



**Two Years On: Supporting Resilience for a Better Tomorrow**

**ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE REPORT 2019**

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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## Leaders' Message

Fifteen-year-old Shahed and his family fled for their lives as violence erupted in their village in Myanmar two years ago. As they ran, Shahed grabbed his textbooks from his home. He walked for six days to reach safety in Bangladesh, his books strapped on his back. Hope kept him going.

Today, Shahed lives alongside almost 1 million people in the world's largest refugee settlement. More than half the population here are children.

Protecting vulnerable children like Shahed remained World Vision's top priority this year. Although their

lives in the camps are more stable now, Rohingya children still face the risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation, as well as physical danger and disease. Our goal is to help prevent such abuses, while protecting and promoting children's rights. This is foundational to our long-term strategy to improve the well-being and empowerment of both the refugees and host community families.

We are grateful to our generous private supporters and government donors who make our life-saving, life-sustaining work possible. Your support enabled us to innovate, adapt and deliver cost-effective

services across six sectors to more than 370,000 people in 23 camps. Our budget more than doubled from \$10.75 million in Year 1 to \$26.9 million in Year 2.

We are immensely proud of our resilient, dedicated team members. Our 350 full-time response staff and 700 field facilitators work six days a week to assist refugee children and families.

This year, we surpassed even our "stretch goals" in multiple areas. We became the World Food Programme's largest partner in disaster risk reduction. Our cash-for-work projects strengthened



"Refugee children and their families are front and centre of everything we do," says Rachel Wolff, Response Director.

Photo: Jon Warren

infrastructure across the camps and prevented loss of life during the monsoons. In partnership with UNICEF, we launched an education initiative that will benefit up to 8,400 adolescents who have no access to any kind of education. We opened our first full-sized women's safe space and plans are in the works for four more. Our food assistance programmes reached 247,415 refugees. Our maternal and child nutrition centres reported a zero percent death rate due to malnutrition among children under age 5.

What lays ahead as we enter Year 3 of this protracted humanitarian crisis? The Rohingya say they want to go home,

but not without their rights guaranteed. Unfortunately, they will likely remain in Bangladesh for some time to come. We will continue to stand with Rohingya families, advocating with them for their rights while providing protection and life-sustaining services.

Today, Shahed attends one of our adolescent multi-purpose centres. He tells our staff that he wants to be a teacher so he can help other Rohingya children. He has faith in the future. We do, too. Together with our donors and partners, World Vision is walking with Rohingya children and families toward a more sustainable, dignified and self-reliant tomorrow. Please join us on this journey.

Rachel Wolff  
Response Director

Fred Witteveen  
National Director

# Year 2 Accomplishments



**371,611**

people reached with life-saving humanitarian assistance.

**3,132**

children enrolled in our 12 learning centres.

**8,400**

adolescents to benefit from our 21 pre-vocational skills training centres.

**892**

men and boys participated in GBV-prevention and awareness training.

**300,000**

people reached with clean water and sanitation facilities.

**15,300**

children received nutrition support.

**247,415**

refugees reached through our e-voucher programmes, in partnership with WFP.

**5,250**

family members who enjoy daily meals prepared by mothers in our 42 community cooking and learning centres.

**16,828**

refugees and host community residents hired for cash-for-work disaster-mitigation construction.

**920,000 people**

We are advocating for the protection and rights of all refugees, including their voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation to Myanmar.

# CAMP INTERVENTION SITES Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

World Vision Sectors	Assets Built
Food Assistance, Livelihood	Cash-for-work Project Sites
Protection (GBV)	Learning Centres (12)
Child Protection	Multi-purpose Child and Adolescents Centres (21)
Education	Community Cooking and Learning Centres (42)
WASH	Women's Safe Space (1)
Nutrition	WFP Nutrition Centres (3)
Camp Management	UNICEF Nutrition Centres (19)
Shelter & NFI	



- Main Road
- WV Presence
- Proposed WV Presence
- XXX/YYYY UNHCR/NGO camp lead
- XXX/YYYY IOM/NGO camp lead



Kutupalong-Balukhali expansion site, known as the "mega camp"

## PROTECTION

## Caring for vulnerable children and families

Two years on, the Rohingya refugee crisis remains at its core, a protection crisis.

The Rohingya people represent one of the world's largest groups of stateless people.

They have faced decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Such persecution has forced Rohingya women, girls, boys and men into Bangladesh for many years, with significant spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991-1992, and again in 2016.

Yet it was extreme violence in August 2017 that triggered by far the largest and fastest refugee influx into Bangladesh. Since then, an estimated 745,000 Rohingya,

including more than 400,000 children—have fled into Cox's Bazar. Today almost 1 million stateless Rohingya refugees live in extremely overcrowded camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas (sub-districts).

The Government of Bangladesh has demonstrated great compassion and humanity with its open border policy, providing solace and a level of protection to vulnerable children and their families.

Two years into this multifaceted collaborative response, the situation has gradually begun to stabilise. The Government of Bangladesh, United Nations agencies and NGOs, including World Vision, have provided life-saving assistance, improved living conditions in the camps, and implemented successful disaster-risk mitigation measures.

Despite this progress, the Rohingya remain at risk and their future uncertain. Without recognised refugee status in Bangladesh or legal citizenship in Myanmar, they are citizens of nowhere.

Approximately 50 percent of pre-primary and primary learners — as well as 97 percent of youth and adolescents — lack access to even informal learning opportunities. Their parents do not have access to income-generating opportunities that would enable them to provide basic necessities for their children.

Without legal rights and protection, all refugees, and especially children, are vulnerable to human trafficking, child labour, forced labour, child/early marriage, gender-based violence and other forms of exploitation and abuse.

Rohingya refugee families are extremely vulnerable to human trafficking, forced labour and other forms of exploitation.

Photo: Jon Warren



Without the protection of schooling, many children play unsupervised in the hazardous camps or are often forced to work. Photo: Jon Warren

To mitigate a deepening protection crisis, a comprehensive refugee response is needed that addresses the needs of both refugee and host communities. Durable solutions are required that build the resilience of communities to mitigate shocks and stresses. This includes safe, adequate and dignified housing, high quality, relevant and inclusive education, and access to income-generating activities.

World Vision is contributing to the improved well-being and empowerment of refugee and host communities through our cross-sectoral interventions. We are also promoting and protecting their rights through our advocacy work with international, national and local governments. Our goal is to help protect the safety and dignity of

refugees in the camps, and advocate for their safe, dignified and voluntary return to Myanmar when conditions are conducive there to do so.

As we enter Year 3 of the response, we will strengthen and expand this rights-based approach in our long-term service to the Rohingya and their host-community neighbours.



