



BULLETIN

NUTRITION SECTOR COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

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SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

- The Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS), executive summary of the report is published and shared widely. Click [HERE](#) for the report.
- Nutrition Sector, with the support of GBV Sub-Sector, published the [GBV Safety Audit Report 2023](#) at NS facilities in the Rohingya camps. The objectives of the analysis were to identify the GBV risks related to the NS services and their key contributing factors, and provide an evidence base to support advocacy initiatives for a stronger GBV prevention and response for NS.
- In collaboration with WASH Sector, NS has conducted an assessment of WASH facilities to find out whether or not all the nutrition sites are maintaining the minimal WASH infection prevention and control requirements within the camps. Click [HERE](#) for the key findings.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with the Nutrition Sector (NS) partners, conducted a mass MUAC screening and second round of vitamin A supplementation campaign from 12 December 2023, reaching a total of 147,475 (97 per cent of the target) children of 6-59 months.

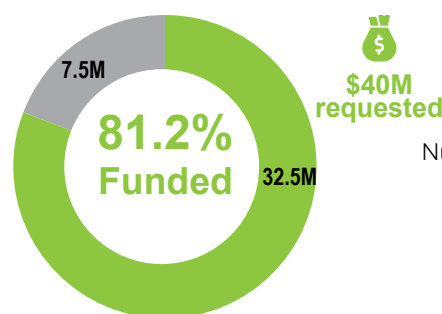
NUTRITION PROGRAMME UPDATE

	TARGET		PROGRESS	
	2023	2023 (Jan-Dec)	2023 (Jan-Dec)	
SAM	11,500	11,325 (98% of target)	11,325 (98% of target)	Cure rate 89.87%
MAM	U5- 46,000 PLW- 3,000	U5- 40,768 (89% of target)	U5- 40,768 (89% of target)	Cure rate 97.50% PLW- 3,593 (120% of target)
IYCF	85,000	79,372 (93% of target)	79,372 (93% of target)	
BSFP	U5- 152,000 PLW- 38,500	U5- 135,435* (89% of target)	U5- 135,435* (89% of target)	PLW- 42,035 (109% of target)
IFA	PLW- 32,000 Adolescent- 76,000	PLW- 38,522 (120% of target)	PLW- 38,522 (120% of target)	Adolescent- 91,855 (122% of target)
VAS R2	152,000	147,475 (97% of target)	147,475 (97% of target)	
Deworming R2	92,000	92,457 (100% of target)	92,457 (100% of target)	

*This figure includes 76,854 beneficiaries of NSEP

FUNDING UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 2023

Overall Funding Status



Funding Status by Activity

Activity	Funding received	Funding gap
Prevention of Malnutrition	25.12M	5.08M
Treatment of Malnutrition	6.32M	2.04M
Nutrition information management & assessment	541K	217K
Capacity building	309K	82K
Monitoring & Evaluation	234K	109K

Note: Prevention and treatment of malnutrition is the most critical priority needs where USD 7.1M are still needed. *One of the appealing partners did not submit the funding status as of December 2023. So, the funding status of September 2023 has been used for the same partner.

2023 JRP Target VS Reached

388K People targeted

282K Refugee	106K Host Community
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Children 0-59m	Adolescent girls 10-19 yrs	Pregnant & lactating women
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152,356	91,637	38,439
55,470	38,670	11,296

399K People reached

282K Refugee	106K Host Community
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157,884	92,855	44,171
68,462	11,396	25,225

