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WFP News Release

18 January 2018

As Refugees from Myanmar Continue to Arrive in Bangladesh Camps, WFP Prepares for Imminent Monsoon Season

Location: Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

TRT: 02:17

Shot: 7 & 13 January 2018

:00-:50

Shot: 13 Jan 2018

Balukhali Camp, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

New arrivals, gv's refugee camp, construction. This week some 9400 refugees began arriving in camps in Cox's Bazar from No Mans Land between Bangladesh and Myanmar

:50-01:22

Shot: 07 Jan 2018

SOT Rehan Asad, WFP Chief of Staff (English)

"Right now we are feeding around 655,000 all the new refugees plus the existing 200,000 who had been here, but the challenge is now the next phase and the next phase the main challenge is the monsoon. This whole land – All the camp has been built on the hilltop and in the valleys and Bangladesh is very known for the monsoon season and the high rainy (season). Our engineering team is currently assessing what is the main concern for us in the rainy season and one of the main questions is; how do we get the food to the distribution point?"

01:22-01:37

Shot: 13 Jan 2018

Balukhali Camp, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

New road being prepared by Bangladesh army that will allow refugees easier access during the monsoon season to 3 new Distribution Centres built by WFP inside the camp.

01:37-01:47

Shot: 13 Jan 2018

Balukhali Camp, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

Wide shot of Logistic hub built by WFP at Ukhiya Degree College, sacks of rice being stored in warehouses for next phase of distribution.

01:47-02:02

Shot: 13 Jan 2018

Balukhali Camp, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

Relocated refugees queuing for medical tests and food. Distribution of hot meals and fortified biscuits from WFP and ACF.

02:02-02:17

Shot: 13 Jan 2018

Balukhali Camp, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

Family eating hot meal before relocation, children eating fortified biscuits

END

BACKGROUND

WFP supports the relocation of Rohingya from remote border locations inside Bangladesh to improve access to humanitarian services

On 14 January, humanitarian agencies began the relocation of more than 9,000 Rohingya refugees who had been living in isolated border locations inside Bangladesh for the last few months, to enable them to more easily access assistance and basic services. The first group of 200 people from Naikhongchhari (Bandarban district) were moved to Balukhali camp in buses where they received medical check-ups, protection assistance and WFP hot meals and HEBs, provided through WFP cooperating partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF). Families were also provided with emergency relief items and shelter kits before being directed to their allotted their family plots.

WFP provides life-saving food to more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees every month in the Cox's Bazar area, and gives nutrition support to the most vulnerable.

- *655,500 new arrivals since August (ISCG figures).*
- *More than 80 percent of new arrivals need food assistance.*

WFP has been rapidly expanding its emergency nutrition programmes to prevent malnutrition in young children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in response to alarming rates of malnutrition.

- *113,000 enrolled under nutrition scale up: 87,900 children 6-59 months and 25,000 pregnant and breast-feeding mothers receive a nutritious porridge.*

- *Acute malnutrition rates above the 15 percent WHO emergency threshold in all sites: 24 percent among children 6-59 months in Kutupalong camp. 17 percent among newly arrived children 6-59 months.*

Rations have been increased and adjusted to family size to ensure that larger families receive enough food. The food basket includes rice, pulses and oil, and bigger families receive larger rations and more often.

To support one million people through February 2018 in the Cox's Bazar region, WFP urgently needs US\$26 million. We are assisting new arrivals, people who were already living in camps near the border, and host communities.

- Kutupalong is fast becoming the biggest refugee camp in the world. Improved site management and infrastructure support is critical ahead of the monsoon season when rains and landslides pose a risk. WFP is supporting the engineering and site management operations of the “mega camp” by bringing in additional engineers, supporting road construction, and monsoon preparedness.
- WFP provides micronutrient-fortified biscuits when people first arrive; then after registration, we conduct regular distributions of rice, vegetable oil and lentils; hot meals through community kitchens; and nutritious porridge for pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers and children under five years old.
- To reach the most vulnerable, WFP staff carry out house-to-house visits, to assess children and pregnant and breastfeeding women for malnutrition. Anyone who is severely malnourished is referred to treatment centres run by partners. All others are enrolled in nearby feeding centers, where WFP provides SuperCereal Plus, a fortified mix that makes a nutritious porridge.

WFP is rapidly scaling up its prevention/management of acute malnutrition. At our 15 Supplementary Feeding Centres, children under five are assessed for acute malnutrition (weighed and their height and upper arm circumference measured), and their parents are told why this porridge is so important to eat in addition to their regular meals, and are shown how to prepare it.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

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