



WFP in Bangladesh 2016 in Review

For more information contact:

World Food Programme Bangladesh

IDB Bhaban (17th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Tel. Off: +880-2-9183022

Website: www.wfp.org/bangladesh

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A Message from the WFP Representative

In 2016, Bangladesh has seen a period of continued and impressive economic progress, with a GDP growth of 7.1% in 2016, and with strong social development gains. However, over 40 million people - or a quarter of the population still remained food insecure and 5.5 million children under the age of five were stunted.

At WFP we continuously strive to contribute to building a hunger-free world and endeavour to be more efficient, effective and transparent in our work. Thus, WFP has set out on a longer-term journey based on a thorough analysis of the food security and nutrition situation of the countries in which we engage, and as countries progress, shifting from direct programme implementation towards providing capacity support to government programmes.

At the country level, previous programme categories are replaced by a single countrywide humanitarian and development plan, with a related results framework and country portfolio budget: The Country Strategic Plan.

The WFP Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020 outlines the way WFP plans, implements and measures results to achieve zero hunger in Bangladesh. It is based upon the recommendations of the independent Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh that was undertaken by a team of national experts in 2016. It examines Bangladesh's national development and prospects of achieving zero hunger by 2030.

WFP is the first United Nations agency to adjust its entire system to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Framework and the 2030 UN Agenda:

"We now have clear line of sight of how we will contribute to Bangladesh achieving SDG 2 - ending hunger, and to SDG 17 - revitalising global partnerships for sustainable development."

WFP is capitalising on decades of operational experience in Bangladesh and around the world. We are committed to continuing our work in strong partnership with the Government of Bangladesh in order to keep food security and nutrition high on the national development agenda through evidence creation and policy dialogue.

A significant proportion of WFP's activities and resources will still need to be dedicated to direct operational assistance, particularly to food insecure populations in Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and when disaster strikes:

"The Country Strategic Plan allows for greater flexibility in responding to the needs of those most vulnerable, with both humanitarian assistance and long-term development focus in WFP's support to the Government of Bangladesh and those in need of assistance."

We are enthusiastic about this journey of supporting the Government to fight hunger and undernutrition in Bangladesh. This Annual Report details WFP's achievements in Bangladesh in 2016.

Christa Räder
Representative
WFP Bangladesh





Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh

In 2016, WFP Bangladesh commissioned a major review of the food security and nutrition situation in Bangladesh which examined Bangladesh's prospects of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. The independent [Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh](#) was developed through extensive consultations with the Government of Bangladesh and a wide range of stakeholders including donors, civil society and international organisations. It was led by a team of national experts headed by Siddiquir Rahman Osmani, Professor of Development Economics at Ulster University.

It provides a baseline, determines gaps in the national food security and nutrition response and gives a comprehensive analysis of the challenges Bangladesh faces in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 – to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030, and it gives five priority actions on how to overcome these challenges.

These priority actions inform the plans of national stakeholders and partners, including WFP and other UN agencies.

The Strategic Review highlighted that despite Bangladesh's impressive gains in recent years, an alarmingly large number of people still remain food insecure and hungry, and most people do not have a sufficiently nutritious and diverse diet.

It calls for a more diversified and nutrition-sensitive agriculture sector; the dissemination of practical knowledge on nutrition throughout the country; an enhanced social protection system that leaves no-one behind; and emphasises the critical role played by women in achieving sustainable food security and nutrition, and the need to enhance their empowerment:



Link to read the full review:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp291211.pdf>

Five Priority Actions to Achieve Zero Hunger in Bangladesh

1. Promote a diversified, resilient, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture sector
 2. Recognise women as the key to achieving sustainable food security and nutrition
 3. Ensure through the social protection system that no-one is left behind
 4. Create and disseminate relevant knowledge
 5. Adopt the human rights-based approach
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WFP Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020

In 2015, the international community agreed to the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including reaching Zero Hunger, by 2030. Trends show that the number of complex, recurrent and protracted crises will continue to grow, threatening efforts to build a hunger-free world by 2030. To rise to the challenge, WFP has undertaken a strategic shift in planning and implementation, as well as in measuring and reporting impact.

WFP is the first United Nations agency to align its Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2021 with the Sustainable Development Goals, showing how it contributes to and supports governments to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Development). A new Corporate Results Framework has been designed to measure impact and to link results to allocated resources. Creating close links between activities ensures greater synergy, effectiveness and efficiency while also supporting national priorities.

In WFP Bangladesh, a single [Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#) replaces previous humanitarian and development programme categories, starting from April 2017.

The development of the Bangladesh CSP 2017-2020 was informed by an independent Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh (see previous page). It highlighted that ending hunger and malnutrition is the key to further economic development.

The Way Forward

Guided by the Country Strategic Plan WFP's added value will be supporting longer-term national hunger solutions, nutrition-sensitive social protection, resilience building, and emergency response preparedness of the Government of Bangladesh to achieve Zero Hunger, while maintaining a strong humanitarian assistance capacity.

"Results achieved versus the costs are in focus as we do our utmost to excel in enhancing transparency and accountability." – WFP Representative Christa Räder

WFP will build on its work on knowledge and evidence creation, including through innovative approaches, while focusing on strengthening the national systems, policies and programmes that are ultimately responsible for sustainably ending hunger and improving the food security and nutrition situation in Bangladesh.





Direct operational assistance will be dedicated to areas of highest food insecurity and vulnerability, where marginalised populations live such as Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and to affected populations during emergencies.

