



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Resilience

Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate shocks threatening the food security of the most vulnerable. Through innovative measures like anticipatory actions, WFP is demonstrating and gaining knowledge on alternative options to help the government improve its disaster preparedness and response approaches.

The unique topography and geographical positioning of Bangladesh make it vulnerable to shocks and stressors like cyclones, floods, and storm surges. Every year, monsoon rains cause flooding to one third of Bangladesh's landmass which nourishes staple crops that farmers depend on to grow properly. Due to climate change, **flooding has increased** and become less predictable, thereby degrading agricultural productivity, making major portions of land unliveable and forcing a growing number of rural people to move into the cities.

While vulnerable communities are more likely to suffer heavy losses, they also lack access to efficient and effective formal risk management and social protection mechanisms. WFP is supporting national and local authorities to manage climate risks by leveraging existing capacities within government social safety nets to support vulnerable people affected by climate shocks. It also brings vulnerable communities together to implement community works that mitigate exposure to risks.

While the Government recognizes climate change as a key obstacle to economic growth, it still lacks a policy framework governing climate risk. As Bangladesh progresses towards its graduation from low- to middle-income country, WFP stands

ready to support the Government to develop climate policy and access climate financing opportunities such as the Global Shield, InsuResilience, and other regional risk financing initiatives.

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT

Northern Bangladesh is a flood-prone region with seasonal flooding varying in intensity and frequency from year to year due to the impact of climate change. WFP has been testing anticipatory actions—such as forecast-based financing (FbF), climate risk insurance and seasonal livelihoods—to boost their resilience against severe riverine flooding.

FbF early action or Anticipatory Action is implemented prior to an extreme weather event and based on forecast triggers, to mitigate the anticipated impact on food security, lives and livelihoods. When flood waters are forecasted to reach critical, WFP triggers forecast-based financing (FbF), whereby the most vulnerable households receive early warning messaging and mobile money payments to protect their assets and livelihoods ahead of the disaster.



150,000 people

supported with cash via forecast based financing to mitigate the anticipated flood impacts



4,000 farmers

purchased insurance policies from 2020-2022

Under the FbF programme, joint messaging on the prevention of gender-based violence is carried out through phone calls, text messaging and face-to-face engagement. To minimize protection risks that increase during times of crisis, community feedback mechanisms are put in place to receive queries and information from affected populations.

Building on the success of forecast-based financing in Northern Bangladesh, WFP rolled out a forecast-based financing project in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. WFP works closely with Sub-district and Union Disaster Management Committee to strengthen the early warning system and has supported 5,600 vulnerable households through the FbF mechanism.

Together with FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF and BDRCS, WFP jointly developed a database of 130,000 flood-vulnerable households across 5 sub-districts to target anticipatory action beneficiaries in future

The Resilience programmes serve communities at different moments of the disaster cycle. Immediately after the shock, affected households are provided with **climate risk insurance (CRI)** payouts. Under CRI, WFP developed three index-based insurance products for the wage loss of agricultural labors and crop loss for smallholder farmers. Through participation in the **seasonal livelihood programme (SLP)**, households develop climate-smart alternative livelihoods to have a more robust financial buffer when recovering from severe flood impacts.

The Resilience programmes target the most vulnerable families, including female-headed households and those that include a person with a disability. Transfers to **seasonal livelihood programme** beneficiaries use an e-wallet (mobile money) as this was the best method for women to access and control resources.

To design and implement the programme, WFP works closely with the Government, including the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR); the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; the Department of Disaster Management; the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the Flood Forecasting and Early Warning Centre, and the Red Crescent Climate Centre.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Bangladesh's coastal districts, of which Cox's Bazar is a major one, in recent years have experienced exacerbated vulnerability to climate risks. It has increased in occurrence, frequency, and intensity of the hazards with long-term and adverse impact on the livelihoods of the local people in Teknaf and Ukhiya areas including other sub-districts (Moheshkhali, Pekua, and Kutubdia). Furthermore, the mass influx of Rohingya refugees has led to large-scale changes that have increased susceptibility to deforestation, landslides, mudslides, and flash floods in the adjacent Bangladeshi community areas of refugee camps.



100 cyclone shelters rehabilitated and handed over to the Bangladeshi community in Cox's Bazar district

FFA

7,530 participants engaged in food assistance for assets

To reduce vulnerability and improve food security, WFP is implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme for Bangladeshi communities in Cox's Bazar in close coordination with district-level actors. WFP works to enhance social safety nets for Bangladeshi communities in the adjacent sub-districts (Ukhiya and Teknaf) through cyclone shelter rehabilitation, access improvements, and disaster risk management system.

Together with the Bangladesh Forest Department and FAO, WFP prioritizes reforestation and restoration of damaged environments (in Ukhiya, Teknaf and Cox's Bazar sub-districts) through planting fast-growing species, bag gardening, seedling production and nursery propagation. In coordination with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and Bangladesh Forest Department, WFP collaborates on Bangladeshi community development, including agricultural infrastructure strengthening to help communities protect their crops and get their products to market. WFP training, policy documents and evidence generation also help enhance the capacity of government and partners.

To reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience, WFP builds and rehabilitates critical community assets, undertakes site improvement and environmental restoration, and improves access to camp assistance sites.

WFP also strengthens drainage systems to reduce the risk of flash floods and excessive rainwater. WFP works are coordinated with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Camp-in-Charges, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), the Forest Department and other relevant UN agencies, including FAO, IOM and UNHCR.

Refugees are engaged as community outreach volunteers to spread awareness on monsoon, cyclone preparedness, and fire safety. Refugees engage in disaster risk management activities through the food assistance for assets programme and receive cash assistance in return.



2,460 Rohingya refugees, including 1,500 elders and people with disabilities, are engaged in 31 camps



60,000 people received agricultural inputs

SELF-RELIANCE PROGRAMME

WFP's self-reliance programme supports 35,700 refugees in 31 camps to enhance their resilience through various skills development activities like homestead vegetable gardening, aquaculture, tailoring, reusable sanitary napkin production, technical and vocational training on household and mechanical repairs, waste management, and plumbing. The aim is to strengthen access to fresh foods and food security amongst the most vulnerable and support refugees' economic empowerment, focusing on the demand created by the camps. Under the award-winning Circular Food Assistance project, for example, Rohingya youth, women and people with disabilities upcycle waste into useful products, create a cleaner camp environment and gain new skills and income opportunities.

In 2021, WFP scaled-up activities targeting at-risk youth and extremely vulnerable individuals, such as older people, persons with disabilities and women-headed households. WFP's communication with communities (CWC) project under the Self-reliance programme engages an additional 527 refugee volunteers in 31 camps to improve communication with beneficiaries through volunteers from the Rohingya community and improve the Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM).

In addition, to increase agricultural productivity and enhance the resilience of livelihoods, climate-smart agricultural practices (i.e. introducing saline tolerant crop varieties) and engagement of private sector partners (Euglena Co. Ltd) have been incorporated as part of a market linkage initiative.

LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

Since 2012, WFP's Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) livelihoods programme has supported women throughout Cox's Bazar district. EFSN, a multi-year livelihoods package for ultra-poor vulnerable households, aims to address the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, focusing on entrepreneurial and life skills to enhance resilience.



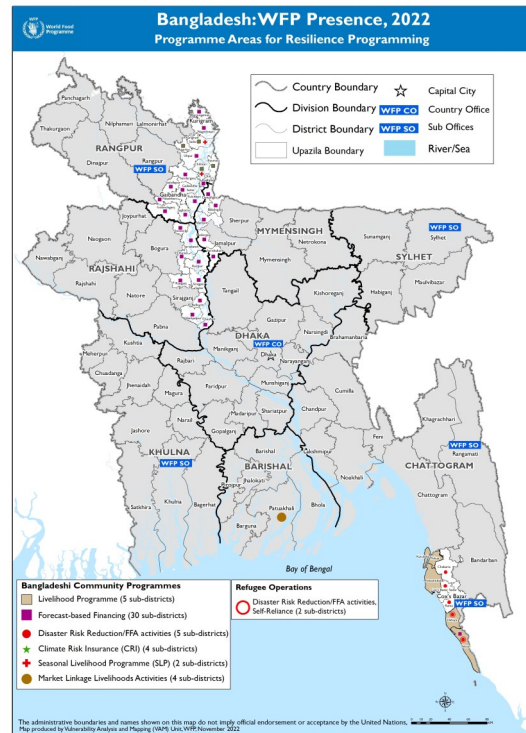
More than **44,000** people engaged in livelihoods activities in five sub-districts (over 99% women)

Through the EFSN model, WFP supports vulnerable Bangladeshi women in Ukhiya, Teknaf, Moheshkhali, Pekua and Kutubdia. The programme supports 25,000 women with agricultural and non agricultural based businesses and better access to markets to sell their produce and livestock, including in the Rohingya refugee camps, where WFP provides food assistance to over 850,000 refugees.

Under the EFSN programme, women have access to entrepreneurial skill development and life skills trainings. They are supported with a monthly subsistence allowance of BDT 1,050 (USD 12). They are organized into Self-Help Groups, which help enhance financial accountability through monthly savings and as a social safety net.

So far, WFP has connected 9,440 participants to WFP's Fresh Food Corners, where refugees can access fresh fruits and vegetables produced by nearby Bangladeshi farmers.

Additionally, the programme's monthly cash allowance is distributed through bKash, the national mobile financial service, further strengthening participants' financial inclusion in the modern economy.



Annual requirement: US\$ 27 million

Photo (page 1): Nasima Begum tends to the seedlings she planted as part of WFPs Forecast-based Financing Programme (WFP/ Sayed Asif Mahmud)

