Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar)

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

1.26M people were moderately or severely food insecure in October–November 2021

0.31M people were moderately food insecure

0.94M people were severely food insecure

84% of the population analysed were moderately or severely food insecure¹

The analysis covered 1.5 million Rohingya refugees and host community members, of whom 0.9 million were Rohingya refugees in Ukhia and Teknaf camps, excluding Bhasan Char area, and 0.59 million were host community members.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: REVA 5.

¹ Based on WFP ENA methodology (see Technical Notes for more information).

Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers remained relatively stable compared to 2020. Over 1.26 million Rohingya refugees and host community members were moderately or severely food insecure based on WFP ENA methodology in Cox’s Bazar district of Bangladesh in October–November 2021, representing 84 percent of the population analysed. Within this, the majority (63 percent) were found to be severely food insecure.

Of the total population found to be moderately or severely food insecure, around 84 percent were Rohingya refugees living in 34 camps in hilly and rugged areas of Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas. The remaining 16 percent were members of the Bangladeshi host community.

This represents a generally stable trend since 2020, when 1.2 million people were acutely food insecure and in need of humanitarian food and livelihood assistance in Cox’s Bazar. As in 2020, food insecurity and vulnerability levels remained alarmingly high among Rohingya households, with 95 percent of households requiring humanitarian food and livelihood assistance to meet their basic food needs. Although the proportion of Rohingya households with poor or borderline food consumption declined between 2020 and 2021 from 50 percent to 45 percent, the proportion is still higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2019 (42 percent) (REVA 5, March 2022).

Similarly, food insecurity/vulnerability levels among the host community rose modestly from 51 percent of the population in 2020 to 52 percent in 2021 (WFP, March 2022). The proportion of host community households facing poor or borderline food consumption rose from 33 percent in 2020 to 38 percent in 2021, which underlines difficulties faced by host communities in recovering from job and livelihood losses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic (REVA 5, March 2022).