Link to read the full version of the WFP Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020:

<https://www.wfp.org/content/2017-bangladesh-country-strategic-plan-2017-2020>

WFP Bangladesh

Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020

SDG Target	SDG 2.2 End all forms of malnutrition.	SDG 2.1 End hunger and ensure access to food.	SDG 2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems.	SDG 17.9 Enhance support for capacity building to implement the SDGs.
OUTCOMES				
WFP Strategic Outcome	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1 Vulnerable groups in rural and urban settings are supported by enhanced national actions to improve their nutrition indicators in line with national targets by 2020.	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2 The most vulnerable populations of Cox's Bazar, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and disaster-affected areas have enhanced food security and nutrition.	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3 Innovative approaches to enhance the resilience of food insecure households exposed to climate-related shocks and stresses are validated by 2020.	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4 The humanitarian response system for large-scale natural disasters in Bangladesh can respond with reduced cost and lead time.
Activity	ACTIVITY 1 Capacity support and advocacy to enhance the food security and nutrition impact of selected safety nets.	ACTIVITY 5 Delivery of an integrated assistance package in Cox's Bazar.	ACTIVITY 8 Evidence creation on innovative approaches to enhance resilience.	ACTIVITY 10 Capacity strengthening for emergency response.
	ACTIVITY 2 Capacity support and advocacy for improved nutrition.	ACTIVITY 6 Delivery of an integrated assistance package in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.	ACTIVITY 9 Implementation of the Nobo Jatra programme.	ACTIVITY 11 Leading the Logistics Cluster and co-leading the Food Security Cluster.
	ACTIVITY 3 Capacity support and advocacy to scale up rice fortification.	ACTIVITY 7 Delivery of food assistance in emergencies.		
	ACTIVITY 4 Policy advice and capacity support to scale up school feeding.			<div> <div>2 ZERO HUNGER</div>  </div> <div> <div>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</div>  </div>



2016 at a Glance



Supporting the Government

School children supported through the
School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas

2,500,000

Ultra-poor women and their families through the
Vulnerable Group Development Programme

3,750,000

Of whom, participants and their family members through the
Investment Component Vulnerable Group Development Programme

40,000

Vulnerable people, including their family members supported through the
Enhancing Resilience Programme

218,000

WFP Direct Delivery

School children who received a nutritious daily snack through WFP's
own programme

526,000

Vulnerable people supported through resilience projects

40,000

Malnourished women and children who received food supplements

80,000

Flood and cyclone affected people who received food and cash

167,000

Refugees who were supported with food and e-vouchers

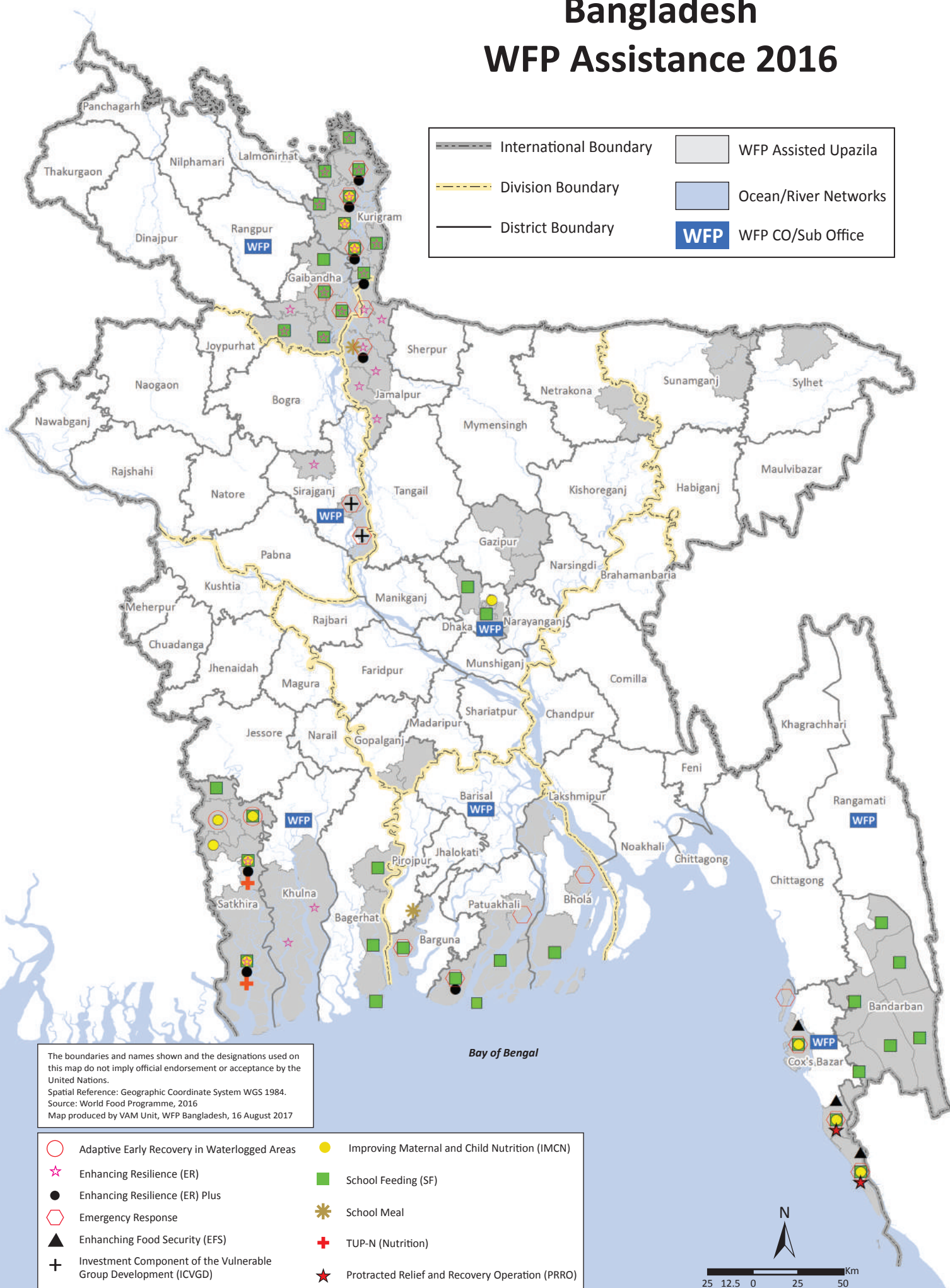
33,000

Vulnerable local populations in Cox's Bazar supported through the
Enhancing Resilience and Nutrition Programmes

50,000

Bangladesh

WFP Assistance 2016





Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition

Through the Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN) programme, WFP provides community nutrition education sessions to raise awareness, personal counselling and, supplementary food to treat malnourished young children and pregnant and nursing women in some of most vulnerable and poorest areas of Bangladesh.

