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WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

WFP aims to reduce hunger and undernutrition in the coming years by implementing and developing, through effective partnerships, innovative long-term solutions and by responding to emergencies. To underpin the development agenda of the Government, WFP supports selected government safety net programmes that focus on food security and help mainstream nutrition. WFP's direct interventions are geographically concentrated in areas of great food insecurity and vulnerability, such as in Cox's Bazar where a Level 3 Emergency Response is in operation since 22 September 2017.

Bangladesh still faces high poverty and undernutrition rates, aggravated by frequent natural disasters and a high population density. The high prevalence of child marriage, adolescent pregnancies and undernutrition in mothers and adolescent girls contributes to the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition. The prevalence of stunting in children under the age of 5 years continues to pose a major challenge, with 5.5 million children (36 percent) stunted and a global acute undernutrition rate of 14 percent (2014 DHS). Despite considerable progress in school enrolment, an estimated 3.3 million out of 20 million primary school aged children remain out of school.

WFP has been present in Bangladesh since 1974. It has assisted registered refugees from Myanmar since 1992.

Population: **165 million**2015 Human Development Index:
139 out of 188Income Level: **Lower middle**Chronic malnutrition: **36% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Saikat Mojumder
Caption: WFP e-voucher beneficiary registration in SCOPE in Cox's Bazar.

In Numbers

12,352 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$2.34 m cash based transfers made

685,719 refugees receiving food assistance

US\$124.94 m six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 36% of total

1.35 m people assisted
in April 2018

53%



47%



Operational Updates

- WFP continues with its Level 3 emergency response. According to the Inter Sector Coordination Group report of 26 April, an estimated 693,000 refugees have arrived in Bangladesh from Myanmar since violence broke out in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017.
- WFP has reached 685,719 Rohingya refugees with food assistance. Each family receives a food basket of rice, lentils and fortified vegetable oil.
- WFP has rapidly scaled up its nutrition response and established 21 blanket supplementary feeding sites for the prevention of acute malnutrition. A total of 35,000 pregnant and nursing women and 127,000 children under 5 years have received SuperCereal.
- For the 175,744 most vulnerable earlier undocumented refugees, including those of the October 2016 influx, WFP has completed the second monthly cash-based transfer of Bangladesh Taka (BDT) 753 (USD 9) per person.
- In March 2018, the WFP School Feeding Programme has reached 307,348 students with micronutrient fortified biscuits and 15,097 children with school meals.
- The Minister of Food has inaugurated the distribution of fortified rice in the government-run Food Friendly Programme. Currently, about 30,000 participants along with their families are receiving 30kg of fortified rice each month at a price of BDT 10 (USD 0.12) per kg or one-fourth of the market price. WFP provides capacity support for the integration and scale-up of fortified rice into this programme.
- WFP together with the Department of Disaster Management of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief hosted a national stakeholder consultation on "Context Analysis of Forecast-based Financing". Relevant government agencies and development partners participated in the consultation.

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	May - October Net Funding Requirements (in USD) ¹
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Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

343.64 m	199.07 m	124.94m
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Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable groups in rural and urban settings are supported by enhanced national actions to improve their nutrition indicators in line with the national targets by 2020.

Focus area: Root causes

44.79 m	21.71 m	0.12 m
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Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: The most vulnerable population of Cox's Bazar, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and disaster-stricken areas have enhanced food security and nutrition.

Focus area: Crisis response

244.99 m	140.94 m	104.88 m
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Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Innovative approaches to enhance the resilience of food insecure households exposed to climate-related shocks and stresses are validated by 2020.

Focus area: Resilience building

36.32 m	25.95 m	0.00 m
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Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDG

Strategic Outcome 4: The humanitarian response system for large-scale natural disasters in Bangladesh can respond with reduced cost and lead time.

Focus area: Resilience building

13.85 m	4.50 m	1.47 m
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Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development partners in Bangladesh have access to reliable services in the areas of supply chain and emergency telecommunications during crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

3.69 m	5.97 m	18.45 m ²
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¹ Figures provisional.

² Budget under revision to adjust SO 5 requirements. This includes USD1 m requirement for engineering work under new CSP activity.

WFP Country Activities

SO 1

- 1 - Technical assistance and advocacy to enhance the food security and nutrition impact of selected safety nets.
- 2 - Technical assistance and advocacy for improved nutrition.
- 3 - Technical assistance and advocacy for scaling-up post-harvest rice fortification.
- 4 - Policy advice and technical assistance to scale up school feeding.

SO 2

- 5 - Deliver an integrated assistance package in Cox's Bazar.
- 6 - Deliver an integrated assistance package in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- 7 - Delivering food assistance in emergencies.

SO 3

- 8 - Evidence creation on innovative approaches to enhance resilience.
- 9 - Implement the *Nobo Jatra* programme.

SO 4

- 10 - Capacity strengthening for emergency response.
- 11 - Lead the logistics cluster and co-lead the food security cluster.

SO 5

- 12 - Logistics support services to the Government and the humanitarian community.
- 13 - Emergency telecommunications support services to the Government and the humanitarian community.

- WFP partners with the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh to promote nutrition sensitive social safety nets. This partnership will work towards enhancing advocacy, creation of evidence and a multi-sector coordination of nutrition sensitive strategies and policies. In addition, it will help maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of national initiatives for achieving food security and improved nutrition for vulnerable groups.

- Under the *Nobo Jatra* programme, WFP transferred conditional cash entitlements of BDT 2,200 (USD 26.5) per individual to 12,952 pregnant and nursing women for better nutrition and BDT 1,000 (USD 12) each to 9,540 women graduating from the livelihoods programme. WFP has facilitated cyclone simulation drills in ten areas of Kaliganj and Shyamnagar upazilas under Satkhira district. These simulations aim to create mass awareness and build capacities on disaster risk reduction for the communities.

Monitoring

- In April, WFP established a call centre with a programme grievance procedure. It received 410 calls and attended 94 percent of them. Almost 78 percent of the queries and complaints were about the next distribution, especially in Cox's Bazar. Among the callers, 60 percent were female and 41 percent male.
- The report on the second round of the WFP-commissioned third-party monitoring (TPM) in Cox's Bazar was received. The report has been prepared mainly based on interviews from about 700 refugee households.
- A monitoring and evaluation refresher workshop was conducted for the third-party monitors.

Challenges

- To meet the demand of fortified rice by the safety net programmes, at present there is one fortified rice kernel producer in Bangladesh who meets the quality standards. It has become a challenge for the producer to meet the monthly demand. In addition, having one producer can generate a monopolistic market. WFP is advocating and providing capacity strengthening to the private sector to have more fortified rice kernels producers.

Donors

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