

WFP News Video: Bangladesh-Monsoon hits refugee camps in Cox's Bazar 11 July 2019

Location: Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot: 8-10 July 2019

TRT: 1:58

Shotlist

:00-:15

Monsoon rains and winds hitting the Kutupalong-Balukhali refugee camps.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot 9 July 2019

:15-:24

Shots of Rohingya refugees laying sandbags as part of the repairs to a slope that had slipped endangering the road that runs along it.

There have been hundreds of landslides in the Rohingya refugee camps, WFP has hired more than 3,500 refugees to work on engineering repairs and disaster risk reduction works throughout the monsoon.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot 9 July 2019

:24-:53

SOT Gemma Snowdon (English)

WFP Bangladesh

"There have been days of heavy rains in the Rohingya's refugee camps here in Cox's Bazar, and the situation is serious; thousands of people have been displaced and thousands more have damage to their home. The WFP is well prepared for incidents like this, we prepare all year round for it. For example, we have emergencies food supplies prepositioned around the camp, so that we can respond quickly when needed, and in this instance we were able to get emergency food supplies to people within the space of twelve hours."

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot 9 July 2019

:53-1:08

Shots of WFP project participants preparing stakes and ropes that are then used to create terraces that stabilize slopes in the camps.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot 9 July 2019

1:09-01:29

Sandbags and sections of cement pipes are also being used to create terraces on the steepest slopes to stabilize them while the roots of the vegetation takes hold.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot 8 July 2019

01:30-01:42

SOT Musa (Bangla dialect)

"With the money I make from this work with WFP I can go to the market and buy fresh vegetables."

Musa is a refugee living in the camps in Cox's Bazar, like many others he is hired by WFP to work on Disaster Risk Reduction and engineering projects.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot 9 July 2019

01:43-01:58

WFP food distribution point. High Energy Biscuits are distributed to affected families as emergency food assistance, to be consumed when cooking facilities are not available. At the same time, WFP's regular food distributions continue in the camps.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Shot 10 July 2019

ENDS

BACKGROUND

- Days of heavy monsoon rains and wind have pounded the refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh since 04 July, leading to loss of life, displacing 5,600 people, and damaging thousands of houses. The destruction is caused by the most significant weather event in over a year, and is was triggered by monsoon weather systems in the Bay of Bengal. Over 45,000 individuals have been affected by weather-related incidents since the end of April, compared to 55,000 affected in the entirety of last year's monsoon season.
- To date, WFP has assisted 11,000 refugees affected by monsoon rainfall, providing rapid food assistance to sustain affected families. WFP's food assistance includes 3,100 refugees who received cooked meals. WFP's assistance includes a one-week ration of high energy biscuits, followed by a two-week ration of dry food (rice, lentil and oil) or cooked meals.
- Moving around the camps on foot or in vehicles remains a challenge due to mud, water, and traffic congestion. However, WFP has prepositioned emergency food supplies around the camps and is able to deliver assistance where it is needed most. WFP has enough food in stock to feed the entire camp population for two weeks if needed.
- WFP is racing to stabilise slopes that have slipped, and has teams out fixing the slopes and drainage systems that have been damaged. Engineering and disaster risk reduction works are ongoing with around 3,700 Rohingya refugees deployed each day to assist (3,000 for disaster risk reduction activities and around 700 for engineering). However, there is always potential for more landslides if the heavy rains continue, and WFP emergency teams are positioned in the camps and are on standby to quickly respond if something major or life threatening happens, including overnight.
- Over the past year, WFP's engineers and partners have been conducting disaster risk reduction activities for cyclone and monsoon preparedness and have steadily improved camp conditions and humanitarian access. Activities focus on improving and establishing roads, strengthening and clearing drains, reinforcing bridges in the camps, and reforestation. We have constructed roads and bridges, stabilized slopes and prepared new land for construction of safer settlements. Those in the most vulnerable living situations have been relocated to safer, newly developed land in the camps.

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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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