

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

BANGLADESH

Country Programme - Bangladesh (2012-2016)

Project Number	200243
Project Category	Country Programme

Project Approval Date	16 Nov 2011
Planned Start Date	01 Jan 2012
Actual Start Date	01 Jan 2012
Project End Date	31 Dec 2016
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	8,035,006
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	37,457,804
Direct Support Costs	37,156,214
Food and Related Costs	231,616,441
Indirect Support Costs	21,998,583
Total Approved Budget	336,264,048

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	333,340
Planned Commodities in 2015	48,163
Actual Commodities in 2015	8,153

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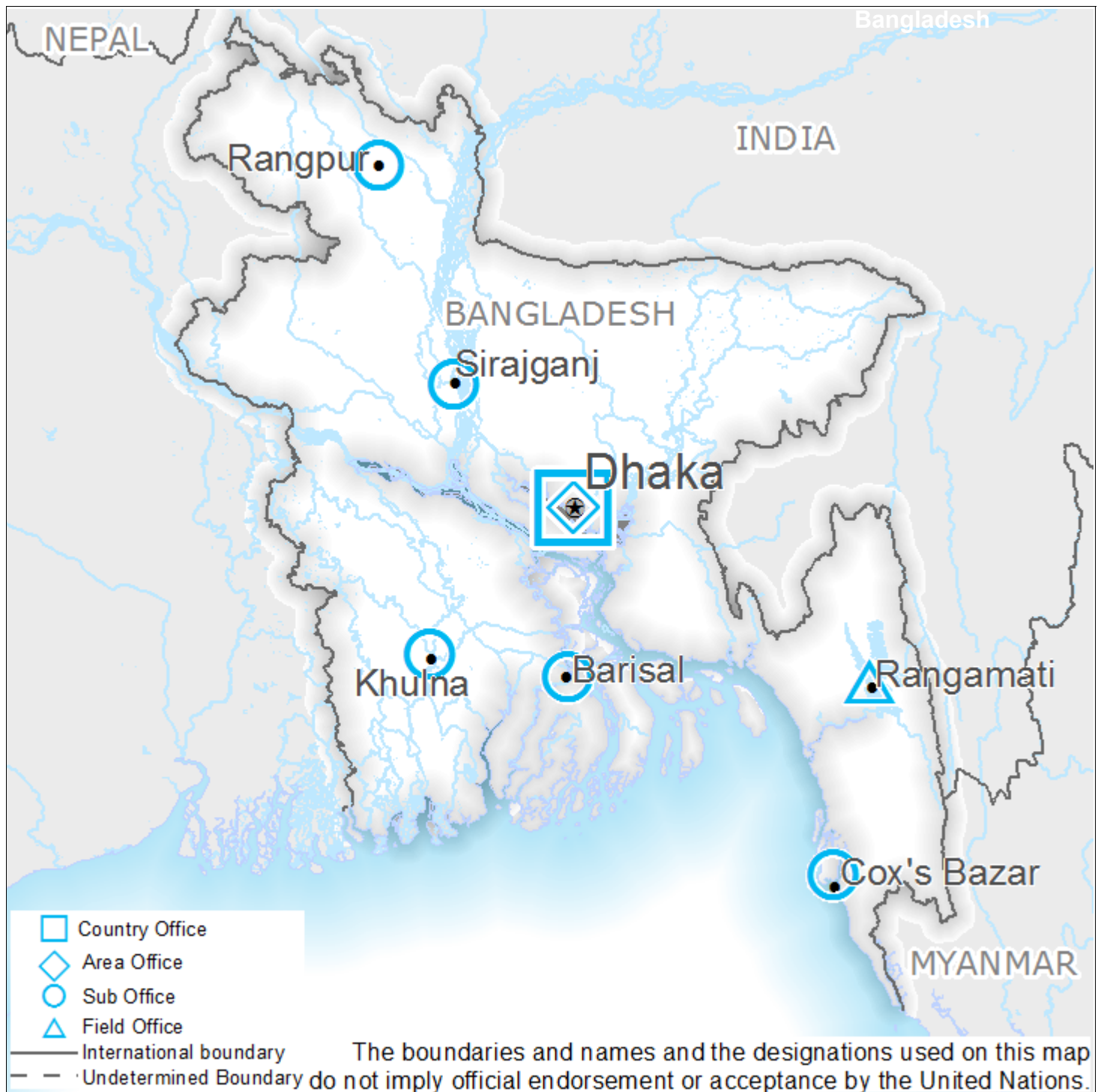
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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Despite continuing economic progress in Bangladesh, including becoming a lower middle-income country in 2015, in the absence of a recent household income and expenditure survey it may be assumed that at least one quarter of the population lives in poverty and is unable to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Low dietary diversity remains a persistent problem. Bangladesh ranks 142nd out of 188 countries on the 2015 Human Development Index and 73rd among 104 developing or transitioning countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index.

A staggering 36 percent of children below the age of five suffer from stunted growth caused by chronic undernutrition. About 15 percent of children under the age of five are acutely undernourished, and every fourth woman of reproductive age is too thin for her height. About one third of adolescent girls in Bangladesh suffer from anemia and micronutrient deficiency.

Poverty and undernutrition hinder children's ability to learn and complete their education. While school enrolment has improved over recent years, an estimated 3.3 million out of 20 million children of primary school age remain out of school, and only eight in 10 children that start primary school complete grade five. Dropout rates are higher in poorer areas.

Achieving gender equality also remains a challenge. There are significant disparities between men and women in health, education and income. With more than two thirds of girls married before the age of 18, the risk of early pregnancy and giving birth to an underweight baby is very high. More than 20 percent of newborns have a low birth weight.

Disasters such as floods, cyclones and droughts are also a significant threat to food security, causing the poorest to adopt negative coping strategies for example, by eating less, withdrawing children from school, and selling productive assets. Among those highly vulnerable is a perennial refugee population from Myanmar; approximately 33,000 refugees have lived in two official camps in Cox's Bazar district of southeastern Bangladesh and received food assistance there since 1992. Many more undocumented refugees from Myanmar live in proximity to these camps.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP is working in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh to reduce poverty, enhance food security and nutrition, and minimise vulnerability to recurrent shocks through a Country Programme (CP) and a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).

The CP is designed to improve the long-term food security and nutrition situation of vulnerable households in the poorest and most food-insecure rural areas and urban slums. In total, the CP will assist 3.56 million people in 15 priority districts over five years (2012-2016). It consists of four main components that are aligned with the Government's national priorities: (i) Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN); (ii) School Feeding; (iii) Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER); and (iv) Strengthening Government Safety Nets.

