30TH JULY- 10TH AUGUST 2006



World Refugee Day 2006

photo: Frances Voon

Mission members

Ms. Yvonne Forsen Programme Advisor	Team leader, WFP Regional Bureau for Asia, Bangkok
Dr. Zahid Jamal Health/Nutrition Coordinator	Co- team leader, UNHCR, Cox's Bazar
Mr. Siddiqui, Islam Khan, Programme Officer	Member, WFP Bangladesh Country Office
Ms. Zoe Holbeche, Assistant Programme Officer	Member WFP, Cox's Bazar
Ms. Frances Voon Assistant Programme Officer	Member WFP, Bangladesh Country Office
Mr. Khan Nobenur Rahman Khan Field Assistant	Member UNHCR, Cox's Bazar
Mr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed Hossain Senior Assistant Secretary	Member RRRC, Cox's Bazar
Mr. Bharat Joshi Director of Visa Services	Observer British High Commission, Bangladesh

Acknowledgement:

The members of the Mission would like to express their gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh, staff of WFP and UNHCR, both in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, for all the work prior to and during the time in the field.

We would like to especially thank the refugee community. Without their active participation, this Mission would not have managed to successfully carry out this assessment.

JAM members
August 2006

Content	page
1. Executive Summary	6
2. Background	8
3. General Context	9
4. Methodology	10
5. Refugee Numbers and Demography	11
5.1. Demographics	
5.2. Validation/profiling	
6. Health	12
6.1. Morbidity pattern	
6.2. Reproductive health care services	
6.3. Immunisation services	
6.4. Preventive health	
6.5. Recommendations	
7. Nutrition and Food Basket Composition	14
7.1. Selective feeding programme	
7.1.1. Supplementary Feeding Centres	
7.1.2. Therapeutic Feeding Centres	
7.2. Food Basket composition	
7.3. Kitchen garden and poultry project	
7.4. Recommendations	
8. Sanitation	18
8.1. Latrines	
8.2. Bathing cubicles	
8.3. Drainage	
8.4. Disposal system	
8.5. Water supply	
8.6. Water treatment plant	
8.7. Recommendations	
9. Food Security and Self-Reliance	20
9.1. Access	
9.2. Utilisation	
9.3. Vulnerable groups	
9.4. Persons of concern	
9.5. Coping strategies	
9.6. Recommendations	
10. Food Aid, Targeting, Distribution and Monitoring	22
10.1. Procurement	
10.2. Distribution	
10.3. Food storage	
10.4. Food monitoring and reporting	
10.5. Entitlement versus receipt	
10.6. Recommendations	
11. Non-Food Items and Other Related Issues	27
11.1. Recommendations	

12. Community Services	28
12.1. EVI	
12.2. Food For Training	
12.3. Recommendations	
13. Coordination and Community Participation	31
13.1. Recommendations	
14. Education	32
14.1. Quality of education	
14.2. Curriculum	
14.3. Teaching	
14.4. Materials	
14.5. Guardian meetings	
14.6. Female teachers	
14.7. School attendance	
14.8. Infrastructure	
14.9. Recommendations	
15. Gender and Protection	36
15.1. Women's issues	
15.2. Men's issues	
15.3. Protection	
15.4. Recommendations	
16. Partnership, Planning and Other Issues	38
16.1. Partnership	
16.2. Planning (Exit Strategy)	
16.3. Environment	
16.4. Food For Work	
16.5. Recommendations	
17. Recommendations	39
Annexes:	
1. TOR	40
2. Key informants	44
3. Matrix of Recommendations 2006	45
4. Progress since JAM 2004	51

Glossary

BDRCS	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
CHW	Community Health Worker
CIC	Camp In Charge
Civil Surgeon	Head of MOH at the district level
Concern	Irish NGO
CRH	Compressed Rice Husks
DC of Food	District Controller of Food
DPHE	Department of Public Health and Engineering
DSM	Dry Skimmed Milk
EDP	Extended Delivery Point
EPI	Extended Programme of Immunisation
EVI	Extremely Vulnerable Individual
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FBM	Food Basket Monitoring
FFT	Food For Training
FFW	Food For Work
FHH	Female Headed Household
GFR	Group Facilitated Repatriation
GM	Growth Monitoring
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
HAZ	Height for Age, Z-score
HEB	High Energy Biscuit
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IPD	In Patient Department
JAM	Joint Assessment Mission
JAP	Joint Action Plan
LOU	Letter of Understanding
LSD	Local Supply Depot
MDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MFDM	Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSF	Medecins Sans Frontiers
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference
NFI	Non Food Item
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OPD	Out Patient Department
PHC	Primary Health Care
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Rehabilitation Operation
RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
SFC	Supplementary Feeding Centre
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Programme
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
TB	Tuberculosis
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
TFC	Therapeutic Feeding Centre
TFP	Therapeutic Feeding Programme
TOR	Terms of Reference
TT	Tetanus Toxoid
U5MR	Under Five Mortality Rate
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. Executive summary

During 1991, people of an ethnic minority, known as Rohingyas from Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, began to cross the border into Bangladesh due to a complex mixture of political, social and economic factors. Within months, the number of refugees entering Bangladesh grew to over 200,000, reaching almost a quarter of a million officially recognised refugees by mid-1992. Repatriation later began in September 1992 after negotiations with the Government of Myanmar, and by mid-1997 less than 25,000 Rohingyas remained in camps. Since then, the pace of repatriation has slowed to a trickle, reflecting the complicated issues surrounding the remaining caseload of approximately 21,000 refugees. It is reported that a large group of about 200,000 –250,000 people of the same ethnic origin as the refugees live outside the camps, in Bangladesh.

This Joint Assessment Mission took place the first week of August with the tasks to review and update the strategy for food and related assistance, with particular attention to:

- The situation, needs and risks experienced by refugees, including the health, nutrition and livelihoods situation;
- How food and other resources are being used and the adequacy of food basket composition, ration size and non-food commodities provided;
- The effectiveness of targeted feeding programs;
- Strategies to reduce dependency on food assistance and encourage self reliance;
- Promotion of refugee participation in food management, particularly the participation of women; and
- Performance and efficiency of logistics and management systems.

Main Achievements since 2004

Many achievements have been made in improving the living conditions for the refugees since the last JAM in 2004 (see full list of progress in annex 4). In particular the focus on preventive health has improved and an active screening for malnourished children through the community health workers is now in place. Diagnoses and treatment of Tuberculosis are available. Vaccination coverage has improved with weekly EPI services in the two camps. Nayapara camp has seen an improvement in infrastructure of the health facilities, schools as well as latrines. Food distribution has improved with the introduction of pre-packed individual rations of some items and rotation of refugee volunteers have improved. Tree plantation around the camps is now a yearly activity and soap is being produced in both camps by refugees for in-camp consumption.

There are many more achievements that we cannot mention here and the teams from the five partner organisations should be encouraged by the improvements made to date. However, there are still a number of gaps where improvements are essential in order to meet minimum humanitarian standards.

Main findings

The registration of refugees was stopped by the GOB in 1992. Persons from Myanmar arriving after this date are not officially recognised as refugees and are not eligible for humanitarian assistance. It is estimated that 7,000-9,000 unregistered refugees are living within the camps but do not have a family book which is needed to access humanitarian assistance. This has practical consequences for the whole

refugee community as planning figures for food rations, non-food items (NFIs), water and medications are based on the number of registered refugees. These essential items are consequently shared amongst registered and unregistered refugees.

The refugees are officially prohibited from leaving the camps however in practice around 60% of the men do leave the camps for daily labouring by paying a fee to the camp security guards. Refugee labourers receive only half the local wage. Income sources are very limited and complementary food items are neither provided nor readily available through kitchen gardens or poultry rearing. As a result, the majority of the households sell part of the food ration as well as some NFIs in order to purchase necessities such as vegetables and spices for their daily consumption.

It was also discovered that approximately 500 people per distribution do not receive their food entitlements as part of a punishment system put in place by the camp management (CIC). These people are registered and have a family book but for some reason are blocked from receiving food for a limited period. This has an enormous impact on 15-20% of the households' food intake every month as they are forced to cope with a much smaller amount of food than they are entitled to.

Regarding NFIs, the mission found that for some items, especially cooking fuel, are distributed per family and not considering the family size, placing larger families at a disadvantage compared to smaller families. . More fuel is required to prepare meals for a family of 10 than a family of 4 and thus larger families have to look for alternative sources to cover their needs.

Shelter conditions are poor and only minimum repairs have taken place in the last 5-7 years. It is hoped that the Government will agree to the proposed rehabilitation plan proposed by UNHCR.

Community participation in camp activities is limited and is more or less restricted to implementation rather than management of activities. The community is seldom involved in planning activities or making decisions on issues that affect their lives. There is little confidence in Government appointed refugee leaders (known as 'mahjees'). As a result block committees, which are headed by the mahjees, are not functional.

Refugees, particularly those in Kutupalong camp, are concerned about their security situation. They are threatened by majhees, camp security, local interest groups and villagers. The total number of reported cases has however reduced in the two camps.

All of the above factors contribute to persistent high levels of malnutrition in both camps.

Main Recommendations (see annex 3 for full list)

The mission has divided the recommendations into three time frames; immediate, mid term and long term, depending on the feasibility for action as some will need further examination and additional funding.

Immediate action:

- Denial of food rations as punishment must be stopped. All family members in the family book should receive their entitlement.
- Land should be made available to all households for vegetable cultivation, currently only a very small number have access to land.
- Security must improve in Kutupalong.
- People of concern (refugees living in the camp but not registered) should have systematic access to health and nutrition care.
- Some NFI entitlement should be based on family size to ensure that needs are met.

Midterm action (3-6 months):

- Build on positive impact of soap making by exploring the possibility to involve more refugees in producing other items e.g. CRH, school feeding snacks
- Allow active role of block committees through refugee selection on one year cycle as well as the mahjees being rotated on a yearly basis.
- Diversify skills training for both men and women.
- Provide fuel-saving stoves to reduce pressure on the environment.
- The profiling exercise should be followed by registration of identified refugees, who should receive humanitarian assistance.
- Involve UNICEF in education related activities.
- Seek support from UNFPA in family planning activities, especially for adolescents and young women.

Long term

The formulation of an exit strategy must go hand in hand with a consideration of durable solutions for the refugees from Northern Rakhine State. It is necessary to consider the level of self reliance amongst the refugees, how the refugees would cope if assistance were reduced and whether the political climate in Bangladesh would allow the refugees to support themselves.

The mission has concluded that at present the situation of the refugees has not substantially improved. They remain highly dependent upon humanitarian assistance for their survival. An end to the humanitarian assistance operation will only be possible when refugees are provided with opportunities for self reliance.

2. Background

As of June 2006, 21,322 registered refugees (2,955 families) from the Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, known as the Rohingyas, reside in the two camps of Nayapara and Kutupalong in Cox's Bazar area. The population is the residual caseload of 250,000 refugees who fled from Northern Rakhine State to Bangladesh at the end of 1991 and early 1992 due to persecution on ethnic and religious grounds in Myanmar.

Voluntary repatriation of refugees assisted by UNHCR started in 1994. Close to 230,000 refugees repatriated by April 1997, and of the twenty original refugee camps, only two remain. Voluntary repatriation came to a halt in mid-1997 due to a deadline set by the Government of Myanmar, but resumed in November 1998. In September 2002, in order to find a conclusion to the operation, UNHCR renewed its efforts to

find durable solutions for the refugees. Efforts focused on revitalising the repatriation of those willing to return. While repatriation movements continued, UNHCR discussed with the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) the consideration of ‘temporary self-reliance’ for those not able to repatriate immediately. In January 2003, UNHCR submitted a concept paper on self reliance to the GOB upon their request with a detailed project document submitted later in 2003. However, the response of the GOB received one year later in September 2004 was not favourable. The GOB has since maintained the position that there is no option for a durable solution but repatriation. Despite numerous discussions with the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh and intensive information sessions in the camps, the number of repatriations has not increased as expected and only a very small number repatriated in 2004 and 2005. No one has yet repatriated in 2006.

3. General Context

The objectives of this Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) were to look at the effectiveness of the operation and the overall situation and living conditions of the refugees and the possibilities for durable solutions (TOR, annex 1).

Many previous mission reports have reported on the very poor living conditions in the camps. The poor infrastructure of health facilities, hygiene conditions and poor nutritional status of the refugees have not changed for the better and hence are of immediate concern. It should be noted that UNHCR has in their plan of action for 2006 to pilot a shelter replacement and enhance health facilities but this has been greatly delayed as the GOB has not yet signed the annual sub-agreement with UNHCR.

The estimated number of the unregistered population living in the camps ranges from 7,000-9,000. These unregistered refugees are an additional burden on the available resources that are primarily planned based on registered population figures. These factors amongst others result in the poor health and nutrition status of the refugees.

Delivery of humanitarian assistance to registered refugees is funded by WFP and UNHCR. The responsibilities for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to registered refugees are divided between five partner agencies:

- The Government of Bangladesh (GOB), through the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office is responsible for refugee shelters, camp offices and law and order. The RRRC, through the appointed Camps-in-Charge (CIC), ensures the daily administration, coordination and delivery of services to both camps. Sanitation activities in Nayapara camp, including the maintenance/repair of sanitation facilities are implemented through the CIC.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with the GOB, ensures the protection of refugees, including the voluntary nature of repatriation. It supports and coordinates the basic humanitarian assistance activities of partner agencies. UNHCR has the budgetary responsibility for health/nutrition, education, water/sanitation, shelter, community services and protection, as well as provision of non-food items and food items for

specific activities. UNHCR is also responsible for repatriation kits and cash grants for refugees returning to Myanmar.

- WFP provides basic food commodities to the refugees. A food basket of 2,160 kcal/person/day is provided to all registered refugees. Commodities for Supplementary- and Therapeutic Feeding Programmes are supplied by WFP (since 2005 when WFP took over from UNHCR) to the two camps. In addition to the basic food, WFP implements a school feeding programme and Food –For Work/Training in the two camps as well as Food –For Work for the host population. However, all material for the Food For Training is provided by UNHCR.
- BDRCS has overall responsibility for the distribution of the general food rations and non-food items such as compressed rice husk (CRH), kerosene, soap and other relief items. They are also in charge of maintenance of the food stores.

TAI (98% funded by UNHCR) (Technical Assistance Inc.) is an implementing for both UN agencies. Responsible for education, community services activities, self help activities, kitchen gardening, chicks distribution, sanitary materials distribution, food basket monitoring, dress making, school feeding monitoring and tree plantation in two camps. In Kutupalong camp responsible for sanitation activities

UNHCR established its presence in Myanmar and Bangladesh in 1993, following the formalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the two Governments. The MOU signed between the GOB and UNHCR in 1993 is automatically renewed each year unless either side gives contrary notice. The agreement and signing of the sub-agreement for 2006 by the GOB is delayed. This is causing severe problems in the planning and implementation of greatly needed humanitarian activities.

At the request for the Government of Bangladesh, WFP has been providing food assistance to the refugee programme since April 1992 at a total cost of more than 63 million dollars. The current implementation phase is covered under the PRRO 10045.3 (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation) and runs from January 2006 to December 2007.

4. Methodology

The mission visited the two camps where the refugees from the Northern Rakhine State reside. Primary information was collected through household interviews, focus group discussions with men, women and adolescents, interviews with key informants and direct observations during five days of visits. Interviews with key informants from WFP, UNHCR, GOB and implementing partners were held at both national and district level. In addition, secondary data was used from previous JAM reports, monitoring statistics and sectoral survey reports. A limited number of host communities were also visited.

5. Refugee numbers and demographics

5.1. Demographics

The refugee population is very young with nearly 60% being under 18 years. This means that the majority of the population have no recollection or have never lived in Myanmar. The birth rate is higher than amongst the host community and the population increases by approximately 800 people per year through bare growth. There are a slightly higher number of females than males in the camps.

Age group	0-4	5-12	13-18	19-59	60 and over	Total persons
Kutupalong						
Male	733	1,258	545	1,680	96	4,312
Female	749	1,210	553	1,723	104	4,339
Nayapara						
Male	1,233	1,754	733	2,368	131	6,219
Female	1,150	1,733	887	2,539	143	6,452
Subtotal						
Male	1,966	3,012	1,278	4,048	227	10,531
Female	1,899	2,943	1,440	4,262	247	10,791
Grand Total	3,865	5,955	2,718	8,310	474	21,322
	18%	28%	13%	39%	2%	100%

The level of repatriation since 2003, as indicated in the table below, has been minor.

Repatriation statistics (UNHCR)

Year	Yearly repatriation (persons)	Cumulative Total since 1992
1992-2001	232,325	232,325
2002	760	233,085
2003	3,231	236,316
2004	210	236,526
2005	92	236,618
2006	-----	236,618

5.2. Validation/Profiling of the refugee population

UNHCR, in coordination with the GOB, conducted a revalidation and profiling exercise in February 2006 to update the data on the refugees residing in the camp. The exercise will also assist in getting some basic data on the number of vulnerable people living in the camps. The data collection has been completed but there have been some technical problems with data entries. Once the data has been processed the information will be shared with the Government for further discussions on updating the records and the family books.

