



# BULLETIN

## NUTRITION SECTOR COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

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### SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Nutrition Sector appealing partners have raised \$32.3M (81%) of total requested fund (\$40.0M) for the 2023 JRP as of September 2023. Although the major nutrition supplies have been procured, there is a funding gap for the operational costs.
- World breastfeeding week (WBW) was celebrated from 1-7 August 2023. All the Nutrition Sector partners (11) celebrated this week with several activities focusing on the theme-*Enabling Breastfeeding Making a Difference for Working Parents*.
- Deworming and mass MUAC screening campaign (Round 2) was successfully conducted from 17 to 21 September 2023 reaching 92,457 children (100% of target).
- The sector published the Impact of General Food Assistance Ration (GFA) Cuts on Nutrition – [Monitoring Update Round 2](#).
- 40 Nutrition Site supervisors and managers received a GBV safety audit refresher training on 10 July, provided by GBVSS. A GBV safety audit at camp/site level was planned for August which has already been completed and under review of GBV sub-Sector for final reporting.

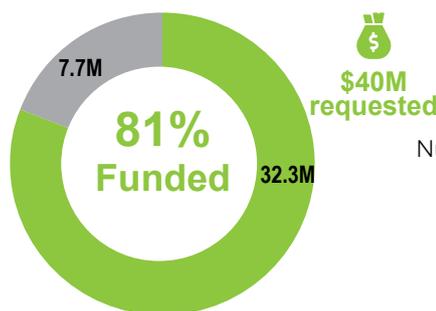
### NUTRITION PROGRAMME UPDATE

	TARGET		PROGRESS	
	2023	2023 (Jan-Sep)	2023 (Jan-Sep)	
<b>SAM</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>8,188</b> (71% of target) Cure rate 88.45%		
<b>MAM</b>	<b>U5- 46,000</b> <b>PLW- 3,000</b>	<b>U5- 28,469</b> (62% of target) Cure rate 97.02% <b>PLW- 2,621</b> (87% of target)		
<b>IYCF</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>37,957</b> (45% of target)		
<b>BSFP</b>	<b>U5- 152,000</b> <b>PLW- 38,500</b>	<b>U5- 135,049*</b> (89% of target) <b>PLW- 42,385</b> (110% of target)		
<b>IFA</b>	<b>PLW- 32,000</b> <b>Adolescent- 76,000</b>	<b>PLW- 17,780</b> (56% of target) <b>Adolescent- 91,855</b> (122% of target)		
<b>VAS R1</b>	<b>152,000</b>	<b>143,706</b> (94% of target)		
<b>Deworming R2</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>92,457</b> (100% of target)		

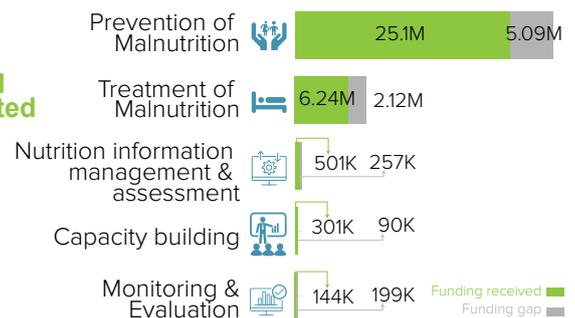
\*This figure includes 74,495 beneficiaries of NSEP

### FUNDING UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023

#### Overall Funding Status



#### Funding Status by Activity



Note: Prevention and treatment of malnutrition is the most critical priority needs where USD 7.2M are still needed.

#### 2023 JRP PIN and Target

##### 465K People in need

314K Refugee  
 151K Host Community

Children 0-59m  
 Adolescent girls 10-19 yrs  
 Pregnant & lactating women

169,285  
 79,242

101,819  
 55,243

42,710  
 16,137

##### 388K People targeted

282K Refugee  
 106K Host Community

152,356  
 55,470

91,637  
 38,670

38,439  
 11,296

## CELEBRATION OF WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2023

Breastfeeding is one of the best investments in children's and women's health and survival. World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is a global campaign to raise awareness and galvanize action on themes related to breastfeeding. WBW is celebrated every year from 1-7 August in commemoration of the 1990 Innocenti Declaration. WBW started in 1992, with annual themes including healthcare systems, women and work, the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, community support, ecology, economy, science, education and human rights. Since 2016, WBW has been aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution endorsed WBW as an important breastfeeding promotion strategy. This year's theme focused on breastfeeding and employment or work. All the partners (11) of Nutrition Sector celebrated this week with several activities focusing on the theme- ENABLING BREASTFEEDING making a difference for working parents.

### The objectives of WBW were-

- Inform people about working parents' perspectives on breastfeeding and parenting.
- Anchor optimal paid leave and workplace support as important tools to enable breastfeeding.
- Engage with individuals and organizations to enhance collaboration and support for breastfeeding at work.

- Galvanize action on improving working conditions and relevant support for breastfeeding.

