



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WFP Bangladesh

Country Brief

November 2022



© WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

Operational Context

WFP started its first operation in Bangladesh in 1974. While significant economic growth was seen in the past decade, the country still faces challenges with nearly one third of the population facing food insecurity and 20 percent living below the national poverty line. Bangladesh is also vulnerable to natural hazards with most of the population residing in areas that are prone to hazards such as floods and cyclones.

In 2020-21, Bangladesh was the third major export market for Russian and Ukrainian wheat, importing 1.51 million mt of wheat from Ukraine and 1.94 million mt from Russia. The conflict has caused a global economic shock, which – together with unstable exchange rates – may widely impact the Bangladeshi manufacturing sector and economy.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2022-2026 reinforces its commitment to work with the Government to strengthen partnerships and improve the resilience of vulnerable communities while also providing food assistance to those affected by emergencies.

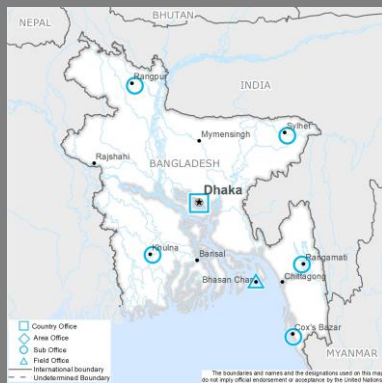
Since 2017, in response to the influx of over 745,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, WFP has been providing food assistance and nutrition services in the Cox's Bazar camps as well as life-skills training, disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities and common engineering services. WFP also supports surrounding Bangladeshi communities through longer-term nutrition, school feeding, livelihoods and DRR interventions. From late 2020, the Government has been relocating small groups of Rohingya to Bhasan Char and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR in October 2021, which sets the policy framework for the UN humanitarian response on the island. WFP has been providing food assistance and nutrition services to the island population, which reached 28,800 refugees by end-November.

Population:
167 million people

Income Level:
Lower middle

2021-22 Human Development Index: **129 out of 190**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**



In Numbers

1,580 mt of food distributed



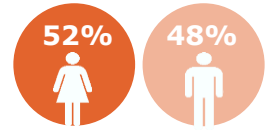
US\$14.6 million cash-based transfers made



US\$89 million net funding requirements (January– June 2023)



1.2 million people assisted



Operational Updates

- WFP provided in-kind food and cash assistance in response to severe June **floods in northeast Bangladesh**. A total of 18,000 households received 40 kg rice and 4 kg pulses each, and over 17,000 households received an unconditional cash grant of BDT 2,500 (US\$25) each to cover their immediate needs. WFP is appealing for US\$22 million to support up to 50,000 households until the April 2023 harvest.
- WFP food distribution on **Bhasan Char Island** reached 23,600 Rohingya refugees. WFP also supported 8,200 pregnant and nursing women, and children aged 6-59 months with specialized nutritious foods through its malnutrition prevention and treatment programmes.
- In Cox's Bazar, WFP provided **general food assistance** to 905,300 Rohingya using e-vouchers in 21 outlets with various cereals, fresh food items and spices.
- To address malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in Cox's Bazar, WFP provides **preventive and curative services** to Bangladeshis at 130 community clinics along with refugees at 45 integrated nutrition sites. More than 196,600 pregnant and nursing women, and children aged 6-59 months were reached. From September, all unregistered refugee children 24-59 months have received a US\$3 nutrition-sensitive e-voucher instead of Super Cereal Plus.
- The Government and WFP are preparing a study to determine the best modality for the upcoming **National School Feeding Programme**, starting in 2023. WFP launched school feeding on Bhasan Char and through its cooperating partner, CODEC, is providing fortified biscuits to 8,200 children in 28 learning centres. In Cox's Bazar, WFP provided 65,900 Bangladeshi and 281,000 refugee children with fortified biscuits, while the Bandarban District programme has been discontinued due to funding constraints.
- The Cox's Bazar **disaster risk reduction** programme engaged 7,500 Bangladeshis in community infrastructure improvements, including tree planting, canal, road and drainage works. To mitigate monsoon impacts and improve accessibility, 18,150 refugees cleaned drainage systems, and built pathways, roads, guide walls and stairs in the camps.
- WFP's Cox's Bazar **livelihoods** programme supported 24,200 vulnerable Bangladeshi women with training to set up micro-businesses and 19,600 graduates are receiving support with market linkages. WFP engaged 45,700 refugees in **self-reliance** activities, including agriculture, aquaculture, handicraft production and upcycling, to enhance food security and nutrition.

