

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

30 November 2017

BANGLADESH:

- Fifth round of General Food Distribution (GFD) is complete: 737,570 people received food assistance (rice, lentils and oil).
- Sixth round of GFD started on 28 November 2017, targeting 181,500 households.
- Current monthly ration size (distributed fortnightly) is: 50kg rice, 9kg lentils and 4 litres fortified vegetable oil. Decision to increase ration size will be implemented from Round 7 GFD distribution (60kg rice, 18 kg lentils, and 6 litres of fortified vegetable oil per month). Please note that WFP is providing double rations to households with 8 members and above since the fifth round of general food distributions.
- Nutrition scale up is ongoing: a total of 14 Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) sites are operational (10 new) with fast-track of new arrivals ongoing. Data collection for the 2 additional nutrition surveys has been completed, the reports are expected in the next week or so. Within the last month the admission rate has increased six-fold.
- A WFP bridge opening access to the remote western part of Kutupalong ‘mega camp’ has been completed. Trucks are now able to reach this area and additional distribution points are being constructed.
- As of 25 November 2017, the Bangladesh Immigration and Passports Department has registered 663,694 people through biometric registration.

CBT/SCOPE:

- E-Voucher programme ongoing for pre-2017 caseload. New influx assistance is planned to start in January for 50,000 people, scaling up starting March to eventually include the entire eligible caseload.
- Beneficiary data collection planned to start 09 December 2017. Planned target is to register 700,000 arrivals from 2017 influx. Data collection exercise to be finalized by March 2017 in anticipation of CBT-programme scale-up. Discussions ongoing with UNHCR on collaboration for joint data collection for 2017 influx. Options discussed are 1) WFP to collect fingerprints and share with UNHCR 2) Geographical UNHCR-WFP split of fingerprint collection. Deadline for final decision is 03 December 2017.
- Host community cash assistance is planned to start in December 2017 for 10,000 HH. Scale-up through eMoney is planned to start in January (20,000 HHs 2018, 40,000 HHs starting 2019).

LOGS CLUSTER

- The Logistics Sector Hub has 16 operational MSUs with an additional 3 erected outside the camp as storage support to the Government. The hub is receiving cargo from eleven different partners (Save the Children, UNICEF, Christian Aid, Solidarites International, WaterAid, NGO Forum, IFRC, DAM, IOM, CARE and WFP).

ASSESSMENT

- ACF-led nutrition survey: 24.3 GAM and 7.5% SAM (Kutupalong registered camp of both previous caseload and new influx). This is the first of three assessments.

MONITORING

- Distribution monitoring and beneficiary outreach monitoring are ongoing using Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) for round five of GFD. Results will be fed into the programme planning.
- Nutrition monitoring tools for BSFP have been field-tested and have been implemented. E-Voucher process monitoring tools are being developed in conjunction with the CBT team.

- GFD post-distribution monitoring is to be reviewed with Food Security Sector partners next week as part of discussions on aligning process and post distribution monitoring.
- WFP is currently undertaking a technical review for third party monitoring which will inform the decision on using third party monitor for process and outcome monitoring.

GENDER, PROTECTION, ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION

- Most refugees report feeling safe where they are settled, with some citing the army presence as reassuring. There is a reluctance to leave the settlements for fear of being robbed, harassed, lost, or kidnapped.
- Protection concerns linked to food security include: women and girls facing immobility due to the fear of abuse, harassment; reduction of food intake to mitigate needing to go to the toilet at night for fear of abuse travelling to latrines.
- WFP and Partners working together to address all concerns.

IN NUMBERS:

- Official ISCG influx number: 624,000 (closer to 700,000 according to Government).
- Total amount of people reached with food assistance: 737,570 people.
- Fifth round GFD complete: 737,570 people received rice, lentils and oil.
- Sixth round GFD ongoing: 132,630 people.
- Cumulative number of people to receive HEBs to date: 297,600.
- Nutrition: 106,800 pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years of age have received SuperCereals – fast-track of BSFP ongoing (10 new BSFP sites operational bringing total to 14).
- Nutrition enrolment: 15,250 PLW and 39,340 children aged 6-59 months.
- WFP has distributed almost 16,070 MT of food assistance.
- WFP requires 56,990 MT for the next 6 months. \WFP requires a further USD 27.8 million for Phase I (till February 2018) – out of USD 77 million required.