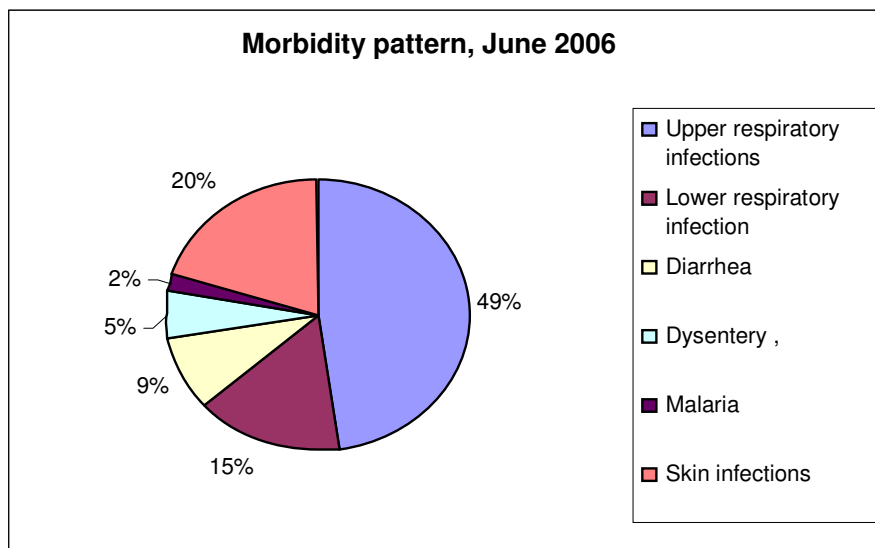
6. Health

In 2003, MSF-Holland handed over the responsibilities for the health services to the Ministry of Health (MoH) which manages the services through the office of the Civil Surgeon. Services are provided through one health clinic in each camp. The services that are provided include Out Patient Department (OPD), In Patient Department (IPD), immunisation, antenatal and postnatal care, laboratory services, family planning, STI prevention and treatment, awareness on prevention of HIV/AIDS and personal hygiene. The health care services in the camps provide primary health care and MOH hospitals in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong have been contracted for secondary and tertiary health care services. A referral mechanism is in place with an ambulance service for the two refugee camps operating around the clock. The health infrastructure, which is primarily made of bamboo structure, is in a debilitated state. In Kutupalong camp, the IPD was dismantled in November 2005 but has not since been re-built. Currently a part of the Therapeutic Feeding Centre is used for the IPD. In both camps, the health infrastructures need extensive repairs and/or re-construction. This is reportedly included in UNHCR's planned activities for 2006 but progress has been hampered by the already mentioned delay in the signing of the sub-agreement.

One recommendation from the 2004 JAM related to the improvement of tuberculosis (TB) detection and management. TB treatment is now in place with the help of a national NGO, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC). BRAC technical staff visit the two camps on bi-weekly basis to provide anti-TB drugs and diagnostic support. Patients are diagnosed by the medical officers in the camps through sputum smear examination and, if required, conducting other tests at Cox's Bazar TB hospital through a referral mechanism. The case detection rate, however, seems to be low and needs further improvement. WHO is involved in assessing the situation and to assist in improving the quality of the TB programme.

6.1. Morbidity pattern

The mission visited different sections of the health clinic and reviewed some of the records. The disease incidences for some of the common ailments in June 2006 are:



Compared with other years the morbidity pattern almost remains the same but the overall disease incidences have gone down, particularly when compared with 2005.

Medicines are procured by UNHCR, both internationally and locally, from Good Manufacturing Practice certified companies and provided free of charge. The quantity of drugs is sufficient for the registered refugee population, however, a sizeable number of unregistered refugees residing inside the camps also benefit from the health services, which is an added burden on drug availability.

6.2. Reproductive health care services

The reproductive health services are run mainly by staff nurses and only one female doctor (in Kutupalong camp) is available to manage gynaecological cases. Almost 98% of the deliveries happen in the shelters, attended by a Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) while the rest deliver either in the IPD or are referred to the referral hospitals. The TBAs are mainly engaged in home deliveries and when complications develop they refer patients to the clinics, which in some cases may result in serious delays. Basic Emergency Obstetric Care services are not available in the refugee camps.

Family planning services are linked to the Government's Family Planning Department which is the sole agency authorised to provide contraceptive injections, as per Government policy. Staff from the Family Planning Department visit the camps twice a month and administer the injections. Contraceptive pills and condoms are provided by MOH staff in the camp. Surgical procedures for family planning as well as Norplants (hormonal skin implants) are provided at Mother and Child Welfare Centre (MCWC) at Cox's Bazar. The contraceptive prevalence rate in June was 25%, which is higher than in 2005 but lower than national prevalence rate.

The high prevalence of adolescent pregnancies (11% of total reported pregnancies) and early marriages in the camps are of great concern and more attention is needed to inform the community of the risks associated with early pregnancies.

6.3. Immunisation services

An Extended Program of Immunisation (EPI) targets children below one year of age for seven diseases (including Hepatitis-B) and women of reproductive age (15-49 years) for TT immunisation. The immunisation against Tetanus is integrated with the antenatal care clinic. The immunisation services are supported through MOH and regular immunisation campaigns are held in the camps as part of the national campaigns.

6.4. Preventive health

The network of refugee Community Health Workers (CHWs) was re-activated in February 2006 with active steps to expand the preventive health care activities. The CHW network is supervised by the Medical Team Leaders in the two camps. CHWs are on average covering a population of 1000 refugees per two CHWs (one male and one female). Basic and refresher training was provided to CHWs on various health related topics including HIV/AIDS, personal hygiene, immunisation and nutrition. The Medical Team Leaders mentioned to the mission that they felt that the awareness sessions have had a positive impact. In particular, awareness about family planning appears to have improved as the number of couples coming for consultation has increased. The awareness sessions are mainly conducted verbally, except for

HIV/AIDS sessions, for which printed material is available. CHWs requested that they be provided with identification cards and uniforms to assist them in approaching households.

6.5. Recommendations:

1. Upon signing of the sub-agreement, repairs to health infrastructures should be undertaken.
2. CHWs should be provided with further training on specific topics related to health.
3. Communications materials (such as visual aids) should be provided to improve the quality of the awareness sessions.
4. The provision of identification cards or some other form of identification for CHWs should be considered.
5. Health services including SFP and TFP must show a good example by having soap available at the hand washing points.
6. The TBA network should be strengthened with refresher training, especially on assessing complications in pregnancies.
7. Unregistered ill people should have systematic access to health care and not only on a case by case basis. (Currently, UNHCR has to see the patient first and sign a slip for the health centre staff before s/he can be seen for consultation).
8. An intensified awareness campaign is recommended to address the negative impact of early marriages and adolescent pregnancies.
9. Upon completion of the UNHCR verification exercise, the procurement of medicines should be adjusted to reflect the actual number of persons of concern living in the camps.

7. Nutrition and Food Basket Composition

The recent nutritional survey conducted in November 2005¹ reflected Global Acute Malnutrition of 16.8% with 95% CI (13.4-20.2) using weight for height z-score, amongst children of 6-59 months. This was a deterioration from the previous assessment in 2003 that reported a Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence of 12.5%. Angular stomatitis (riboflavin deficiency) was detected in 13.8% of the children. The survey also pointed out that the general food ration was deficient in micronutrients.

The JAM mission observed the immediate causes of malnutrition in the camps as being both food and health related

The underlying causes are as follows: (see below Nutrition and Food security conceptual framework)

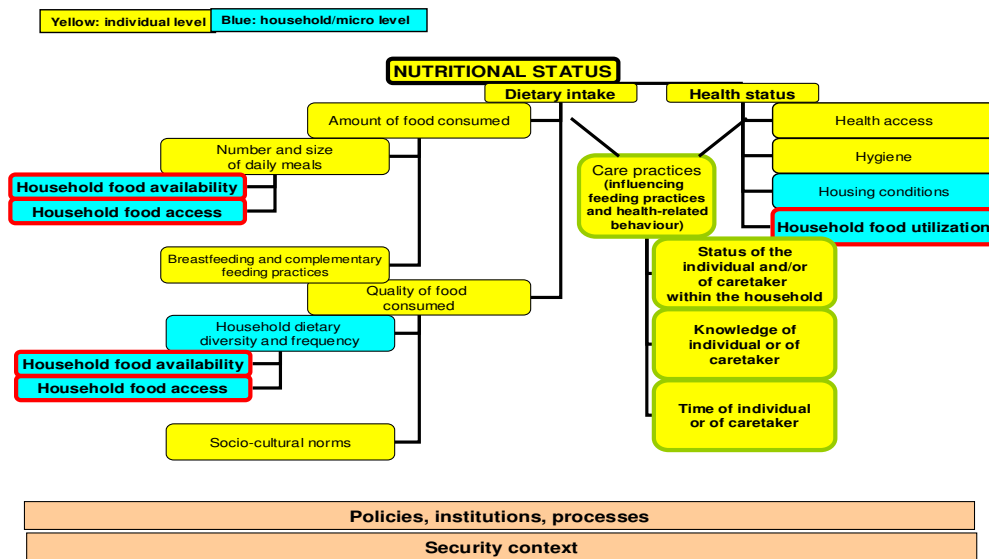
- Inadequate food intake due to sharing of rations with unregistered family members.
- The CIC requires all families to report to his office before each distribution and any family member not present (for example, because they are outside the camps for day labour) are denied a ration for that distribution. The CIC also removes

¹ Mortality and Nutrition Survey in Nayapara and Kutupalong Camps, Feb.2006- INRAN &UNHCR

some registered refugees from the family book² as punishment for misdemeanours. As a result many families receive fewer rations than they are entitled to.

- Inadequate fuel for cooking, which has led to the larger families reducing the number of meals they prepare per day since January 2006 when the ration of CRH was greatly reduced. The Forestry Department has started to crack down on people found collecting wood, which also results in less fuel being available to the refugees.
- Poor sanitary conditions leading to high prevalence of diarrhoea and worm infestation.
- Lack of income generating opportunities resulting in limited and unvaried diets.
- Selling of food ration thus reducing the intake to less than 2,100kcal/person/day. Rations are sold by refugees in order to cover unmet food and non-food needs. In Kutupalong camp, villagers belonging to certain local interest groups enter the camps and force refugees to sell their rations.
- Poor shelter conditions leading to high incidence of diseases especially chest infections.
- As per 2005 nutrition survey, the food basket is also insufficient in some micronutrients.

Nutrition and Food Security Conceptual Framework³, revised for Kutupalong and Nayapara camps



7.2. Selective feeding programmes

The selective feeding programmes target children under five years, pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and chronically ill patients, such as those with TB. The services are provided by MOH and include Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding Centres in each camp. The infrastructures of the feeding centres are in poor condition

² Individual ration cards are not used but instead one book per family is used to obtain all services entitled to them.

³ WFP-ODAN, 2006

and required repairs. Most of the staff in the centres were trained by MSF-Holland (in Nayapara) or Concern (in Kutupalong) before these programmes were handed over to MOH in 2003. Supplies for the feeding program are provided by WFP and UNHCR.

The coverage of the curative feeding programme was found to be 25.5% in the 2005 nutrition survey. This is very poor and not acceptable. Since early 2006 CHWs have been engaged in MUAC screening three days per week, however it is too early to see an impact. The reporting system of the MUAC screening does not yet allow for a statistical analysis of the level of malnutrition levels and feeding centre coverage.

7.2.1. Supplementary Feeding Centres

The two camps are operating wet feeding centres serving three cooked meals per day. Children are provided two meals of DSM per day and the PLWs are given one meal of blended food/DSM porridge. At the end of June 2006, a total of 585 under five children, 287 pregnant and 445 lactating women, 14 TB patients and 12 others were admitted in the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). Admission and discharge criteria are generally following acceptable standards but exceptions were found due to understaffing and particularly a lack of experienced senior staff. Some posts of nutrition workers and the post of nutritionist were found vacant, which was affecting the quality of services. It is not clear to the mission why DSM is used as a commodity for SFP, especially because it requires very strict hygienic conditions, needing intense supervision, and also because of its high cost.

7.2.2. Therapeutic Feeding Centres

Lack of expertise amongst Therapeutic Feeding Programme (TFP) staff in the two camps is a major concern. TFP staff previously received training from the international NGOs that were formerly in charge of this activity. However, since MOH took responsibility for the nutrition programmes, the number of staff has significantly reduced and TFP staff are no longer qualified to undertake their increased workload.

No protocols are used in administering the right amount of milk to children, which should be based on their weight. The food provided is DSM based and specialised therapeutic milk like F100 and F75 is not used. To convert DSM into therapeutic milk, B-complex and zinc is given to the admitted children on a daily basis but B-complex is not always available. Regardless, this is not standardised practice to treat severe malnutrition. The admission or discharge criteria are not followed strictly. For example, two orphan children aged two and three years had been admitted to the TFP for three months despite the fact that they were not severely malnourished.

One major concern is that children born with low birth weight are automatically admitted to the TFP regardless of whether the mother is severely malnourished or the fact that the child was prematurely born. Currently the mother and low birth weight child are admitted to TFP where they receive five meals per day. This has serious consequences as it interferes with best practice of exclusive breast feeding for the first 6 months. Women who do not have enough breast milk should be properly supported with breast feeding techniques in order to stimulate milk production as far as possible.

This is however not sufficiently done. The SFC would be a more appropriate place for these mothers where they could receive a supplemented food ration and their low birth weight child's weight should be closely monitored.

7.3. Food Basket composition

The ration is currently providing 100% of macronutrient requirements and comprises of :

Commodity	Daily general ration (gm)
Rice	450
Pulses	40
Oil	20
Salt	10
Sugar	10
Blended food	50
Kcal	2,160

The ration is deficient in iron (85% of RDA) and riboflavin (55% of RDA) and hence special programmes for pregnant and lactating women is in place to meet their extra needs. School children are also provided more through fortified biscuits at school.

The ration is lacking in spices, vegetables and meat, which the refugees consider to be necessary for an acceptable diet. As a result, refugees are selling a part of their food ration to purchase these and other essential items. Through focus group discussions using proportional piling techniques it is estimated that approximately 15% of the ration is being sold. The main items that are sold are rice and pulses; the main items that are bought are spices, vegetables and fuel.

As previously mentioned, the 2005 nutrition survey highlighted that the micronutrient levels in the current food basket are not sufficient. With this in mind, two possible rations for consideration have been devised where a minimum amount of rice has been removed in place of either a small quantity of dried fish (suggestion 1) to diversify the food intake or an increase in the quantity of blended food by 30% (suggestion 2).

Suggestion 1.

Commodity	Daily general ration (gm)
Rice	425
Pulses	40
Oil	20
Salt	10
Sugar	10
Blended food	50
Dried fish	30
Kcal	2,162

Suggestion 2.

Commodity	Daily general ration (gm)
Rice	425
Pulses	40
Oil	20
Salt	10
Sugar	10
Blended food	75
Kcal	2,170

7.4. Kitchen garden and poultry project

Kitchen gardens for all households were recommended in the 2004 JAM in order to improve the quality of refugees' food intake. Since then, little progress has been made and a very limited number of families have access to a garden. Seeds have been distributed to all households by UNHCR, regardless of access to land. Technical assistance from FAO was requested but without result.

Young chicks were distributed to all households in 2004 and 2005 but many of the chicks died due to poor veterinary supervision. Many families also mentioned that there was nowhere to keep the chicks apart from the already cramped shelters. This led to chicks being stolen and some also sold.

With the poor progress in cultivation activities most families as mentioned earlier are selling parts of their food ration and NFIs in order to purchase vegetables and spices in particular. TAI continues the poultry rearing project in 2006.

7.5. Recommendations

10. Mothers of children with low birth weight should be admitted in the SFP instead of the TFP where they should receive additional nutritious food to maximise milk production and be monitored to ensure that the child is gaining weight.
11. TFP should be supervised by a specialised international organisation to ensure that international standards are met either through onsite feeding or Community Therapeutic Care (CTC).
12. The MUAC reporting system needs to be strengthened in order to be fully used as a monitoring tool.
13. A number of scales in health centres and feeding centres were old and should be replaced.
14. The possibility of introducing dried fish or increasing blended food quantity in the food ration should be considered.
15. The possibility of piloting the use of Sprinkles⁴ should be considered.
16. The possibility for allocating small land plots for all households to enable vegetable cultivation should be explored.
17. The usage of DSM in both SFP and TFP should be investigated and could be removed for reasons of cost and food safety.

8. Sanitation

UNHCR organised camp cleaning awareness sessions from February 2005 for the two camps. The activity was organised with a view to mobilise and create awareness among the refugees to clean their camp environment. It was also an effort to develop community ownership and to create a communal sense of responsibility to care for the environment. UNHCR promoted a 'cleanest block in the camp' competition in order to encourage refugees to clean and disengage from dependency on incentives. However, the sanitation situation in general is not satisfactory and some of this is due to the reluctance of refugees to participate in the cleaning of latrines and garbage pits without incentives⁵.

8.1. Latrines

⁴ Sprinkles are a micronutrient supplement sprinkled directly on cooked food.

⁵ The incentive for sanitation work was discouraged in the 2004 JAM and thus stopped.

