



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

May 2018

In Numbers

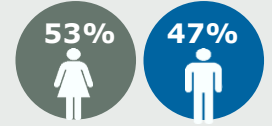
12,470 mt of food distributed

US\$2.62 m cash based transfers made

879,362 refugees receiving food assistance

US\$144.5 m six months (June-November 2018) net funding requirements

1.28 m people assisted
in May 2018



Operational Context

WFP aims to reduce hunger and undernutrition in the coming years by implementing and developing, through effective partnerships, innovative long-term solutions and by responding to emergencies. To underpin the development agenda of the Government, WFP supports selected government safety net programmes that focus on food security and help mainstream nutrition. WFP's direct interventions are geographically concentrated in areas of great food insecurity and vulnerability, such as in Cox's Bazar where a Level 3 Emergency Response is in operation since 22 September 2017.

Bangladesh still faces high poverty and undernutrition rates, aggravated by frequent natural disasters and a high population density. The high prevalence of child marriage, adolescent pregnancies and undernutrition in mothers and adolescent girls contributes to the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition. The prevalence of stunting in children under the age of 5 years continues to pose a major challenge, with 5.5 million children (36 percent) stunted and a global acute undernutrition rate of 14 percent (2014 DHS). Despite considerable progress in school enrolment, an estimated 3.3 million out of 20 million primary school aged children remain out of school.

WFP has been present in Bangladesh since 1974. It has assisted registered refugees from Myanmar since 1992.



Population: **165 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
139 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **36% of children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- WFP continues with its Level 3 emergency response. According to the Inter Sector Coordination Group report of 26 May, an estimated 702,160 refugees have arrived in Bangladesh from Myanmar since violence broke out in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017.
- WFP is providing food assistance to Rohingya refugees through general food distributions and e-vouchers to families and SuperCereal to pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years, reaching a total of 879,362 people.
- For the 177,668 most vulnerable earlier undocumented refugees, including those of the October 2016 influx, WFP has completed the second monthly cash-based transfer of Bangladesh Taka (BDT) 795 (USD 9) per person.
- In May 2018, the WFP School Feeding Programme reached 396,154 students with micronutrient fortified biscuits and 15,097 children with school meals.
- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has finalised eight upazilas (sub-districts) to introduce innovative measures for the ongoing Maternity/Lactating Mothers' Allowance programme. This programme would eventually evolve as the Child Benefit programme. WFP is providing capacity support to this initiative.
- WFP is providing capacity support to private sector partners in operationalising one additional rice premix kernel production and 10 fortified rice blending facilities. This will facilitate to scale-up distribution of fortified rice to about 1.7 million people supported by Government Social Safety Nets.
- WFP participated in the "2nd Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue Platform on Forecast-based Financing", held in Malaysia. It was organised by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the German Red Cross with support from WFP. In the dialogue platform, delegates from relevant development partners and meteorological agencies shared their experiences, latest developments and plans in the Asia Pacific Region.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Saikat Mojumder
Caption: WFP School Feeding programme in Cox's Bazar.

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement CSP
(in USD)

Confirmed
Contributions
(in USD)

June - November
Net Funding Requirements
(in USD)¹

Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

530.9 m

212.2 m

144.5 m

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable groups in rural and urban settings are supported by enhanced national actions to improve their nutrition indicators in line with the national targets by 2020.

Focus area: Root causes

50.4 m

19.8 m*

0.9 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: The most vulnerable population of Cox's Bazar, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and disaster-stricken areas have enhanced food security and nutrition.

Focus area: Crisis response

405.5 m

148.7 m

131.9 m

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Innovative approaches to enhance the resilience of food insecure households exposed to climate-related shocks and stresses are validated by 2020.

Focus area: Resilience building

35.8 m

25.2 m*

0.0 m

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDG

Strategic Outcome 4: The humanitarian response system for large-scale natural disasters in Bangladesh can respond with reduced cost and lead time.

Focus area: Resilience building

15.4 m

2.9 m*

2.3 m

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development partners in Bangladesh have access to reliable services in the areas of supply chain and emergency telecommunications during crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

23.9 m

15.6 m

9.4 m

¹ Figures are provisional.

* Reflects adjustment in fund reallocation.

WFP Country Activities

SO 1	1 - Technical assistance and advocacy to enhance the food security and nutrition impact of selected safety nets.
	2 - Technical assistance and advocacy for improved nutrition.
	3 - Technical assistance and advocacy for scaling-up post-harvest rice fortification.
	4 - Policy advice and technical assistance to scale up school feeding.
SO 2	5 - Deliver an integrated assistance package in Cox's Bazar.
	6 - Deliver an integrated assistance package in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.
	7 - Delivering food assistance in emergencies.
SO 3	8 - Evidence creation on innovative approaches to enhance resilience.
	9 - Implement the <i>Nobo Jatra</i> programme.
SO 4	10 - Capacity strengthening for emergency response.
	11 - Lead the logistics cluster and co-lead the food security cluster.
SO 5	12 - Logistics support services to the Government and the humanitarian community.
	13 - Emergency telecommunications support services to the Government and the humanitarian community.

- WFP shared the preliminary findings of the first wave of a three-wave Vulnerable Group Development programme panel survey, in a stakeholder consultation. This survey is a joint effort of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the Department of Women Affairs and WFP.
- Under the *Nobo Jatra* programme, WFP transferred conditional cash entitlements of BDT 2,200 (USD 26) per individual to 13,839 pregnant and nursing women for better nutrition; BDT 1,000 (USD 12) each to 4,703 women participating in the graduation/livelihoods programme; and a one-off cash grant of BDT 15,000 (USD 178) each to 423 women participating in the graduation programme to initiate income generating activities. WFP has facilitated 25 cyclone simulation drills in 25 areas of Satkhira and Khulna districts. These simulations aim to create mass awareness and build capacities on disaster risk reduction for the communities.
- WFP has provided basic nutrition training to 50 district officials from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. The training aimed to improve nutrition knowledge for effective implementation of the Maternity/Lactating Mothers' Allowance programme.

Monitoring

- In May, the WFP-established call centre on programme grievance procedure received 370 calls and attended 93 percent of them. Almost 81 percent of the queries and complaints were about the next distribution. Among the callers, 63 percent were female and 37 percent male.
- The report on the third round of the WFP-commissioned third-party monitoring in Cox's Bazar was received. The report has been prepared mainly based on interviews from about 700 refugee households.
- WFP has commissioned a baseline survey of the McGovern Dole funded three-year School Feeding programme in Cox's Bazar district. The survey has looked into literacy, health and dietary practices. A report is expected to be shared in July 2018.

Challenges

- Development partners are in full support to the Government to implement the National Social Security Strategy. Funds have been committed for the design of the Child Benefit programme, social registry and operationalisation of modern electronic payment systems. However, the lack of coordinated approaches for synergies remains a challenge. WFP has agreed with the Cabinet Division under the Honourable Prime Minister's office to establish a multi-sector/agency platform for coordination.

Donors

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