



Nutrition

Good nutrition and healthy diets are key to live healthy and productive lives and maximize the potential to boost a country's economy. WFP concentrates on providing nutrition assistance to the most at-risk, nutritionally vulnerable populations, such as young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, and people living with chronic illnesses.

Malnutrition remains a serious concern in Bangladesh despite immense progress made in the economy, food security, health and nutrition over the past decade. WFP focuses on leveraging programmes, sectors, and partnerships to improve nutrition outcomes by addressing malnutrition across the lifecycle through nutrition-specific and sensitive actions, Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), advocacy, and technical support in development and emergency settings aligning to national plans and global commitments.

THEMATIC AREAS

1. NUTRITION-SENSITIVE APPROACHES

To address underlying causes of malnutrition, WFP integrates nutrition-sensitive approaches into various WFP programmes, including social safety nets, school feeding, resilience (livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, self-reliance), emergency response, general food assistance and rice fortification to ensure nutrition is reflected as an objective, with clearly

defined actions and indicators to assess the contribution to nutrition outcomes in programme design.

2. DIRECT NUTRITION INTERVENTION FOR BANGLADESHI & REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

WFP aims to reduce acute and chronic malnutrition rates and improve nutritional status among nutritionally vulnerable populations in Bangladesh, including refugees, by providing curative and preventive nutrition services for children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

To address moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among refugee and Bangladeshi communities in Cox's Bazar district, WFP provides nutrition services and specialized nutritious foods to children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). WFP uses a community-based management of acute malnutrition approach with a special focus on MAM through targeted supplementary feeding (TSFP) for children 6-59 months and PLW, alongside SBCC, in the camps and local communities. WFP facilitates the delivery of a harmonized package of preventive and curative nutrition interventions in

TREATMENT



9,980 Bangladeshi children and PLW assisted at 130 sites each month

17,600 Rohingya women & children assisted at 45 sites in the camps each month



partnership with UNICEF, UNHCR and implementing partners under the coordination of the Nutrition Sector.

To prevent malnutrition in the camps, WFP offers an enhanced prevention package. This includes a blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) for children 6-23 months and PLW; and a nutrition-sensitive e-voucher to enhance the dietary diversity of children aged 24-59 months, whereby caregivers receive US\$ 3 monthly to buy fresh foods on the condition that children attend growth monitoring and promotion at integrated nutrition facilities. Services also include SBCC, community engagement and linkages with other nutrition-related programmes.

On Bhasan Char, WFP supports the implementation of nutrition programmes delivered by local NGOs, aiming to provide the same assistance to refugee children 6-59 months and PLW as in the Cox's Bazar camps.

3. POLICY & ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT

WFP works closely with the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) and provides technical assistance to the Government of Bangladesh for developing, reviewing and rolling out policies, strategies, programmes and plans to ensure their nutritional technical integrity.

In collaboration and coordination with the Cabinet Division, WFP provides advocacy and coordination support to BNNC and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) to enhance the nutrition sensitivity of: social safety nets, school feeding, and emergency response programmes. This contributes to improved nutrition outcomes through enhanced transfer values, the integration of nutrition SBCC into programmes, and stronger linkages with health services and other services complementary to nutrition.

WFP has supported BNNC in developing a Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, commitments for the Nutrition for Growth Summit, analysis of social safety net programmes and the preparation of a multi-sectoral Urban Nutrition Strategy. WFP has also supported the formulation of a school meal policy, including minimum standards for the nutrient content of school feeding assistance.

4. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING & COORDINATION

WFP continues to support capacity strengthening of relevant government counterparts and key nutrition stakeholders. In collaboration with BNNC and the Cabinet Division, WFP supports national institutions and stakeholders to: (a.) enhance their capacity for efficient and effective integration of nutrition-sensitive approaches into programme design and implementation, and (b.) increase

government and private sector commitments to nutrition in order to enhance the availability, access to and consumer awareness about safe and nutritious food.

As a co-convenor of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network (SBN) with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, WFP has supported the development of the national SBN strategy; the development of training manuals on nutrition, food safety and business development; and the training of small and medium enterprises.

WFP provides technical guidance for the development of annual nutrition work plans within individual ministries and departments, especially the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) in line with the country's Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2).

In collaboration with BNNC, WFP continues to strengthen the capacity of officials from 22 ministries on basic nutrition; maternal and child nutrition; and nutrition-sensitive programming.