Sanitation activities in Kutupalong camp are the responsibility of UNHCR's implementing partner, Technical Assistance Inc (TAI), with two sanitation staff and twelve sanitation volunteers. In Nayapara the RRRC office has overseen sanitation activities since 2003. The user ratio of 1: 20 latrines in both camps is within the minimum standards set down by UNHCR.

In Kutupalong camp, Concern constructed pit latrines during the massive influx of refugees in 1992. These are presently maintained by TAI but are in very poor condition. In 2005, 60% of latrines in Nayapara camp were replaced. The new latrines are made of a wooden structure and corrugated iron. There is a collection chamber for waste with a water seal pan on a concrete slab connected by a tube to a septic tank.

Some women reported that they did not wish to use the latrines during the day because of the lack of privacy arising from the poor condition of the latrines. However, because most latrines lack adequate lighting many women also did not feel safe to visit the latrines at night.

UNHCR has developed a proposal for the construction of new latrines in Kutupalong and the remaining 40% of latrines in Nayapara, however implementation has been hampered by delay in signing the GOB-UNHCR sub-agreement.

8.2. Bathing cubicles

The female cubicles are adjacent to the male area with poorly maintained weak bamboo constructed walls, doors and roof. Women feel uncomfortable using them and all of them are in very poor condition. The ratio of users to bathing cubicles is 1: 44 in both camps, within international humanitarian minimum standards.

8.3. Drainage

In the area that was walked through by the mission, there was an extensive set of drainage channels of 20cm depth by 20cm width. The drainage situation in Nayapara was acceptable, however, in Kutupalong improvements are particularly needed in the areas near tube wells.

8.4 Disposal system

In Kutupalong there are 40 garbage pits, which are maintained by TAI on a regular basis. However, the number of garbage pits is insufficient. In Nayapara garbage disposal is managed by refugees themselves. However, there is a lack of a sense of community ownership surrounding all aspects of sanitation, including garbage disposal. As a result there is a large amount of garbage strewn throughout both camps, which no one is willing to clean. This creates an environment where disease vectors such as vermin can breed.

8.5. Water supply

In Nayapara camp UNHCR and WFP jointly extended a water reservoir in 2005, which collects rain and spring water from the hilly areas. Previously, water was trucked during the dry season but this has now been discontinued. Water is available for four hours a day and is distributed twice daily in the morning and in the afternoon.

Within the camp there is no community participation in the management of the distribution of water.

Ground water is available for drinking and daily consumption in Kutupalong camp. There are 48 hand pumps (tube well) installed in various locations in the camp. Each hand pump supplies 4000 litres of water, with a total daily output of 192,000 litres. There is a user ratio of 1: 20 litres in both camps.

8.6. Water treatment plant

There are three water treatment plants at Nayapara camp which were installed during the massive influx of refugees from Northern Rakhine State in 1992. The water production capacity per day is 365,000 litres. According to information provided by UNHCR, a comprehensive assessment will be conducted through MSF-Holland water experts to improve water management.

8.7. Recommendations

18. Hand washing facilities should be provided near latrines.
19. Lighting facilities should be provided in the latrine areas for the safety of refugees using the facilities at night.
20. Latrines for men and women should be in separate locations.
21. Suitable garbage disposal systems should be provided in both camps.
22. Male and female bathing cubicles should be constructed in separate locations.
23. Periodic water testing should be conducted.

9. Food Security and Self-Reliance

The mission looked at two of the three food security pillars, namely access and utilisation.

9.1. Access

Households access food mainly through the general ration. On average households sell 15% of their ration to purchase other goods that are essential in their daily life. The main items sold are rice and pulses and the main items bought are vegetables, spices and fuel. Sleeping mats and mosquito nets are also sold in order to obtain money. The refugees estimated that at least 50Tk is needed per day to meet their essential needs. Exchanges take place at nearby markets and in Nayapara camp villagers also regularly visit the camp to sell goods. Refugees generally have no choice but to sell their rations for below the market price. In Kutupalong camp, it was widely reported that refugees are forced to sell their rations to villagers entering the camps.

Food production is only possible for a small number of households as access to land for kitchen gardens in the camps is extremely limited. However, the main limiting factor appears not to be availability of land but rather Government policy which does not support comprehensive kitchen gardening. It also seems that families with good connections (such as the Government appointed mahjees) have a greater chance of having land than the most vulnerable. Gathering and/or hunting of wild foods were not mentioned by anyone as a food source.

Approximately 60-65% of the men are engaged in work outside the camp as daily labourers but they are in general paid only half the wage of a local worker, hence the income is very small. The regularity of job opportunities is also limited and follows seasonal agricultural variations. Officially refugees are not allowed to leave the camp, however in practice they are able to do so by paying a fee of about 10Tk each time to camp security forces. Some men in the camp work as porters on distribution days and receive 0.5kg rice per customer as payment. Previously some men collected firewood in nearby forests to sell for income. However, this has reduced due to recent crackdowns by forestry officers. Incidents of elephant attacks in the forests have also discouraged refugees from collecting firewood, thus reducing this opportunity for income generation.

9.2. Utilisation

Utilisation of food depends on factors such as cooking and storage facilities i.e. utensils, fuel, quality and quantity of water. Utensils are limited but meet the basic cooking and storage needs. Water does not seem to be a problem but insufficient fuel was frequently mentioned, especially by larger families. With the reduction in entitlement of CRH to two bags/family/month and with increased difficulty to collect firewood from the forest some families have reduced the number of meals they prepare from three to two per day. Evidence of worm infestation was observed amongst a large number of children and this clearly has an effect on absorption and thus the nutrients are not fully utilised by the body. There was unfortunately not enough time to look into cooking practices.

9.3. Vulnerable groups

Through focus group discussions using wealth ranking exercises four different wealth groups were identified in Kutupalong camp.

- **20% of the households are regarded as better off.** This group includes the mahjees and households that have properties in Myanmar and/or Bangladesh and consequently also have better access to income and kitchen gardens.
- **33% are seen as households that manage fairly well.** These are male headed households where the male is able to work outside the camp as a daily labourer a few days per week. It is important to note that the refugee daily labourers are paid less than host community workers by 30-50%.
- **20% are regarded as vulnerable** and comprises of male headed households where the man is unable to work.
- **25% are the worst off** and this group are widows and female headed households with no male bringing home an income.

The above indicates that approximately 45% of the refugee population are totally dependent on food aid.

9.4. Persons of Concern living in the camp (unregistered)

The GOB stopped registering refugees in late 1992. Any persons arriving from Myanmar after that time are not recognised as refugees by the GOB and are not entitled to humanitarian assistance. It is estimated that there are approximately 7,000-9,000 unregistered refugees living within the camps. Interviews with unregistered refugees, some of whom have lived in the camps for over 10 years, revealed a desperate situation.

Amongst unregistered refugees, female headed households are the most vulnerable. Most of them survive by begging for food either in the camp or surrounding villages. Their children are not allowed to attend school, they are not given nutritional assistance when malnourished and during our camp visits we found children who had never been vaccinated. They have not been given shelter, hence most have made sheds from whatever materials they could find. They do not receive NFIs, although UNHCR has distributed some plastic sheeting to unregistered refugees in the camps. Cooking facilities and utensils are not good amongst the registered refugees but the situation is even worse amongst the unregistered.

It can only be speculated as to what measures these households find themselves forced to take in order to feed themselves and their children.

9.5. Coping strategies

For the two most vulnerable groups the food rations run out 4-5 days before the next distribution. To cope with this they borrow food from others and reduce the food intake for the adults. When food shortages are faced earlier than 4-5 days then they may sell some assets such as mats or mosquito nets.

9.6. Recommendations

24. After completion of the UNHCR validation exercise persons of concern living in the camps should be properly registered and receive a family book so they may access humanitarian assistance.
25. Special support should be enhanced for female headed households to prevent them from adopting negative coping strategies.
26. Measures should be taken to stop forced selling of food to local interest groups as soon as possible.

10. Food Aid, Targeting, Distribution and Monitoring

10.1. Procurement

WFP is responsible for procurement and supply of food for the general distribution. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has been UNHCR's and WFP's implementing partner for management and distribution of food at the camp level since 1992. Since 2001, UNHCR and WFP jointly cover the operational costs under an agreement that is renewed each year. BDRCS have a total of 13 staff to coordinate and supervise the lifting, loading, unloading and distribution of food, as well as maintain records.

WFP initiates the procurement and transportation of food to the Local Storage Depot (LSD) at Cox's Bazar and issues delivery orders through the Government to BDRCS to handle and distribute the food among the refugees in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps. WFP uses the LSDs of the Government to store food commodities before they are transported to the camp storage facilities. BDRCS is responsible for the transportation, storage in the camp and distribution of food commodities.

10.2. Distributions

Food commodities are distributed on a fortnightly basis, with distribution taking place over six days in both Nayapara and Kutupalong camps. Refugees collect rations on fixed days according to block number. Separate counters/que for women were not

available at the distribution points, making it difficult for women to get their food rations and had to queue with men, which in general is not culturally acceptable in this community. The timing of the distribution seems to be appropriate. Occasional delays were experienced in the DSM supply to the feeding programmes due to delays in international procurements but there have been no major pipeline breaks in food commodity supply from 2005 up to July 2006. The quality of commodities distributed was generally found to be good.

BDRCS circulates a lifting schedule to all partners before each distribution. This schedule now includes the approximate times of lifting and indicates a nominated official from each agency to attend. As the weekend falls on Friday and Saturday, WFP has sought to ensure that lifting does not occur on either of these days in order to allow WFP and UNHCR monitors to be present at the LSD during lifting. Since 2005, BDRCS does not undertake lifting on Fridays, however lifting occasionally occurs on Saturdays. Usually lifting is completed before the start of distribution, although due to transport constraints BDRCS has sometimes had to undertake lifting during the distribution period.

Since 2002, refugee volunteers have been involved in the food distribution at camp level. Currently, a total of 33 refugee volunteers are responsible for the unloading and distribution of basic food commodities. These volunteers are selected from the most vulnerable refugee families on a three-monthly rotation basis and receive a food incentive of 20kg rice per month in return for their labour. While this degree of refugee participation in the food distribution is commendable, the mission found that there is scope to improve this further and to improve the awareness of BDRCS on the benefits of refugee participation. Female representation in the volunteers is about 40% and 30% in Kutupalong and Nayapara camp, respectively. Apart from distribution volunteers the refugee participation in the food distribution and management is absent. The GOB continues to oppose the involvement of refugees in the management of food and other aspects of camp life.

The 2004 JAM recommended that BDRCS staff should rotate, either from other BDRCS offices or at minimum between the two camps. Since then, two BDRCS staff have rotated. Further efforts must be made to rotate BDRCS staff, pursuant to the tripartite agreement between BDRCS, UNHCR and WFP.

The number of women collecting rations from male-headed households has increased compared to last year, however further encouragement is needed in this regard. Women are not given preference in the collection of rations. In Nayapara camp there is no separate line for women at the distribution centre. Although a separate line for women was seen at Kutupalong camp, it is not maintained at a respectable distance from the men and women were not given preference in ration collection.

At present a printed master roll is used to check off refugees as they collect their entitlements. This system is time consuming and makes it difficult to track who has and has not received their entitlements. WFP and UNHCR have sought the introduction of an electronic master roll to make the process more transparent and enable better data management. BDRCS has been provided with a computer for this purpose. However, to date BDRCS is yet to implement an electronic master roll because the computer has been broken and BDRCS lack the skills to use the relevant software. The computer should be fixed and appropriate training provided to BDRCS

staff as a matter of priority in order to expedite the introduction of the electronic master roll.

The 2004 JAM recommended that refugees who were able to do so should be encouraged to sign their names on the master roll, rather than leaving a thumbprint. However, the mission found that BDRCS staff did not encourage refugees to sign their names and in most cases refugees were leaving a thumbprint, regardless of whether they were literate. The mission again recommends that refugees who are able to sign their names should be encouraged to do so for the sake of their dignity.

In spite of the long duration of food assistance and the posting of entitlements on sign boards in English, Bangla and Burmese, some refugees interviewed at the distribution centre were still not aware of their entitlements. In most cases the refugees knew the number of scoops of each commodity to which they were entitled but many did not know the numerical weight.

Families who are absent during distribution are required to seek special permission from the CIC for retroactive collection of food rations. There appeared to be no clear follow-up system for absentee families in place. Full implementation of an electronic master roll could enhance follow up for absentee families.

10.3. Food Storage

The mission visited the storage facilities at Teknaf and Ukhiya LSD and within Nayapara and Kutupalong camps. The mission observed that the stores were orderly and clean and was informed that the LSD was cleaned with bleaching powder on a regular basis. The food commodities showed no or a low level of insects present. In camp warehouses, rat poison was the only pest control option used, however, this has recently stopped.

The camp warehouse is required to keep a three day buffer stock and to ensure timely receipt of new stock to replenish the buffer stock. The mission observed that the buffer stock was not maintained systematically or kept separate from stock left over from the distribution. Standard quantities of buffer stock should be maintained and separate records kept for buffer stock and regular commodities for distribution.

Following the recommendations of the 2004 JAM, WFP extended the warehouse capacity in Nayapara to a capacity of about 125 MT.

10.4. Food Monitoring and Reporting

Since 2002, a joint approach to monitoring has been adopted involving UNHCR, WFP, TAI and BDRCS. This requires the presence of BDRCS and at least two of the other agencies at the distribution point. WFP and UNHCR are also required to jointly monitor lifting by BDRCS at the LSD level. This approach has assisted in reducing leakage, particularly at the distribution point. However, the presence of UNHCR was observed to be irregular and WFP's presence at LSD is also not ensured for the full lifting period.

The mission was informed that BDRCS conducted random sampling for weight and quality of stock received. This method is appropriate if the data is properly recorded and regularly reported to WFP and the Department of Food. However, BDRCS has

not kept records of these samples or provided these reports to WFP. The only reporting by BDRCS to WFP is through the maintenance of the stock register and standard distribution reports. As BDRCS has direct contact with refugees through distribution they are in a position to report on a number of field level issues. Reporting should include information on losses, registered refugees who are not receiving rations and other important operational issues related to distribution. However, BDRCS has not been reporting on these issues to WFP and/or UNHCR.

WFP has two Assistant Field Officers who dedicate their time to monitoring at the camp and LSD levels. TAI provides two full-time Food Basket Monitors, funded by UNHCR. UNHCR staff include food basket monitoring as part of their overall duties. Based on the recommendation of the last JAM, BDRCS now reports each month on planned vs actual distribution for the general food ration but not non-food items. In all cases, the actual distribution figure was less than the planned number, however, in their reports no specific reasons were given for the disparity in numbers.

Food basket monitoring is undertaken at the exit of the distribution point, with random spot checks made on 25-30 families per day. Compensation for short or excess rations is made on the spot and refugees can request to have their rations weighed, although at times the high number of requests exceeds the capacity of the monitoring staff. Monitoring reports show that on average refugees receive 97-98% of their monthly entitlements. Reasons for this loss were mainly reported to be due to the inaccurate scooping system. An alleged loss of 1-2% at LSD level is not reported and is transferred to the beneficiaries, which the Mission considers to be unacceptable. The monthly distribution figures presented in FBM reports showed that refugees on average received 98.08% of their food entitlements in 2005, and 97.68% in the first six months of 2006.

Beneficiary Contact Monitoring (BCM) is conducted by WFP on a random sampling basis and provides information on the use of food at the household level. In the past six months, analysis of monitoring findings indicated that 43% of families sell rice and 63% sell pulses to local vendors to purchase food and non-food items. The BCM findings are now systematically kept in the WFP database and quarterly analytical reports are produced, which provide an insight into the patterns of food consumption and sale. However, the quality of the reports may be developed further, in particular to incorporate more qualitative data and analysis.

10.5. Entitlement versus receipt

The below table shows the number of registered refugees who have their name in a family book and are hence entitled food assistance, and the number who are receiving rations on a fortnightly basis. The difference is striking and represents people who the CIC has stopped from receiving food for various reasons. Denial of food entitlements is used as a form of punishment by the CIC for various misdemeanours. This is a violation of refugees' rights and is a clear violation of the MOU between the GOB and WFP. As is shown in the table, the numbers differ from one month to the other as people are given back their entitlement when the punishment is over.

Month	Distribution Period	Total Registered Refugees ⁶	Total Receiving Ration ⁷	Total Not Receiving Rations
January	04/01-17/01	20,984	20,386	598
	18/01-31/01	21,004	20,413	591
February	01/02-14/02	17,033	20,422	-3,389 ⁸
	15/06-28/02	21,061	20,509	552
March	01/03-14/03	21,110	20,586	524
	15/03-28/03	21,119	20,558	552
	29/03-11/04	21,160	20,604	556
April	12/04-25/04	21,172	20,608	564
	26/04-09/05	21,194	20,652	496
May	10/05-23/05	21,255	20,698	466
	24/05-06/06	21,274	20,789	466
June	07/06-20/06	21,323	20,808	455
	21/06-04/07	21,333	20,868	436
July	05/07-18/07	21,353	20,897	428
	19/07-01/08	21,386	20,925	461
Average per distribution				510

10.6. Recommendation

27. BDRCS should ensure that the system of rotation of refugee volunteers every 90 days is systematic. 50% of volunteers should be female, with an appropriate division of labour between women and men. Adequate training should be provided to the volunteers to ensure accurate distribution.
28. Proper skills training should be provided to distribution volunteers.
29. An electronic master-roll should be put in place and training should be provided to BDRCS staff on relevant technical skills. BDRCS should give due attention in taking signature in the master roll from literate refugees. Where the ration is collected by others on behalf of the entitlement holders, BDRCS staff should record the identity of the recipient on the master roll.
30. WFP and TAI should organise awareness raising sessions for the refugees on ration entitlements. Awareness sessions could be conducted among amongst the children (classes 3-5) in the school about food entitlement and the children encouraged to share the learning with their parents or guardian at home.
31. Refugee participation in the food distribution and management should be further enhanced.
32. UNHCR, WFP, TAI and BDRCS together with the camp administration and the refugee community, should identify ways to encourage more women to collect their food rations.

