



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

December 2018



Operational Context

Bangladesh is poised to transition into a middle-income country by 2020 and is making significant advances in the nutrition and food security front. According to the World Economic League Table, Bangladesh is stated to enter the top 25 economies by 2033.

Facing critical levels of poverty and undernutrition, exacerbated by high population density, Bangladesh strives to continue with consistent socio-economic growth in the future. Prevalence of child marriage, adolescent pregnancies and undernutrition in mothers and adolescent girls are considerable impediments to these goals. 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 the Country Strategic Plan in April 2017. The CSP reinforces WFP's commitment to capacity strengthening of the government counterparts, facilitating direct provision of food assistance in emergencies and activities aimed at evidence creation.

Furthermore, in response to the unprecedented influx of the Rohingya population in August 2017, the CSP was amended to facilitate WFP's tailored response to the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar. Presently, WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to over 870,000 refugees besides implementing a range of livelihood programmes for both the host and refugee communities.



Population: **165 million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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

In Numbers

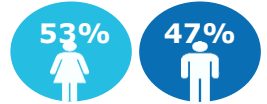
12,772 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3.64 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 225.11 m total confirmed contribution for Cox's Bazar L3 Emergency Response

US\$ 40.5 m six months (Jan 2019 - June 2019) net funding requirements for CSP of which **US\$ 37.06 m** is for Cox's Bazar L3 Emergency Response

1.3 m people assisted in December 2018



WFP Emergency response in Cox's Bazar

- **WFP signs an agreement with the Government of Japan:** To receive USD 5 million for the emergency operation, supporting the transition from in-kind food assistance to e-voucher modality, as well as for the Bangladeshi smallholder farmers.
- **Life-saving Food Assistance:** The 29th round of General Food Assistance (GFA) was completed, reaching 143,600 households with in-kind food; e-voucher assistance reached 48,600 households.
- **Nutrition Programmes in the camps and host community:** 196,000 children under five years of age and 40,241 pregnant and breastfeeding women from both the refugee camps and host communities received nutrition assistance.
- **Joint Response Plan (JRP) finalized by the Food Security Sector (FSS):** With a budget of USD 255 million, the JRP was finalized with 22 partners.
- **Exhibition of artwork by Rohingya refugees:** An exhibition of hand-made products by the refugees was organized by FSS for the festive season. This received wider public attention and a potential market for these artworks emerged in Cox's Bazar.

Development Programmes

- **Rice Fortification:** In 2019, fortified rice will be distributed in 24 sub-districts through the Food Friendly Programme and 96 sub-districts under the VGD programme.
- With the technical assistance provided by WFP, a Government laboratory has now the efficiency to test all six micronutrients to be functional by early 2019.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** WFP had a discussion with World Bank and UNICEF on potential partnership opportunities to technically support relevant Government agencies in designing the national child benefit programme.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Jan – June Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 530.9 m | 389.3 m | 40.5 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

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).

“FbF Programme came as a ray of hope in our darkest hour”, Asia Begum concedes.

One of the 1400 participants of the FbF programme, Asia, 34, lives by herself in Kurigram. During WFP’s initial survey, she was chosen amongst the eligible participants who braved the devastating 2017 floods. The floods destroyed her house and assets considerably, she barely had anything to survive. “Sleepless nights and constant fear of death grappled us, I wanted to live somehow”.

In the aftermath, she started working as a daily labourer but could hardly make ends meet. Under the FbF programme, however, she was supported with a bKash account, sim card and eventually a monetary compensation of BDT 4000/USD 48 was provided, through the simulation exercise. With the cash, she could purchase essential items in dire times, including rice, clothes, and edible oil.

She reckons, “WFP was among the first to give me a helping hand in this flood situation. It was not just the monetary support, tailored awareness workshops and pre-flood preparation that supported us the most”. WFP in partnership with NGOs imparted orientations on usage of the SIM and opening of the bKash account, that has helped the likes of Asia significantly.

“Now I am feel very confident and prepared to face the forthcoming flood situation”, Asia states.

In 2019, FbF plans to accentuate to selected disaster-prone areas across the country, with the support of Government ministries and external partners.

Situational Analysis

- **Conclusion of 11th national elections:** Sheikh Hasina has been re-elected for the third-time in a row. There are significant changes in the ministries and Government officials. WFP is engaged rigorously to support the Government through technical and humanitarian assistance to the host community as well as the Rohingya refugees in the emergency context of Cox’s Bazar.

Major Donors

Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, DFID-UK, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, UN Common Funds and Agencies, UN CERF, USA, WPD Share the Meal, and Multilateral and Private Donors.