



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Bangladesh Country Brief August 2018



## Operational Context

Bangladesh is a lower middle-income country facing critical levels of poverty and undernutrition, exacerbated by high population density and extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. The high prevalence of child marriage, adolescent pregnancies and undernutrition in mothers and adolescent girls contributes to the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition. This is compounded by high rates of stunting in children under the age of 5 that is a perceptible hindrance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh.

WFP, present in Bangladesh since 1974, transitioned to a new Country Strategic Plan in April 2017. The CSP commits WFP to capacity strengthening of the government counterparts, facilitates direct provision of food assistance in emergencies and activities aimed at evidence creation.

Besides, WFP is actively engaged in humanitarian response to the refugee crisis triggered by the large-scale influx of the Rohingya population from Myanmar, which prompted activation of a Level 3 Emergency Response in Cox's Bazar in September 2017.



Population: **165 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **139 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## In Numbers

**12,798.02 mt** of food assistance distributed

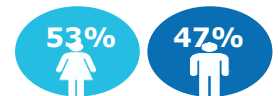
**US\$ 2.8 m** cash based transfers made

**US\$ 242.6 m** Phase II (March – Dec 2018) total funding requirement for Cox's Bazar L3 Emergency Response

**US\$ 108 m** total confirmed contribution for Cox's Bazar L3 Emergency Response

**US\$ 83.4 m** six months (Sep 2018 - Feb 2019) net funding requirements for CSP of which **US\$ 54.8 m** is for Cox's Bazar L3 Emergency Response

**1.4 m people assisted**  
in August 2018



## Operational Updates

- L3 Emergency Response:** One year on from 25 August 2018, WFP continues with its Level 3 emergency response in Cox's Bazar supporting an estimated 700,000 refugees who fled to Bangladesh to escape violence in Myanmar. As per ISCG reports, the total refugee population stands at 919,000.
- The 22<sup>nd</sup> round of General Food Assistance (GFA) was completed and has reached 100,400 families. During August, 646,700 refugees received in-kind food assistance and 213,100 refugees received food assistance through e-vouchers.
- WFP published the "Rohingya influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) – Technical Report". REVA reveals that at least 80 percent of the overall refugee population are vulnerable to food insecurity and would not be able to meet their minimum dietary requirements without assistance.
- Rice Fortification:** WFP is providing technical assistance to the Government to initiate the sale of fortified rice at a subsidized cost (BDT 10 against a market price of BDT 40 per kg) under the National Food Friendly Programme (FFP). This will target approximately 600,000 beneficiaries in ten sub-districts from September to November.
- Additionally, an estimated 500,000 beneficiaries from ultra-poor households received fortified rice under the Vulnerable Group Development programme (VGD).
- Nobo Jatra:** In the month of August, WFP transferred conditional cash entitlements of BDT 2,200 (USD 26) per individual to 15,560 pregnant and nursing women; and BDT 1,000 (USD 12) to 8,000 women participating in the graduation programme. 15,000 (USD 178) each was given to 840 women enrolled in the graduation programme to initiate income generating activities (IGAs).

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## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sep - Feb Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>530.9 m</b>	<b>289.7 m</b>	<b>83.4 m</b>

### 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

**Activities:**

- Technical assistance and advocacy to enhance the food security and nutrition impact of selected safety nets.
- Technical assistance and advocacy for improved nutrition.
- Technical assistance and advocacy for scaling up post-harvest rice fortification.
- Policy advice and technical assistance to scale-up school feeding.

### 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

**Activities:**

- Deliver an integrated assistance package in Cox's Bazar.
- Deliver an integrated assistance package in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

### 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

**Activities:**

- Evidence creation on innovative approaches to enhance resilience.
- Implement the Nobo Jatra programme.

### 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

**Activities:**

- Capacity strengthening for emergency response.
- Lead the logistics cluster and co-lead the food-security cluster.

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

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

**Focus area:** Crisis response

- Coordinate the LS/C and provide efficient common logistics services to support the humanitarian community's response.
- Coordinate the ETS/C and provide efficient common services to support the humanitarian community response.
- Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP).

- **School Feeding:** WFP is providing technical assistance to the Government for implementing the school-feeding programme in a cost-effective manner encouraging community participation. The first round of implementation is expected to begin in Lama upazila (sub-district) in September.
- During August, the School Feeding Programme reached 205,300 children with micronutrient fortified biscuits and 15,090 children with school meals.
- **Resilience Innovation:** WFP conducted a workshop on Theory of Change for Activity 8 – Resilience Innovation, under Strategic Outcome 3 of the Country Strategic Plan. The primary goal of the workshop was to co-construct the theory of change and develop a common understanding of Activity 8.

## Monitoring

- In the month of August, the third-party monitoring (TPM) firm revealed that 50% of the interviewed households receiving in-kind food had only men responsible for collecting entitlements, while 45% of the households receiving e-vouchers stated, both men and women in the family decide on how to use their vouchers. Few complaints were registered on quantity of food items, inadequate stocks, and low quality of rice.
- During August, WFP hotline received 420 calls and 400 calls replayed/feedback. 70% of these callers were female and 30% male.

## Challenges

- Sizable funding gaps continue to limit WFP's life-saving assistance to the Rohingya refugees as well as in the host community in Cox's Bazar.
- During the ongoing monsoon season, persistent heavy rainfall and landslides are major challenges to on-ground operations, especially in the functioning of the logistics sector.
- WFP is engaged in finding a common ground with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education that is advocating for a shift to distribution of tiffin boxes to parents who would provide school meals to children. This has caused considerable delays in the approval of the National School Feeding Policy (NSFP).

## Donors

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