Contact info: Sharika Tafannum (sharika.tafannum@wfp.org), Emily Pittman (emily.pittman@wfp.org)
Country Director: Dom Scalpelli (domenico.scalpelli@wfp.org)
Further information: wfp.org/countries/Bangladesh and wfp.org/publications/what-wfp-doing-bangladesh

This operational brief is based on the best available information at the time of drafting. Figures may vary if unique beneficiaries are considered.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
1.62 bn	404 m	89 m

Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Outcome 1: Populations affected by crisis in Bangladesh are able to meet basic food, nutrition and other essential needs during and after crises

Focus: Crisis response

Activity 1: Provide food, nutrition and self-reliance assistance to crisis-affected populations.

Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Outcome 2: By 2026, the nutrition needs of women, children and vulnerable groups in Bangladesh are met through national institutions that have enhanced capacities to design and implement gender- and nutrition-sensitive social safety net programmes

Focus: Root causes

Activity 2: Support national institutions in strengthening their capacity to design and implement inclusive and nutrition- and gender-sensitive safety net programmes to meet the nutrition needs of women, children and vulnerable groups.

Result 4: Food Systems are Sustainable

Outcome 3: By 2026, vulnerable communities in Bangladesh are more resilient to shocks and natural disasters owing to enhanced national disaster management capacity and flexible, nutrition- and gender-sensitive social safety net programmes.

Focus: Resilience building

Activity 3: Assist national institutions and communities in strengthening their capacity to implement inclusive, responsive and nutrition- and gender-sensitive safety net programmes and in disaster risk preparedness and response to protect the food security and nutrition of vulnerable populations.

Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Outcome 4: Vulnerable crisis-affected populations in Bangladesh benefit from enhanced coordination and improved common services during and after crises

Focus: Crisis response

Activity 4: Provide coordination and common services to humanitarian and development partners and the Government

- As part of the **seasonal livelihoods programme** in Kurigram, northern Bangladesh, WFP provided one-time investment grants to 4,000 households for income-generating activities. All households successfully established their income-generating activities with a combination of traditional and climate-smart, alternative livelihood options.
- Under the **urban food assistance programme**, WFP supported 13,000 people in Dhaka slums with nutrition-sensitive behaviour change messaging and cash assistance.
- The WFP supported the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in launching a mobile application for online and offline beneficiary enrolment under the **vulnerable women benefit programme**. The app enables self-registration by beneficiaries at any time and will help ensure that people meet WFP vulnerability criteria.
- WFP, the Government of Bangladesh, and stakeholders marked the official launch of Bangladeshi **fortified rice** in the commercial market. WFP distributed fortified rice to 343,300 beneficiaries of the Government's Food Friendly Programme in five sub-districts. With technical assistance from WFP, the Department of Women Affairs transferred monthly payments of BDT 800 (US\$8) to 101,000 **Mother and Child Benefit Programme** beneficiaries in 66 sub-districts.

Programme	Beneficiaries
Food Assistance	928,900
Emergency Response in Sylhet	84,000
Nutrition	204,800
School Feeding	355,400
Resilience	135,300

Climate Change

- A Government of Bangladesh delegation spoke about inter-agency coordination, including joint Government-WFP responses at a European Union side event on anticipatory actions at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP-27) in Egypt.

Monitoring

- WFP published its monthly [Market Monitor](#) and [Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping \(mVAM\)](#) reports, which found that: (1) essential commodities prices (wheat, poultry, egg, onion, green chili, and sugar) showed an upward trend and (2) one in five households in Bangladesh are moderately to severely food-insecure and (3) 63 percent of households rely on coping strategies to keep food on the table, such as selling productive assets or going into debt to buy food.

Challenges

- Due to market volatility, WFP-contracted retailers in the refugee camps faced difficulties sourcing adequate supplies of sugar, red chili, and other products.
- Government distributions of fortified rice to social safety net programme beneficiaries are on hold due to global inflation and the economic crisis.

Success Story



© WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

WFP Bangladesh assists poor and vulnerable Bangladeshi women in Cox's Bazar by engaging them in its Livelihoods programme. Read more about [Layla Begum](#) who started her business after completing her skills and financial literacy training 3.5 years ago and who is now the main breadwinner for her family.

Donors

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Contributions were received from multilateral funds, private donors, UN CERF, and UN pooled funds.

*Listed in alphabetical order