⁶ Source: RRRC

⁷ Source: BDRCS

⁸ Not included in calculation of monthly average.

33. A follow-up system should be established for absentee families to ensure that their food entitlements are verified and received.
34. BDRCS should replace long serving camp staff from BDRCS other office or by recruiting new staff
35. Standard quantities of buffer stock should be maintained for all food items separately. Unspent commodities from the distribution should not be mixed with the buffer stock. Periodic physical checking of buffer stock and unspent commodities should be conducted by BDRCS Cox's Bazar officials and WFP staff.
36. After completion of each distribution day, the camp warehouse should be sealed by the responsible BDRCS officer upon verifying the stock register to ensure against leakage from the camp warehouse.
37. WFP together with all agencies should develop a monthly monitoring plan at LSD and camp level to ensure the full participation of all agencies in monitoring.
38. BDRCS should regularly undertake random sampling at the LSD and camp level and make the results available to WFP.
39. BDRCS should provide the names of refugees who are removed from the family book to WFP and UNHCR as soon as it becomes aware that the names have been removed.
40. When BDRCS are requested by the CIC to confiscate family books it should immediately communicate with UNHCR and WFP so that appropriate action can be taken.
41. WFP and UNHCR should ensure that denial of food entitlements is not used as punishment.

11. Non-Food and other related concerns

UNHCR is the agency responsible for the provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs). Items such as soap, mosquito nets and blankets are distributed according to family size. Other NFIs (ie. CRH) are distributed without taking the family size into consideration and thus for those items each family receives the same amount. This places larger families at a disadvantage to smaller families, and in a situation where distributed items do not adequately cover their needs.

The mission conducted a number of focus group discussions with both men and women and visited several sheds to see the availability of the NFIs. It was observed that smaller families were able to manage their needs, purchasing only a few of the items not normally distributed by UNHCR (ie. containers for rice storage and some metallic pots) from outside. Larger families and families supporting individuals not registered in the family book had to buy additional items from their earnings or by selling cooking fuel or a portion of their ration in order to meet their non-food requirements

A large number of refugees complained about the shortage of cooking fuel (CRH) and that it did not cover the period for which it was provided. This was due to several reasons: blanket distribution per family without consideration of family size, irregular distribution intervals that varied from 12 to 47 days, fuel wastages while cooking, smaller size of pots for bigger families where they have to cook in several pots for the whole family, sharing of fuel with unregistered family members and selling (both voluntary and forced) of cooking fuel. In Kutupalong Camp, refugee women and men

complained that they were forced to sell food and non-food items by a group of locals who enter the camp with the permission of the authorities. In some cases refugees were voluntarily selling fuel to buy other items and were replacing the sold portion with firewood that they were able to manage illegally from the nearby forest. Through household visits and discussions with various groups, it was found that on an average the distributed amount of CRH to a family of six members is only enough for 12-15 days. The remaining amount has to be managed from other sources.

The current bamboo shelters are 7-8 years old and in very poor condition. Over the years UNHCR has been involved in regular negotiations with the GOB regarding the improvement of shelters through construction of semi-permanent sheds. Government has not been supportive of this proposal however, viewing it as a disincentive to repatriation, and only minor repairs have been possible. A general joint shed assessment was carried out in 2005 by the camp-in-charge (CIC) offices and UNHCR. The Government repaired 544 units of shelter out of 4,296 units, which constitute 12.6% of the total sheds. In 2006 all households received plastic sheeting in order to reduce damage by the monsoon season. Needless to say the present sheds provide only half the recommended minimum standard in terms of space.

11.1. Recommendations.

42. The quantity of NFIs should be distributed on the basis of family size to ensure all families, regardless of size, are able to meet their non-food needs. The size of cooking pots should be large enough to cook food in for the whole family. In particular, distribution of cooking fuel should be based on family size rather than current practice (i.e. 2 bags/family/month).
43. The frequency of distribution of non-food items should be adjusted to better reflect refugee needs and the durability of items.
44. Shortages of cooking fuel could be met through exploring the possibility of making CRH in the camp. This would provide additional skills training opportunities for refugees and may also reduce the overall expenses required for CRH procurement.
45. Fuel efficient clay stoves should be introduced through training and awareness sessions on how to make energy efficient stoves, to reduce the unnecessary wastage of fuel during cooking.
46. GOB should allow reconstruction of sheds with minimum international standard shed space for the refugees

12. Community Services

TAI took over implementation of the community services program in May 2006, as a new implementing partner of UNHCR in this sector. Services and activities currently provided under the program include skills training, awareness raising, services to Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs), kitchen gardening, informal education and adult and adolescent literacy and numeracy classes. This section deals only with activities not covered in other sections of the report.

Awareness raising sessions are regularly conducted amongst the refugee community covering topics such as sexual and gender based violence, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and peace building. In addition, focus group discussions are held with

various groups within the community, based on incident reports and the general camp situation. These have addressed issues such as basic health and hygiene, trafficking, gender equality and the importance of education. These play an important role in disseminating information on key issues and there is further scope to expand the positive potential impacts of these activities by introducing other communication techniques that incorporate a more participatory approach.

There are still only limited recreational activities available to refugees in the camp. A small number of footballs were distributed to children as part of the celebrations for World Refugee Day and tournaments are arranged on an occasional basis. The mission felt that the introduction of organized recreational activities could play a positive role in building community spirit and lifting camp morale as well as provide much needed entertainment to children living in the camps.

12.1. EVI

Support is provided to around 300 persons identified as EVIs. These include female-headed households, unaccompanied minors, elderly and people with a physical or mental disability. UNHCR maintains a list of EVIs that is updated every six months through shed-to-shed visits. In the interim, EVIs who come to the attention of UNHCR through other channels are also added to the list.

12.2. Food For Training (self help activities):

The self help activities provide training opportunities to the refugees, when having their own space, as well as an additional support to cover their basic needs. FFT is a supporting tool from WFP to the training/skills centres/workshops run by TAI, as an implementing agency for UNHCR.

A modest Food For Training (FFT) program consisting of embroidery, soap making and tailoring is offered to adolescent girls and women in both camps. Each camp has two training centres: one for embroidery/tailoring and one for soap making. Presently 334 women and adolescent girls are engaged in FFT activities across the two camps. In 2005, a total of 600 women participated in FFT activities.

Sixteen women, mainly from female-headed households, and one trainer are engaged in soap making activities in each camp. In line with recommendations of the 2004 JAM, activities were extended to Nayapara in 2005. The centres produce 500 bars of laundry soap per day, which is distributed to refugee families through BDRCS at the end of each month. While the soap centres have the capacity to produce more soap per day (800 bars), Government restrictions on income generating activities mean production is limited to only in-camp consumption. The soap produced by refugee volunteers is a valuable contribution to NFI needs within the camp.

Women working in the soap making centres receive an incentive of 25kg of rice per month. They are given a slightly higher incentive (5kg more) than trainers engaged in embroidery/tailoring activities due to the heavy nature of the work. Distribution of the rice incentive is on a monthly basis, although in the past it was every three months. When asked about the suitability of this arrangement women expressed a preference for bi-monthly distribution, as receiving more rice at one time makes it easier for them to exchange a portion of the incentive for other important food and

non-food items. The women working in the soap centre appreciated the opportunity to gain a skill and benefit from the incentive offered.

Rotation of soap volunteers has not been regular in the past and in 2005 there were only two changes of volunteers. TAI has recently put in place measures for volunteers to be rotated every three months and plans to change 50 percent of volunteers at a time so experienced volunteers are available to provide on the job training to new recruits. The mission found this to be a positive development that will enable a greater number of vulnerable women the opportunity to participate in and benefit from skill development.

Three hundred women are involved in embroidery and tailoring activities in both camps, with 50 engaged as trainers and 250 as trainees. Each trainer is responsible for the supervision of four trainees for a period of three months. At the end of the three-month period trainees are given a sewing kit consisting of cloth, scissors, needles and cotton. Opportunities for trainees to both develop and utilise their skills after completion of the training course are limited as they do not have access to sewing machines in centres nor do they have the means to purchase their own. This point was highlighted during focus group discussions with women, who requested that sewing machines be provided so they can continue using their skills once the course is over.

The mission observed that there was little rotation of trainers. One reason mentioned for this was that trainees were not able to develop the level of skill required of a trainer in only a three-month period. Women recommended that the training period be extended from three to six months so trainees could properly develop their skills. This would also help facilitate more regular rotation of trainers, as a larger pool of appropriately skilled trainees would be available to draw from. The mission felt this option should be explored in consultation with trainers and trainees.

Trainers receive an incentive of 20 kg of rice per month, which is distributed on monthly basis. No incentives are provided to trainees, while the provision of snacks, which was a recommendation of the 2004 JAM, has not been implemented. The issue was explored briefly during focus group discussions and women expressed their appreciation of the idea. Given that tailoring/embroidery is a food for training activity the mission considered the provision of snacks during class important.

Each year 50 trainers and 70 trainee helpers are involved in the production of clothes for general distribution. This activity, like soap making, represents a valuable contribution to NFI needs within the camp. In 2005, a total of 23,214 items were produced including longis, blouses, sarongs and shorts. Production is completed over a one-month period and work continues for approximately eight hours a day. During this time regular training activities are suspended resulting in one batch of trainees receiving two months training instead of three. Women suggested that if the cloth was given to them two months in advance training activities could continue during the production period. Women receive an in kind payment of item/s of their choice at the end of the production period based on the number of items they produce. Rates vary for different items (ie. blouse, longi etc.) and the different activities (sewing, cutting, assisting). Women seemed satisfied with in-kind payment however several mentioned that the loss incurred through the resale of items (ie. women are only able

to resell item for 40-50 percent of their original value) should be factored into the calculation of their payment.

FFT activities are both appreciated and valued among women. The programme not only enables women to gain a skill but also be involved in the production of items for the refugee community, which has enhanced confidence and self-esteem among participants. The mission felt there was scope to build upon the positive impact of such activities by engaging women in the production of other food and non-food items for in camp consumption. Ideas mentioned by women included the production of school bags, sleeping mats, candles, stools, prayer caps and other clothing items. The mission felt there were also possibilities to involve women in the production of CRH and/or cakes for the school feeding program. The mission recommends that UNHCR, WFP and TAI further explore these possibilities.

There remain no training opportunities for adolescent boys and men, a point also mentioned in the 2004 JAM, mainly as a result of low refugee participation in vocational training opportunities in the past. When the subject was raised with refugee men many expressed an interest in learning tailoring, carpentry and mechanic skills. The mission felt the possibility of vocational training could again be explored with a focus on skills they can utilize after the refugee situation is over.

12.3. Recommendations:

47. In consultation with refugees, TAI should explore culturally appropriate recreational activities for both refugee children and adults living in the camps.
48. Concerned agencies should explore different techniques to disseminate information on key topics that incorporate a participatory approach, eg. theatre
49. UNHCR, WFP and TAI should conduct a feasibility study to explore opportunities to include more women in the production of non-food items (CRH, sleeping mats etc.) and possibly food items (cakes for school feeding program) for in-camp consumption through diversification of the skills training program.
50. TAI should continue their efforts to regularise the rotation of both trainers and trainees to ensure more women have the opportunity to benefit from FFT opportunities. TAI should also explore the possibility of extending the duration of the tailoring program to six months.
51. UNHCR together with TAI should explore the possibility of providing vocational training to adolescent boys and men, with a focus on skills they can utilise after the refugee situation is over.

13. Coordination & Community Participation

Inter-agency meetings are held monthly in Cox's Bazar and Dhaka on alternate basis. Also at camp level meetings are held monthly. Health and Nutrition sectoral meetings are held monthly in Cox's Bazar with the participation of MOH, WFP and UNHCR and one participant from RRRC. A food committee meeting is held every two months in Cox's Bazar, lead by WFP with participants from UNHCR, BDRCS and TAI.

Coordination meetings with the RRRC have been postponed for the last three months. It has been suggested that the venue and chair of the coordination meetings should rotate amongst the member agencies however this has not been accepted by the GOB.

Whilst the 2004 JAM reported that refugee participation in the overall camp activities had increased considerably compared to the past, this mission must report that there have been clear setbacks in this area. The mission noted that block-wise committees that were established some years ago are not functioning. Block committee members are frustrated that they are not consulted and mahjees hold unilateral decision-making power. At present, the existence of these non-functional block committees simply serves to grant legitimacy to the decisions of the unelected mahjees. The block committee would like to see the group elected by the block inhabitants. The duties for the block committees need to be jointly discussed and reviewed by all actors with GOB to standardise the role of these committees.

Sectoral volunteer groups working to improve specific areas such as health, education, environment and sanitation issues are in general lacking in the camp. It is only in health that a committee has been established and the first meeting was held in July 2006 in both camps. The members of the committee are the medical team leaders, two CHWs and UNHCR.

13.1. Recommendations:

52. Block committees should be revitalised through a selection by refugees and should sit for one year.
53. Mahjees could also be on a one year rotation and should be selected by refugees.

14. Education

Technical Assistance Incorporated (TAI) took over implementation of the education program in May 2006 under UNHCR's funding. Informal primary education is provided to children from kindergarten to class five, but the Government of Bangladesh does not permit higher education in the camps. There are eight schools in each camp. Classes are managed in two shifts, five days a week. As of June 2006, 93.15% (6,461) of school age children were enrolled in school (3218 boys and 3,243 girls) and the average attendance rate was 87%. There are a total of 86 teachers in camps (11 female and 37 male). The average teacher to student ratio is 1:32.

Through the school feeding program, 50g fortified biscuits are provided to each student attending class. The biscuits are provided by WFP and distributed by school teachers under the supervision of TAI. In 2006 WFP also provided drinking flasks to school children. UNHCR regularly distributes school kits to each student containing basic materials such as exercise books and pens.

Adult literacy classes were conducted in 2005 and in 2006 literacy classes were introduced for adolescent girls. Approximately 400 adolescent girls are attending the classes, to whom WFP provides fortified biscuits.

14.1. Quality of education

Refugees identified the poor quality of education as one of the main reasons for non-attendance at school. In particular, issues were raised in relation to the quality of the curriculum, teaching and materials provided in the camp schools.

14.2. Curriculum

Refugee children are taught from the Burmese curriculum, as the Government of Bangladesh does not allow standard local curriculum to be taught in the camp schools. Three subjects are taught: Burmese, English and mathematics. The Burmese curriculum also includes history, geography and general science but qualified teachers could not be found to teach these subjects. Children learn about basic health and hygiene practices at school, however, life skills and social awareness education are not included in the curriculum. Recreational activities for children in the schools are limited.

The GOB continues to ban the teaching of Bangla curriculum and will not allow the introduction of Bangla language classes despite the refugees' native tongue being very similar to the local dialect spoken in the region. Refugees also said that they wanted to learn a higher level of English than that which is taught in the schools.

14.3. Teaching

School teachers are volunteers from the refugee community and receive limited training and a modest incentive. Most teachers completed primary school education either in Myanmar or in the camps, and some subsequently obtained private tuition in subjects such as English and mathematics. Teachers receive three months training before recruitment, followed by periodic ongoing training organised by TAI. This training mainly focuses on the basic subject matter to be taught, with some instruction on teaching techniques. Teaching in the camp schools mainly relies on rote learning. Participatory, student-centred learning techniques are rarely employed.

14.4. Materials

UNHCR has faced difficulties in obtaining textbooks because the Government of Myanmar has obstructed the supply of school books for the refugees and local curriculum cannot be used. Old Burmese textbooks are shared between students, but few textbooks could be obtained for class five. UNHCR now plans to reprint copies of Burmese textbooks in Bangladesh for use within the camps.

14.5. Guardian Meetings

UNHCR, through its implementing partner TAI, conducts school-wise guardian meetings on a bi-monthly basis. The meetings are facilitated by TAI staff and are attended by both guardians and teachers. Majhees and imams also participate but in their capacity as 'community leaders' rather than parents. Parents are informed of the meeting dates through their children. TAI generally sets the agenda and issues discussed in past meetings include: school timetables, low attendance on distribution days, child hygiene, and distribution of school materials. The major concerns highlighted by parents in the meetings were the quality of education and the lack of materials available to students.

While several guardians expressed concern about their children's education their overall interest in attending the meetings was not particularly high. Participation of female guardians in the meetings was found to be considerably lower than that of males. Guardians' lack of interest in attending meetings appeared, in part, to be a result of the lack of opportunity to influence the agenda and a lack of confidence that raising their concerns would make a difference. There did not seem to be a genuine and equal exchange of information between TAI staff and guardians in the meetings

and although guardians were given the opportunity to raise their concerns, the overall flow of information tended to be one-way.

