



WFP Bangladesh

Country Brief

May 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP provided fortified biscuits as emergency food assistance to families affected by Cyclone Remal. WFP/Saikat Mojumder

In Numbers



865.2 mt food distributed



US\$ 12.7 million distributed in cash-based transfers



US\$ 50 million net funding requirements under the country strategic plan (June – November 2024)¹



1.2 million people assisted



Operational Updates

Emergency Cyclone Response

- Hours before the [Cyclone Remal](#) made landfall on 26 May, WFP activated its [anticipatory cash assistance](#), distributing BDT 5,000/US\$43 per household to 30,000 families (150,000 people) in five southern districts that were most at risk. This is coupled with early warning messages, reaching 675,000 people and evacuation assistance.
- Following the cyclone's passing, WFP immediately started distributing fortified biscuits, 5 kg per household, to 42,000 families (210,000 people). Awareness messages on food and nutrition were also disseminated through SMS, leaflets, and face-to-face communication.
- On 5 June, the UN launched its [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) appealing for **US\$53 million** to meet the needs of 784,000 people affected by Cyclone Remal. Under the plan, WFP plans to support 591,000 people through case-based transfers and cash-for-work to restore livelihoods and repair damaged agricultural infrastructure. **US\$16.6 million** is required, of which, **US\$11.5 million** is unfunded.

Rice fortification

- With WFP's assistance, the government distributed **fortified rice** to 1.7 million beneficiaries of the **vulnerable women benefit programme** across 165 sub-districts. Additionally, WFP facilitated **direct distribution** to 227,000 beneficiaries.
- As part of **South-South Triangular Cooperation**, a delegation from Nepal, comprising government officials and WFP staff, visited the country to gain insights on Bangladesh's rice fortification efforts.

Social Protection

- With WFP's technical support, the second phase of the [Investment Component of the Vulnerable Group Development](#) programme was completed through the Application Programming Interface of the Government 2 Person (G2P) system. Training allowances of BDT 1,600 per person were transferred to the bank accounts of 93,150 women beneficiaries through the G2P system.

Operational Context

WFP started operations in Bangladesh in 1974. Despite significant economic growth over the past decade, 20 percent, or 16.5 million people are food insecure and 24 percent live below the national poverty line. Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to natural hazards with most of the population residing in areas prone to floods and cyclones. The country strategic plan 2022-2026 reinforces WFP's commitment to working with the Government to improve food security, nutrition, and resilience of vulnerable communities, while also providing emergency assistance to people affected by disasters.

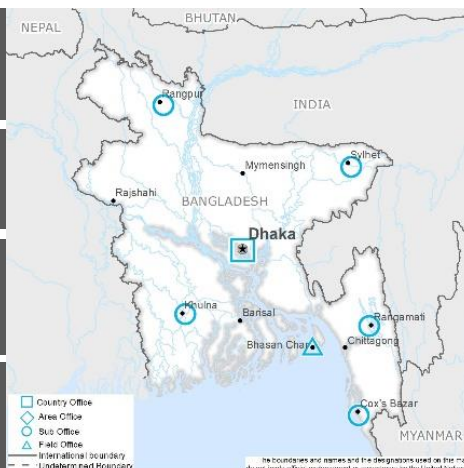
Since 2017, in response to the massive influx of the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar, WFP has been providing critical food, nutrition, self-reliance, school feeding and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assistance for the Rohingya population. In Cox's Bazar, WFP also supports Bangladeshi communities most vulnerable to food insecurity through longer-term nutrition, school feeding, livelihoods and DRR interventions. From late 2021, WFP has been supporting the Rohingya on Bhasan Char Island, now home to 35,000 refugees who have been relocated from the camps in Cox's Bazar.

Population:
167 million people

Income Level:
Lower middle

2021-22 Human Development Index: **129 out of 190 countries**

Chronic malnutrition:
31% of children aged 6-59 months



^{1,3}This figure, valid as of 5 June 2024, is based on confirmed contributions and excludes opportunities under discussion with development partners.

