

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES



WFP in Bangladesh

2017 in Review



June 2018

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Message from the WFP Representative

2017 marked another year of progress for Bangladesh. The country met the Least Developed Country (LDC) graduation requirements for the first time, meaning that LDC graduation could be formalized as soon as 2021. Bangladesh moved up in the Human Development Index rankings (to 142). GDP growth for 2017 was an impressive 7.3 percent. The Government of Bangladesh has shown strong commitment to development and has the results to show for it, as a member of lower middle-income countries since 2016, according to the World Bank.

Nevertheless, challenges remain to achieving Zero Hunger in Bangladesh. Although there has been significant improvement in Bangladesh's food security indicators, around 40 million of its people are food-insecure. This includes about 11 million people suffering from acute hunger. Around a third of children are stunted, reflecting poor nutrition early in life. Much of the country is vulnerable to climate shocks which can destroy family assets and disrupt communities, shocks that are only predicted to get worse. The refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar, already a very impoverished and food-insecure region of the country, threatens the food security and nutrition status of both the refugees and the host community.

The independent Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh (2016) was commissioned by WFP to identify ways forward to address remaining food security and nutrition challenges. Key findings included the importance of a social protection system that leaves no one behind, recognition of women as the key to achieving sustainable food security and nutrition, and creation and dissemination of relevant knowledge.

WFP Bangladesh began in April 2017 the implementation of a new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2020 which builds on these findings and defines how WFP Bangladesh will support the country toward achieving SDG 2 and SDG 17. Our work in Bangladesh recognizes a dual mandate: we continue our long-standing work of strengthening government capacity while providing direct assistance in emergencies and testing innovative approaches for efficiency and effectiveness. The CSP also aligns WFP's activities in Bangladesh to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2020 and to the Government's Seventh Five Year Plan 2016-2020.

Much global attention has been focused on the Rohingya refugee crisis triggered by the outbreak of violence in the Rakhine State of Myanmar in August 2017. This refugee crisis is one of the most protracted in the world, with tens of thousands of Rohingya living in Cox's Bazar for decades and



WFP Representative and Country Director, Christa Räder, visits an e-voucher shop in Cox's Bazar serving the refugee population.

influxes of refugees joining them, including an influx of over 77,000 in 2016. Now around a million Rohingya reside in Cox's Bazar, over 80 percent of them women and children. The Government of Bangladesh has shown a tremendous commitment to sheltering this population, as has the local community in Cox's Bazar. The situation remains critical, with food security and nutrition in crisis for Bangladeshi and Rohingya communities alike. WFP will continue to deliver needed aid in partnership with the Government and our donors, and we implore the international community to continue much needed support.

Looking to 2018 and beyond, there is a need for WFP, UN agencies, donors and the broader humanitarian community to consider medium-term options in Cox's Bazar. A medium-term response would allow the refugee community to contribute toward their own livelihoods and would support the most vulnerable members of local communities as they maintain their livelihoods in the face of great pressure and market fluctuations. All children in the refugee and host communities must attend school and women who are pregnant or nursing need specialized nutrition support. Without these and other needed interventions, we risk losing a generation of Rohingya and eroding hard-won gains for the host community.

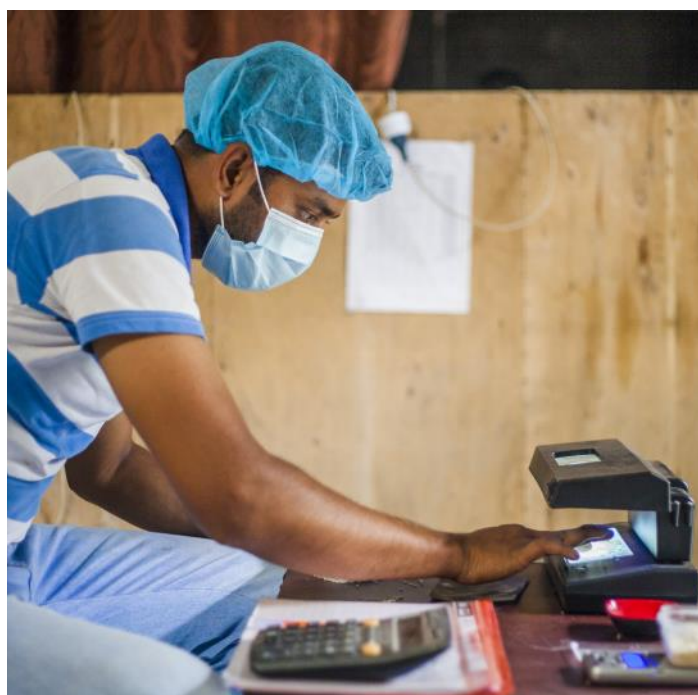
Christa Räder

WFP Representative and Country Director

Highlights



RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN COX'S BAZAR (PAGE 14)



SUPPORTING BANGLADESH'S PROGRESS TOWARD ZERO HUNGER (PAGE 10)

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Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020

WFP is the first United Nations agency to define its work globally in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. The CSP, launched in April 2017, is part of an ambitious global reorganization within WFP, the Integrated Roadmap, which includes a restructuring of internal business processes and staffing to operate with efficiency and agility. Bangladesh, as one of WFP's flagship development and emergency response programmes, is one of the first in this rollout.

The CSP is informed by the independent Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh (2016) and aligns with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2020 and the vision of the Government's Seventh Five Year Plan 2016-2020. The CSP brings together our activities in development, emergency response preparedness, humanitarian assistance in general and the response to the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar as well as longer term refugee and host population support. Organized into a portfolio comprising five strategic outcomes, the CSP emphasizes contributions to two specific SDGs: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17.

WFP has a strong history of working in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen its own systems for emergency response and food security. The CSP recognizes this strength. By helping the Government take innovative programmes to scale and improve existing policy and programme design, WFP can assist far more people than through direct operational involvement.

The internal financial and business process revisions have enabled WFP to improve the value it delivers on donor contributions, with a unified single Annual Country Report that consolidates technical findings. This internal realignment comes with a decision taken at the country level to empower the locally hired staff who steer our government capacity support and make up 85 percent of our workforce, including technical experts and managers.

The Country Strategic Plan organizes all of WFP's activities in Bangladesh into a clear Line of Sight. Each Activity in the plan supports a strategic outcome and in turn a specific SDG target.

SDG Targets

SDG 2.2	SDG 2.1	SDG 2.4	SDG 17.9	SDG 17.16
End all forms of malnutrition.	End hunger and ensure access to food.	Ensure sustainable food production systems.	Enhance support for capacity building to implement the SDGs.	Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

WFP Strategic Outcomes

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5
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.	The most vulnerable population of Cox's Bazar, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and disaster-affected areas have enhanced food security and nutrition.	Innovative approaches to enhance the resilience of food insecure households exposed to climate-related shocks and stresses are validated by 2020.	The humanitarian response system for large-scale natural disasters in Bangladesh can respond with reduced cost and lead time.	Humanitarian and development partners in Bangladesh have access to reliable services in the areas of supply chain and emergency telecommunications during crises.