All the Nutrition Sector implementing and technical partners like Concern Worldwide, SARPV, SHED, GK, ESDO, SCI celebrated the world breastfeeding week at facility inside Rohingya camps and host community level in collaboration with CiC, Civil surgeon, local govt., other stakeholders, donor representatives, media, and representatives from community including key influencers. Rally, message dissemination, quiz competition, healthy baby competition, pictorial showing, and T-shirt distribution are among the events made the WBW colorful.

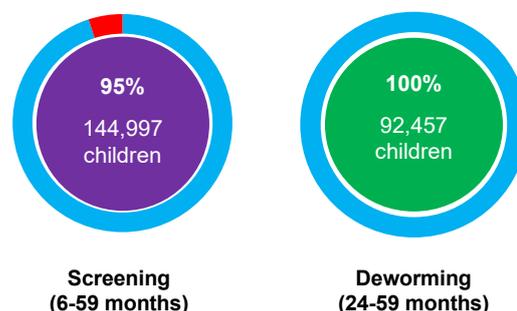


## DEWORMING CAMPAIGN AND MASS MUAC SCREENING

UNICEF in collaboration with nutrition sector partners and UN agencies (UNHCR and WFP) conducted the 2nd round of deworming campaign targeting children aged 24-59 months in 33 camps between 17 and 21 September 2023. The campaign included mass MUAC screening for acute malnutrition, screening for disabilities, and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messaging for pregnant women and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months. A total of 92,457 children (47,274 boys and 45,183 girls and 285 with disability) 24-59 months received deworming tablets, representing over 100 percent of the target 92,000. Moreover, a total of 144,997 (95 per cent of the target-152,000) children 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition using MUAC. Out of the 144,997 children that were screened, 915 children had MUAC of less than 115mm and therefore had Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM); 5,185 children had moderate acute malnutrition (MUAC of less than 125mm) and 10,555 at-risk children had their MUAC falling between 125mm and 135mm. In summary, the Mass MUAC screening revealed that the prevalence of SAM, MAM, GAM, and at-risk children using MUAC was 0.6 per cent, 3.6 per cent, 4.2 per cent, and 7.3 per cent respectively. Through this campaign, 1,555 (9.3 per cent) of the 16,655 children with SAM, MAM, and at-risk referrals to the closest INF who had acute malnutrition were admitted to the Targeted Supplementary Programme (TSFP) for MAM treatment (1,213) and the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) for SAM treatment (342). Furthermore, a total of 59,037 pregnant mothers and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received age appropriate IYCF messaging.



Figure 1: Mass MUAC Screening and Deworming Campaign Coverage



## UNICEF REGIONAL DIRECTOR PAYS A VISIT TO A NUTRITION FACILITY IN CAMP 9 ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Mr. Sanjay Wijesekera, the UNICEF Director for the South Asia region, and Mr. Sheldon Yett, the UNICEF Representative for Bangladesh, visited an Integrated Nutrition Facility (INF) in camp-09; site-02, which is managed by the Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED), on September 26, 2023. During the visit, the Director observed various nutrition services provided at the INF, including Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM), anthropometric measurement, Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP), IYCF & CMAMI, OTP, PLW programme services, adolescent nutrition services, cooking demonstrations, ECCD activities, and homestead gardening. The team expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive services offered at the INF in one roof, particularly the cooking demonstrations and ECCD. The director was accompanied by SHED and UNICEF technical staff.



## REMARKABLE RECOVERY: A TRIUMPH OVER CHALLENGES



In March 2023, 16-year-old Rosmin Tara arrived at UNICEF supported ACF Balukhali Stabilization Center (BMS SC) with her nine-month-old baby, Showkat Ara. Showkat was suffering from a range of medical complications that had caused her significant weight loss and distress. Rosmin's determination to help her child, combined with the dedicated efforts of the medical team, led to a remarkable journey of recovery.

Upon admission, Showkat Ara's condition was alarming – weighing only 4.55 kilograms, WHZ <-3 SD and MUAC 90 mm. Her symptoms included acute watery diarrhea, weakness, cough, oral thrush, and diaper rash. The medical team promptly diagnosed Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI), severe acute malnutrition, and other complications.

Treatment commenced immediately, with therapeutic milk and targeted medications. Showkat's progress was closely monitored as she faced setbacks due to her deteriorating condition. The medical team, supported by the Mental

Health and Psychosocial Support Program (MHPSSP), guided Rosmin through caregiving practices, hygiene, play therapy, and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), ensuring holistic care. A gradual improvement was noticed after a day-to-day close observation of vital signs, medication, care and 24/7 feeding.

Despite challenges, Showkat Ara's resilience shone through. After 20 days of unwavering effort, she emerged victorious, where her weight reached 5.41 kg with a weight gain of 860 grams and an increase of 9 mm MUAC. Her smiles returned, a source of immense joy for Rosmin and the child has been transferred to nearest OTP for treatment and follow up on weekly basis.

This case study underscores the power of a comprehensive approach. Showkat Ara's journey exemplifies the effectiveness of collaboration between the SC medical team, psychosocial support and integrated nutrition facility. Their dedication showcases the importance of addressing complex medical conditions within vulnerable populations, yielding positive outcomes.



