



WFP Bangladesh Country Brief

Highlights

- The WFP Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan came into effect as of 1 April 2017. It replaces both the Country Programme and the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation.
- Cyclone storm Mora made landfall on 30 May in the south-eastern coastal regions of Bangladesh. 148,000 people in 6 Rohingya camps are in need of immediate direct humanitarian assistance. WFP is providing micronutrient fortified biscuits to 134,000 people in the most affected areas.

WFP Country Strategy

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (46 months)	201.6 m	32 m (16%)	30 m (15%)
Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable groups in rural and urban settings are supported by enhanced national actions to improve their nutrition indicators in line with the national targets by 2020 SR: No one suffers from malnutrition Focus area: Root causes			
	45.8 m	12.6 m (28%)	6.5 m (14%)
Strategic Outcome 2: The most vulnerable population of Cox's Bazar, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and disaster-stricken areas have enhanced food security and nutrition SR: Access to food Focus area: Crisis response			
	106.4 m	14.2 m (28%)	13.9 m (13%)
Strategic Outcome 3: 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%)
Strategic Outcome 4: 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%)

*May 2017 - Nov 2017



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 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

74,000 Refugees newly arrived from Myanmar

70,200 Refugees newly arrived, receiving assistance

134,000 "Cyclone Mora" Affected people receiving assistance

720,600
People Assisted
May 2017



Operational Updates

- Cyclone storm Mora made landfall on 30 May in the south-eastern coastal regions of Bangladesh. Two villages in the Cox's Bazar area and three villages in Chittagong have been flooded. Initial reports suggest damage to shelter in camps hosting Rohingya refugees is severe in the makeshift settlements, particularly in Balukhali and Shamlapur in Cox's Bazar. To complement government efforts, WFP is providing vulnerable populations with micronutrient fortified biscuits, targeting 134,000 people.
- WFP is continuing to negotiate with the Government to support the expansion of e-vouchers to targeted households in makeshift sites in Cox's Bazar.
- In response to the refugee influx from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar, the seventh round of general food distributions has reached 67,600 newly arrived unregistered Rohingya refugees in makeshift sites and official camps, including the new Balukali settlement.
- A Rapid Nutrition Assessment (SMART) was conducted in the recently established Balukali makeshift camp and the Shamlapur host community sheltering newly arrived unregistered Rohingya refugees. The assessment revealed emergency levels of global and severe acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months. WFP is exploring preventive malnutrition interventions similar to Kutupalong and Leda makeshifts to target this especially vulnerable population.
- The School Meals Initiative supported over 16,000 students with nutritious 'khichuri' made from fortified rice, vegetable oil, pulses, assorted vegetables, and spices. The School Feeding Programme, which provides schoolchildren with vitamin and mineral fortified biscuits, supported over 435,000 students in Bandarban, Gaibandha, Cox's Bazar districts and Dhaka slum areas.
- On 22 May, WFP hosted a mission from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and Euronews for a short documentary on Rohingyas displaced to Cox's Bazar after October 2016.
- On 8 May, representatives of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre attended a ceremony where dates donated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were distributed to primary schoolchildren in the disaster-prone districts of Gaibandha and Cox's Bazar in time for Ramadan. 550 mt were distributed to 275,000 schoolchildren.

Challenges

- In Cox's Bazar, due to the sudden increase of new arrivals, rations across all nutrition programmes had to be cut by 50 percent.
- Pipeline breaks are being felt in the school feeding programmes operating in Cox's Bazar, Dhaka urban areas and Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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 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: **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.

Contact info: Laura Phillips (laura.phillips@wfp.org)

Country Director: Christa Räder

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/bangladesh