



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Bangladesh Country Brief March 2025



Layzu (26), a participant in WFP's Integrated Risk Management Programme, tends to her hydroponic plants at home in flood-prone Kurigram, northern Bangladesh.  
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## In Numbers



**810.8 mt** food distributed



**US\$11.9 million** distributed in cash-based transfers



**US\$6.78 million** net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (March – August 2025)



**1.1 million** people assisted\*



## Operational Updates

### Launch of 2025-26 Joint Response Plan

- In March, humanitarian partners, led by the Government of Bangladesh, launched the [2025-26 Joint Response Plan](#) (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis. The plan seeks US\$934.5 million to assist 1.5 million people, including over 1 million Rohingya refugees and some of the most food-insecure Bangladeshis in the host community. The food security sector, co-led by WFP and FAO, requires US\$296 million (US\$287.1 million for Cox's Bazar and US\$8.8 million for Bhasan Char), the largest among all sectors.

### Rohingya refugee response

- In March, food rations were at risk of being halved from US\$12.50 to US\$6 per person per month due to severe funding gaps. With timely funding from donor partners, cuts were prevented in April – all 1 million Rohingya will continue receiving full rations at least until August.
- Starting April, ration values have been adjusted to US\$12 per person per month in Cox's Bazar (previously US\$12.50) and US\$13 on Bhasan Char (previously US\$15), aligning favourable exchange rates and market assessments. These adjustments allow WFP to maintain the same food quality and quantity while optimizing costs.
- To help safeguard the nutritional wellbeing of the most vulnerable, WFP is expanding its nutrition-sensitive food assistance on Bhasan Char. Extremely vulnerable families – including those headed by women, children, elderly, or persons with disabilities – will receive an additional US\$3 fresh food voucher per person per month, similar to the support provided in Cox's Bazar. Children aged 24 to 59 months on Bhasan Char will also receive this additional support.

### Emergency preparedness

- WFP has finalized the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Anticipatory Action Frameworks for flood and cyclone responses for 2025.
- To prepare for this year's cyclone and monsoon season, WFP is implementing proactive measures to enhance emergency preparedness. These actions

## 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.

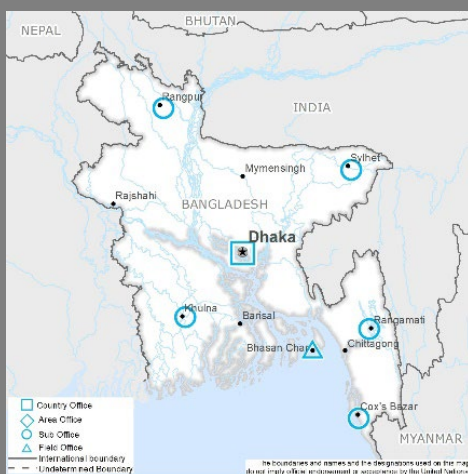
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk, reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population, including food assistance to new arrivals in Cox's Bazar. WFP also supports the Bangladeshi communities in Cox's Bazar, 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 36,800 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**



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\* Distribution figures for March 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>1.08 bn</b>	<b>6.78 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.

include training standby implementing partners, pre-positioning emergency food supplies, and updating the Anticipatory Action database in projected impact zones.

- In collaboration with national meteorological and disaster management authorities, WFP has worked to finalize rainfall thresholds for the proposed flash flood trigger in Bandarban, a flood-prone district in southeastern Bangladesh inhabited by many indigenous communities and known for its hilly terrain and climate-vulnerability.

**Emergency responses to eastern floods**

- WFP provided recovery assistance to 2024 flood-affected communities, reaching 45,600 individuals (9,128 participants) with skills training and follow-up support. Of these, 32,700 people (6,541 participants) received cash grants of up to BDT 20,000 (US\$172) per participant to initiate income-generating activities such as livestock, agriculture, fisheries, small trade, and sewing. The remaining families will receive their grants in April.

**School feeding**

- Following a comprehensive review process which started in April 2023, the Government recently [approved](#) the new national school feeding programme. Valued at US\$450 million, the programme aims to provide daily nutritious meals to 3.2 million children in the coming years, with WFP providing technical support. WFP will also play a key role in generating evidence to assess the programme's effectiveness following its implementation.

**Social protection**

- WFP facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Women Affairs and three key industry associations - Bangladesh Garment and Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Associations ([BGMEA](#) and [BKMEA](#)), and Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers Exporters Association of Bangladesh ([LFMEAB](#)) - to expand the Mother and Child Benefit Programme in 700 garment and leather factories across the country.
- WFP supported the enhancement of its Management Information System by training 100 department officials. Additionally, WFP assisted the Department in preparing for the launch of the 2025–2026 cycle for the Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme.

**Partnerships and Advocacy**

- UNICEF, WFP, and WHO jointly [launched](#) the Joint UN Initiative for the Prevention of Wasting, with WFP allocated US\$834,250 over five years. The initiative, led globally by the International Food Policy Research Institute, aims to generate evidence and scale up context-adapted, nationally led approaches to prevent child wasting in food-insecure settings.
- In 2025, WFP will lead the Assessment and Information Management Technical Working Group and co-lead the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition Technical Working Group, contributing to efforts to improve the nutrition status of the Bangladeshi population.

**Donors**

Australia, Canada, European Union, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Meteorological Organization, USA, WFP multilateral funds and private donors.

New contributions were received from Bangladesh (World Bank), Canada, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, FCDO, Japan, Sweden (Grain from Ukraine Initiative), FAO, and USA.