



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Bangladesh Country Brief August 2025



Momota Chakma, from Bandarban, CHT, proudly displays her mushrooms cultivated with WFP support. ©WFP/Mojumder

Operational Context

WFP has been operating in Bangladesh since 1974. Despite notable economic progress, food insecurity remains a concern. Between May and December 2025, 16 million people (17% of the population) are projected to face IPC Phase 3 (crisis) level food insecurity or above, including 400,000 classified as facing Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). The situation is particularly severe among Rohingya refugees, with 20% in IPC Phase 4 in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to natural hazards with most of the population residing in areas prone to floods and cyclones. The 2022-2026 Country Strategic Plan 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 natural disasters.

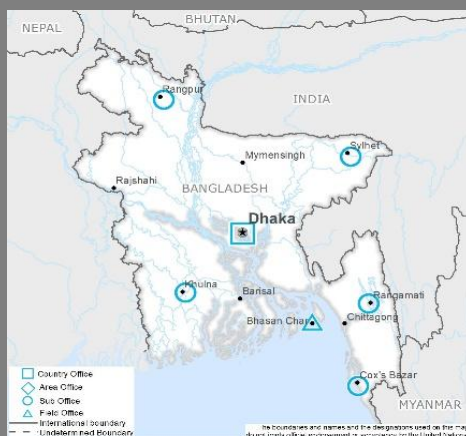
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, resilience, school feeding and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population, including food assistance to new arrivals in Cox's Bazar. WFP also supports the most vulnerable/food insecure Bangladeshi communities in Cox's Bazar 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 37,000 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



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

In Numbers



15,846 mt food distributed



USD 8.2 million distributed in cash-based transfers



USD 46.68 million net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (Sep 2025 – Feb 2026)



1.2 million people assisted*



Operational Updates

Emergency preparedness

- To strengthen early warning systems and community preparedness for climate shocks, WFP's Khulna team collaborated with the District Disaster Management Committee in Madaripur to organize an orientation on shock-responsive social protection and flood anticipatory action on 30 July, aimed at enhancing local response capacities.

Rohingya refugee response

- WFP supports over 1.1 million Rohingya refugees with food and nutrition. Funding for general food assistance will end in November, and nutrition programmes need urgent funding by October to avoid supply disruptions from February 2026. WFP requires **USD 60 million for the next 6 months** (October 2025 – March 2026) and **USD 167 million for the next 12 months** to maintain essential assistance.
- To improve cost efficiency, WFP has streamlined beneficiary entitlements under General Food Assistance by removing infants under 6 months to promote exclusive breastfeeding and discontinuing fresh food entitlements for children aged 24–59 months who are already covered by the nutrition programme.
- Through the emergency school feeding programme, WFP provided fortified biscuits to over 263,000 Rohingya children, while in Bhasan Char, 11,300 children were supported. In Cox's Bazar host communities, some 52,000 children in 212 government primary schools received school feeding assistance.
- WFP engaged Rohingya refugees in resilience-building activities like agriculture, aquaculture, upcycling, and disaster preparedness, while supporting host communities through livelihoods and market linkages. Key achievements included re-excavating 26 km of canals, building 141 meters of roads, delivering 219 mt of fresh food, and training 1,740 people in climate-smart farming practices such as mulching, organic pest control, composting, and using resilient seeds.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.56 b	1.11 bn	46.68 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.

Funding sources

Government donors: Australia, Bangladesh (via the World Bank), Belgium, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Other funding sources: The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and other UN funds, the WFP Changing Lives Transformation Fund, and private donors.

Resilience building initiatives

- Under the Seasonal Livelihood Programme in Kurigram, WFP promoted climate-resilient technologies by training 10 new mushroom growers and 40 vermicompost producers, while supporting 40 existing ones to boost productivity. Strengthened aggregation centres linked with 27 new buyers, generating over USD 1,800 (BDT 228,250) in sales.

Technical assistance

- WFP supported the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council in finalizing plans for five of the nine Nutrition for Growth 2025 commitments, aiming to accelerate progress toward improved nutrition outcomes nationwide.
- WFP is currently assisting in drafting the strategic framework for the next phase of the [Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, SUN 4.0](#), to strengthen country-led efforts and accelerate sustainable improvements in nutrition outcomes.
- WFP has been supporting the Government in conducting a baseline study for the National School Feeding Programme, which was approved in March this year. Data collection for the study began on 31 August and is currently ongoing in selected sample schools.
- WFP provided technical assistance to the Government to process and disburse entitlements to over 1.3 million women under the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP).
- To strengthen government ownership, WFP convened the first technical working group meeting on Management Information Systems (MIS) for MCBP and the Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme, engaging key ministries and partners of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on 4 August.
- In August, WFP conducted three training sessions for 75 Upazila Women Affairs and Labour Welfare Officers, focusing on effective use and troubleshooting of the MCBP's MIS system.
- WFP provided technical assistance to the Government of Bangladesh to distribute fortified rice in 220 subdistricts under the Food Friendly Programme, while also supporting an ongoing social media campaign to raise awareness about its nutritional benefits.
- WFP developed a policy document on climate risk insurance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning to support the integration of climate resilience into national development planning.

50th anniversary

During his recent visit to Bangladesh, WFP Deputy Executive Director Carl Skau, marked our 50-year journey of saving and changing lives – from emergency assistance, school feeding, resilience-building, and social protection, to responding to the Rohingya crisis – all towards a more food-secure Bangladesh. [Read more](#)