Children pile through the door at one of World Vision's 12 centres where more than 3,100 children age 3-14 are enrolled. Photo: Jon Warren

## CHILD PROTECTION

### Coming alongside Rohingya children

Across the camps, almost 500,000 children need immediate child protection assistance. They face serious risks, including psychosocial distress, neglect, abuse, separation from caregivers, sexual violence, child marriage, child labour and trafficking. Girls are particularly vulnerable to child marriage, sexual exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Child protection is core to World Vision's mission. This year, we provided child protection services with support from DFID, DEC and GAC, as well as private funds. We integrated ongoing services with informal education by transforming child-friendly spaces into multi-purpose centres, in partnership with UNICEF. World Vision strengthens child protection mechanisms within families and communities through community-based child protection committees. We established 224

committees this year with 2,464 active members. During the monsoon and cyclone seasons, we equipped them with information on how to respond to landslides and floods to help save lives. We also established 11 meeting points where lost or missing children and caregivers can find support during a natural disaster or other crises.

Rohingya children also need a variety of direct services. We provide psychosocial support to girls and boys of all ages through our 12 centres where more than 3,100 children age 3-14 are enrolled. (Sixteen additional centres were completed this year to serve more children.) We also offer families training on positive parenting skills. Working closely with partner agencies, we refer children in need to case management services. We set up 30 clubs for

children who are becoming peacebuilders as they learn to manage conflict together. To enhance our staff capacity, we conducted training on case management, and community engagement and participation.

As a member of the child protection sub-sector, we took the lead in conducting quality monitoring, using benchmarks developed by the sub-sector. We also led research on ending violence against children for the entire response. World Vision was selected as a member of the child protection peer review team for the 2019 Joint Response Plan projects. We also serve on the case management task force. In January 2019, we rolled-out a child protection information management system to harmonize case management. More than 200 children received case-management services.

## Children campaign to end violence

Rohingya children are calling for an end to the violence and exploitation that they routinely face.

During an ongoing World Vision awareness campaign, thousands of children reported frequent abuse at the hands of parents, strangers and older children. In focus group discussions, both children and parents described incidents of beating, yelling, hitting, name calling, peer-to-peer violence, harassment, forced heavy labour and child marriage as being common in the camps.

Children spoke out bravely about the forms of violence they encounter, as well as safe and unsafe places in Camps 12, 13, 15, 18 and 19, where the campaign was conducted.

"I'm afraid of going far from my home in the camp," says Shoshida, 10, a campaign participant. "An elephant or a tiger may attack me. I cannot even

go to the toilet outside at night. I'm afraid that someone will attack me." Madrasas (religious schools) and World Vision child-friendly centres topped the children's lists of safe spaces, with their homes a distant third for some due to domestic abuse.

The young campaigners urged parents and leaders to protect them physically and to protect their rights to safety. But changing attitudes about harmful traditional practices takes time.

"Parents admit that they sometimes emotionally and physically abuse their children because of their own distress and uncertainty about the future," says James Kamira, World Vision's education and child protection advisor.

"They are open to changing their ways," says James. "But if we are truly determined to end violence, children themselves, their families and their

communities must be fully involved in the solutions from the start."

World Vision engaged more than 5,300 parents and community leaders in the campaign, including 75 faith leaders. The children developed their own public messages targeted to parents and camp leaders. Their colourful posters don't mince words: "It should not hurt to be a child; Hands are not for hitting children; We want education, not marriage."

Through the campaign, Rohingya children are now more aware of their rights to safety and can better protect themselves and each other.

**"In the child-friendly space, I can play and learn. There is no one to be afraid of there, and that's why I like it."**  
Jobair, age 10

Children listed child-friendly spaces as one of the two top places in the camps where they feel most safe.

Photo: Jon Warren



## EDUCATION

## A right, not a dream

Rohingya refugee children and adolescents have been out of school for two years. Nearly half of the 540,000 Rohingya children age 3-14 do not have access to any formal education, which is restricted in the camps. This means children cannot sit for exams or pass a grade level. A reported 97 percent of all adolescents age 15-18 do not attend any kind of educational facility.

This year, World Vision expanded our child protection work to include informal education, in partnership with UNICEF. Children age 3-14 and adolescents age 15-18 benefit from our approach that integrates education with child protection activities and psychosocial support. More than 3,100 children are enrolled in our 12 learning centres for younger children. Qualified experienced teachers are in short supply, so we invested in on-the-job training for 198 teachers that includes pedagogy and life-skills development.

World Vision is the only organisation in many camps addressing adolescents' education needs. We opened the first of 21 planned multi-purpose centres for 15- to

18-year-olds this year. Students benefit from pre-vocational training and foundational classes in literacy, numeracy and life skills. The pilot centre has reached 186 adolescents with training in tailoring and solar appliances repair. Looking to learn about our model, decision-makers from governments and donor agencies, including Islamic Development Bank, USAID and UNICEF, regularly visit the centre. Already 2,237 adolescents have shown intent to enroll in the 20 additional centres when construction is completed later this year.

World Vision has contributed significantly to the response-wide education sector. We have helped develop curriculum and standardise core educational materials. We are also leading critical research, interviewing more than 400 children, parents, teachers and leaders about education needs. World Vision has been at the forefront of effectively engaging faith leaders to address cultural barriers that prevent girls from attending school.



"I want to be a teacher or a doctor or an engineer," says Shahed, an ambitious 15-year-old.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain

## Shahed wants his education back

Adolescent boys enjoy learning new skills, such as solar panel repair, at World Vision's multi-purpose centre.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



Shahed wants to talk about his education. This 15-year-old Rohingya teenager is desperate to get back to school.

"I completed Grade 6 in Myanmar. After the violence broke out, we fled to Bangladesh, and I left my education behind," says Shahed, speaking English confidently.

Shahed carried his Grade 6 books on his back during his week-long walk from Myanmar. He studies them at home—a cramped, leaking shelter where he lives with his parents and six siblings. English is his favorite subject.

"If the situation goes on without us getting education, I would rather die. I can't get a good job if I can't get an education, and I will have to dig dirt as a day labourer," says Shahed. "I want to go back to Myanmar because it is my country. We could

get formal schooling there and study up to the level we wanted. Here we can't."

Education can change the future for thousands of refugee children like Shahed. Thankfully, he is one of 186 students enrolled in World Vision's new training programme that will benefit up to 8,400 adolescents.

**"The centre opened four months ago, and I have been coming ever since," says Shahed. "We are studying math, English, grammar and Burmese."**

Shahed has a long wish list for his future. "I want to be a teacher or a doctor or an engineer. To serve people, I want to be a doctor. I also want to be teacher so that I can help the children of our community to be

educated," he says. "I want to be an engineer so that I can make airplanes, and people will be able to go abroad."

Shahed is not alone. Thousands of Rohingya children dream about going back to the classroom wearing a new uniform and carrying a backpack full of books. Education should be more than a dream; it is their right.





Women and girls find the psycho-social support they need at our Women's Peace Centre.

Photo: Karen Homer

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION

### Standing with women and girls

Rohingya refugee women and girls face a disproportionate risk of gender-based violence (GBV).

Intimate partner violence is often accepted by both men and women as a normal way of moderating behaviour. It is seen as a natural consequence of a woman not performing her duties properly. Of the reported cases of GBV in the camps, 71 percent of the incidents occurred in the survivor's home. Intimate partners committed 74 percent of these cases of violence.

Rohingya women have few livelihood opportunities and they lack control over their household finances. Their movement outside the home is limited. Their dependence and lack of social support makes them even more susceptible to abuse and exploitation.

World Vision works to prevent and respond to GBV in Camps 12, 13 and 19, complementing our broader programmes across 23 camps for women and children. In Year 2, we trained women and girls to recognize GBV and supported them to access professional case management services when needed. We also trained 892 men and boys who are becoming keen advocates for their wives, daughters, mothers and sisters.

On International Women's Day (8 March), we opened the Women's Peace Centre—our first full-sized multipurpose centre for women. Women and girls participated in activities that help build trusted relationships and create a sustainable psycho-social support network. Thirty participants graduated from the first three-month tailoring and handicraft production course. Addressing a significant need, we distributed dignity kits containing feminine hygiene products to 20,600 women and girls.

In June, we trained Rohingya faith leaders to help end GBV, especially child marriage. World Vision introduced Channels of Hope, a proven approach to engaging faith leaders for which our expertise is recognized globally. A renowned Bangladeshi Islamic scholar and a woman teacher led a pilot workshop for 70 imams and influential women. Together, they explored beliefs and traditions about child marriage and united to advocate against marriage before age 18 in their communities.

Building on the success of our early GBV-prevention projects supported by World Vision Canada, the Japan Platform Fund, DEC and World Vision Korea, our work in this important area has grown with additional funding from GAC, MFAT and DFAT.

## A safe space women can call their own

"We had a peaceful family in Myanmar, but my husband has taken two more wives here," says Khadija,\* a 30-year-old Rohingya mother of three children. "He doesn't provide any money, but he asks me for food. Anything he earns, he gives to the other women. When I asked him why he does this, he started to beat me." (\*Note: Her name has been changed.)

Living in fear, Khadija shared her secret with her neighbour, Tasmin, who invited her to come to World Vision's Women's Peace Centre.

This is one of the few places in the camps that women are allowed to visit. In the conservative Rohingya culture, women and adolescent girls are rarely allowed to leave their shelters alone. Families fear they will be harassed, abducted or assaulted. However, since the centre opened, staff have gradually won the

community's trust. Each week, a growing group of women and girls attend the sewing classes here. Many also take advantage of the counselling services for GBV survivors.

Some of the women say they believe incidents of physical and emotional abuse have increased since they arrived in the camps in August 2017. Domestic violence can be linked to the extreme emotional stress that refugee couples face, as well as financial strain and coping with cramped living conditions. Frustrated at being blocked from employment, husbands become angry when their wives ask for anything, using physical violence to silence them.

"We provide counseling for women who are experiencing gender-based violence and refer them to other professional services available in the camps," says Ruth Kimaathi, a Kenyan psychologist who leads World Vision's

GBV-prevention programme. "The centre is a place where women can feel free to talk with others over a cup of tea."

Khadija found the support she needed to cope with her home situation. She says that her new-found circle of friends has made life in the camps a bit more bearable and given her a sense of security.

**"World Vision staff have taught us how to speak up if we are abused and report it. They give very good advice," says Khadija. "When I come here and share my grief with others, I feel better."**

Rohingya women build support networks as they learn new skills together for a better future.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

### Good hygiene equals good health

Supplying sufficient safe water and sanitation services to nearly 1 million refugees is a huge challenge for the Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies and NGOs.

Up to 38 percent of the population faces challenges accessing water, according to a recent ACAPS study. Although the SPHERE standard of one tube well per 250 people is being met, there are not enough functioning and easily reachable water points in the camps. More sanitation services are also needed to meet the SPHERE standard of one latrine per 20 people. Currently, there are 41,100 functioning latrines; 5,000 more are needed. Adequate WASH services are critical to reducing mortality and morbidity, and enhancing refugees' protection, dignity and quality of life.

In Year 2, World Vision provided 129,794 adults and 170,212 children

with access to WASH services. Across 10 camps, we installed 98 deep-tube wells, built 140 gender-sensitive bathing cubicles, constructed 716 latrines and established 421 handwashing points. We supported more than 48 WASH committees to manage and maintain their facilities, a community-led approach that results in sustainable impact. A leading NGO in waste-water treatment, this year World Vision established the first integrated solid-waste management centre in the camps.

Poor water quality remains a problem, putting children and families at risk of diseases. Water quality testing of various NGO water sources at World Vision's laboratory revealed that more than 60 percent are contaminated; 85 percent of water samples at household level are also contaminated. Contamination often occurs during water collection and storage, indicating a need for

improved WASH education. Through our hygiene promotion sessions, refugees are learning how to maintain good health and prevent disease, including safe water collection and storage. They understand how to treat their water at home using bucket chlorination and aqua tabs. More than 32,000 families received hygiene kits in Year 2.

We want ensure the delivery of clean water at every tap in the community. Our Year 2 water supply strategy will focus on constructing a centralized water system and networks, including boreholes, a solar-powered pumping system, and water treatment and distribution systems.

World Vision's effective WASH programmes continue to receive generous support, including funding from DFAT, DFID, GAC, IOM, MFAT and UNICEF.

During hygiene promotions sessions, children learn how handwashing with soap helps prevent disease.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



Ismatara, 8, collects water from one of 98 tube wells installed by World Vision in 10 camps.

Photo: Jon Warren

### A tube well for Ismatara

"Water means life for women in this camp," says Lalaputu, 31, a refugee mother of six children. "Water is the most important thing I need. Without water, cooking meals, washing clothes and bathing would be impossible."

Lalaputu has lived in the world's largest refugee camp here in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh since fleeing violence in Myanmar in August 2017.

Alongside almost 1 million people, one of Lalaputu's challenges was getting safe water for her children—a problem she didn't worry about in her home village in Myanmar. There her family had a tube well next to their house. They could get water whenever they needed. Neighbours also collected water from their tube well.

Lalaputu's husband, Rahamat, recalls the family's early struggles to find water in the refugee camp. "A bit far down the hill from our shelter, runs a stream. The

water is not deep, but it flows," says Rahamat. "But the water is not drinkable. We dug a hole beside the stream and waited for it to fill up. We hoped the sand and soil would work as filters."

Sadly, Rahamat's desperate measures didn't work. "My children and my wife got sick drinking that water," he says. "They had diarrhea and other health problems, but we had no choice. We had to drink that water."