A well-defined behaviour change communication approach aims to improve nutrition related knowledge and practices.

In 2016 around 54,000 undernourished women and their children received specialised food and by December 2016, 92 percent of the children had recovered. Among the female participants of behaviour change communication activities on infant and young feeding practices, 87 percent exclusively breastfed their infants till they were six months of age, compared to only half of non-participants in the same areas.



Empowering Local Communities to Enhance Nutrition

Using a community-based approach, WFP's nutrition activities were carried out by either NGO staff or through public health clinics. In 2016, 646 community health workers, staff, or volunteers of partner organisations were trained to screen for acute undernutrition, to distribute specialised nutritious food, and to deliver information on nutrition, infant feeding, hygiene and sanitation.

Furthermore, 112 government health officials were trained on the Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme

implementation and delivery of behaviour change communication.

Since 2014, WFP's IMCN programme was to be increasingly integrated into National Health Service Delivery systems by incorporating it into the National Nutrition Services (NNS) and during 2016 WFP handed over projects in Satkhira, Kurigram and Dhaka to the Government of Bangladesh and NGOs.

In Cox's Bazar District, IMCN was expanded to reach even more undernourished mothers and children focusing on those greatest in need.

In 2016, the IMCN programme was funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Japan Association for the World Food Programme (JAWFP), the Australian Government, private donor UNILEVER, and by multilateral donors.

Creating Evidence and Plans for 2017

The Bangladesh National Nutrition Policy was endorsed in 2015 and in 2016, the Government of Bangladesh in collaboration with its development partners, worked on the formulation of the Multisectoral National Action Plan on Nutrition. The Nutrition Policy aims to reduce the prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) amongst children in the age of 6-59 months from 36 to 15 percent and the rate of acute malnutrition (wasting) from 14 to 8 percent by 2030.

WFP is moving towards a new partnership with the Government, aiming to strengthen and mainstream nutrition behaviour change communication activities, advocate for the importance of putting systems in place for effective treatment of acute malnutrition and, to promote nutrition-sensitive social protection.

As part of WFP's new Country Strategic Plan (2017 -2020), WFP will in future only deliver nutrition programmes in locations where the population is extremely vulnerable to food insecurity and where high levels of malnutrition persist, such as the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Nutrition interventions will also continue in refugee camps, makeshift settlements and, local communities in Cox's Bazar District (see next page).

Assisting Refugees and Ultra-Poor in Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar District is one of the most vulnerable areas of Bangladesh, with undernutrition and food insecurity at crisis levels and poverty well above the national average. It also hosts an estimated 300,000 - 500,000 refugees from North Rakhine in Myanmar.



In 2016, under a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP worked to improve the nutritional status and food security of 32,500 registered refugees from Myanmar in two official refugee camps, Kutupalong and Nayapara.

Further, under the Country Programme (CP) WFP assisted undocumented refugees living in makeshift sites through nutrition programmes, with particular attention given to pregnant and lactating women and small children.

Additionally, in December WFP began distributing rice rations to 24,000 newly arrived undocumented Myanmar nationals residing in the makeshift sites.

Moreover, in three upazilas WFP assisted vulnerable women and their families with an integrated livelihoods package.

Reaching the most Vulnerable Women and Children in Makeshift Sites

The Government's National Strategy raised the concern of alarmingly high undernutrition rates caused by low dietary diversity and prolonged food insecurity. In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Action Contre la Faim (ACF), WFP launched a nutrition intervention in 2015 to provide specialised food

and behaviour change communication training to 6,200 pregnant and nursing women from Kutupalong makeshift settlement to help them improve their nutrition and health and that of their families.

This intervention also covered all infants in the critical 1000-day window, from the moment of conception until the child's second birthday to ensure optimal nutritional status for healthy growth and development, and treated children aged 6-59 months who were undernourished. In December 2016 the programme was extended to cover a targeted group of mothers and children in Leda makeshift settlement as well.

From 2017 WFP will extend the School Feeding Programme to the makeshift sites to include the provision of a daily snack of micronutrient-fortified biscuits, contributing to 67 percent of their daily need of vitamins and minerals.

The biscuits provide a better foundation to grow and concentrate in class. UNICEF will establish 'catch up' schools within the makeshift sites which facilitate learning and education for pre-primary and primary school children where the biscuits will be distributed.



Throughout 2016, the programmes were supported by Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, ECHO, Canada, UNICERF, and multilateral donors such as Japan.



WFP/Shehzad Noorani

The FoodCard - An Innovative Approach to Food Assistance in the Camps

Refugees are often restricted in their movements and have little opportunity for employment, as a result they have no regular income. In Cox's Bazar District, markets are well functioning and food is readily available, however unaffordable for the most vulnerable populations.

In strong partnership with the Government and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), WFP introduced the electronic FoodCard in 2014, as part of WFP's SCOPE platform, in order to meet the food needs amongst registered refugees in the two official refugee camps of Kutupalong and Nayapara.

The FoodCard works like a debit card. It is topped up every month by WFP allowing the refugees to purchase their groceries according to their family's needs and preferences:

"I am so grateful that I now have the choice to select our food depending on our needs, and that my children can eat nutritious food." – WFP Beneficiary, Cox's Bazar

Food items in the shops include fresh produce like spinach, onions, pumpkin, and eggs, plus two varieties of rice, red lentils, yellow split peas, fortified oil, iodized salt, sugar, dried fish and a range of spices. This provides families with nutritious dietary options to cover their daily nutritional needs and also supports local producers, boosting the national and regional economy.

