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ENDLINE SURVEY FOR
EMERGENCY FOOD
SECURITY PROJECT
(EFSP) HOST
COMMUNITIES

WORLD VISION

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Prepared by:
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The logo for World Vision, featuring the text "World Vision" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized orange triangle with a white star inside, set against a blue background that tapers to the right.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANC	Antenatal Care
BDT	Bangladesh Taka
CD	Cooking Demonstrations
CFW	Cash For Work
CIC	Camp In Charge
EFSP	Emergency Food Security Program
EOPS	End Of Project Status
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBF	Grameen Bikash Foundation
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HH	Household
HHS	Household Hunger Score
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IYCF	Infant Young Child Feeding
KII	Key Informant Interview
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NC	Nutrition Counselling
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODK	Open Data Kit
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheets
PNC	Postnatal Care
PPS	Probability Proportional Sample to Size
RCSI	Reduced Coping Strategies Index
TANGO	Technical Assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene
WV	World Vision

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1. Executive Summary

Purpose. TANGO completed the baseline evaluation for the EFSP project in December 2019 and an endline evaluation on the impact of refugee targeted activities in December 2020.¹ The purpose of this endline is to evaluate the impact, efficacy, and achievements of the host community interventions in relation to the overall program goals, objectives, results, and targets.

Methodology. The EFSP endline evaluation of host community interventions only collected data in project-supported host communities in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh. Data collection was facilitated through a mixed-methods assessment which included quantitative household surveys and qualitative interviews. The endline survey sample included 680 host community households participating in EFSP project activities. Endline data collection included 661 completed survey responses for a total non-response rate of 2.8%. Qualitative data collection included 20 key informant interviews (KIIs) and 20 focus group discussions (FGDs) which included a total of 216 host community members and key informants. The mixed method approach was designed based on the project activities and outcome indicators outlined in the EFSP Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

Achievements Against Targets. The EFSP project exceeded all 10 key project indicator targets for host community households. Overall, participants report increased food security and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods, more income sources, strengthened awareness and promotion of key nutrition messages, reduced use of negative coping strategies, and improved refugee-host community relations.

Table 1: Key Indicator Endline Results Against End of Project Targets

Indicator	Baseline 2019	Endline 2021	Sig	EOPS	Status
Purpose 1: Increased consumption of diverse and quality foods that meet the nutritional requirements of vulnerable households in Refugee Camps and Host Communities.					
<i>EFSP 2.</i> Percentage of households with:					Exceeded
Poor (0-21) Food Consumption Score (FCS)	0.9%	0.0%	*	<0.9%	
Percentage with Borderline (>21 to 35) FCS	26.1%	0.9%	***	<19.1%	
Percentage with Adequate (>35) FCS	72.9%	99.1%	***	>80%	
Intermediate Outcome 1.1: Improved access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods for 34,112 refugee HHs and 5,229 host community HHs directly impacted by the refugee influx.					
<i>EFSP4.</i> Prevalence of households with moderate or severe Household Hunger Scale (HHS) score	10.8%	1.2%	***	<7.8%	Exceeded
Percent with above average food groups	47.6%	62.9%	***	>50%	Exceeded
Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Enhanced Refugee and Host Community HHs' capacities to sustainably access to nutritious and diversified food.					
Percentage of HHs who have more than two sources of income as a result of project intervention	14.5%	95.7%	***	>50%	Exceeded

¹ Note: The refugee activities were implemented over a 12-month period. The host community activities were implemented over a 24-month period. This is why the refugee activity endline evaluation was completed in 2020.

Percentage of households engaged in income generating activities	22.2%	99.4%	***	>70%	Exceeded
Output 1.2.3: Refugee and Host Community women and men are sensitized on nutrition and health and mobilized to promote the utilization of nutritious food for children and for women of child bearing age.					
Percentage of <u>targeted participants</u> with children U5 who can name 3 key nutrition messages (IYCF, NC, CD)	<i>n/a</i>	80.7%		>75%	Exceeded
Percentage of <u>participants</u> who can name 3 (at least 3) key nutrition messages (based on the knowledge of 7 MCHN practices)	54.4%	99.4%	***	>75%	Exceeded
Percentage of <u>targeted participants</u> in the health and nutrition component with children U5 who have received key nutrition messages for:					Exceeded
Infant Young Child Feeding	10.9%	91.2%	***	>75%	
Nutrition counseling	17.8%	91.2%	***		
Cooking demonstration	8.1%	82.0%	***		
Purpose 2: Capacity of Refugees and Host Communities to withstand future shocks enhanced.					
EFSP3. Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) % HHs above the mean	55.1%	16.3%	***	<38.5%	Exceeded
Intermediate Outcome 2.3: Social cohesion reinforced between host community and refugee HHs.					
Percentage of individuals expressing improved relations between refugee and host community	<i>n/a</i>	98.2%	<i>n/a</i>	>38.5%	Exceeded

*** $p < .001$, ** $p < .05$, * $p < .01$

Conclusions. EFSP host community households report substantial improvement in their food security from baseline. Nearly all (99.1%) respondents report adequate food consumption scores and 98.8% of host community households at endline report little or no hunger. Household dietary diversity also improved. The percentage of households reporting consumption of more than eight food groups increased from 3.8% at baseline to 35.1% at endline.

All nutrition indicators show considerable improvement since baseline. Project participants with children under the age of five (U5) report a large increase in the reception of key nutrition messages on Infant Youth Child Feeding (IYCF), nutrition counselling (NC), and cooking demonstrations (CD). The proportion of targeted participants with children U5 who report reception of three key nutrition messages has increased by at least 70 percentage points for each message from baseline to endline.

Host community households have more diverse livelihoods as a result of EFSP activities. The mean number of income sources that contribute to overall household income nearly tripled from 1.55 at baseline to 4.2 at endline. The percentage of households with more than two income sources increased from 14.5% at baseline to 95.7% at endline. Field interviews show that project interventions for goat rearing, chicken rearing, vegetable production, vendor selling, and unconditional cash transfers and Cash for Work have all contributed to increased household income. Male Engagement interventions are leading to changes in the mindset of male participants, and more men are now taking part in domestic activities (spending time with children, home cooking, and washing clothes), and increased acceptance that women can engage IGAs and not be limited to engagement in domestic household activities.

The successful continuation of project activities despite COVID-19 related challenges is observed in the endline survey data, which shows that only 3.1% of host community members reported reduced support from the government or NGOs in response to COVID-19. The primary reported coping mechanisms in response to COVID-19 in the last 12 months were receiving food or assistance from an NGO (81.6%), selling livestock (70.5%), using money from savings (68.7%), and slaughtering livestock (53.3%). At baseline, 44.6% of host community households scored above the mean reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) score, compared to 16.3% at endline. This indicates that host community households are utilizing fewer negative food-related coping strategies than they were at baseline. Despite challenges associated with the onset of COVID-19, the EFSP project achieved impressive results in targeted host communities by endline.

1. Introduction

A. Background on EFSP

The objective of the World Vision Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) is to improve food security and nutrition among vulnerable refugee and host community members in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh. EFSP is a two-year (2019-2021) emergency food assistance project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The EFSP interventions take place over 24 months, which includes 2 months of start-up and 1 month of closing out. All EFSP interventions are designed to address the short-term food security crisis and medium-term livelihood recovery needs of 34,112 Rohingya refugees and 5,229 host community households throughout the Cox Bazar district.²

The EFSP is designed around two primary purposes to improve food security and nutritional status of refugees and host community members:

Purpose 1. Improved access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods for 34,112 refugee households, while also addressing the short-term food security needs and strengthening the medium-term livelihoods recovery of 5,229 of the most vulnerable host community households directly impacted by the refugee influx.

- **Intermediate outcome 1.1:** Improved access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods for 34,112 refugee HHs and 5,229 host community households directly impacted by the refugee influx.
- **Intermediate outcome 1.2:** Enhanced Refugee and Host Community households' capacities to sustainably access nutritious and diversified food.

Purpose 2. Capacity of Refugees and Host Communities to withstand future shocks enhanced.

- **Intermediate outcome 2.1:** Community assets and infrastructure restored in Host communities through cash for work.
- **Intermediate outcome 2.2:** Community savings groups strengthened.
- **Intermediate outcome 2.3:** Social cohesion reinforced between host community and refugee households.

EFSP interventions for host communities include Cash for Work (CFW), conditional food vouchers and unconditional cash transfers. These interventions targeted 5,229 host community households.³

B. Objectives of Endline Evaluation

TANGO completed the baseline evaluation for the EFSP project in December 2019, and an endline evaluation on the impact of refugee targeted activities in December 2020. The purpose of this endline is to evaluate the impact, efficacy, and achievements of the host community interventions in relation to the overall program goals, objectives, results, and targets. As such, this endline evaluation only includes data collected within host

² World Vision, Inc. (2019). *Application for Emergency Food Assistance: Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) to Refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh*. World Vision, Inc.

³ World Vision, Inc. (2019). *Application for Emergency Food Assistance: Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) to Refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh*. World Vision, Inc.

communities. In line with the thematic areas covered at baseline level, the endline evaluation focused on the following criterion and related questions:

Achievements: to what extent have the activity’s interventions adhered to planned implementation - schedules, participant targeting, resource transfer composition and quantities, inputs and service delivery, and outputs - and achieved intended goals, purposes, and outcomes?

Effectiveness and efficiency of interventions and intervention implementation: to what extent did the activity consider gender equity, protection, age, physical and emotional challenges of the participants, and risks to participation in various interventions in program design and implementation?

Unintended consequences and lessons learned: what changes — expected and unexpected, positive, and negative — did targeted participants, community members and other stakeholders associate with the activity’s interventions?

Linkages, layering, and exit strategies: to what extent did the Program take advantage of other USG and non-USG investments in the same space to facilitate linkages with complementary services, layering with earlier investments, and implementing an exit strategy/ies to minimize the dependency on external support?

2. Methodology

A. Sampling Strategy

The EFSP endline evaluation of host community interventions only collected data in project-supported host communities in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh. Data collection was facilitated through a mixed-methods assessment which included quantitative household surveys and qualitative interviews. Qualitative data collection included key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs), combined with semi-structured direct observation. The mixed method approach was designed based on the project activities and outcome indicators outlined in the EFSP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework (see Appendix A).

Quantitative Sample

The quantitative household survey sampling utilized a two-stage cluster design using a Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) procedure. The endline survey sample included 680 host community households participating in EFSP project activities. Endline data collection collected 661 completed survey responses for a total non-response rate of 2.8%.

Table 2: Quantitative Sampling Overview

	2019 Baseline		2021 Endline	
	Number	Percent Planned Total Sample	Number	Percent Planned Total Sample
Planned Total Sample	350	100%	680	100%
Response Cases	340	97.1%	661	97.2%
Non-Response Cases	10	2.9%	19	2.8%

The baseline sample was 350 households for the host community, whereas the endline sample for the same group was 680. Although the sample sizes are different between the two rounds, the 95% confidence intervals for all indicators were found to be similar for both baseline and endline samples. This implies that the variability of the indicators is similar in the two survey rounds. Therefore, the smaller sample size at baseline does not impact the statistical validity of results.

