



WFP Bangladesh

COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026

IN NUMBERS



1.34 m people assisted in April 2026
(51.49% female)



650.537 mt food distributed



USD 14.128 m cash transferred



USD 10.24 m required in the next six months (May – October 2026)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- With no conditions for safe return in Myanmar, Bangladesh continues to host nearly 1.2 million Rohingya refugees.
- The first month of the Targeting and Prioritization Exercise (TPE) implementation was completed smoothly; initial resistance and a temporary increase in community feedback were addressed through coordination with UNHCR, with distributions concluding without major issues.
- WFP activated anticipatory action, in response to floods in Sylhet district, delivering warnings and anticipatory cash support to 100,000 climate-vulnerable Bangladeshis within 24 hours. Additionally, cash top-ups supported 20,000 people through government systems.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Rohingya Refugee Response

- Effective 1 April 2026, WFP introduced a food insecurity-based vulnerability targeting model for Rohingya refugees, through the Targeting and Prioritization Exercise (TPE), adjusting monthly entitlements according to households' food security status while maintaining assistance coverage for all households.
- In April, WFP supported 1.13 million refugees in Cox's Bazar and 28,000 in Bhasan Char through General Food Assistance. WFP also assisted 568 individuals affected by monsoon rains and relocations, distributing 0.53 mt of fortified biscuits and 884 packs hot meals.
- At the onset of rolling out the TPE, WFP faced some beneficiary dissatisfaction with differentiated entitlements, which led to decrease in the number of people who collected assistance in early April. However, full coverage was restored by mid-month through coordinated engagement with authorities and community leaders and continued sensitization of the refugees.
- In April, WFP delivered nutrition services across refugee camps and host communities, reaching 95,500 children (6–59 months), 43,700 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and 1,570 tuberculosis patients with malnutrition prevention and treatment support. A total of 4,710 children with moderate acute malnutrition were enrolled in treatment programmes, while 318,500 individuals

were screened to enable early detection and referral.

- To strengthen malnutrition prevention, WFP introduced Lipid-Based Nutrient Supplement – Medium Quantity (LNS-MQ) on 19 April for Rohingya children aged 6–23 months, replacing previous supplements with a more advanced formulation for this age group.
- WFP strengthened Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and improved caregiving behaviors through 3,900 one-on-one counselling sessions and 10,500 participants in group awareness sessions, aimed at promoting better nutrition, feeding, and care practices.
- In Cox’s Bazar host communities, nutrition outreach reached 58,500 beneficiaries through courtyard sessions, while Infant and Young Child Feeding practices were reinforced through mother support groups and active male engagement sessions.
- In Bhasan Char, the first round of the 2026 Vitamin A supplementation campaign and mass malnutrition screening (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) for children aged 6–59 months was conducted 7–13 April, achieving 98.6 percent coverage.
- Through the school feeding programme, WFP distributed over 197.6 mt of fortified biscuits to nearly 254,000 Rohingya schoolchildren across 4,411 learning centres in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char.
- In April, WFP engaged 8,656 Cash-for-Work volunteers, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, to implement critical environmental and resilience-building activities. A total of 69 community infrastructure schemes remained under implementation, primarily focused on slope stabilization and drainage improvement. During the reporting period, approximately 3,052 square meters of slopes were stabilized, while 510 meters of drainage and 200 square meters of guide walls were constructed. Maintenance efforts included the cleaning of 186,382 meters of drainage channels and the segregation of 76,900 cubic meters of waste, strengthening environmental health conditions across the camps.
- Reforestation and land management efforts were sustained, with 153 hectares of camp areas and 13 km of roadside plantations maintained, through

care measures such as watering, bamboo fence repair, mulching, and compost use, contributing to erosion control and environmental restoration.

- In support of agriculture infrastructure, re-excavation works continued across drainage and irrigation canals, covering 12,383 meters in length, improving water management and agricultural productivity. Youth engagement remained strong, with 6,150 young people participating in skill development, training, and community engagement activities, including support to public health vaccination campaigns.
- Household-level food production continued to grow, with 6,771 kg of vegetables produced through homestead gardening, benefiting 11,641 vulnerable households. Additionally, agricultural inputs were distributed to 18,827 participants, the majority of whom were women, strengthening household resilience and food security.
- Nutrition awareness remained a priority, with 252 cooking demonstrations conducted and 5,078 women reached through behavior change and nutrition education sessions.
- Environmental sustainability and livelihood diversification initiatives also progressed. Six recycling centers processed over 9,000 kg of waste, producing 57,037 upcycled items for income generation. These efforts engaged community members while promoting sustainable waste management practices.
- In Bhasan Char, a total of BDT 1.13 million (USD 9,416) was distributed through cash-based interventions, including vermi-composting and homestead gardening, enabling households to meet essential needs while generating income from the sale of surplus compost and agricultural produce. 667 Rohingya workers participated in Cash-for-Work. Rice fortification continued with 267 mt produced, engaging 45 workers. Environmental initiatives processed 21,550 kg of waste through one recycling centre, generating 2,702 upcycled products.
- In Cox’s Bazar host communities, 63 Aggregation Centers and two collection points facilitated strong market engagement, supporting 8,840 Bangladeshi farmers and handling 1,196 mt of produce valued at BDT 115.9 million. Fresh Food Corner operations accounted for 181 mt traded among 927 beneficiaries, while local markets