Moreover, this innovative system of food assistance saves time and money on shipping and storage costs.

As women are in charge of preparing and distributing food in the households, women are designated as the main FoodCard-holder of each household, allowing her a stronger voice in decision-making over the use of food and cash within her household, traditionally led by men.

Each card is biometrically coded and can only be used in combination with a fingerprint, making it one of the most secure and traceable systems for food assistance. Gender relations in the official camps are changing for the better, in part due to women being designated as principal FoodCard holders and WFP sensitisation campaigns. Virtually all women report that they do not experience safety problems going to and from the shops which are in a safe location inside the camps.

In addition to the FoodCard assistance, WFP implements nutrition interventions to include specialised food and behaviour change communication training to pregnant and nursing women, and the treatment of children who are malnourished (see page 13). Moreover, within the official camps, the School Feeding Programme ensures the provision of a daily micronutrient fortified snack to pre-primary and primary school children to enhance learning and development.

Check out the video on YouTube 'FoodCard for Refugees from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh' to learn more about the FoodCard: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2oxg4ybEs0>

Assisting Refugees and Ultra-Poor in Cox's Bazar

Empowering Women in the Local Communities

WFP's efforts go beyond the refugee camps to local communities and makeshifts which face difficulties in building up assets and savings. Since 2012, in the villages of Maheskhali, Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas the Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition programme has addressed the underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition by enabling approximately 10,000 women, i.e. with family members: 50,000 ultra-poor people living in local communities, to improve their livelihoods.



The Enhancing Food Security component includes a monthly cash transfer during a two-year period and a one-off investment grant to start an income generating activity.

Likewise, women are receiving business and entrepreneurship training and attend participatory learning sessions on hygiene, nutrition and health practices. Targeting and working directly with ultra-poor women is also contributing to their empowerment.

Local NGOs are implementing the programme which has been supported by the Australian Government and the United Kingdom.

Expansion of the Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition Programme to two more upazilas has been initiated for 2017. As it is the case in Maheskhali, Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas these will also be covered by WFP's School Feeding (see page 18) and Nutrition Programmes (see page 13).

Creating Evidence and Plans for 2017

Under the Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020, WFP will continue to work in Cox's Bazar during the course of 2017 and under a joint UN response plan together with UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to assist refugees from North Rakhine in Myanmar.

WFP had to step up food assistance in Cox's Bazar towards the end of 2016 as a result of a new influx of refugees who sought shelter in Bangladesh following a new outbreak of violence in Myanmar's North Rakhine State in October 2016. This support will continue throughout 2017. As part of this support and as approved by the Government, WFP will expand the FoodCards to the most vulnerable refugees living in the makeshift sites; these are households with several vulnerabilities, mainly households of women and children, disabled and elderly.



In order to analyse and continuously monitor the food security and nutrition status of the most vulnerable populations in Cox's Bazar, WFP carries out Food Security Surveillance Assessments on a quarterly basis. In 2016, these assessments were carried out in the two official refugee camps Kutupalong and Nayapara as well as in Kutupalong Makeshift in Cox's Bazar.

Link to WFP's Food Security Assessments:
<https://www.wfp.org/content/2017-bangladesh-food-security-surveillance-assessments>



School Feeding and School Meals



Today, 3.3 out of 20 million children of primary-school age remain out of school in Bangladesh and only 8 in 10 complete five years of primary education.

School feeding works as a powerful incentive for parents of poorer households to send their children to school and keep them there. It also alleviates short-term hunger, helping children to concentrate on their lessons while providing them with the crucial vitamins and minerals they otherwise lack in their diet. Primary schools are strategically targeted because young girls and boys are reached, who tend to leave school too early, either for early marriage or to work as day labourers.

Through strategic cooperation with the Government's School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas, WFP provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Directorate of Primary Education to support the Government in providing food to school children of pre-primary (3-5 years of age) and primary (5-12 years of age) schools.

In 2016, over 2.5 million schoolchildren in 72 upazilas received vitamin and mineral fortified biscuits through this government programme. WFP continues to provide capacity support to the Government as it scales up school feeding, including advising on sustainable funding options.

In addition around 526,000 girls and boys enrolled in NGO or government run schools receives fortified biscuits in rural and urban areas as part of WFP's remaining operation.

This was complemented by an *essential learning package* that encompasses vegetable school gardens maintained by the students, parents and

other community members as well as lessons on hygiene and sanitation, child marriage and, pregnancy. Under this arrangement, UNICEF provided guidance, training to teachers and education materials for the hygiene and sanitation lessons. Improving students' health and nutrition status in combination with learning sessions can guide the development of good eating habits.

As part of WFP's efforts to enhance leadership, especially of women in the School Management Committees, over 2,300 women and 1,200 men took part in gender-sensitive leadership training for teachers and parents.

In 2016, the Government provided 10,500 metric tonnes of wheat as an in-kind contribution to WFP, which was coupled with flexible cash donations allowing WFP to deliver school feeding in areas not yet covered by the government programme.

Vitamin and Mineral Fortified Biscuits

Each school day the schoolchildren receive biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals which cover 67 percent of their daily micronutrient needs.

The biscuits are produced locally in Bangladesh thus boosting the local economy and keeping the costs of transportation to a minimum.





WFP/Wahid Adnan

Biscuits – A Nutritional Booster

WFP's biscuits contain high-protein cereals, vegetable fat plus many vitamins and minerals:

Calcium, magnesium, iron, iodine, folic acid, pantothenic acid, and vitamin B1, B2, B6, B12b, C, D, E, niacin and vitamin A.

WFP also uses the biscuits during emergencies, like floods and cyclones, when cooking facilities and clean water are often scarce. The biscuits are ready to eat and easy to transport plus already pre-placed in NGO or WFP storages throughout Bangladesh to reach those who are in need quickly and to provide a quick solution to short-term hunger.