Activities

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 12: Coordinate the Logistics Sector/ Cluster and provide efficient common logistics services to support the humanitarian community's 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: Lead the Logistics Cluster and co-lead the Food Security Cluster.	Activity 13: Coordinate the Emergency Telecommunications Sector/ Cluster and provide efficient common services to support the humanitarian community's response.
Activity 3: Capacity support and advocacy to scale up rice fortification.	Activity 7: Delivery of food assistance in emergencies.			*Activity 14: Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP) in Cox's Bazar
Activity 4: Policy advice and capacity support to scale up school feeding.				



* SMEP was added to the CSP by budget revision in 2018. Achievements in 2018 will be reported in the following year.

In 2017, WFP Bangladesh reached over **1.9 million** beneficiaries:

1 million were refugees
1.03 million were women and girls
1.2 million were children under 18

Over **23,000 metric tons** of food were delivered

17,350 partner staff and government officials received training

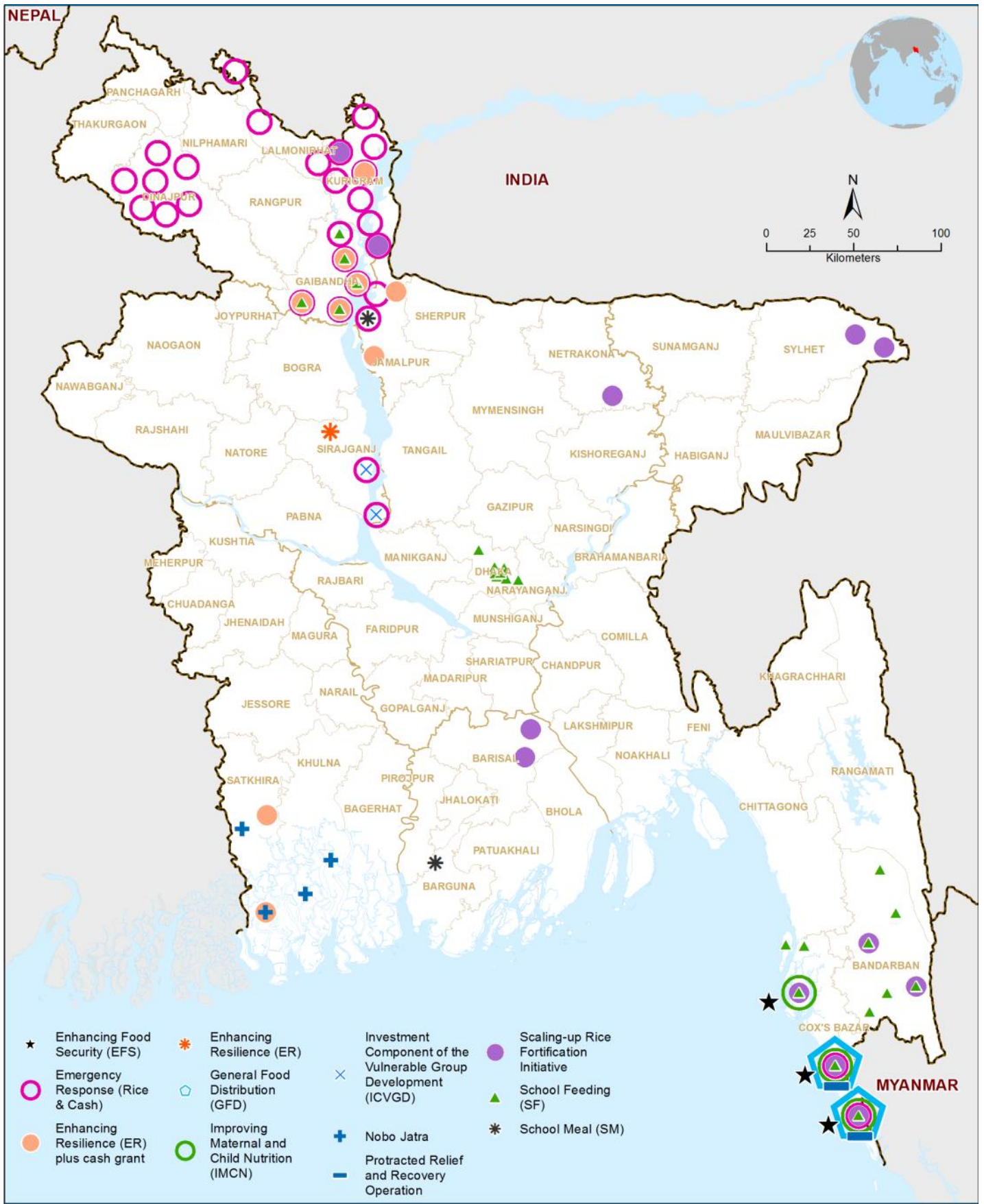
273,000 school children received nutritious biscuits or meals

WFP supported social safety nets enabling the Government of Bangladesh to reach millions of people more effectively:

460,000 people received fortified rice

1 million women supported in the Vulnerable Group Development Programme

2.4 million school children received nutritious biscuits



Date Created: 23 February 2018
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 Website: www.wfp.org
 Prepared by: HQ, OSEP GIS
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— International Boundary — State boundary — Surface Waterbody
 — Township/District boundary

Data sources: WFP, UNGIWG, GeoNames, GAUL
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Enhancing Nutrition in Bangladesh by 2020

Strategic Outcome 1



Children celebrating Bangladesh's Victory Day at a Dhaka school. They receive a nutritious snack each day through the School Feeding programme.

Bangladesh has made significant progress toward Zero Hunger, but challenges remain—especially in nutrition. About a third of children are stunted, reflecting poor nutrition early in life. Around 14 percent of children suffer from wasting, and this indicator has proven particularly stubborn. WFP aims to strengthen Bangladesh's capacity to improve nutrition indicators in line with nationally-established targets and in alignment with the National Social Security Strategy Implementation. Interventions target social safety nets, nutrition policy and advocacy, post-harvest rice fortification and school feeding. WFP helps design policy, engage relevant stakeholders and improve Government service delivery. By working with Government, WFP has a bigger impact than delivering aid on its own.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT SOCIAL SAFETY NETS ACTIVITY 1

WFP has supported the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme since 1974. VGD provides rice assistance and training to ultra-poor women and is the largest social safety net targeting this group. VGD has been a government programme since its inception, but from 2011 onwards it has also been funded entirely by government resources. Now WFP provides technical support, which in 2017 included training for government officials, strategic planning, new monitoring

and evaluation tools and a capacity assessment. This assistance enabled the Government of Bangladesh to reach a million ultra-poor women through VGD in 2017, benefitting around 5 million people if their family members are included.

The Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) is implemented within VGD, adding a substantial cash grant for investment, fortified rice distribution and improved training activities. ICVGD is intended to serve as a model for a promotional and nutrition-sensitive social safety net for ultra-poor women. The Government of Bangladesh is taking it to scale to reach 100,000 women, with a view to reach 1 million women in the near future. In 2017, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs adopted the ICVGD training manual on entrepreneurship development for the VGD programme.

WFP also works with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to improve household survey data collection and analysis. In 2018, WFP will begin providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for the design of the Child Benefit Programme, which is expected to have nutrition outcomes. WFP will collaborate with IFPRI to enhance the design of the Maternity/Lactating Mother Allowance programme by supporting operational research.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVOCACY FOR NUTRITION ACTIVITY 2

Nutrition is integrated across WFP's activities in Bangladesh and a CSP Nutrition Strategy and Engagement plan will support nutrition-sensitive components of all WFP activities. Our nutrition team also supports the Government to improve the nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific policy components of interventions in rural and urban areas, including the national school feeding policy and the vulnerable women benefit and child benefit programmes. WFP will form partnerships and advocacy groups to enhance nutrition policy, convening Government partners, technical experts, international and local organizations.

A mass education campaign to improve nutrition through healthy diets, in partnership with the Ministry of Information and other stakeholders, is in the planning phase and will be developed over the course of the four years of the CSP. Under Activity 5 (see page 14), WFP's technical experts are also ensuring that nutrition is addressed in all aspects of our response to the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar.

RICE FORTIFICATION ACTIVITY 3

Nutrient-rich diets remain a challenge in Bangladesh. Despite a significant decline in poverty in recent years, deficiencies in vitamin A, iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin B12 and folate are widespread. These micronutrient deficiencies, especially among women and adolescent girls, are a key factor in the persistence of undernutrition. A woman's health significantly affects the health and development of her future children.

Rice, the staple food in Bangladesh, is rich in carbohydrates but poor in micronutrients. Fortified rice, a mix of regular rice with fortified rice kernels in a 100:1 ratio, is emerging as a solution at scale. WFP works through many entry points with government, research institutes, advocacy groups and the private sector to enhance the production and distribution of fortified rice in Bangladesh.

Over 460,000 people received fortified rice in 2017. In part through WFP advocacy, many of these were beneficiaries in food-based social safety nets. By including fortified rice in social safety nets, a much greater impact on overall nutrition can be achieved. Fortified rice also reached 10,200 women in four garment factories, who receive it as part of their regular meals. Engagement in this important sector of Bangladesh's economy represents a new entry point for WFP and an opportunity to broaden nutrition interventions through the private sector.

In 2017, WFP supported research on the effectiveness and acceptability of fortified rice. An effectiveness study commissioned by WFP and conducted by icddr,b, showed that fortified rice improved anaemia status (by 4.8 percentage points) and decreased zinc deficiency (by 6 percentage points). The group in this study receiving fortified rice showed

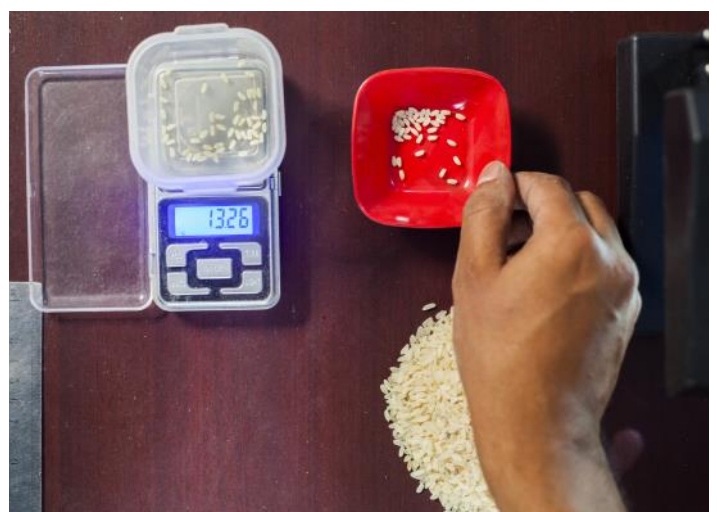
Bangladesh has made significant progress toward Zero Hunger, but challenges remain—especially in nutrition.

better vitamin A status and had a lower rate of diarrhea and fever. These findings are expected to substantiate greater distribution of fortified rice.

WFP is working with the private sector to scale up local production capacity. Technical assistance is provided to two other companies to increase local production capacity of fortified rice kernels, currently produced by only one company locally.

In a survey of consumers and producers conducted in conjunction with a market research firm and the WFP Regional Bureau, around 96 percent of consumers expressed approval of fortified rice and 88 percent of traders and wholesalers expressed interest in carrying the rice. Crucially, over half of the consumers were willing to pay BDT 1-2 extra per kilogram of fortified rice. At present, the cost of fortified rice is still BDT 3-4 above the market price of rice. With enhanced and integrated milling and distribution systems, there is potential for fortified rice to be viable at market prices.

With integration of fortified rice into the Food Friendly Programme, a safety net which offers reduced-price rice during lean months, and expansion of fortified rice in VGD and additional garment factories, 1.5 million people are expected to receive this nutritional boost in 2018.



A food technologist inspects grains of fortified rice. WFP is helping local producers build capacity to produce this micronutrient-fortified mix, integrated into food-based government social safety nets.

Enhancing Nutrition in Bangladesh by 2020

Strategic Outcome 1



Pre-primary students in a school in Bhashantek slum, Mirpur, Dhaka receive micronutrient fortified biscuits.

SCHOOL FEEDING ACTIVITY 4

Bangladesh has made excellent progress in net school enrolment and elimination of gender disparity in education. However, 3.3 million out of 20 million children of primary school age remain out of school. Eight in ten children that start grade one complete grade five at national level. Strengthening access and completion for all students will support achievement of quality primary education in Bangladesh. These same students struggle with widespread micronutrient deficiencies, increasing their susceptibility to disease and hindering their development. Vitamin A deficiency affects one in five children, and zinc deficiency stands at 40 percent. Around twenty percent of school age children are anaemic.

School feeding, which in Bangladesh includes programming to distribute micro-nutrient fortified biscuits and a pilot programme for hot meals at school, has been shown to improve students' enrolment and attendance rates while supplying them with vitamins and minerals which many of them otherwise lack in their diets.