STANDARDISED EXPANDED NUTRITION SURVEY (SENS) 2023

- Concern Worldwide (CWW), with the technical support of UNHCR and in collaboration with all the NS partners, conducted two Standardized Expanded Nutrition Surveys (SENS) from 2 November to 20 November 2023 with the objective to assess the general nutrition and health situation of children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women aged 15-49 years, living in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district. The first survey, representing the Kutupalong mega camps (31 unregistered camps), assessed 486 children of 6-59 months and 640 women of reproductive age from 554 households, while the second survey, representing the Nayapara and Kutupalong registered camps, assessed 346 children of 6-59 months and 727 women of reproductive age from 515 households.
- The 2023 SENS results indicate a deteriorating acute malnutrition situation of very high public health concern in the mega camps (15.4 per cent) and an unchanged situation of medium public health concern in the registered camps (9.6 per cent). The differences in the surveys can be attributed to varying coping mechanisms among the old refugees and the post-2017 influx, IYCF indicators, and the incidence of diarrhoea at the time of the survey, which was higher in the mega camps.
- In both the surveys, chronic malnutrition (stunting) remained critical and unchanged (41.2 per cent) compared to 2022, while anaemia improved among the refugees compared to 2021, but it was still near critical level among the children under five (38.2 per cent) and medium level among the women of reproductive age (24.1 per cent).
- Breastfeeding practices among the children under two years old in both the surveys were acceptable, but children did not consume adequate diets in terms of diversity or frequency during the complementary feeding period. Early initiation of breastfeeding was 93.3 per cent and exclusive breastfeeding was 69.9 per cent. Only 16.3 per cent of children aged 6-23 months consumed a



minimum acceptable diet.

- Following the validation of the survey results by the NS Assessment and Information Management Technical Working Group (AIM TWG), CWW organised a SENS 2023 results dissemination workshop with the UNHCR's support, which was held on 13 December 2023.
- NS, therefore, is prioritising the prevention of malnutrition through strengthening the nutrition-sensitive intervention jointly with other sectors - Health, WASH and Food Security. However, if we fail to prevent, we must treat children U5 and PLW with acute malnutrition. NS will closely monitor the nutrition situation through programme data and revise the PiN and target for 2024 in mid-year review, if required.
- Nutrition Sector calls on all the donors and key stakeholders to ensure that nutrition funding is prioritised and safeguarded to support continuation of the existing lifesaving prevention and treatment nutrition programmes to mitigate further deterioration. Besides, financing the nutrition sensitive interventions, such as food security, health, WASH and social protection, is unequivocal to tackle the high level of stunting among the refugees.

VITAMIN A CAMPAIGN AND MASS MUAC SCREENING

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Nutrition Sector partners and the UN agencies (UNHCR and WFP), conducted a vitamin A campaign, targeting children aged 6-59 months in 33 camps from 12 December to 18 December 2023. The campaign also included mass MUAC screening for acute malnutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messaging for pregnant women and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months. Over 147,000 children aged 6-59 months (49 per cent girls) received vitamin A capsules and screened for malnutrition using MUAC, representing 97 per cent of the total target of 152,000. During the campaign, a total 1,368 children (56 per cent girls) with acute malnutrition were admitted (300 children to the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme for the treatment of SAM and 1,068 to the Targeted Supplementary Programme for the treatment of MAM). Furthermore, a total of 57,771 pregnant mothers and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received age appropriate IYCF messaging.



CLUSTER/SECTOR COORDINATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING (CCPM) 2023

Cluster/Sector Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) workshop has been conducted on 30 November 2023. The purpose of CCPM is to identify areas for support and improvement, ensure that clusters/sectors are efficient and having effective coordination mechanisms, which fulfil the core cluster/sector functions, meet the needs of constituent members, and support delivery to affected people. It is also an effective way of demonstrating accountability and the added value of the cluster/sector and to justify the cost of coordination. A Cluster/Sector Coordination Performance Monitoring provides an in-depth assessment based on the perceptions of the partners and sector coordinator about the functioning of the cluster/sector in fulfilling its six specific core functions, which are:



Photo: CCPM workshop. NS/2023

1. Supporting service delivery
 2. Informing strategic decision-making of HC/HCT for humanitarian response
 3. Planning and strategy development
 4. Monitoring and reporting
 5. Contingency planning/preparedness
 6. Advocacy
- + Accountability to affected populations.

