



# WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

## Highlights

- On 22 September, WFP activated a Level 3 Emergency Response as 422,000 people had crossed the border into Bangladesh since violence broke out in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017.
- WFP is providing ongoing assistance to the increasing influx of 509,000 people in the form of rice and micronutrient fortified biscuits, as well as SuperCereal for pregnant and nursing women and children under 5 years.
- In response to the floods that affected 8 million people in the country's north-west, WFP supported 200,000 people with food assistance in four areas, and is set to commence cash assistance next month.

## WFP Country Strategy

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* <sup>1</sup>
<b>Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan</b> (46 months)	<b>201.6 m</b>	<b>55.54 m (28%)</b>	<b>26.4 m (13%)</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			
<b>SR: No one suffers from malnutrition</b> Focus area: Root causes	<b>45.8 m</b>	<b>12.34 m (27%)</b>	<b>2.3 m (5%)</b>
<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			
<b>SR: Access to food</b> Focus area: Crisis response	<b>106.4 m</b>	<b>17.19 m (16%)</b>	<b>15.8 m (15%)</b>
<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			
<b>SR: Food systems are sustainable</b> Focus area: Resilience building	<b>35.2 m</b>	<b>23.88 m (68%)</b>	<b>6.3 m (18%)</b>
<b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> The humanitarian response system for large-scale natural disasters in Bangladesh can respond with reduced cost and lead time			
<b>SR: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDG target 17.9</b> Focus area: Resilience	<b>14.2 m</b>	<b>2.13 m (15%)</b>	<b>2 m (14%)</b>

\*October 2017 - March 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 under 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, and policy advice and technical assistance to scale up school feeding.

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup>6 month net funding requirements as per Country Office pipeline.

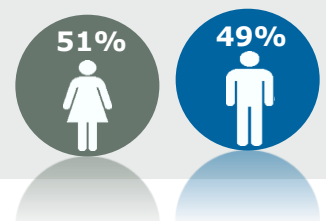
## In Numbers

**1,216,490** Planned people for assistance (as per CSP)

**509,000** Refugees newly arrived from Myanmar

**582,500** Newly arrived refugees receiving food

**People Assisted**  
September 2017



**September 2017**

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Muhammad Mohiuddin  
Caption: NGO staff distributing rice to new arrivals in Cox's Bazar.

## Operational Updates

- On 22 September, WFP activated a Level 3 Emergency Response as 422,000 people had crossed the border into Bangladesh since violence broke out in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017. In line with the UN response plan, WFP is making provisions for food assistance to 1.009 million people: 700,000 new influx, 34,000 registered refugees, 75,000 pre-August new arrivals, and 200,000 of the most vulnerable among impacted host communities for the next six months.
- The Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) reports that 509,000 people have now crossed the border into Bangladesh. WFP was one of the first responders on the ground, and has provided food assistance on a mass scale. Based on observations during general food distributions, the number of new arrivals is expected to be significantly higher than the current estimate.
- WFP is distributing 25 kg of rice per household on a fortnightly basis, reaching over 581,000 people. The next round of distributions will also include pulses and fortified oil. New arrivals have received one-off rations of micronutrient fortified biscuits, reaching over 208,600 individuals, and SuperCereal has been distributed to 12,316 pregnant and nursing women and 48,479 children under 5 years.
- General food distributions of 25 kg rice every two weeks are continuing for the unregistered households who arrived in 2016. In the twelfth round, 10,188 households living in makeshift sites and around the official camps received rice.
- WFP has completed biometric fingerprinting registration of 10,806 households for e-voucher food assistance to the most vulnerable (previous and 2016 new arrival populations) in the three makeshift sites of Kutupalong, Balukhali and Leda.
- School feeding programmes in Leda and Balukhali makeshift sites reached 5,800 students with micronutrient fortified biscuits in September.
- Floods in northwest Bangladesh in 2017 affected 8 million people. WFP provided 200,000 people with micronutrient fortified biscuits in four of the most affected areas: Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lamonirhat and Dinajpur. In the second phase of the response, WFP has programmed Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) 4,000 for cash-based transfers per household to 9,607 households (48,000 people) through mobile banking, in the most affected districts of Kurigram, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Jamalpur, from October to December 2017.
- On 30 September 2017, the Sirajganj Sub-Office closed its operations. The ongoing activities under the school meal programme in Jamalpur will be monitored out of Dhaka.

## 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 where an L3 emergency is in operation since 22 September 2017.

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

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

Population: **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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