Qualitative Sample

Qualitative data was collected in 20 key informant interviews (KIIs) and 20 focus group discussions (FGDs). The interviews were distributed across the same Wards included in the household survey. Sampling for FGD participants focused on identifying members from ‘typical’ households to capture the case experience through these sessions. Table 3 and Table 4 illustrate the selected FGD and KII distribution across the five sampled unions (Ukhiya, Jalia Palong, Raja Palong, Palong Khali, Teknaf, Baharchhara, and Nhilla).

Table 3: Completed Focus Group Discussions

Level		Number of FGDs	Participants		
Union	Wards		Female	Male	Total
Palong khali	1, 4, 5, 7	4 FGD	25	9	34
Jalia palong	2, 5, 6, 7	4 FGD	28	11	39
Nhilla	4, 6, 7, 9	4 FGD	39	0	39
Raja palong	2, 5, 6, 9	4 FGD	32	4	36
Baharchhara	1, 3, 5, 7	4 FGD	46	2	48
Total		20	170	26	196

20 FGDs were completed with 196 host community members. KII respondents were identified by World Vision (WV) EFSP staff during the inception phase and include implementing staff, partners, and sector stakeholders. 20 KIIs were completed for this evaluation and included a variety of key informant types to ensure information could be appropriately triangulated across sources.

Table 4: Completed Key Informant Interviews

Union	Number of KIIs Completed	Informant Profile
Ukhiya	6 KII	PIO, Market Actor, Uz Engineer, Veterinary Field Assistant, SAAO, WV Official
Teknaf	7 KII	Fisheries Officer, UNO, Women Affairs, Market Actor, FWA, Community Leader, Up member
Ukhiya/Teknaf	1 KII	WV Official
Baharchhara	1 KII	Community leader
Jalia palong	2 KII	Health Service Provider, Union member (women)
Raja palong	1 KII	Community leader
Palong khali	2 KII	Up member, Community Leader
Total	20	

B. Data Management and Analysis

Data Collection and Entry

Quantitative data was collected by electronic data capture devices equipped with ODK (Open Data Kit) software. The use of mobile devices and an electronic questionnaire form improved data quality by allowing data validation rules and consistency checks to be integrated in the data collection process. Mobile devices reduced the data entry burden as data was entered immediately at the interviewer level and records were uploaded to a cloud server using the built-in internet connectivity of the devices. This allowed the quantitative data analysis team to review for consistency every day and ensure the data was ready for analysis as early as possible. The survey tools can be found in Annex 1. Qualitative data was captured via notes and entered into Excel matrices after interviews were completed. The qualitative topical outline is included in Annex 2, and the data entry matrices in Annex 4.

Data Quality Control

Quality control was assured through in-field supervision and real time data quality review. Quantitative (ODK uploads) and qualitative data (completed interview matrices) were submitted to TANGO at least every 2 days, depending on connectivity. Feedback was regularly provided to the field teams through WhatsApp and email to support real-time data quality assurance.

During data collection, the Grameen Bikash Foundation (GBF) Team Leader, Survey Coordinator and supervisors organized daily in-briefs and de-briefs with quantitative and qualitative survey teams. In-briefs incorporated feedback on data quality and team members' performance based on TANGO's review of uploaded data and interviewer logs. During debriefings, the Team Leader, team supervisors and the GBF Survey Coordinator reviewed specific questions and topics in completed tools for consistency, reliability, and accuracy. The GBF Survey Coordinator and team supervisors utilized additional data quality monitoring controls including re-interviewing a selected number of interviews and verification that non-response households were unavailable. GBF provided daily progress reports to TANGO via email, identifying challenges and how these were solved in line with the established baseline protocols. Regular calls were organized between GBF and TANGO, and between TANGO and World Vision to provide status updates.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using STATA 15.1. Data analysis syntaxes were programmed in STATA .do files. Qualitative data was analyzed through MS Excel templates.

The TANGO team utilized a strategy of triangulation by examining the issues through various lenses and different perspectives, including data collected through program document review, baseline survey, KIIs and FGDs. The endline report includes triangulated findings from both quantitative and qualitative data.

C. Team Training

TANGO implemented a four-day training for the quantitative survey team and a concurrent three-day training for the qualitative team. Participants received an orientation on general rules, normative survey and research

practices, description of sampling methodology, use of electronic devices and ODK software. Training also included an in-depth review of data collection tools. The training schedules can be found in Annex 0 (quantitative survey training) and Annex 0 (qualitative training).

D. Limitations

Limitations for this endline evaluation were successfully mitigated via close coordination between the evaluation team and World Vision.

- i. The physical access constraints due to COVID-19 related restrictions were successfully mitigated via flexible data collection start dates and World Vision organizations of local clearance permissions to ensure successful data collection completion.
- ii. The baseline evaluation did not collect Savings for Transformation (S4T) data for host community members. Thus, data on the extent to which host community members are involved in S4T activities can not be measured over time.

3. Findings

This section is organized around the endline evaluation objectives and includes subsections on project achievements against output and outcome indicator targets, the effectiveness of program implementation, coping strategies and the impact of COVID-19.

A. Project Achievements Against Targets

The EFSP project exceeded all 10 project output indicator targets for host community households. Overall, the direction of change is positive across all indicators and participants report increased food security and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods, more income sources, strengthened awareness and promotion of key nutrition messages, reduced use of negative coping strategies, and improved refugee-host community relations. Table 5 presented below shows main project indicator values at baseline and endline, disaggregated sub-indicators, and project performance against End of Project Status (EOPS) values. Project indicators reported as “exceeded” denote that the point value estimates at endline have surpassed the EOPS target.

Table 5: Key indicator values from 2019 baseline to 2021 endline

Indicator	Baseline 2019	Endline 2021	Sig	EOPS	Status
Purpose 1: Increased consumption of diverse and quality foods that meet the nutritional requirements of vulnerable households in Refugee Camps and Host Communities.					
<i>EFSP 2.</i> Percentage of households with:					
Poor (0-21) Food Consumption Score (FCS)	0.9%	0.0%	*	<0.9%	Exceeded
Percentage with Borderline (>21 to 35) FCS	26.1%	0.9%	***	<19.1%	
Percentage with Adequate (>35) FCS	72.9%	99.1%	***	>80%	
Intermediate Outcome 1.1: Improved access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods for 34,112 refugee HHs and 5,229 host community HHs directly impacted by the refugee influx.					

EFSP4. Prevalence of households with moderate or severe Household Hunger Scale (HHS) score	10.8%	1.2%	***	<7.8%	Exceeded
Percentage of HHs with above-average food groups	47.6%	62.9%	***	>50%	Exceeded
Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Enhanced Refugee and Host Community HHs' capacities to sustainably access to nutritious and diversified food.					
Percentage of HHs who have more than two sources of income as a result of project intervention	14.5%	95.7%	***	>50%	Exceeded
Percentage of households engaged in income generating activities	22.2%	99.4%	***	>70%	Exceeded
Output 1.2.3: Refugee and Host Community women and men are sensitized on nutrition and health and mobilized to promote the utilization of nutritious food for children and for women of child bearing age.					
Percentage of <u>targeted participants</u> with children U5 who can name 3 key nutrition messages (IYCF, NC, CD):					
All	6.7% ⁴	51.1%	***		Exceeded
Participant	n/a	80.7%		>75%	
Percentage of participants who can name 3 (at least 3) key nutrition messages (based on the knowledge of 7 MCHN practices)	54.4%	99.4%	***	>75%	Exceeded
Percentage of <u>targeted participants</u> in the health and nutrition component with children U5 who have received key nutrition messages for:					
Infant Young Child Feeding	10.9%	91.2%	***		Exceeded
Nutrition counseling	17.8%	91.2%	***	>75%	
Cooking demonstration	8.1%	82.0%	***		
Purpose 2: Capacity of Refugees and Host Communities to withstand future shocks enhanced.					
EFSP3. Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) % HHs above the mean	55.1%	16.3%	***	<38.5%	Exceeded
Intermediate Outcome 2.3: Social cohesion reinforced between host community and refugee HHs.					
Percentage of individuals expressing improved relations between refugee and host community	n/a	98.2%	n/a	>38.5%	Exceeded

*** $p < .001$, ** $p < .05$, * $p < .01$

EOPS targets were originally set prior to the baseline evaluation, then revised in December 2019 in alignment with recommendations from the baseline evaluation.⁵⁶ Evidence of the logic or basis for which targets were updated to specific levels is not documented at endline. For example, the target for “EFSP 2. % of households with poor Food Consumption Score (FCS)” was already met at baseline: The host community percentage of households with poor FCS result at baseline was 0.9%, and the target is 0.9% EOPS. The target for host community households with adequate FCS scores was not updated after baseline, although the baseline result for host communities was reported at 72.9%, and the EOPS target for host community members remains at 80%. This target was recommended to be revised in the baseline report. An example of positive targeting adjustment after baseline is

⁴ Project participants were not yet determined at baseline

⁵ TANGO International Ltd. (2019-2020). *Baseline Survey for Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) to Refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh*. Commissioned by World Vision.

⁶ World Vision, Inc. (2019). *Application for Emergency Food Assistance: Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) to Refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh*. World Vision, Inc. 72DFFP19GR00058 Revised December 23, 2019

the indicator for “% of households with above average food groups”. This indicator was revised after baseline from an original EOPS target of 80%, to 50% based on recommendations that the original target was too ambitious to be achieved in the short project timeframe. At endline, this target has been achieved based on the revised target.

Aside from the Intermediate Outcome 2.3 indicator for host community-refugee relations (which was not existent at baseline) and the percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) results, “exceeded” statuses across indicator results are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. The column “SIG” represents the statistical significance of indicator values presented at 90.0% (*), 95.0% (**), or 99.0% (***) confidence levels.

B. Program Targeting

EFSP project activities targeted 5,229 host community households, including 26,145 individuals. Villages adjacent to refugee camps were prioritized for host community targeting. As such, target households were selected within Ukhiya and Teknaf and the five selected unions were Jalia Palong, Raja Palong, Palong Khali, Baharchhara and Nhila. The general and intervention-specific groups targeted by EFSP are outlined in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Targeting Guidelines for EFSP Interventions⁷

Intervention Strategies	Targeted Participants
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households with children under 5 (U5) Households with pregnant or lactating women (PLW) Households headed by a female Households with female adolescents Households headed by a child Households with a chronically ill or disabled members
Cash for Work (CFW):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable households (headed by either gender) with health members able to participate in work activities Households with a single source of income netting under the minimum income rate Households with a chronically ill member Households with a disabled member Households with children under 5 CFW activities intentionally encouraged female participation and leadership in certain activities.
Unconditional Cash Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households without a healthy member to participate in CFW (but meets all other CFW selection criteria) Pregnant head of household Households with disabled, elderly or chronically ill adult Child headed household “Landless” households (living in a space at or less than 809.2m²) Households with single income with income irregularities Households with income irregularities Households with permanent residents residing in the same village for at least one year

⁷ World Vision, Inc. (2019). *Application for Emergency Food Assistance: Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) to Refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh*. World Vision, Inc. 72DFFP19GR00058 Revised December 23, 2019

Income Generating Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 5,229 host community households IGAs were designed to integrate household and refugee markets to foster increased social cohesion and reduce economic stress on vulnerable households.
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150 Lead Mothers selected from the 5,229 community households Programming targeted the most influential women in each project participant household. Program design defines “influential” as the member most involved in household food purchases, cooking and consumption of nutritious foods.
Savings for Transformation (S4T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S4T participants were self-selected. Each group elected a chairperson, secretary, treasurer and two money-counters for each committee from the larger host community.

