

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

BANGLADESH

Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar

Project Number	200673
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	33,000
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	33,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	32,265

Project Approval Date	21 May 2014
Planned Start Date	01 Jul 2014
Actual Start Date	01 Jul 2014
Project End Date	31 Dec 2016
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	10,210,700
Direct Support Costs	2,234,928
Food and Related Costs	2,081,824
Indirect Support Costs	1,016,922
Total Approved Budget	15,544,373

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	2,425
Planned Commodities in 2015	494
Actual Commodities in 2015	415

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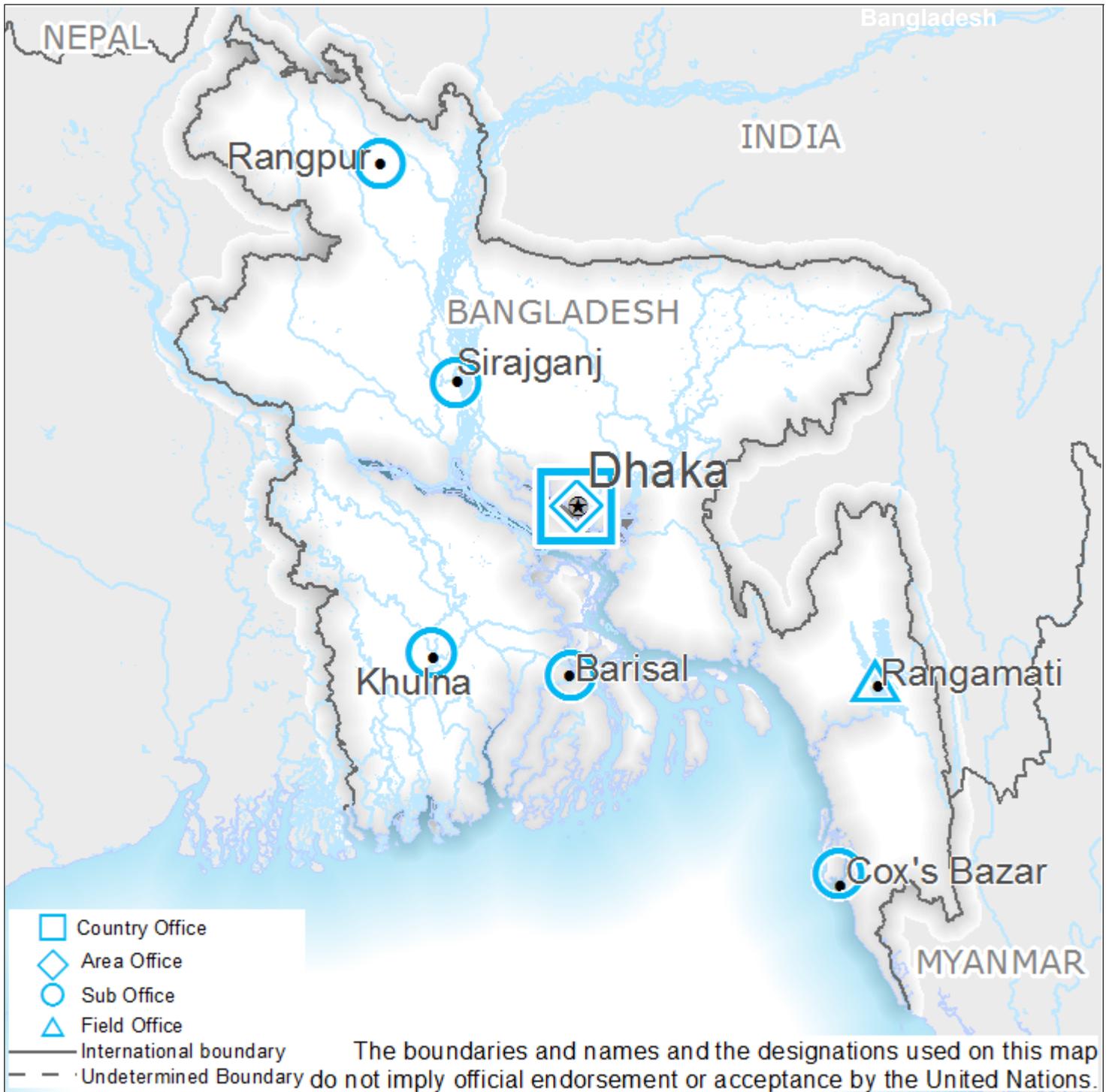
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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Despite continuing economic progress in Bangladesh, including becoming a lower middle-income country in 2015, in the absence of a recent household income and expenditure survey it may be assumed that at least one quarter of the population lives in poverty and is unable to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Low dietary diversity remains a persistent problem. Bangladesh ranks 142nd out of 188 countries on the 2015 Human Development Index and 73rd among 104 developing or transitioning countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index.

