



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief January 2020



Operational Context

Bangladesh is expected to formally transition to a middle-income country in 2021 and is making significant advances on 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 five, which is a hindrance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh.

WFP has been present in Bangladesh since 1974 and transitioned to a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 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: 164 million

2018 Human Development Index: 135 out of 189

Income Level: Least Developed Country

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

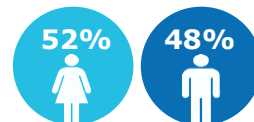
In Numbers

7,928 mt of food distributed

US\$ 6.09 million cash based transfers made

US\$ 71.05 million six months (February 2020 - July 2020) net funding requirements, of which US\$ 64.27 million is for the Cox's Bazar L2 Emergency Response

1.4 million people assisted in January 2020



Situational Updates

United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, undertook her final official mission, which lasted till 23 January. Lee visited Thailand and Bangladesh to speak to interlocutors and receive information about the situation in Myanmar from both sides of the border. Read her end of mission statement [here](#).

In response to a recent measles outbreak in 15 refugee camps, the Government of Bangladesh initiated a Measles and Rubella immunization, targeting 315,000 Rohingya children aged 6 months to 10 years.

FAO, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO jointly published the latest [Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition for Asia and the Pacific](#) (2019). This focuses on social protection and the need for more research into the impact of social protection programmes on the health and nutrition of the poor, especially women and children, people with disabilities, and indigenous people.

Operational Updates

In January, WFP assisted 878,032 refugees with General Food Assistance; 373,199 refugees received in-kind food and 504,833 received e-vouchers. With such e-vouchers families can buy their staples and fresh produce using a WFP assistance card (holding US\$9 per person per month) for up to 20 food items at 27 shops in 13 e-voucher outlets inside the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in collaboration with WFP and the Department of Disaster Management officially launched the Building Resilience to Achieve Zero Hunger (BRAZH) project to help households and communities become more resilient in the face of natural disasters. WFP has started to pilot a series of innovative approaches to resilience-building, including forecast-based financing models, and seasonal livelihoods planning, as well as looking into micro-insurance products, to develop climate-resilience options for livelihoods.

The World Bank agreement in which WFP will receive US\$ 35 million to assist refugees in Cox's Bazar was approved by the Government's procurement unit on 28 January. Formal signature of the agreement is still pending.

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Photo Credit: WFP Bangladesh/ Kauser Haider

Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
969.12 m	589.13 m	71.05 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:

- Act 1 Technical assistance and advocacy to enhance the food security and nutrition impact of selected safety nets.
- Act 2 Technical assistance and advocacy for improved nutrition.
- Act 3 Technical assistance and advocacy for scaling up post-harvest rice fortification.
- Act 4 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:

- Act 5 Deliver an integrated assistance package in Cox's Bazar.
- Act 6 Deliver an integrated assistance package in Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- Act 7 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:

- Act 8 Evidence creation on innovative approaches to enhance resilience.
- Act 9 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:

- Act 10 Capacity strengthening for emergency response.
- Act 11 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, emergency telecommunication, site maintenance and engineering project crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Act 12 Coordinate the LS/C and provide efficient common logistics services to support the humanitarian community's response.
- Act 13 Coordinate the ETS/C and provide efficient common services to support the humanitarian community response.
- Act 14 Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP).

The Honourable State Minister of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education inaugurated the school feeding programme at Rowmari and Rajibpur upazilas of Kurigram on 14 January. As part of the school feeding programme, WFP organized cooks' training in Porsha, Bera, Saghata, Phulbari, and Tungipara upazilas, on safe food preparation.

WFP supported the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council to facilitate a training session on basic nutrition and nutrition-sensitive programming for 85 senior and mid-level government officials from 43 ministries and government agencies.

WFP and the local government engineering division signed a memorandum of understanding on 28 January 2020 to develop the Poverty and Nutrition Map. This is part of the PROVATI³ project which promotes resilience of vulnerable households through access to infrastructure, improved skills and information in Bangladesh's poorest areas.

WFP handed over 40 newly rehabilitated cyclone shelters built in government schools in Cox's Bazar. Each shelter has room for an average of 1,000 people. WFP structurally rehabilitated the shelters as part of the first phase of the Disaster Resilience Project, to strengthen the capacities of local governments and communities to be better prepared for and respond to natural disasters. In 2020, WFP expects to rehabilitate another 40 shelters. Read more [here](#).

WFP started distribution of dates donated by Qatar in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on 21 January, in support of 79,000 students in 24 upazilas. Each child received 2 kg of dates.

WFP is transitioning all e-voucher assistance outlets to become plastic-free. This is part of the plastic-free initiative, as featured on the [UN twitter account](#).

Voices from the community

Ramida is the first shopper through the door at WFP's newly opened store which will serve 50,000 people every month. "I will cook a fish and egg curry for dinner tonight," she explains. "We'll eat the fruits which my daughter will be very excited about." Pointing to her card, Ramida adds: "I have never shopped like this before but I am happy because I can buy many things with this." Read the full story [here](#).

Donors

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

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