The EFSP Interventions were designed to address and target the vulnerabilities and populations listed above.⁸ To identify appropriate target groups, World Vision conducted a rapid market assessment in Ukhiya and Teknaf in April 2019 to analyze essential factors contributing to household poverty, gender dynamics, nutrition, food security, child protection disaster risk reduction and social protection mapping. This assessment was appropriately utilized by project staff to appropriately target host community participants for specific project activities as outlined in Table 6. Internal Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) reports show that a majority of targeted participants actively engaged in all respective interventions throughout all periods of programming.⁹ Overall, consistent levels of participation and achievement of all program targets suggest that targeting was effective.

C. Effectiveness

This section assesses effectiveness of EFSP project interventions and implementation from baseline to date. Section organization is according to key project themes.

Improved Food Security

EFSP host community households report substantial improvement in their food security from baseline. Participant food security is measured using three main output indicators, namely Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), and Household Hunger Score (HHS). All food security indicators (Table 7) show positive results, as households report increased food consumption, improved dietary diversity, and decreased moderate or severe hunger since baseline.

⁸ World Vision, Inc. (2019). *Application for Emergency Food Assistance: Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) to Refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh*. World Vision, Inc.

⁹ USAID. (2020). *Post Distribution Monitoring Report for Unconditional Cash, Vegetable Seeds, and Gardening Tools in host Communities*. World Vision Inc.; USAID. (2021). *Conditional and Unconditional Cash Transfer, Multipurpose Cash Grants to Support Income Generating Activities, Seed and Home Gardening Tools Distribution in Host Communities*. USAID.; USAID. (2021). *Post Distribution Monitoring Report for Unconditional Cash Transfer in Host Communities*. USAID.

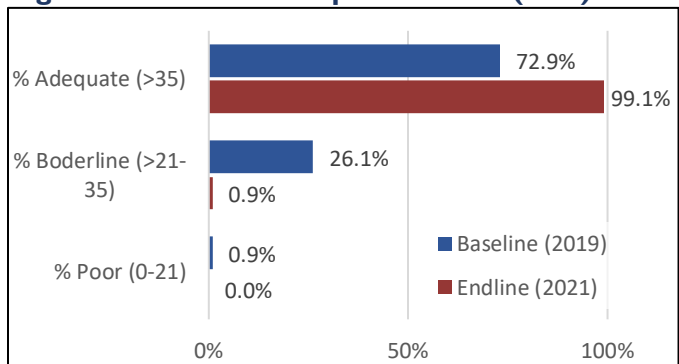
Table 7: Improved Food Security Indicator Values

Indicator		Baseline 2019	Endline 2021	Sig ¹⁰
1.%Of households with poor, borderline, and adequate Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Average Score (FCS)	41.8	63	***
	% Poor (0-21)	0.9%	0.0%	*
	% Borderline (>21 to 35)	26.1%	0.9%	***
	% Adequate (>35)	72.9%	99.1%	***
2.Prevalence of households with moderate or severe Household Hunger Scale (HHS) score.	Average Score (HHS)	0.44	0.04	***
	% No/little hunger	89.2%	98.8%	***
	% moderate/severe hunger	10.8%	1.2%	***
3.%Of households with improved dietary diversity score (HDDS)	Average Score (HDDS)	5.4	8.0	***
	% with >8 food groups	3.8%	35.1%	***
	% with >average food groups	47.6%	62.9%	***
n		340	661	

*** p<.001, ** p<.05, * p<.01

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency, and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups. To collect FCS data, a questionnaire asks respondents about the frequency of their households' consumption of nine food groups over the previous seven days. To calculate the FCS, consumption frequencies are summed and multiplied by the standardized food group weight, and households are then classified into three groups based on their weighted scores - poor, borderline, or acceptable using

Figure 1: Food Consumption Scores (FCS)



the World Food Program's recommended cutoff points.¹¹ The percentage of households who report poor and borderline Food Consumption Scores has decreased since baseline, and nearly all (99.1%) respondents report adequate food consumption scores. Less than one percent (0.9%) of households at endline report a borderline FCS score, which is a significant reduction from 26.1% of households with borderline FCS scores at baseline (see Figure 1).

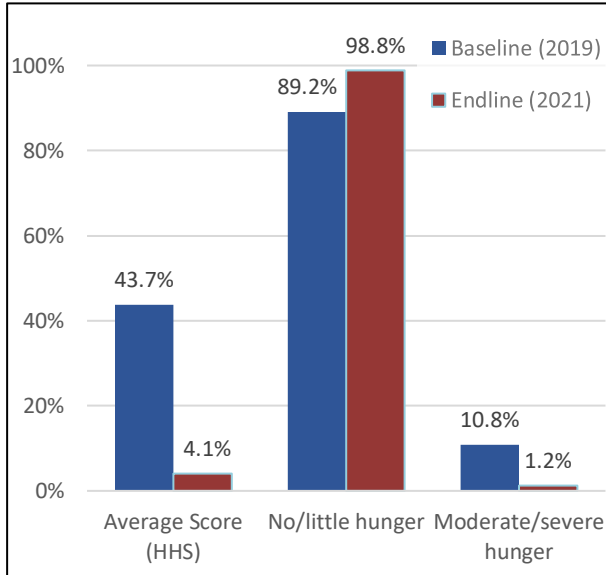
Borderline Food Consumption scores are reported by 2.1% of adult female no adult male (FNM) households, 0.8% of male and female adult (M&F) households, and 0.0% of adult male no adult female (MNF) households (see Table 13 in Appendix B). In focus group discussion (FGD) interviews conducted for this evaluation, EFSP participants report that they have been able to successfully sell their home gardening products (interviews include references to vegetables, eggs, chickens and in more rare cases ducks and/or fruits) for additional income, and that they have been able to rely on their home gardening production for household consumption as needed. Examples households provided for when they had to rely on household production included: in the rainy season/vegetables are out of season so market prices are higher, increased market prices due to COVID-19 disruptions, and COVID-19 related restrictions limiting paid employment opportunities, and thus limiting household income. Interviews

¹⁰ Statistical significance baseline to endline

¹¹ USAID Food for Peace. February 2019. Indicators for Emergency Program Performance Indicator Reference Sheets. P. 7.

with EFSP participants. This qualitative data indicates that adoption of EFSP home gardening and duck and chicken rearing activities is increasing participant consumption levels and reducing reliance on volatile market prices of food.

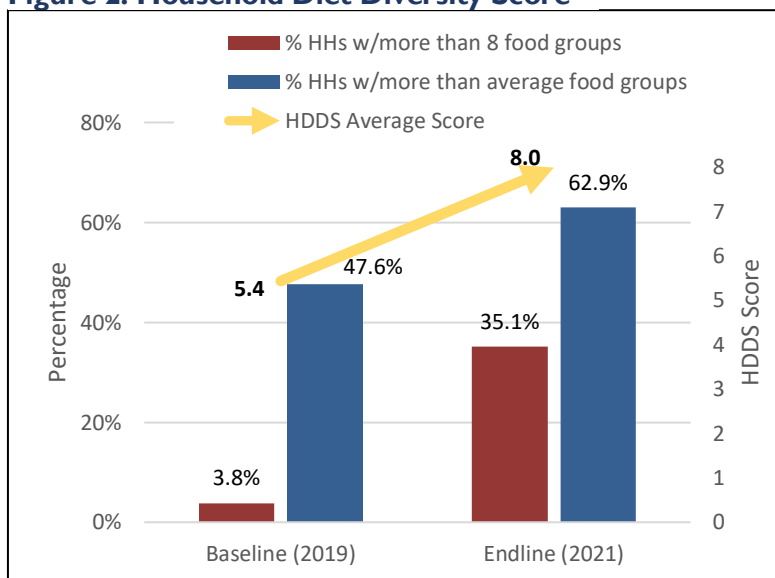
Figure 3: Household Hunger Score (HHS)



The Household Hunger Scale (HHS) is a food deprivation scale that measures the percent of households experiencing hunger. To collect data for this indicator, the person in the household in charge of food preparation is asked about the frequency with which three events were experienced by any household member in the last four weeks: 1. No food at all in the house 2. Went to bed hungry 3. Went all day and night without eating. Baseline and endline Household Hunger Score values are in. HHS data shows that households experiencing moderate and severe hunger decreased from 10.8% at baseline to 1.2% of households at endline, which achieves the EOPS target of 7.8% reporting moderate and severe hunger. Reduced moderate or severe hunger is inverse to the increased proportion of households who report little or no hunger from baseline (89.2%) to endline (98.8%) (see Figure 2). Field interviews found that EFSP

participating households assert that they are experiencing fewer instances of needing to reduce the number of meals their household is eating as a result of their participation in EFSP activities. Specific activities cited as the most impactful in this regard include: the provision of agricultural inputs for home gardening, chicken and duck rearing, Cash for Work and unconditional cash grants, which increases participant purchasing power at market. Participants also report that food distributions from the Government of Bangladesh and other NGOs have reduced household hunger.

Figure 2: Household Diet Diversity Score



The Household Diet Diversity Score (HDDS) is meant to provide an indication of household economic access to food, thus items that require household resources to obtain (such as condiments, sugar and sugary foods, and beverages) are included in the score. Individual scores are meant to reflect the nutritional quality of the diet. HDDS includes an aggregation of 12 total food groups, including: cereals; white tubers and roots; vegetables; fruits; meat; eggs; fish and other seafood; legumes; nuts and seeds; milk and

milk products; oils and fats; sweets, spices, condiments and beverages.¹²

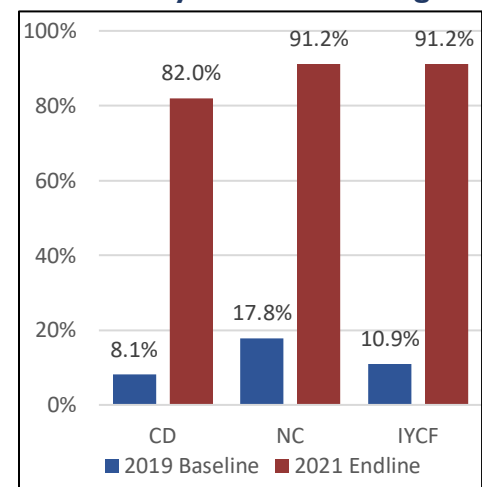
HDDS data collected and displayed in Figure 3 indicate participating households have improved dietary diversity since baseline. The average Household Dietary Diversity Score of households increased from 5.4 at baseline to 8.0 at endline. The percentage of households with more than eight food groups increased from 3.8% at baseline to 35.1% at endline. Similarly, the proportion of respondents that have more than the average number of food groups increased by 15.3 percentage points from baseline (47.6%) to endline (62.9%). FGD interviews with EFSP participants reported that households have started increasing the number of different foods into their diets as a result of things they've learned about nutrition through EFSP activities. Mothers Group meetings were widely cited in FGDs as a critical mechanism through which participants gained information on nutrition and diet. Qualitative data indicates that EFSP nutritional sessions and Mothers Group meetings, which instruct on the importance of dietary diversity and cooking demonstrations for pregnant and lactating women and women with young children, have resulted in higher awareness of diet diversity attributes and importance. In KIIs and FGDs, project participants report that households are now seeking better dietary diversity through consumption of vegetables, dairy, fruits, fish, and meat, as well as other nutritious foods.