14.6. Female Teachers

There are currently 86 teachers in the camps, of which only 11 were female. There are several barriers to women becoming teachers, including the lower number of women who complete primary education and social disapproval of women's engagement in activities outside the home. However, refugee women clearly believe that suitable female candidates can be found if adequate support is provided to them. While ad hoc efforts have been made to encourage women to participate in existing recruitment processes, there appeared to be no special measures in place to address the particular constraints faced by women and to support them through the training period. Currently, potential teachers are identified by TAI/UNCHR staff and encouraged to participate in a basic training course. If they complete the course and pass the exam they are instated as a teacher at one of the schools. Although several potential female teachers participated in the last training course, none passed and went on to be school teachers.

Current female teachers participate in regular training courses, however, there are no separate classes for women. Female teachers expressed a wish for separate women-only classes, as it would give them more confidence to ask questions and discuss subject matter. They also thought it more appropriate for cultural reasons.

14.7. School Attendance

As of July 2006, 93.15% of school age children were enrolled in school. Overall enrolment has increased from 5466 in 2005 to 6461 in July 2006. During 2005-2006, attendance rates remain around 87%.

School enrolment by class for July 2006⁹

	KG	1	2	3	4	5
Boys	1177	786	598	375	192	96
Girls	1265	818	629	374	128	31
Total	2442	1604	1227	749	320	127

However, school enrolment and attendance drops sharply after class three, particularly for girls (see table above). Many refugee families practice *purdah*, whereby women are not permitted to be in public after they reach puberty. Many girls are therefore withdrawn from school upon nearing adolescence, which largely explains the sharp decline in girls' enrolment in higher classes. Boys over the age of twelve are considered fit for work and many are therefore withdrawn from school to engage in income generating activities.

Another important reason for school drop out is that many refugees do not see any value in sending children to class five because there are no prospects for higher education. Refugees stated that if the opportunity to attend higher classes were available, they would be more likely to send their children to classes five and above.

⁹ Source: UNHCR and TAI

In addition, refugee teachers suggested that more families would send their children to school if the quality of education were higher. Refugee women and men stated that girls' attendance could be increased if separate girls' classes with female teachers were established for classes four and five.

Fortified biscuits are currently distributed at the end of class. TAI staff and teachers mentioned that many children do not participate in the lessons and come only at the end of class to collect biscuits. This is not only disruptive but also defeats the purpose of providing biscuits which is to encourage class attendance and to alleviate short term hunger to help children to concentrate in class. WFP guidelines require biscuits to be provided near the beginning of class.

14.8. School Infrastructure:

In Kutupalong camp, the schoolhouses are made of bamboo and wooden frame covered by CI sheet. In Nayapara camp, the lower part of the schoolhouses are a semi-pacca (brick) structure. The school structures themselves were found to be in acceptable condition. However, there is no furniture or floor mats and students take their classes sitting on the floor, which are not very clean. Each classroom was designed to accommodate 30-35 kindergarten students or 20-25 students for class one and above. However, due to increased school attendance some classrooms are crowded, which detracts from students' learning.

In 2006, each school was provided with tanks for drinking water. Each school has a semi-pacca latrine, however in most cases these were not in useable condition. There were no separate latrines for girls and boys and no water near the latrines for hand-washing.

14.9. Recommendations:

54. The school curriculum should be diversified. General science and "life skills" could be included.
55. Regular recreational activities for school children should be provided.
56. The possibilities for UNICEF to provide technical support to the education program should be explored.
57. Training on teaching techniques for refugee teachers should be enhanced, with particular focus on participatory learning.
58. Volunteer school committees should be formed to enhance community ownership of the education programme.
59. Separate classes should be established for girls in class four and five with female teachers. This may be done through establishing a separate class shift for older girls.
60. Biscuits should be distributed at the beginning of class in line with WFP guidelines.
61. Considering the current enrolment figures, additional classrooms should be built or additional shifts could be explored.
62. Mats should be provided to each classroom for children to sit on based on the floor space.
63. Separate teacher recruitment and training courses should be established for women.
64. Separate training for existing female teachers should be provided, facilitated by a female trainer, which addresses any additional learning needs.

65. Concerned agencies should consider measures that may assist in building community support and creating an enabling environment for female teachers.
66. Separate school latrines should be constructed for girls.

15. Gender and Protection

15.1. Women's issues

The gendered impacts of the refugee situation are discussed throughout this report under the sectoral assessments. However, a number of issues relating specifically to women were found.

Early marriage is common amongst the refugee community as girls are considered to be eligible for marriage soon after puberty. Girls have no decision-making role in relation to their own marriage, as these decisions are traditionally made by fathers. The legal age of marriage in Bangladesh is 18 years, however early marriages are conducted by religious authorities outside the camps without the approval of the CIC. The practice of early marriage discourages girls' education and has negative implications for maternal and child health, as women begin having children at a young age. Although it was not common in Burma, the practice of demanding a dowry has also emerged amongst Rohingya men.

Polygamy is practiced amongst some refugee families. As family-books are generally issued under the name of the male head of household, food entitlements are not always distributed equally amongst women and children within polygamous families. UNHCR and WFP have repeatedly requested that family books be issued in the names of women, with men included in the family book of one of their wives. This suggestion continues to be rejected by the GOB.

Both camps lack a safe space where women feel comfortable to gather and share information and concerns. The Women's Centres are mainly used for training activities and are not used by refugee women as a social gathering place. For cultural reasons, women tended to meet with their neighbours in the sheds.

Domestic violence is widespread amongst the refugee community and is accepted as a 'normal' practice by both men and women in the camps. UNHCR received 32 reports of domestic violence during 2005, however such incidents are grossly underreported. In 2005 and 2006 UNHCR has received a small number of confirmed reports of rape, attempted rape and sexual abuse of minors. These incidents are also underreported. UNHCR is in the process of finalising Standard Operating Procedures for prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) to ensure a timely and appropriate response to reported SGBV cases. Prevention measures largely depend upon awareness raising in the refugee community to encourage reporting and behaviour change. Awareness sessions on SGBV, early marriage, polygamy and other gender-related issues have been conducted with both men and women in 2006.

UNHCR has received unconfirmed reports of villagers entering the camp, complaints about old confirmed rape cases. There are also rumours of forced marriage, forced prostitution and trafficking of refugee women by villagers, particularly in Kutupalong camp. However, UNHCR takes action only on cases that are formally reported. The

situation could not be investigated and the exact scenario remains unclear. Given the seriousness of these allegations and the possibility of systemic risk to women and girls living within the camp, it is recommended that UNHCR continues and intensifies focus group discussions and awareness raising with women on these issues with a view to gathering reliable reports of the situation which may form the basis for further action, if necessary.

15.2 Men's issues

A significant number of refugee men venture outside the camps to work, paying a fee to camp security personnel in order to be allowed outside. Their status as illegal workers leaves them vulnerable to exploitation: refugee labourers receive around half the local wage and in many cases are not paid at all. Refugee men outside the camp are harassed by villagers and are often held up and robbed of their earnings. When refugee men go outside the camps to gather firewood, they are assaulted or arrested by Forest Department personnel. As a result, women and children have been gathering firewood instead, although they too have reported instances of harassment.

Although there are some limited training activities for women in the camps, there is a lack of opportunities for men to learn new skills. Literacy classes target adolescent girls but not adolescent boys.

15.3. Protection

Protection concerns in this protracted refugee situation are complex and wide-ranging and it was not within the scope of this mission to make a comprehensive assessment of protection issues. However, refugees highlighted several concerns about threats to their safety and security. In Kutupalong camp, refugees cited fear for their security in the camp as one of their primary concerns. They reported that villagers frequently enter the camp to harass refugees and force them to sell rations. Sexual violence against refugee women by villagers was also mentioned. UNHCR increased its protection staff last year to six national/international staff who are actively involved in the areas of providing protection to the refugees and investigating reported cases.

In both camps, refugees were particularly concerned about threats from mahjees. It is reportedly common for mahjees to instigate false cases against refugees or to become involved in disputes between refugees in order to extract bribes. Some refugee men were too afraid to speak to members of the JAM team near their sheds, for fear of retribution by the mahjees. There have been numerous incidents of refugees being assaulted by police and camp security personnel. In addition, over 300 refugees are currently detained in local jails in relation to various incidents. UNHCR continues to monitor their situation and advocate on their behalf.

15.4. Recommendations:

67. The GOB should ensure the security of refugees at Kutupalong camp to prevent villagers from entering the camp and harassing women and men.
68. UNHCR should intensify focus group discussions and awareness raising sessions on trafficking and forced prostitution to encourage reporting, with a view to gaining a more accurate situation analysis on these issues.

16. Partnership, Planning and Other Issues

16.1. Partnership

Five agencies are currently partners in the refugee operation. Concern Worldwide ended their involvement in the camps in 2005. TAI has since then taken over some of the tasks but it is too early to evaluate the quality of their work. As previously mentioned it would be favourable if an experienced organisation could be in charge of the nutritional programme as the quality has declined since it was handed over to MOH.

It is highly recommended that UNICEF becomes involved in solving some of the problems related to education and UNFPA who opened an office in Cox's Bazar when the mission was there have hopes that they also will include the two refugee camps in their workplan.

16.2. Planning (Exit strategy)

The formulation of an exit strategy must go hand in hand with a consideration of durable solutions for the refugees from Northern Rakhine State. It is necessary to consider the level of self reliance amongst the refugees, how the refugees would cope if assistance were reduced and whether the political climate in Bangladesh would allow the refugees to support themselves.

The mission has concluded that at present the situation of the refugees has not substantially improved. They remain highly dependent upon humanitarian assistance for their survival. An end to the humanitarian assistance operation will only be possible when refugees are provided with opportunities for self reliance.

This will depend on two enabling conditions. The first is the commitment of the GOB to allowing refugees to engage in capacity building and income generating activities. Until this occurs, refugees will continue to be entirely dependent on international humanitarian assistance. In view of this, concerted and coordinated efforts are required by the UN Country Team and the international community to advocate for the creation of an enabling environment for refugee self reliance. Secondly, efforts should be made to enhance capacity building opportunities for refugees through education, training and other productive activities in the camps. This will require the commitment of UNHCR, WFP and the international donor community to support programs that will enable refugees to develop the skills necessary for a self reliant future. This is the most viable way of preparing refugees for a durable solution and thereby permitting an end to the refugee operation.

16.3. Environment

The state of the environment both within and outside the camps should be closely monitored. Despite annual tree plantations within camp boundaries, pressure on the surrounding forest due to fuel needs should not be overlooked nor underestimated.

16.4. Food for Work

In the past WFP and UNHCR have been implementing, through various partners, Food for Work (FFW) projects with and for the host communities. The mission visited some local communities who had benefited from such FFW. It was clear that even though some of the projects had certain positive benefits for the community they

did not know who had funded the project and the link with the refugee camps was not understood.

16.5. Recommendation:

69. Tree planting in areas surrounding the camps should continue.
70. The usefulness of FFW in host communities should be reconsidered, if no link is made between the FFW activity and the refugee community. WFP could include these host communities in their normal poverty reduction projects through the country programme, if they meet the criteria for inclusion.

17. Recommendations

Main recommendation

Enhance refugee involvement in the production of items that they need in the camp. This would not only provide them with a skill but also give them a meaningful occupation and a more dignified life whilst remaining in the camp, as well as helping to prepare them for a durable solution, be it in Bangladesh, Myanmar or a third country.

Specific recommendations are included throughout the report and summarised in a matrix as per JAM format in annex 3.

Annex 1.

**WFP/UNHCR JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION 2006
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Terms of Reference for the Joint WFP/UNHCR Assessment Mission for
Myanmar Refugees in Bangladesh
(WFP PRRO 10045.3)**

I. Background

During 1991, people of an ethnic minority in Myanmar known as Rohingyas began to cross the border into neighbouring Bangladesh due to a complex mixture of political, social and economic factors. Within months, the number of refugees entering Bangladesh grew to over 200,000, reaching almost a quarter of a million officially recognized refugees by mid-1992.

A concerted effort by the international community, with support from various aid agencies and the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) ensured that the basic needs of these refugees were met. In the meantime, a number of conciliatory measures on the part of the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GOUM) provided conditions to facilitate the repatriation of virtually all registered Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh. Repatriation began in September 1992, and by mid-1997 less than 25,000 Rohingyas remained in camps in Bangladesh. Since then, the pace of repatriation has slowed to a trickle, reflecting the complicated issues surrounding the remaining caseload of approximately 21,000 refugees. It is reported that a large group of about 200,000 – 250,000 people of the same ethnic origin as the refugees live outside the camps, in Bangladesh.

To date there is little optimism of a durable solution for the 21,000 Rohingya refugees who live in the two remaining camps in Bangladesh. The GOB, already faced with high levels of chronic poverty and overpopulation, is unwilling to entertain the possibility of local integration. In an effort to both encourage repatriation and discourage further influx of refugees, the GOB restricts the movement of refugees to within the confines of the camps and does not permit refugees to engage in formal employment. This further perpetuates the refugees' reliance on outside assistance. Very few repatriations are taking place. Opportunities for third country resettlement at present are few and far between.

WFP has been assisting GOB since April 1992 and has again been requested to extend its support during 2006-2007.

There is a clear need to continue humanitarian support to the refugees as neither GOB, local communities or NGOs are in a position to provide the required assistance. GOB policies do not allow organization, employment or other income generating activities for the refugees and they therefore entirely depend on outside assistance. Self-reliance, training activities, formation of refugee committees and their overall activities are discouraged. Their movements are restricted to the camps only, though de facto some of them find unofficial employment outside the camps, usually at reduced wage rates. It is estimated that about 60% of able men are working outside

the camps, earning approximately half of the average local wage rates. WFP provides only relief assistance. Refugees receive a full ration covering their calorific requirements. Since August 2003, local health authorities run supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes.

The first joint food assessment mission was undertaken in 1993 and proposed a food basket and ration scale amounting to 2,221 calories for general distribution. This scale was slightly adjusted by the second JFAM undertaken in 1996 to reflect changes in the demographic composition of the populations with a higher percentage of women and children. In line with recommendations of the third JFAM in 1998, the ration scale was further revised to 2,007 kcals per day per person to match the demographic profile and activity level of the refugees, and blended food was supplied. A recommendation that UNHCR staff be present during monitoring was implemented through the creation of joint food monitoring committees at camp level. Household Food Security Studies were carried out in October 1999 and May 2001, thereby justifying the omission of a JFAM during that period. As a result of these studies, the current basic food ration of WFP provides 2,160kcal per person/day, including 49g protein and 29g fat.

Based on the recommendations of joint UNHCR/WFP Food Needs Assessment Missions in July 2002 and October 2004, the basic food basket remains unchanged and consists of rice, pulses, blended food, vegetable oil, sugar and salt. The per capita daily general food ration continues to provide 2,160 kcal.

A Joint Food Assessment Mission is requested by WFP Dhaka and UNHCR, in line with the UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Guidelines for Refugee Situations, which affirm the interdependence between food security and refugee protection. The guidelines state that the re-assessment of ongoing operations should involve all stakeholders, including refugees.

II. Objective:

To carry out an assessment of the food and non-food requirements of the Rohingya refugees in the ongoing PRRO the mission will focus on the underlying causes of persistently high malnutrition. The mission will review and update the strategy for food and related assistance, with particular attention to:

- The situation, needs and risks experienced by refugees, including the health, nutrition and livelihoods situation;
- How food and other resources are being used and the adequacy of food basket composition, ration size and non-food commodities provided;
- The effectiveness of targeted feeding programs;
- Strategies to reduce dependency on food assistance and encourage self reliance;
- Promotion of refugee participation in food management, particularly the participation of women; and
- Performance and efficiency of logistics and management systems.

III. Specific Tasks

1. Information will be collected and compiled using a combination of methods including:
 - Participatory approaches such as focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews with refugee women, men and young people;
 - Consultations with WFP, UNHCR, NGO representatives and field staff, government, regional and local authorities, community leaders and technical experts;
 - Analysis of available studies and surveys on (i) health and nutrition, (ii) refugee skills and capacities and (iii) security, protection and gender concerns; and
 - Direct observations.