WFP works with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME) to support the scale-up and policy design of the Government's School Feeding Programme in Poverty-Prone Areas. This government school feeding programme has increased from 55,000 schoolchildren in 2011 to 2.4 million

schoolchildren in 2017, reaching nearly 11,000 schools in 85 sub-districts by the year's end. WFP provides support to government implementation in several areas: programme design and management, preparation of programme guidelines, tools for monitoring and reporting, and management of assessments and evaluations. In addition, capacity strengthening support was provided to facilitate inter-agency coordination, non-governmental organization partner selection and performance assessment, selection of biscuit factories, procurement of biscuits and quality control support.

In 2017, WFP directly implemented biscuit distribution in Dhaka and Gaibandha, reaching 273,000 pre-primary and primary schoolchildren in 3,845 schools in areas with high poverty prevalence and low educational performance. By the end of 2018, direct implementation of school feeding by WFP will be limited to Cox's Bazar (page 19), the Chittagong Hill Tracts (page 20) and pilot programmes elsewhere to support innovation and policy design. WFP also distributed dates donated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to around 123,000 students in Gaibandha.

The school feeding programme includes an Essential Learning Package which incorporates several topics into the school curriculum, including hygiene, vegetable growing, the importance of girls' education, and the impact of child marriage, dowry and early pregnancy. School teachers, parents and school management committee members also

received awareness messages on these topics. The programme also sought to enhance women's leadership in school management committees by delivering trainings on gender sensitization, education and advocacy. In schools with WFP-implemented programmes, 2,189 women and 1,058 men on school management committee members received this training, which helped to increase women's representation in the committees.

WFP school feeding is partially funded by the United States Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole International Food For Education and Child Nutrition Program. As part of this programme, WFP implemented literacy activities in Gaibandha along with teacher training, co-curricular activities, school gardens, deworming, and reconstruction of water accessibility systems, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) blocks.

HOME-GROWN SCHOOL MEALS

WFP implements a home-grown school meals programme in two sub-districts, Bamna and Islampur, which provides students with a nutritious hot meal five times weekly with locally-grown vegetables. In 2017, this programme reached around 17,000 schoolchildren. To supply the vegetables, the initiative engaged 2,200 women cultivators. More local women were financially supported through their employment as cooks and helpers and provided training and orientation on health, hygiene, safe food preparation and basic numeracy. Mothers' clubs were formed in communities to facilitate timely meal preparation, ensure hygiene and safe

distribution of cooked food among students. As a consequence, 14,500 mothers were familiarised with basic nutrition, health and hygiene behaviour, food safety, accounting and the importance of education to enhance their role as change agents at the home and in the community.

The hot meals pilot will continue into 2018, with plans to expand into additional areas. WFP commissioned a study on the impact of school feeding to compare the benefits of school meals and fortified biscuits. The study's findings will provide strong evidence for the design and implementation of the national school feeding policy.

NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY

2017 saw significant progress in the development of a nutrition-sensitive National School Feeding Policy. WFP's support for the design and implementation of this policy has a tremendous potential impact as the Government plans to scale up the school feeding programme even further. WFP support has enabled the Government to establish a nutrition-sensitive draft national school feeding policy through multi-stakeholder consultative workshops at the division level. WFP facilitated Government participation in regional workshops and study visits for officials to share successes and opportunities from various national school meals programmes. A draft school feeding policy was endorsed by the inter-ministerial technical committee led by MOPME. High-level consultations will continue into 2018 to finalize the policy.



Students receiving a hot meal as part of a WFP pilot programme. The pilot sources locally-grown vegetables and provides students with a freshly cooked, nutritious meal.

Crisis Response in Cox's Bazar

Strategic Outcomes 2 and 5



A recently arrived refugee woman has just received rice on 10 September 2017 in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. Smoke from Myanmar is visible behind her.

The outbreak of violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State on 25 August 2017 represented a turning point in one of the world's most protracted refugee crises. The refugee population in Cox's Bazar has grown to nearly 1 million, outnumbering the local population in the most affected sub-districts, Ukhiya and Teknaf. WFP responded to the emergency needs by providing immediate assistance, and is scaling up its programme in Cox's Bazar to meet the greatly increased needs of the larger population: an integrated assistance package of food assistance, malnutrition prevention and treatment, school feeding, livelihoods programming and disaster risk reduction. The integrated assistance package supports the food security and nutrition of refugee and host communities through multiple entry points based on WFP's long experience in Cox's Bazar.

ADAPTING TO THE 2016 INFLUX

In October 2016 (about 18 months prior to this writing), violence in Myanmar led over 77,000 refugees to flee from Rakhine State to Cox's Bazar district. The addition of these

refugees meant that between 200,000 and 300,000 unregistered refugees lived in Cox's Bazar at the beginning of 2017, many of them in dire need of food and nutrition assistance. Children and pregnant and nursing women were included in WFP's existing malnutrition programme.

Cyclone Mora, at the end of May 2017 (see page 20) caused severe damage to the settlements, including shelter, food, fuel and electricity supplies. Women and girls in the camps were particularly endangered by the storm due to lack of safe shelter, inadequate lighting, and temporary displacement to emergency tents after shelter collapse. Although Mora did not hit the camps directly, the damage was considerable. With the 2018 population of refugees tripled, the potential for loss of life in a natural disaster is much greater.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE ENABLED BY BANGLADESH

On 25 August 2017, violence broke out in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. Rohingya began to flee into Bangladesh—over 500,000 by the end of September. More fled in the

ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

WFP does more than deliver food. As one of the lead agencies in three humanitarian sectors, WFP joins with UN agencies and other partners to advocate for durable solutions to humanitarian challenges in Bangladesh and participates in policy dialogue.

In mid-2017 (well before the August 2017 influx of refugees) WFP successfully advocated for the expansion of its e-voucher programme to vulnerable members of the makeshift camp population. This policy shift laid the groundwork for the expansion of the e-voucher system to the whole refugee

population, which will soon be the backbone of food assistance to the refugees. Our partnerships with donors provide WFP with more than funding. Donors provide technical expertise and help steer our programming to deliver value for money. A multi-year strategic partnership with Australia provides flexible funds that can be allocated where the need or impact is greatest. A long-standing partnership with ECHO supports our nutrition interventions. A renewed partnership with Japan has enabled a scale-up of our logistics and disaster risk reduction programming. Governments, private sector partners and individuals have stepped up in the crisis (see page 23) to help us deliver aid.

subsequent months and into 2018, bringing the population to around a million. Bangladeshi host community members responded with shelter and charity, as they have for years. WFP was one of the first humanitarian agencies on the ground, providing vitamin and mineral fortified biscuits to new arrivals. A unique arrangement between WFP and the Government of Bangladesh allowed WFP to borrow 50,000 metric tons rice from the national Public Food Distribution System, enabling WFP to begin delivery of rice rapidly and at scale. By releasing over 5000 acres of land and settlement and allowing humanitarian access, WFP and other actors were quickly able to deliver needed aid as refugees rapidly arrived.