Thankfully, those days are over. Now Lalaputu and her daughter, Ismatara, 8, can collect water from the deep-tube well that World Vision installed near their house. Each deep-tube well serves 100 families—about 500 people on average.

Ismatara no longer has to walk far to collect water, scaling the camp's many steep sandy hills while balancing a heavy eight-litre aluminum water jar

on her hip. It was tiring and time-consuming. Sometimes, she had to miss sessions at the child-friendly space that she loves.

"This tube well removed the pain of collecting water from afar," says Ismatara.

**"I can drink water and bathe easily now. Drinking water from the tube well doesn't give me stomach pain and diarrhea. It's safe!"**



## NUTRITION

## Conquering malnutrition—one child at a time

In Year 2 of the response, malnutrition continued to be a critical concern among Rohingya children and women. A recent SMART survey revealed that 11 percent of children in the camps have moderate acute malnutrition. More than 208,000 children age 0-59 months need life-saving nutrition interventions. Child malnutrition is the single biggest contributor to deaths in children under age 5, making them more susceptible to disease and delayed recovery from common illnesses. In addition, only 24 percent of refugee women achieve the recommended minimum dietary diversity.

Mothers often aren't aware of proper infant and child feeding practices. If they are, they don't have access to nutritious foods. Training future mothers about good nutrition can have an intergenerational effect, yet adolescent girls age 15-18 are significantly underserved in this area. In addition, only 24 percent of refugee women achieve the recommended minimum dietary diversity, putting them at risk of malnutrition.

World Vision works to address all these challenges. In partnership with the World Food Programme, we operate three blanket and targeted supplementary feeding centres. Our community workers go house-to-house to identify and refer pregnant and

lactating women, and children under age 5 to the centres. Once there, our staff assess their nutrition level. Healthy children and mothers receive supplementary food to prevent malnutrition. Those assessed as suffering from moderate acute malnutrition are given high-energy food supplements and are monitored until they recover. Severely malnourished children and mothers are referred to partner agencies who provide appropriate medical and nutritional care.

Every day, we reach an average of 800 children with supplementary food assistance. A total of 15,294 children were served throughout the year. World Vision's cure rate for children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition was 92 percent, with a death rate of zero percent.

The first phase of this successful project ended in December 2018, and was renewed for another year. This year, we also launched a nutrition programme with UNICEF across 19 camps. Our community workers go house-to-house to provide iron and folic acid supplementation to thousands of adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women, to help prevent anemia. They also benefit from sessions on nutrition education.

Mothers learn how to prepare the supplementary food they receive to help prevent child malnutrition.

Photo: Jon Warren



Jaheda celebrates two-year-old Minara's recovery from malnutrition after treatment at World Vision's feeding centre.

Photo: Jon Warren

## A mother's prayer answered

Minara was born in November 2017 as her family escaped violence in Myanmar. Her young mother, Jaheda, stopped at a stranger's house to give birth to Minara.

Jaheda struggled to care for her newborn on the arduous trek to Bangladesh. "Day-by-day she was getting tinier," she recalls. "When I arrived here, she was about to die. People were telling me, 'Your daughter will not live. I thought, 'Oh my God. Am I going to lose my baby?'" Minara survived, but remained significantly underweight for her age.

Last year, a community worker from World Vision's nutrition centre visited Jaheda's home in the refugee camp.

"She registered Minara right here," says Jaheda. "That's why I later brought her to the centre. She was so tiny. She didn't like to eat." Just 14 months old by then, Minara often had a fever and rashes covered her head.

At the World Vision centre, Minara was assessed as having moderate acute malnutrition. Today, five months and 10 visits later, she is a different child—happy, healthy and playful.

To help prevent malnutrition, World Vision supplies all children under age 5 in the three camps with monthly rations of Super Cereal. This blend of corn, soy beans, milk powder, sugar, and soy bean oil is packed with vitamins and complements breastfeeding. Through the Super Cereal, children receive the nutrients they need to stay healthy.

Children like Minara, who are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, receive the Super Cereal along with a ration of Plumpy'Sup—a ready-to-use, high-energy food supplement. It comes in packets, is easy for a child to eat and can be stored without refrigeration. World Vision monitors the malnourished children taking

Plumpy'Sup every 14 days until they reach their normal weight-for-height.

Although World Vision staff see 350 children every day at this camp's centre, they keenly recall Minara.

**"I remember her," says Neger Sultana, a growth monitor at the centre. "She was tiny. If she hadn't come here, she would have died."**



Using her e-voucher, Rahazan buys oranges for her children at the WFP store, supported by World Vision. Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

### Food on the table: 247,415 refugees reached

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

World Vision is providing direct life-saving food assistance to an estimated 247,415 people, working in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP).

Since February 2019, World Vision has distributed 6,120 metric tonnes of food through three food distribution points serving six camps. Refugees queue up for monthly life-sustaining rations of rice, lentils and oil. To ensure that the most vulnerable are served, World Vision hires Rohingya porters to carry heavy loads home for pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

World Vision also works with WFP in its innovative e-voucher programme. Refugees receive pre-paid food assistance cards that they use to purchase fresh food items in WFP shops in the camps. They can choose from 19 items. Including rice, lentils, dried fish, chili powder and other spices, as well as seasonal fruit and vegetables.

WFP is gradually transferring all households to the convenient e-voucher system. Families using the e-vouchers no longer have to queue for rations. They have more diversity in their diets, and more control over what they eat. All refugees should soon be enrolled in the e-voucher programme.

World Vision plays a critical role in ensuring that beneficiaries are well-served through the e-voucher shops. 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 local suppliers to guarantee the quality of the food provided. The teams also ensure that every shopper's food is accurately measured, weighed and properly debited from the e-voucher.

## 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.

Rahazan is one of 144,085 refugees who has received a WFP pre-paid e-voucher. Each family receives a card loaded with 770 taka (about USD 10) per person. Rahazan's e-voucher allows her to shop at one of a dozen WFP stores in the camps, choosing from 19 items, including fresh 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, instead of lining up for hours," 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. She remembers arriving in Bangladesh, desperate to get food for her family.

"I brought my three-year-old son, Solim and 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. We were crushed in the crowd, but we had to get food for our family. We were lucky to eat one meal a day."

So much has changed in two years, says Rahazan. Today, she is grateful to be able shop in the clean, organized e-voucher store. "My children were becoming weak eating just rice and

lentils, but now they're getting healthier," she says.

Rahazan's children agree. "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."

Rahazan says she enjoys preparing the evening meal for her family.

**"My children don't go to bed hungry anymore. We have proper meals twice a day with the vegetables I purchase from the e-voucher store."**

Rahazan's family enjoys a more diversified, healthier diet now that she can buy fresh food with her e-voucher.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



## FRESH FOOD VOUCHERS

## Healthy moms mean healthy families

“When I was pregnant, I wanted to eat many things,” says Minara, 18, mother of two-month-old Sofait. “I craved beef curry and sour chutney, a sauce made from fruit, but I could not afford to buy them.”