A staggering 36 percent of children below the age of five suffer from stunted growth caused by chronic undernutrition. About 15 percent of children under the age of five are acutely undernourished, and every fourth woman of reproductive age is too thin for her height. About one third of adolescent girls in Bangladesh suffer from anemia and micronutrient deficiency.

Poverty and undernutrition hinder children's ability to learn and complete their education. While school enrolment has improved over recent years, an estimated 3.3 million out of 20 million children of primary school age remain out of school, and only eight in 10 children that start primary school complete grade five. Dropout rates are higher in poorer areas.

Achieving gender equality also remains a challenge. There are significant disparities between men and women in health, education and income. With more than two thirds of girls married before the age of 18, the risk of early pregnancy and giving birth to an underweight baby is very high. More than 20 percent of newborns have a low birth weight.

Disasters such as floods, cyclones and droughts are also a significant threat to food security, causing the poorest to adopt negative coping strategies for example, by eating less, withdrawing children from school, and selling productive assets. Among those highly vulnerable is a perennial refugee population from Myanmar; approximately 33,000 refugees have lived in two official camps in Cox's Bazar district of southeastern Bangladesh and received food assistance there since 1992. Many more undocumented refugees from Myanmar live in proximity to these camps.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP is working in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh to reduce poverty, enhance food security and nutrition, and minimise vulnerability to recurrent shocks through a Country Programme (CP) and a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).

The CP is designed to improve the long-term food security and nutrition situation of vulnerable households in the poorest and most food-insecure rural areas and urban slums. In total, the CP will assist 3.56 million people in 15 priority districts over five years (2012-2016). It consists of four main components that are aligned with the Government's national priorities: (i) Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN); (ii) School Feeding; (iii) Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER); and (iv) Strengthening Government Safety Nets.

The PRRO seeks to improve the food security and nutrition of approximately 34,000 refugees residing in Cox's Bazar through three activities: (i) general food assistance through biometrically coded electronic vouchers; (ii) supplementary feeding; and (iii) school feeding.

In addition, WFP addresses humanitarian needs during extraordinary emergencies. During 2015, WFP delivered food and cash assistance to affected populations after Tropical Storm Komen brought floods and landslides to southeastern Bangladesh. The Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) reached a total of 185,000 displaced people with fortified biscuits in June and August and, subsequently, 35,000 people with unconditional cash transfers between August and October.

WFP also conducts research and pilot projects to create evidence to underpin future efforts. In 2015, WFP published a study titled 'Impact of Climate Related Shocks and Stresses on Nutrition and Food Security in Selected Areas of Rural Bangladesh' with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The study found effects on nutrition and food security up to eight, even 10 months after the events. Moreover, in research jointly conducted with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), it was concluded that the combination of cash and behaviour change communication (BCC) on nutrition had the greatest benefits for ultra-poor rural families with small children and was the only intervention that led to a statistically significant reduction of child stunting. This transfer modality research initiative adds important evidence to the country's efforts to promote social safety nets which are effective in preventing chronic child undernutrition.

WFP's activities under the CP and PRRO directly supported the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1), achievement of universal primary education (MDG2), the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women (MDG3), reduction of child mortality (MDG4) and improvement of maternal health (MDG5).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	12,075	122,957	135,032
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	191,323	223,862	415,185
Number of adults	38,156	58,967	97,123
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	241,554	405,786	647,340
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	767,549	839,675	1,607,224
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	867,581	959,277	1,826,858

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	38	49	0	308	20	415
Single Country IR-EMOP				239		239
Country Programme	1,419	120	115	6,013	485	8,153
Total food distributed in 2015	1,457	168	115	6,560	505	8,807
Total food distributed in 2014	7,302	879	1,516	11,296	199	21,192
Total food distributed in 2013	33,420	1,264	2,236	13,479	857	51,256

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

Following the closure of the PRRO 200142, the PRRO 200673 started in July 2014, to continue the provision of assistance to the refugees from Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, living in the Kutupalong and Nayapara camps in the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh.