Nutrition

All nutrition indicators show considerable improvement since baseline (See Figure 4). Project participants with children under the age of five (U5) report a large increase in the reception of key nutrition messages on Infant Youth Child Feeding (IYCF), nutrition counselling (NC), and cooking demonstrations (CD). Of project participants surveyed, 9 out of 10 report reception of nutrition counselling and IYCF messaging, and 8 out of 10 report reception of cooking demonstration messaging. The proportion of targeted participants with children U5 who report reception of three key nutrition messages has increased by at least 70 percentage points for each message from baseline to endline.

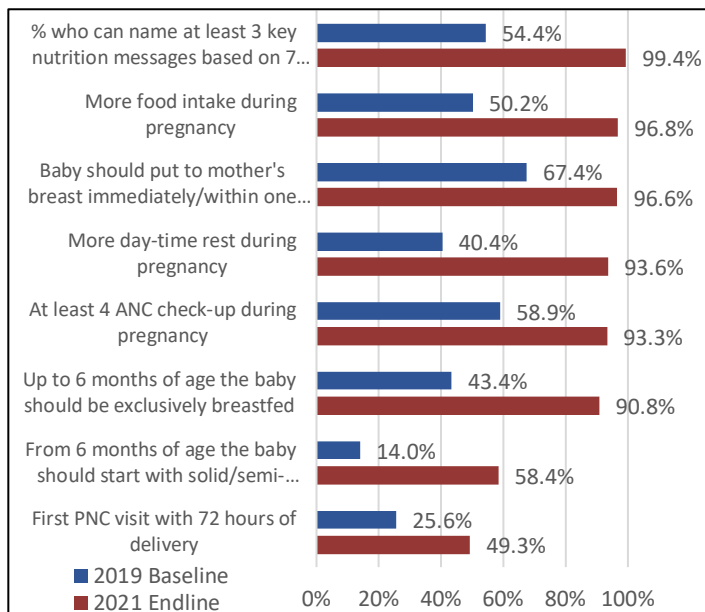
The proportion of targeted participants with children U5 who can name all three key nutrition messages increased from 6.7% at baseline to 80.7% at endline, exceeding the indicator target of 75.0%. This contrasts with 5.9% of non-participants with children U5 who could name three key nutrition messages at endline (see Table 8). Qualitative data from FGDs with participants and KIIs with implementers indicate that EFSP nutrition trainings are reaching targeted participants, and participants value the information. Participants report in FGDs that EFSP nutrition trainings have increased their knowledge about nutritious foods for youth and pregnant women, and provide healthy cooking demonstrations, nutrition counselling, and infant and young child feeding lessons to participants.

Figure 4: Percentage of participants with children U5 who received key nutrition messages



¹² There are no established cut-off points in terms of number of food groups to indicate adequate or inadequate dietary diversity for the HDDS. Because of this it is recommended to use the mean score or distribution of scores for analytical purposes and to set program targets or goals.

Figure 5: Percentage of women with children U2 who can name at least 3 MCHN nutrition messages



Of participants with children under the age of 5 and women of childbearing age, nearly all (99.4%) report they can name at least three key maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) messages, which is an increase from half (54.4%) of participants at baseline. The proportion of participants who understand that pregnant women need more day-time rest increased by 53.2 percentage points from 40.4% at baseline to 93.6% at endline. The percentage of women who report knowing infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months and should start consuming semi-solid and solid food after six months of age increased by 47.4 and 44.4 percentage points, respectively.

Interviews with project participants in FGDs at endline found that recognition of MCHN messages is attributed to participation in Mothers Groups, which have increased participants awareness about

appropriate nutrition for Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), infants and young children, and build practical skills by teaching participants to cook nutritious meals such as *hotchpotch* (a mutton meat stew with mixed vegetables). Multiple FGDs report that the Lead Mother – or the group leader – informs project participants about breastfeeding, nutritious cooking, antenatal and postnatal care, food diversity, and hygiene practices, and monitors and refers women to community health centers and hospitals. Participants report in FGDs that Mothers Groups are reliable and a trusted source of nutrition knowledge for PLW and mothers with children U5. However, interview data suggests that men are less exposed to the teachings of Mothers Groups, and report to have little or no knowledge of key project nutrition messages. Additional data on participant recognition of other key nutrition messages relating to MCHN knowledge is presented in Table 8.

Over 98.0% of all project participants report that nutritious food is important at endline. Women of childbearing age who report nutritious food to be important increased from 58.5% at baseline to 98.8% at endline, whereas the proportion of women with children under 5 (U5) who perceive nutritious food to be important increased from 63.0% to 99.4% between baseline and endline. FGDs conducted at endline show that participants report that their perceived importance of nutrition has increased, which FGD participants report is resulting in PLW, women of childbearing age, and women with children U5 to seek Ante-Natal Care, Post-Natal Care, rest more during pregnancy, consume more nutrient rich and diverse foods, adhere to learned breastfeeding practices, and consume iron and calcium supplements. In FGDs, participants report EFSP trainings and gardening activities, the efforts of Mothers Groups, and government workshops brought attention and understanding to the essential role that nutrition provides in achieving health and wellbeing.

Table 8: Project Nutrition Output Indicators

Indicators		Respondent	Baseline 2019	Endline 2021	Sig ¹³
<i>Participants with Children Under 2 (U2)</i>					
7. %Of participants who have received key nutrition messages on Infant Youth Child Feeding, Nutrition Counselling, or Cooking Demonstrations	A) Infant Youth Child Feeding	All	10.9%	68.4%	***
		<i>Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>91.2%</i>	
		<i>Non-Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>33.7%</i>	
	B) Nutrition counselling	All	17.8%	66.9%	***
		<i>Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>91.2%</i>	
		<i>Non-Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>29.8%</i>	
	C) Cooking demonstration	All	8.1%	51.9%	***
		<i>Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>82.0%</i>	
		<i>Non-Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	
<i>Participant with Children Under 5 (U5) and Women of Childbearing Age</i>					
8.1 %Of targeted participants who can name three key nutrition messages (IYCF, NC, CD)		All	6.7%	51.1%	***
		<i>Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>80.7%</i>	
		<i>Non-Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	
8.2 %Of participants who can name at least 3 key nutrition messages (based on the knowledge of 7 MCHN practices)		All	54.4%	99.4%	***
A) At least 4 ANC check-up during pregnancy		All	58.9%	93.3%	***
B) First PNC visit with 72 hours of delivery		All	25.6%	49.3%	***
		<i>Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>50.5%</i>	<i>n/a</i>
		<i>Non-Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>47.2%</i>	<i>n/a</i>
C) More food intake during pregnancy		All	50.2%	96.8%	***
D) More day-time rest during pregnancy		All	40.4%	93.6%	***
E) Baby should put to mother's breast immediately/within one hour after delivery		All	67.4%	96.6%	***
F) Up to 6 months of age the baby should be breastfed		All	43.4%	90.8%	***
G) From 6 months of age the baby should start with solid/semi-solid food		All	14.0%	58.4%	***
		<i>Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>57.8%</i>	<i>n/a</i>
		<i>Non-Participant</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>59.3%</i>	<i>n/a</i>
9. %Of participants who feel it is important to source/ utilize nutritious food, specifically for women of childbearing age:					
	A) Women childbearing age	All	58.5%	98.8%	***
	B) Children U5	All	63.%	99.4%	***
	C) Women or children or both	All	70.6%	99.7%	***

¹³ Statistical significance baseline to endline

Income

The number of household income sources has increased for participant households since baseline. The average (mean) number of income sources that contribute to overall household income shown in Figure 6 nearly tripled from 1.55 at baseline to 4.2 at endline. The percentage of households who report having more than two sources of income because of EFSP interventions is 95.7%: an increase from 14.5% of households reporting the same at baseline (and exceeding the EOP target of >50%). FGDs with participants report that this increase is due to uptake of EFSP income generating activities (IGA). EFSP participants report in FGDs that unconditional cash transfers and Cash for Work activities are also contributing to increased household income.

Figure 6: Livelihood diversification and number of average household income sources

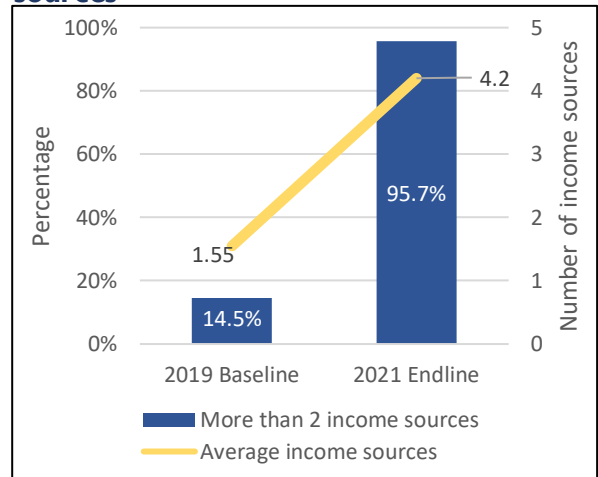
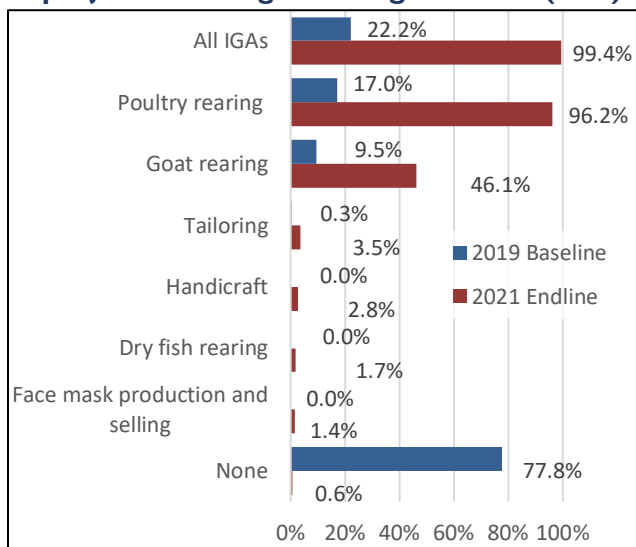


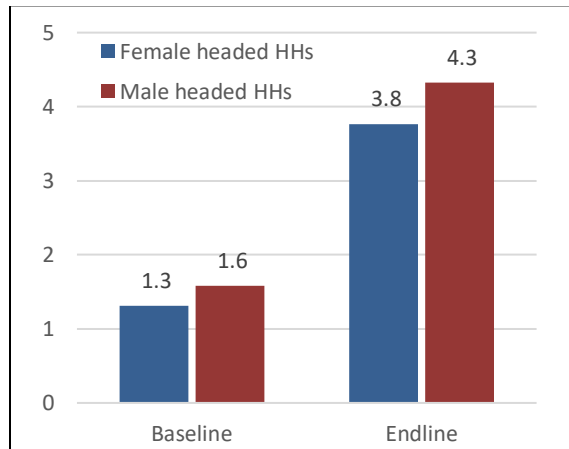
Figure 7: Percentage of participants engaged in project income generating activities (IGA)



Virtually all EFSP project participants (99.4%) report engagement in at least one project Income Generating Activity (IGA) at endline, an increase from 22.2% at baseline and exceeding the EOP target of >70% (Figure 7). The most reported IGA adopted by participants at endline is poultry rearing (96.2%), followed by goat rearing (46.1%), tailoring (3.5%) and dry fish rearing (1.7%). FGDs and KIIs with project participants corroborate these findings and report that poultry and goat rearing IGAs are lucrative, and selling poultry and goats help participants purchase housing for livestock and cows for rearing.

