



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## Non-Government Partnerships

In addition to its partnerships with the Government of Bangladesh, WFP maintains important links with UN agencies, NGOs, private sector partners and academic institutions to assist the country in reaching its long-term development aims and supporting the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. WFP strives to strengthen local capacities by training NGOs and private sector partners on nutrition-sensitive programming, supply chain management, fortified rice production and more.

### UN PARTNERSHIPS

Together with FAO, WFP co-leads the Food Security Cluster as well as the Food Security Sector in Cox's Bazar. In Cox's Bazar, WFP works with other UN agencies through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and has direct partnerships with FAO, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR and UNFPA. WFP operates 45 integrated nutrition centres with UNICEF and UNHCR, and WFP, UNHCR and IOM co-lead the Site Maintenance Engineering Project (SMEP) to facilitate access to the camps. WFP assists IOM, UNICEF and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to distribute non-food items to refugees using WFP digital services, and continues working closely with UNHCR to leverage the data-sharing agreement and biometric interoperability. WFP continues to implement the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Plus programme together

with UNHCR, FAO and IOM, and established a UN-UN agreement with FAO to enhance self-reliance, livelihoods, and natural resource management in Cox's Bazar.

On Bhasan Char, WFP is the lead for three sectors—Food Security; Skills Development, Livelihoods and Environment; and Common Services—and has worked with Government to establish temporary living quarters for UN personnel working on the island. To support the overall response, WFP works hand-in-hand with UNHCR who leads the refugee response on the island on behalf of the UN.

Under the urban food assistance programme in Dhaka, WFP provides stipends to families who meet government social safety net criteria, along with cash-back incentives to promote the purchase of healthy foods. Building Blocks' (BB) is used to track nutritious food expenditures and to distribute sanitary pads to WFP-targeted women and girls through its collaboration with UNFPA. WFP is also working with FAO to link FAO-supported farmers with its network of participating shops.

In response to severe 2022 flooding in northeastern Bangladesh, WFP has also worked closely with FAO, UNFPA and UN Women to deliver emergency assistance as One UN. The four agencies use a common beneficiary database facilitated by WFP, field-level coordination and joint distribution points, while the WFP toll-free hotline is being used as a common beneficiary feedback mechanism. This partnership builds off a joint flood response programme (WFP, FAO, UNFPA and UNICEF) in the north of the country.

## INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

WFP will continue to engage with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including the Asian Development Bank. Until February 2022, WFP implemented a World Bank-funded Government programme that supported e-voucher outlets in the camps, along with community services and community workfare activities, and is implementing the next phase, the Safety Net System for the Poorest Project, from 2022.

## NGO PARTNERSHIPS

In 2022, WFP is working with 41 cooperating partners, of which 22 are national NGOs.

Together with ACF and Concern Worldwide, WFP conducted a nutrition survey across Dhaka slums in June-July 2022, including the locations where WFP carries out its Urban Food Security Programme. This survey is the first major post-COVID-19 nutrition survey of urban Bangladesh and coincidentally will serve as reference point for the early days of the financial crisis besetting the country.

In its technical support for scaling up fortified rice distribution, WFP has worked with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and Nutrition International to advocate for commercial availability of fortified rice and strengthen capacities of rice producers and millers.

On Bhasan Char, WFP partners with Islamic Relief Bangladesh for general food distribution; Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV) for malnutrition treatment and prevention services and CODEC for school feeding.

## PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

To stimulate the economy in Cox's Bazar, WFP works with 12 Bangladeshi retailers who manage e-voucher outlets in the refugee camps. In the Bangladeshi community, WFP supports digital inclusion of the low-income households and touchless delivery of beneficiary entitlements through its long-term partnership with bKash, a national mobile financial service. The shift from cash-in-hand to mobile money transfer has also helped to mitigate security and protection risks, and increase accountability.

Since 2019 WFP has engaged in a private sector partnership with a Japanese company, Euglena Co.Ltd as part of the market linkage initiative. The initiative supports farmers in Patuakhali, Ishwardi and Cox's Bazar to strengthen their agricultural production capacity, while connecting them to WFP contracted retailers at e-voucher outlets in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

WFP co-chairs the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SUN) in Bangladesh, which mobilizes business investment in responsible and sustainable ways to improve the consumption of safe, nutritious food. In its technical support for scaling up fortified rice distribution, WFP has supported seven local private sector partners to produce rice kernels and establish blending facilities.

## ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

To help ensure effective, inclusive programming in the Rohingya response, WFP is partnering with Trinity College Dublin from 2020 to 2022, which has expertise in under-explored areas within disability studies, including intellectual and communication-related disabilities. In 2022, WFP has also worked with The Center of Peace and Justice (CPJ), under BRAC university to conduct a research on social cohesion and community engagement for people-centered programming in Cox's Bazar.

WFP Bangladesh partnered with Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in conducting a study focused on digital financial inclusion (DFI) in the Asia Pacific region. This study aimed at exploring the DFI landscape in the region and to help WFP to articulate its value proposition and areas of engagement in DFI in social safety nets and cash based transfer (CBT) programming.

In March 2022, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and WFP completed a poverty and undernutrition mapping exercise funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



**Photographs** (WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud)

**Page 1:** Beneficiary receives food assistance through WFP's innovative urban food security programme in Dhaka.

**Page 2:** WFP and partners coordinate emergency hot meal distributions following a large fire outbreak in the camps.