Home Grown School Meals

To explore alternative school feeding models, WFP in collaboration with the Government launched the School Meals Initiative in 2013 providing a hot meal for lunch instead of biscuits. The initiative targets the same types of communities and students, and provides schoolchildren with cooked meals made with centrally procured fortified rice, lentils and fortified oil, and vegetables purchased from local female cultivators. The meals are prepared by local women, often mothers of students, who receive a monthly remuneration. With this model entire communities can benefit from the initiative.

Under the school meals initiative, a partnership arrangement with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and cooperating partner BRAC, established a framework for cooperation on homestead gardening.

WFP's school meal initiative currently covers 16,500 students in the upazilas of Bamna (Barguna) and Islampur (Jamalpur), with training and small-scale investment grants provided to over 2,000 female

vegetable cultivators. The partnership also established Mothers' Clubs in communities covered by the school meals initiative. Approximately 13,780 mothers were oriented on nutrition, health and hygiene behaviour, and on the importance of education to enhance their role as change agents for education in their communities.

Strengthening the Government to Scale Up

During the year, WFP provided a range of technical assistance to the Government, examples include: staff training on implementation, supply-chain management and NGO coordination meetings.

In addition to the continued capacity support to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, WFP facilitated divisional level multi-stakeholder consultation workshops in 2016 to solicit local views for the preparation of the National School Feeding Policy. While the policy was being prepared, WFP facilitated a stakeholder consultation using the System Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) and developed a road map that defines milestones to institutionalise school feeding. The National Capacity Index for 2016 was estimated based on the SABER exercise.

Creating Evidence and Plans for 2017

A multi-year United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole contribution allows WFP to continue its government capacity support activities for the School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas throughout 2017.

The Government's school feeding programme has also been extended until the end of 2020, expanding to another 300,000 students in 10 upazilas, reaching 3.3 million children in total together with WFP.

Strengthening Social Safety Nets



Ultra-poor women and their families supported through:	Participants	Beneficiaries
The Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGD)	750,000	3,750,000
Of whom under the Investment Component Vulnerable Group Development Programme (ICVGD)	8,000	40,000

Since 2011, WFP has increasingly supported the Government in strengthening some of its social safety nets and making them more nutrition sensitive. Through assistance in programme design, policy formulation and evidence creation, WFP engages with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and the Department of Women Affairs.

Increasing Effectiveness to Improve Food Security

The Government's longest standing social safety net is known as the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme. It reaches over 750,000 ultra-poor women and their families.

WFP has supported the programme since 1974, but since 2011, it has been run and funded entirely

by the Government with technical support from WFP. The programme aims to improve the food security of ultra-poor women and their families through life skills training, awareness raising and income-generation support. It consists of monthly food support, comprising a 30 kg monthly ration of rice, combined with a development package that includes income-generating skills training.

Empowering Ultra-Poor Women to Leave Food Security Behind

Within the VGD programme, 8,000 women receive food and training in nutrition and business skills along with a one-time cash grant of 15,000 taka (US\$ 190) to start their own small businesses. This initiative is known as the Investment Component Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD).

It aims to effectively help ultra-poor women lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty through diversified economic activities, increased food security and improved nutrition. It also replaces the 30 kg monthly ration of regular rice with vitamin and mineral fortified rice (see page 22).

A formative evaluation conducted in April 2016 assessed the first 2,000 participants of ICVGD, which confirmed that most of the ICVGD women were successfully generating revenue with their income-generating activities, and that the targeting process had been more effective and transparent.

ICVGD women reported a larger scope for decision-making within their families and their communities and increased mobility, as a result of their participation in ICVGD.

Additionally, the programme created an opportunity for 75 locally recruited 'contact women' to support project participants. They received a small remuneration.

In August 2016, MoWCA initiated the Government-funded implementation of ICVGD for a new group of 6,000 women in some upazilas of Bagherhat, Kurigram, Sylhet and Bhola. Cash assistance to 2,000 women funded by the United Kingdom has already been provided in the upazilas of Belkuchi and Chowhali of Sirajganj district.

Since 2014, the United Kingdom has financially supported and enhanced the effectiveness of the VGD and ICVGD programmes including capacity support to MoWCA.

Scaling Up Rice Fortification

WFP supports the Government in scaling up rice fortification with funds from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has provided the opportunity to replace distribution of regular rice with vitamin and mineral fortified rice in ICVGD and some VGD areas, thus contributing to improving the micronutrient status of some of the most vulnerable populations.

WFP is working with the Government to continue integrating fortified rice into social safety nets and

with private actors in creating supply and demand on the market so that women can purchase fortified rice at a reasonable cost, even after they leave the programmes.

A baseline study on the effectiveness of fortified rice was conducted by icddr,b which will be followed by an endline study in 2017. Initial results indicate that the higher programme efficiency (including, the more regular provision of packaged rice) of ICVGD leads to a larger decrease in food insecurity among ICVGD participants when compared to VGD participants and that the micronutrient status of the ICVGD improves slightly more, possibly as a result of the fortified rice consumption.

Targeting the Ultra Poor - Nutrition

During 2015-2016, WFP and BRAC's Targeting the Ultra Poor-Nutrition (TUP-N) operational research project sought to test an approach of economically and socially empowering pregnant women, and women with children under the age of three, to help them break the intergenerational cycle of chronic undernutrition.

Following a baseline survey the project provided intensive livelihood and nutrition support including a monthly allowance and a cash grant for investment, food supplements for the acutely undernourished, and intensive behaviour change communication. The training also addressed husbands and other influential family members. At the end of 2016, a follow-up survey was initiated to measure the programme's impact on preventing child stunting.

Plans for 2017

The Government is now planning to scale up ICVGD to 100,000 participants in 64 upazilas during 2017/2018. WFP will support MoWCA on its expansion beyond ICVGD towards the development of the Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme. MoWCA are also planning to scale up the number of VGD women to 1 million women.