Survey respondents report that a higher proportion of household members are generating income at endline. Survey data shows that the percentage of household members who do not work decreased from 16.9% at baseline to 6.9% at endline. An increased percentage of household members primary occupations are own farming, own livestock production, agricultural wage labor, non-agricultural wage labor, self-employment (informal trader/vendor, own business, bricklayer, tailor), and salaried, permanent wage labor (ag/non-ag). Households who report housewife and domestic work as a primary occupation of household members also decreased from 27.6% at baseline to 24.9% at endline.

Figure 8: Average number of income sources for male and female headed HHs



The average number of income sources for male and female headed households increased since baseline (Figure 8). Female headed households report to have an average of 3.8 income sources per household, an increase from an average of 1.3 income sources at baseline. Male headed households increased their number of income sources from an average of 1.6 sources at baseline to 4.3 sources at endline. The percentage of female headed households who report to have more than two income sources increased from 6.3% at baseline to 89.0% at endline. The percentage of male headed households with more than two income sources increased from 12.6% at baseline to 96.6% at endline. Both groups exceeded the EOP target of >50% of households that have more than two sources of income.

The increase in female engagement in income generating activities is reflected in the qualitative data: FGDs with men and women report that EFSP activities that specifically focused on men, covering the topics of gender-based violence, sharing domestic responsibilities among men and women, and promoting female independence, had a positive impact. FGDs with participants in Male Engagement interventions report that participation in these activities have helped men reduce restrictions imposed on women in their households, which is opening new opportunities for women to generate income. FGDs and KIIs with project participants reported that more women now (as compared to baseline/in the past) engage in home vegetable production, goat and poultry rearing (selling products at market without the presence of a man) and in some cases, employment with NGOs.

Table 9: Participation in Savings for Transformation

Savings for Transformation	Baseline 2019	Endline 2021	Sig
F1. Who is in the household decides what to purchase with the cash?			
Wife	<i>n/a</i>	10.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Husband	<i>n/a</i>	2.7%	<i>n/a</i>
Both husband and wife	<i>n/a</i>	83.9%	<i>n/a</i>
Other family member (specify)	<i>n/a</i>	3.2%	<i>n/a</i>
F2. What percentage of participants are involved in “Savings for Transformation (S4T)” activities of the WV EFSP project?	<i>n/a</i>	97.9%	<i>n/a</i>
F3. If yes, how do you use /what is your plan to utilize your savings from this activity (S4T)?			
Income Generation	<i>n/a</i>	93.7%	<i>n/a</i>
Education	<i>n/a</i>	37.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Food Production	<i>n/a</i>	67.3%	<i>n/a</i>
For emergency need	<i>n/a</i>	57.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Others (specify)	<i>n/a</i>	1.1%	<i>n/a</i>

The baseline did not collect Savings for Transformation (S4T) data. At endline, 97.9% of reporting participants are involved with Savings for Transformation (S4T) activities led by the EFSP project. Data collected at endline show that 83.9% of households report both husband and wife are responsible for making household purchasing

decisions. Participants report the topmost use of S4T savings is for income generation (93.7% of respondents), food production (67.3% of respondents), emergency need (57.2% of respondents), and education (37.2% of respondents) (see Table 9). FGDs with EFSP participants report that S4T groups use savings to provide loans to members for payment of school/education fees, vegetable cultivation costs and emergencies. Interviews with S4T participants show that if a loan is taken from the S4T group for an emergency, that person does not have to pay interest. Interviews (FGDs) with participants show that the majority of S4T groups interviewed believe that they will continue savings activities even after program closure, and report that they have set goals within the group(s) to continue saving until they are able to open a formal bank account. These groups report that the long-term plans include savings goals in order to invest in longer-term livelihood activities, including the purchase or lease of land, purchase of cows and goats to develop rearing farms, establishing poultry farms, investment in fishing/fish production and investment in betel nut businesses.

D. Coping Strategies and Impact of COVID-19

When livelihoods are negatively affected by a shock or stress, households may adopt various mechanisms to cope with reduced food access. The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is a proxy indicator of household food insecurity that is based on a list of five food-related coping strategies utilized in the seven days prior to a survey. The index reflects both the frequency of each behavior (i.e., how many times the coping strategy was used by any member of the household) and severity (i.e., how serious the strategy). There is no universal guideline for rCSI scores and therefore the metric is most successful at illustrating general trends on whether household food security status is improving or decreasing over time.

Table 10: Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

	BASELINE 2019	ENDLINE 2021	Sig.
Mean rCSI Score	6.8	1.0	***
% of HHs above the mean rCSI score	44.6% ¹⁴	16.3%	***
%of HHs with reduced coping strategies at least once in the past 7 days			
Limit/reduce portion size at mealtimes	79.9%	5.5%	***
Reduce number of meals eaten per day	56.5%	2.0%	***
Borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives	91.5%	12.7%	***
Rely on less expensive or less preferred foods	93.5%	12.3%	***
Reduce adult consumption so children can eat	66.7%	3.1%	***

*** $p < .001$, ** $p < .05$, * $p < .01$

¹⁴ Note in the baseline report this was reported as 55.1% of households above the mean rCSI score, however, through this endline analysis a mistake was identified, and the correct value is 44.6%, which is reported throughout this report.

At baseline, the mean rCSI score within the host community was 6.8, which decreased to 1.0 at endline. At baseline, 44.6% of host community households scored above the mean rCSI score, compared to 16.3% at endline, exceeding the EOPs target of <38.5% of households above the mean. This indicates that since baseline, host community households are utilizing fewer negative food-related coping strategies at endline.

Over the course of EFSP interventions, internal documentation and interviews with program staff and participants suggest that the most significant shock affecting the rCSI scores was the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Post Distribution Monitoring Reports from early 2020 show that many host community households felt food insecure and were more likely to resort to negative coping strategies. Host community members report in FGDs that food security was a particular issue in 2020, because market access was more limited due to market closures and mobility restrictions, making it more difficult to consistently access fresh foods and a variety of foods. FGDs with participants report that they do not have to rely on as many or as severe coping strategies than they had in the past, reportedly due to support from EFSP and other NGOs. For example, in response to COVID-19, EFSP provided unconditional grants to program participants to provide additional financial support. Survey data support this, showing that the primary reported coping mechanisms in response to COVID-19 in the last 12 months were receiving food or assistance from an NGO (81.6%), selling livestock (70.5%), using money from savings (68.7%), and slaughtering livestock (53.3%) (see Figure 10).

Figure 9: Mean score on the reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

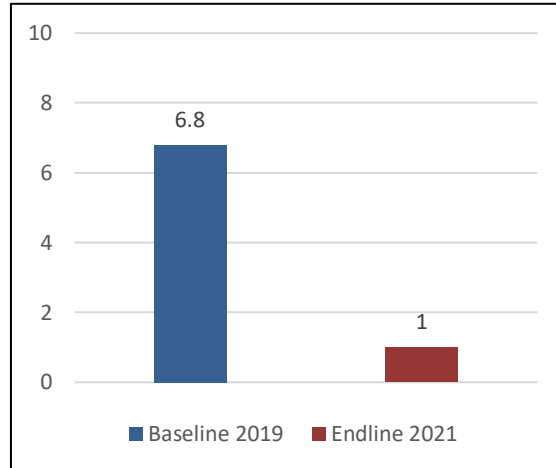
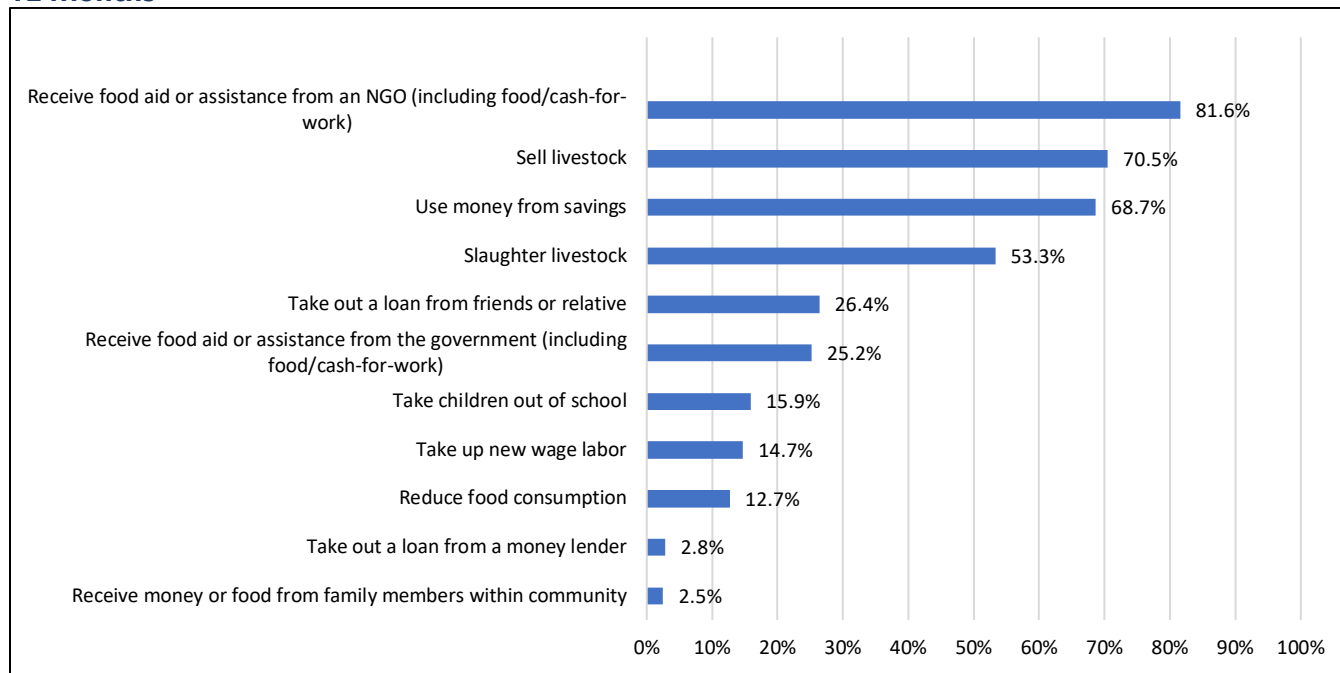


Figure 10: Percentage of households with coping strategies for the impacts of COVID-19 in the past 12 months



In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) implemented movement restrictions, gathering restrictions and closures of public spaces, including schools and private offices. These procedures included the closures of World Vision offices to all but essential operations. In person interventions could not take place and cash distribution practices were disrupted by the closures of banks and the increasingly limited availability of cash distribution agents (CDA).¹⁵ The second wave of lockdown, June 6-11, 2020 declared Cox's Bazar a 'red zone' resulting in additional movement restrictions, closure of shops, banks, and most services five days a week. Communities saw rising cases of gender-based violence (GBV), increased social stigma and policing of women, as well as detriments to economic and livelihood activity.¹⁶

Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic, EFSP was able to adapt and continue to provide assistance to host community members. Operationally, EFSP staff were able to access online training resources and collectively completed 148 modules from WHO, GoB, and recommended WV e-Campus on COVID-19 prevention and programming impacts.¹⁷ Further, continued coordination with local governments, the food security sector, the United Nations, and other NGO actors enabled EFSP to develop risk matrices and contingency plans to minimize impacts and continue to serve the most vulnerable participants.¹⁸ By late March 2020, EFSP had conducted a team risk assessment to ensure flexibility in program design.