Minara shares how she went without nutritious food when she needed it most—during her pregnancy.

Like Minara, many pregnant and lactating women here cannot access the food they need to remain healthy themselves and for their babies to grow normally.

Refugees are not allowed to work so they lack cash to buy fresh food to supplement the rations of rice, lentils and oil that they receive. (Many now benefit from the more flexible WFP e-voucher programme.) While this monotonous diet sustains life, it does not provide the vitamin-rich, high-protein food that pregnant women and nursing mothers need.

“Back home in Myanmar, my husband often caught many fish from a nearby canal,” recalls Minara. “But we don’t get those here.” She says her family also grew vegetables on their small plot of land. Gardening is difficult to do in

the squalid, overcrowded refugee camp where available land is scarce.

To help improve the diets of 4,250 pregnant and lactating women, World Vision began a fresh food voucher project in December 2018 in two refugee camps. The goal is to provide these mothers with more diverse nutritious foods, including dried fish, eggs, iodized salt, vegetables (onion, potatoes, pumpkins and spinach), as well as spices, such as chilis and turmeric powder.

Each woman with a family of seven or more people receives a monthly food voucher valued at USD15; those with families of less than seven receive a USD10 voucher. The vouchers can be used at World Vision-designated shops in the camps to buy 14 different food items.

Surprisingly, the small-sum vouchers stretch a long way at the grocery shop. “I received my first fresh food voucher from World Vision when I was in my third trimester,” says Minara. “We purchased eggs, dried fish, sugar, potatoes and many other things from the shop. I had good meals for a few days after many months.”

Minara, 18, with her son, Sofait, is one of 4,250 mothers who received fresh food vouchers from World Vision.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



Minara puts Sofait down for a nap in the family’s small makeshift shelter.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain

Minara is grateful for the food voucher she received, but she equally appreciates the decision-making power that it gave her over her family’s diet. Stripped of their homes and possessions, their country, and often even their human rights, refugees feel powerless. Just having the option to choose your own food brings some small sense of dignity.

“The fresh food voucher project is designed to give women the right to make their own choices,” says World Vision programme officer Ruby Areng. “Women receive the vouchers and they buy the food for their families instead of the men, which is usually the case. It empowers women in their families and communities.”

Minara believes the food she was able to purchase thanks to support from the voucher project contributed to her having a healthy pregnancy and

delivery. She now understands the importance of nutritious food for pregnant and nursing mothers.

**“If I can eat well, then my son gets the breast milk he needs. If I don’t get enough food, then my baby doesn’t get enough either. World Vision helped me when I needed it most.”**



Fewer children fetch firewood for their families now that their mothers can cook on gas stoves at our community centres. Photo: Jon Warren

## A recipe for empowering women

“Please have one, take a taste,” says Setara, proudly holding out a platter of warm, freshly made crepes. “I learned how to make these here just this week.”

Laughter and chatter fills the humid morning air as Setara and a dozen neighbours cook together at the World Vision community cooking and learning centre in Camp 19. Stirring vats of fragrant rice and woks of simmering sauce, they discuss family matters and the latest news.

“This kitchen is very helpful,” says Setara. “It saves us money because we don’t have to buy firewood. I have more money to buy food and other necessary things for my children.”

In addition to having a safe, convenient place to cook, Setara is expanding her recipe repertoire. “We learned how to make pastries like

*patisapta*, a cake made with flour and sweet rice pudding,” says Setara. “If we can learn how to make a few more things, we can sell them. Those pastries will bring in money.”

Setara and her neighbours are eager to earn an income. Refugees are not formally allowed to work in the camps, but they need cash to buy daily necessities. Of the 232,000 families living here, more than 32,000 are headed by women—most of whom are widows. Never having worked outside their homes in Myanmar, they are trying to find ways to cope as the family breadwinners.

“At the centre, we discuss how we can improve our situation and have a better life,” says Setara.

The centres provide camaraderie and comfort in a safe, celebrated space that the women can call their own.

“After cooking together here, we talk together about our problems,” confides Setara.

**“If we have worries, we share them with each other. If anything bad happens to us, this is a place where we can talk about it freely. We try to share each other’s burdens.”**

## Cooking up strategies for success together

Complex problems demand innovative approaches. Our community cooking and learning centres are just that.

Our 42 centres provide a place where more than 1,000 women cook hot meals every day for their families. However, these integrated learning centres also tackle camp-wide issues—from deforestation and energy conservation to women’s empowerment and social cohesion.

Piloted with funding from New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the U.K.’s Disaster’s Emergency Committee, the centres were originally built to help prevent fires and stop deforestation as refugees decimated woodlands in search of affordable cooking fuel.

Refugees remove 700 metric tons of wood—the equivalent of about four football fields of trees—daily from local forests. The competition for firewood is

escalating conflict between refugees and neighbouring landowners.

Most families cook over open fires in their small plastic tarp-and-bamboo shelters. They burn anything they can find—wood, old clothes, plastic bottles and street garbage. This not only poses a deadly fire hazard in the overcrowded camps, but is a severe health risk to children and adults who inhale the toxic fumes inside their cramped homes. Many children complain of eye infections and coughs.

In our centres, women can cook safely on efficient liquid petroleum gas stoves. They no longer have to buy expensive firewood or send their children to fetch it. But these centres have become so much more than a place to cook. Today, they are buzzing activity hubs where women are learning new skills and building community support networks.

In hands-on cooking classes, Rohingya

women prepare healthy meals while learning about child and maternal nutrition. During agricultural workshops, they learn to plant gardens in sacks or on rooftops so they can grow fresh vegetables even in the extremely limited spaces around their shelters.

At the centres, women also learn how to protect their families in the event of a cyclone or during monsoon flooding, information they share with neighbours. They form their own committees to manage the centres, building their leadership and problem-solving skills.

To meet growing demand, we plan to scale up, opening several dozen new centres to empower even more women in Year 3.

Up to 1,050 women cook meals daily in World Vision’s 42 centres, benefiting some 5,250 family members.

Photo: Himaloy Joseph Mree









WorldVision engaged 14,922 refugees, including 1,906 women, in cash-for-work projects to prepare the camps for the monsoon season. Photo: Jon Warren

## CASH, FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

### Cash-for-work projects mitigate monsoon damage

Rohingya refugees are at risk of monsoons and cyclones every year. In 2018, the monsoon season dumped record rainfall on the camps. UN agencies and NGOs scrambled to build the infrastructure needed before the annual deluge began. However, storms damaged or washed away refugee's makeshift shelters. The hilly topography was prone to frequent landslides. Poorly built roads made movement in the camps difficult. The lack of drainage systems and adequate bridges and culverts caused flooding that completely blocked access to some camps. Thousands of families were cut off from food supplies and other emergency relief, sometimes for days.

