



# WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

## Highlights

- A rapid SMART nutrition survey has indicated that Balukhali makeshift camp's global acute malnutrition levels are at an emergency level of 21.2 percent.
- There has been a recent increase in new arrivals appearing on the ground in recent weeks reporting fresh isolated incidents of unilateral violence and systematic violations near Maungdaw, Rakhine.

## WFP Country Strategy

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan</b> (46 months)	<b>201.6 m</b>	<b>32 m (16%)</b>	<b>30 m (15%)</b>
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> 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			
SR: No one suffers from malnutrition Focus area: Root causes	45.8 m	12.6 m (28%)	6.5 m (14%)
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> The most vulnerable population of Cox's Bazar, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and disaster-stricken areas have enhanced food security and nutrition			
SR: Access to food Focus area: Crisis response	106.4 m	14.2 m (28%)	13.9 m (13%)
<b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> Innovative approaches to enhance the resilience of food insecure households exposed to climate-related shocks and stresses are validated by 2020			
SR: Food systems are sustainable Focus area: Resilience building	35.2 m	5.2 m (15%)	7 m (20%)
<b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> The humanitarian response system for large-scale natural disasters in Bangladesh can respond with reduced cost and lead time			
SR: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDG target 17.9 Focus area: Resilience	14.2 m	0 m (0%)	2.6 m (18%)

\*August 2017 - January 2018



Through its Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP aims to assist 1.5 million people over five years in 15 prioritised districts. Given the Government's commitment and increased institutional and financial ability to support Bangladesh's development, this programme reaffirms a shift in WFP's focus. WFP will support the country on its path to end hunger and reduce malnutrition through the following four outcomes:

**Strategic Outcome 1 (SO1):** The four activities of SO1 focus on targeting the root causes of food insecurity through government capacity support and include: technical assistance and advocacy to

enhance the food security and nutrition impact of selected safety nets, technical assistance and advocacy for nutrition, technical assistance and advocacy for scaling up post-harvest rice fortification, policy advice and technical assistance to scale up school feeding.

**Strategic Outcome 2 (SO2):** The three activities of SO2 were developed to enhance crisis response and include: deliver an integrated assistance package in Cox's Bazar, deliver an integrated assistance package in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and, deliver food assistance in emergencies.

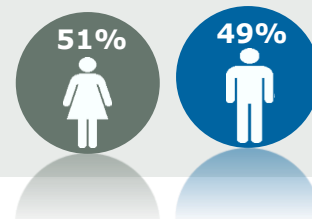
**Strategic Outcome 3 (SO3):** The two activities of SO3 focus on resilience building. Activities include: evidence creation on innovative approaches to enhance resilience, and to implement the Nobo Jatra programme.

**Strategic Outcome 4 (SO4):** The two activities for SO4 feature capacity development, including: capacity strengthening for emergency response and to lead the logistics cluster and co-lead the food security cluster.

## In Numbers

- 757,665** Planned people for assistance (as per CSP)
- 74,000** Refugees newly arrived from Myanmar
- 70,000** Refugees newly arrived, receiving assistance

**People Assisted**  
July 2017



**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Wahid Adnan  
Caption: Children tending the gardens for the School Feeding Programme in Barisal.

**July 2017**

## Operational Updates

- The rapid SMART survey undertaken before Cyclone Mora has indicated the global acute malnutrition level in Balukhali makeshift site as 21.2 percent, an emergency level. The situation is now believed to have deteriorated further due to persistent bad weather and the absence of blanket supplementary feeding. WFP has decided to initiate preventive malnutrition interventions, providing growth monitoring, nutrition education and specialised nutritious food supplementation to this especially vulnerable population.
- Numbers of new arrivals in the past few weeks are reporting fresh isolated incidents of unilateral violence and systematic violations near Maungdaw, Rakhine.
- Security tensions in the makeshift and official camps are stable yet unpredictable following the high profile kidnapping and murders of two refugee block leaders, and public stabbing of another.
- In response to the influx of refugees from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar, the tenth round of general food distributions of 25 kg rice has reached 15,600 newly arrived unregistered households now living in makeshift sites and around official camps, including the new makeshift settlement of Balukhali.
- WFP is planning to shift from in-kind rice distributions to the newly arrived (since October 2016) unregistered refugees to targeted e-voucher food assistance to the most vulnerable previous and newly arrived population in the three makeshift sites of Kutupalong, Balukhali and Leda of Cox's Bazar district. WFP has completed a vulnerability profiling exercise of the makeshift populations to target the households most in need of assistance, with implementation expected to commence in October. Biometric registration for the targeted most vulnerable refugees will start on 31 July.
- Preparations for the new school feeding programmes in Leda and Balukhali makeshifts are complete and are expected to start in August.

## Challenges

- In Cox's Bazar, due to the sudden significant increase in the number of new arrivals, rations remain reduced by 50 percent for the nutrition programme for pregnant and nursing women. Full rations have since been reinstated for children aged 6-59 months.

## Country Background



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.

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:  
**148 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## Donors

USA, Bangladesh, Japan, European Union, ECHO, UK, Australia, Canada and multi-lateral donors.

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