## A GLITTERING SUCCESS STORY OF MD. RAIHAN

Md. Raihan (18 months) was a healthy boy since birth and lives in Camp-13 with his parents. From 6 months, he was getting services from BSFP components of Concern Supported Integrated Nutrition Facility. Suddenly he suffered from severe fever and diarrhea and his nutritional condition deteriorated drastically. After recovering from disease, his mother Halima noticed that the child became thinner and got puzzled and worried.

During regular screening at household level, the mother expressed her concerns to one of the volunteers. The volunteer identified the child as moderately malnourished and referred the child to the INF on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. After full anthropometric measurements and verification at INF, the child was unfortunately identified with SAM, (MUAC: 12.2cm, and Z-Score: <-3 SD) with no medical complications. The nurse enrolled the child and gave the mother an explanation of the program feeding protocol and childcare practices. The child's mother received additional support through IYCF counselling with the aim of improving the complementary feeding practices and also suggested to give more vitamin C rich fruits to boost up immunity for quick recovery. The assigned volunteer continuously followed up and monitored the child's progress. With the cumulative effort from Nutrition Facility and the child's mother, Raihan recovered on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023 as a well-nourished child. The mother expressed her gratitude to Concern Worldwide staff for their tremendous contribution to life-saving efforts for her child and was overjoyed to see her blossom like a rose once more.



## STORY OF HARESA BIBI: A SAM CHILD IN CAMP 22

Hasera Bibi, the courageous Rohingya child from Camp 22, faced her battle against severe acute malnutrition with the valuable support from Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) offered through INF. She is the first child of her family who have been living camp 22 since the influx of 2017. The mother was malnourished before her pregnancy, as a result the child was low birth weight and subsequently was malnourished. On 21 May 2023 the child was admitted in the Nutrition Programme, at the age of eight months with MUAC: 10.2 cm, weight: 4.8 kg, height: 62 cm, WHZ: <-3SD, No Edema and without any medical complication

During admission in OTP, the nurse checked for medical complications and took physical examination. Besides, she provided routine medications. Nurse gave Hasera Therapeutic Food according to her weight and advised her mother on the therapeutic food consumption and hygiene practices. Nurse reminded Hasera's mother to come after seven days for the next follow-up visit. Hasera was followed up regularly on weekly basis and her nutritional condition gradually improved and after 77 days on 6th August 2023, she reached the discharge criteria: MUAC: 12.6 cm, Weight: 6.5 kg, Height: 65.6 cm, WHZ: >-2 SD, no Oedema and no medical complications and her average weight gain was 4.58g/kg body weight/day.

The child was transferred to TSFP for two weeks straight for follow-up after being discharged from OTP. The child gradually improved with proper clinical assessment and counselling support on young/child feeding as well. The parents continued proper care and age-appropriate feeding of the child at home. Currently, she is enrolled in the BSFP programme. Parents are thankful to ESDO INF services for their continuous support at facility and home level.



# A SUCCESS STORY OVER MEDICAL DIFFICULTIES AND BREASTFEEDING OBSTACLES:

Eyasin (age 3 months) was referred by SHED camp 1W site 2-CMAMI corner to UNICEF supported ACF KMS-Stabilization Centre (SC) on March 1, 2023, with issues including lactation failure and upsetting scaly skin sores that had been bothering him for two months. His initial weight of 3.50 kg and height of 52.6 cm, which indicated a WFH Z score below -1, added to these difficult circumstances. His situation was clarified when a thorough diagnostic of “unable to breastfeed with medical complication” was quickly made.

Eyasin’s mother, who is 26 years old, revealed the heart-wrenching journey she undertook – attempting breastfeeding for a mere month after Eyasin’s birth and then resorting to infant formula feeding due to lactation constraints. Meanwhile, Eyasin’s family also grappled with long-standing generalized skin itching. Their struggles were profound, leading to futile attempts with local ointments in search of relief.



Through the administration of diluted F-100 based Supplementary Sucking technique (SST) and oral antibiotics, coupled with anti-scabies treatment, the tide began to turn. Nurses started multiple sessions with the mother and routine SST applied to enhance her breast milk production. Three days later, Eyasin began to put on weight as his mother could now breastfeed him more softly. The infant was transferred from the acute phase, where he was gaining the required weight solely through breastfeeding, to the recovery phase after 11 days.

Transitioning to the recovery phase, Eyasin’s remarkable progress was under scored by his flourishing on exclusive breastfeeding. As his weight surged, so did Laila Begum’s confidence in her maternal abilities. Her active participation in guidance sessions reflected her determination to embrace newfound knowledge for her child’s benefit. The pinnacle of their collaborative journey was reached when Eyasin was discharged on 15 March 2023, after 15 days since admission. His recovery was a testament to the fusion of stabilization setting, medical expertise, maternal tenacity, and holistic care.

As they departed the facility, Laila Begum’s gratitude was palpable. She articulated her profound appreciation for the provided services, her newfound confidence in nurturing Eyasin’s well-being, and her restored sense of self-confidence. Subsequent follow-up assessments highlighted Eyasin’s continued growth, marked by his engagement in the EPI vaccination program and his unwavering progress towards optimal health.

## 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
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 2016 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.