handled the majority share with 1,015 mt involving 7,913 beneficiaries.

- WFP supported the inclusion of 305 smallholder farmers in the Government's Boro paddy procurement system by identifying eligible farmers and facilitating their registration with government authorities, enabling them to access higher and more stable prices and expand market opportunities.
- As part of WFP's ongoing support to Bangladeshi smallholder farmers in Cox's Bazar, WFP launched a pilot offering end-to-end traceability for produce grown and sold through the aggregation centre model. Under the traceability pilot, WFP installed six Internet of Things (IoT) sensors across farmers' fields and storage facilities - two in paddy fields, two in vegetable gardens, one in a demonstration plot, and one in a community grain storage facility. All sensors are secure and transmit real-time data to the monitoring dashboard as expected.
- Furthermore, WFP completed disaster management assessments, conducted community consultations and surveys, trained over 6,000 stakeholders on climate risk insurance, and established systems to operationalize a community-managed resilience fund across 40 aggregation centers.

School Feeding

- With support from the USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, WFP delivered nutritious snacks to 31,867 children across 149 schools in Madhabpur, Habiganj District, while also advancing complementary health, nutrition, agriculture, and literacy initiatives. Community health and hygiene sessions reached 8,760 people, and 2,232 children were oriented as Little Doctors to promote peer to peer learning. Half of the targeted schools established gardens and agricultural clubs, while farmer training on poultry and egg production achieved 66 percent of the annual plan. In parallel, library management training was conducted on 19–21 April for 21 officials, who will cascade knowledge to teachers and book captains across all 149 schools. These efforts were reinforced by the distribution of teaching materials to strengthen classroom learning and resource access.

- WFP also strengthened national and local capacity to deliver safe and nutritious school meals through targeted training and oversight. On 12 April, 150 Assistant District Primary Education Officers from 62 districts were trained on food receipt, storage, distribution, and safety protocols, with plans to cascade this knowledge to 19,419 headteachers across project schools. On 25 and 29 April, 257 officials and 20 suppliers participated in combined monitoring training and quarterly review meetings, reinforcing accountability and prioritizing food safety and quality. Together, these efforts underpin the national school feeding programme that currently reaches 3.1 million children in 19,419 schools across 150 upazilas.
- WFP Country Director visited the McGovern-Dole supported schools in Madhabpur on 28 April, where safe food storage and distribution practices, child health and agriculture activities, interactive teaching methods, and library management were observed. Beyond validating programme quality at the school level, the visit signaled strong institutional commitment and provided strategic guidance to stakeholders, reinforcing accountability and alignment with national priorities.
- In Cox's Bazar host communities, WFP strengthened teacher and education-official capacity by training 91 participants (49 men, 42 women) through four targeted refresher and Training of Trainers sessions in April, enhancing classroom instruction, library management, and child-focused activities (Little Doctors, Little Agriculturists, and Teacher's Book Captain).
- Furthermore, WFP strengthened School Feeding Programme delivery in the Rohingya camps by training 84 cooperating partner staff (71 men, 13 women) on improving partners' operational readiness and programme implementation.

Resilience Building

- On 29-30 April, following heavy rains leading to flooding, WFP activated an Anticipatory Action response in Moulvibazar and Habiganj, providing BDT 5,000 in early cash support to over 100,000 people (20,000 flood-prone households) ahead of peak flooding. This proactive assistance enabled families to prepare, protect assets, and reduce potential losses. Under the Shock-Responsive Safety Net Programme (SRSP), an additional

20,000 people (4,343 households) enrolled in government safety nets received BDT 5,000 top-ups, strengthening collaboration with national systems to deliver timely support during climate shocks.

