



# WFP Bangladesh Country Brief October 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



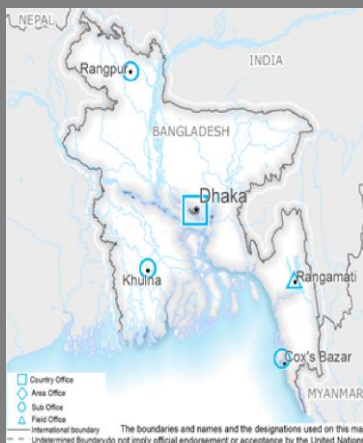
## Operational Context

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 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**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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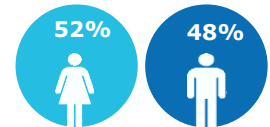
## In Numbers

**8,222 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 5.55 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 45.9 m** six months (November 2019 to April 2020) net funding requirements, of which **US\$ 44.38 m** is for the Cox's Bazar L2 Emergency Response

**1.25 million people** assisted in October 2019



## Operational Updates

- In October, WFP assisted 837,920 refugees with integrated food assistance. WFP provided 394,965 refugees with in-kind food distributions, and 442,955 refugees with e-vouchers to exchange for up to 20 food items at e-voucher outlets in the camps.
- The Executive Board of WFP visited Cox's Bazar from 21-23 October led by the President, H.E. Hisham Mohamed Badr of Egypt and representatives from Australia, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Poland, and Switzerland. They visited programme sites and interacted with beneficiaries to better understand needs and forthcoming challenges to ensure uninterrupted service delivery to the affected population.
- After handing over two locations for the school feeding programme, WFP Bangladesh is now assisting 200,015 school children in 1,693 schools within host communities located in Cox's Bazar districts. 19,467 are receiving nutritious cooked meals made from fortified rice, red lentil, fortified vegetable oil, eggs and fresh vegetables five days a week. The remaining 180,548 children are receiving micronutrient fortified biscuits six days a week. This includes 40,743 students in Chattogram Hill Tracts (52% boys and 48% girls).
- WFP continued its Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) programme in the Chattogram Hill Tracts which supports 10,000 people, with a focus on reaching 2,000 vulnerable women participants. Currently, WFP is facilitating social and behavioral change communication (SBCC) sessions to improve household nutrition practices.
- In collaboration with the Government, WFP distributed fortified rice to 2.3 million beneficiaries through the Food Friendly Programme (FFP) and Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme. This includes a monthly allowance of BDT 1,050 (US\$ 12) for each beneficiary to cover essential household consumption needs.
- The Ministry of Food will scale-up the distribution of fortified rice in 100 sub-districts under FFP in 2020, with technical support from WFP. WFP is also exploring opportunities for further scale-up of fortified rice distribution in 100 sub-districts through the VGD programme in 2020.

### Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov 2019 - Apr 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>969.12 m</b>	<b>564.29 m</b>	<b>45.9 m</b>

#### 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).

• WFP's Field Operations, Rangpur Field Office, Logistic Cluster, IT and Supply Chain Units participated in the Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka and Rangpur Cantonment from 27-31 Oct. DREE is a civil-military disaster preparedness and response initiative between the Governments of the United States and Bangladesh.

• On 1 October, WFP organized a Disability Inclusion Capacity Building Workshop for staff members. WFP also held training sessions on nutrition-sensitive programming for staff members on 24-30 October.

• On 17 October, WFP participated in an Introduction to Forecast-based Early Action (FbA) Approach & Projects Workshop, organized by CARE Bangladesh in Kurigram District. WFP shared its experience and lessons learned. The Additional Secretary of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Mr. Md. Mohsin, was Chief Guest and the Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram, Ms. Sultana Parvin chaired the workshop.

## Monitoring

• WFP Bangladesh received 332 calls to its hotline in October, of which more than 140 of the callers were women. About 72 percent of the inquiries and complaints were related to cash transfer and delayed food distributions.

## Voices from the community

Children constitute around 60 percent of the total Rohingya population. WFP provides high energy biscuits to more than 240,000 refugee children so that they can receive an education with a full stomach.

"I like school. I want to be a teacher when I grow up," said Rabeya, aged 8, to Ambassador Hisham Badr, President of WFP Executive Board.

You can read more [here](#).

## Major Donors

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam,

Contributions was also received from UN CERF, UN Pooled Funds, Multilateral and Private Donors