Following the 2018 monsoon season, the International Organisation for Migration led a disaster-risk reduction (DRR) assessment to identify lessons learned and map out needed roads, drainage systems and other infrastructure.

WFP provided funding to 10 NGO partners to implement DRR projects. World Vision received USD1.6 million, the largest award. We stabilized 23,000 square metres of landslide-prone slopes to protect families and children. Our teams constructed 4,100 metres of drainage, including a kilometre-long canal in Camp 18, as well as 13

bridges and culverts. By building 1,300 metres of roadways, we established access to some areas where none existed before. In the end, we exceeded our targets by more than 100 percent, both in terms of the number of people reached and projects completed.

World Vision hired 14,922 refugees, including 1,906 women, through cash-for-work programmes to do the construction. Refugees are not formally allowed to work in the camps, so this opportunity enabled them to earn a small amount of cash to better care for their families. Cash-for-work is one of the few mechanisms permitted in the response that puts money directly in people's hands. Earning an income gives refugees decision-making power, thereby protecting their dignity. In Year 2 of the response, we disbursed USD508,548 to refugees through our DRR interventions.

### A labour of love

Hamida fills sandbags alongside her all-women team of construction workers. Clad in long, black burkhas and tightly wrapped head scarves, they are helping to build a bamboo bridge over a sewage trench.

In the Rohingya refugees' conservative Muslim culture, it's uncommon for women to work outside the home, especially doing manual labour. But Hamida and her teammates—all young widows—are willing to test tradition if it means making some money to help feed their children. They are among the thousands of women participating in World Vision's innovative cash-for-work programme.

"We fill bags with sand and cement, level pathways and weave bamboo fences while men do the heavier work," says Hamida. She lost her husband when violence erupted in Myanmar in August 2017. Suddenly

she became the sole breadwinner for her two children. She's not alone. In the camps, there are an estimated 32,600 female-headed households.

"It's difficult for a woman to earn money here," says Hamida. In Myanmar, she and her husband ran a small quarter-acre farm, gardening and caring for their livestock. Hamida never expected to be a widow at age 40 or to have to find a way to feed her children on her own.

World Vision provided work for thousands of refugees who constructed roads, pathways, drains and bridges across the camp's muddy, sloping terrain. Teams worked in rotations to ensure that many families could participate in the programme.

Cash in hand from her first pay, Hamida can purchase what she needs for her small family. "My children used

to ask me for good food when they were hungry, but I couldn't afford it. After earning this money, I am so happy. I can go to the market to buy food for my children. I bought a hen and some vegetables, as well as some apples and grapes."

**Earning an income gives women and men choices and a sense of control over their lives—something many feel they lost in the frantic flight from Myanmar.**

Children are better protected from floods and landslides, thanks to bridges and culverts built by their parents. Photo: Himaloy Joseph Mree



## HOST COMMUNITIES SUPPORT

### Bangladeshis' sacrificial hospitality

Bangladeshi residents in Teknaf and Ukhiya welcomed more than 740,000 Rohingya refugees as they surged across the border in August 2017. They carried food from their tables onto the streets to feed families who hadn't eaten for days. Although already one of country's poorest communities, they didn't count the cost of caring. Today some might say they are paying the price.

Following the influx, living conditions deteriorated significantly for the 500,000 residents in the host communities bordering the camps. The proportion of families with a poor or borderline food consumption score jumped from 31 to 80 percent one year after the influx, driven by rising food costs and falling wages. The percentage of households living on less than USD60 a month spiked from 10 to 22 percent.

Refugees and host communities now compete for precious natural resources, such as firewood. Makeshift shelters blanket vast areas of farmland; sewage contaminates local fishing streams. Food prices have risen along with the population explosion. Tension and conflict is growing. According to a recent study, 79 percent of local residents surveyed blame the Rohingya for the increased cost of living; 53 percent say they have increased crime.

World Vision is helping host communities to recover through cash-for-work initiatives and income-generating activities. With funding from WFP, we hired 2,427 men and 428 women from host communities as short-term construction workers, disbursing USD99,765 through cash-for-work initiatives. They renovated 10 schools that now double as cyclone shelters, protecting up to 6,000 people.

More than 1,000 small business owners also received cash grants to develop enterprises such as vegetable production and livestock rearing. More than 3,613 people benefitted from skills development and business training. We also helped 2,600 residents start kitchen gardens to diversify their families' diets and generate additional income.

World Vision is a recognised, trusted community partner in the Cox's Bazar district, having served here long before the 2017 influx. We recently launched a five-year project funded by DFAT to advance ultra-poor households, and launched a privately funded area programme focused on child well-being. Our goal is to integrate support for the refugee community with our long-term development work in host communities.

World Vision hired local residents to renovate this school that doubles as a cyclone shelter for up to 6,000 people. Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



Shahina, 30, is among of 1,000 local residents who set up a small business with a grant from World Vision.

Photo: Himaloy Joseph Mree

### Shahina sews and reaps a better living

Shahina's treadle machine whirs as she stitches her latest creation. "Now I can make beautiful dresses. I get orders from my neighbours, and they pay me," she says proudly, as she feeds orange cotton cloth under the needle.

Shahina, 30, learned tailoring several years ago, but without a sewing machine she couldn't use her skills to earn a living. Today, she runs a successful one-woman workshop, supported with a 20,000 taka (USD240) cash grant from World Vision, funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft.

Shahina is among of 1,000 residents in Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts who received a one-time grant for income-generating activities. Wages are down and competition for jobs fierce since 1 million Rohingya refugees poured into the area two

years ago. Refugees outnumber the local population 3:1.

Desperate for cash to support their families, Rohingya day labourers are willing to work for less than the average daily wage of 500 taka (about USD6.00). Unemployment is on the rise in what was already one of the poorest areas in Bangladesh.

Shahina is thankful that she doesn't have to depend on the local job market for work now. "With my income from tailoring, I can support my family," says Shahina, a mother of two young children. "I can pay for my children's school expenses."

A shrewd money manager, Shahina used some of the cash grant to protect her business assets—her prized sewing machine and bolts of cloth. She repaired the brick wall around her simple tin-roof home to

make sure her sewing room isn't flooded during the annual monsoon rains here.

**Shahina plans to expand her boutique. If the dozen new dresses on display are any indication, she's well on her way.**

HOST COMMUNITY

# Intervention Areas, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



## Advocating for refugee families

Advocacy is foundational to World Vision's work in the Rohingya humanitarian crisis response. We believe that it's possible to overcome inequality, challenge harmful behaviours and achieve justice for children. We mobilise, amplify and harness voices—especially those of children—to call for what is right, what is fair and what is just.

In Year 2 of the response, World Vision continued to address the immediate rights and needs of the 1 million Rohingya refugee children and their families.