5. PROMOTION OF OPTIMAL NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE, BEHAVIOUR & PRACTICES VIA SBCC ACTIVITIES

WFP recognizes that Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) is an important programmatic intervention as part of a multisectoral approach to improve nutrition outcomes. WFP integrates SBCC approaches across all its programmes, including emergency responses, to promote key behaviours on nutrition and diets; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); food safety and hygiene; and education.

WFP supports the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for improvements to the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP)'s cash transfers and SBCC nutrition modules. WFP is developing a new SBCC strategy for the urban population promoting dietary diversity through cash incentives and SBCC.

Improving nutrition always requires some level of behaviour change, and SBCC helps modify current behaviours and promote the adoption of new behaviours.



To prevent malnutrition **187,700** refugee women and children receive rations every month

589 mt of specialized nutrition foods distributed to Bangladeshi and refugee women and children per month



Technical assistance and capacity-strengthening support are provided internally to WFP programmes and Government departments for the inclusion of effective and context-specific SBCC approaches to promote required behaviour modification or adoption to achieve nutrition outcomes.

Working with partners, WFP supports consistent SBCC that highlights the importance of optimal feeding practices, emphasizing culturally acceptable and preferable foods through various context-specific platforms. WFP is developing a new SBCC strategy for the urban response promoting dietary diversity through cash incentives and SBCC.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE GENERATION

Evidence-based, cost-effective interventions for nutrition are key to a sustainable impact on nutrition outcomes. WFP nutrition supports evidence generation and documentation to improve programme design and implementation and advocates with government and other nutrition stakeholders, including the private sector, to increase investment in the nutrition sector and sectors complementary to nutrition.

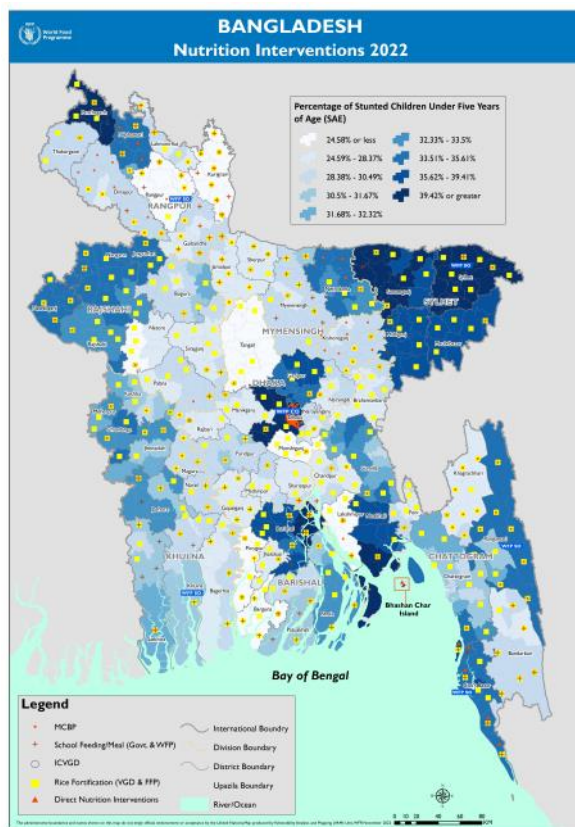
In 2019, WFP conducted a national Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis combining a cost of diet and secondary data analysis to analyse the nutrition situation in Bangladesh, identifying the barriers faced by the most vulnerable in accessing and consuming nutritious diets.

As part of evidence generation, WFP regularly conducts Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART), Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) and coverage surveys in Cox's Bazar.

WFP has supported an integrated SMART survey in Dhaka urban slums in 2022 to inform the development of the Urban Nutrition Strategy under the leadership of BNCC. WFP

has supported BNCC with various analytical works to inform policies and strategy revision and improve programme design and implementation.

WFP is in current discussions with International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) to conduct a study on the effectiveness of context-adapted alternative feeding regimens on recovery of children aged 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition and uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition in Bangladesh.



Annual requirement: US\$ 35 million

Photographs (WFP/Nihab Rahman):

Page 1: WFP nutrition beneficiaries receive a range of services in the camps, including nutrition counselling and social and behavioural change communications.

Page 2: WFP cooperating partner measures a Bangladeshi child's mid-upper arm as part of the standard screening for malnutrition in Cox's Bazar.



December 2022