



# WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

## September 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



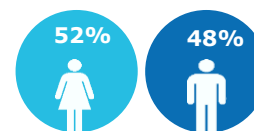
## In Numbers

8335.705 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.24 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 53.8 m six months (October 2019 to March 2020) net funding requirements, of which US\$ 53.6 m is for the Cox's Bazar L2 Emergency Response

1.10 million people assisted in September 2019



## Operational Updates

- In September, WFP assisted 842,100 refugees with integrated food assistance. 422,631 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.
- In early September, Cox's Bazar experienced 200-300mm of rain which triggered serious landslides and flash flooding, particularly in the low-lying regions of Teknaf sub-district. WFP provided Rapid Response assistance to more than 12,000 refugees in less than 6 hours (6,500 people with high energy biscuits and an additional 6,000 with cooked meals). Between 10-13 September, WFP supported more than 15,000 refugees. In addition, WFP provided emergency food assistance to over 800 Bangladeshis displaced due to the rains.
- WFP organized a visit to WFP Nepal's Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) from 5 to 8 September, with key officials from the Government of Bangladesh, to promote knowledge sharing, establish peer networks, enhance disaster management coordination and emergency preparedness for future regional emergency response. Key lessons learned from the HSA Nepal will inform WFP Bangladesh and the Government in setting up its own HSA in Dhaka.
- To mitigate the reselling of rice by refugees, WFP piloted rice capping in e-voucher outlets in Leda, Jadimura, and Camp 20 Extension for 26,018 households. The post-distribution monitoring survey showed that, as a result, rice purchase has been reduced from 82.5 to 58.3 percent while sales of oil, dry chili, egg, fruits, and beverages have doubled. It also showed positive results on the dietary pattern and food consumption score on part of the beneficiaries. WFP plans to scale-up rice capping to include camps 9, 11 and 13 in October.
- WFP organized a Symposium to discuss the role social safety nets play in addressing climate change, examine 'best practices' and 'lessons learned' on Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) and to explore options for financing. The symposium was attended by representatives from key ministries, development partners, academia, thinktanks and UN agencies. A briefing and a policy document is currently being drafted to chart next steps.

## 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 set 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 has 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

2017 Human Development Index: 136 out of 189

Chronic malnutrition: 36% of children

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Photo Credit: WFP Bangladesh/Nihab Rahman

- In early September, WFP hosted a mission of its Nutrition Unit from headquarters in Rome for the [Fill the Nutrient Gap](#) (FNG) analysis. The mission aimed to discuss the FNG methodology and findings, and to validate them against knowledge and experience of existing research, studies and policy frameworks. The mission articulated recommendations for the 8th Five Year Plan of the Government of Bangladesh, as submitted in a summary report.
- WFP observed the first National Dialogue Platform on Forecast based Financing (FbF) jointly with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, the German Red Cross, CARE Bangladesh, the Start Fund and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). The purpose of this dialogue platform was to discuss how early financing and actions based on anticipation of disasters can reduce human suffering and losses. WFP shared best practices and lessons learned from its resilience-building initiatives.
- A delegation, which included the Minister and senior officials from the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, along with WFP officials, participated in a learning visit to the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme in New Delhi and Kerala, India. The purpose of the learning visit was to understand the MDM policy, regulation, institutional arrangements, and the operational modalities of centralized and decentralized kitchens in implementing the programme at the school level. The experiences from this learning visit will help Government officials to design the operational details needed to provide cooked meals in schools across Bangladesh.

## Monitoring

WFP Bangladesh received 380 calls to its hotline in September, of which more than 200 of the callers were women. About 52 percent of the inquiries and complaints were related to cash transfer and delayed food distributions.

## Voices from the community

### The night the rains came

Montaz Begum clutches baby Mohamed closely as she describes how he almost fell into the waist-high water that flooded their home in the middle of the night. As the water came pouring in, she and her husband grabbed their children and fled to a nearby learning centre, almost losing Mohamed in the process. [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.

## Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct 2019 - Mar 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
969.12 m	560.5 m	53.8 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).