Despite the fact that Kutupalong Expansion Site is widely described as "the largest refugee camp in the world," none of its inhabitants are officially recognised as refugees in Bangladesh. This lack of recognised status means that Rohingya living

here have no official protection under international law. Their right to freedom of movement, access to education and right to work are restricted in the camps.

To address such issues on a practical level, we ran child-friendly spaces for young children and offered skills training workshops for adolescents. At the same time, we worked with UN agencies, the education sub-sector and other NGOs to support the Government of Bangladesh, while advocating for workable solutions to the complex education issue.

This year, we integrated World Vision's global campaign, It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children, into our child protection activities in the camps. Across five camps, we equipped and mobilised Rohingya parents, teachers, faith

leaders and children themselves to speak out against child abuse and exploitation. In June, 35 imams and 35 influential women participated in a three-day workshop on child marriage. Together, they examined their cultural traditions and religious beliefs. At the end of the meeting, 60 percent of the imams said their previously held views on marrying girls before age 18 had shifted. This is an important start.

Looking to the refugees' long-term future and well-being, World Vision will continue to call on national and international governments to ensure the Rohingya's safe, dignified and voluntary return to Myanmar when conditions there are conducive. Until that day, we will support Rohingya children and their families to access their rights and protect the most vulnerable among them.

Imams and women leaders met to discuss child marriage during a World Vision Channels of Hope workshop.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



## Shampa's heart for children's safety

"Children told us they didn't feel safe even here," says Shushanna Shampa Kundu, a World Vision child protection coordinator. Speaking slowly, she recalls the first days following the influx of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh. "They said they feared something would happen to them in the night while they slept."

Shampa became determined to help change that. A finance graduate, this 31-year-old Bangladeshi traded a potential corporate career for a rugged job in the world's largest refugee camp. "I felt blessed when God gave me the chance to work here because I love children," says Shampa.

Today Shampa coordinates a team of 30 World Vision field staff working across three camps. Their job is to protect children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Shampa and her colleagues manage 12 World Vision centres where children can be safe, play together and just be kids. A gifted artist herself, Shampa enjoys encouraging their creativity.

"When the children draw and learn, they forget their situation for a while," says Shampa. She's noticed a gradual change in their artwork over the past two years. The children no longer sketch pictures of burning villages and stick figures with guns. Their drawings now often depict happier times in Myanmar—farmyards, animals, schools—as well as scenes of daily camp life.

"The children come to me with smiling faces despite the many barriers and limitations in their lives," says Shampa. "They motivate me to do more."

Frontline aid work is emotionally exhausting, especially when serving children. Described by colleagues as

"a woman of creativity, courage and endurance," Shampa has the rare resilience that this long-term refugee crisis demands.

"Being a humanitarian means working for the protection and the rights of these most vulnerable people," says Shampa. "I want Rohingya children to know they have human rights and a right to enjoy their lives."

Celebrating every small victory in her difficult work, Shampa sees some encouraging signs.

**"When I ask them about their feelings, they tell me they feel safe. They say, 'At night when we go to sleep now, we know we will see the next morning.'"**

"I felt blessed when God gave me the chance to work here because I love children," says Shampa.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain



A former World Vision sponsored child, Atul Mrong now serves as deputy operations director, caring for refugee children. Photo: Jon Warren

## Looking back, paying forward

Atul Mrong, 42, is deputy operations director of World Vision's humanitarian response. Atul, who grew up in a poor Christian family in Bangladesh, says he feels a connection to the Rohingya refugees he serves.

"They remind me of myself," he says. "Our financial situation was not good. I had six sisters. I was the only son. My parents were not educated; they were illiterate. My father could only sign his name."

When Atul was in Grade 8, his mother gave him 10 *taka*—about 12 cents. It was the most money he had ever received. "My mom said I could use it for anything I wanted." Atul kissed her. "That memory helps me remember how poor I was. As a child, I could not even think about what would happen in the future."

Atul's life changed when he was sponsored through World Vision. "The sponsor who helped me came into my life as an angel of God," he says. "From Class 3 until I graduated, my education, tuition, school fees and tuition all came from World Vision. They really helped me grow."

Atul was surprised that a stranger would invest in him. "The sponsor did not [meet] me," he says. "He was just looking at my picture. Based on that, he trusted me. Out of that trust, he sent generous support. That generosity and confidence in me changed my life."

Today, Atul is paying forward that investment through his work with refugees.

**"It is not just work, it's a calling. God chose us to work with the vulnerable. It's a call we must answer."**



Listen directly to children and adolescents about what they need and want, especially regarding education.

Photo: Md. Shabir Hussain

**4. Men and boys are integral to addressing gender-based violence.**

World Vision trained and engaged men and boys to be effective champions for the women and girls in their families. They are helping to prevent gender-based violence at home and in the community. We've learned that men need support, too. We launched several men's coffee corners where they can gather, be refreshed and discuss key issues affecting their families.

**5. Engage faith leaders to help tackle challenging issues.** These highly respected, trusted leaders play a key role as influencers in community participation and acceptance. Their support and advice has proven invaluable in our work in child protection, nutrition, education and disaster-risk reduction. As a faith-based organization, World Vision is well-placed to build understanding and deep relationships of trust with community religious leaders. We can equip them to influence attitudes, norms and behaviour around violence against children, women and vulnerable adults.

**6. Peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between host communities and refugees needs to be strengthened.**

Host communities continue to bear the impact of the influx socially, economically and environmentally. Meanwhile, the Rohingya are frustrated after two years of unemployment and their children being out of school. Limited opportunities to interact or build friendships fuel rumours and prejudices.

Some women and youth who live near the camps are building networks between the two communities. We must support and strengthen these initiatives, and find ways for men to do the same. We plan to increase the number of women who cook together in World Vision's community kitchens and learning centres. We will also enhance market linkages between the two groups and equip adolescents in youth clubs to counter harmful stereotypes.

## Our top lessons learned in Year 2

**1. Refugee protection is core to this humanitarian response.** Without citizenship in Myanmar or official refugee status in Bangladesh, the Rohingya live in limbo. They lack the protection that recognised refugee status provides. They cannot work or leave the camps, nor do they have access formal education. They have no recourse under the Bangladeshi legal system. This profoundly affects the dignity and self-reliance of Rohingya families.

The Rohingya must be able to actively participate in decision-making about their rights and welfare. World Vision listens to the refugee community and looks for opportunities to amplify their voices, while advocating that their rights as refugees be recognised.

**2. Language is core to communicating and building trust.** As Translators Without Borders observes, "Refugees have a right to information and two-way communication in their own language, in a format they understand and through channels they prefer and trust. In the past year, access to information has improved as a result of an increased humanitarian focus on communicating with communities. Yet language barriers and low access to media still leave many Rohingya refugees without the critical and life-saving information they need to claim their rights, get the support they need, and make informed choices for themselves and their families."<sup>1</sup>

Recruiting and training qualified interpreters is critical to effective

service delivery. Information materials for the Rohingya must be designed taking language and literacy barriers into consideration.

