



WFP Rangamati Sub-office

The Chittagong hill tracts (CHT) have a mountain ecosystem rich in biological and cultural diversity. But the harsh environment and decades of social and political unrest in the region made the hill tracts vulnerable to undernutrition, poverty and climate changes.

The CHT Peace Accord, signed in 1997, ended more than two decades of arm conflict. After the signing of the CHT Peace Accord and the consequent repatriation of exiled and internally displaced people, in July 1998, WFP launched three years Expanded Food Assistance (EFA) programme in three districts of CHT.

WFP opened Rangamati sub-office in 2000 in Chittagong hill tracts (CHT) and supports the implementation of the government's Investment Component for Vulnerable Development (ICVGD) programme, Rice fortification Programme, and the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) in south-eastern part of Bangladesh. These safety net programmes support vulnerable women, including pregnant and nursing women, with a stipend and comprehensive behaviour change communication.

Since then, WFP has continued supporting the vulnerable people of CHT through School Feeding, Livelihoods Programme and Emergency Response and Recovery.

The stunting rate is higher than the national average (28 percent) in the Bandarban district (29.5 percent) and Rangamati district (35.9 percent). The lower poverty rate is higher than the national average (12.9 percent) in Bandarban (50.3 percent) and Khagrachari (32.8 percent).

Through the School Feeding and School Meal programme, WFP supported around a total of 94,000 children from government primary schools, NGO schools and para centres in CHT. In 2022, WFP supported around 41,500 students in five sub-districts of Bandarban.

In 2020-21, WFP implemented a multiyear Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) project to address the underlying drivers of food insecurity and undernutrition by enabling 2000 vulnerable women of CHT to transform their lives.

Supported distribution of 5,623 mt fortified rice in social safety net programmes



41,000+

children assisted via the school feeding programme



ACHIEVEMENTS

- WFP supports the targeting and livelihood mapping exercise of the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) and Investment Component for Vulnerable Development (ICVGD) programme.
- WFP has coordinated with local government and rice millers for the timely distribution of fortified rice.
- WFP worked closely with Chittagong hill tracts (CHT) government authorities to ensure service integration of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) implementation.
- WFP conducted a market price monitoring survey in Feni and Bandarban districts under the Chattogram division for June-July Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (MVAM).
- WFP conducted quarterly coordination meetings in three unions of the Thanchi sub-district (Bolipara, Tindu and Remakre) with resource pool members of MCBP.
- WFP prepared for Cyclone Sitrang and facilitated meetings with the government disaster management committee and stand-by partners on overall planning and coordination for immediate response.



Photographs (WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud)

Page 1: WFP interventions seek to ensure long-lasting change through community engagement as well as the provision of nutritious foods.

Page 2: Through the School Feeding programme, WFP-supported children have a better chance in life.

WFP PLANS

- To facilitate and support the implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) and Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme.
- To continue support for service integration and system development of relevant line departments to implement government social safety net programmes.
- To continue local-level consultation with Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) to explore possible collaboration for school feeding programme.

