



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP News Video-Cyclone Amphan and COVID19 in Bangladesh

Shot: May 2020

Shatkhira District, Khulna District, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

TRT: 2:25

SHOTLIST:

:00-:15 (No Sound)

Various drone shots of flooded shrimp farms and homes. Damage to roads and embankments is also visible.

Shyamnogor Upazila

Shatkhira District

Shot: 21May2020

:15-:35

Community volunteers piling sand bags to block the water flowing over the broken embankments that also serve as walkways and roads. Shot of water overflowing a broken embankment and general flooding.

Shyamnogor Upazila

Shatkhira District

Shot: 21May2020

:35-:45

Community volunteers can be seen trying to chop off branches from a tree that has fallen, blocking the highway, during the cyclone.

Khulna-Shyamnogor Highway

Khulna District

Shot: 21May2020

:45-:51

As some homes have been completely destroyed, women and children begin to fill cyclone shelters.

Pankhali Union, Khulna District

Shot: 21May2020

:51-1:06

Various shots of muddy walkways and repairing damage in the aftermath of the cyclone.



The refugee camps in Cox's Bazar are the world's largest hosting 860 thousand Rohingya from Myanmar.

Cox's Bazar

Shot: 21May2020

1:06-1:44

SOT Richard Ragan, WFP Bangladesh Country Director (English)

"This is a double whammy. We're dealing with the cyclone and we're also dealing with the lockdown and exposure to COVID so we've got widescale community transmission of COVID. We've got a small number of transmissions in the camps. So managing the movement of large numbers of people and doing it in a safe way is really difficult. What WFP is doing to respond to the crisis is we're providing some emergency food support to the 19 districts that have been impacted, damage assessments are going on right now, in the camps we are also responding to immediate emergency needs."

Cox's Bazar

Shot: 21May2020

1:44-2:05

Various shots of WFP Rapid Response Distribution to Rohingya refugees.

Rohingya refugees affected by the cyclone receive high energy biscuits with preventative measures against COVID-19.

Cox's Bazar

Shot: 21May2020

2:05-2:25

Various shots of protective mask making.

WFP is engaging women in the host community and Rohingya refugees through its livelihoods programme to make masks which will be distributed by local government and aid agencies. The livelihoods programme supports 20,000 women in the Cox's Bazar region with a monthly stipend, marketable skills training and financial literacy and a business start-up grant. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, most businesses have been severely impacted. Tailoring was the major income-generating activity for most of the women participating in the mask-making initiative.

Cox's Bazar

Shot: 17May2020

ENDS



On 20 May Cyclone Amphan made landfall in Bangladesh heavily impacting 19 districts with more than 2.4 million people and 500,000 livestock evacuated to 15,000 cyclone shelters by the Government of Bangladesh.

- *The southwest of the country was worst affected, with areas including Mongla and Satkhira facing severe impact. The Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar were largely spared from damage when Cyclone Amphan made landfall in Bangladesh and India on 20 May.*
- *WFP is conducting a Rapid Needs Assessment collecting data on damages incurred to agriculture, livestock, livelihood etc. While most crops have been harvested already, early reports suggest that there is damage to fisheries, particularly smallholder shrimp farmers.*
- *WFP has prepositioned food stocks, including high energy biscuits for 90,000 families, in affected areas and extra food stocks can also be made available and ready for distribution, if needed.*
- *To minimize risk of infection, authorities have set up separate rooms for people with COVID-19 symptoms and handwashing facilities in the cyclone shelters.*
- *Bangladesh is vulnerable to severe weather events from March through December every year due to the monsoon and cyclone seasons. The country has a strong early warning system and preparedness for disasters such as this.*

Bangladesh is facing a growing number of COVID-19 cases and the impact threatens to reverse development gains made over the past five decades.

- *Bangladesh is the most densely populated country in the world where social distancing is a luxury most do not have. The situation is aggravated in Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar where living conditions make it almost impossible to physically distance.*
- *Lockdowns and restrictions in movement are affecting livelihoods of millions across Bangladesh, especially daily wage earners like rickshaw drivers and day labourers who now find themselves unable to meet their basic needs.*
- *40 million people in Bangladesh already live in poverty and a significant drop in income and consumption among the vulnerable has the potential to push millions more into poverty.*

The COVID-19 virus can be deadly, but hunger is equally deadly. To ensure the most vulnerable are not left behind in the response to this pandemic, WFP urgently needs US\$200 million for its COVID-19 response in Bangladesh.



- *The funding will help WFP support the food needs of the most vulnerable families, including those in rural areas and urban slums, as well as people working in the informal economy.*
- *In addition, funding for the Rohingya response also remains critical to ensure food security for almost 860,000 Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar.*

Rohingya messages*

NOTE: The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar was announced on 14 May. As of 21 May there were 10 confirmed cases in the refugee camps.

The Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar are among the largest and most overcrowded in the world, making the residents extremely vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Protecting the people we serve and communities we live in is a top priority, and WFP began implementing preventive and precautionary measures at distribution points shortly after the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Bangladesh.
- With cases now confirmed in the camps WFP is strictly enforcing preventative measures such as handwashing, temperature checks, and limiting the number of people allowed inside distribution points.
- Other mitigating measures include beneficiaries scanning their WFP Assistance Card without having to verify it with biometrics, in-line with the "no touch" policy currently in place.

The current cyclone and approaching monsoon season add an additional layer of vulnerability, as heavy downpours threaten to displace families.

- WFP is providing extra food assistance to households impacted by the storms associated with the cyclone as well as continuing critical monsoon and cyclone season preparations and maintenance in the refugee camps. These works include clearing drains and stabilising slopes that have the potential to cause landslides during the heavy rains.

Communication with refugees about COVID-19 has become a challenge due to a reduction in staff and lack of internet in the camps.

- WFP is employing new methods to reach people with lifesaving information like tuk-tuks with loudspeakers that circulate around the camps broadcasting messages on changes to food distributions and general COVID-19 awareness information.
- Food distribution points have also become an important source of information where people listen to radio broadcasts about COVID-19.



WFP is providing logistics support to the humanitarian community in Bangladesh.

- WFP has begun building new storage areas for food and non-food items necessary for the COVID-19 response, including PPE and is supporting humanitarian agencies in moving vital supplies into and around Bangladesh.

WFP created the Humanitarian Access Project to support government and humanitarian organisations to regulate vehicle access to the camps to ensure only lifesaving humanitarian activities continue.

- The project has cut waiting times to enter the camps from up to three hours down to less than a minute, increasing efficiency.

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