The PRRO seeks to improve the food security and nutrition of approximately 34,000 refugees residing in Cox's Bazar through three activities: (i) general food assistance through biometrically coded electronic vouchers; (ii) supplementary feeding; and (iii) school feeding.

In addition, WFP addresses humanitarian needs during extraordinary emergencies. During 2015, WFP delivered food and cash assistance to affected populations after Tropical Storm Komen brought floods and landslides to southeastern Bangladesh. The Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) reached a total of 185,000 displaced people with fortified biscuits in June and August and, subsequently, 35,000 people with unconditional cash transfers between August and October.

WFP also conducts research and pilot projects to create evidence to underpin future efforts. In 2015, WFP published a study titled 'Impact of Climate Related Shocks and Stresses on Nutrition and Food Security in Selected Areas of Rural Bangladesh' with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The study found effects on nutrition and food security up to eight, even 10 months after the events. Moreover, in research jointly conducted with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), it was concluded that the combination of cash and behaviour change communication (BCC) on nutrition had the greatest benefits for ultra-poor rural families with small children and was the only intervention that led to a statistically significant reduction of child stunting. This transfer modality research initiative adds important evidence to the country's efforts to promote social safety nets which are effective in preventing chronic child undernutrition.

WFP's activities under the CP and PRRO directly supported the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1), achievement of universal primary education (MDG2), the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women (MDG3), reduction of child mortality (MDG4) and improvement of maternal health (MDG5).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	12,075	122,957	135,032
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	191,323	223,862	415,185
Number of adults	38,156	58,967	97,123
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	241,554	405,786	647,340
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	767,549	839,675	1,607,224
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	867,581	959,277	1,826,858

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	38	49	0	308	20	415
Single Country IR-EMOP				239		239
Country Programme	1,419	120	115	6,013	485	8,153
Total food distributed in 2015	1,457	168	115	6,560	505	8,807
Total food distributed in 2014	7,302	879	1,516	11,296	199	21,192
Total food distributed in 2013	33,420	1,264	2,236	13,479	857	51,256

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

2015 was the fourth year of implementation of the five-year Bangladesh Country Programme (2012-2016). It contributed to the key operational objectives of reducing poverty, enhancing food security and nutrition, and reducing vulnerability to recurrent shocks, thus contributing to WFP's Strategic Objectives 3 and 4. This was done through four main components:

Component 1, Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN), aims to break the inter-generational cycle of undernutrition in Bangladesh. Following national guidelines and corporate strategies, WFP implements a targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and provides children aged 6-59 months with Super Cereal Plus (WSB++) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with a premix of Super Cereal (WSB+) and fortified vegetable oil. TSFP is accompanied by behavior change communication (BCC) activities on nutrition and hygiene, thus combining treatment and prevention measures. Blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) for the undocumented refugees from Myanmar was also planned for children (Super Cereal Plus) and PLW (Super Cereal and fortified vegetable oil) as explained in the beneficiaries, targeting and distribution section.

Component 2, School Feeding, aims to contribute to the Government of Bangladesh's overall goal of achieving universal primary education by increasing enrolment and attendance of pre-primary and primary schoolchildren through distributing nutritious biscuits and essential learning packages, and by providing technical support to the government. The School Meals Initiative, launched in 2013 in collaboration with the government to test an alternative modality, provides cooked meals to schoolchildren. Through the McGovern-Dole contribution, a literacy component is integrated into the programme.

Component 3, Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER), aims to enhance the resilience and food security of vulnerable communities and households through the creation of community assets. It focuses on achieving four key aspects: physical and environmental resilience, social resilience, economic resilience, and capacity enhancement of ultra-poor women and men and their families. Participants work to construct or repair community assets and take part in comprehensive training sessions; in return they receive cash. Particularly vulnerable woman participants benefit from a one-off cash grant for investment in income-generating activities, a monthly living allowance and follow-up support. The government directly funds 95 percent of the participants and WFP provides technical support to help enhance the quality of services.

Component 4, Strengthening Government Safety Nets (SGSN), aims to help the government enhance social safety nets addressing hunger and household food insecurity by providing technical assistance to the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme and by implementing a promotional safety net in Cox's Bazar district titled Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) as well as an operational research project titled Targeting the Ultra Poor-Nutrition (TUP-N). The latter is a research initiative that sets out to examine if child stunting can be prevented by delivering a livelihoods support programme to ultra-poor women with small children. WFP also works to mainstream fortified rice into national social safety nets and is working towards creating supply and demand on the market.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Component 1, IMCN, focused this year on TSFP to treat MAM among PLWs and children aged 6-59 months in particularly food-insecure rural and urban slum areas where poverty was compounded by a high prevalence of global acute malnutrition.

For actual beneficiary numbers of children and PLW, overachievement was seen, due to an underestimation of planned beneficiaries and improvement in the screening coverage including systematic screening at the community clinic levels. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) provided registers that include anthropometric indicators and health staff are to systematically screen all children and PLW coming for consultation and report on a monthly basis in the online Nutrition Information System (NIS). Children and PLW found to be undernourished were referred for admission in the programme where it existed.

Changes in discharge criteria resulted in a discrepancy between planned and actual distribution figures. As the discharge criteria for PLW was aligned with the National CMAM guidelines, the average length of stay was reduced from six to four months (due to target figure Mid-Upperarm Circumference (MUAC) >210 instead of the infant reaching six months). Planning of supplementary food commodity was based on the assumption that all admitted children under age five would receive food ration for 90 days and PLW for 270 days, which is the average length of stay in the programme (from admission to recovery). However, not all beneficiaries stayed in the programme for the entire period because of several reasons including absenteeism, death or early recovery, which explains why the participants' achievement was higher than food distribution achievement.

BSFP was planned for the undocumented refugees - children (Supercereal Plus) and PLW (Supercereal and fortified vegetable oil) - but was not implemented due to several reasons including not being able to locate a suitable storage space.

Component 2, School Feeding, targeted schoolchildren of pre-primary (3-5 years) and primary (5-12 years) age in areas with high poverty prevalence and low education performance. Each school day the children, of whom 51 percent are girls and 49 percent boys, received biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals intended to cover nearly 70 percent of their daily micronutrient requirements. Through an improvement by 10 percentage points compared to 2014, this year WFP did particularly well in reaching girls and actually managed to assist more than planned. The School Meals initiative, which targeted the same group, assists 20,000 children in two sub-districts. It provided cooked meals made with locally purchased food commodities from women vegetable cultivators. In addition to donor funded school feeding, WFP also provided technical support to the government school feeding programme, which has grown to cover an impressive three million children in 2015.

