



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief November 2024



Jannatul, 6, brightens her school day in Kutubdia, Bangladesh, with WFP's nutritious fortified biscuits. ©WFP/Mehedi Rahman

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.

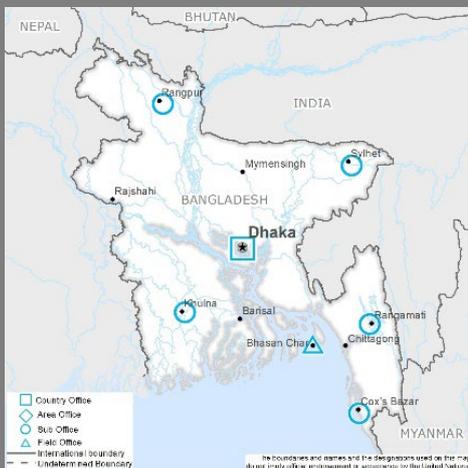
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population. In Cox's Bazar, WFP also supports Bangladeshi communities most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



790.7 mt food distributed



US\$14.44 million distributed through cash-based transfers



US\$82.61 million net funding requirements (December 2024 – May 2025)



1.15 million people assisted*



Operational Updates

Emergency responses to cyclone and floods

- WFP engaged 4,000 participants in Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Cumilla, and Moulvibazar districts through cash for work activities, benefiting 20,000 people and distributing BDT 27.2 million (US\$228,300). This assistance helps rebuild community infrastructure while meeting immediate food needs. Preparatory work is underway for income-generating activities targeting those not eligible for cash for work, aiming to support 70,000 participants and benefit 350,000 people in the third phase of Eastern flood response.
- WFP continued its cash for work activities in response to [Cyclone Remal](#), engaging 3,000 participants to repair embankments in affected coastal districts. This benefited 15,000 people, with BDT 30.25 million (US\$254,160) distributed to rebuild infrastructure and meet immediate needs.

Social Protection

- With an aim to improve the delivery of social protection systems, WFP provided technical assistance in the integration of the Mother & Child Benefit Programme data with the Ministry of Finance's [Integrated Budget and Accounting System \(IBAS++\)](#), supporting the government's single registry plan in its management information system. This prevents duplication and enhances security for social protection programmes. WFP also supported the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Ministry of Social Welfare in aligning data systems to prevent duplication between the Widow Allowance and Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme (VWBP) in the 2025–26 cycle.

Nutrition based programmes

- WFP trained Department of Women Affairs and NGO officials from 17 districts under the VWBP on revised Nutrition and Fortified Rice modules to enhance nutrition outcomes for women, children, and vulnerable groups in Bangladesh through participant training and improved practices.

Rice Fortification

- With WFP's technical assistance, [ACI Foods Limited](#) became one of the first private companies in Bangladesh to launch two varieties of fortified rice, ensuring nationwide accessibility. This partnership

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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	USD 893.01 m	USD 82.61 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, ECHO, France, Germany BMZ, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA, and private donors.

New contributions from Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UN FAO, UK FCDO were received in November towards reforestation and ecosystem restoration in the Rohingya Camps, School feeding and CXB Resilience programme.

**Distribution figures for November is subject to change following validation.*

with the private sector complements government efforts, addressing micronutrient deficiencies by reaching beyond the 5 percent covered by safety nets and making fortified food more affordable.

- WFP trained Department of Women Affairs and implementing partner NGO officials from 17 districts under the VWBP on the revised Nutrition and Fortified Rice modules. These officials will further train VWBP participants.

School Feeding

- WFP and Directorate of Primary Education officials assessed the supply chain capacity for local food procurement in 14 sub-districts across 13 districts for the national School Feeding Programme, aiming to identify capacity gaps and inform the development of operational guidelines and supply chain procedures.

Rohingya refugee response

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance, along with livelihoods support to over a million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char. This assistance helped households meet immediate food and nutrition needs, preventing reliance on harmful coping strategies.
- Following the October authorization of humanitarian assistance for Rohingya refugees fleeing conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine state, WFP provided a second round of emergency food assistance in November, reaching approximately 64,000 new arrivals, as part of a joint response with agencies providing non-food items.
- WFP provided malnutrition management and prevention services at 179 sites in Cox's Bazar camps, Bangladeshi communities, and on Bhasan Char island. These efforts reached 29,600 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) through supplementation, as well as 186,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women, girls, and children aged 6-59 months who are at risk of malnutrition. WFP reached over 210,800 Rohingya children across 3,377 learning centers in the camps with on-site fortified biscuits. In host communities (Ukhiya, Kutubdia and Teknaf), WFP distributed 68 mt of fortified biscuits to 212 government primary schools.
- Under the natural resource management initiative, WFP engaged 22,700 people to clean 320,800 meters of drains, build 1,368 meters of pathways, and plant 45,205 tree seedlings. In host communities, WFP transferred BDT 7.28 million (US\$61,200) to 1,147 people to support agricultural infrastructure, including road reconstruction, irrigation drainage, and slope stabilization.
- WFP's Green Skills initiative engaged 21,700 participants, producing 7,400 upcycled items, and providing 62,500 kg of vegetables and 4,600 kg of fish to 4,600 families.

Accountability to affected people

WFP is committed to gathering feedback towards the improvement of its programmes, through its community feedback mechanism. In November, it recorded 679 calls, a quarter of which were from women, mostly seeking assistance or information. Nearly all were resolved immediately.