



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief April 2019



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.



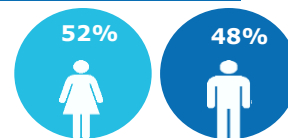
In Numbers

10,503.921 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3.82 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 92.06 m six months (May 2019–October 2019) net funding requirements for CSP of which **US\$ 83.16 m** is for Cox's Bazar L2 Emergency Response

1.20 m people assisted
in April 2019



WFP Rohingya refugee response in Cox's Bazar

Monsoon and Cyclone Preparedness:

As the cyclone season started and the monsoon season looms, WFP is actively engaged in preparedness activities in coordination with the Government of Bangladesh and other humanitarian actors. Contingency food stocks are being pre-positioned in critical areas of the camps **to support 200,000 people** should an emergency strike. WFP has **rehabilitated 40 cyclone shelters** in host communities which can protect between 600 and 2,000 people each. Plans are ongoing to expand to a total of 80 shelters by the end of 2019.

WFP's Rapid Response Plan

WFP has adopted an agile response mechanism in case of monsoon or cyclone-induced displacement. Within the first 24 to 48 hours, one-week rations of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) are provided to affected families; followed within the first 72 hours by a two-week ration of in-kind food or cooked meals, depending on access to storage or cooking facilities. Affected families are eventually integrated into the regular food assistance cycle at the nearest distribution site within 15 to 20 days of displacement. The rapid response plan was activated in the immediate aftermath of cyclone Fani and assisted close to 200 refugees.

Self-Reliance for Refugees

6,620 refugee households are enrolled in WFP's self-reliance activities, which include a six-month integrated skills package, vegetable gardening, and small-scale production pilots. An aquaculture training programme, targeting 100 households, is now being rolled out in the camps.

Situation Update

Cyclone Fani crossed over Odisha state of India and into Bangladesh on Saturday, May 4. Preparedness and immediate response measures taken by authorities in Bangladesh limited the loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure.

Development Programme Highlights

Scaling up post-harvest rice fortification

In April 2019, **around 2 million** beneficiaries received fortified rice through the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme and Food Friendly Programme.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May-Oct 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
969.12 m	435.25 m	92.06 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).

Fortified rice will be distributed in **15 sub-districts** through VGD from June 2019. WFP will continue to provide technical assistance to one potential fortified rice kernel producer to establish a local kernel factory.

School Meals

A high-level policy consultation on the National School Meal Policy was held in April and is expected to be approved by mid-2019. The Government has decided to start school meals in **16 sub-districts**, reaching **400,000 children in about 2,000 schools**. WFP provides technical support and assistance to the Government in implementing this programme. Through its own school meals programme, WFP reached 185,000 schoolchildren with micronutrient fortified biscuits and 29,000 children with nutritious cooked meals in April.

Monitoring

WFP Bangladesh received over 181 calls of which 150 were responded to immediately. 66 percent of all callers were women. Inquiries and complaints were related to cash transfer, food distribution schedule, membership duplication, quality of food, and weather updates.

Voices from the community

Rahima Begum, 32, is a Promotional Graduation beneficiary of the WFP-implemented *Nobo Jatra* project from Gopirayerber village in the Koyra sub-district. Her husband, Md. Mozam Ali, is a rickshaw puller.

Koyra is a remote cyclone-prone sub-district of Khulna district. Prior to enrolling in the Promotional Graduation programme of the *Nobo Jatra* project, Rahima had very little knowledge about disasters. During her participation, she came to know a Youth Volunteer who provided her intensive orientation on disaster risk reduction issues at household level. She also received training on climate change and disaster risk reduction issues. Now Rahima knows that if a cyclone hits, it is possible to find safety in nearby cyclone shelters. "We had no idea about the importance of the issues written in the action plan. We learnt what we should do and how we make this plan effective and functional", said Rahima.

Rahima realizes the importance of savings to overcome the distress of disasters. She is saving money and storing dry food to prepare for disasters. Rahima Begum is popular among the community because she has been sharing her experience and learning with others. Helping others in the preparation of disaster and the emergency rescue programme has made Rahima a role model.

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, Share the Meal, and Multilateral and Private Donors.