Component 3, ER, assisted ultra-poor households in highly food-insecure and disaster-prone sub-districts. However, critical funding constraints have had a direct impact on WFP implementation. The Development Project Proposal (DPP) was revised after discussion with the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), leading to a 38 percent reduction of participants this year. In this largely government-led and funded programme, participants, of whom 70 percent of them were women, took part in two years of cash for work (CfW) and cash for training (CfT) to build structures to reduce physical vulnerabilities and knowledge to enhance resilience, and in a third year received a cash grant for investment in income generating activities.

A comprehensive participatory process led to the identification and selection of the physical infrastructure to be built and the most vulnerable households to take part in the programme. This process used frequent public announcements and included the ultra-poor women in meetings.

Component 4, SGSN, supports the government's Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme, a food-based social safety net, with technical assistance to enhance the quality of income-generating activities and training on life skills and nutrition. The Investment Component of VGD, or ICSVGD, is a pilot that aims to support women with a cash grant for investment, rations of fortified rice and additional training, thus combining income and nutrition support for enhanced sustainability; some women are already taking part.

In three sub-districts of Cox's Bazar WFP has enrolled ultra-poor women in the EFSN programme. Sustainably addressing the underlying drivers of food insecurity and undernutrition among the most vulnerable, and making a strong contribution to women's empowerment, the intervention will provide income-generating support including a 15,000 taka (USD 190) cash grant for investment as well as intensive skills trainings; a monthly allowance of 1,050 taka (USD 15) for 21 months to cover essential household consumption needs; BCC training to improve nutrition practices and community disaster management; and women's groups that enable women to support each other, enhance their voice and provide a platform for savings. The programme puts a strong emphasis on protection issues and disability considerations. It will use the SCOPE platform and SCOPE barcode participant cards for cash distribution. Including the women's families, about 50,000 people will benefit from the intervention throughout 2016 and beyond. Delayed start of the Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (EFSN) programme has resulted in a lower than planned achievement both in beneficiary coverage and cash distribution.

Under the TUP-N (Targeting the Ultra Poor- Nutrition) research project, acutely undernourished women who have a child under age three received intensive livelihood and nutrition support, including an asset for investment in income-generating activities, life skills training, monthly subsistence allowance, health subsidy support, specialised nutritious foods (Super Cereal), and nutrition BCC training. Children aged 6-36 months suffering from MAM also received food supplements (Super Cereal Plus). Children and PLW from the TUP household, if malnourished, were provided with Supercereal Plus and premix of Supercereal and fortified vegetable oil respectively, for the duration of their treatment. The targeted women and their household members also received intensive BCC along with life skills training. Moreover, the wider communities - including the women's husbands, other influential family members and local elites - benefit from intensive BCC (IBCC) nutrition training delivered by the NGO partner. The programme runs through 2016 at which time the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) will assess the effects of this integrated livelihood and nutrition support approach on the prevention of child stunting.

The component reached a total of 12,630 people, thus reaching 20 percent of planned beneficiaries.

[illegible]

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT1 - Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)									
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	3,350	5,025	8,375	5,058	6,123	11,181	151.0%	121.9%	133.5%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of acute malnutrition)	4,640	6,960	11,600	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	10,050	15,075	25,125	11,756	17,788	29,544	117.0%	118.0%	117.6%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in targeted supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate acute malnutrition)		10,700	10,700		19,922	19,922		186.2%	186.2%
ACT2 - School Feeding									
Children receiving school meals	245,000	255,000	500,000	235,575	262,929	498,504	96.2%	103.1%	99.7%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	12,250	12,750	25,000	9,407	9,639	19,046	76.8%	75.6%	76.2%
ACT3 - Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER)									
Participants in Food For Training	24,500	57,100	81,600	1,246	6,773	8,019	5.1%	11.9%	9.8%
Participants in Food For Assets	24,500	57,100	81,600	1,246	6,773	8,019	5.1%	11.9%	9.8%
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	4,000	4,000	8,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	128,981	140,319	269,300	19,733	20,362	40,095	15.3%	14.5%	14.9%
ACT4 - Strengthening Government Safety Nets									
Participants in Food For Training		0	0		0	0		-	-
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	31,000	31,750	62,750	6,240	6,390	12,630	20.1%	20.1%	20.1%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
ACT1 - Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)			
Vegetable Oil	54	40	74.8%
Wheat-soya Blend (wsb)	1,718	1,020	59.4%
Sum	1,772	1,061	59.8%
ACT2 - School Feeding			
Dried Fruits	486	485	99.9%
High Energy Biscuits	3,204	4,993	155.8%
Lentils	125	71	57.2%
Rice	450	256	56.9%
Vegetable Oil	60	58	96.1%
Wheat	20,240	0	-
Sum	24,565	5,863	23.9%
ACT3 - Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER)			
High Energy Biscuits	140	0	-
Rice	19,010	1,163	6.1%
Split Peas	1,784	44	2.5%
Vegetable Oil	892	21	2.4%
Sum	21,826	1,229	5.6%
Total for 2015	48,163	8,153	16.9%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	80,647	17,650	21.9%
Total reported in 2013 SPR	83,721	45,778	54.7%
Total reported in 2012 SPR	85,033	28,573	33.6%

	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash-Based Transfer			
Cash	9,173,517	2,434,579	26.5%
Total for 2015	9,173,517	2,434,578.73	26.5%

'Story Worth Telling'

While the government-led school feeding programme expanded to cover over three million children nationally this year, WFP concentrated its resources on other extremely poor rural and urban areas.

On the outskirts of Dhaka, there is 13-year-old Anwar, one of around half a million children in more than 5,000 schools that WFP has reached through its school feeding programme in Bangladesh this year. Anwar lives and attends primary school in Bhashantek, an impoverished slum whose inhabitants are mainly garment workers and rickshaw 'pullers'. Six days a week, he and his friends make the short walk to school and look forward to their mid-morning snack, a packet of nutritious biscuits that cover 70 percent of their daily vitamin and mineral needs.

"My parents can only afford two meals per day, usually in the afternoon and before bed, so coming to school knowing there will be something to eat helps," says Anwar. A daily school snack allows children to focus on their studies rather than their stomachs and helps increase enrolment and attendance. It is a powerful incentive for poor households to keep their children in school.

This is something that Anwar's mother, Rabeya, knows too well. Living in a simple shack and with a monthly income of around USD 90, her family of six barely gets by. "We are very poor and everyone has to help with the daily chores," Rabeya says. Anwar says he wants to become a policeman when he grows up, and his mother nods approvingly. "Now when we can send Anwar to school he will get a decent job. I don't want him to become a day labourer like his father," she says.

