



WFP Bangladesh

Country Brief

December 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen collaborative work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. ©WFP/Tareq Salauddin

In Numbers



1,025 mt of food distributed

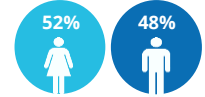


9.74 million cash-based transfers made



US\$ 17.06 million net funding requirements under the Country Strategic Plan (January – June 2024)³

1.01 million people assisted



Operational Updates

- WFP is grateful for new contributions from the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund. In January, WFP will [moderately increase](#) the US\$8 ration to US\$10 per person per month and begin adding locally **fortified rice** to its food assistance, and meetings and awareness-raising sessions were conducted with government, UN and NGO partners and the Rohingya population in preparation. In 2024, WFP urgently needs **US\$60 million** to restore the full US\$12.50 ration for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.
- In the Chattogram Hill Tracts, WFP continued its support to 9,299 households (46,495 people) affected by **severe floods** in August. Some 6,200 families received BDT 5,500 (US\$50) cash assistance, while the other 3,080 families received both BDT 1,800 (US\$16.40) and a one-time in-kind food basket.
- In Cox's Bazar, 913,400 Rohingya refugees² received **general food assistance** (GFA) through the reduced US\$8 ration and the most vulnerable households received an additional US\$3 e-voucher to purchase fresh foods. Malnutrition **prevention and treatment** services were provided at 177 sites in the camps and Bangladeshi communities with 203,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-59 months reached. Meanwhile, **school feeding** activities reached 307,800 refugee and Bangladeshi children.
- The Government relocated 1,200 refugees to Bhasan Char in December; WFP provided in-kind food assistance to all of them as part of its rapid response. WFP plans to continue the scale up of the **e-vouchers** on the island starting from February. In December WFP supported 31,230 refugees with general food assistance, of which 43 percent through e-voucher of US\$15 per person, while the remainder received an 11-item fixed food basket. Some 7,900 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6-59 months received **nutrition** services, and 11,200 children were supported through **school feeding**.
- Through the **livelihoods** programme in Cox's Bazar, WFP engaged 23,500 Bangladeshi women in self-help groups with BDT 44 million (US\$407,000) disbursed in monthly subsistence allowances. Another 2,500 Bangladeshis took part in agricultural infrastructure works for **disaster risk reduction** in the district.

Operational Context

WFP started operations in Bangladesh in 1974. While significant economic growth was witnessed in the past decade, nearly one-third of the population still face food insecurity and 20 percent live below the national poverty line. Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to natural hazards with most of the population residing in areas prone to floods and cyclones. The Country Strategic Plan 2022-2026 reinforces WFP's commitment to working with the Government to improve food security, nutrition and resilience of vulnerable communities, while also providing emergency assistance to people affected by disasters.

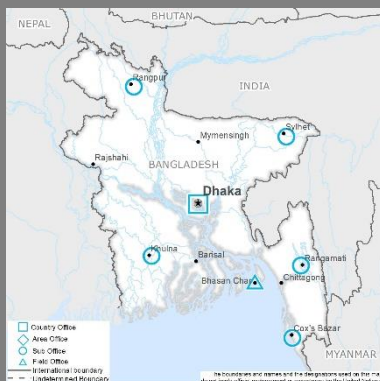
Since 2017, in response to the influx of approximately 745,000 Rohingya from Myanmar to Cox's Bazar, WFP has been providing food assistance and nutrition services, as well as implementing self-reliance and disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities, in the camps. In Cox's Bazar, WFP also supports Bangladeshi communities most vulnerable to food insecurity through longer-term nutrition, school feeding, livelihoods and DRR interventions. From late 2021, WFP has been supporting the Rohingya on Bhasan Char island, now home to 30,400 government-relocated refugees.¹ Due to the ongoing ration cuts, 94 percent of refugees report a deterioration in food and nutrition, per WFP's monitoring report from June 2023, while borrowing food and money has nearly doubled to 51 percent.

Population:
167 million people

Income Level:
Lower middle

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

Chronic malnutrition:
31% of children 6-59 months



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Note: Figures may include duplication (some people benefit from more than one programme).
^{1,2} WFP food assistance reached fewer refugees due to relocations and absentee households.
^{3,4} Funding needs as of 22 December 2023.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) ²
1.62 b	619.03 m	17.06 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.

# of people reached			
GFA	913,400	Emergency relief	10,800
Nutrition	210,900	School Feeding	319,000
Resilience	52,500	Urban	12,600

- In the Cox's Bazar camps, WFP's **self-reliance** programme engaged 34,236 refugees in homestead gardening, aquaculture, upcycling and communication with communities. A further 18,250 Rohingya were engaged in drainage cleaning and excavation; construction of roads, pathways and drains; and reforestation works as part of **disaster risk reduction**.
- Under the **climate risk insurance** programme in Kurigram, 470 farmers purchased weather index-based insurance for 2023-24 winter crops. WFP updated its anticipatory action common database with profiles for 100,000 new vulnerable households in flood, cyclone, and flash flood-prone districts, growing the list to 250,000 households.
- At WFP-supported learning hubs, 11,800 beneficiaries of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme and their spouses were reached with nutrition-based social and behavioural change sessions. With WFP **technical assistance**, the Department of Women Affairs provided training to 81 'master trainers' to assist NGOs roll out financial literacy programming to government social safety net beneficiaries; WFP also trained 48 government and NGO staff on monitoring and reporting. As part of its support to the Vulnerable Women Benefit programme, WFP distributed **fortified rice** to 327,000 government beneficiaries, reaching 35 of 170 sub-districts covered by the safety net.
- WFP provided BDT 10 million (US\$94,800) in cash assistance to 12,400 low-income people in two Dhaka slums as the current iteration of the **Urban Food Security Programme** neared its end.
- WFP and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics signed a [memorandum of understanding](#) to strengthen collaboration in poverty and undernutrition mapping, food security surveys and policy advocacy ahead of the creation of the Government's 9th Five-Year Plan.

Monitoring

WFP completed 245 monitoring visits in Cox's Bazar (217 in the camps, 28 in local communities) – 96 percent of sites planned – and received 733 calls on its toll-free hotline.

Challenges

Opposition parties in Bangladesh continued to organize strikes and blockades ahead of national elections set for January 2024, causing delays in some trainings and monitoring for WFP-supported government programmes and field missions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Business continuity planning continued with staff largely working remotely and increased food stocks prepositioned for the refugee population in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

Story from the field



In disaster-prone Kurigram, WFP enables vulnerable households, including persons with disabilities, to improve their food security through livelihoods support. Golapi Begum purchased two goats with her [business profits!](#)

2023 Donors

(including carryover of unspent 2022 contributions)

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Russia, Thailand, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA and other funding sources (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Buddhist Global Relief, CANADEM, Royal DSM, IFPRI, Metro A.G., WFP USA, UNICERF, UNSDG Fund)