Interviews with project staff and participants indicate that EFSP was able to continue modified versions of most planned activities including: Any group meetings or trainings that required long hours or multiple days were modified to ensure smaller groups, messaging was condensed and prioritized into multiple sessions, and venues were adapted to ensure that proper handwashing facilities and social distance could always be maintained. Any activities that could be adapted to remote implementation modalities were continued. Interviews with project staff indicate that due to the strong presence of locally based lead mothers and lead farmers, in-person meetings were able to continue because these points of contact were available within the host communities throughout this period, even when EFSP staff were unable to travel into the sites directly. The successful continuation of project activities despite COVID-19 related challenges is observed in the endline survey data, which shows that only 3.1% of host community members reported reduced support from the government or NGOs in response to COVID-19 (see Figure 12).

An abbreviated timeline of COVID-19 response in the Cox's Bazar region during the EFSP is shown in Figure 11.^{19,20,21}

¹⁵ USAID. (2020). *Emergency Food Security Program in Bangladesh: Fiscal Year 2020 Q2 Report*. USAID.

¹⁶ USAID. (2020). *Emergency Food Security Program in Bangladesh: Fiscal Year 2020 Q3 Report*. USAID.

¹⁷ USAID. (2020). *Emergency Food Security Program in Bangladesh: Fiscal Year 2020 Q2 Report*. USAID.

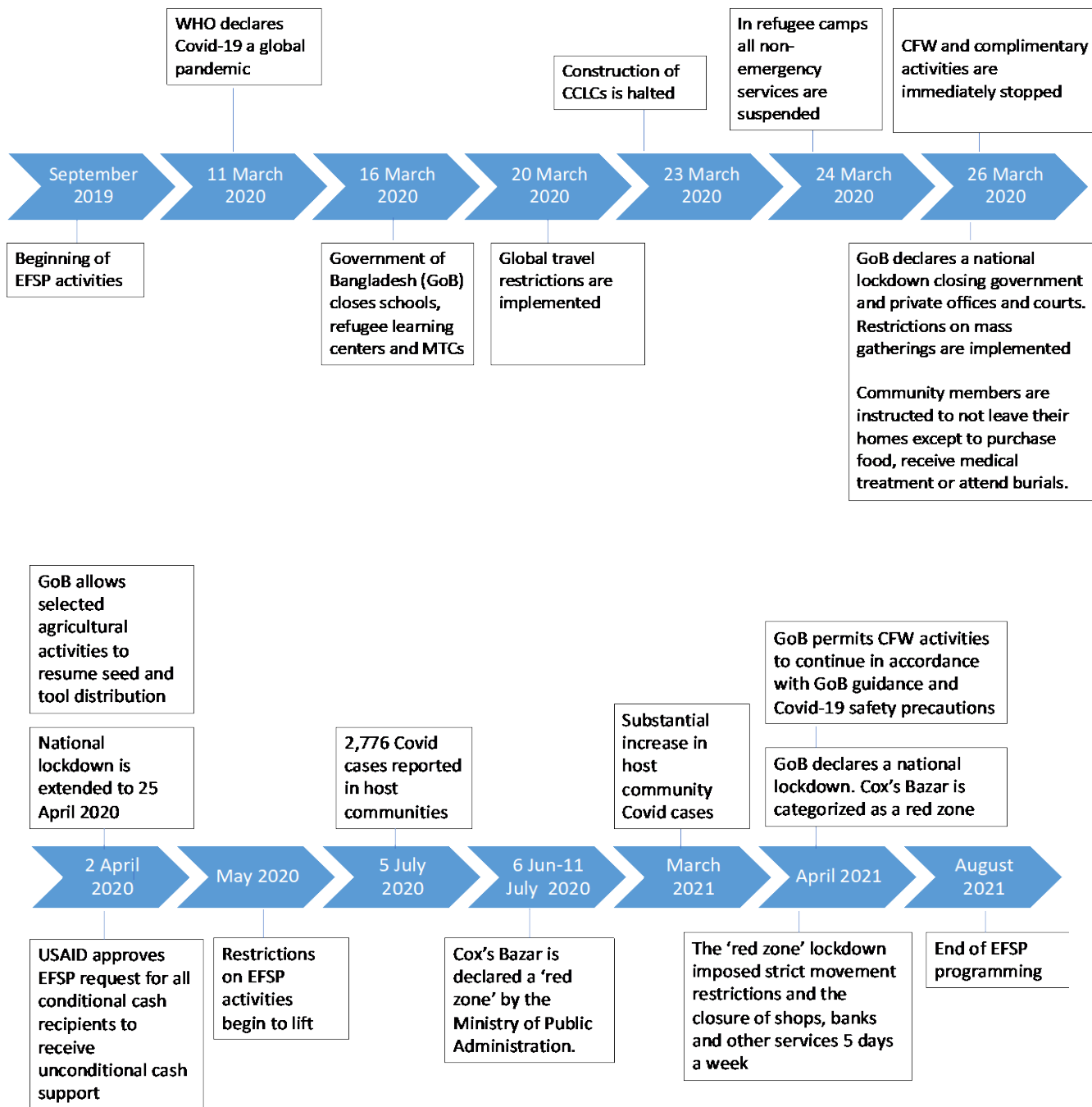
¹⁸ USAID. (2020). *Emergency Food Security Program in Bangladesh: Fiscal Year 2020 Q2 Report*. USAID.

¹⁹ USAID. (2021). *Fiscal Year 2021 Q2 Report*. USAID.

²⁰ USAID. (2021). *Fiscal Year 2020 Q2 Report*. USAID.

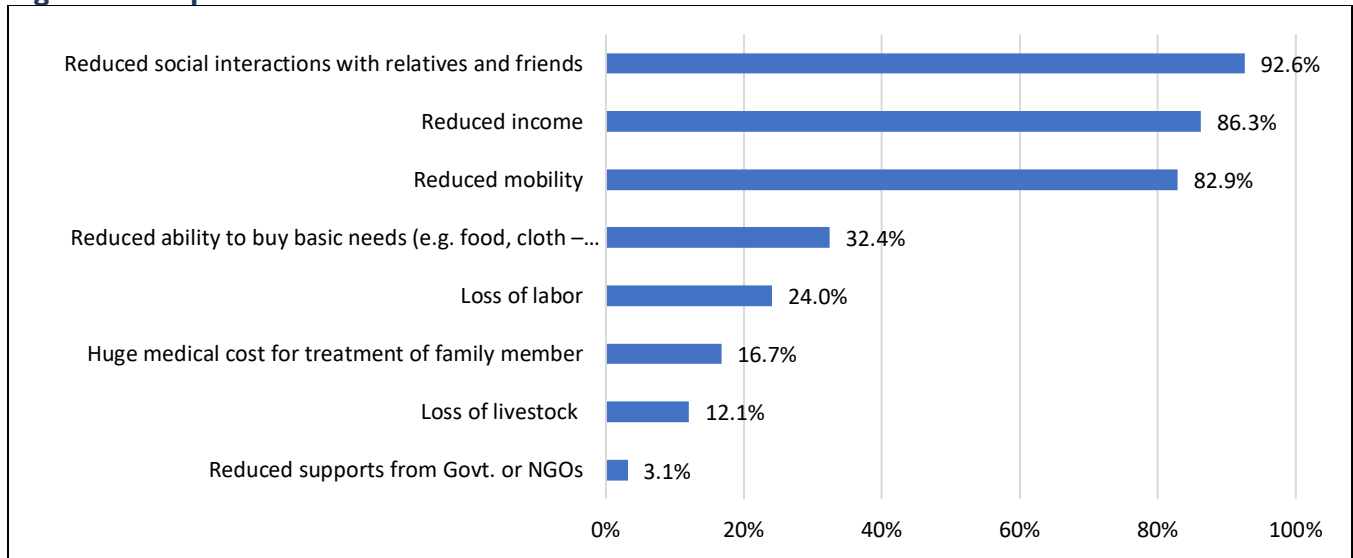
²¹ USAID. (2020). *Fiscal Year 2020 Q3 Report*. USAID.

Figure 11: COVID-19 Cox's Bazar Timeline



At endline, 97.8% of host community members reported impacts due to COVID-19 on their household (see Table 15 in Appendix B). The primary impacts of COVID-19 on households were reduced interactions with friends and family (92.6%), reduced income (86.3%), reduced mobility (82.9%). Less than half of host community respondents reported reduced ability to purchase basic goods (32.4%), loss of labor (24.0%), or huge medical cost for treatment of family member(s) (16.7%) (see Figure 12).

Figure 12: Impacts of COVID-19 on Households



4. Factors Affecting Results

This section reports on factors affecting results, strengths and good practices, challenges, and lessons learned for the EFSP project. Specifically focused on interventions that appear to be influential to outcomes, lessons learned regarding program design and implementation, and factors that promoted or inhibited adherence to plans and targets.

A. Strengths and Good Practices

The main strengths and identified good practices that ensures continuation of interventions and progress toward targets are program layering and activity integration, mother’s groups, mobile cash transfers, gender-sensitive programming, collaborative partnerships for implementation and sustainability, and adaptive management in response to COVID-19.

I. Program Layering and Activity Integration

The EFSP program layers food security, nutrition, and livelihood activities, which results in an integrated intervention approach for host community participants. EFSP livelihood development through income-generating activities (IGAs) increases the number of household income sources and provides households with more financial capacity, which, in conjunction with program nutrition trainings, contributes to program food security and nutrition goals. IGAs such as household livestock rearing and agriculture production increase participants’ ability to achieve targets for food consumption, dietary diversity and nutrition.

II. Mothers Groups

Efforts led by Mothers Groups are increasing participants’ understanding and implementation of nutrition, food, and MCHN practices. The Lead Mother visits female project participants to assess household relations

and provide services for nutrition practices, ANC and PNC, hygiene instructions, and provides pregnant women with health service referrals, sometimes accompanying mothers to health facilities. Mothers Groups are locally driven and trusted within the community, which has helped extend the reach and penetration of nutrition and health teachings for youth and PLW. The ability of Lead Mothers to write referrals to community and Upazila health centers renders Mother Groups as a facilitator between project participants and health services.