**3. Listen directly to children and adolescents about what they need and want, especially regarding education.** Children, adolescents and their parents must be consulted and engaged from the outset in finding durable solutions that will provide access to high-quality formal education. Their voices must be heard. In partnership with several UN agencies and fellow NGOs, we interviewed 400 children, parents, teachers and community leaders about education. Their views will hopefully shape programming decisions more fully moving forward. The study will be published in October.

Peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between host communities and refugees needs to be strengthened.

Photo: Jon Warren



<sup>1</sup> The Language Lesson: What we've learned about communicating with Rohingya refugees, Translators Without Borders, December 2018.

## The road ahead

We stand at a crossroads as we enter the third year of this protracted humanitarian crisis.

The Rohingya refugees are anxious to return home to Myanmar when conditions are conducive to do so and their demands for citizenship met. Unfortunately, this is not likely to happen any time soon. Their future hangs in the balance.

Today, the refugees' essential needs are being met through the combined efforts of the Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies and NGOs. It is now time for World Vision and other agencies to move beyond the emergency phase of managing the crisis. Sustainable solutions—both mid and long-term—must be found that give the refugees more control over their lives today and that equip them with the skills needed for their eventual return home.

Rohingya parents tell us repeatedly that they do not want to be dependent on humanitarian assistance for years to come. They long for jobs so they can provide for their children. In Year 3, World Vision plans to scale up our cash-for-work and livelihoods programmes to further promote refugees' dignity and self-reliance.

Children are concerned about the future, too. They want to be in school. World Vision will continue to provide informal education, while advocating for high-quality, inclusive formal education to be established. Our recent survey of 400 children and parents about their educational needs and preferences will be released in October 2019.

Building social cohesion between the host and refugee communities remains a priority for us, as emphasized in the UN's 2019 Joint

*Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis.* Leveraging funds from several multi-year grants, we will invest in long-term development initiatives in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

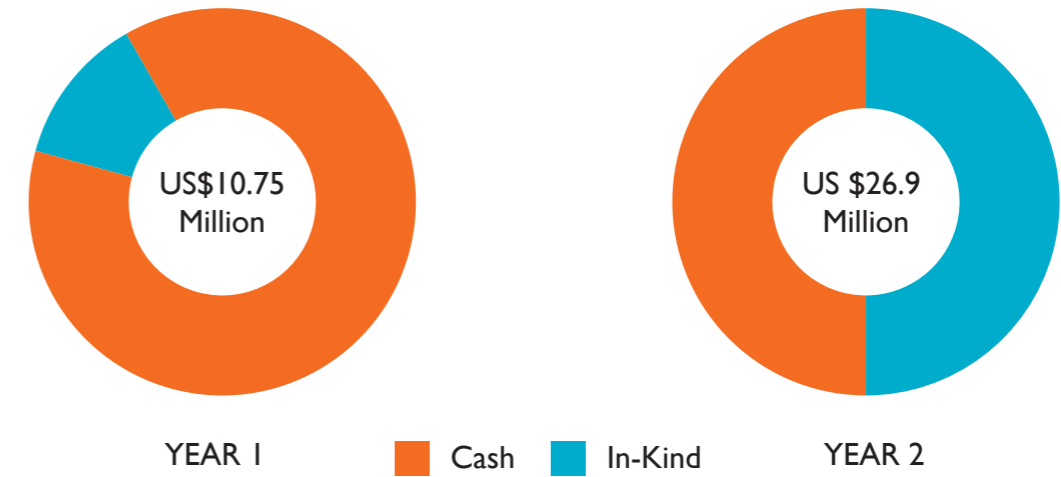
Year 3 promises to be a time of growth and innovation. Beyond ensuring quality protection and educational services, we will strengthen our special focus on adolescents' needs. Expanding our community cooking and learning centres will enable mothers to develop new income-generating skills. And we will continue to equip boys and men as champions for the protection of girls and women.

Most importantly, vulnerable children will remain at the centre of all we do.

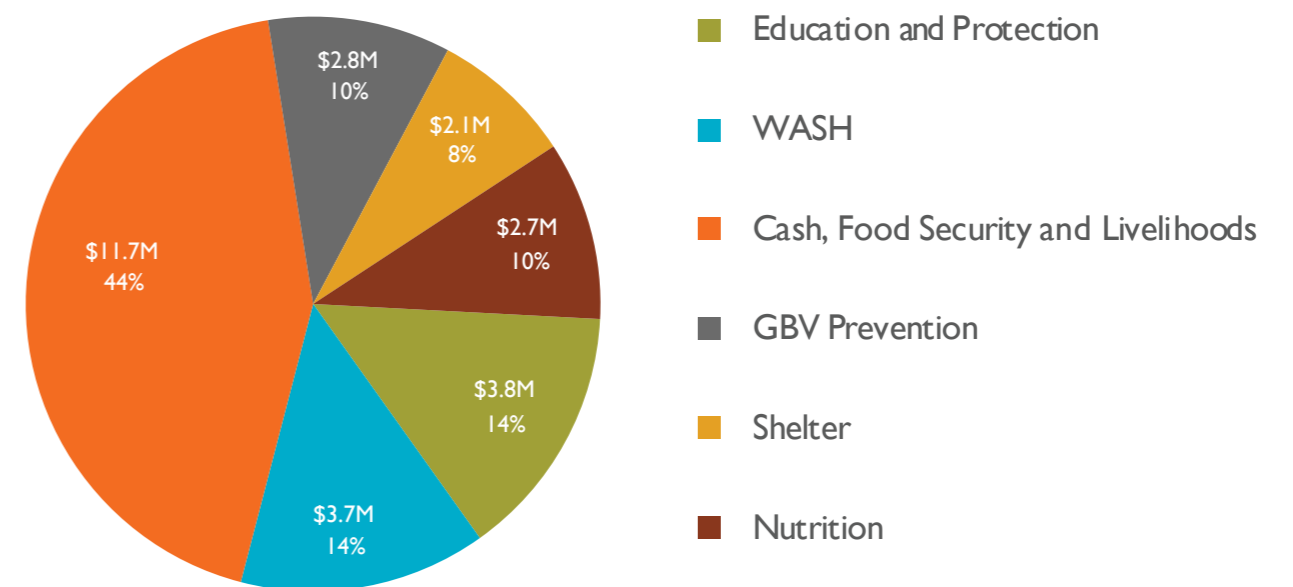
In Year 3, we will scale up programmes to promote refugees' dignity and self-reliance, and support host community families. Photo: Jon Warren



## Finance



Response Funding Portfolio by Year (Raised and Spent)



Response Year 2 Funding Portfolio by Sector

# Acknowledgements

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## World Vision Support Offices

- World Vision Australia
- World Vision Austria
- World Vision Canada
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