



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief January 2026

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Through the school feeding programme, Jannatul, is able to grow strong and healthy.

Operational Context

WFP has been operating in Bangladesh since 1974. Despite impressive economic progress, food insecurity remains a concern. The IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis of April 2025 indicated that between May and December 2025, 16 million people were projected to face Crisis-level (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity, including 400,000 people - most of them Rohingya refugees - who were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

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 the food security, nutrition, and resilience of vulnerable communities, while also providing emergency assistance to people affected by emergencies.

Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, resilience, school feeding assistance to the Rohingya population. WFP also supports food insecure Bangladeshi host communities in Cox's Bazar through nutrition, school feeding, livelihoods, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) interventions.

Population:
169 million people

Income Level:
Lower middle

2023-24 Human Development Index:
129 out of 193 countries

Chronic malnutrition:
24 percent of children aged 6-59 months



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

In Numbers

10,849 mt of food distributed

US\$17.4 million distributed in cash-based transfers

US \$84.71 million net funding requirements under the Country Strategic Plan (Jan - June 2026)

1.18 million people assisted



Operational Updates

Rohingya Refugee Response

- In January 2026, WFP provided monthly food assistance to over 1.14 million Rohingya refugees. Following the fire in Camp 24 on 29 December 2025, WFP provided 1,952 hot meals to affected families between 29 December and 4 January 2026. Later, during the Camp 16 fire on 20 January 2026, WFP delivered 2.5 mt of fortified biscuits to 2,710 individuals and distributed 20,800 hot meals from 20 to 25 January.
- WFP supported 78,794 children (6–59 months) and 34,468 pregnant and breastfeeding women with malnutrition prevention services, while providing wasting treatment to 16,649 children, 1,483 Tuberculosis patients, and 5,981 pregnant and breastfeeding women. Additionally, 5,645 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (including 288 new arrivals) were admitted for treatment in camps, and household-level screenings reached 320,552 host and refugee individuals.
- Under the Rohingya school feeding programme, WFP distributed 195.7 mt of fortified biscuits to 244,128 children (118,609 girls and 125,519 boys) across 4,142 learning centres in the Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char camps.
- During the month, aggregation centres in Cox's Bazar supplied 247 mt of produce to WFP's Fresh Food Corners in the camps, generating BDT 70 million (USD 572,700) in sales. At the same time, producers delivered an additional 931 mt to local markets, generating BDT 101 million (USD 826,000). Furthermore, 109,346 mt of Aman paddy (rice) was sold to WFP-contracted retailers via Farm2Go, a digital platform that facilitates transactions between producers, aggregation centres, and retailers, ensuring transparent and efficient supply chain management.

School Feeding Programme

- WFP, with the support of the USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, began implementation of the school feeding programme across 149 government primary schools in Madhabpur, Habiganj District, Sylhet Division. The initiative reached approximately 28,600 students, providing nutritious snacks five days a week. In total, 96.94 mt of diversified snacks were distributed, including fortified biscuits, buns, UHT milk, eggs, and bananas.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.58 bn	1.17 bn	84.71 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 (World Bank funding), 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, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) 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 donations.

- To strengthen the implementation of school feeding, WFP trained 1,157 mothers' group members on food quality and safety, while 845 teachers (70 percent female) received training on project delivery. Literacy outcomes were also prioritized through a Training of Trainers for 156 sub-district master trainers, who will cascade effective teaching practices to classroom teachers.
- Meanwhile, under the Government Primary School Feeding Programme, WFP supported the distribution of meals to 1.92 million students – representing 61.3 percent of targeted beneficiaries – in January. The remaining beneficiaries are expected to be reached once supplier selection is finalized in February.

Technical Assistance

- WFP was commissioned by the Gates Foundation to conduct an impact evaluation of Digital Financial Literacy and Nutrition Social Behaviour Change (SBC) interventions under the Government of Bangladesh's Mother and Child Benefit Programme. As part of the inception phase, WFP carried out a mission that included a field visit to Rangpur on 5-6 January, followed by a research design workshop on 7 January with participation from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Department of Women Affairs (DWA).
- WFP provided technical assistance for the distribution of fortified rice under the Government-funded Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme. This support covered 161 Upazilas (sub-districts), reaching approximately 2.4 million women at high risk of food insecurity.

Resilience and Innovation

- WFP organized series of orientation sessions from 18 to 26 January with 11 CPs to support the rollout of Integrated Risk Management (IRM) which includes Anticipatory Action (AA), Shock-Responsive Social Protection, and Climate Risk Insurance – across 27 disaster-prone districts. The session aimed to establish a harmonized understanding of programme objectives, implementation approaches, data requirements, and coordination mechanisms among all partners involved.
- WFP, in collaboration with the DWA under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, respectively, organized a workshop on 14 January to develop a Joint Action Plan aimed at strengthening institutional coordination and aligning policies across ministries. In addition, WFP planned to initiate the verification of the 500,000-person AA database across 27 districts.
- The Disaster Risk Reduction schemes have achieved 99 percent completion, delivering planned measures across six disaster-prone districts—Kurigram, Moulvibazar, Cumilla, Khulna, Satkhira, and Barguna. Major infrastructure projects, including 43 km of roads and embankment-cum-roads, have been completed. These improvements are expected to benefit approximately 300,000 people by enhancing resilience and accessibility in vulnerable areas.