



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief September 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



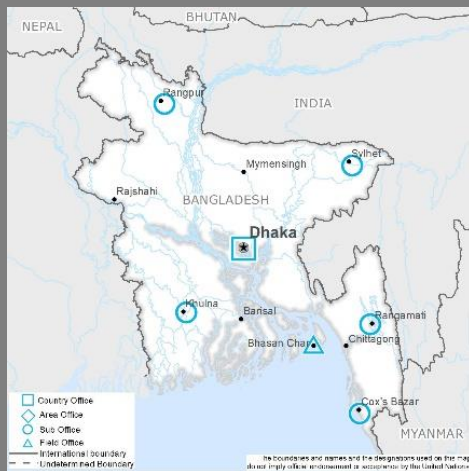
In the wake of devastating floods in Bangladesh, WFP has provided lifesaving aid to 130,000 families and is now empowering 166,000 families with cash assistance to support their recovery efforts.
WFP/Samsul Al Helal

Operational Context

WFP started operations in Bangladesh in 1974. Despite significant economic growth over the past decade, 20 percent, or 16.5 million people are food insecure and 24 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 massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population. 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 35,000 refugees who have been relocated from the camps in Cox's Bazar.

- Population: **167 million people**
- Income Level: **Lower middle**
- 2021-22 Human Development Index: **129 out of 190 countries**
- Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children aged 6-59 months**



In Numbers



810.08 mt food distributed



US\$13.53 million distributed in cash-based transfers



US\$76.86 million net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (October 2024 – March 2025)



1.7 million people assisted



Operational Updates

Eastern Floods

- Bangladesh has faced escalating cyclones and monsoon floods this year, affecting 18 million people and causing widespread destruction to homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Since May, the country has been hit by four major climate disasters: Cyclone Remal, flash floods in Sylhet (Northeast), riverine floods in the Jamuna Basin (Northwest), and unprecedented floods in the East.
- The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), first launched in June 2024 for Cyclone Remal, has been revised twice to address ongoing emergencies. The latest version, launched on 29 September by the UN Resident Coordinator and MoDMR, seeks US\$134 million to support 2.5 million people across 28 districts. To date, only 28% percent of funding has been secured. As October marks the second cyclone season, urgent support for the HRP is critical to protect lives and prevent further damage.
- As co-lead of the Food Security Cluster, WFP, in partnership with local authorities and NGOs, has provided life-saving anticipatory cash assistance, food, and livelihood support to help communities recover. During the recent Eastern floods, WFP distributed high-energy biscuits to 650,000 people and has since shifted to unconditional cash transfers, with plans for cash-for-work programmes, income-generating activities, and emergency school feeding.

Social Protection

- WFP conducted a case study reviewing its decade-long contribution to strengthening the national social protection system in Bangladesh, with a focus on the Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) and School Feeding programmes.
- The VWB Programme Unit submitted a revised beneficiary enrolment circular for 2025-2026 to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and sent a concept note on integrating Department of Social Service and Department of Women Affairs systems to reduce beneficiary overlap across programmes.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
1.56 b	851.04 m	76.86 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.

Donors

Australia, Canada, European Commission Humanitarian Aid, France, Germany BMZ, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America, and private donors.

New contributions from ECHO, Germany, Thailand, and UNCERF were received in September towards crisis response and General Food Assistance.

Nutrition-based Programmes

- After a 3-month pause, the government resumed distributing fortified rice through the Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme, reaching 1.7 million people across 165 sub-districts, of which WFP reached 227,000 beneficiaries in 34 sub-districts. Additionally, fortified rice was distributed to 12 million people in the Food Friendly Programme (FFP) under the Ministry of Food.
- WFP, alongside the government, assessed flood-affected areas (Cumilla, Feni, Laxmipur, and Noakhali) for the feasibility of implementing emergency school feeding. As a result, school feeding has been included in the Humanitarian Response Plan, appealing for US\$1.8 million to provide meals to 260,000 primary schoolchildren for three months in these flood-affected areas. This initiative aims to ensure food security and support educational continuity for children during the recovery phase.
- WFP is now a member of the Thematic Group formed by the Department of Primary Education. WFP will provide technical expertise to design the school feeding component of the fifth Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP5), where school feeding is integrated into the broader primary education development plan.

Rohingya refugee response

- In Cox's Bazar, rain-induced flooding and landslides have caused loss of life, significant damage both inside and outside the refugee camps, worsening conditions for the Rohingya and increasing humanitarian needs for both the refugees and Bangladeshi host communities.
- Since the start of the monsoon season, WFP has responded to urgent needs by providing high-energy biscuits, hot meals and emergency food basket once the refugees are able to return to their shelter. So far, 20,104 households have received hot meals.
- Bangladeshi community members also received emergency food assistance alongside disaster risk reduction efforts to repair damaged camp infrastructure like slopes and drainage systems.
- Despite the official closure of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, at least 20,000 Rohingya have recently crossed into Bangladesh, fleeing escalating conflict in Rakhine state. Thanks to advocacy efforts led by UNHCR, the Interim Government has permitted humanitarian assistance to new arrivals in the camps, and WFP is prepared to provide food aid once the Government has completed counting the number of people to be prioritised.