



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief December 2024



Rasheda Akhter smiles while feeding her pigeon, rebuilding with WFP's support after Cyclone Remal. (WFP/Akram Hussain)

In Numbers



1071.6 mt food distributed



US\$13.5 million distributed in cash-based transfers



US\$85.53 million net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (January 2025 – June 2025)



1.26 million people assisted*



Operational Context

WFP started operations in Bangladesh in 1974. Despite significant economic growth over the past decade, more than 26 percent, or 23.6 million people are food insecure and 18.7 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 approximately 36,600 refugees who have been relocated from the camps in Cox's Bazar.

Operational Updates

Emergency responses to cyclone and floods

- In December, WFP supported 290,000 people (58,514 families) affected by Cyclone Remal and the August eastern floods with cash-for-work assistance. Out of more than 500 projects, participants rebuilt 111 km of roads and 24 km of embankments.
- WFP organized a market linkage workshop in Khulna as part of our ongoing efforts to help affected communities rebuild from Cyclone Remal. Some 100 families received cash assistance of BDT 10,000 (US\$85) along with training in climate-resilient skills.

Social Protection

- WFP presented a plan to improve the [Grievance Redress System](#) (the Government's platform for receiving public opinion on government services) and strengthen the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' (MoWCA) [Policy Leadership and Advocacy unit](#). In collaboration with the Department of Women Affairs (DWA), WFP supported the development of a training plan for DWA officials on Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) implementation directives and facilitated a meeting with DWA, UNICEF, and the World Bank to enhance coordination and plan the next steps on the training plan for MCBP implementation.
- WFP conducted 650 sessions, reaching 11,600 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers with messages on health, nutrition and dietary diversity, helping them maximize the government social safety net support for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- WFP integrated application programming interface that will allow interoperability between three government programmes' databases (MoWCA's Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme, the Ministry of Social Welfare's Widow Allowance, and the Ministry of Food's Food Friendly Programme) consolidating various types of assistance into one benefit (cash or food) and eliminating duplication.

Nutrition based programmes

Rice Fortification

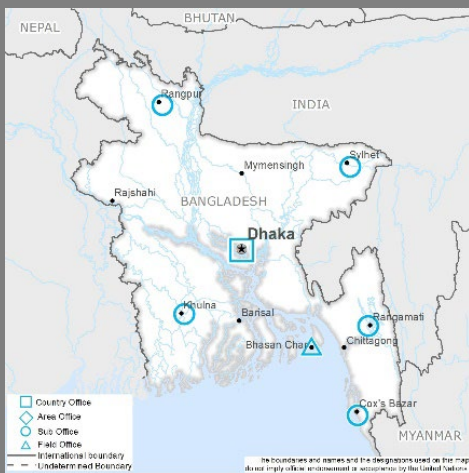
- WFP trained 140 millers on the operational procedures for producing and distributing fortified rice to ensure quality and efficient delivery.

Population:
169 million people

Income Level:
Lower middle

2023-24 Human Development Index: 129 out of 193 countries

Chronic malnutrition:
24% of children aged 6-59 months



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*Distribution figures for December are subject to change following validation.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
1.56 b	905.88 m	85.53 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, Bangladesh (World Bank), CANADA, EU, FAO, FRANCE, Germany BMZ, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Russia, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, UK FCDO, USA, UN CERF, and private donors.

New contributions from Bangladesh (World Bank), ECHO, Switzerland, UK FCDO, Norway, and UN WMO were received in December towards **Eastern flood, Rohingya Response** including Nutrition, GFA, Safe plus 2 and **Resilience programme**.

- With WFP's support, the Government distributed fortified rice to 3 million people through the Vulnerable Women Benefit programme, while WFP reached over 327,000 women in 35 sub-districts under the same programme.

School Feeding

- With USDA McGovern-Dole funding, WFP will launch a school meal programme for 32,000 schoolchildren in 149 government primary schools in the next five years, along with capacity-strengthening support for the government. Children will receive balanced and nutritious meals while in school, including fortified biscuits, buns, eggs, fruits, and milk. This programme will be part of the country's 5th Primary Education Development Programme.

Resilience

- WFP supported the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization, and the International Federation of Red Cross in organizing a three-day workshop on developing a National Roadmap for Early Warnings for All. The initiative aims to establish global early warning systems by 2027, with Bangladesh as one of 30 pilot countries.
- With support from Korea International Cooperation Agency, WFP completed the 6-year Building Resilience to Achieve Zero Hunger project, which sought to combat climate change through a comprehensive response, including anticipatory action, climate risk insurance, and seasonal livelihood programming. As part of this project, WFP, the Center for Policy Research on Business and Development of University of Dhaka, and Oxfam, conducted a seven-day Climate Risk Insurance course. The course will also be delivered at the University of Dhaka.
- In Kurigram, WFP provided cash grant to 1,161 women participating in entrepreneurship development and skills training as part of the Seasonal Livelihoods Programme. WFP also built 4 aggregation centres to enhance market linkage for small farmers in partnerships with local administration and private sector.

Rohingya refugee response

- On 24 and 25 December, two fire incidents happened in the Rohingya camps in Cox' Bazar, destroying nearly 800 shelters and scores of facilities. WFP provided immediate food assistance – a one-time fortified biscuits distribution, followed by hot meals. More than 50,000 packed meals were distributed for two weeks.
- Since October, WFP has been providing food assistance to around 65,000 new arrivals in addition to the 1 million existing refugees, increasing its funding requirement by US\$18 million in 2025.
- All Rohingya children enrolled in the 3,376 learning centres – 210,000 of them – continued receiving WFP's fortified biscuits as part of the school feeding programme. In the host communities, 55,400 children in 212 government primary schools in Ukhiya, Kutubdia, and Teknaf received WFP's school feeding assistance before winter vacation.