MYANMAR

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS IN NORTHERN RAKHINE:

- Since 06 November 2017 when WFP regained access in the northern part of Rakhine State, WFP distributed food assistance to 24,338 people in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. The distributions are ongoing. ICRC and WFP remain the only international humanitarian agencies having access in northern Rakhine. So far, the local authorities have approved travel authorizations and permits for WFP national staff and local cooperating partners for all the currently targeted areas. International staff are still not allowed to participate in distributions. International cooperating partners do not have a permission to operate. No local assessments have yet been authorized by the Government, and WFP has had no composite picture of the residual population and their food and nutrition security status. While WFP relies on the data provided by the Government and ICRC, adjustments to the delivery of assistance are being made on a day-to-day basis based on WFP's own observations and verifications as distributions proceed. WFP will extend the necessary food assistance to all the newly identified vulnerable populations as more information becomes available and new areas are being accessed.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS IN CENTRAL RAKHINE:

- In central Rakhine, where WFP has had access since mid-September, it has reached 90,568 out of the targeted 136,000 beneficiaries during the November distribution cycle, including 4,461 pregnant and lactating women and 12,958 children under the age of five. Distributions are ongoing and implemented directly by WFP since no cooperating partners are currently authorized to operate. Other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations have continued to face severe access constraints which are affecting their ability to deliver life-saving non-food

assistance in camps and villages. While there have been recent improvements in access, significant constraints remain in delivery of health and other vital services to camps and villages affecting both Muslim and ethnic-Rakhine people.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS:

- Since 12 November 2017, there have been 6,500 new departures for Bangladesh which is approximately 650 new arrivals per day in Bangladesh. UNHCR is following up on preliminary reports of a very low-scale return of refugees from Bangladesh back to Maungdaw. There are indications that between sometime in October and 20 November 2017, approximately 500 people made informal returns from Bangladesh to north Maungdaw. The Government has announced the construction of two reception centres for processing returning refugees in Maungdaw, and plans to have the first centre ready by late December.
- Maungdaw's Township Administrator (TA) has informed that Village Administrators (VA) within Maungdaw Townships, are, among other things, i) requested to prepare updated population lists indicating people who fled to Bangladesh, people displaced within Myanmar, and people remaining in their place of origin after the 25 August attacks, ii) that the rightful owners of rice paddies are permitted to carry out their own harvests but that "ownerless" rice fields will be harvested by government teams, and iii) civilians are not allowed to be in possession of knives or other tools as they move in the area.

GOVERNMENT-LED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE:

- The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) sent the first group of youth volunteers to provide humanitarian assistance to villages in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships from 13 to 21 November. UEHRD is calling for youths of all faiths between 18 to 35 years of age to provide humanitarian assistance effectively, to participate in resettling and redevelopment processes and assist in regional development and conflict avoidance in Rakhine State. More groups will be formed and sent to the northern part of Rakhine State in the coming weeks and months.

ASSESSMENT

- FAO-led food security assessment scoping mission with participation of WFP has been completed. According to the findings, food access rather than direct food availability as a result of the crisis in northern Rakhine has come out as an issue. The post 25 August 2017 displacement has had a significant effect on the communities in Zone 1 of central Rakhine State (Mrauk U, Minbya and Kyauktaw Townships). Fear and inter-communal tensions have increased, while movements for both communities have reduced. New restrictions on livelihoods and movements of Muslim communities such as inability to obtain fishing licenses and local curfews were observed. Reduced labour, increased wage rates and decreased harvests were noted in ethnic Rakhine communities. The mission did not receive from the Government the travel authorizations for the northern part of Rakhine, and some findings were based on the consultation of the key stakeholder information on the situation. The major issues and still unknowns are revolving around the status of food security and livelihoods as well as the outlook for the residual Muslim and ethnic Rakhine populations. The scoping mission will recommend to the Government an assessment that will take a "Whole of Rakhine" approach to humanitarian and rural development and link assessment to two levels of planning frameworks – the Union Enterprise Road Map (Union level) and Rakhine Socio-Economic Development Plan (State level) – all in line with the Rakhine Commission recommendations. The modality of the proposed assessment is being discussed with the Government.