



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief August 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 strengthening the capacities of government counterparts, providing food assistance in emergencies, and creating evidence on innovative approaches to resilience.

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

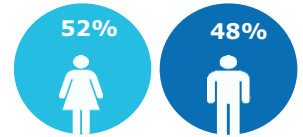
In Numbers

8,921.83 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.54 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 74.89 m six months (September 2019 to February 2020) net funding requirements, of which US\$ 72.74 m is for the Cox's Bazar L2 Emergency Response

1.26 million people assisted
in August 2019



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP assisted over **842,294 refugees with integrated food assistance**. **422,824 refugees received in-kind food distributions**, while **419,469 refugees received e-vouchers** to exchange for up to 20 food items at e-voucher outlets in the camps. WFP continues to assist flood-affected households with one-off in-kind distributions, packets of high energy biscuits (HEBs) and/or cooked meals for new arrivals and relocated families.
- According to media reports over **200,000 refugees gathered** on 25 August to mark two years since the mass exodus of 745,000 refugees from Myanmar.
- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) distributed fortified rice to **1,135,095 beneficiaries** in 81 sub-districts during August 2019 through WFP's Vulnerable Group Development programme. Fortified rice will be distributed in 21 sub-districts under the Food Friendly Programme from September to November. WFP will support distributions in 11 sub-districts.
- In support of the Government, WFP and **Nutrition International** organized five divisional workshops to improve the quality of inspection and monitoring of fortified rice.
- WFP assisted **214,404 pre-primary and primary school children** under its School Feeding programme in August, of which 180,772 children received micronutrient fortified biscuits and 33,632 received nutritious hot meals.
- The Prime Minister of Bangladesh approved the National School Meal Policy 2019 at a cabinet meeting on 19 August 2019. WFP will support the Directorate of Primary Education with planning and designing the School Meals programme. This programme aims to cover 415,000 children at 2,126 Government pre-primary and primary schools in 16 sub-districts starting October 2019.

- The Resilience Innovation Unit developed a strategy on Climate Risk Insurance, in consultation with WFP HQ and technical partner Oxfam. The strategy was finalized at a validation workshop on 28 August, and attended by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief as well as private and development sector representatives.
- On 21 and 22 August, there was a two-day training workshop on microinsurance for Country Office staff and partner organizations. This training allowed WFP and its partners to build their technical capacity in microinsurance which can be a protection and risk mitigation tool for disaster prone areas in Bangladesh.
- WFP and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief organized an earthquake simulation and gap analysis workshop for emergency preparedness. The workshop, which was attended by key officials from different ministries, authorities, departments and organizations, aimed to agree upon a preparedness action plan that involved stakeholders both from the Government and the humanitarian community. Participants agreed on an action plan on the 3rd day. The workshop will form a basis for the enhancement and augmentation of logistical preparedness.

Monitoring

- WFP Bangladesh received 250 calls to its hotline in August, of which 96 of the callers were women. About 75 percent of the inquiries and complaints were related to distributions.

Voices from the community

Facing down storms in The Land of Rivers

“When the earth smells dry and heavy and grey clouds loom over our village, I know it will rain hard,” says Saleha Begum, a farmer in Kurigram district, northwestern Bangladesh.

Here in what is known as the Land of Rivers, these are ominous warnings for Seleha and countless others whose livelihoods depend on the river.

Last month provided a dramatic reminder of this, as torrential floods swept away homes and displaced more than 7 million people in Kurigram, Jamalpur and Gaibandha districts. [Read full story here](#)

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.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Sep 2019 - Feb 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 969.12 m | 487.95 m | 74.89 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.
- Deliver food assistance in emergencies

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

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).