FOOD ASSISTANCE: FROM RICE TO E-VOUCHERS

WFP initially responded to the food security needs of the refugees with in-kind rice rations. Wet kitchens, run by Action Contre La Faim with rice supplied by WFP, provided hot meals for new arrivals who awaited in-kind distributions or lacked cooking facilities. During the first few weeks of the crisis, in-kind donations of food from many actors complemented rice rations provided immediately by WFP. The Food Security Sector, co-chaired by WFP, coordinated these donations. WFP-led assessments have found the needs to be great, with over

80 percent of refugees depending on food assistance for survival. WFP added pulses and oil to the rations and began scaling them based on family size to ensure that all refugees received their minimum caloric intake. An outcome survey in December 2017 showed that the food security of refugee households improved somewhat from August to December.

Since 2014, WFP has operated an e-voucher programme based on SCOPE, WFP's beneficiary management and fund transfer platform, for the population of 34,000 registered refugees in Cox's Bazar. With a biometric debit card reloaded monthly, refugees can purchase a variety of food from shops run by private sector contractors: vegetables, dried fish, spices and eggs included. Refugees on e-vouchers have better diets and can access food at times and places more convenient and safe than periodic distributions. With Bangladeshi merchants operating the shops and the possibility of locally sourcing fresh food, the e-voucher programme is a win-win for refugees and host communities.

As the 2017 crisis unfolded, there was overall agreement on an enormous scale up of the programme to reach the whole refugee population. WFP began biometrically enrolling all refugees on the SCOPE platform to roll out the e-voucher programme gradually over the course of 2018.



Refugees arrive in Cox's Bazar on 9 September 2017. Many arrived with few belongings, and over 80 percent dependent on food assistance for survival.

Timeline

2017 in Bangladesh

REFUGEES IN COX'S BAZAR

Following the 2016 influx, the total population of refugees is estimated to be 200,000 to 300,000.

CYCLONE MORA

Cyclone Mora strikes in the vicinity of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar on May 30.

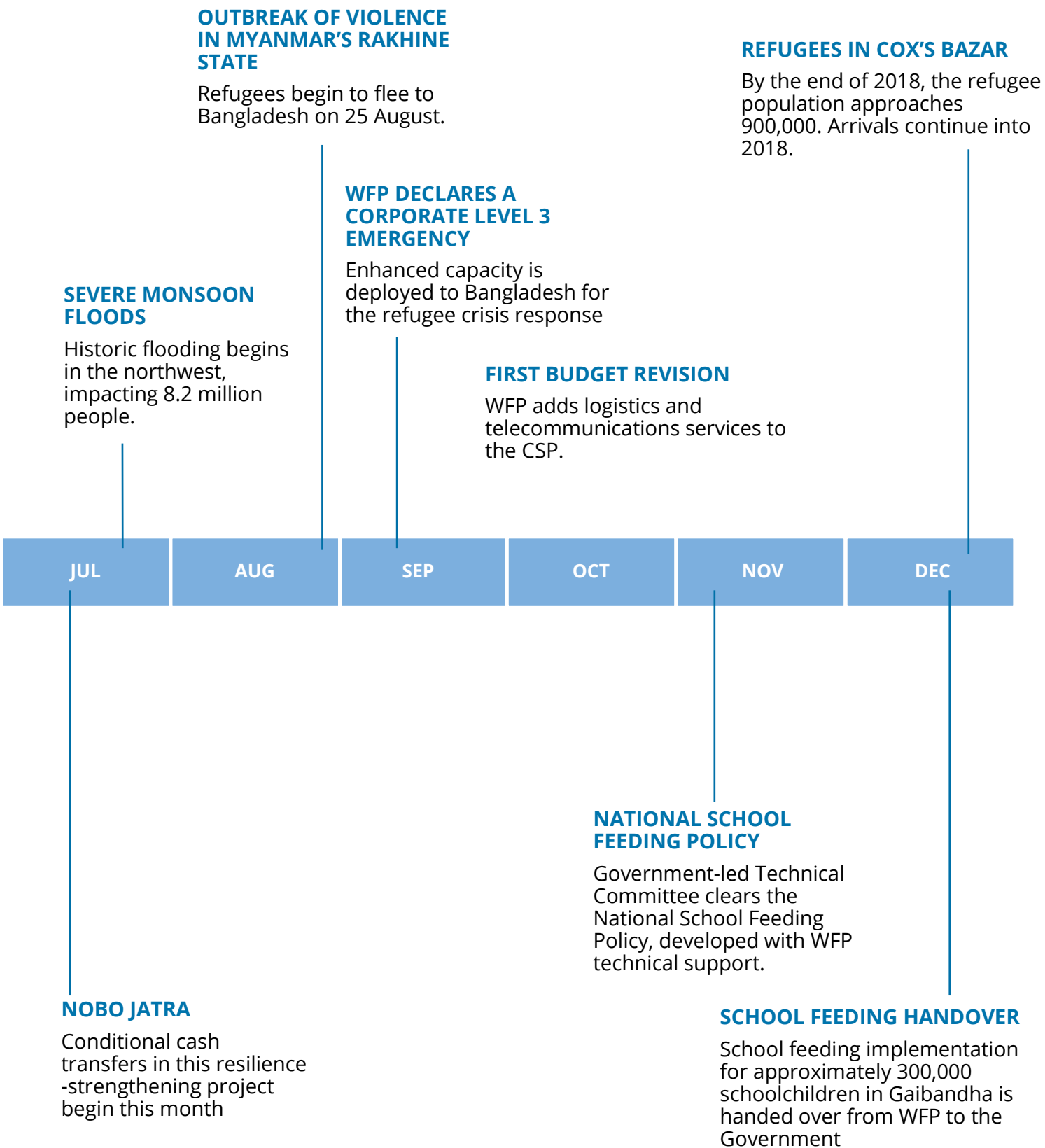


ICVGD SCALE UP

Based on a WFP pilot, the Government decides to scale up the Investment Component of VGD to reach 100,000 women.

WFP COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN GOES LIVE

All activities and funds now fall under a single portfolio



Crisis Response in Cox's Bazar

Strategic Outcomes 2 and 5



A refugee woman buys food at an e-voucher shop in Balukhali makeshift site, Cox's Bazar. With e-vouchers, refugees can purchase a wider variety of food at times and places that are more convenient and less crowded than general food distributions.

With limited livelihood opportunities for refugees in the camps, WFP continues food assistance to the entire refugee population during 2018. More sustainable solutions will have to be explored. In 2018 WFP has begun to provide some opportunities for self-reliance for refugees through employment in disaster risk reduction and site maintenance and engineering activities, but broader opportunities for refugees to support themselves will be needed.