The CCPM survey was launched on 11 November 2023 and was completed on 23 November 2023, monitoring the performance of Nutrition Sector Cox's Bazar in 2023. The preliminary report was compiled by the Global Cluster and shared with all the partners. The score of 17 indicators out of total 19 based on the survey was **Good**, while two were **Satisfactory**. However, after validation exercises all the indicators turned **Good**. All the 15 NS partners, including the relevant local government authorities, NGOs and UN agencies, participated in the survey and the validation workshop as well.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY 2023 CELEBRATION IN INFS ON 20 NOVEMBER 2023

World Children's Day is an annual global event dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rights of children. The theme of Children's Day for this year was "For every child, every right". This day was celebrated by a diverse range of activities, involving the decoration of the Integrated Nutrition Facility (INF) to promote this year's message among the vulnerable Forcefully Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN)/Rohingya community. The day began with a burst of colours and creativity, as the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) section was adorned with playful decorations symbolising the innocence and joy of childhood. Volunteers and staff worked tirelessly to create an inviting and cheerful atmosphere. A lively rally commenced in the early morning, with the participation of beneficiaries, staff, volunteers, and other CiC office staff. The procession marched its way through the community, carrying banners



Photo: Children's day celebration. ESDO/2023

and signs - advocating for children's rights, equality, and a safe environment for all. Children participated in different games and art competition in the INFs and got prizes. All the NS partners also provided the messages to raise awareness about children's right from different sessions in the INFs to the mothers and caregivers of the children.

A THREE-DAY AAP TRAINING ORGANISED BY CONCERN

In collaboration with and support from Nutrition Sector, Concern Worldwide organised a three-day “Training on Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) and Operationalisation of CRM System” on 21-23 November 2023 in Cox’s Bazar. (Total participants 24, Female-19, Male-05).

The training enhanced the participant’s knowledge and skills in implementing AAP effectively and utilising the CRM system for accountability in humanitarian actions. Also, our commitment to accountability to programme participants epitomised a humanitarian ethos with “Humanity in Mindset.” **‘Accountability to Affected Populations’**, distinguished from mere responsibility, emphasised answerability and willingness to be answerable for actions. In the Rohingya response, Concern Worldwide ensured that the voices of the affected populations echoed in decision-making across all the nutrition facilities, embodying AAP’s key components.



Photo: CWW/2023

The key training outcomes were

- AAP, operationalised through understanding communities, active involvement, and responsive mechanisms, underscores the primacy of inclusion. This commitment is more than theoretical; it is realised through practical implementation aided by comprehensive AAP resources and toolkits. These resources bridge the intention-action gap, embedding accountability in humanitarian endeavours.
- Concern Worldwide’s Accountability and Inclusion Helpdesk, anchored by a CFRM system, stands as a linchpin. Guided by the CFRM principles, it provides a structured platform for the affected individuals or communities to voice concerns, distinguishing between addressable and non-addressable complaints. This comprehensive approach not only reinforces accountability but also cultivates an inclusive humanitarian ecosystem valuing the voices of the affected people.

In the realm of AAP, Concern Worldwide navigates the journey from principles to practice with meticulous attention, ensuring accountability resonates in all integrated nutrition facilities.

CASE STUDY OF TWIN BABY IN CMAMI CORNER

Md. Hasson and Md. Hossain, born to Momtaz and Reyaz, on 04 December 2022, faced a challenging start to life in Jadimura Refugee Camp-27. Born weak with low weights (2.0 kg and 2.1 kg) and inadequate breast milk, the twins struggled to thrive. Formula milk was introduced, but one of the twins’ health deteriorated, hindering effective breastfeeding. Overwhelmed and depressed, Momtaz faced difficulties caring for the twins, compounded by her own health issues. They were referred to the integrated nutrition facility of Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) by community nutrition volunteer (CNV) on 14 February 2023. The infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counsellor provided crucial guidance on breastfeeding techniques, maternal nutrition, and referred them to the health post for clinical assessment. Hygiene counselling and regular household visits followed, supporting the entire family. The counsellor helped the mother to establish exclusive breastfeeding. The impact was remarkable. In just a month, the twins’ health improved, and Momtaz’s psychological well-being saw positive changes. With continuous follow-up, home visits, and nutrition centre support,



Photo: During admission. ESDO/2023



Photo: During discharge. ESDO/2023

the twins thrived. After 4 months and 17 days, they were discharged from Community Management of At-Risk Mothers and Infants (CMAMI) as cured children with 5.4 kg and 4.5 kg weight with $>-2SD$, leading healthy lives. Regular follow-up visit ensured cognitive development, increased awareness, and growth monitoring. Now enrolled in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) Corner as normal children, Md. Hasson and Md. Hossain’s success story reflects the transformative power of integrated healthcare, counselling, and community support. Their mother expresses gratitude for the nutrition centre of ESDO’s instrumental role in securing a healthier future for her children.

