



# WFP Bangladesh Country Brief January 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



Smiling children head home after school tests on roads repaired through WFP's cash-for-work programme following Cyclone Remal. WFP/Akram Hossain

## 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.

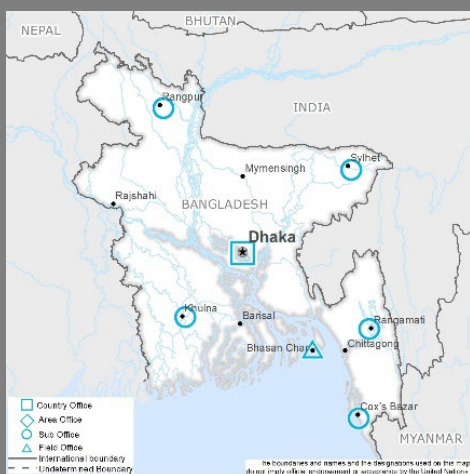
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population. In Cox's Bazar, WFP also supports Bangladeshi communities most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

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**



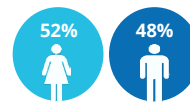
## In Numbers

**927.5 mt** food distributed

**US\$15.3 million** distributed in cash-based transfer

**US\$59.13 million** net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (February - July 2025)

**1.2 million** people assisted\*



## Operational Updates

### Emergency responses to eastern floods

- In January, WFP supported over 132,000 people affected by the August eastern floods with unconditional cash transfers and cash-for-work assistance in Feni, Noakhali, and Laxmipur districts. WFP transferred US\$1 million to beneficiaries' accounts, including around US\$631,000 for cash-for-work and US\$478,400 in unconditional cash.
- WFP completed the reconstruction of 320 km of roads and road-cum-embankments, and cleaning of canal clog in January through cash-for-work. This 20-day initiative, which began in October, engaged 17,100 participants working in different slots. The completed works benefited 913,440 people and protected 17,521 acres of agricultural land.

### Nutrition based programmes

#### Rice Fortification

- The distribution of fortified rice under the Vulnerable Women Benefit programme (VWBP) has been temporarily paused as beneficiary selection process is underway, with distribution expected to resume in February. Meanwhile, 7 million people were reached through various promotional strategies, including social media campaigns and national TV announcements.
- To further promote awareness, WFP is engaging Rohingya communities through Radio Naf, a popular Burmese-language station, with live call-in sessions, dramas, and expert discussions. In Cox's Bazar, WFP organized a workshop for 45 rice industry stakeholders and is implementing a commercial market activation programme targeting modern retail shops and traditional markets.

### School Feeding capacity strengthening

- WFP participated in the 3rd Project Evaluation Committee meeting at the Planning Commission, where the committee reviewed the Development Project Proposal and requested further revisions. WFP will support the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Directorate of Primary Education in updating the proposal as per the requirements.

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\* Distribution figures for January 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\$)
<b>1.56 b</b>	<b>925.33 m</b>	<b>59.13 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, Bangladesh (World Bank), CANADA, EU, FAO, FRANCE, Germany BMZ, Italy, 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 were received from Italy, Nutrition International, and Saudi Arabia.

## Resilience

- WFP and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief jointly organized an impact evaluation workshop on the Integrated Risk Management programme, implemented from 2018 to 2024 with support from the [Korea International Cooperation Agency](#). Six women representing 6,000 programme participants from Kurigram highlighted how various forms of support, climate-resilient income generating activities, such as mushroom and pumpkin cultivation, have transformed their lives.
- WFP and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief [released](#) the “State of Anticipatory Action” report highlighting the transformative potential of anticipatory action (AA) in disaster risk management. Plans for 2025 include expanding AA frameworks to 23 districts, improving targeting through a centralized database, exploring risk pools and insurance and integrating AA into national disaster management plans for sustainability.

## Social Protection

- WFP supported the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) to facilitate training sessions on Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) implementation directives, with 40 participants from various organizations to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively implement programme.
- With WFP’s technical assistance, the VWBP and MCBP unit of DWA has procured a one-time password verification system to enhance the security and protection of the programme’s management information system.

## Rohingya refugee response

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance, along with livelihoods support to over a million Rohingya refugees including the new arrivals in Cox’s Bazar.
- In January, three fire incidents in Cox’s Bazar camps caused significant damage, displacing 89 households and leaving 427 people homeless. Essential infrastructure, including sanitation facilities and NGO offices, was also affected. WFP provided immediate food assistance – a one-time fortified biscuits distribution, followed by hot meals.
- All Rohingya children enrolled in the 3,388 learning centres – 211,000 of them – continued receiving WFP’s fortified biscuits as part of the school feeding programme. In the host communities, 55,900 children in 212 government primary schools received WFP’s school feeding assistance.
- WFP provided malnutrition management and prevention services at 179 sites in Cox’s Bazar camps, Bangladeshi communities, and on Bhasan Char island.

## Launch of the Poverty Map of Bangladesh 2022

The Poverty Map, [launched](#) on 30 January by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with WFP and the World Bank, identifies poverty hotspots to guide targeted interventions. WFP continues its commitment to supporting data-driven solutions in the fight against poverty in Bangladesh.