FIGHTING MALNUTRITION

The second component of WFP's integrated assistance package is a malnutrition prevention and treatment programme for children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women. The programme fights moderate acute malnutrition, with cases of severe acute malnutrition referred to specialized treatment centres operated by partners.

In the refugee camps, WFP assessed that the malnutrition rates were well above emergency thresholds and rolled out an intensive Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme. Under this modality, all children under 5 and all pregnant and nursing women are provided with SuperCereal (a nutritious wheat soya blend) and nutrition education at specialized nutrition centres throughout the settlements. Access was a

major constraint on this critical nutrition intervention: it was difficult to set up sufficient nutrition centres to meet the needs. During the monsoon and cyclone seasons in 2018, it is anticipated that flooding and damage to shelters may cause disease outbreaks and damage to refugees' cooking facilities, making nutrition a continued concern.

In the host community, the malnutrition programme operates within villages, with locally-recruited volunteers delivering periodic training to caregivers on good nutrition practices. At these sessions, children are assessed for malnutrition by upper arm measurements. Children with malnutrition are referred to a treatment programme in which they receive SuperCereal and their caregivers receive additional nutrition education. This programme's intensive outreach led to a 70 percent coverage rate for the host community in Ukhiya and Teknaf in 2017—much higher than the standard of 50 percent coverage for similar programmes in rural areas.

SCHOOL FEEDING

In host community schools and learning centres in the refugee camps, WFP provides micronutrient-fortified biscuits. WFP biscuits were delivered to all government schools and all government-approved NGO schools in Cox's Bazar, reaching

over 160,000 primary and pre-primary schoolchildren in 2017. Biscuit distribution in Unicef-operated learning centres in makeshift camps began in 2017. Biscuit distribution was found to stabilize children's attendance at school, in addition to providing micronutrients and energy throughout the day.

SUPPORTING NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOODS IN THE HOST COMMUNITY

WFP continued this year its Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) programme, targeting ultra-poor women in the host community. The latest phase of the programme, commencing in 2018, will eventually reach 40,000 ultra-poor women and their families in Cox's Bazar. EFSN delivers a package consisting of livelihoods and nutrition education, a cash grant to start a small business, a monthly stipend for two years (augmented during lean months) and the formation of self-help groups to allow pooling of knowledge and resources.

EFSN builds on WFP's success with similar livelihoods interventions for ultra-poor women in Bangladesh—interventions which have shown to have durable impacts over time. EFSN builds self-confidence and empowers women and prepares them to be respected and accepted in their communities. Women in EFSN reported having their own income and savings for the first time, greater school attendance for their children, and increased status within the home. Educational components are included for men as well, including on gender-based violence. The EFSN programme in 2017 showed dramatic results, with 98 percent of households reporting acceptable measures of food consumption, well-exceeding the planned outcome for this year. It will provide

support to 40,000 women and their families in the host community, reaching 200,000 people altogether.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE DELIVERY ACTIVITIES 12 AND 13

The rapid development of the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar necessitated a vastly greater response from the humanitarian community. The operations in Cox's Bazar are coordinated through humanitarian sectors. Under the leadership of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the sectors coordinate hundreds of humanitarian partners working in Cox's Bazar in a structure which mirrors the structure of the national humanitarian clusters based in Dhaka (see page 22).

WFP co-chairs the Logistics Sector with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. It facilitated the humanitarian supply chain for the response, made challenging by hilly terrain and physical constraints on accessing the densely settled camps. Among its major achievements in 2017 was the establishment of a logistics hub in Ukhiya a few kilometres from the camps. Additional warehousing capacity is being developed adjacent to the Kutupalong "megacamp" and near the camps in Teknaf.

WFP also chairs the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS), which provides common information and communication technology needs. ETS facilitated the import and deployment of communications equipment, supported the Communication with Communities working group and developed a mobile phone app to assist field workers in collecting and addressing feedback.



Women attend a training under the Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) Programme. The programme provides a monthly allowance and a cash grant for investment in an income generating activity. Women also attend trainings on a variety of topics including entrepreneurship and women's empowerment.

Chittagong Hill Tracts and Emergencies

Strategic Outcome 2

THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS ACTIVITY 6

Together with Cox's Bazar, the Chittagong Hill Tracts is among the most impoverished and food insecure regions of Bangladesh. With a history marked by conflict, difficult terrain and vulnerability to flash floods and landslides, the Hill Tracts risk being left behind in Bangladesh's steady progress toward Zero Hunger.

In coordination with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, FAO and UNICEF, WFP plans to deploy an integrated assistance package consisting of a livelihoods programme, school feeding and a nutrition safety net.

The school feeding component of the package is already operational, with over 64,800 children having received micronutrient-fortified biscuits in 2017 at 1,163 schools and early learning centres. In late 2018, WFP plans to roll out its Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition programme in the Hill Tracts. As in Cox's Bazar, this programme delivers a package of a subsistence allowance, a cash grant for ultra-poor women to start an income-generating activity, formation of self-help groups and training on entrepreneurship, women's empowerment and good nutrition practices.

FOOD ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCIES ACTIVITY 7

In the event of major natural disasters, WFP is ready to complement the efforts of the Government and other humanitarian partners, especially in meeting the food security needs of the ultra-poor in the immediate aftermath and early recover after a disaster. Two major natural disasters struck Bangladesh in 2017, Cyclone Mora in May and June and historically severe monsoon flooding in August.

Tropical cyclone Mora hit the southern coastal region of Chittagong division in Bangladesh with winds of over 120 kph, making landfall on 30 May 2017. The cyclone brought heavy rain, winds of over 120km/h, and storm surges. WFP launched a 72-hour assessment, finding that Cox's Bazar, Barguna and Chittagong districts were worst affected with widespread damage to lives and livelihoods, shelter, WASH conditions, infrastructure and agriculture. A total of over 3.3 million people were affected (623,000 households). The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) allocated cash and rice assistance to serve vulnerable districts prior to the landfall. WFP supported around 26,800 households (about 134,000 people) in refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar and in cyclone shelters by providing micro-nutrient fortified biscuits.



Malika, her daughter Nuraini and her son Mizam were impacted by the August floods, disrupting Malika's income as a domestic worker. A waist-high watermark from the flood is visible on their house.

In August 2017, historic monsoon flooding impacted over 8.2 million people in 32 districts. Although not as devastating as the floods in 1988 or 1998, many areas, particularly in the north, were submerged for 5-7 days, damaging over 600,000 hectares of cultivated land and disrupting the *Aman* cropping cycle and the livelihoods of agricultural labourers. The Government allocated over USD 1 million in cash assistance, over 27,000 metric tons of rice, and other aid to flood-affected districts. WFP responded with micro-nutrient fortified biscuits to 200,000 people in four of the worst-affected districts (Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat) with the assistance of local NGOs. For 3 months from October to December 2017, WFP provided cash transfers to 9607 of the most vulnerable households (48,000 people) in 5 districts: Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, and Jamalpur.

