



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief May 2025



Noor, a mother of three from Teknaf smiles as she shows a message confirming receipt of BDT 5,000 from WFP to help them prepare for the floods. © Saikat Mojumder

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.

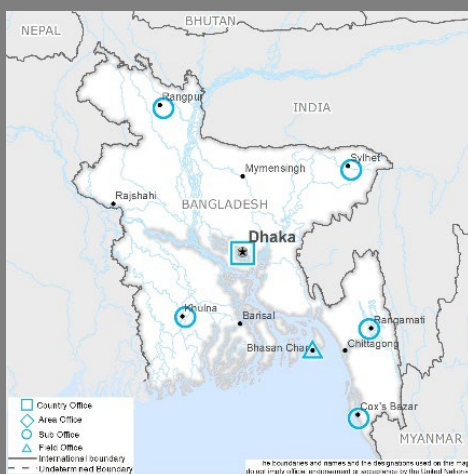
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk, reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population, including food assistance to new arrivals in Cox's Bazar. WFP 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 over 30,000 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



1,380 mt food distributed



US\$15.24 million distributed in cash-based transfers



US\$47.03 million net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (June – November 2025)



1.17 million people assisted*



Operational Updates

Emergency preparedness

- Bangladesh is facing unusually early monsoon flooding, with heavy rains since late May—well ahead of the typical peak season (late June to August). Triggered by a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, the rains have inundated parts of the northeast and southeast, including Sylhet, Chattogram, and Cox's Bazar.
- WFP organized two-day training sessions for standby partners in Rangpur Division and carried out cyclone drills and mock exercises in five coastal districts, engaging 25,000 community members and local authorities as part of its emergency preparedness efforts.

Emergency response

- WFP [launched an anticipatory action](#) on 29 May in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, after floods forecast thresholds were met. WFP distributed BDT 5,000 (USD 43) to 6,500 at-risk people within 10 hours to help them prepare for the worsening floods.
- In response to the 2024 floods, WFP continues to support 45,640 people in the Eastern regions of Bangladesh with recovery assistance, including support for market linkages and other income-generating activities.

Rohingya refugee response

- Heavy rainfall between 28 May and 5 June triggered flash floods and landslides in Cox's Bazar. In response, WFP provided 16,000 hot meals and High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) to 6,300 affected Rohingya refugees while WFP-supported volunteers were mobilized to clear drains, repair roads, and stabilize slopes.
- In May, WFP expanded its US\$3 nutrition-sensitive e-voucher to Bhasan Char for children aged 24–59 months to enhance dietary diversity and improve children's nutritional outcomes.

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* Distribution figures for May 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	1.08 bn	47.03 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.

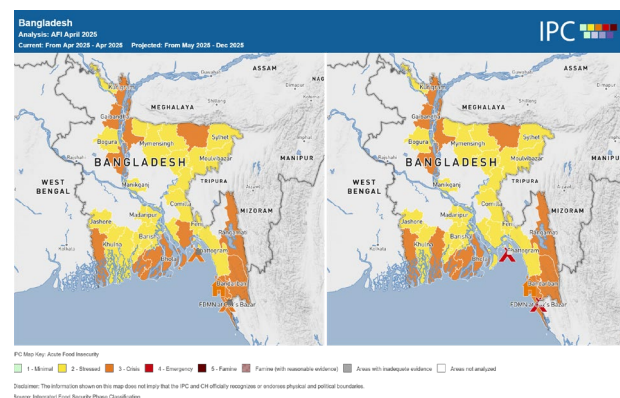
Focus: Crisis response

Activity 4: Provide coordination and common services to humanitarian and development partners and the Government.

Technical assistance

- WFP supported the Department of Women Affairs in reopening the **Management Information System** for the **Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP)** and the **Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme (VWBP)**, enabling the enrolment of over 2.3 million women under VWBP and 84,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women under MCBP. WFP launched the selection process for the upcoming VWBP cycle, facilitating online applications and verifications to ensure transparency and efficiency.
- WFP shared and validated the findings from the recent **Rapid Assessment on Local Food Procurement** through a session with 23 government officials. With WFP's support, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education shared progress updates on national commitments to the **Global School Meals Coalition** Secretariat.
- WFP has been supporting the rollout by identifying key capacity strengthening needs and providing technical guidance, following the Government's appointment of a Project Director for the **national school feeding programme**,
- WFP provided technical support on the distribution of **fortified rice** across 170 sub-districts under the VWBP while also directly distributed fortified rice to 236,200 women in 24 sub-districts as part of its complementary support to the Government.
- WFP, in collaboration with TechnoServe, organized a workshop on "**Commercialisation of Fortified Rice in Bangladesh: Market Aspects and Opportunities**" to explore market potential, identify challenges, and promote sustainable strategies for scaling up fortified rice through commercial channels.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring



2025 donors and other funding sources

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, WFP Changing Lives Transformation Fund, the European Union, France, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the United States of America, UNICEF, World Meteorological Organization, WFP multilateral funds (Australia, Belgium and Japan) and private donors.

The [recently released](#) **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis** on Acute Food Insecurity in Bangladesh shows that **16 million people** in Bangladesh face acute food insecurity between May and December.

Partnerships

On 25 May, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the World Bank, [held](#) the inception workshop for Component 6 of the Inclusive Services and Opportunities (ISO) Project—an initiative focused on enhancing resilience and self-reliance among Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh.