



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

June 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 880,000 refugees besides implementing a range of livelihood programmes for both the host and refugee communities.



Population: 165 million

2015 Human Development Index: 139 out of 188

Income Level: Lower middle

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

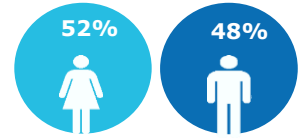
In Numbers

10,415.245 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.78 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 36.80 m six months (July to December 2019) net funding requirements, of which US\$ 28.78 m is for the Cox's Bazar L2 Emergency Response

1.16 million people assisted in June 2019



WFP Rohingya Refugee Response in Cox's Bazar General Food Assistance (GFA)

WFP continues to assist over 880,000 refugees through a combination of in-kind and e-voucher modalities. To better facilitate in-kind distributions, WFP piloted the use of a biometric Assistance Card with 2,600 households in Camp 13 (Shamlapur). WFP also plans to expand the reach of the e-voucher programme by operationalizing additional e-voucher outlets. From early August, 11 outlets will target almost 50 percent of the refugee population.

Self-reliance for refugees

In June, training on homestead vegetable gardening was conducted for 3,500 refugees; another 1,620 continued to receive skills training on tailoring, embroidery, mobile phone servicing, aquaculture, block printing and sanitary napkin production. WFP also provided 1,000 aquaculture and gardening graduates with the equipment needed to apply their new skills. In total, WFP engages 6,600 refugees through its ongoing livelihood interventions.

Situation Update

Heavy monsoon rains descended into Cox's Bazar, causing landslides across the camps and reportedly affecting shelters of 273 refugees. WFP assisted over 11,000 refugees with high-energy biscuits and one-off in-kind food rations under its rapid response mechanism, which was consistently deployed within 12 hours of the start of heavy rains. This includes over 3,100 refugees provided with cooked meals.

Some WFP assets, distribution points and access routes have been damaged. WFP Engineers assessed the damages and implemented plans to fix them, prioritizing the most critical repairs across general food distribution, nutrition, school feeding and self-reliance activities.

Development Programme Highlights

School Feeding

A total of 214,180 pre-primary and primary school children were assisted under the School Feeding Programme in June. 180,548 children received micronutrient-fortified biscuits in 104 subdistricts and 33,632 children were provided nutritious hot meals at schools in 3 sub-districts. The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education plans to expand the School Meals Programme, based on a WFP pilot and with WFP technical assistance, to provide over 400,000 pre-primary and primary school children across 2,166 schools with hot meals.

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Photo Credit: WFP/Ranak Martin

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jul-Dec 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
969.12 m	480.99 m	36.80 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).

Nutrition-sensitive Social Safety Nets

The Government approved a substantial expansion of the Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) livelihoods programme, to reach 100,000 women in all districts of the country with training and food assistance.

The participants in the ICVGD livelihoods programme will receive a monthly ration of 30 kg of fortified rice while they attend training sessions in entrepreneurship, financial management and life skills. Once the training is complete, graduates will also receive a grant of BDT 15,000 (US\$ 180) to start a micro-enterprise.

This represents an investment by the Government of US\$ 72 million. WFP will provide the Ministry of Women and Children with technical assistance during implementation.

Monitoring

WFP Bangladesh received 236 calls to its hotline in June, 53 percent of which were made by women. Most of these inquiries and complaints were related to distributions.

Voices from the community

WFP's Cash for Work activity is helping Nabi Hossain, 45, to provide for his family at Eid.

Nabi lives with his family of five in camp 17. Before fleeing to Bangladesh, he was respected in the community and a successful businessman, trading pulses, beans and medicinal plants. However, he had to leave everything behind. The military burnt his properties and pulse stocks and took away everything else. He sent his family to Bangladesh ahead of him, with the help of a trafficker, but when he arrived at the border a few days later, they were still there. The next days were particularly tiring as they had run out of food.

Now, Nabi's family receives in-kind food assistance from WFP twice a month and Nabi works in road construction. He explains that, while he does not like physical work, he is an expert in fencing and can find work four to five days a week. Recently, he received a contract for 12 days' work from WFP. Just before the Eid celebration, this contract has helped him in many ways. He managed to buy new clothes for his wife and kids. Recently, he could not buy fish and meat, but now he can afford those as well.

Major Donors

Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, Russia, Qatar, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies, UN CERF, the United Kingdom, the United States, Share the Meal, and Multilateral and Private Donors.