



# WFP Bangladesh

## Country Brief

### October 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



In response to floods, WFP reached 130,000 families with high-energy biscuits and began cash support to 166,000 families in the hardest-hit areas ©WFP/Saikhat Mojumder

## In Numbers



**791 mt** food distributed



**US\$15.15 million** distributed in cash-based transfers



**US\$70.68 million** net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (November 2024–April 2025)



**1.2 million** people assisted



## Operational Updates

### Emergency responses to cyclone and floods

- In Khulna, WFP continued with its cash-for-work activities, involving participants from 12,420 households benefiting 50,000 people, each receiving BDT 5,000 (US\$43) for 10 days of labour. This provides the affected communities with a chance to earn an income while rebuilding their key infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Remal and the subsequent floods. Additionally, 100 women participated in a livelihood support programme, receiving BDT 10,000 (US\$86) each to start income-generating activities benefiting 402 people, along with entrepreneurship and skills training to strengthen long-term financial stability.
- In response to the recent flooding, WFP also provided timely cash assistance to 12,300 households benefiting 61,300 people through unconditional cash transfers of BDT 6,000 (US\$50) each, intended to help them meet their immediate needs. This was followed by cash-for-work activities that supported 2,256 households benefiting 11,300 people. Each participant will receive a total of BDT 10,000 (US\$84) at the end of their 20-day commitment, contributing to their recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- Alongside these initiatives, WFP delivered awareness messages on entitlements, food, nutrition, gender-based violence (GBV), and complaint and feedback mechanisms (CFM), and WASH (in collaboration with UNICEF) through SMS and leaflets to ensure comprehensive outreach and community awareness.

### Social Protection

- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) approved the circular for the upcoming Vulnerable Women Benefit cycle (2025-2026). This was developed by WFP to guide field-level Department of Women Affairs (DWA) officials in initiating the beneficiary enrolment process. Additionally, an intensive follow-up training focused on troubleshooting at the user level was conducted on the Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development Programme (ICVGD) platform for eight non-government organizations to ensure

## 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.

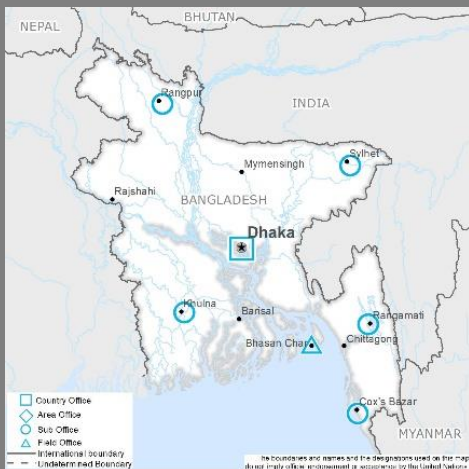
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population. In Cox's Bazar, WFP also supports Bangladeshi communities most 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**



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## Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>1.56 b</b>	<b>883.29 m</b>	<b>70.68 m</b>

### 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, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America, and private donors.

New contributions from Germany, JAWFP, Norway, Qatar, and USA USDA were received in October towards crisis response and General Food Assistance.

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

## Operational Updates (continued)

monitoring and reporting data entry was completed by 31 October 2024.

- WFP organized an inter-ministerial policy discussion between MoWCA and the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW) to explore programme consolidation of their respective programmes.
- WFP organized a policy-level meeting with the DWA Director General focusing on the progress updates from VWB's last Central Coordination Committee meeting, including the next cycles enrolment, VWB impact evaluation, piloting improvements, and One-Time Password (OTP) for enhanced beneficiary verification and security. A cost-benefit analysis of OTP for VWB self-enrolment was also shared to improve portal security and data protection.

### Nutrition-based Programmes

- WFP distributed fortified rice to 462,965 beneficiaries in 38 sub-districts through the VWB and FFP programmes. Additionally, with WFP's technical assistance, fortified rice was distributed through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme and the Ministry of Food's Food Friendly Programme (FFP), reaching 15 million beneficiaries in over 320 sub-districts.
- Fortified rice is now available in 19 supermarkets and 6 retail markets in Dhaka, Feni, and Jessore.
- WFP received an additional US\$27 million McGovern-Dole award for school feeding which will support 32,000 schoolchildren in Sylhet with a combined menu approach over a five-year period.
- WFP commenced five Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition surveys as part of a collaborative effort with the nutrition cluster and UNICEF to gather data on the most vulnerable hotspots, with the goal of conducting an IPC acute malnutrition assessment.
- WFP continues to support the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) in revising the School Feeding Development Project Proposal (DPP).

### Rohingya refugee response

- In Cox's Bazar, during this year's monsoon season (from April to October), a total of 625 landslide incidents occurred, resulting in 669 partially damaged shelters and 147 fully damaged shelters, impacting 8,200 Rohingya. In response, WFP provided 41,130 beneficiaries with high-energy biscuits and hot meals.
- Despite the Bangladesh-Myanmar border closure, escalating conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine state has driven Rohingya to seek refuge in Bangladesh. Following advocacy led by UNHCR, the Interim Government has authorized humanitarian assistance for these new arrivals in the camps. By end-October, the headcount of new arrivals was completed, and WFP is committed to provide food assistance to new arrivals.