Lead Mothers are respected community agents who build awareness, instruct on good practices, and link women in the community to needed health services. Project staff and host community participants report Mothers Groups to be highly effective due to communities' existent trust and recognition of Lead Mothers, as well as the ability of Lead Mothers to reinforce program messaging and behaviors through both formal and informal manners.

III. Mobile Cash Transfers

Mobile cash transfers are more accessible and efficient than physical distributions. Implementation of mobile-to-mobile unconditional cash transfers are more accessible and efficient than physical distributions, which are prone to logistical and COVID-related barriers. Interviews with staff and participants found these to be preferred over other methods of money disbursement and a strength of program implementation. Mobile to mobile cash transfers proved to be a highly effective method of implementation and is a lesson learned to be continued as a prioritized modality in future programming.

Cash transfers supplied by EFSP, NGOs, and the Government of Bangladesh effectively mitigate impacts to livelihoods, food security, and nutrition by supplementing household income. Unconditional cash transfers were a lifeline during rainy season flooding and mudslides, which ruined agriculture production used for food security, nutrition, and selling livelihoods. Cash for Work opportunities supported participants with additional income generating opportunities to circumvent impacts to agriculture livelihoods. Intentional design of Cash for Work activities that develop participant skills (e.g., construction, tailoring) can bring about new livelihood opportunities to project participants, and layered activities that further develop these skills through skill pathways can help sustain new livelihoods. However, clear linkages to new livelihood options utilizing the newly developed skills are needed.

IV. Gender-Sensitive Programming

For gender and social inclusion activities focused on mitigating gender-based violence (GBV) and increasing awareness of gender-based issues, EFSP worked with community leaders including imams, Upazila Nirbahee Officer (UNOs), UP chairman, Upazila Women Affairs Officer, UP members and other stakeholders. Program inclusion of local individuals as volunteers, facilitators, and in other positions helped programming better navigate challenges around language, culture, and religion. Volunteers and facilitators from EFSP project sites enabled the program to tap into local networks, amplify the effectiveness of reach, and strengthen engagement of participants in project activities. By investing in local linkages with individuals who community members already trusted, EFSP successfully implemented gender targeted activities.

Multiple interviews with project staff and host community participants show that male engagement through “husband and wife groups” helped catalyze male behavior change that resulted in less gender-based violence, more sharing of domestic responsibilities, diminished restrictions on women, and increased participation of women in joint decision making for household expenses.. Participants also report these groups to catalyze men to help with domestic work such as watching the children or home cooking, as well as empowering women to act with more independence and engage in income generating activities.

V. Collaborative Partnerships for Implementation and Sustainability

The multiple partnerships and collaborations of EFSP with other actors in Ukhiya and Teknaf reflects a thirty-year history of working in these Upazilas. Through ongoing working meetings via the cluster system EFSP engages with organizations including BRAC, ACF, Oxfam, Save the Children, INGO Forum Steering Committee members, LINGOs, RIC, BGS, and the World Fish’s BANA project to ensure teams benefit from real time learning, and collaborate for joint programming when appropriate.

The project also maintains working collaborative relationships with relevant government bodies to determine feasible targets, map potential administrative barriers, and identify partnerships. The project has involved the Government of Bangladesh in the project process since the project’s inception, when government approval of the project was required for programming to commence. Since then, the project has worked with Departments for Agriculture Extension, Livestock, Livelihoods, and Business Development, among others. Efforts to establish and maintain good relations with involved government bodies benefits the program through avoidance of administrative barriers, potential to collaborate and utilize government resources, build capacity of local government workers and officers, and establish a foundation for sustainability after the project’s end. Continued partnerships and collaboration between the EFSP project and the Government of Bangladesh is reported in interviews with project staff to increase EFSP program impact and help maintain smooth operations. Specifically, project staff report that coordination with government bodies supported successful implementation of Cash for Work (CFW) activities, homestead gardening, livestock rearing, and medical referrals, and helped the project to unlock and utilize government resources and develop capacity of local government personnel.

The EFSP project is actively working with relevant government institutions to ensure project activities and achievements are sustained after the EFSP lifecycle concludes. Interviews with project staff indicate that a series of workshops are underway in which continuation of project activities are explicitly addressed across the project partners with the goal/expectation that the majority of this will be undertaken by the government. Staff report that coordination with relevant government actors is ongoing to ensure an efficient and effective handover of EFSP activities.

VI. Adaptive Management and COVID Response

In response to the onset of COVID-19 and related government restrictions, EFSP staff successfully adapted programming to be implemented remotely as much as possible. Activities that required in-person training or large groups were modified to align with COVID-19 guidelines which allowed for the continuation of the majority of activities throughout the lockdown period and ongoing COVID-related restrictions. This efficient adaptive management was a significant strength of the program, particularly because of the short

implementation timeframe (24 months), the efficient and effective response was a crucial factor that enabled the continuation of project activities and thus achievement of outlined objectives and end of project targets. Internal reports and KIIs with staff find that utilization of existing lead mothers and lead farmers, who were already focal points within the communities, to continue implementation of in-person activities was highly successful and a lesson learned for future programming adaptations and planning.

B. Challenges

The main factors that presented challenges to interventions or progress toward targets are climate and extreme weather events, scope limitations and relations between host communities and refugees.

I. Climate and Extreme Weather

Climate change and extreme weather events impact household agriculture, interrupt project activities, and affect infrastructure such as sewage systems and roads. Severe storms and floods damage household crop production, which diminishes household food security and dietary diversity and increases market prices from reduced supply. Rains, floods, and mudslides are weakening and destroying roads that reduces host community households' access to schools, health centers, and markets. Flash floods from severe rains amplify health and hygiene risks due to static pools of water that include garbage and contents from latrine overflow.

II. Scope Limitations

The EFSP project scope does not include response actions/activities to address some challenges that may hinder progress toward project targets, specifically climate and environmental factors that impact agriculture and livestock rearing activities and community infrastructure challenges that impact hygiene and sanitation. According to key informant interviews conducted with staff, flooding and mudslides are recurrent in host communities during the rainy season and disrupt participant food security, nutrition, hygiene, and engagement in IGAs such as growing and selling agriculture. Project personnel report the EFSP scope allows staff to visit and report on host community households impacted by natural hazards but is not designed to prepare host communities for future threats.

Multiple participants report inconsistent hygiene practices due to poor camp sewage systems that overflow into neighboring host communities, and a continued lack and inconsistency of available clean drinking water is requiring some participants to cope by relying on water from distant sources. While the program has maintained strong focus on cleanliness within the home, participants assert the program should include emphasis on hygiene and sanitation outside of the home, which is not included in the current program scope.

III. Relations Between Host Communities and Camps

Though the relations between refugees and participants have reportedly improved, challenges remain. Host community demand for cheap labor is bringing in refugee laborers who work for less money, which is negatively impacting wages and availability of work for host community laborers. The influx of refugees resettled near host community households has decreased available land for participants to use for income generating activities. Some FGD interviews with host community participants report an overall perception

that refugees are involved in illegal activity, such as stealing livestock. Host community individuals report fewer areas are safe to enter, which is reducing participant access to areas for firewood collection. The majority of FGDs indicate that the perception of host community members has improved, multi-kilometer distances between refugee camps and participants communities eliminates opportunities for host community individuals and refugees to interact and strengthen relationships.

5. Conclusions

The EFSP project exceeded all 10 key project indicator targets for host community activities. Overall, participants report increased food security and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods, participation in a higher number of income sources, strengthened awareness and utilization of key nutrition messages, reduced usage of negative coping strategies, and improved refugee-host community relations.

EFSP host community households report substantial improvement in their food security since baseline. Food security is measured using three main output indicators, namely Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), and Household Hunger Score (HHS). Nearly all (99.1%) respondents report adequate food consumption scores. Households experiencing moderate and severe hunger decreased from 10.8% at baseline to 1.2% of households at endline, and 98.8% of host community households at endline report little or no hunger. Household dietary diversity also improved. The percentage of households reporting consumption of more than eight food groups increased from 3.8% at baseline to 35.1% at endline.

All nutrition indicators show considerable improvement since baseline. Project participants with children under the age of five (U5) report a large increase in the reception of key nutrition messages on Infant Youth Child Feeding (IYCF), nutrition counselling (NC), and cooking demonstrations (CD). Of project participants surveyed, 9 out of 10 report reception of nutrition counselling and IYCF messaging, and 8 out of 10 report reception of cooking demonstration messaging. The proportion of targeted participants with children U5 who report reception of three key nutrition messages has increased by at least 70 percentage points for each message from baseline to endline.

Host community households have more diverse livelihoods as a result of EFSP activities. The mean number of income sources that contribute to overall household income nearly tripled from 1.55 at baseline to 4.2 at endline. The percentage of households who report having more than two sources of income because of EFSP interventions is 95.7%, marking an increase from 14.5% of households at baseline. Field interviews show that project interventions for goat rearing, chicken rearing, vegetable production, vendor selling, and unconditional cash transfers and Cash for Work have all contributed to increased household income. The most reported IGA adopted by participants at endline is poultry rearing (96.2%), followed by goat rearing (46.1%), tailoring (3.5%) and dry fish rearing (1.7%).

Male Engagement interventions are leading to changes in the mindset of male participants, and more men are now taking part in domestic activities (spending time with children, home cooking, and washing clothes), and increased acceptance that women can engage IGAs and not be limited to engagement in domestic household activities. 83.9% of households at endline report both husband and wife are responsible for making household purchasing decisions.

Over the course of EFSP interventions, the data suggests that the most significant shock affecting host community members was the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Within March 2020 EFSP had conducted a team risk assessment, and any activities that could be adapted to remote implementation modalities were continued. Interviews with project staff and participants indicate that EFSP was able to continue modified versions of most planned activities. The successful continuation of project activities despite COVID-19 related challenges is observed in the endline survey data, which shows that only 3.1% of host community members reported reduced support from the government or NGOs in response to COVID-19. The primary reported coping mechanisms in response to COVID-19 in the last 12 months was receiving food or assistance from an NGO (81.6%). Reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) score results indicate that host community households are utilizing fewer negative coping strategies than they were at baseline. Despite challenges associated with the onset of COVID-19, the EFSP project achieved impressive results in targeted host communities by endline.

6. Recommendations

The following section highlights the key recommendations for the EFSP project from the endline evaluation.

- I. To address the identified challenges of climate change, extreme weather events and scope limitations it is recommended that moving forward program log frames should increase consideration of climate change and extreme weather event impacts into interventions and program design. For example, the rainy season brings severe disruptions to popular Income Generating Activities such as poultry and goat rearing, agriculture production, and selling crops. Planning activities around or planning project activities to mitigate these impacts is recommended.
- II. To address the identified risk that without explicit clear linkages participants can use to leverage their new skills to new livelihood or employment opportunities the observed positive results will not sustain, it is recommended that IGA and cash for work activities in future programming prioritize skilled activities training and incorporate linkages for employment after program closure. For example, participants trained in construction work through project activities could be linked to other NGO, government, or private company construction projects through project activities to ensure the skills obtained through the project can continue to generate income for targeted households. This could be incorporated into the 15-year development projects World Vision is working on. Creation of explicit linkages to employment options is recommended.
- III. To address the ongoing challenge of relations between host communities and refugees, it is recommended that opportunities for host and refugee households to participate in the same project activities at the same time is included in future program design to increase direct linkages between the two groups. Although the relationship is reportedly improving, increased opportunities for direct collaboration is recommended. The goal of this joint participation should be relationship building and knowledge sharing to provide instances of positive interactions between the two groups.