2. The mission team will:
 - Review the characteristics and overall situation of the refugees;
 - Analyze the impact of assistance based on estimated and actual numbers of people of concern living in the camps;
 - Assess the public health and nutrition situation, in particular mortality and morbidity rates, access to health and sanitation services, caring and eating practices, malnutrition trends and micronutrient deficiencies and nutrition and hygiene awareness/education in the camps;
 - Review the recommendations of the February 2006 Mortality and Nutrition Survey and revisit action points subsequently developed by UNHCR and WFP based on the results of this assessment;
 - Review the progress of 2004 Joint Assessment Mission recommendations and action points subsequently developed in 2005 by WFP and UNHCR.
 - Assess household food security (including access and utilization of food and income) and identify reasons why food rations are used for purposes other than direct consumption;
 - Review the suitability of the commodities and rations provided and examine the feasibility and appropriateness of an increase in the proportion of fortified food in the food basket;
 - Assess the needs for related non-food assistance and the extent to which this affects nutritional status;
 - Assess factors that inhibit the receipt of entitlements by vulnerable/at risk individuals, and their impact
 - Assess the adequacy of current kitchen gardening and poultry rearing arrangements;
 - Review the effectiveness of FFT activities, including appropriateness of incentives, opportunities for utilization of skills learned and potential for new training activities;
 - Review the appropriateness and effectiveness of FFW activities, including benefit to the local community of work completed under the scheme;
 - Assess the relationship of the camp population with the host community;
 - Assess the therapeutic, supplementary and school feeding programs, with particular reference to how the quality and coverage of these programs can be enhanced;
 - Taking into consideration government policy, identify opportunities to reduce refugees' dependency and identify any risks to current/future activities that address this;

- Explore the possibilities of durable solutions that could lead to a progressive scaling down of general food distribution and more targeted food assistance;
- Assess the extent of refugee participation in food management with particular reference to the opportunities and constraints faced by women in terms of access to or control of food or other forms of assistance, and recommend on how their participation could be strengthened;
- Review the effectiveness of the current food distribution system and monitoring/reporting arrangements;
- Assess the current arrangements for registration/revalidation and ration card control; and
- Visit the primary storage bases and local-level warehouses, and through direct observations, inspection of records, and consultations with the competent authorities and in-country logistics experts, assess the logistics aspects of food and non-food delivery. This will include:
 - logistics management;
 - adequacy of storage facilities and handling practices;
 - timeliness and regularity of deliveries;
 - cost-effectiveness; and
 - losses and possibilities to reduce constraints and increase efficiency.

2. On the basis of the above findings, the mission team will present provisional conclusions and recommendations to the host government, WFP/UNHCR field office, other concerned UN agencies, interested donors and NGO representatives as appropriate, in a specially convened wrap-up meeting. This will allow stakeholders to benefit from contributions with a view to securing a common understanding about the proposed strategy for the future.

3. Taking into account the above elements, prepare a concise report outlining a food aid strategy addressing, inter alia:

- The situation, needs and risks experienced by refugees, including the health and nutrition situation;
- How food and other resources are being used and the adequacy of food basket composition, ration size and non-food commodities provided;
- Current coverage of the refugees by basic food rations distribution;
- The effectiveness of targeted feeding programs;
- Strategies to reduce dependency on food assistance and encourage self reliance;
- Promotion of refugee participation in food management, particularly the participation of women; establishment of food distribution committees and
- Performance and efficiency of logistics and management systems.

The investigations of the Joint Assessment Mission will take place over 2 to 3 weeks in June-July 2006. The final report is to be submitted to WFP and UNHCR Headquarters within 15 days of the completion of the mission.

Annex 2

Key informants

In Dhaka

Mr. Douglas Broderick, Representative, WFP, Dhaka
Mr. Francis Teoh, Deputy Representative, UNHCR, Dhaka
Mr. Ehsan Ul Fathah, Secretary, MFDM, Dhaka
Mr. Syed Jaglul Pasha, Deputy Secretary, MFDM

In Cox's Bazar

Mr. Shahjahan Mia- Head of Sub-office, WFP, Cox's Bazar
Mr. Jim Worrall-Head of Sub-office, UNHCR, Cox's Bazar
Ms. Marina Aksakalova, Programme Officer, UNHCR, Cox's Bazar
Mr. Shoebur Rahman, RRRC, Cox's Bazar
Mr. Md. Siddique, Sr. Assistant Secretary, RRRC Office, Cox's Bazar

Kutupalong Camp Agencies

Mr. Billal Hossain, Camp in Charge, Kutupalong Camp
Mr. Salim Chowdhury, Field Assistant, UNHCR
Mr. G M Khan, Coordinator, TAI
Mr. Ratan Das, Food Basket Monitor, TAI
Mr. A. Rashid Khan, Field Officer, BDRCS
Mr. Humayun Kabir, Sub-Inspector of Police
Mr. Farhad Uddin Bhuiyan, Assistant Field Officer, WFP, Cox's Bazar

TAI and BDRCS

Mr. G M Khan, Coordinator, TAI
Mr. Akram Ali Khan, Coordinator, BDRCS, Cox's Bazar

Nayapara Camp Agencies

Mr. Md. Siddique-, Camp in Charge, Nayapara Camp
Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman Magistrate, Nayapara Camp
Mr. Md. Abdur Rahim Akon, BDRCS
Md. Abdur Rahman, Medical Team Leader, Nayapara Camp, MOH
Mr. Hossain Ahmed, Engineer, DPHE, Teknaf
Mr. Habibur Rahman, Ansar Battalion
Mr. Subedar Mokbul Hossain, Nayek, BDR
Mr. Md. Aktaruzzaman, APBN, Police
Ms. Bithika Biswas, Assistant Field officer, WFP, Cox's Bazar

MOH Staff, Cox's Bazar

Mr. Md. Badiur Rahman, Medical Officer, Civil Surgeon's Office, Cox's Bazar

DC Food Staff, Cox's Bazar

Mr. Utpal Kumar Shaha, District Controller of Food, Cox's Bazar

Annex 3 Joint Action Plan, Joint Assessment Mission 2006

Colour coding based on feasibility for action: **Immediate action** **Action within 3 month** **Action within 6 months** **Action within a year**

Sector	No	Recommendation	Priority	Action required	Time Frame	Action by	Support from
Health	1	Upon signing of the sub-agreement, repairs to health infrastructures should be undertaken.	High		Within 6 months	GoB	UNHCR
	2	CHWs should be provided with further training on specific topics related to health.	High		Within 3 months	MoH	UNHCR
	3	Communications materials (such as visual aids) should be provided to improve the quality of the awareness sessions.	High		Immediate	UNHCR	
	4	The provision of identification cards or some other form of identification for CHWs should be considered.	High		Immediate	MoH	UNHCR
	5	Health services including SFP and TFP must show a good example by having soap available at the hand washing points.	High		Immediate	MoH	UNHCR
	6	The TBA network should be strengthened with refresher training, especially on assessing complications in pregnancies.	High		Within 3 months	MoH	UNHCR
	7	Unregistered ill people should have systematic access to health care and not only on a case-by-case basis. Currently, a UNHCR or WFP officer has to see the patient first and sign a slip for the health centre staff before s/he can be seen for consultation.	High		Within 3 months	MoH,	UNHCR
	8	An intensified awareness campaign is recommended to address the negative impact of early marriages and adolescent pregnancies.	Medium		Within 6 months	TAI/MoH	UNHCR/UNFPA
	9	Upon completion of the UNHCR verification exercise, the procurement of medicines should be adjusted to reflect the actual number of persons of concern living in the camps.	High		Within 6 months	UNHCR/GOB	
Nutrition	10	Mothers of children with low birth weight should be admitted in the SFP instead of the TFP where they should receive additional nutritious food to maximise milk production and be monitored to ensure that the child is gaining weight.	High		Immediate	MoH	UNHCR
	11	TFP should be supervised by a specialised international organisation to ensure that international standards are met either through onsite feeding or Community	High		Immediate	INGO	UNHCR

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		Therapeutic Care(CTC).					
	12	The MUAC reporting system needs to be strengthened in order to be fully used as a monitoring tool.	Medium		Within 6 months	MoH	UNHCR
	13	Scales in health centres and feeding centres should be replaced.	Medium		Within 6 months	MoH	UNHCR
	14	The possibility of introducing dried fish or increasing blended food quantity in the food ration should be considered.	Medium		Within 6 months	WFP	
	15	The possibility of piloting the use of Sprinkles should be considered.	High		Within 6 months	WFP/UNHCR	
	16	The possibility for allocating small land plots for all households to enable vegetable cultivation should be explored.	High		Immediate	GoB/TAI	UNHCR
	17	The usage of DSM in both SFP and TFP should be standardized and could be removed for reasons of cost and food safety.	Medium		Within 6 months	MoH	WFP/UNHCR
Sanitation	18	Availability of hand washing facilities near latrines should be explored.	High		Immediate	TAI/GoB	UNHCR
	19	Lighting facilities should be provided in the latrine areas for the safety of refugees using the facilities at night.	Medium		Within 6 months	GoB	UNHCR
	20	Latrines for men and women should be in separate locations.	High		Within 6 months	GoB	UNHCR
	21	Suitable garbage disposal systems and awareness should be provided in both camps.	Medium		Within 12 months	GoB/TAI	UNHCR
	22	Male and female bathing cubicles should be constructed in separate locations.	High		Within 6 months	GoB/TAI	UNHCR
	23	Periodic water testing should be conducted.	High		Immediate	GoB	UNHCR
Food Security	24	After completion of the UNHCR validation exercise persons of concern living in the camps should be properly registered, receive a family book and thus receive humanitarian assistance.	High		Within 6 months	GoB/UNHCR/WFP	
	25	Special support should be enhanced for female headed households to prevent them from adopting negative coping strategies.	High		Within 6 months	TAI	UNHCR
	26	Measures should be taken to stop forced selling of food to local interest groups as soon as possible	High		Immediate	GoB	UNHCR/WFP
Distribution	27	BDRCS should ensure that the system of rotation of refugee volunteers every 90 days is systematic. 50% of volunteers should be female, with an appropriate division of labour between women and men. Adequate training should be provided to the volunteers to ensure accurate distribution.	High		Immediate	BDRCS	WFP
	28	Proper skills training should provided to distribution volunteers.	High		Immediate	BDRCS	WFP
	29	An electronic master-roll should be put in place and training should be provided to	High		Within 3 months	BDRCS	WFP

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		BDRCS staff on relevant technical skills. BDRCS should give due attention in taking signature in the master roll from literate refugees. Where the ration is taken by others on behalf of the entitlement holders, BDRCS staff should record the identity of the recipient on the master roll.					
30		WFP and TAI should organise awareness raising sessions for the refugees on ration entitlements. Awareness sessions could be conducted among amongst the children (classes 3-5) in the school about food entitlement and the children encouraged to share the learning with their parents or guardian at home.	Medium		Within 6 months	TAI/BDRCS	WFP/GoB
31		Refugee participation in the food distribution and management should be further enhanced.	Medium		Within 6 months	BDRCS/ GoB,	WFP/UNHCR
32		UNHCR, WFP, TAI and BDRCS together with the camp administration and the refugee community, should identify ways to encourage more women to collect their food rations and establish? separate queuing at the distribution sites.	Medium		Within 6 months	BDRCS/TAI/GoB	WFP/UNHCR
33		A follow-up system should be established for absentee families to ensure that their food entitlements are verified and received.	Medium		Within 3 months	BDRCS	WFP/UNHCR
34		BDRCS should replace long serving camp staff from BDRCS other office or by recruiting new staff	High		Within 6 months	BDRCS	
35		Standard quantities of buffer stock should be maintained for all food items separately. Unspent commodities from the distribution should not be mixed with the buffer stock. Periodic physical checking of buffer stock and unspent commodities should be conducted by BDRCS Cox's Bazar officials and WFP staff.	High		Within 3 months	BDRCS/GoB	WFP
36		After completion of each distribution day, the camp warehouse should be sealed by the responsible BDRCS officer upon verifying the stock register to ensure against leakage from the camp warehouse.	High		Immediate	BDRCS	WFP
37		WFP together with all agencies should develop a monthly monitoring plan at LSD and camp level to ensure the full participation of all agencies in monitoring.	Medium		Within 1 year	WFP	All agencies
38		BDRCS should regularly undertake random sampling at the LSD and camp level and make the results available to WFP.	Medium		Within three months	BDRCS/TAI	WFP
39		BDRCS should provide the names of refugees who are removed from the family book to WFP and UNHCR as soon as it becomes aware that the names have been removed. .	Medium		Within three months	BDRCS	WFP/UNHCR
40		When BDRCS are requested by the CIC to confiscate family books it should immediately communicate with UNHCR and WFP so that appropriate action can	High		Immediate	BDRCS	WFP/UNHCR

		be taken					
	41	WFP and UNHCR should ensure that denial of food entitlements is not used as punishment.	High		Immediate	BDRCS/WFP/UNHCR/GoB	
Non-Food	42	The quantity of NFIs should be distributed on the basis of family size to ensure all families, regardless of size, are able to can meet their non-food needs. The size of cooking pots should be large enough to cook food in for the whole family. In particular, distribution of cooking fuel should be based on family size rather than current practice (ie. 2 bags/family/month).	High		Within 6 months	UNHCR	
	43	The frequency of distribution of non-food items should be adjusted to better reflect refugee needs and the durability of items.	Medium		Within 1 year	UNHCR	
	44	Shortages of cooking fuel could be met through exploring the possibility of making CRH in the camp. This would provide additional skills training opportunities for refugees and may also reduce the overall expenses required for CRH procurement.	Medium		Within 6 months	UNHCR/TAI or an identified agency	
	45	Fuel-efficient clay stoves should be introduced through training and awareness sessions on how to make energy efficient stoves, to reduce the unnecessary wastage of fuel during cooking.	High		Within 6 months	UNHCR and an identified agency	
	46	GOB should allow reconstruction of sheds with minimum international standard shed space for the refugees.	High		Within 3 months	GoB	UNHCR and donor community
Community services	47	TAI should explore in consultation with refugees culturally appropriate recreational activities for both refugee children and adults living in the camps.	Low		Within 1 year	TAI	UNHCR/UNICEF
	48	Explore different techniques to disseminate information on key topics that incorporate a participatory approach, eg. Theatre	Low		Within 1 year	TAI	UNHCR
	49	UNHCR, WFP and TAI explore should opportunities to include more women in the production of non-food (CRH, sleeping mats etc.) and possibly food items (cakes for school feeding program) for in camp consumption through diversification of the skills training program, based on feasibility study.	High		Within 6 months	TAI	UNHCR/WFP
	50	TAI should continue their efforts to regularize the rotation of both trainers and trainees to ensure more women have the opportunity to benefit from FFT opportunities. TAI may also explore the possibility of extending the duration of the tailoring program to six months.	Medium		Within 3 months	TAI	
	51	UNHCR together with TAI explore the possibility of providing vocational training to adolescent boys and men, with a focus on skills they can utilize after the refugee situation is over.	Medium		Within 1 year	TAI	UNHCR/WFP

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

Coordination	52	Block committees should be revitalised through allowing its members to be selected by refugees. Block committee members should be on a one-year rotation.	High		Within 3 months	GoB	UNHCR
	53	Mahjees should be on a one-year rotation. Refugees themselves should select Mahjees.	High		Immediate	GoB	UNHCR
Education	54	The school curriculum should be diversified. General science and “life skills” could be included.	High		Within 1 year	GoB/TAI	UNHCR/UNICEF
	55	Regular recreational activities for school children should be provided.			Within 1 year	UNHCR/UNICEF and an identified agency	
	56	The possibilities for UNICEF to provide technical support to the education program should be explored.	High		Within 6 months	UNICEF	
	57	Training on teaching techniques for refugee teachers should be enhanced, with particular focus on participatory learning.	Medium		Within 6 months	UNICEF	
	58	Volunteer school committees should be formed to enhance community ownership of the education programme.	High		Within 6 months	GoB/TAI	UNHCR
	59	Separate classes should be established for girls in class four and five with female teachers. This may be done through establishing a separate class shift for older girls.	High		Within 6 months	GoB/TAI	UNHCR/UNICEF
	60	Biscuits should be distributed at the beginning of class in line with WFP guidelines.	High		Immediate	TAI/GoB	WFP
	61	Considering the current enrolment figures, additional classrooms should be built or additional shifts could be explored.	Low		Within 1 year	TAI/GoB	UNHCR
	62	Mats should be provided to each classroom for children to sit on based on the floor space.	Medium		Within 6 months	UNHCR/TAI	
	63	Separate teacher recruitment and training courses should be established for women.			Within 1 year	TAI	UNHCR/UNICEF
	64	Separate TOT training for existing female teachers, facilitated by a female trainer and addresses their (possible) additional learning needs	Low		Within 1 year	TAI	UNICEF
	65	Build community support / enabling environment for female teachers	High		Within 1 year	TAI	UNHCR/UNICEF
	66	Separate latrines should be constructed for girls	High		Within 6 months	GoB/TAI	UNHCR
Gender and Protection	67	The GOB should ensure the security of refugees at Kutupalong camp to prevent	High		Immediate	GoB	

		villagers from entering the camp and harassing women and men.					
	68	UNHCR should intensify focus group discussions and awareness raising sessions on trafficking and forced prostitution to encourage reporting, with a view to gaining a more accurate situation analysis on these issues.	Medium		Within 3 months	TAI/UNHCR/GoB	
Environment	69	Tree planting in areas surrounding the camps should continue	Medium		Yearly	TAI/GoB	UNHCR
Food For Work (host population)	70	The usefulness of FFW in host communities should be reconsidered, if no link is made between the FFW activity and the refugee community. WFP could include these host communities in their normal poverty reduction projects through the country programme, if they meet the criteria for inclusion.	Medium		Within 6 months	WFP/UNHCR	

Annex 4. Summary of Progress Made on Implementation of Recommendations from 2004 Joint Assessment Mission

Sector	No	Recommendation	Agency	Implementation Status	Comments
<i>Coordination</i>	1	The previous practice of holding inter-agency meetings with all agencies concerned and the GOB should be revitalized both at Cox's Bazar and camp level. It is suggested that chairmanship be on a rotation basis as per the practice in Dhaka.	All stakeholders	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since late 2005 monthly coordination meetings have been held at RRRC office but with no rotation of chair. Regular coordination meetings are held in Kutupalong Camp but the practice had not been extended to Nayapara due to lack of support from CIC. Inter-agency meetings without government presence take place on a regular basis in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar
<i>Health</i>	2	The focus of the health activities needs to be shifted more towards preventive side rather than the curative aspect of disease control. The mission recommends increased health education coupled with relevant IEC material adoption / printing and its utilization as a measure for control of diseases like diarrhea, malaria, skin infection and worm infestation through community awareness.	CS	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action taken. CHWs are trained and regularly conducting awareness. IEC materials on HIV / AIDS, hygiene and related topics are in use. CHWs, TAI's Community Workers and Peer Educators from FPAB, all are involved in awareness sessions. Emphasis is now more on awareness.
<i>Curative services</i>	3	Tuberculosis case detection rate should be improved through staff training on WHO guidelines for the management of TB, and by active case detection by the health care providers.	CS/ UNHCR	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan already discussed with WHO and training is expected in July. Latest guidelines on TB will be provided during the training.
<i>Reproductive health</i>	4	. The mission recommends continuing efforts in strengthening of family planning services. A separate room should be established to provide privacy to the client. Service delivery can be further improved through refresher training of the staff and provision and use of appropriate IEC material to create awareness on the advantages of child spacing. Preparation of "defaulter" and "drop out": lists in the health clinic on a regular basis and follow up of these in the field (by CHWs) could help reducing programme	CS	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on STI and infection prevention completed by Marie Stopes. Training on HIV / AIDS and related topics on- going with the help of FPAB. CHWs trained and IEC material being used in the camps.