Food assistance played an important role in safeguarding the food security and nutrition status of refugees who have restricted movement and limited opportunities to pursue livelihood options and achieve self-reliance. WFP's assistance under PRRO 200673 was provided at the request of the Government of Bangladesh. The project supported the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and was aligned to the WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017), contributing to Strategic Objectives 1 and 4.

The objectives of the PRRO were to:

- (i) safeguard the food security of refugees in the camps until durable solutions are agreed upon by providing them with diversified and safe food items accessed through a new voucher system;
- (ii) treat and prevent acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and young children, through a targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP) to treat children aged 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and a blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) to prevent deterioration in the nutritional status of all children aged 6-23 months and PLW; and
- (iii) encourage primary education enrolment, attendance and completion, as well as addressing micronutrient deficiencies in children, through the provision of school feeding to children in pre- and primary schools.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

The PRRO supports the 33,000 refugees from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar who are officially recognised as refugees by the government, including those who arrived before new registrations were stopped in 1992, and their children.

WFP provides food assistance based on UNHCR data that are continually updated to reflect births, deaths and migration as registered by the government. The refugees are not officially permitted to move outside the camps or access employment, severely limiting their livelihoods opportunities.

The operation has continued to provide refugees with support as follows:

- a) Food assistance to all registered households through electronic vouchers, called FoodCards. The FoodCard is a smart card that is recharged on a monthly basis and works through a point of sale (POS). It is supported by the SCOPE system, which is WFP's beneficiary and cash transfer management platform. To accurately identify the cardholders and prevent misuse, each FoodCard is biometrically coded using fingerprints. Appropriate privacy standards were applied to maintain the confidentiality of beneficiaries. A woman from each household has been registered as the card holder, along with two alternates, to encourage appropriate use of the transfer towards enhancing food availability and consumption within the household.
- b) Nutrition assistance through i) the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) to all pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-23 months, and ii) the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) to children aged 6-59 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In addition, parents and caregivers receive nutrition messages through behaviour change communication (BCC) and are paid periodic visits to see whether they put information into practice. The actual number of beneficiaries was lower than planned for several reasons, including the fact that the birth rate fluctuates as a result of cultural practices like early marriage, polygamy and family planning. The beneficiary numbers for all supplementary feeding include a contingency margin because: i) global acute malnutrition rates within the camps fluctuate, close to or above emergency levels (for instance, in 2009 and 2011); ii) Super Cereal was previously part of general food distribution but removed with the introduction of the FoodCard as it was deemed ineffective in preventing undernutrition through this modality; and iii) despite the enhanced diversity in the food basket and behavioural sensitisation, the introduction of the FoodCard still carried the risk that refugees would only purchase rice, oil and spices, leading to a possible deterioration in their nutritional status. Since the FoodCard was only introduced in August 2014, planning for 2015 was done at a time when these factors were still uncertain.
- c) School feeding to pre-primary and primary schoolchildren. Beneficiary numbers were based on projections by UNHCR and its education partners taking into account past data on enrolment, attendance and demography.

For the food assistance, beneficiaries purchase food with their FoodCard at three registered shops inside each camp, freely choosing from a range of 18 different items according to their needs and preferences. They recharge their FoodCard at the beginning of each month and may shop on six days a week, throughout the day, as often as they want.

Each shop offers food at established market prices that are used to set the FoodCard value to ensure that the same nutritionally balanced ration can be purchased each month. The food on offer includes two varieties of rice, red lentils, yellow split peas, fortified oil, iodized salt, sugar and a range of spices as well as fresh produce like spinach, pumpkin and eggs. The provision of dried fish was temporarily halted for most of 2015 until WFP was able to source a chemical (DDT) free product. To ensure that all refugees received their full monthly entitlements throughout the year, a 'dummy' FoodCard process was maintained for those experiencing card problems, and as contingency for any system errors. Dummy FoodCards hold a general back-up provision that enables all eligible households without a functioning FoodCard to purchase food as per their rations. WFP maintains a register of eligible dummy FoodCard recipients, updated continuously through household visits, which ensures security by enabling the food assistance is delivered to the right beneficiaries.