Day labourers, like Anwar's father, are often relegated to this type of work due to a lack of education; this type of employment is precarious and intermittent, and often makes it difficult to provide for one's family. If Anwar is encouraged to continue his schooling with the help of the school feeding programme, he may be able to seek better opportunities in life.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Component 1, IMCN, has strongly emphasized in BCC sessions that intra-household sharing of the food supplements intended for PLWs, caregivers and children under five should be avoided, and also that there should be no discrimination in food sharing at household level between girls and boys or women and men. WFP has provided basic, refresher and on the job trainings to relevant government and WFP staff on the CMAM approach and on nutrition and hygiene BCC to ensure a gender-sensitive selection and treatment process.

Component 2, School Feeding, has continued to promote gender equality among the students through an essential learning package. Several awareness-raising activities focused on pertinent social issues, including the importance of girls' education, impact of dowry, child marriage and early pregnancy. The programme also sought to enhance women's leadership development for impactful participation in School Management Committees (SMCs), and 1,140 male and 2,280 female SMC members received a leadership training that includes gender sensitisation, education and advocacy. This is expected to have positively affected women's participation in decision making. The women representation in the committees remained at the 2014 figure of 42 percent. This stagnation is due to household demands and related social barriers that discourage women from taking on leadership positions. The School Meals initiative continued to purchase vegetables locally from women growers, thus promoting their income-earning activities. A plan was finalised to provide a skills training to 570 women growers, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Extension and BRAC.

Component 3, ER, had women constitute 61 percent of participant committee leaders in the south, whereas in the north the leaders were all women - a significant increase from last year's 76 percent. All committee leaders received training on cash transfer modalities and have shared what they learned with their fellow committee members. A participant survey showed that in terms of decisions on using the programme cash, women alone took that decision in about 60 percent of cases whereas they took a joint decision with their husband four out of ten times. These figures are encouraging and should point to greater, more impactful participation of women. Finally, gender-supportive activities like the provision of childcare, tents, access to drinking water and toilets have made the work environment more conducive for women.

Component 4, SGSN, has tailored the EFSN programme so that in 2016 it will contribute to the empowerment of extremely vulnerable women through increased economic opportunities and access to group support and training sessions. BCC will also include adolescent girls, mothers-in-law and husbands, so as to improve community attitudes toward women's participation in household decision-making, education and work as well as reduce the incidence of early marriages, sexual and gender-based violence, and human trafficking.

The VGD programme, including the investment component, directly targeted women, many of them heading the household. The women took part in various trainings, and those who were in ICVGD received a cash grant for investment in income generating activities with the aim to empower them economically and socially.

TUP-N seeks to economically and otherwise empower women with small children, and help them break the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition through intensive livelihood and nutrition support including a monthly allowance, an asset for income generation, and IBCC on nutrition. In 2016, it is expected to help women gain greater control of economic resources and, in turn, make more informed nutrition choices. To accelerate a shift in societal norms and practices, the training also includes husbands, other influential family members, and local elites. IFPRI is set to evaluate the programme impact, especially on the prevention of child stunting.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
	<i>Target Val</i>			
ACT1 - Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)				
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	50		40	51.85
ACT2 - School Feeding				
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	50		42	42
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	60		43	40
ACT3 - Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER)				
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	70		51	55
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2016, Programme monitoring.	70		76	77
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	90		69	99

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Component 1, IMCN, saw an overwhelming majority of women, or 93 percent, report that they did not experience any safety concerns getting to and from programme sites. Those who did express concerns usually would have a long and physically demanding commute or walk. WFP is actively working to locate the distribution sites as conveniently as possible for all beneficiaries. Through community sensitisation meetings, people were informed about programme services and their role in treating and preventing undernutrition. WFP organised community mobilisation workshops to disseminate information related to programme benefits and challenges.

Component 2, School Feeding, has continued to implement comprehensive awareness-raising activities together with the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs). WFP organised 'mother gatherings,' community mobilisation workshops and women leadership training that covered 440 mothers in a total of 15 sessions. In all of these fora, participants discussed their rights, safe movement and entitlements to strengthen their negotiation ability.

WFP organised a number of Field Level Agreement (FLA) compliance workshops at upazila and district level to raise awareness among key government and NGO officials, prevent the misuse of resources, and strictly avoid the occurrence of child labour. Though there was one such incidence, the concerned partner NGO has committed strongly to avoid that similar situation be repeated in the future.

To facilitate a common understanding of programme benefits and challenges, and to clarify the stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, WFP conducted community mobilisation workshops and review meetings, organised orientation sessions and made extensive use of fliers and programme signboards. More than 8,600 people participated in the mobilisation workshops, a number slightly below the target of 9,100 due to the frequent occurrence of general strikes.

Component 3, ER, has involved communities in local-level planning committees to select priority schemes and sites for implementation. In the north, one participant reported a minor accident while she was returning from a work site, and in another case a woman reported an injury that had occurred when she moved soil. Both participants received care at a nearby clinic. The cooperating partner and WFP closely follow-up on the incidents. All participants and more than 90 percent of staff were informed about the programme modalities. More can be done to ensure a fair selection process free from the influence of local level representatives and political leaders.

Multiple levels of accountability are in place to reduce loss of cash during distribution. The participant committees have played a major role in withdrawing cash from the bank and transparently distributing it among its members. The hotline numbers were installed and all participants were informed about the complaint mechanism; a total of 73 calls were received since its inception in April and an overwhelming majority of cases could be closed within a week. Partner NGOs and LGED officials have closely followed the programme and extended further support to group leaders. In addition to the group account, the programme has introduced individual bank accounts for the cash grant.

Component 4, SGSN, saw a protection risk analysis of the EFSN programme to minimise risks relating to sexual and gender-based violence during implementation. Measures taken include establishing a complaint mechanism; advancing cash distributions to avoid the rainy season; cash distribution through home visits by project staff to women in the advance stage of pregnancy or with newborn infants; establishing breastfeeding corners at most distribution sites; and including male family members in key training sessions to encourage family acceptance and buy-in. WFP is supporting the development of a grievance redress mechanism for VGD beneficiaries.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
ACT1 - Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)				
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		95	98.9
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	90		82	93.4
ACT2 - School Feeding				
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	90			100
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	90			100
ACT3 - Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER)				
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	90		97	92
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100			100
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	90		97	91
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		92	97

Outputs

Component 1, IMCN, has continued to integrate nutrition interventions into all public health facilities in the targeted areas. WFP provided training to most staff and job coaching to all service providers, thus going above and beyond the targets. A few facilities were activated during the operational phase and were not counted in the initial plan. The number of actual PLW beneficiaries exceeded the planned figure owing to an underestimation (caused by the absence of wasting rates at sub-district level and the proportion of PLW in the population). There was fluctuation mainly due to erratic weather conditions, staff dropouts, and fewer venues resulting in lower screening coverage. The nutrition BCC reached 94 percent of targeted participants. The PLW and caregivers of children under age five received key nutrition messages at health facilities each time they collected the fortnightly distributed specialised nutritious foods. However, in areas where operations fully relied on government service providers, the nutrition BCC was not a separate activity but rather part of regular health check-ups. Other family and community members, men included, took part in nutrition trainings once a month.