- As part of Disaster Risk Reduction efforts, lessons learned workshops were conducted in three districts - Moulvibazar, Cumilla, and Kurigram - to inform future programming. These workshops brought together government officials, local stakeholders, and implementing partners to reflect on project achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement, capturing key insights to strengthen future planning and implementation.
- Under the leadership of the Department of Disaster Management (Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief), WFP has been collaborating with relevant stakeholders to review existing Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and Urban Risk Assessment (URA) guidelines. This joint process has led to the updating and finalization of these guidelines, ensuring that future interventions are better informed by evidence, practical experience, and inclusive consultation.

Social Protection

- With WFP's technical assistance, fortified rice reached 10 million people across 248 sub-districts under the Food Friendly Programme and 2.6 million beneficiaries in 161 sub-districts through the Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) Programme.
- WFP supported the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) to deliver BDT 850 monthly cash transfers under the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP), reaching 1.73 million beneficiaries in April and strengthening income security for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- To accelerate beneficiary enrolment, WFP supported DWA in organizing one-stop enrolment campaigns in two low-income urban settlements in Dhaka. A total of 478 pregnant women were registered as potential applicants, of whom 304 were successfully enrolled in MCBP. Based on positive results and lessons learned, the Government has decided to scale up this approach across other City Corporations for further boost urban enrollment.
- WFP also supported DWA in conducting an orientation session for Chattogram City Corporation officials on 26 April 2026, aimed at

accelerating enrolment and strengthening coordination between DWA and the City Corporation. The session was attended by 95 participants, including Regional Officers and Ward Secretaries.

- Furthermore, WFP supported DWA in organizing and facilitating seven batches of MIS user training for Welfare Officers from BGMEA-affiliated garment factories in Dhaka and Chattogram. These trainings focused on the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) and its Management Information System (MIS), aiming to strengthen welfare officers' capacity for accurate beneficiary identification, efficient service delivery, and transparent tracking of maternal benefits within factory settings. Through this initiative, factories are expected to contribute to better maternal and child well-being and move forward establishing a reliable, data-driven system that enables timely and equitable access to benefits for all eligible workers.
- A total of 325 participants were trained on beneficiary enrolment processes, including enrolment procedures for second children and twin births under MCBP.
- In addition, WFP organized a residential training on MIS interoperability features for DWA and Health officials on 19–20 April 2026. The training was attended by 26 participants, who shared best practices that contributed to improving system synchronization rates.
- WFP supported DWA in disseminating the draft Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Strategy and MCBP Roadmap to central and subnational officials. A total of 48 participants reviewed the draft and provided feedback, contributing to the refinement of the strategy.
- Through WFP's support to DWA and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, revised VWB programme training modules were printed and distributed to 495 upazilas (sub-districts), 64 districts, and 248 NGOs, ensuring harmonized implementation and expanded programme reach nationwide.

Emergency Preparedness

WFP Bangladesh, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, has put in place a coordinated and forward-looking preparedness framework for the monsoon and flood season. This approach combines anticipatory actions -

such as early warning dissemination and pre-shock cash assistance - with plans for rapid life-saving response and scalable support to affected populations. These efforts are supported by strengthened logistics capacity, effective coordination platforms, trained surge mechanisms, and a strong field presence in high-risk areas. Overall, WFP is well-positioned to respond in a timely, coordinated, and appropriately scaled manner in support of the Government's efforts to assist vulnerable communities.

Potential Implications of the Middle East Crisis: Bangladesh faces growing exposure to global disruptions due to over 95 percent reliance on imported fuel and inflation above 9 percent. WFP operations remain stable, but early pressures - rising costs, delays, and risks to market-based assistance - are emerging. WFP maintains continuity, strengthening monitoring, and coordinating with partners. While not yet a crisis, the situation requires close vigilance and preparedness.

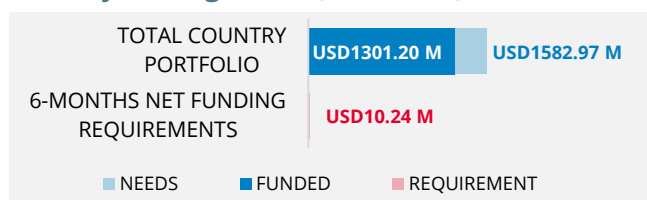
SITUATION OVERVIEW

- 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 2022-2027 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 assistance to people affected by emergencies.
- Since 2017, WFP has been providing critical assistance, including the provision of life-saving food assistance, malnutrition treatment and prevention services, school feeding and resilience as part of the Rohingya refugee response. WFP also supports food-insecure Bangladeshi host communities in Cox's Bazar through nutrition and market linkages support to build resilience.



FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)



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, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Other funding sources: Bangladesh Humanitarian Fund, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and other UN funds, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), WFP Changing Lives Transformation Fund, and private donations.

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