WFP stands ready to assist the Government in delivering food assistance in emergencies. Our work increasingly focuses on building resilience among vulnerable groups and communities in the face of natural disasters and assisting the Government in developing its capacity to respond to these emergencies when they occur.

Innovation for Resilience

Strategic Outcome 3

Bangladesh now grows enough rice for the country as a whole, yet a quarter of the population doesn't have enough of the right food regularly. Between 30-50 percent of the country experiences annual climate shocks, which have significant negative effects on the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable groups and the sustainability of food systems.

CREATING EVIDENCE ON NEW RESILIENCE APPROACHES ACTIVITY 8

The Enhancing Resilience team will test a series of pilot programmes over the four year lifespan of the CSP designed to improve the capacity of individuals and communities to better prepare for and respond to disasters. These pilots, now in the planning phase, will generate evidence and policy dialogue with a view toward Government and other actors taking up these approaches or refining their own disaster risk reduction activities and shock-responsive safety nets.

The Forecast-based Financing (FbF) pilot will test mechanisms for delivery of humanitarian aid before a disaster based on weather forecasts. In 2017, WFP participated in technical dialogues on FbF and selected sites in northwest Bangladesh for the pilots. A microinsurance pilot and a pilot for a seasonal livelihood programming approach are also under development. Together with FbF, these projects are meant to demonstrate risk transfer mechanisms that will help prevent a sharp increase in poverty following disaster, to ensure that hard-won gains are not lost to climatic shocks and stresses.

NOBO JATRA ACTIVITY 9

WFP is a principal implementer of the Nobo Jatra project in a consortium led by World Vision International with Winrock as a partner. Meaning "New Beginning", Nobo Jatra is a USAID-funded project that engages communities in four sub-districts in the flood- and cyclone- prone southwest of Bangladesh to enhance their food security, nutrition and disaster resilience.

Nobo Jatra provides an assistance package of (1) cash transfers and training to support maternal and child health and nutrition, (2) entrepreneurial and livelihoods training including a cash stipend, and (3) community- and government-level disaster preparedness and planning activities.

2017 marked the beginning of cash transfers, with over 16,000 women receiving cash through a mobile banking platform. WFP took steps to ensure that all women could participate in the cash transfer programme, including women without access to national identity cards or no previous

access to mobile banking solutions.

Significant progress was made in the disaster risk reduction component, with over 13,000 participants attending capacity strengthening sessions. Local-level disaster management committees were activated, validating a series of Risk Reduction Action Plans. These participatory plans for responding to disasters identified actions that spanned the mandates of several ministries, pointing to a need for greater inter-ministerial cooperation. Such linkages between programme and policy are enabled by WFP engaging in direct implementation and institutional capacity strengthening activities simultaneously.



Women attend a business planning training as part of the Nobo Jatra Project.

Facilitated by WFP and cooperating partners, the training strengthens women's capacity and helps them gain access to labour markets.

Enhancing Emergency Response Capacity

Strategic Outcome 4

Apart from small island states, Bangladesh is the country most vulnerable to natural disasters, including cyclones and earthquakes. WFP delivers lifesaving aid in disasters, but the Government of Bangladesh has demonstrated increasing capability to respond to disasters effectively. By supporting government systems to respond with reduced cost and lead time, WFP can save even more lives.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITY 10

WFP is building the Government's emergency response capacity through trainings and simulations. WFP conducted a study of the Government's emergency supply chain system and is developing tools to enhance it including a supply chain dashboard that will help identify gaps and develop solutions, stockpile mapping and a rapid logistics assessment tool.

WFP seeks to construct a Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) near the Dhaka International Airport. Replicating a successful model in Nepal, the HSA would enable faster delivery of international aid in the event of a devastating earthquake or other natural disaster. Working closely with the Government, WFP continues to study potential sites.

LEADERSHIP IN HUMANITARIAN CLUSTERS ACTIVITY 11

WFP serves as the co-chair of the national Food Security cluster and the chair of the national Logistics cluster. Although they are currently not activated, the clusters have

WFP conducts food security assessments through its Vulnerability Analysis and Monitoring unit:

vam.wfp.org

And as a leader of the Food Security Cluster:

fscluster.org/rohingya_crisis

been established to be well prepared and coordinated in the event of a major disaster. Working closely with the government's humanitarian response coordination body, the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team, the national clusters bring together leadership and expertise in emergency response.

The national Food Security cluster, in addition to refining the food security package used for immediate and short-term assistance, developed a food security package for the early recovery phase of disaster response. Food Security Cluster planning supported responses to flood events, landslides in southeast Bangladesh, Cyclone Mora and the refugee response in Cox's Bazar, with participation in four humanitarian response plans this year. In collaboration with the VAM unit and the Nutrition Cluster, six needs assessments were carried out in 2017.

The national Logistics cluster has been instrumental in the Cox's Bazar refugee response, including dispatch of humanitarian cargo and access to shared facilities such as warehouses (see page 19). The Logistics Cluster also refined plans for earthquake and cyclone response. A capacity mapping of cluster members was undertaken to complement government logistics efforts.



Ukhiya logistics hub, serving government and humanitarian partners in Cox's Bazar. A large humanitarian staging area, to respond to major natural disasters, is planned.

Partnerships

Donors and Funding in 2017

In 2017, the contributions received were satisfactory, enabling a strong response across the CSP on development and humanitarian activities. Several multi-year contributions to the CSP were received at the beginning of 2017. WFP looks forward to strengthening our partnerships with existing donors and building new relationships to enable a strong, diverse and flexible funding base for activities over the 4-year CSP lifespan.