Contact: Sharika Tafannum (sharika.tafannum@wfp.org)
Officer-in-Charge: Simone Parchment (simone.parchment@wfp.org)
Further information: wfp.org/countries/Bangladesh

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) ³
1.62 b	677.52 m	50 m

Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Outcome 1: Populations affected by crisis in Bangladesh are able to meet basic food, nutrition and other essential needs during and after crises.
Focus: Crisis response

Activity 1: Provide food, nutrition and self-reliance assistance to crisis-affected populations.

Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Outcome 2: By 2026, the nutrition needs of women, children and vulnerable groups in Bangladesh are met through national institutions that have enhanced capacities to design and implement gender- and nutrition-sensitive social safety net programmes.
Focus: Root causes

Activity 2: Support national institutions in strengthening their capacity to design and implement inclusive and nutrition- and gender-sensitive safety net programmes to meet the nutrition needs of women, children and vulnerable groups.

Result 4: Food Systems are Sustainable

Outcome 3: By 2026, vulnerable communities in Bangladesh are more resilient to shocks and natural disasters owing to enhanced national disaster management capacity and flexible, nutrition- and gender-sensitive social safety net programmes.
Focus: Resilience building

Activity 3: Assist national institutions and communities in strengthening their capacity to implement inclusive, responsive and nutrition- and gender-sensitive safety net programmes and in disaster risk preparedness and response to protect the food security and nutrition of vulnerable populations.

Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Outcome 4: Vulnerable crisis-affected populations in Bangladesh benefit from enhanced coordination and improved common services during and after crises.
Focus: Crisis response

Activity 4: Provide coordination and common services to humanitarian and development partners and the Government.

2024 Contributions

Australia, ECHO, Germany BMZ, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA, UN CERF, and private donors.

New contributions from UK FCDO, ECHO, Germany and New Zealand were received in May towards crisis response and Resilience building initiatives.

² WFP assistance reached fewer refugees than initially planned for the month, due to relocations and absentee households.

- As of 1 June, WFP has [increased food rations](#) for all Rohingya in Cox’s Bazar camps from US\$10 to US\$11 per person per month, and is on track to restore the full amount, now \$12.50, by August.
- Together with these increases, WFP has included fortified rice in its food assistance to enhance the nutritional intake of the Rohingya population. The coverage has reached 100 percent in the Cox’s Bazar camps and from June, WFP has introduced this initiative on the Bhasan Char island, where 35,000 Rohingya reside.
- In just one week, Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar camps endured two devastating fires. The first fire broke out on 24 May, two days before Cyclone Remal’s landfall, affecting around 1,000 Rohingya and causing significant damage to shelters and other facilities. On 1 June, another fire struck the same section of the camps, affecting an additional 1,000 people. The combined impact of these incidents, along with the cyclone, resulted in extensive damage and hardship for the affected communities.
- WFP provided hot meal packs to the families affected by both fires and the cyclone, coupled with fortified biscuits as an immediate response to meet families’ food needs.
- WFP reached 922,000 Rohingya refugees² with **general food assistance** and 260,000 most vulnerable also received an additional US\$3 for **fresh foods**.
- **Malnutrition prevention and treatment** services were provided at 179 sites in Cox’s Bazar camps and in host Bangladeshi communities, as well as on Bhasan Char island, reaching 209,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women, girls and children aged 6-59 months.
- On Bhasan Char, all Rohingya now receive their food assistance through **e-vouchers**.
- A [rice donation](#) of 15,000 mt from the Republic of Korea, valued at US\$13.9 million, has arrived in Bangladesh. This significant contribution makes the ROK one of the top five donors to Rohingya refugee operations in 2024. The rice will be distributed to Rohingya refugees following an official handover ceremony and other logistic arrangements.

Partnerships

- WFP, as the co-lead of Anticipatory Actions technical working group, joined the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) at the second divisional dialogue platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action in Kuakata, Kalapara, Patuakhali on 18 May. Under the theme, “Promoting Local Actions and Learning” this provides a platform to exchange knowledge, challenges, and best practices among the government and other key actors in Anticipatory Action in Bangladesh.