



FOOD ASSISTANCE

BANGLADESH REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE

INTERVENTIONS

Almost 1 million Rohingya refugees are fully reliant on humanitarian food assistance. They are not permitted to work and have no land on which to grow their own food.

World Vision provides life-saving food and nutrition assistance to more than 278,000 refugees, working in partnership with the World Food Programme. We support the innovative e-voucher programme that gives refugees more choice, dignity and dietary diversity—while also strengthening local markets. Refugees receive pre-paid food assistance cards they can use to purchase fresh food items from the e-voucher shops. Mothers can now prepare healthier meals for their children in World Vision’s many community kitchens across the camps.

DONOR



SUPPORT COUNTRIES



149,085

individuals (29,817 households) receive monthly food assistance cards that they can use to buy fresh food items at e-voucher outlets, operated by WFP and World Vision.



98,260

individuals (19,652 households) receive 7,700 MT of food (rice, pulses and oil) distributed each month by World Vision, in partnership with WFP. All refugees will be transferred to the e-voucher system by the end of 2019.



\$1.4 MILLION

value of the food distributed to refugees through the e-vouchers each month.



2,000

women shop on average each day at the two e-voucher outlets supported by World Vision.



19

fresh food items (apples, chili powder, dried fish, eggs, garlic, green chilies, lemons, lentils, oil, onions, oranges, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, rice, salt, spinach, sugar, turmeric powder) that refugees can purchase using their e-vouchers



4,250

pregnant and lactating mothers receive World Vision vouchers that they can exchange for fresh food from local shops to supplement monthly rations of rice, lentils and oil from WFP. (Funded by World Vision Singapore.)

IMPACT

Timely provision of life-saving food assistance meets refugees’ basic needs and helps prevent malnutrition.



WILL THAT BE EGGS OR ORANGES TODAY? E-VOUCHERS GIVE REFUGEES CHOICE, RESTORE DIGNITY

For the past 24 months, Rahazan, her husband, Rashid, and their seven children have eaten the same bland bowl of lentils and rice for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Now, after about 2,000 monotonous such meals, this family can finally choose what they want to eat today. Like all 1 million people here in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Rahazan and her family are completely dependent on food aid provided by the World Food Programme (WFP). Since they arrived in the camp two years ago, the family has had to line up monthly for their meagre ration of lentils, rice and oil.

Rahazan is one of 144,085 refugees who received a WFP pre-paid food assistance card. Each family receives a card loaded with 770 taka (about USD10) per person. Rahazan's card allows her to shop at one of a dozen WFP stores in the camps, choosing from 19 fresh food items, including fruit and vegetables, dried fish, eggs, salt, spices and sugar.

Rahazan can shop when she wants for what she wants. "Now I can choose and purchase our food in 25 minutes," she says smiling.

Rahazan, 38, and her family are among the 700,000 Rohingya who fled Myanmar in August 2017 to escape extreme violence and decades of human rights abuses.

"I carried my three-year-old son, Solim and brought my daughter, Tasmin, (age 13) with me to collect food and clothes thrown from relief trucks," says Rahazan. "We ran in the mud beside the truck, perilously close to its wheels. My children would cry out 'Give me one! Give me one!' to the workers. Many times, we were crushed in the crowd."

Rahazan says she sees a difference in her children's health since she began shopping at the e-voucher store. "My children were becoming weak eating just rice and lentils, but now they are becoming healthier," she says. "They don't go to bed hungry anymore. We have proper meals twice a day with the vegetables I purchase from the e-voucher store."

World Vision plays a critical role in managing the e-voucher shops, in partnership with WFP. Staff members go door-to-door in the camps to inform refugees about the new system and register them. They handle any complaints or concerns, such as lost cards, and work with vendors to ensure the quality of the food provided. The teams also ensure that every shopper's food is accurately measured, weighed and properly debited from the food assistance card. World Vision also provides porters who carry heavy loads home for single mothers, the elderly and disabled refugees.

"I love the fruit my mother buys for us now," says Haikel, Rahazan's 15-year-old son, peeling an orange. "I want to be a teacher so I can buy fruit for my mother one day."