For the nutrition component, all PLWs and children aged 6-23 months were registered in BSFP to prevent deterioration in their nutritional status, and received Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus, respectively. In parallel, regular and systematic household screenings of all children between 6 and 59 months are carried out. The children who are found to be moderately malnourished are enrolled in the TSFP. These two supplementary feeding activities are implemented in established nutrition centres in the camp, at which beneficiaries receive food on a weekly basis. Moreover, included within behavioral change communication on nutrition is sensitisation on the FoodCards with suggestions and cooking demonstrations on possible complementary feeding recipes for young children.

These activities have complemented nutrition schemes run by UNHCR and Action Contre la Faim (ACF), including the inpatient and outpatient treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), growth monitoring of children up to 59 months, micronutrient powders (MNP) distribution targeting children and adolescent girls, as well as health, nutrition and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion.

For the school feeding component, the children have received biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals each day they attend school. The biscuits are intended to cover nearly 70 percent of their daily micronutrient requirements. High-energy biscuits (HEB) also allow children to focus on their studies by boosting attentiveness with the extra calories provided, in addition to helping increase enrolment and attendance. They are a powerful incentive for poor households to keep their children in school.

The underachievement in distribution of specialised nutritious foods was a result of difficulties in projecting global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates. It was assumed that the introduction of the FoodCard and the concurrent withdrawal of Wheat-Soya Blend (WSB+) from general rations would result in an increase in GAM. WFP, therefore, included a contingency margin, but the GAM rate did not increase as feared. In school feeding, low achievement rates were driven by low attendance rates. Low attendance seems to be caused by two primary factors: the low level of education available, which demotivated some families from sending their children to school; and, the fact that children are engaged in income generating work and domestic chores.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	6,950	7,220	14,170	6,691	7,009	13,700	96.3%	97.1%	96.7%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	6,800	7,070	13,870	6,573	7,058	13,631	96.7%	99.8%	98.3%
Number of children below 5 years of age	2,430	2,530	4,960	2,414	2,520	4,934	99.3%	99.6%	99.5%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	16,180	16,820	33,000	15,678	16,587	32,265	96.9%	98.6%	97.8%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	16,180	16,820	33,000	15,766	16,278	32,044	97.4%	96.8%	97.1%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Pregnant and lactating women participating in blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of moderate acute malnutrition)		1,870	1,870		942	942		50.4%	50.4%
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	16,180	16,820	33,000	15,678	16,587	32,265	96.9%	98.6%	97.8%
Refugees	16,180	16,820	33,000	15,678	16,587	32,265	96.9%	98.6%	97.8%
Children receiving school meals	5,000	5,500	10,500	4,544	4,700	9,244	90.9%	85.5%	88.0%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	840	870	1,710	641	544	1,185	76.3%	62.5%	69.3%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of acute malnutrition)	880	920	1,800	488	430	918	55.5%	46.7%	51.0%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	630	660	1,290	483	410	893	76.7%	62.1%	69.2%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	16,180	16,820	33,000	15,678	16,587	32,265	96.9%	98.6%	97.8%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
High Energy Biscuits	151	86	57.2%
Iodised Salt		0	
Rice		38	
Split Peas		0	
Sugar		19	
Vegetable Oil	10	49	488.2%
Wheat-soya Blend (wsb)	333	222	66.7%
Total for 2015	494	415	84.0%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	1,437	514	35.8%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Vouchers	4,009,878	3,470,096.9	86.5%
Total for 2015	4,009,878	3,470,096.9	86.5%

'Story Worth Telling'

50-year-old Khadiza Khatun has lived in Kutupalong refugee camp for over 20 years. Inside the camps and similarly in Rakhine State of Myanmar from where her family fled, a conservative and traditional culture prevails.

The innovative food assistance system launched in August 2014 has significantly invigorated the role of women in the camps. Once confined to their homes, Khadiza and many other women now frequent the shops to take part in a novel reality, that of choosing and buying groceries for their families.

"Previously, we got a fixed amount of six different foods that we received all at once," she says. "Now, with 18 different items, I have more decisions to make and more responsibility. I can go and shop like the men do outside the camps."

