



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

March 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 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 188
Income Level: Lower middle	Chronic malnutrition: 36% of children between 6-59 months

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Saikat Mojumder
Caption: WFP porter carrying a rice sack for a beneficiary to her tent in Cox's Bazar.

In Numbers

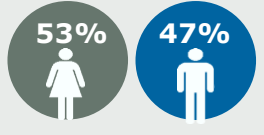
12,271 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$2.21 m cash based transfers made

685,400 refugees receiving food assistance

US\$111.18 m six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements, representing 32% of total

1.3 m people assisted in March 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP continues with its Level 3 emergency response as an estimated 671,500 refugees have arrived in Bangladesh from Myanmar since violence broke out in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017.
- WFP has reached 685,400 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 35,573 pregnant and nursing women and 127,530 children under 5 years have received SuperCereal.
- For the 131,851 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) 780 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 Ministry of Food has agreed to integrate fortified rice in the government-run Food Friendly Programme. The programme annually distributes 750,000 mt of rice to five million poor and vulnerable households (25 million people) during the lean seasons at one-fourth of the market price. WFP provides capacity support for the integration of fortified rice into this programme.
- WFP has commissioned a context analysis to support the design and successful implementation of the Forecast-based- Financing (FbF) innovation project. The study will generate a clear and thorough understanding of the current situation especially on existing emergency response mechanisms, government's policy frameworks, and current practice of weather forecast based intervention in Bangladesh.

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement
(in USD)

Confirmed Contributions
(in USD)

Six Month
Net Funding
Requirements
(in USD)*²

Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

343.64 m

179.81 m

111.18 m

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

16.87 m

0.93 m

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

126.52 m

106.50 m

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

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

0.00 m

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

3.75 m³

* April - September 2018

² 6 month net funding requirements as per Country Office pipeline.

³ SO 5 shortfall includes USD1 million requirement for Engineering work under new CSP activity.

- Under the *Nobo Jatra* programme, WFP transferred conditional cash entitlements of BDT 2,200 per individual to 11,807 pregnant and nursing women for better nutrition and BDT 1,000 each to 8,337 women graduating from the livelihoods programme. WFP together with relevant government agencies have facilitated a training of trainers on income generating activity and market linkages for cooperating partners.

Monitoring

- A call centre has been established in the WFP Country Office to support the grievance procedure for WFP-assisted programmes. In March, 440 calls were received of which 92 percent were attended. Almost 94 percent of the queries and complaints were about the next distribution, especially in Cox's Bazar. Among the callers, 77 percent were female and 23 percent male.
- WFP has contracted a specialised agency for conducting third party monitoring (TPM) on food distribution to the refugees in Cox's Bazar. The objective of this TPM is to inform WFP on overall efficiency and effectiveness of its large-scale emergency programme.
- The WFP School Feeding Programme organised a training for its cooperating partners in Cox's Bazar on "Essential learning package, vegetable gardening, little doctor activities, safe food storage and monitoring and evaluation".

Challenges

- The National Board of Revenue has proposed 90 percent tax on import of vitamin and mineral (micronutrient) premix powder. This is expected to have significant cost implications for the production and commercialisation of fortified rice. WFP is advocating with the Ministry of Food to retain the tax imposition at 10 percent.

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 <i>Nobo Jatra</i> 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.

Donors

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, ECHO, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Private Donors, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, UK, UN Common Funds and Agencies, UN CERF and USA.

GENDER MARKER **2A** 