Helen Keller International conducted a baseline survey among the next group of ICVGD participants in August 2016. The endline survey will provide more evidence on the outcomes of ICVGD.



Working with the Private Sector



WFP/Ranak Martin

To support the Government in achieving SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, WFP in collaboration with the private sector works to scale up its technical assistance and transfer of knowledge as innovative solutions to maximising capacity support.

Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies through Rice Fortification

Rice is the staple food of Bangladesh and considering that over 70 percent of an average person's daily calorie intake comes from rice, it makes it an ideal food to fortify in order to ensure that those at risk of micronutrient deficiencies receive the nutrients they need for a healthier life.

Low dietary diversity and micronutrient deficiencies of vitamin A, iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin B12 and folate are widespread in Bangladesh. By fortifying rice with vitamins and minerals, the goal of WFP's Rice Fortification Initiative is to contribute to the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies in high-risk groups with a strong focus on women and children in a cost-effective manner.

Since 2011, WFP has worked closely with the Government of Bangladesh and the Dutch science company Royal DSM to strengthen market demand for fortified rice products among the general public as well as to build up the national capacity to fortify rice.

Since 2013, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has supported the scale up of the rice fortification initiative to reach over 500,000 people.

Scaling up rice fortification has provided the opportunity to replace distribution of regular rice with fortified rice in areas covered by a major social safety net programme known as the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme and a new approach called Investment Component Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) programme (see page 20).

These programmes exclusively target ultra-poor women and their families thus contributing to improving the micronutrient status of some of the most vulnerable populations.

Expanding Public-Private Partnerships

As importing machines for fortifying rice is costly and time-consuming, and to increase the sustainability of the rice fortification programme, WFP has established public-private partnerships for domestic production of fortified rice kernels. WFP is supporting rice millers with technical advice on how to start and scale up production.

In 2016, WFP assisted the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in the process of assessing and qualifying rice millers for blending with fortified rice kernels, and created a roster of approved millers for the tendering process.

WFP has also begun to partner with the ready-made garment industry. Some factory owners procure fortified rice to benefit 3,000 young female workers and their families who come to Dhaka from rural areas to seek work opportunities.

What is Fortified Rice?

Fortified rice kernels look, taste and cook like ordinary rice but are enhanced with six essential micronutrients (vitamins and minerals): vitamin A, folic acid, zinc, vitamin B12, vitamin B1 and iron.

They are mixed with ordinary rice at a ratio of 1:100. This mix is called fortified rice.

Plans for 2017

WFP will continue to assist in integrating fortified rice into food-based safety net programmes. Further, WFP will oversee the procurement process where the Government contracts rice fortification millers, and continue to provide technical support through food technologists that assist rice kernel producers in meeting international quality standards.



Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Every year, small to medium scale disasters affect large numbers of people.

Due to its geography, featuring low elevation and vast watercourses, Bangladesh is highly susceptible to natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

With dire impacts on lives and livelihoods, between 30-50 percent of the country suffers severe climate shocks every year.

WFP assists the Government of Bangladesh in its preparedness for emergencies and stands ready to respond in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Delivering Food and Cash to Flood-Affected People

Three emergency responses were led by WFP in 2016 reaching people in 63 upazilas and urban slums across 13 districts.

In May, food assistance was provided to 56,000 people affected by Cyclone Roanu in southeastern Bangladesh in partnership with the Mukti Foundation, Muslim Aid and Shushilan.

Later in August through September, around 20,000 people received financial assistance to buy food and replenish other necessities lost when the area was hit by the cyclone. The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funded the response.

Some 42,500 people in the worst-affected areas of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Jamalpur

districts in northwest Bangladesh received 4,000 taka per month for the duration of three months (totalling US\$150) to stabilise their food security and nutritional status after seasonal flooding. The response was made possible by support from the United Kingdom.

Preparing for Emergencies and Natural Disasters

In the beginning of the year, WFP and the Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief jointly organised a major cyclone simulation exercise involving key-emergency-response agencies such as government officials, NGOs and other UN Agencies to improve readiness, and to reduce the impact of a future natural disaster. The simulation was modelled from the experiences of Cyclone Sidr, which devastated the southern coast of Bangladesh in 2007.

Later in the year, WFP and the Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief also organised an earthquake simulation exercise to support government preparations for such a scenario, and to improve the logistical readiness in order to reduce the impact of a large-scale-emergency.

The Food Security Cluster

Since 2011, WFP has co-led the Food Security Cluster together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ensuring a coordinated, appropriate and timely response to humanitarian crises. The cluster received continued funding from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) in 2016.

The Food Security Cluster is part of Bangladesh's humanitarian system involving 9 clusters in total, which together act as a coordination platform to





strengthen the collective capacity of the Government, in addition to national and international actors to respond to emergencies.

During 2016, the Food Security Cluster developed a plan for immediate and short-term assistance specifically for earthquakes. Additionally, an already existing plan for cyclones was tested.

In addition to co-chairing the Food Security Cluster, WFP also leads the Logistic Cluster. In 2016, logistical guidelines for cyclone and earthquake responses were completed.

Plans for 2017

WFP works to improve the Government's capacity to respond to a major humanitarian disaster, such as an urban earthquake. This includes the building of a Humanitarian Staging Area close to Dhaka's International Airport which will provide a central hub for government actors to coordinate the receipt and dispatch of international relief items coming into the country.

Responding to Nutrition Needs during Emergencies

WFP actively participates in the Nutrition Cluster, led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which coordinates the nutrition response during flood and cyclone emergencies, and enhances preparedness and response capacity.

WFP has taken the lead in the process of formulating 'Emergency Infant and Young Child Feeding Guidelines' and in Cox's Bazar District, WFP served as the main coordinator of the nutrition response in 2016.

Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change



Climate-related shocks and stresses such as floods and cyclones regularly leave up to half of Bangladesh flooded, especially in the low-lying areas of the southern coastal zone. This pushes vulnerable populations further into poverty as significant swathes of the population still live with worrying levels of food insecurity, especially among the ultra-poor, who lack the means to adapt to natural hazards.