SENOWARA'S REMARKABLE RECOVERY: A TRIUMPH OF COMPASSION AND RE-LACTATION AT BMS SC

In September 2023, Rashida, a 31-year-old refugee mother, visited the Balukhali Stabilization Centre (SC) with her 3-month-old baby, Senowara. Her concern stemmed from Senowara's poor growth and health issues. The centre, backed by UNICEF and overseen by ACF, provides support to infants struggling with severe acute malnutrition, breastfeeding difficulties, weight loss, and those who do not respond well to nutritional treatment in the integrated nutrition facility.

Senowara's arrival was marked by alarming signs of severe acute malnutrition, weighing merely 2.66 kg, with a height of 51.0 cm, showcasing the severity of her condition. Rashida's past inability to exclusively breastfeed her children, compounded by the tragic loss of a previous child, led her to feed Senowara breast milk substitutes (BMS) from the beginning, depriving Senowara of essential breastfeeding.

Upon examination, Senowara's fragile health revealed severe malnutrition and concerning symptoms like enlarged lymph nodes and neck rigidity,



raising fears of TB or Meningitis. Confirmatory tests were pursued in the MSF hospital.

Rashida's struggle with breastfeeding technique and reluctance to breastfeed were identified by the nurse, highlighting the need for education and support. Senowara's diagnosis further pinpointed the issue as "lack of breastfeeding in <6 months baby with respiratory tract infection and generalised lymphadenitis."

The medical team, dedicated to Senowara's recovery, embarked on a re-lactation journey with Rashida. Implementing the "Supplementary Suckling Technique (SST)" and F100 formula, Senowara began exclusive breastfeeding after 14 days, while her medical complications were successfully resolved. Rashida received necessary guidance, support, and education during her stay, encompassing caregiving, hygiene practices, and ECCD.

After 16 days of unwavering care and encouragement, Senowara's transformation was evident. Gaining 360 grammes through re-lactation and exhibiting overall health improvement, she was discharged. Rashida, overwhelmed with gratitude, credited the entire team at the centre for Senowara's remarkable progress.

Senowara's journey stands as a testament to the power of dedicated support, counselling, and compassionate care. The Balukhali SC not only nurtured Senowara's health, but also empowered Rashida with the knowledge and tools for her child's wellbeing.

Abbreviation	
BSFP	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program
CIC	Camp in Charge
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid
INF	Integrated Nutrition Facility
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
JRP	Joint Response Plan
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
NS	Nutrition Sector
NSEP	Nutrition Sensitive E-Voucher Programme
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SC	Stabilization Center
U5	Children Under 5 years
VAS	Vitamin A Supplementation

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About Nutrition Sector (NS)

The Nutrition Sector was established in 2017 during the Rohingya refugee influx in Cox's Bazar, with the goal to provide coordinated nutrition interventions. To ensure effective delivery of nutrition services, the Sector collaborates with 13 partners, including the Government of Bangladesh. This collaboration allows the Sector to operate at the forefront of nutritional interventions. The Sector has a Strategic Advisory Group that advocates for strategic priorities and supports contingency plans. Currently, the Sector comprises three technical working groups, namely, the Infant and Young Child in Emergency Working Group, the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition Working Group, the Assessment, and Information Management Working Group. These working groups guarantee compliance with national and international standards. This quarterly bulletin for the Nutrition Sector in Cox's Bazar in 2023 showcases the sector's achievements, updates, and emergency responses etc. The bulletin highlights the sector's success in strengthening humanitarian nutrition coordination, which has led to a predictable and accountable response. In addition, it captures the high-level brainstorming workshop that was held to enhance the sector's capabilities to address potential nutrition issues. Additionally, the bulletin features survey findings and success stories that illustrate the sector's outstanding work. The sector's commitment to cutting-edge humanitarian responses is evident in this bulletin, which doubles as a testament to its unwavering dedication. Consequently, the Sector has been able to provide effective nutritional interventions to those in need.