7. Appendix

A. EFSP Project Indicators

Purpose 1: Increased consumption of diverse and quality foods that meet the nutritional requirements of vulnerable households in Refugee Camps and Host Communities
EFSP 2. % of households with poor, borderline, and adequate Food Consumption Score (FCS)
Intermediate Outcome 1.1: Improved access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods for 34,112 refugee HHs and 5,229 host community HHs directly impacted by the refugee influx.
EFSP4. Prevalence of households with moderate or severe Household Hunger Scale (HHS) score. % of households with improved dietary diversity score (HDDS)
Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Enhanced Refugee and Host Community HHs' capacities to sustainably access to nutritious and diversified food
% of HHs who have more than two sources of income as a result of project intervention % of households engaged in income generating activities disaggregated by gendered HH type and by type of activities
Purpose 2: Capacity of Refugees and Host Communities to withstand future shocks enhanced
EFSP3. Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

Table 11: Activity Areas and Indicators measured at Participant Level

Improved food security and nutrition
Food Consumption Score (FCS)
Household Hunger Scale (HHS)
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)
% of women who volunteer as lead mothers to promote positive nutrition practices in their communities
% of participants who have received key nutrition messages
% participants that can name 3 key nutrition messages
Improved livelihoods

% of HHs who have more than two sources of income as a result of project intervention

% of households engaged in income generating activities

Enhanced resilience

Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

B. Additional Tables

Table 12: Sample Size Detailed Information

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	ALL				Stat. Sig. (BL to EL)	HOUSEHOLD HEAD SEX							
	BASELINE 2019		ENDLINE 2021			FNM (Adult Female no Adult Male)		FEMALE HEADED			MALE HEADED		
	#	%	#	%		Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Sig.	Baseline	Endline	Sig.
A. SAMPLE AND RESPONSES													
Sample Size	350		680										
Response cases	340	97.1%	661	97.2%		24	52	47	92		293	569	
Non-response cases	10	2.9%	19	2.8%									
B. SAMPLE EFSP PARTICIPANT PROFILE													
B1. Sex of the participant													
Male	222	65.3%	400	60.5%	0.345			4.2%	8.6%	0.161	75.3%	68.8%	0.176
Female	118	34.7%	261	39.5%	0.345			95.8%	91.4%	0.161	24.7%	31.2%	0.176
B2. Age of the participant													
Mean	41.1		43.2		0.070	38.2	42.8	43.4	43.7	0.920	40.7	43.1	0.075
Median	40.0		40.0										
Minimum	17.0		20.0										
Maximum	90.0		90.0										
C. PRIME RESPONDENT'S PROFILE													
C1. Who were the prime respondents?													
EFSP Project participants	248	72.9%	412	62.3%									
Household Head	37	10.9%	17	2.6%									
Spouse	45	13.2%	195	29.5%									
Son/daughter	7	2.1%	19	2.9%									
Other household member	3	0.9%	18	2.7%									
C2. Sex of the prime respondents													
Male	193	56.8%	185	28.0%									
Female	147	43.2%	476	72.0%									
C3. Age of the prime respondents													

Mean	39.8		38.7						
Median	39.0		35.0						
Minimum	16.0		16.0						
Maximum	90.0		88.0						

Table 13: Detailed Food Security Indicator Results

INDICATOR	ALL (HOST COMMUNITY)							GENDERED HOUSEHOLD TYPE									
	BASELINE 2019			ENDLINE 2021			Stat. Sig. (BL to EL)	FNM (Adult Female no Adult Male)		MNF** (Adult Male no Adult Female)		M&F (Male and Female Adults)			CNA** (Child, no adult)		
	Value	95% CI	DEF	Value	95% CI	DEF		Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Sig.	Baseline	Endline	
1 . % of households with poor, borderline, and adequate Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Average Score (FCS)																
		(40.4, 43.1)	1.194	63	(61.8, 64.9)	1.326	0.000	41.2	61.3	42.0	55.5	41.8	63.6	0.000	-	-	
	% Poor (0-21)	0.9%		0.0%			0.065	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.065	-	-	
	% Boderline (>21 to 35)	26.1%	(17.8, 34.5)	1.745	0.9%	(0.3, 1.6)	0.847	0.000	20.4%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	26.7%	0.8%	0.000	-	-
	% Adequate (>35)	72.9%	(64.2, 81.6)	1.801	99.1%	(98.4, 99.7)	0.847	0.000	79.6%	97.9%	100.0%	100.0%	72.3%	99.2%	0.000	-	-
	<i>n (unweighted)</i>	340		661				24	52	2	7	314	601			1	
2 . Prevalence of households with moderate or severe Household Hunger Scale (HHS) score.	Average Score (HHS)																
	% No/little hunger	89.2%	(83.7, 94.6)	1.607	98.8%	(97.9, 99.8)	1.098	0.000	83.2%	98.1%	100.0%	100.0%	89.5%	98.9%	0.000	-	-
	% moderate/severe hunger	10.8%	(5.4, 16.3)	1.607	1.2%	(0.2, 2.1)	1.098	0.000	16.8%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	10.5%	1.1%	0.000	-	-
	<i>n (unweighted)</i>	340		661				24	52	2	7	314	601			1	
3 . % of households with improved groups	Average Score (HDDS)																
	% with >8 food groups	3.8%	(2.0, 5.6)	0.856	35.1%	(30.4, 39.8)	1.239	0.000	4.9	7.7	7.5	7.3	5.5	8.0	0.000	-	-

dietary diversity score (HDDS)	% with >average food groups	47.6%	(41.3, 53.8)	1.151	62.9%	(58.5, 67.3)	1.149	0.001	33.7%	59.9%	100.0%	56.6%	48.3%	63.4%	0.002	-	-
<i>n</i> (unweighted)		340			661				24	52	2	7	314	601			1

Table 14: Infant and Young Feeding Practices Indicator Values

Indicator	Baseline 2019	Endline 2021	Sig.
A. %of children 0-23 months ever breastfed			
Male	97.7%	100.0%	0.299
Female	97.2%	98.5%	0.702
All	97.5%	99.2%	0.362
B. %of children 0-23 months with immediate/early initiation (within 1 hour of birth) of breastmilk	81.5%	91.1%	0.007
C. %of children 0-23 months were given colostrum after the birth	94.7%	97.8%	0.270
D. %of children 0-23 months are still breast feeding (continue breast feeding)	94.8%	97.8%	0.218
0-5 months	95.9%	100.0%	
6-8 months	100.0%	100.0%	
9-23 months	93.2%	96.0%	
C. %of children 0-23 months were given drinks other than breast milk within three days after delivery	10.8%	12.2%	0.794
A. Milk (other than breast milk)	1.3%	1.4%	0.936
B. Plain water	4.1%	11.3%	0.168
C. Sugar/glucose water	2.5%	1.4%	0.603
D. Sugar-salt-water solution	0.0%	2.2%	0.087
E. Fruit juice	0.0%	4.5%	0.033
F. Infant formula	1.3%	2.2%	0.613
G. Tea/infusions	0.0%	0.0%	
H. Coffee	0.0%	0.0%	
I. Honey	2.5%	3.1%	0.859
J. Others (SPECIFY)	1.3%	0.0%	0.314

D. %of children 0-5 months are exclusively breast fed	54.7%	60.2%	0.615
% Participated in health and nutrition activities (n=26)	n/a	53.0%	
% Not participated in health and nutrition activities (n=20)	n/a	69.6%	
n	24	46	
E. %of children 6-23 months with minimum diet diversity (more than 3 out of 7 food groups in 24 hours)	42.9%	70.9%	***
% Participated in health and nutrition activities (n=63)	n/a	76.4%	
% Not participated in health and nutrition activities (n=26)	n/a	61.9%	
F. %of children 6-23 months with minimum meal frequency	31.6%	69.6%	***
% Participated in health and nutrition activities (n=63)	n/a	67.2%	
% Not participated in health and nutrition activities (n=26)	n/a	73.6%	
G. %of children 6-23 months with minimum acceptable diet (MAD)	14.9%	57.3%	***
% Participated in health and nutrition activities (n=63)	n/a	61.9%	
% Not participated in health and nutrition activities (n=26)	n/a	50.0%	
n	53	89	

Table 15: COVID-19 Impact Results

INDICATOR	2020 HOST COMMUNITY ENDLINE SURVEY						
	ALL	GENDERED HH TYPES				HH HEAD SEX	
		FNM	MNF	M&F	CNA	Female	Male
1. % of households responded that they are aware of Corona Virus (COVID-19)	99.8%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%		100.0%	99.8%
n	661	52	7	601	1	92	569

2.	% of households responded that their HH had impacts of Corona virus in the past 12 months		97.8%	98.1%	100.0%	97.7%		97.9%	97.7%
	<i>n</i>		661	52	7	601	1	92	569
3.	Impacts of COVID-19 that the HHS had in the past 12 months	A.Loss of life	0.2%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%		1.2%	0.0%
		B.Loss of labor	24.0%	15.4%	27.9%	24.8%		19.0%	24.9%
		C.Reduced income	86.3%	84.6%	71.3%	86.6%		83.6%	86.7%
		D.Reduced supports from Govt. or NGOs	3.1%	7.8%	0.0%	2.8%		6.7%	2.6%
		E.Reduced mobility	82.9%	78.7%	72.1%	83.3%		82.4%	82.9%
		F.Loss of livestock	12.1%	19.7%	0.0%	11.6%		15.6%	11.5%
		G.Reduced social interactions with relatives and friends	92.6%	92.0%	86.0%	92.7%		89.8%	93.0%
		H.Loss of HH assets (including distress sales)	1.3%	4.0%	0.0%	1.1%		2.3%	1.1%
		I.HH member migrated	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%		0.0%	0.4%
		J.HH was displaced	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%		0.0%	0.5%
		K.Reduced ability to buy basic needs (e.g. food, cloth – example may be useful)	32.4%	40.9%	42.6%	31.6%		40.0%	31.2%
		L.Huge medical cost for treatment of family member	16.7%	23.4%	27.9%	16.0%		22.2%	15.8%
		M.Other	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%		0.0%	0.4%
		N.Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%
		O.Refused	-	-	-	-		-	-
	<i>n</i>		645	51	7	586	1	90	555

8. Annex

Annex 1 Quantitative Survey Tool

Annex 2 Qualitative Tool

Annex 3 Inception Report

Annex 4 Qualitative Data

Annex 5 Quantitative Data

Annex 6 Detailed EFSP Topline Indicator Analysis Tables

Annex 7 Quantitative Survey Training Schedule

Annex 8 Qualitative Training Schedule