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		drop outs and increasing contraceptive prevalence rate.			
Reproductive health	5	TBA programme activities should be further strengthened through refresher training to the TBAs and improving the reporting system on the activities of TBAs on a monthly basis.	CS	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation Training completed during April-June 05. Further training of TBAs is planned for July 2006. Reporting system developed and is currently being tested for CHWs. It will be reviewed for use by TBAs.
Reproductive health	6	The system for recording births and deaths should be strengthened involving the TBAs and CHWs.	CS	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System is in place and CHWs and TBAs are reporting deaths and births.
EPI	7	Vaccines are an important component in the PHC programme but at the same time expensive and difficult to procure. The wastage of vaccines should be regularly monitored and reduced. To know the current immunization status of the refugees and improve on the programme, the mission recommends an EPI survey in the camps.	UNHCR/CS	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wastage of vaccines has been recorded since August 2005. Survey conducted in November 05 to measure vaccine coverage and data is available.
EPI	8	Immunization coverage could be improved through linkage of reproductive health services with the EPI programme at the health clinic. The mission recommends strengthening of birth reporting, preparation of “due date” and “defaulter “ lists by EPI staff for follow up on the new born babies due for vaccination and those defaulted. Increased regular information sharing between the staff of the labour room, EPI and those in the health clinic could help birth reporting and increase immunization coverage. Production of vaccination cards should be made mandatory for all children under 2 years and CBA women reporting to the health clinic.	CS	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing mechanism for improving vaccination coverage is in place. EPI card production has not yet been made mandatory, as due to non-signing of sub agreement printing of cards to replace old/damaged/lost cards could not take place.
Health education	9	Community Health Workers should be re-selected from the community on a voluntary basis to re-establish a network of CHWs. They should be trained to provide health education and reporting on births and deaths. A regular reporting system for CHWs should be established.	UNHCR/CS/ MFDM	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic and refresher training conducted for CHWs. Reporting system for CHWs developed and is in use. CHWs system re-organized on the basis of willingness to work and volunteerism.
Health education	10	De-worming campaigns should be regularly held on a 6 monthly basis with extension to school children. This regular exercise would help in improving the nutritional status of the refugee children.	UNHCR/CS/ MFDM	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-worming campaign held twice a year, as part of nation wide campaign.
Health Information System	11	The mission recommends that the UNHCR Health Information System (HIS) should be strengthened with application of standard indicators for regular reporting and monitoring purposes. Training of the field and monitoring staff on the system should be arranged by UNHCR.	CS/ UNHCR	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIS training for CS staff completed in June by UNHCR. HIS System implementation in place since July 2005. Use of standard indicators and data collection forms in place.
Health	12	Growth monitoring (GM) cards should be maintained for the	CS/	Fully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth monitoring cards maintained for individual child.

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

Information System		individual child. The reporting and monitoring system of the GM programme should be strengthened through introduction of a Health Information System.	UNHCR	implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children under five are regularly screened in the field for malnutrition through MUAC measurement.
Recommendations on Health	13	Medical and Para-medical staff should be trained on standard treatment protocols to improve the quality of treatment.	CS/ UNHCR	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation on treatment protocols arranged for medical and para-medical staff of the two camps, with Marie Stopes in December 2005
Recommendations on Health	14	Primary health care (PHC) should be strengthened through involvement of the CHWs. Health volunteer groups should be established involving the community in their selection at the level of each block in the camp with regular monthly meetings to be attended by the CHWs, health committee members and the staff from the health unit. The criteria for selection of community members should be established to ensure true community representation. This will ensure greater community participation in health programmes and provide a forum to the refugees for regular discussion on health issues.	CS/ UNHCR	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for selection of CHWs developed and implemented. TORs for CHWs working developed and in-place. Health Volunteer group established in both camps, however, meetings are held irregularly.
Nutritional status	15	In order to monitor the nutritional status of the refugees it is recommended that surveys be conducted regularly with inclusion of nutritional data, anemia and immunization coverage at the same time each year with the same methodology.	UNHCR	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition survey conducted in November 2005 and final report submitted by the consultants. Data available for use.
Nutritional status	16	The recent nutritional survey of August 2003 measured global acute malnutrition rate of 12.6% and low programme coverage. In this light it is recommended that the supplementary and therapeutic feeding programme should continue.	CS/UNCH R /WFP	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFP and TFP programs continue in both camps. Responsibility for supply of food was transferred from UNHCR to WFP in April 2005.
Nutrition programme	17	The mission recommends refresher training for the staff to ensure that UNHCR standards are maintained in the feeding centres.	CS/ UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition staff provided on-the-job training by UNHCR. Specialized training will be provided once sub-agreement is signed with partner.
Nutrition programme	18	The mission recommends the continuation of the current wet feeding programme.	CS/ UNHCR/W FP	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System in place.
Nutrition programme	19	The weight of TB patients receiving supplementary food needs to be regularly checked for progress of their health status.	CS	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already in place. SF being provided and weight recording is part of the HIS implementation.
Nutrition programme	20	Staffing for the nutrition programme, particularly to increase and strengthen outreach activities, should be discussed between Office of the Civil Surgeon and UNHCR.	MFDM/CS / UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action taken by UNHCR. Staffing already discussed and rationalized. Further action will be taken in future. CHWs will be training in June / July 2006 for MUAC screening.
Nutrition programme	21	It should be ensured that the therapeutic milk formulation is prepared according to the recommended standards. UNHCR and WFP should make the necessary resources available for the feeding programme as mentioned in items 4.1 and 4.2 of the	CS/ UNHCR/W FP	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fortification of DSM with vitamins in place of F100 / F75 Therapeutic milk is done. Supplies for the feeding program are in line with UNHCR / WFP global MOU.

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		UNHCR/WFP global MOU of 2002.			
<i>Nutrition programme</i>	22	It is suggested that morbidities should be recorded on the individual record of the child in the SFC / TFC.	CS	Fully implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action taken. It is part of HIS system and nutrition guidelines.
<i>Nutrition programme</i>	23	The health staff should adopt mother-friendly practices and hold awareness discussions with mothers/guardians on a regular basis and give detailed information on what is being measured and how to see if a child has gained weight should be given to the mothers as part of their awareness training.	CS	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some changes have been made and more will be introduced through training of the nutrition staff.
<i>Registration and revalidation</i>	24	It is recommended that a revalidation exercise be conducted to update the statistics and records.	MFDM/ UNHCR/W FP	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project profile exercise was conducted during November 05-February 06. Migration of the collected data has not been completed due to technical problems. UNHCR expects a technical support mission to rectify problem in June 2006.
<i>Registration and revalidation</i>	25	Large families should be targeted first for the revalidation process. The mission recommends issuing separate family books to newly-formed families. This will allow them not only to create independent families but also to receive adequate food ration through direct control of the ration for the newly formed family.	MFDM/ UNHCR/W FP	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Split to nuclear families is one of the priorities identified for 2006 in negotiations with GOB and will commence once data is fully transferred and analyzed.
<i>Registration and revalidation</i>	26	The mission recommends that rations cards/books are issued in accordance with WFP policy whereby a female adult family member becomes the entitlement holder. The present family books are in a bad condition and should be replaced gradually while updating the registry.	MFDM/ UNHCR/W FP	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR considers issuance of ration cards to be used for distributions instead of family books, one of the points for discussion with the Government for 2006 and 2007. WFP will advocate for a female adult family member to become entitlement holder.
<i>Registration and revalidation</i>	27	The mission recommends that photos are attached to family books so that each member can be recognized easily.	MFDM	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual photos were taken during the project profiling exercise that took place in November 05. Use of photos can be implemented once the issue of family books is negotiated with GOB (i.e. introduction of bio-data form for family identity, use of ration cards for distributions).
<i>Food Basket</i>	28	When the full ration is given the calorific content of the ration is sufficient. The mission recommends keeping the rations the same.	WFP	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general ration remains the same for 2005 and 2006.
<i>Food Basket</i>	29	In order to improve the quality of the ration in terms of sufficient content of mineral, vitamins, fats and animal protein, the following actions are recommended:			
<i>Food Basket</i>	29a	Kitchen gardening: technical inputs should be sought from outside to apply the most feasible and practical way to increase the productivity and number of kitchen gardens. The programme should ensure each family can cultivate at least their minimum	UNHCR/ CONCERN with WFP	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR involved an FAO expert who made recommendations for fruit trees and planting of other vegetables and trees. Distribution of fruit bearing trees and seeds was conducted in 2005 and will be done in 2006 by TAI, along with fertilizer and fencing

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		needs.			<p>distribution. It is too early to assess productivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main obstacle is access to the proper land, which is beyond UNHCR's control
<i>Food Basket</i>	<i>29b</i>	The present kitchen garden programme should be expanded to include all families in the camp taking into consideration the family size when distributing kitchen garden inputs such as seeds, tools, plant boxes and allocation of land.	UNHCR/CONCERN, with WFP	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR distributed spades to all families in both camps in 2005. • At the end of 2005, a targeted distribution of seeds was carried out. In 2006, another distribution cycle is planned upon completion of the assessment of needs of all the families. Though main problem with access to the land may not bring very positive results.
<i>Food Basket</i>	<i>29c</i>	Community participation and mobilisation activities should be incorporated into the programme to ensure the success and sustainability of the programme.	CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR and TAI have been investing many efforts in community mobilization. In the current conditions of the camp and time people have spent in total dependency, this process requires time to achieve any positive results. • Further support is required from the GOB, especially with regard to access to land.
<i>Food basket</i>	<i>29d</i>	The kitchen gardening should promote the cultivation of green leafy vegetables such as spinach, aram leaves and pumpkin leaves to increase the iron and vitamin A intake of the beneficiaries. Focus on production of vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables such as papaya, pumpkin, yellow and red sweet potatoes and carrots would increase the intake of vitamin A. Kitchen gardening with Riboflavin rich vegetables such as Spinach should be encouraged which has Vitamin B2 contents equal to milk, yogurt or meat. This would help in reducing vitamin B2 deficiency in the diet.	UNHCR /CONCERN with WFP	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some consultations held with refugees in April but awareness sessions and seed procurement stopped due to opposition of the former CIC in KTP who also ordered that all fences protecting kitchen gardens be destroyed (2004). • Late in 2005, targeted seed distribution was carried out, seeds distributed were as per choice of refugees and quantities and families selection were factored by land availability for gardening in the present camp set up and thus was quite limited (papaya, red leaves, pumpkin). • Families were provided with fertilizers as well.
<i>Food Basket</i>	<i>29e</i>	The kitchen garden programme should also include spices and condiments desired by the beneficiaries determined through consultation such as garlic, chili and coriander.	UNHCR/CONCERN, with WFP	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the beginning of 2005 some consultations were held with refugees but awareness sessions and seeds procurement stopped due to opposition of former CIC in KTP who also ordered that all fences protecting kitchen gardens be destroyed. • Late in 2005 a distribution of seeds selected by refugee families who have adequate access for land cultivation was done. Refugees did not identify the referred seeds as a priority.
<i>Food Basket</i>	<i>29f</i>	A thorough analysis of how to best conduct poultry rearing should be made.	CONCERN / UNHCR	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR has contacted FAO for assistance on this matter and in 2006 TAI will look into this issue
<i>Food Basket</i>	<i>29g</i>	Enough chickens should be given to each family to ensure sufficient and sustainable production of poultry and eggs for the family taking into account the family size. The provision of local chicken varieties which are preferred should continue and inputs such as vaccination services should be made available to ensure	CONCERN / UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to supply difficulties, two chicks equaling one kg in weight were distributed per family, regardless of size. Vaccinations of the local chicks supplied are not advised. Experience shows that supply and distribution of chicks is extremely problematic and evaluation of the impact of the distributions is impossible under current conditions.

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		the health and sustainability of the chicken population. Successful poultry rearing would not only provide a source of animal protein but also a source of vitamin A and vitamin B complex.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poultry distribution is in the plan for activities for 2006
<i>Food Basket</i>	29h	Ensuring proper fortification: Assessment of the micronutrient content of the blended food and the oil provided should be performed regularly to ensure optimal quality of the ration. In this way the right quantity of calcium and the content of vitamin A will be ensured.	WFP	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper fortification of blended food is ensured through regular testing and analysis at WFP appointed laboratories. A nutritionist from WFP Dhaka also visits supplier to ensure compliance with WFP food fortification standards.
<i>Food Basket</i>	29i	Variation: The possibility of altering the type of pulses, rice and blended food to improve the acceptability and quality of the ration should be explored. Sprouting of pulses could also be undertaken to increase the riboflavin intake.	WFP	Not implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibility of altering composition of food basket has been explored through focus group discussions. Refugees expressed satisfaction with composition of food basket but requested inclusion of both condiments and dried fish. Possibility of increasing the quantity of BF available in the general ration, as recommended in the 2005 Nutrition Survey, will be reconsidered following the findings of 2006 JAM. Poor sanitation, as confirmed in the 2005 Nutrition Survey, is not conducive to pulse sprouting.
<i>Food Basket</i>	29j	There should be an evaluation of the expanded programme within one year to determine if the programme has had a positive effect on the quantities of animal protein, fresh vegetables and condiments to families.	CONCERN / UNHCR	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no expansion of the program.
<i>Food utilisation</i>	30	There should be an increase in awareness sessions to beneficiaries on the importance of the right nutrition and cooking methods. These awareness sessions should also include men so that they also understand that it is important that especially pregnant and nursing women and children get extra food. This can be done by strengthening the existing training given by Concern.	CONCERN WFP may assist with training modules.	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP provided health and nutrition modules to support UNHCR's refresher training for CHWs in October 2005. WFP plans to engage TAI to conduct further sessions with refugees on right nutrition and cooking methods, as outlined in 2006 Nutrition Strategy.
<i>Supply and procurement</i>	31	Reporting on food and non-food distribution should be compiled for individual distributions stating the calendar week the distribution is completed, appropriate detail of the commodities and the planning figures used for the distribution.	WFP, BDRCS, UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDRCS reports on planned vs. actual distribution for food items but not non-food items.
<i>Storage</i>	32	Before loading of any commodity for distribution especially rice, pulses, sugar and salt the weigh scale in the LSD should be zeroed and calibrated with standard weights.	WFP, UNHCR BDRCS, DOF	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP continues to monitor the use of scales at LSD and camp level and ensure they are properly zeroed before use. WFP also ensures scales are regularly serviced and has introduced a standard 50 kg weight to check actual measurement.
<i>Food</i>	33	WFP should ensure that the system of rotation of refugee	UNHCR	Partly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After extensive discussions, BDRCS is now taking steps to ensure

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

<i>Distribution</i>		volunteers every 90 days is systematic; 50% of volunteers should be female, with an appropriate division of labour between women and men.	WFP	implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more regular rotation of volunteers. Few males have expressed interest in becoming distribution volunteers due to small incentive offered, while the rotation of female volunteers has proved problematic due to their EVI status and dependence on rice incentives. Women's participation has recently increased to 40 % in Kutupalong Camp but remains low in Nayapara at only 30%. To increase opportunities for female volunteers WFP has requested BDRCS to reserve scooping positions for women.
<i>Food Distribution</i>	34	Refugee participation in food distribution and management should be enhanced further for effective distribution and management of food.	MFDM UNHCR WFP	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater support required from GOB to implement. WFP and UNHCR have established food management meetings at the camp level and plan to invite refugee distribution volunteers to participate.
<i>Food Distribution</i>	35	WFP to ensure quality 'atap' rice is provided to the refugees.	WFP	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Food has agreed to provide un-boiled (atap) rice if available but supply is neither regular nor guaranteed. Findings from BCM and focus groups discussions in 2005 suggest that acceptability of par-boiled rice is now much higher.
<i>Food Distribution</i>	36	UNHCR, WFP, Concern and BDRCS to jointly identify, with the camp administration, ways to encourage more women to collect their food rations.	WFP UNHCR CONCERN BDRCS	Partly implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around one third of refugees coming to collect rations are female, the majority of which are from female-headed households. Further discussion on strategies to encourage women to collect rations is required amongst agencies.
<i>Food Distribution</i>	37	BDRCS to encourage refugees who are literate to sign for their rations in the master roll.	WFP BDRCS	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small number of literate refugees have started to sign the master roll but the majority still provides thumbprint. WFP will continue to support BDRCS in efforts to encourage refugees to sign the master roll.
<i>Food Distribution</i>	38	Distribution of used food bags and containers to the refugees on a regular basis should continue.	WFP BDRCS	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This practice is continuing.
<i>Food Distribution</i>	39a	Concern to continue awareness sessions on food entitlements to cover the whole refugee population.	CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP plans to conduct sessions with refugees on entitlements in late 2006, utilizing IEC materials/ practical demonstrations for dissemination. FBMs will also be involved in awareness raising on entitlement.
<i>Food Distribution</i>	39b	Establish a follow-up system for absentee families to ensure that food entitlement is verified and received.	UNHCR WFP MFDM	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDRCS has measures in place to ensure refugees absent on distribution day can collect their rations later, however a formal follow-up system is still lacking.