To build long-term solutions to hunger and stop families from applying negative coping strategies after a natural disaster, WFP and the Government of Bangladesh work to build resilient communities to enhance their mitigation, adaptation, and recovery from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

During serious environmental events, the UN in partnership with the Government, local institutions, and NGOs work to provide immediate food assistance and early recovery interventions, and to improve food security and nutrition (see page 24).

Helping Ultra-Poor Cope Better with the Effects of Climate Change

WFP's Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change programme started in 2011 as part of a joint initiative between the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and WFP.

It includes community infrastructure work, training on disaster preparedness, capacity building, business development training, and a cash grant to women from poor households for investment.

An evaluation study from 2016 shows that participants are less likely to sell assets, go into debt or resort to skipping meals when their lives are disrupted by the effects of climate change, if they have received a package of training and cash grants for investment compared to people of similar demographics who were not enrolled in the programme. Link to study: <https://www.wfp.org/content/evaluation-report-wfps-enhancing-resilience-programme>

Participating households also recovered more quickly from the five most common types of shocks (serious illness, cyclone, the death of ducks and hens, loss of livestock, and flooding) and tended to have more savings and fewer loans.

From 2014-2016, WFP assisted over 400,000 people from 79,049 ultra-poor households in 42 upazilas in the flood plain and coastal zone of Bangladesh under the Enhancing Resilience Programme, including cash assistance to flood victims.

Working Together to Adapt Early Recovery in Waterlogged Areas

Through the joint project on Adaptive Early Recovery in Waterlogged Areas of Southwest Bangladesh, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) identified priority interventions for preventing waterlogging and enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable households and communities in Satkhira.

Waterlogging, a chronic problem in this district, has caused widespread damage to agricultural livelihoods and created acute humanitarian needs among marginal farmers and landless ultra-poor households.

In 2016, WFP assisted 3,266 households with training on disaster preparedness, nutrition, and livelihood planning. The project was supported by the United Kingdom and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP jointly funded a study on the impact of climate-related shocks and stresses on nutrition and food security in selected areas of rural Bangladesh. Findings suggested that nutrition and food security are greatly affected for eight to ten months after a climate-related shock or stress.

Want to know more about the Food Security Situation in Bangladesh?

Check out WFP's Food Security Bulletin prepared by the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) unit and published by the WFP Bangladesh Country Office four times a year. It presents the overall food security situation in Bangladesh: focusing on crop production, food prices trends, and poor households' food access. It also analyses environmental conditions and macroeconomic indicators.

Link to WFP's Food Security Bulletin:
<https://www.wfp.org/content/bangladesh-food-security-monitoring-system-2016>

Nobo Jatra – A New Beginning

In partnership with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, World Vision International, WFP and Winrock collaborate in an integrated approach to improve livelihoods, maternal and child nutrition, and to increase resilience to natural disasters in four upazilas in Khulna and Satkhira in southwestern Bangladesh.

The project is called Nobo Jatra, which means 'new beginning' in Bengali.

Direct Project Participants Nobo Jatra	856,111
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Duration	2015-2020
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Donor	USAID
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In the targeted areas 25-40 percent of families live below the poverty line, and the prevalence of stunted children below five is as high as 41.4 percent.

WFP's role is to enhance the awareness and capacities of local authorities, to implement a livelihood support programme, manage cash transfers for beneficiaries of the other consortium members, and to facilitate policy discussions with relevant ministries.

As part of the Nobo Jatra project, around 88,000 women and their husbands will be included in Social and Behaviour Change Communication interventions, which uses communication to promote and sustain positive nutrition outcomes in the short and longer term.

A cross-cutting goal of the project is to improve social accountability of service provision for the vulnerable by local government bodies.

Integrated capacity building and coordination with the local government offices will improve local governance and service providers, ensuring lasting change after the project ends.



Focus on our Team



As of December 2016, WFP staff working in Bangladesh came from 8 different countries, but the large majority, or 87 percent, were Bangladeshi nationals.

WFP is committed to maintain and enhance the capacity of its national staff through In-house and external training opportunities.

WFP strives for gender balance for national staff, among whom 42 percent are female and has increased efforts to attract qualified women to open positions.

Meet our Staff

M. Nafiuzzaman, Senior Programme Officer at Dhaka Country Office and responsible for Resource Management. Length of Service: 15+ years.



What motivates you to work for WFP?

"WFP's ability to reach the most vulnerable throughout the country and the life-saving support we provide during emergencies motivate me. Fund allocation is one of the critical components for WFP to continuously support the Government and being part of a diversified and ever-changing environment, I have many opportunities to contribute with my skills and experience."

What has been your most rewarding experience at work?

"I have several rewarding experiences during my time with WFP. Two highlights were to participate in the response to the level 3 emergency in Syria and to support the Emergency Operation during the Earthquake in Nepal in 2015. As WFP has been going through a transition from being mainly a UN humanitarian assistance agency to cover both this and longer-term development projects, I have also enjoyed being a focal point for my colleagues to understand the new way of working and to find ways to increase WFP's accountability and transparency."