When the family needs food, Khadiza calculates her family's FoodCard balance and allocates the money to ensure enough remains for the rest of the month. She determines the groceries needed and either she or her husband takes them back home.

More than a year into implementation, beneficiary feedback has confirmed that users are pleased with the FoodCard system. This is particularly the case for women who cannot go and purchase food outside the camps. With safe shops inside the camps, female refugees are the main customers.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP has made extensive efforts to ensure that implementation arrangements work towards offsetting existing gender inequalities. Measures include designating women as principal FoodCard holders of the households (unless there are no adult women in the household) since women are in charge of decisions regarding food needs and preparation, ensuring the presence of both male and female staff in the shops, and identifying and implementing ways to prevent gender-based violence when women move to and from stores.

WFP has worked to encourage joint decision making at the household level during sensitisation sessions in the camps over the use of vouchers and food. A quarterly survey by ACF showed that in 54 percent of households, women and men took joint decisions over the use of vouchers, which is above the projected target. This result is encouraging in light of the conservative norms that generally prevail in the camps. Also, WFP has met its targets on the proportion of women in leadership positions in project management committees and on those trained in modalities of voucher distributions, thanks to tailored and timely community inductions and social mobilisation sessions prior to and throughout project implementation. The female committee members were encouraged to freely express their opinions and influence decisions relating to the WFP assistance, so that it adequately responded to the different needs of girls and boys, women and men. Through their feedback, WFP was able to identify and address a number of issues relating to food quality and availability in the shops (for instance, the under supply of eggs). To provide a comfortable environment for the women while shopping, women from the camps and the local population have been deployed as volunteers - two female volunteers throughout each month and an additional two for particularly busy days.

The role of women as committee members and as FoodCard holders is well accepted in the camps. Women are the primary users of FoodCards in 62 percent of the households; 7 percent do the shopping jointly with a male household member while 55 percent do it on their own. This changing gender practice arguably can be attributed to the sensitisation campaigns conducted by WFP and partners and to the nomination of women as principal card holders.

Cooperating partner Technical Assistance Incorporated (TAI) held regular workshops and trainings for their staff on gender and protection, and developed awareness and support programmes for gender-based violence (GBV) victims in the camps. UNHCR organised workshops and sessions on GBV, encouraged partners to ensure gender balance among staff, held regular gender sensitisation sessions in the camps, and led a GBV coordination committee together with other actors and beneficiaries.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	50		41	54
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	50		50	50
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

The FoodCard has improved protection and accountability by providing a more secure means to ensure that the food assistance reaches beneficiaries. Biometric identity verification ensures that the food reaches the right people and reduces the chance of theft. The location of the stores inside the camps enables women to access a diverse range of food commodities without incurring the risk involved in shopping in local markets outside the camps. With safe shops inside the camps that are open six days a week from 9am to 5pm, women can purchase smaller quantities of food on a regular basis, and so no longer have to carry heavy loads.

WFP has identified the primary protection concerns as sexual harassment when women move to and from the shops and within the shops, as well as crowd control (the latter particularly during the first week of month when demand is high). WFP encourages women to travel in groups to reduce the risk of sexual harassment. Crowd control has been addressed by recruiting additional female volunteers to manage crowds and ensure people with disabilities and pregnant women are given priority in the queue. In discussion with UNHCR, WFP is currently considering the feasibility of further measures such as women-only shopping days and separate queues for men and women. WFP staff and project management committee members also rigorously monitored by being physically present at the shops and by recruiting two additional female volunteers to monitor in the camps.

WFP has continued to seek feedback through a help desk, through enhanced working-level communication and coordination with UNHCR on protection issues, and through discussions with female refugees in focus groups. People are able to raise grievances, provide feedback or make inquiries directly to WFP field monitors through a complaints box and a telephone hotline, and indirectly through UNHCR staff. Most interactions are related to eligibility for the dummy Foodcard interactions. The women reported that they have referred any safety and protection issues, or other difficulties related to FoodCards, to the project management committee. The concerns are always discussed and solutions are suggested at the following meeting.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
		(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	95		100	100
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		99.53	100
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	95		100	100
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	90		99.26	99.8

Outputs

The FoodCard was distributed to virtually all planned households. More women than men collected them. The lower percentage value of USD distributed compared to the number of beneficiaries is due to the fact that through the year, some beneficiaries did not redeem the full value of the entitlements.

