



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

Highlights

- The WFP Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2020 was approved by the WFP Executive Board in February in its First Regular Session of 2017. It will replace the Country Programme and Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation starting on 01 April 2017.
- School feeding assistance will be expanded to the learning centres established by UNICEF and IOM in the makeshift sites of Cox's Bazar. Distribution of fortified biscuits is expected to start 09 April, initially targeting 1,843 children in 27 learning centres, and gradually increasing to 21,000 children as more learning centres are established in 2017.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200243 (Jan 2012 – Feb 2017)**	345 m	203 m (5962%)	7 m (46%)

*April – September 2017
**A new Country Strategy Plan (CSP) is scheduled to launch in April 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A DEV 200243

Through its Country Programme (CP), WFP aims to assist 3.6 million people over five years in 15 prioritised districts. The CP is designed to improve the long-term food security of ultra-poor households and the nutritional conditions of women and children in the poorest and most food insecure rural areas and urban slums of Bangladesh. It has four components:

Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN) aims to break the cycle of undernutrition by treating and preventing moderate acute malnutrition among pregnant and nursing women and children below five in especially vulnerable areas. WFP is also engaging in advocacy and technical assistance to influence relevant nutrition policies and strategies with a focus on enhancing nutrition Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and making relevant social safety nets nutrition-sensitive.

School Feeding (SF) aims to contribute to the Government's goal of achieving universal primary education. WFP aims to increase enrolment and attendance of pre-and primary schoolchildren by distributing fortified biscuits, delivering essential learning packages, and providing technical support.

Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change (ER) aims to enhance the resilience and food security of particularly vulnerable people through the creation of community and household assets. It engages participants in community projects, provides training on disaster risk reduction and life skills, and gives women a cash grant for investment following the preparation of a business plan.

Main Photo Credit: WFP USA/Daniel Johnson for HUMAN. Caption: Distribution of WFP school meals in Islampur.

Strengthening Government Safety Nets aims to support the Government enhance their social safety nets addressing hunger and household food insecurity by providing technical assistance and implementing a promotional safety net and operational research.

Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200673 (July 2014 – Dec 2016)**	17.3 m	13.5 m (78%)	2.8 m (96%)

*April – September 2017
**A new Country Strategy Plan (CSP) is scheduled to launch in March 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200673

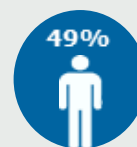
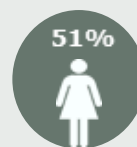
Under its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP is working to improve the food security and nutritional status of 34,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar through three activities: (i) food assistance through biometrically coded electronic vouchers; (ii) supplementary feeding; and (iii) school feeding. WFP provides food assistance through electronic vouchers so that refugees can purchase food according to their choice. The refugees live in two official camps, Kutupalong and Nayapara in the Cox's Bazar district in southeast Bangladesh.

In Numbers

549,800 women and men assisted by WFP (CP & PRRO)

70,000 newly arrived people from Myanmar assisted through unconditional cash distribution and nutrition supplementary feeding in Cox's Bazar

People Assisted
March 2017



Women: 55,000 and Children: 444,960



March 2017

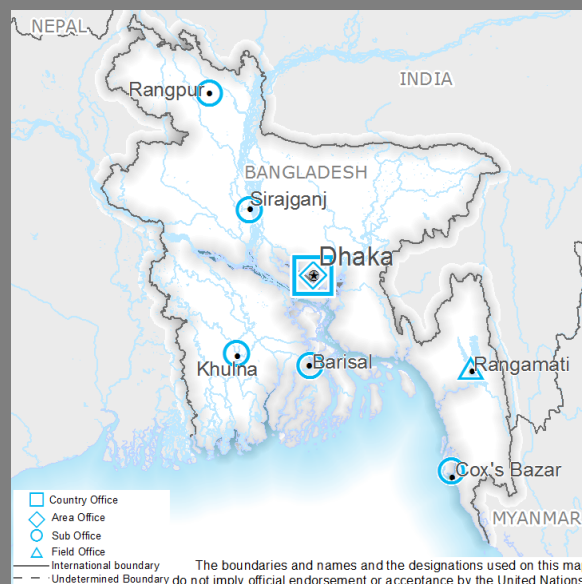
Operational Updates

- WFP Bangladesh's Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2017-2020) was approved by the WFP Executive Board in February in its First Regular Session of 2017. The CSP will be operational beginning 01 April 2017.
- School feeding assistance will be expanded to the learning centres established by UNICEF and IOM in the makeshift sites of Cox's Bazar. The School Feeding Unit, in partnership with UNICEF, has determined training of trainers for the Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Learning Centre Management Committees and school teachers on implementation strategies, and monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Distribution of fortified biscuits is expected to start on 09 April with an initial target of 1,843 children in 27 learning centres, gradually increasing to 21,000 children as more learning centres are established in 2017.
- The National Plan of Action for Nutrition formulated by a Task Committee of which WFP has been part was approved. It is currently with the Prime Minister's office for signature.
- On 12-15 March, a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission visited Shyamnagar, Kaliganj, Koyra and Dacope sub-districts to observe a range of Nobo Jatra project activities. Nobo Jatra/New Beginning is a Food for Peace project of World Vision, WFP and Winrock International that aims to achieve improved gender, equitable food security, nutrition and resilience of vulnerable people within Khulna and Satkhira districts in Bangladesh.
- On 12-16 March, the Country Office supported the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) regional nutrition expert on a field mission to Cox's Bazar. The mission focused on the influx of new arrivals, with the primary objective of assessing their food and nutrition needs, current gaps in response and capacity in ongoing programmes to address increased needs.

Challenges

- Following the substantial increase in beneficiaries of the moderate acute malnutrition prevention supplementation programme for vulnerable children and pregnant and nursing women in the makeshift sites of Cox's Bazar, WFP is currently forced to provide only half rations to prevent a complete pipeline break until a new shipment of specialised nutritious food arrives by the second half of April.
- The humanitarian situation faced by undocumented Myanmar nationals seeking refuge in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district remains a concern. Since November, 69,000 people from North Rakhine State have arrived in Cox's Bazar.

Country Background & Strategy



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 and in slums.

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: **160 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **142 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **36% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

Top 5 donors CP: USA, multilateral donors, Bangladesh, Japan, European Union

Top 5 donors PRRO: UK, USA, multilateral donors, Australia, Canada