2 ZERO
HUNGER



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Twitter: @wfp_asia

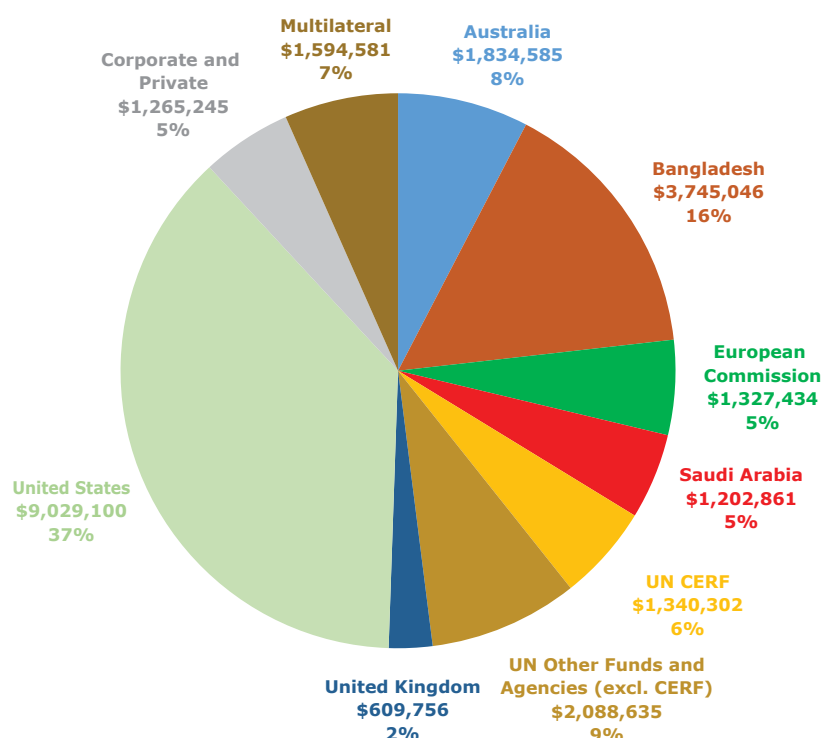
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<http://www1.wfp.org/donate-now>

Donors and Funding in 2016

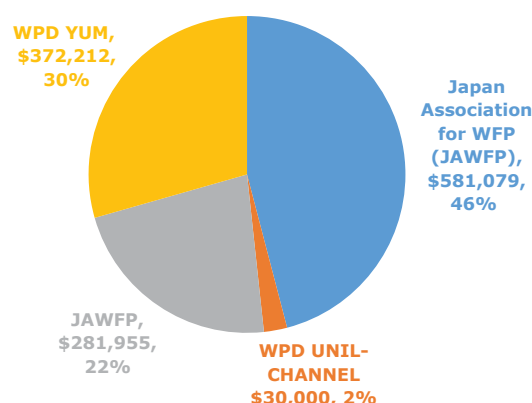


Donor Contributions to the Country Programme (CP) in Bangladesh

Directed contributions:
USD 22.1 million
Multilateral contributions:
USD 1.6 million

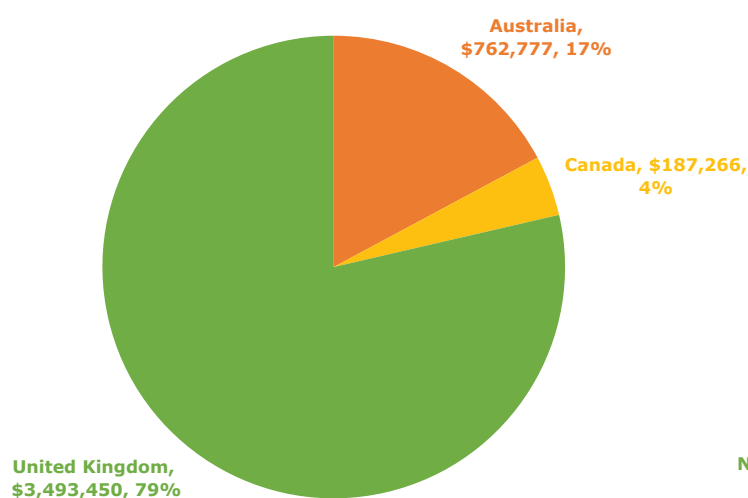
**Total:
USD 23.7 million**

Corporate and Private Contributions Total: USD 0.35 million

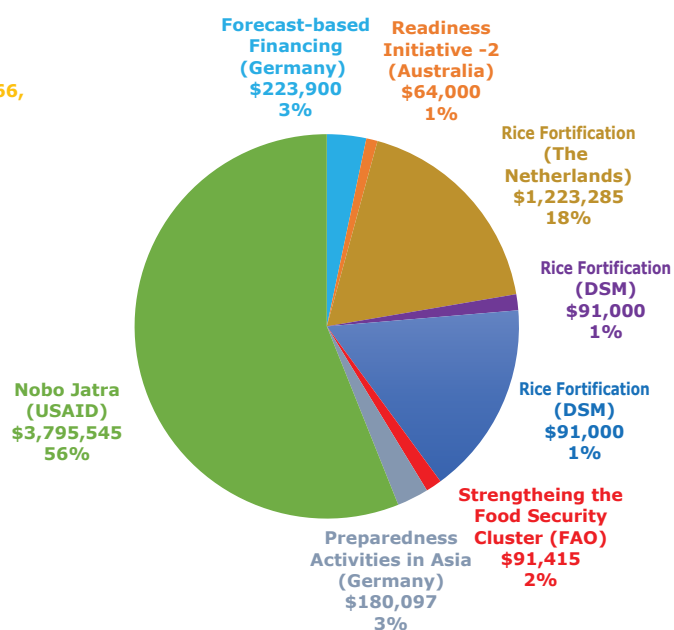


Donor Contributions to the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations Assisting Refugees from Myanmar (PRRO)

Total: USD 5.53 million



Donor Contributions for Trust Funds Total: USD 6.8 million



A high-angle, top-down photograph of a group of approximately ten children, mostly of South Asian descent, gathered outdoors on a grassy area. They are all wearing matching red uniforms, which appear to be school uniforms. The children are smiling broadly and waving their hands towards the camera. Some children are wearing headbands with small flowers or beads. The background is a lush green lawn. The overall mood is joyful and grateful.

**THANK YOU to all our donors on behalf of
the **1 million** children, women and men
directly assisted by WFP in 2016!**



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For more information contact:

World Food Programme
IDB Bhaban (17th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani,
Sher-e-Bangla, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-918-3022-33
www.wfp.org/bangladesh