PLWs and caregivers of children who were admitted to health facilities received nutrition messages and counselling on-site and during household visits. A small number of husbands received nutrition messages when their wife was unwell and they collected the supplementary food at the health centre, or when they were home during the health workers' visits. In general, men did not volunteer to receive nutrition counselling.

The blanket and targeted supplementary feeding operations included sensitisation by ACF, the cooperating partner, during food distribution. This was complemented by outreach activities held by ACF including cooking demonstrations on specialised nutritious foods and complementary food, and awareness sessions on nutrition, health and hygiene practices. Sensitisation activities were held on improving nutrition through FoodCard purchases and food preparation. Through the 'Adolescent Forum,' both adolescent boys and girls were sensitised to the negative consequences of undernutrition and the importance of self-referral for screening and treatment.

The school feeding programme reached 88 percent of planned beneficiaries. A smaller percentage of girls than boys received the support, likely due to their engagement in domestic activities and a lack of parental support for girls' education. Refugees are regularly encouraged during home visits and sensitisation activities carried out by cooperating partners, to send their children to school and cases of absenteeism or dropout are followed up.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 1: GFD				
C&V: Number of beneficiaries receiving vouchers	Individual	33,000	32,265	97.8%
C&V: Number of men collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	16,180	15,678	96.9%
C&V: Number of women collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	16,820	16,587	98.6%
C&V: Total monetary value of cash vouchers distributed	US\$	4,009,878	3,470,097	86.5%
Number of days rations were provided	day	365	365	100.0%
SO 1: Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition				
Proportion of targeted caregivers (male and female) receiving 3 key messages delivered through WFP supported messaging and counseling	%	100	121	121.0%
SO 4: School Feeding				
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	100	95	95.0%
Number of primary school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	5,000	4,544	90.9%
Number of primary school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	5,500	4,700	85.5%
Number of schools assisted by WFP	school	27	27	100.0%

Outcomes

Households consumed an average 5.9 food groups in the week prior to the survey, thus achieving the Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) target for the assisted people. One in four households had a good (>6) DDS while the rest had a medium score (4.5-6) at the end of the year. However, food consumption levels were 7 percentage points lower at the end of 2015 than at the beginning of the year. Around 58 percent of the assisted people had an acceptable food consumption score. The factors that might have affected this decline include differences in monthly expenditure on food, low utilisation of foods from varying food groups and different seasonal patterns during data collection rounds. Other food consumption patterns show that the diet of households mainly is comprised of starchy food items. Fruit, milk products and sugar or other sweet items are almost absent in their diet. Though pulses and eggs are widely available in the shops, refugees seem inclined to buy rice rather than protein. WFP Bangladesh's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) unit is undertaking a study to understand the reasons for this and the ways that households use the cash earned from selling rice.

The recovery rate in the TSFP among children aged 6-59 months suffering from MAM dropped one percentage point to 83 percent, but remains well above the SPHERE standard (>75). The non-response rate increased from 14.5 to 16 percent, which exceeds the standard cut-off value (>15). WFP's response to this is outlined under Lessons Learned. Coverage was calculated through a desk-based review as follows: i) the proportion of children identified as MAM who were treated; and ii) the proportion of children 6-59 in the camps who received food through the MAM prevention programme. The data was obtained through partners' activity progress reports and UNHCR camp data.

School attendance and enrolment have increased substantially for boys and girls alike since the baseline survey, but both remain below the end target levels because of children's engagement in livelihoods or domestic activities, lack of prospects for continuing higher education in the camps, and sociocultural barriers to girls' education.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
Diet Diversity Score				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	5.5	5.06		5.88
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	5.5	5.04		5.85
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	5.5	5.09		5.92
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	85	68.52		58
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	83	66.05		57
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring.	85	71.63		59
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months, Programme monitoring.	15	1.3	1.1	1
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months, Programme monitoring.	3	0	0	0.1
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months, Programme monitoring.	15	14.9	14.5	16
MAM treatment recovery rate (%)				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months, Programme monitoring.	75	83.8	84.4	82.9
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, (Prevention of Acute Malnutrition among children 6-23 months), Programme monitoring.	90	96		82
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, (Prevention of Acute Malnutrition among PLW), Programme monitoring.	90	88.8		83.8
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, (Treatment of Acute Malnutrition among children 6-59 months), Programme monitoring.	90	96		100
Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, (Prevention of Acute Malnutrition among children 6-23 months), Programme monitoring.	90	88.8		89.7
Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions				
Base value: Nov-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, (Treatment of Acute Malnutrition among children 6-59 months), Programme monitoring.	66	88.8		86.2
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	80	56.9	65	68
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	80	60.5	68	70
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	6	-4.7		2.7
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	6	-5.5		3.3
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	85	90.37		90.58
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	85	93.18		90.65