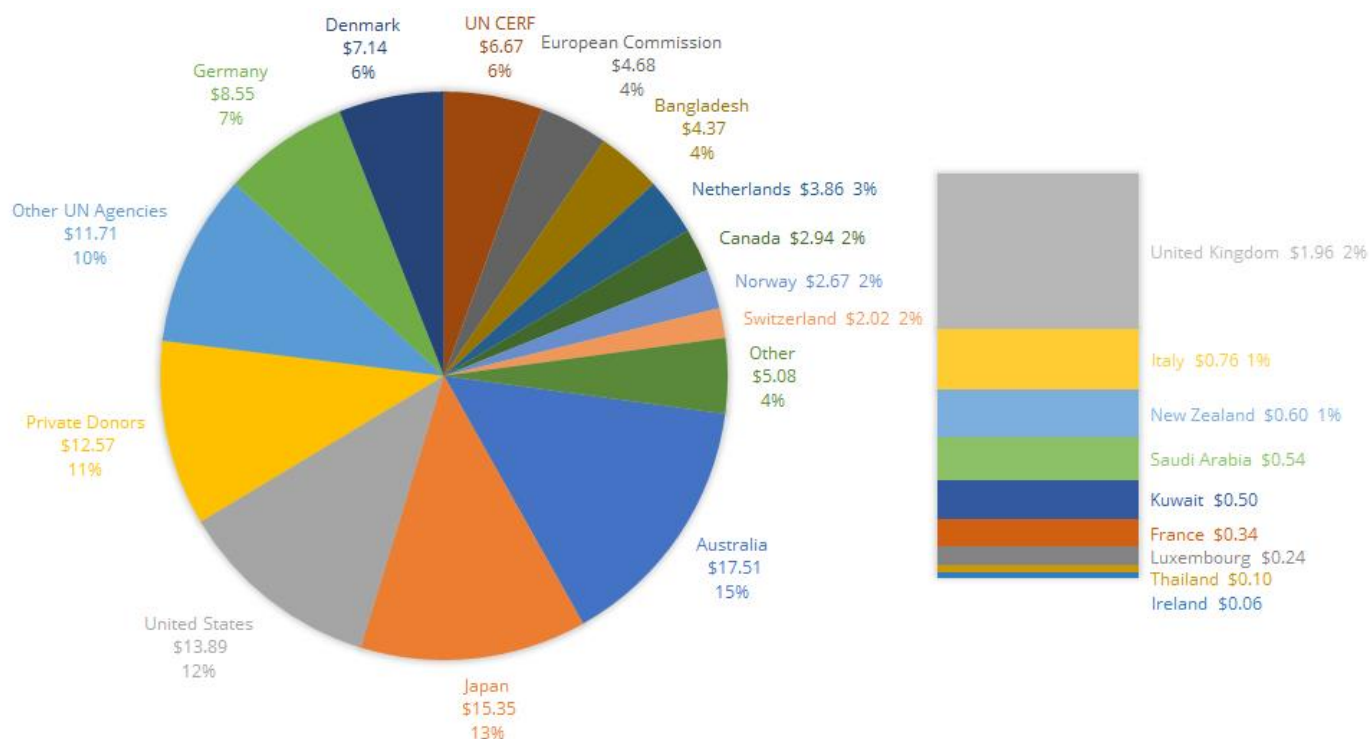
Donors came forward with extraordinary support for the refugee crisis response in the final months of 2017. These contributions supported our immediate response and allowed us to continue aid into 2018.

The top ten donors in 2017 were **Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the United States of America** and the **United Kingdom**.

Multilateral contributions made up 7 percent of the overall contributions in 2017. These flexible contributions, which WFP can allocate where funds are most needed, supported capacity support initiatives related to root causes and resilience as well as the Cox's Bazar response. Flexible allocations also covered the associated costs for in-kind wheat contribution by the Government of Bangladesh.

Individual contributions have also supported the response. A WFP app, ShareTheMeal, raised over USD 311,000 for the refugee response.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO WFP BANGLADESH IN 2017 (IN USD MILLIONS)

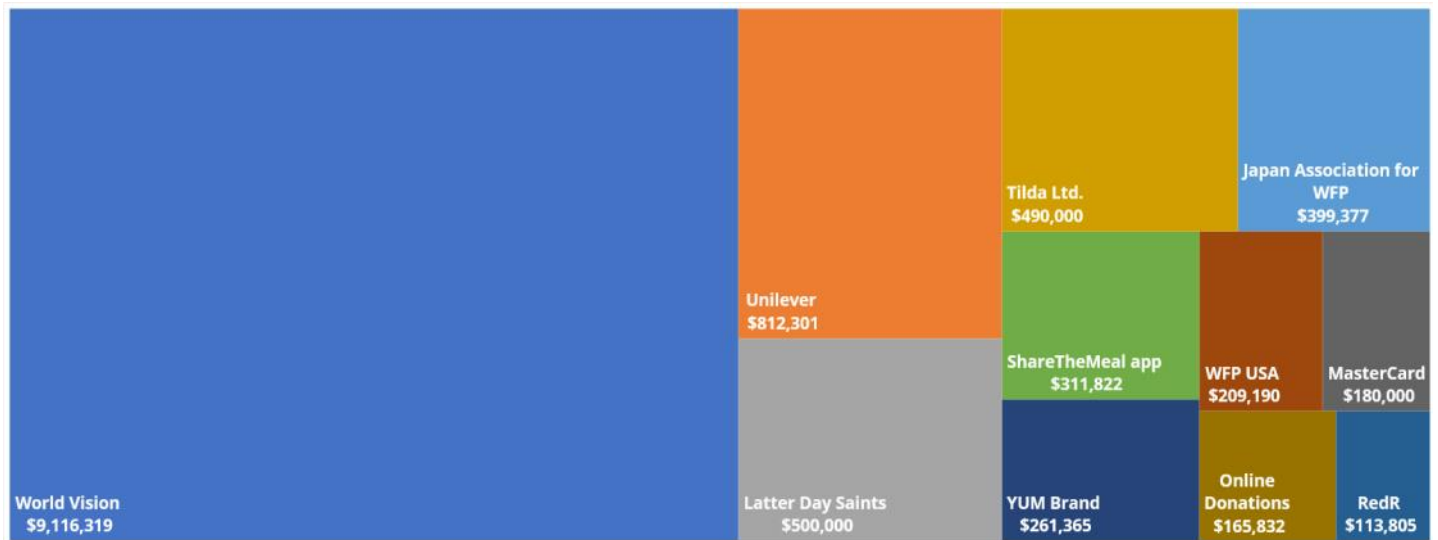


Figures are based on computer-generated data for the year 2017. This chart is not to scale. Full financial details from 2017 are available in the WFP Bangladesh 2017 Annual Country Report.

Partnerships

Multilateral and Private Sector Donors

PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO WFP BANGLADESH IN 2017 (IN USD)



Multilateral funding allows WFP to allocate funds where the needs or impact are greatest. See the impact of multilateral funding worldwide at wfp.org/flexible2017

Figures are based on computer-generated data for the year 2017. This chart is not to scale. Full financial details from 2017 are available in the WFP Bangladesh 2017 Annual Country Report.

Partnerships

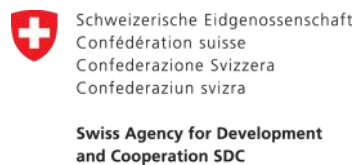
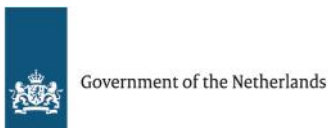
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GPO Box 2488, Dhaka-1000
T (880-2) 9183022-33 wfp.org/countries/bangladesh