



In Numbers

11,800 mt of food distributed

US\$2.63 m cash based transfers made

850,632 refugees receiving food assistance

US\$138.1 m six months (July-December 2018) net funding requirements

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

June 2018

1.26 m people assisted in June 2018

53%



47%



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 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 21 June, an estimated 706,364 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 850,632 people.
- For the 180,648 most vulnerable earlier undocumented refugees, including those of the October 2016 influx, WFP has completed the eighth monthly cash-based transfer of Bangladesh Taka (BDT) 765 (USD 9) per person.
- In June 2018, the WFP School Feeding Programme reached 396,154 students with micronutrient fortified biscuits and 15,097 children with school meals.
- For the National School Feeding programme, the Government has allocated USD 3.7 million for the fiscal year 2018-19. This allocation will replace the existing in-kind contribution from the Government. WFP has advocated for this initiative.
- WFP has negotiated to receive rice from the Government's Public Food Distribution System for the WFP School Meals pilot, which will significantly reduce the cost of school meals.
- The Cabinet Division has approved WFP's Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP) to promote nutrition sensitive social security programmes. Under this, WFP will assist the Cabinet Division to establish a platform and facilitate inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral coordination with various Government agencies and other relevant stakeholders.
- As part of the nutrition advocacy objective, WFP has contributed to the revision of a final draft of the National Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) strategy, communication framework and training module.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Saikat Mojumder
Caption: A child getting mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement in a camp in Cox's Bazar.

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WFP Bangladesh Strategy

Total Requirement CSP
(in USD)

Confirmed
Contributions
(in USD)

July - December
Net Funding Requirements
(in USD)¹

Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

530.9 m

226.4 m²

138.1 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

50.3 m

20.7 m

0.0 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

163.7m

130.7 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

25.5 m

1 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

15.3 m

2.9 m

2 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

24 m

13.6 m

5.1 m

¹ Figures are provisional.

² Previous reported amount includes IRA/Advance Finance for SO 2 and SO 5

- As part of WFP's advocacy effort for social safety net reform, WFP facilitated round-table discussions with relevant government agencies, academia and other strategic partners. The aim of these discussions was to assist the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to improve their targeting approach and criteria for the Vulnerable Group Development programme.
- WFP along with other relevant partners, supported the formulation process of the nutrition behavior change communication training content and facilitation techniques of the social safety net programmes.
- WFP has initiated profiling of households for the implementation of the Forecast based Financing (FbF) intervention, in the areas around the flood affected northern river basin. This database will help to select beneficiaries in an anticipated crisis period of climate shocks with early action protocols based on weather forecasts. The early actions are expected to reduce the costs of post-shock humanitarian response.
- Under the *Nobo Jatra* programme, WFP transferred conditional cash entitlements of BDT 2,200 (USD 26) per individual per month to 14,300 pregnant and nursing women for better nutrition; BDT 1,000 (USD 12) each per month to 9,864 women participating in the graduation/livelihoods programme; and a one-off cash grant of BDT 15,000 (USD 178) each to 1,140 women participating in the graduation programme to initiate income generating activities.

Monitoring

- In June, the WFP-established call centre on programme grievance procedures received 362 calls and attended 94 percent of them. Almost 90 percent of the queries and complaints were about the next distribution. Among the callers, 73 percent were female and 27 percent male.
- The report on the fourth 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 570 refugee households.

Challenges

- To meet the demand for fortified rice by the safety net programmes, at present there are two fortified rice kernel producers in Bangladesh who meet the quality standards. It has become a challenge for these producers to meet the monthly demand. WFP is advocating and providing capacity strengthening to the private sector to have more fortified rice kernels producers.

Donors

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, ECHO, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Private Donors, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, DFID-UK, UN Common Funds and Agencies, UN CERF and USA.

WFP Bangladesh 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.