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Given the impasse that has existed for many years at policy level on durable solutions to the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar, sustainable programming options for the people in the Kutupalong and Nayapara camps have been extremely limited. The 2016 Joint Assessment Mission will assess possible options to address sustainability, such as through the promotion of self-reliance and a more targeted approach to the provision of food assistance.

Not all refugees from Myanmar reside in the camps. Those who do not are unregistered refugees and reside either in host communities or makeshift camp-like settlements. Through its country programme, WFP works with unregistered refugees from Myanmar residing in host communities (where poverty criteria are used to target refugees and host community members without differentiation) and in the makeshift settlements. The latter work currently includes a blanket supplementary feeding nutrition intervention in Kutupalong makeshift settlement, which is adjacent to Kutupalong official camp and where the GAM rate stood at 18.5 percent as of December 2014. This is carried out under the auspices of the 2013 'National Strategy on Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals,' which provides a framework for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the large population of unregistered refugees from Myanmar living outside of the two official camps.

WFP worked closely with the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), the government counterpart for the registered camps, including with the Camp-in-Charge (CIC) officials. The RRRC was regularly briefed and consulted on the FoodCard implementation, and provided feedback. WFP and the government have developed a stronger rapport, compared to the situation during the previous General Food Distribution (GFD).

WFP engaged in dialogue with the RRRC and UNHCR, particularly during several high-profile donor missions, on moving towards targeted assistance that may cover those refugees from Myanmar most in need in both the official and unregistered populations, noting that this could help to mitigate the regular funding constraints faced by both UN agencies, and underscoring the operation's protracted nature. WFP also sought to explore options toward refugee self-reliance through enhanced opportunities for livelihoods in the area.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

The PRRO in 2015 was supported by several donors, including the Governments of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, and through WFP multilateral resources.

For the school feeding scheme, WFP procured fortified biscuits locally. The daily ration is modified to 50 grams, compared to the 75-gram packets provided in schools outside the camp under the Country Programme, since all of the children's families are also participating in the FoodCard programme.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL		23	23
United Kingdom		111	111
USA		30	10
Total:		164	144

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

The main focus of the operation was the voucher modality. Apart from this, Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus were procured internationally and fortified biscuits were procured locally. Vegetable oil was distributed from the outstanding balance of the previous year and by loaning from another project which purchased it internationally. Food provided in the shops was procured and purchased by selected individual traders. The majority of their commodities was procured from local suppliers. WFP maintained strong monitoring and testing procedures as well as enforcement measures to ensure food quality. In the event that the food procured by a trader was deemed unsafe or of poor quality, they were required to replace it or WFP would request that the item be discontinued until a safe alternative was found, as in the case of dried fish. In this instance, WFP identified a safe alternative supply source.

WFP procured Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus internationally for the nutrition intervention. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) provided de-worming tablets to in- and out-patients of health services. UNHCR provided basic non-food items, such as shelter, blankets, cooking utensils and firewood.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
High Energy Biscuits	63	0	0	
Wheat Soya Blend	0	0	81	
Sum:	63	0	81	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

The Super Cereal, Super Cereal Plus and vegetable oil were received at the port and transported by a contracted transporter to the WFP warehouse. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) delivered the food from the warehouses to distribution points in the camps. Locally-purchased fortified biscuits were delivered directly to the camps. WFP warehouse was the main storage facility for longer term commodity management while intermediate storage facilities were maintained at camps to facilitate timely distribution.