Component 2, School Feeding, distributed almost 5,000 tons of fortified biscuits and reached virtually all planned beneficiaries. The biscuits reached more areas this year and those distributions, as well as the roll-out of complementary activities, were implemented smoothly. However, the School Meals initiative had a lower enrolment than expected and reached 90 percent of children. Similarly, the distribution of rice and pulses stayed at 57 percent. WFP established a framework with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and DPE to implement new activities to improve literacy among children, a key milestone for the programme. Implementation began in 2015, including providing computers that brought learning opportunities to almost 5,000 children and established hundreds of reading corners in 115 schools. More than 500 teachers were trained on teaching methods and the use of tools and materials. WFP is currently discussing support to homestead gardening with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and support on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities with UNICEF.

WFP handed over support for 534,000 children to the government-led school feeding programme. To facilitate a smooth transition, WFP provided training on implementation, monitoring, reporting, commodity tracking and supply-chain management to almost 1,400 newly-engaged government and NGO officials. In the last quarter of the year, the government confirmed the inclusion of an additional 350,000 children to start receiving biscuits from January 2016; WFP has ensured full operational support to DPE since December 2015. WFP also carried out a yearly programme review and facilitated a major workshop in Dhaka to share experiences. Finally, with support from the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, WFP facilitated a research initiative on the ongoing technical support to DPE and the school meals project.

Component 3, ER, faced serious funding constraints from WFP's end, and so interventions were managed largely from government resources after WFP and LGED revised the DPP. Unfortunately, this significantly reduced the number of programme participants (from 80,000 to 50,000) as well as the number of beneficiaries (from 400,000 to 250,000). A major portion, or 85 percent, of participants were assisted with government funding and have not been included in the table below. The remaining 7,500 participants were supported directly by WFP. Women accounted for more than 85 percent of programme participants. Around 12,000 women who had completed the two year work and training cycle in 2014 received a one-off cash grant in 2015 for investment in income-generating activities; WFP supported 3,000 of them, while 9,000 were covered by the government. Most women chose to invest in cattle-rearing or similar activities.

Under component 4, SGSN, WFP has continued to provide technical assistance to MoWCA to reform the VGD government safety net which provides 750,000 women with a monthly ration of 30 kilograms of rice. Of these, 30,000 received fortified rice, an innovation introduced by WFP as part of the effort to reform the VGD programme. An investment component, ICVGD, was piloted by WFP in partnership with MoWCA. It introduced a one-off cash grant for investment. Eventually, 21,000 women will receive training and a 15,000 taka (USD 190) cash grant through agent banking. There are 2,000 women in Belkuchi and Chowhali upazilas of Sirajganj district already participating in the programme and benefitting 10,000 family members. They have received the cash grant and completed two of five training modules.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
ACT1 - Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)				
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	4	4	100.0%
Nutrition: Number of government/national staff assisted or trained to develop policies/strategies or legislation	individual	883	843	95.5%
SO 4: Nutrition: Treatment of Acute Malnutrition				

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	381	381	100.0%
Proportion of targeted caregivers (male and female) receiving 3 key messages delivered through WFP supported messaging and counseling	%	100	95	95.0%
Proportion of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	100	93	93.0%
Proportion of women receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	100	94	94.0%
ACT2 - School Feeding				
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of government/national staff assisted or trained to develop policies/strategies or legislation	individual	539	480	89.1%
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	44	40	90.9%
SO 4: School Feeding				
Number of pre-school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	80,000	76,800	96.0%
Number of pre-school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	70,000	72,100	103.0%
Number of primary school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	165,000	158,775	96.2%
Number of primary school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	185,000	190,829	103.2%
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	4,992	4,992	100.0%
ACT3 - Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER)				
SO 3: FFA				
C&V: Number of beneficiaries receiving a combination of cash transfers and food	Individual	408,000	40,095	9.8%
C&V: Number of men collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	24,500	1,246	5.1%
C&V: Number of women collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	57,100	6,773	11.9%
Kilometres (km) of feeder roads built (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	km	150	150	100.0%
SO 3: FFT				
Number of participants in beneficiary training sessions (community preparedness, early warning, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation)	Individual	81,600	8,019	9.8%
Number of participants in beneficiary training sessions (health and nutrition)	Individual	81,600	8,019	9.8%
ACT4 - Strengthening Government Safety Nets (SGSN)				
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of government/national staff assisted or trained to develop policies/strategies or legislation	individual	96	96	100.0%
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	5	5	100.0%

Outcomes

Component 1, IMCN, saw good results in its MAM treatment. All performance indicators surpassed the SPHERE targets, exemplified by the high recovery rate of 92 percent among children. The SQUEAC survey of 2015 shows that the programme coverage of MAM cases (56 percent) met the target for rural areas (50 percent). In 2014, a desk-based review was conducted in accordance with the WFP Strategic Result Framework (2014 - 2017) and it estimated the MAM coverage to 92 percent, although methodically weaker compared to SQUEAC. Notably, programme coverage stands at 36 percent in those areas where implementation is done by public health workers. Among the IMCN participants, 95 percent of the mothers reported exclusively breastfeeding their infants up to six months compared to only 50 percent amongst the non-IMCN participants. This finding underscores the effectiveness of BCC and it is, therefore, recommended that the BCC should include non-IMCN participants. Occasional floods in certain parts of the country led to small, and perhaps insignificant, changes in the annual defaulter and non-response rates.

Component 2, School Feeding, has continued to increase school enrolment and the attendance rate was higher for girls than boys. Hartals (strikes) and road blockades, particularly in the first quarter of 2015, had a destabilising effect on overall attendance levels. The programme is currently establishing a positive learning environment as a means to contributing to quality education. This approach is being tested in one district and may be expanded. Activities related to improved literacy and health and dietary practices are being implemented in numerous partnerships. Moreover, by providing technical assistance, WFP has significantly facilitated the expansion of the government funded school feeding programme from 1.8 to three million schoolchildren in 2015; this has been confirmed by National Capacity Index (NCI) figures on, for example, staff capacity.