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

			BDRCS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of an electronic master roll should facilitate follow-up but further discussion is required between agencies.
<i>Reporting and Monitoring</i>	40	WFP may prepare jointly with all agencies a monthly monitoring plan at LSD and camp level to ensure full participation of all agencies.	WFP UNHCR BDRCS DOF	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal joint monitoring plan has not been developed, however all agencies are aware of distribution dates/times and encouraged by WFP to attend. • BDRCS continues to share their bi-monthly lifting schedule, which was recently revised to include the name of the official from each agency that will attend the lifting and the approx. time it will take place. • Several successful joint monitoring exercises were carried out in 2005 with support of UNHCR and KTP CIC but continued effort from all parties is required to further enhance the joint monitoring approach.
<i>Reporting and Monitoring</i>	41	At the LSD 100% weighing of all commodities should be witnessed by an official of the LSD, WFP, UNHCR and BDRCS with a random sample of bags marked and the weight recorded. A random sampling method should be developed by WFP. At the BDRCS stores in the camps the same group of officials should be present to check the randomly selected bags to verify their weight and weighing method.	WFP BDRCS UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all officials are present to witness 100% weighing of commodities at LSD level. WFP is present most of the time while UNHCR participates on an ad hoc basis. • WFP conducts spot checks on trucks to verify weight of randomly selected bags. KTP CIC has also extended support to LSD level and is playing a pro-active role in the monitoring of food commodities.
<i>Reporting and Monitoring</i>	42	A sampling report should then be drawn up recording any discrepancies in the random sample selected weighed in the LSD and the BDRCS store in the camps. A similar procedure should be undertaken for sampling for quality as specified in the WFP Food Storage Manual.	WFP BDRCS UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random sampling of bags is conducted during each distribution and any discrepancy in weight between LSD and camp is recorded by BDRCS. • WFP is working with BDRCS to formalize system through introduction of regular sampling reports.
<i>Reporting and Monitoring</i>	43	It is recommended that any losses at the receiving point (camp) to be reported by BDRCS and investigated by WFP. Transfer of this loss to the refugees should be avoided by compensation from the buffer stock available at camp level. Joint monitoring at the receiving point (camp) may help to identify losses and ensure beneficiaries receive their full entitlements.	WFP BDRCS UNHCR	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDRCS does not report losses transferred from LSD despite on-going requests from WFP to do otherwise. BDRCS have been advised not to transfer any loss to refugees and to utilize buffer stock if necessary, however this is difficult if no loss is reported and accounted for.
<i>Reporting and Monitoring</i>	44	Joint monitoring on distribution days to be extended to the household level.	WFP UNHCR CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible WFP field staffs observe beneficiaries on the way back to their sheds to see if and how much of their ration is transferred to other parties. • BCM at the household level continues but has not yet been extended to distribution days. Need to continue to pursue a joint monitoring approach so a greater level of household monitoring can be achieved on distribution days
<i>Reporting and Monitoring</i>	45	BCM to be strengthened so that this important data source can be made statistically valid and can be used by all agencies to	WFP UNHCR	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCM checklist has recently been strengthened, while a new monitoring plan has been drawn up with assistance from M&E advisor

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

<i>Monitoring</i>		monitor standard indicators.	CONCERN		from WFP Dhaka to ensure sample size is statistically representative and data can be used to monitor standard indicators.
<i>Non-Food Items (NFIs)</i>	46	It is recommended that the NFI entitlements of the refugees are reviewed to determine if the refugee's basic needs are being met especially with regard to large family sizes.	UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR has increased the entitlement of soap. Due to fund availability, supply of several items was decreased (sleeping mats once a year, blankets once in two years, 50% reduction in supply of cooking fuel). Impregnated mosquito nets were added as an additional item in 2006.
<i>Non-Food Items (NFIs)</i>	47	Reporting on NFIs to include the planning figures used for the distribution. This will assist all parties involved in the distribution to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the distribution.	UNHCR BDRCS	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In place for planning of procurement and distribution.
<i>Non-Food Items (NFIs)</i>	48	Similarly to food distribution, refugee participation in the distribution of NFIs is key to enhance refugees' sense of responsibility and ensure proper distribution. It is understood that discussions on that matter are ongoing. The mission supports the efforts and suggests that greater refugee participation is achieved through those discussions.	UNHCR BDRCS MFDM	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugees are involved in the distribution of NFIs. Proper information on the forthcoming distributions is in place.
<i>Latrines</i>	49	There is a need to improve health education and awareness on the advantages and use of latrines and the importance of hygiene.	RRRC CS CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitation volunteers are involved, though they are not very active due to lack of motivation without incentives. Awareness sessions are conducted with additional focus by Community Health Volunteers and Community Mobilizers.
<i>Latrines</i>	50	To ensure proper care and maintenance of latrines community sanitation volunteer groups should be established at block level after discussion with the community. The issue of recruitment of sanitary workers should be discussed in these groups along with other sanitation related issues.	RRRC UNHCR CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitation volunteers are members of the block committees. Sanitary workers are recruited in Kutupalong (TAD) and are involved in the latrines maintenance in Nayapara (CIC). Maintenance of latrines remains only satisfactory and looting of latrines structures takes place.
<i>Latrines</i>	51	It would be more appropriate to construct latrines after the sanitation volunteer groups take responsibility of their maintenance and repair. Incentives to sanitary workers should be avoided in order to ensure sustainability and community participation.	RRRC CONCERN / Volunteer groups	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives are not provided to sanitation workers. However, payments are made for hardcore sanitation works. Replacement of latrines commenced in Nayapara with 60% new structures by end of 2005. Further replacement in Nayapara and Kutupalong is in the plan, though blocked until agreement with the government is signed
<i>Latrines</i>	52	The design of the latrine should be one that can be easily maintained and suitable for the area and convenient to use for the refugees.	RRRC CONCERN / Volunteer groups	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-permanent latrines are chosen as a model design for latrine replacement in 2006, the inner space is planned to be expanded. Latrine structure was developed in discussions with refugees. Routine clearance of latrines has ceased since it requires water for cleaning after use (applicable for Nayapara).

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

Bathing cubicles	53	Sanitation volunteer groups with consultation of community should suggest appropriate design and siting of new bathing areas for men and women.	RRRC CONCERN / Volunteer groups	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be looked into in 2006
Waste Disposal System	54	Investigate the collection and separation of biodegradable waste from other waste for composting which can be a valuable resource for kitchen gardens.	RRRC CONCERN / Volunteer groups	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human waste disposal remains to be one of the areas for improvement in general, and separation of waste would be a next step once the waste disposal system is set up and operational
Waste Disposal System	55	Water and sanitation awareness/education sessions should be undertaken through either water volunteer groups or by community health workers.	RRRC CONCERN / Volunteer groups	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitation and hygiene education (awareness sessions) conducted for refugees by community services staff, community health workers and community mobilisers.
Waste Disposal System	56	Water volunteer groups should be formed to improve the management and monitoring of water from distribution points and to limit the wastage.	RRRC Volunteer groups	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of sectorial committees, including water has not materialized, since main cooperation agreement is not yet signed with GOB. It will be further pursued with camp authorities and partners.
Infrastructure/ Shelters	57	The mission understands the limitation of space. However, it feels that housing could be improved so that refugees have a better living environment. Reconstruction of improved sheds using stronger materials with more space should be explored.	MFDM	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOB has expressed its consent to replacement of present sheds to individual shelters. However, work has not commenced since main cooperation agreement is not yet signed between GOB and UNHCR
Infrastructure / Shelters	58	The mission recommends that a new compartment be allocated to newly married couples not only to have enough space for living but also to form an independent family.	MFDM	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Splitting families and provision of additional space is a next step once negotiations start with GOB on results of the profiling. GOB has agreed in principle to increase covered living space in new shelters.
Environment	59	The mission supports that an assessment of the environmental situation is conducted and the tree planting projects continue.	UNHCR	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO consultant assessed the environment issue and tree plantation in July. Tree plantation was carried out on the basis of FAO's recommendation. Further involvement of FAO and any other agencies is necessary to look into an environmental issue and impact of refugees' presence.
Education	60	Extending educational opportunities, both formal education and vocational training, should be pursued in consultation with UNHCR, Concern and the GOB for adolescents (12-17 years) in accordance with UNHCR mandate. The mission additionally supports making classes for higher-grade girls through expansion of the present programmes targeted at girls reaching puberty.	MFDM UNHCR CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR lobbies for greater involvement of UNICEF and UNFPA in this area. Close contacts are maintained and missions/meetings are facilitated for UNICEF and UNFPA. Diversity in vocational /skills training is pursued in 2006 in cooperation with TAI. UNHCR current funding level allows implementation of only minimum informal education and skills training programs.
Education	61	Increase the number of female teachers. While the mission understands that it is difficult to find qualified females among the refugee population (due to high illiteracy rate and cultural background), the possibility of training some women to become teachers could be explored.	CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going. Women are actively recruited for schools by UNHCR. Greater involvement of women in camp life is pursued by UNHCR and its partner, TAI, though this is a gradual process

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

<i>Education</i>	62	Efforts to increase enrolment in all grades should continue. Awareness on the importance of education should be further raised among parents/caretakers.	CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going. Guardian/teacher meetings to encourage participation are being held with increased efforts by TAI.
<i>Education</i>	63	The community should be motivated to be more directly involved in education activities. This could be done through education volunteer groups comprising of parents/ caretakers and teachers. It will allow the refugees to discuss their needs, problems and find solutions among themselves. Their views will be better reflected in the programme and their sense of community will be enhanced.	MFDM CONCERN	Partly Implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going. Guardian/teacher meetings to encourage participation are being held by meetings at schools and family visits (by TAI).
<i>Food for Work</i>	64	For future FFW activities, such as tree planting, WFP and UNHCR should formulate a workable plan to be agreed upon by all concerned agencies to ensure timely implementation.	UNHCR WFP	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005 tree plantation was not undertaken by WFP and UNHCR. UNHCR distributed saplings however to refugee families for small-scale plantation around community buildings and refugee sheds. No incentive was given except samplings.
<i>Food for Work</i>	65	The FFW programme for sanitary workers should not continue as the Mission views it as an obstacle to community participation. Payment of incentives for January to June 2004 by sanitation workers is recommended as there was confusion over entitlements, but with a clear message that FFW in this sector will not continue.	WFP UNHCR	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFW for sanitation workers discontinued as of July 2004. Volunteers received their incentives for January to June 2004.
<i>Food for Work</i>	66	The Mission recommends that there be no increase in FFW activities and that all stakeholders actively pursue the strategy to mobilize and motivate the refugee community, especially the non-working adolescent and youth sectors of the population.	All stake holders	Partly Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no increase in FFW activities in 2006. Strategy to mobilize and motivate refugee community requires further discussion amongst stakeholders.
<i>Food for Training</i>	67	WFP and UNHCR to consider provision of appropriate snacks to trainees (40% adolescents, 60% adults) and trainer incentives for the full training period.	UNHCR WFP	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no provision of snacks for regular FFT activities. UNHCR only supplies snacks for trainees during awareness sessions and dress making sessions for general distribution.
<i>Food for Training</i>	68	UNHCR and CONCERN to expedite the plan to expand soap-making to Nayapara camp.	CONCERN UNHCR	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active since April 2005 in both camps.
<i>Food for Training</i>	69	Concerned agencies identify additional training topics in full consultation with the refugees.	TAI WFP UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR's new implementing Partner TAI is soon to undertake needs assessment with refugees and partner agencies (WFP, UNHCR)
<i>Food for Training</i>	70	UNHCR and CONCERN to investigate the interest of adolescent boys in FFT and identify appropriate topics with them.	TAI WFP UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAI is soon to undertake needs assessment with refugees and partner agencies (WFP, UNHCR)
<i>Gender Issues</i>	71	UNHCR/GOB/CONCERN to consult with women whose security is at risk (FHH, single women etc) to discuss relocation	MFDM UNHCR	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented on a case-by-case basis for vulnerable groups. Still needs to be looked into further for more representation from

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		of sheds to a place where they feel safe.	CONCERN		women.
Gender Issues	72	Agencies may jointly identify ways to improve the lives of adolescent girls.	All stakeholders	Partly implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP supports the training of adolescent girls through provision of HEB to those enrolled and present on day in the education program. UNHCR through TAI runs adult literacy classes. UNHCR is seeking technical assistance from UNFPA for adolescent training and other issues. TAI is soon to initiate awareness sessions for adolescent girls on health and education.
<i>Gender Issues</i>	73	Implementing partners to make greater efforts to recruit qualified female staff, particularly in health and education services.	UNHCR WFP All IPs	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP and UNHCR continue to play a pro-active role in advocating for the recruitment of female staff. MOH has several female staff working in the nutrition program, while BDRCS has recently recruited two female writers. Efforts by IPs to improve gender balance in staffing should continue.
Gender Issues	74	All agencies to ensure that women are fully represented (at least 50% of members) in all committees, sectoral voluntary groups, particularly in health and sanitation.	All stakeholders	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloc committees and voluntary groups do exist in some sectors but are not 100 % functional. The issue of female representation must thus be understood and addressed in this context.
<i>Community Services</i>	75	The mission recommends recreational activities (video, tennis ball, some toys etc) for handicapped (approx. 50 individuals) organized twice a month should continue. CONCERN may explore the possibility to link up with specialized NGOs (e.g. CRP) to expand activities for this small but vulnerable group.	CONCERN	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to staffing constraints and transition period (CONCERN's departure and arrival of new IP, TAI), recreational activities have not been systematically addressed. TAI is to explore recreational activities for this vulnerable group.
<i>Community Services</i>	76	Identification of recreational activities for youth and secondary school aged children should be pursued jointly by all actors in the camp.	CONCERN	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football has been provided to youth groups per block. Further exploration of recreational activities for this group to be undertaken by TAI UNHCR lobbies for UNICEF to take part in this sector.
<i>Community Services</i>	77	The mission recommends necessary inputs given to trainees so when they finish their training they can continue to utilise their skills. The provision of sewing machines to tailoring trainees could be explored on completion of their course or alternatively an additional skills centre setup where ex-trainees can access machines and be provided with quality cloth in the general distribution.	UNHCR CONCERN	Not implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to funding constraints, this recommendation could not be implemented. However, trainees get a sewing box after completion of training. UNHCR is exploring using highly skilled male refugee tailors in the camp to help upgrade the currently tailoring training provided in the women's centers.
<i>Refugee Participation</i>	78	Volunteer groups in the form of volunteer groups for health, water, food and education should be established at block level. Guidelines for their selection and working could be developed jointly by UNHCR, WFP, NGOs and GOB. Participation of women in volunteer groups should be encouraged as well as the formation of separate women's volunteer groups in key sectors	All stakeholders	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the Community Health Workers supervised by MOH, TAI has conducted a Training of Trainers course for selected refugee women among those who are working in the soap center and women's center. These women would work as community outreach workers in building awareness on health, water, food, education, gender, etc.

Joint Assessment Mission, Bangladesh 2006

		where appropriate.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater GOB support and interagency dialogue and collaboration required on refugee participation.
<i>Future Strategy and Planning</i>	79	Cross border visits could be arranged for the refugee representatives involving UNHCR offices on both sides, the GOB and GOUM. This will help facilitate exchange of information for the refugees who have formerly returned with those willing to return, allowing refugees to make informed decisions.	UNHCR MFMD	Partly implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR maintains quarterly cross border meetings with UNHCR Maungdaw. • Low profile assessment of refugee vision on their future is planned to take place in 2006, to which GOB has in principle agreed. • Security situation in Myanmar and no freedom of movement for Rohingyas do not allow for such trips to materialize