Post-Delivery Losses

Defective packaging caused minimal loss of fortified biscuits. A small amount of Super Cereal collected for laboratory investigations was reported as loss. There was a small loss of sugar due to weight variances. WFP provided regular guidance to partners on warehouse management and commodity handling, which contributed to reducing the likelihood of any such losses, however insignificant.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

WFP has worked closely with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), which is responsible for coordinating assistance to the refugees, through the Myanmar Refugee Cell in Dhaka and the RRRC in Cox's Bazar. At local level, WFP has longstanding links with the government, UNHCR, UNFPA, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the refugee and host communities. To cultivate those relationships, WFP has regularly hosted and participated in coordination meetings, proactively shared information, and joined partners in celebrating important national and international days such as the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.' The Cox's Bazar district received a very high number of missions in 2015, which also required a coordinated, holistic effort between partners.

For the FoodCard scheme, WFP selected local traders through a screening process that assessed their capacity to deliver the required volumes of quality food items. Successful candidates underwent orientation sessions to develop a common understanding of the programme and its expectations. WFP staff in Cox's Bazar held monthly meetings and follow-up training sessions with the traders and participated in meetings in Dhaka every three months to negotiate staple prices.

The supplementary feeding and school feeding components have been implemented for a number of years by existing NGO partners, which have the capacity and networks needed to run effective programmes. ACF implements the BSFP and TSFP as well as the improved BCC on nutrition related to the FoodCard utilisation. WFP also contracts ACF separately to conduct regular food security monitoring in the camps, which began shortly after the FoodCard was introduced. ACF also provides SAM treatment, funded by UNHCR. The Village Education Resource Center (VERC) is WFP's partner for the school feeding component.

WFP also worked closely with the Refugee Food Management Committee (RFMC), which consists of male and female refugees from all camp blocks and works to enhance the partnership and communication between refugees and WFP. RFMC members were trained on the FoodCard, gender and protection. To enhance collaboration and coordination, WFP participated in other camp fora, such as awareness raising sessions and meetings with teachers and parents.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	1	1	1	1

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	5		6	6
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100

Lessons Learned

Following the change in modality, WFP was able to use SCOPE data to identify that a significant proportion of the voucher value is spent on rice. It appears that this is linked to the fact that many households sell some of the food support on the private market for cash. WFP's VAM unit has already commissioned a study to look closely into the situation and to make recommendations. Depending on the findings, WFP is considering intensive community sensitisation to stress the importance of different food groups and how the FoodCard can have a positive, long-lasting impact on people's lives. ACF has initiated measures in that regard, and traders were sensitised to relay similar messages to their customers. In addition, monitoring of individual households to track purchase patterns may be strengthened.

Factors contributing to the increased non-response rate in MAM treatments included medical complications, food sharing and selling, poor care practices by mothers and caregivers as well as poor hygiene and sanitation practices. To reduce the non-response rate, WFP will work with ACF to enhance the referral and follow-up mechanism of the Refugees Health unit of the RRRC, encourage community outreach teams to be even more mindful during follow-up visits, and strengthen the referral mechanism of mental health and psychosocial support teams.

Although there has been great progress since the baseline, school attendance and enrolment end targets are yet to be attained. This seems to be caused by a number of factors, including children's engagement in livelihoods or domestic activities, lack of prospects for continuing higher education in the camps, and sociocultural barriers to girls' education. Refugees are regularly encouraged during home visits to send their children to school and cases of absenteeism are followed up. WFP's ability to address the social and economic root causes is limited and a concerted effort to address these would require significant, ambitious changes in the design of WFP's school feeding programme, along with funding to implement such changes.

WFP has worked to minimise the risk of fraud related to the FoodCard system by analysing transaction reports and monitoring as well as coordinating with traders in the camps. Separate and joint monitoring of local markets were conducted each month to agree on fair food prices. A help desk for registering complaints and an anonymous complaint box were in place to alert WFP of any allegations of collusion or corruption. In addition, WFP staff visited the camps and stores on a regular basis. These measures allowed WFP to effectively triangulate information.

Significant support was needed from WFP's SCOPE support team in response to ongoing technical issues with the FoodCard platform, and a team member was deployed to Cox's Bazar in November to rectify problems and provide further training.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	High Energy Biscuits		23	23
United Kingdom	UK -C-00265-01	High Energy Biscuits		30	30
United Kingdom	UK -C-00265-01	Wheat Soya Blend		81	81
USA	USA-C-00986-02	High Energy Biscuits		30	10
Total:				164	144