Component 3, ER, has created assets that protect and bring benefits to the participating communities, including the protection of lives, livelihoods and agricultural land from flooding, river erosion or cyclones as well as improved road connections, and irrigation for cultivation. A community risk assessment found that 44 percent of asset needs were met prior to the beginning of asset creation work, which rose to 79 percent after the work began. Also, increased employment opportunities among the poor participants contributed to improved food security in their households. ER participants enrolled during the third programme year received additional investment grants under "cash transfer for investment" and had better food security than the regular ER participants. IFPRI research confirmed the added value of "cash transfer for investment" with the evidence that 93 percent of "cash transfer for investment" households had an acceptable food consumption score, compared to 70 percent in the regular ER programme. The income and asset levels of the "cash transfer for investment" households were nearly twice those prior to the receipt of the cash grant.

Component 4, SGSN, has contributed to an enhanced VGD design through the ICVGD approach by suggesting modifications to the livelihood intervention and introducing nutrition-sensitive components that include the transfer of fortified rice and the inclusion of more PLWs and women with small children into the programme. Still, the NCI remained virtually unchanged, calling for additional measures to strengthen management and implementation capacity in the respective government ministry. Outcomes for TUP-N will be measured by IFPRI in 2016.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value (at start of project or benchmark)	Previous Follow-up (penultimate follow-up)	Latest Follow-up (latest value measured)
ACT1 - Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)				
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Infant and young child feeding practices: Proportion of children 6-23 months of age who receive foods from 4 or more food groups				
Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Data collected by WFP field staff through focus group discussion, Programme monitoring.	45	39.8	39.1	60.97
Infant and young child feeding practices: Proportion of infants 0-5 months of age who are fed exclusively with breast milk				
Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Data collected by WFP field staff through focus group discussion, Programme monitoring.	60	47.6	63.5	51.54
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months., Programme monitoring.	15	10	2.04	4.73
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months., Programme monitoring.	3	3	0.03	0.06
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months., Programme monitoring.	15	8.3	2.33	3.37

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
MAM treatment recovery rate (%) Base value: Dec-2012, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, For children 6-59 months., Programme monitoring.	75	85	95.6	91.84
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage) Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Desk-based review methodology was used, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, SQUEAC Survey report 2015, Conducted in rural areas, WFP survey.	50		92.08	56
ACT2 - School Feeding				
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Programme monitoring.	85	86.8	84.9	83.05
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Programme monitoring.	85	87.5	86.2	85.2
Attendance rate in WFP-assisted primary schools Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Programme monitoring.	85	87.3	85.6	84.13
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Programme monitoring.	6		10	12
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Programme monitoring.	6		8	13
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Programme monitoring.	6		12	11
NCl: National Capacity Index Base value: Nov-2012, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Government and WFP - joint assessment, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Government and WFP - joint assessment, Programme monitoring.	14	6.7	11.67	12.54
Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring.	85		92.9	
ACT3 - Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER)				
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
CAS: percentage of communities with an increased Asset Score Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Data collected by implementing partners, Programme monitoring.	80		100	100
CSI (Asset Depletion): Coping Strategy Index (average) Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm., Programme monitoring.	100	27.3	18.5	
CSI (Food): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm., Programme monitoring.	100	28.5	23.6	
Diet Diversity Score Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Collected by WFP, Programme monitoring.	5	4.97	5	5.26
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households) Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Collected by WFP, Programme monitoring.	5	4.8	4.9	5.08
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households) Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Collected by WFP, Programme monitoring.	5			5.31
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score				

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value (at start of project or benchmark)	Previous Follow-up (penultimate follow-up)	Latest Follow-up (latest value measured)
Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Collected by WFP, Programme monitoring.	80	35.6	55.4	70.46
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Jul-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Collected by WFP, Programme monitoring.	80	27.8	43.5	65.26
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2012, CP Baseline survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Collected by WFP, Programme monitoring.	80	37.5		72.09
Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climatic shocks and risks				
Base value: Dec-2012, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP Outcome survey conducted by consulting firm, Programme monitoring.	80	56.5	63	
ACT4 - Strengthening Government Safety Nets (SGSN)				
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
NCI: National Capacity Index				
Base value: Nov-2012, VGD Capacity Assessment, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Government and WFP - joint assessment, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Government and WFP - joint assessment, Programme monitoring.	14	10.9	13.29	13.17

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Component 1, IMCN, has continued its strategic partnership with the MoHFW. The collaboration has created an opportunity to integrate IMCN services in the government's National Nutrition Service (NNS) delivery system. WFP is gradually phasing out the existing service delivery model, which is reliant on NGO community nutrition volunteers, to introduce a less labour-intensive modality that relies on existing government health and nutrition service providers. However, WFP's operational experiences and several evaluations of NNS reveal critical challenges related to commitment, ownership and accountability, coordination, supervision, monitoring, record keeping and reporting issues at the sub-national and community level. These issues indicate that the IMCN model advocated by WFP will not be taken on by the government. In all IMCN operational areas, WFP provided CMAM training and nutrition BCC to all community clinic staff including their supervisors. WFP also facilitated training on nutrition in emergencies for nutrition cluster members, including relevant government staff.

Component 2, School Feeding, handed over support for 534,000 children to the government, which is now assisting three million schoolchildren. This handover was a significant advance towards full government ownership of the programme. Thus, WFP has halved the number of assisted schoolchildren from around one million in 2014 to 500,000 this year. Without the government scale up, to reach 3.5 million children WFP would have required nearly USD 90 million annually from donors. In addition to implementing its own programme in the poorest areas not yet covered by the government, WFP has continued to provide tailored technical assistance to related government agencies, toward a programme that is fully owned and implemented by the government. WFP facilitated a high-level workshop in October 2015, resulting in a report that reconfirmed the government's intention to prepare a national school feeding policy and strategy as well as potential ways to finance universal school feeding in Bangladesh.

Component 3, ER, has continued to benefit from excellent government involvement, especially regarding programme outputs and outcomes on increasing food security for the ultra poor. Many local level LGED officials participated in all phases of implementation and have strengthened their skills to effectively manage programme interventions. Therefore, when donor funding did not continue, LGED was prepared to swiftly revise the DPP, and create a provision to fully fund the transfers to 42,500 participants (212,500 beneficiaries) in cash, including cash grants for investment in income generating activities. WFP also organised special trainings for LGED, local institutions and partner NGOs to boost their capacity to conduct the participatory local-level planning.

Component 4, SGSN, has provided technical assistance to the government's VGD programme, for example by organising a countrywide consultative workshop. The findings were captured in the report "VGD: Emerging Challenges and New Opportunities" and used to design the ICVGD pilot that started in 2015. The government has committed to a USD1.25 million contribution to cover 6,000 women and their households under the ICVGD approach from early 2016.

