



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief February 2025



Children, enjoying fortified biscuits, sit alongside their mothers who receive WFP's emergency assistance, providing vital nutrition during the floods. WFP/Saikat Moitumder

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.

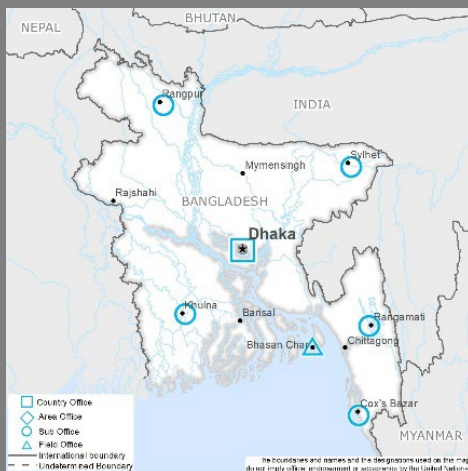
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population. In Cox's Bazar, WFP also supports Bangladeshi communities most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



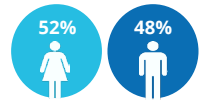
In Numbers

1,114 mt food distributed

US\$13.8 million distributed in cash-based transfers

US\$88.14 million net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (February - July 2025)

1.2 million people assisted*



Operational Updates

Rohingya refugee response

- WFP faces a critical funding shortfall for emergency response due to reduced contributions. Without urgent funding, monthly rations may be reduced from US\$12.50 per person in Cox's Bazar and US\$15 on Bhasan Char to just US\$6 for all refugees in April. WFP [urgently seeks](#) US\$81 million to sustain full assistance through December 2025, including US\$15 million for April 2025. WFP has begun sensitizing the Rohingya community about the possible ration cuts.
- WFP provided food assistance to over 1 million Rohingya refugees, including approximately 56,000 new arrivals fleeing the escalating conflict in neighbouring Myanmar into Cox's Bazar.
- WFP continued to provide nutrition services to women and children, reaching over 91,000 with malnutrition prevention and more than 15,000 with treatment. However, malnutrition remains a critical concern, with a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 15 percent among children aged 6-59 months in Cox's Bazar. The rate is even higher for children aged 6-23 months at 21 percent.
- WFP provided fortified biscuits to over 220,000 Rohingya children in 3,659 learning centers across the camps in Cox's Bazar and 11,000 students in 31 learning centres on Bhasan Char. In host communities (Ukhiya, Kutubdia, and Teknaf), 51,000 students across 212 government primary schools also received assistance.

Emergency responses to eastern floods

- WFP provided food-for-assets assistance, transferring over US\$48,000 to more than 2,000 flood-affected people in Feni, Noakhali, and Laxmipur. More than 9,100 people participated in training including entrepreneurship and received follow-up support. Over half participants completed the training in February.

Rice Fortification

- WFP led the formation and first meeting of the National Fortification Alliance, bringing together stakeholders from the development sector, academia, and the fortification industry to enhance coordination and collaboration in food fortification efforts.

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* Distribution figures for February 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	933.3 m	88.14 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.

- To improve the beneficiary enrollment process for the 2025-26 cycle, the Government is implementing improvements such as enhanced verification methods. As a result, the distribution of fortified rice under the Vulnerable Women Benefit programme has been slightly delayed, moving from February to March.
- WFP completed an awareness campaign on fortified rice in Cox's Bazar's host community and the Dhaka retail market, reaching over 10,000 people. Through [Radio Naf](#), WFP continued to enhance the acceptability of fortified rice among Rohingya refugees in the camps through live phone-in sessions, radio dramas, and listener groups.

School Feeding

- The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education submitted the revised proposal for the upcoming national school feeding programme to the Planning Commission. WFP supported the revision based on the 2022 Poverty Map. A courtesy meeting was held with the new Secretary of the Ministry and WFP continued to advocate for the approval of the programme with all stakeholders, including the Chief Advisor's office.

Resilience

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, launched the [State of Anticipatory Action 2024](#) report, highlighting the need for increased investment. Building on these insights, WFP and the Ministry are developing an AA trigger mechanism. Using rainfall patterns, flood risks, and meteorological forecasts, this mechanism will enable timely interventions to provide early support to at-risk communities in Bandarban, in the Chattogram Hill Tracts, a region extremely prone to climate shocks, particularly floods.

Social Protection

- WFP provided technical assistance to the Department of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs transferring monthly allowance (BDT 800/US\$6.5) to over 1.5 million beneficiaries of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme.
- WFP provided technical support for five central-level Management Information System (MIS) training sessions for 115 officials. Additionally, WFP assisted the Vulnerable Women Benefit programme unit in delivering 10 online training sessions on the VWB MIS to 582 field-level officials and WFP staff.

Donors

Australia, Canada, European Union, FCDO, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Newzealand, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UN CERF, FAO, UN WMO, United States of America, WFP multilateral funds and private donors.

[New contributions were received from Australia, Canada, Japan, and Norway.](#)



More than 1 million Rohingya refugees like Senoara Begum, a single mother of five, living in Bangladesh rely on WFP food assistance to survive.