WFP helped inform more than 500 Department of Women Affairs (DWA) officials on a selection process which considered the priority inclusion of pregnant women and women with small children, and engaged with around 80 policy-level government officials through a workshop and a study tour to advocate for a shift from protection to promotion and to mainstream nutrition into VGD. Based on WFP's advice and support, the government has also increasingly included fortified rice in the VGD programme. A private company initiated local production of rice premix kernels and is now able to supply both to social safety nets and the market. Several garment manufacturers have shown interest in fortified rice and some are already set to make it available to their female workers. Finally, WFP commissioned a study for the completed Food Security for the Ultra Poor (FSUP) project to assess the sustainability of its very successful outcomes; this will provide further evidence for WFP's technical engagement in the VGD Programme.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

The support from long-time partners and new donors, as well complementary contributions from trust funds, enabled WFP to ensure continuity in the implementation of Country Programme activities. The government generously supported the Country Programme with nearly 10,500 tons of wheat for the School Feeding programme and covered the wage requirements for a major part of the ER activities.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Australia		1,136	871
Bangladesh	10,500		10,500
European Commission		307	307
MULTILATERAL		437	544
Netherlands			379
Private Donors		344	484
Republic of Korea		616	637
Saudi Arabia			486
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		520	309
USA	12,000		9,740
Total:	22,500	3,359	24,258

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Fortified biscuits and rice were procured locally, while Super Cereal, Super Cereal Plus and vegetable oil were procured exclusively through international purchase. In addition, fortified rice was produced in local milling factories based on local rice mixed with imported fortified rice kernels. WFP was dependent on both local and international markets to supply other commodities within minimum lead time.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Dried Fruits	0	0	486	
High Energy Biscuits	1,157	0	0	
Lentils	39	0	43	
Rice	1,226	0	0	
Split Peas	14	0	22	
Vegetable Oil	0	129	0	
Wheat	10,500	0	9,740	
Wheat Soya Blend	0	151	752	
Sum:	12,936	280	11,042	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Internationally procured wheat and rice in addition to the in-kind contribution of the Bangladesh government was merged with government stocks and managed through the government's public food distribution system. WFP's contracted biscuit suppliers were engaged for the collection of wheat from the local government supply depots and silos. All non-cereal commodities were delivered from the port to the destinations by WFP appointed transporters. Locally procured commodities were transported to the extended delivery points, managed by either WFP or partner NGOs. During political strikes and blockades police escorted all transports to ensure timely delivery despite the security-constrained environment. As a result of the collaborative arrangement with the government, the cereals were made available to WFP at any government storage facility when and where required.

Post-Delivery Losses

Internationally procured pulses were disposed of as a result of damage caused by the sea water during longer voyages and also rain water during transport to the destinations. Sales of damaged lentils occurred because of poor quality of grain containing a substantial amount of broken grains and husks. Improper commodity handling and poor transportation by commercial transporters from extended delivery points to final distribution points also resulted in minor losses. To prevent these losses from happening again, WFP provided guidance to the service providers, cooperating partners and at the field level to ensure appropriate management of commodities.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

Programmes were implemented at the field level by national and international NGOs. NGO partners added value through their local knowledge and expertise, particularly in relation to beneficiary selection and identification of appropriate income-generating activities and schemes that enhance resilience. Furthermore, the involvement of NGOs in food and cash distributions, along with government agencies, enhanced overall accountability and reduced the risk of diversion. The strong involvement of national NGO partners contributed to WFP's efforts to build and sustain local capacity within the assisted communities. WFP engaged in capacity development of NGO partners through various trainings, workshops and orientations.

Component 1, IMCN, has continued to have Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Terre des Hommes (TdH) as key partners. The two NGOs have supported capacity-building efforts on the CMAM approach, nutrition interventions in emergencies, and nutrition and hygiene BCC approaches. They have also complemented the IMCN programme by supporting the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Bangladesh. WFP maintained successful nutrition collaborations with UNICEF and FAO. WFP sub-offices coordinate with UNICEF-supported District Nutrition Support Officers (DNSO) on direct nutrition interventions, including CMAM services.

Component 2, School Feeding, has received in-kind contributions and administrative support from the government, while NGO partners implemented education and nutrition projects. WFP entered into a partnership agreement with BRAC, which hitherto has provided technical assistance to enhance staff capacity of partner NGO RDRS, and helped ensure the efficient delivery of services to programme beneficiaries. WFP is currently in discussion with the MoA and MoPME to establish a framework for mutual cooperation on homestead gardening support.

Component 3, ER, had its existing approach and modalities assessed by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex (United Kingdom) in 2014. Following the findings and recommendations, WFP organised a stakeholder consultation with government ministries and departments, NGOs and academia to build consensus on the way forward. The outcome will feed into the next Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020). IFPRI has evaluated the cash grant for investment component implemented in the third programme year and is about to share its findings with all stakeholders.

Component 4, SGSN, includes a partnership with BRAC on the TUP-N operational research project, and with IFPRI on assessing the impact of the livelihood and nutrition support on the prevention of stunting among small children. The findings will add to the evidence base on nutrition sensitive safety net approaches. TUP-N will run through 2016 and the model may be taken to scale by BRAC and, perhaps the Government, depending on the research results.

Building on WFP's role in Cox's Bazar district as cluster lead for food security and logistics, EFSN will help to strengthen coordination between local government and humanitarian and development actors. It will also collaborate with line departments locally to ensure the female participants are linked up to essential services. Moreover, the programme will work to strengthen the organisational capacity of partner NGOs. WFP has established FLAs with the Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED) and the Resource Integration Center (RIC), which have completed participant selection and will implement cash distribution and entrepreneurship development activities in 2016.

In VGD, WFP partners with local NGOs to enhance the quality of services. In 2015, the partner NGO in ICVGD hired 25 contact women (hired from the community) to facilitate meetings to raise awareness and advise participants as they develop their investment plans. To deliver the cash through banking agents to participants in Sirajganj district, WFP partnered with Bank Asia. Save the Children will be engaged to enhance the quality of nutrition training for adolescent girls. Moreover, in the rice fortification initiative, WFP collaborates with the private sector, NGOs and other UN agencies.

As part of its evidence creation, WFP commissioned and completed a study titled 'Impact of climate related shocks and stresses on nutrition and food security in selected areas of rural Bangladesh' in collaboration with IDS, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Helen Keller International (HKI). The study found that climate related shocks and stresses affected nutrition and food security up to eight months after the events occurred. It was jointly funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP. It was overseen by a technical committee headed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), a research partnership WFP may nurture for further strategic and programmatic collaborations on climate change.

Moreover, in 2014, in partnership with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic (BBS) and the World Bank, WFP produced the upazila-level poverty map of Bangladesh with financial support from IFAD and the World Bank, in addition to WFP's own contributions. With technical expertise from Massey University, New Zealand, and in collaboration with BBS, WFP produced the first sub-district-level undernutrition maps of Bangladesh; an exercise also largely funded by IFAD. WFP also developed a web-based electronic register for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) to track participants in and assets generated from its different safety net programmes.

Finally, based on the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and supported by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) through the Strengthening Government Social Protection Systems for the Poor (SGSP) programme, WFP has partnered with BBS to enhance the quality of their social security-related data for programme design, monitoring and policy making. In that regard, WFP has strengthened a social safety net module for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016 to make its programming data even more useful to its end users; it also helped design and develop a special data management platform for HIES 2016, which will facilitate data collection, transmission and storage; and is undertaking, together with BBS and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and DWA, to develop and pilot a three-wave panel survey to explore poverty dynamics among VGD participants. Tulane University will provide technical support.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	11	5		7

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
	Target Val			
ACT1 - Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	9		11	7
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100
ACT2 - School Feeding				
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, The amount represents in million USD, Programme monitoring.	50		40	38
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	12		13	9
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100
ACT3 - Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and teh Effects of Climate Change (ER)				
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, The amount represents in million USD, Programme monitoring.	20		18.15	12
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	9		13	6
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100

Lessons Learned

WFP has continued to conduct a range of learning and innovation activities, generating evidence to assist the Country Office and the government as well as the development community in streamlining programmes and future programme development.

Component 1, IMCN, had an internal assessment conclude that the programme is expensive considering beneficiary coverage and cost of the food delivered. It also appears difficult to scale up the programme beyond its present geographical coverage because of limited financial resources. Though integration into the public system would reduce implementation costs for WFP and allow for greater geographical coverage, mainstreaming supplementary feeding programmes for treatment of children with MAM and acutely malnourished PLW does not seem to be a top priority on the government's agenda, except in a few food-insecure and disaster-prone areas. WFP, therefore, engaged an external expert to assist with the development of a nutrition strategy that would recognise WFP's role in the design and delivery of nutrition-sensitive interventions and feed into its Country Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

Component 2, School Feeding, may benefit from enhanced community ownership from the very outset of planning and implementation to protect beneficiary rights and prevent misuse of resources. In 2014, there were several reported incidents of child labour, robbery and misuse of biscuits. To prevent that, WFP has expanded the essential learning package to cover such issues. In 2015, little to no misuse was observed. Experiences from the School Meals initiative suggest that providing ready-to-eat meals is more expensive than delivering biscuits to children, with cooked meals costing USD 83 per child per year compared to only USD 30 for the fortified biscuits. Moreover, ensuring hygiene among both children and cooks is a challenge, as is involving the wider community in activities. Consequently, it would seem the programme may benefit from further support from the government, NGOs, WFP and local communities. The training of teachers by BRAC and RDRS offered them an opportunity to refresh their familiarity with teaching methods and tools. In addition, training and guidance from BRAC have enhanced RDRS staff capacities and helped ensure that children received the biscuits. Finally, the government may consider shifting school feeding from being a project under DPE to a fully institutionalised school feeding programme with longer-term funding streams.

Component 3, ER, was strengthened by introducing a number of modifications based on previous observations, including higher wages for cash-for-work, more clarity on entitlements and work modality, and the inclusion of additional adult family members in work under certain conditions. A real-time complaint mechanism, or hotline, has enabled participants to communicate any grievances and has made the selection and resource distribution processes even more transparent. WFP also refined the selection process and worked to further include LGED and local administration officials in participant selection to minimise undue interference. On-site supportive facilities, such as first-aid boxes, toilets and toy boxes, have created a work environment more conducive to women and their children. Field monitoring confirms that ultra-poor women, whenever they can move and work freely, effectively take on leadership roles in the cash-for-work implementation and resource distribution. In addition, diversified livelihood options have increased the food-consumption scores in ER participants' households, and the use of banking facilities and bank accounts have made cash transfers to participants more secure.

Component 4, SGSN, has seen EFSN incorporate recommendations from the previous cycle's formative evaluation and from lessons learned from the FSUP project. Committed to improve household food security and nutrition, the programme has diversified income sources and expanded the IBCC to cover disaster-related human trafficking and protection. It has also been tailored to ensure sustainability in economic progress by taking a group approach and collaborating closely with government line departments and other services. With additional funding, EFSN could be scaled up.

WFP conducted a study titled 'Analyzing the Poverty and Food Security Dynamics in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh' and included those findings in the EFSN design, with particular attention to the situation of adolescent girls and women. The findings were disseminated among the humanitarian and development community to enhance common understanding of the specific challenges that women and girls face in Cox's Bazar.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Australia	AUL-C-00203-01	High Energy Biscuits			31
Australia	AUL-C-00216-01	High Energy Biscuits		1,136	840
Bangladesh	BGD-C-00016-01	Wheat	10,500		10,500
European Commission	EEC-C-00483-01	Vegetable Oil		10	10
European Commission	EEC-C-00483-01	Wheat Soya Blend		202	202
European Commission	EEC-C-00521-01	Wheat Soya Blend		96	96
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	High Energy Biscuits			70
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Lentils		82	82
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice		309	309
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas			0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil		46	83
Netherlands		Rice			0
Netherlands		Vegetable Oil			9
Netherlands		Wheat Soya Blend			38
Netherlands	NET-C-00104-01	Rice			332
Private Donors	WPD-C-02206-13	High Energy Biscuits		7	44
Private Donors	WPD-C-02303-01	Vegetable Oil		2	2
Private Donors	WPD-C-02303-01	Wheat Soya Blend		119	119
Private Donors	WPD-C-02590-01	Vegetable Oil		9	0
Private Donors	WPD-C-02590-01	Wheat Soya Blend		128	90
Private Donors	WPD-C-02809-01	High Energy Biscuits		8	50
Private Donors	WPD-C-02834-01	Wheat Soya Blend		57	57
Private Donors	WPD-C-02853-01	High Energy Biscuits			28
Private Donors	WPD-C-02854-01	High Energy Biscuits		14	94
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00074-05	Rice		586	586
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00074-05	Split Peas		14	36
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00074-05	Vegetable Oil		16	16
Saudi Arabia	SAU-C-00095-01	Dried Fruits			486
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		Vegetable Oil			9
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		Wheat Soya Blend			76
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01311-01	Vegetable Oil		9	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01311-01	Wheat Soya Blend		511	224
USA	USA-C-01072-01	Wheat			9,740
USA	USA-C-01072-05	Wheat	12,000		
Total:			22,500	3,359	24,258