



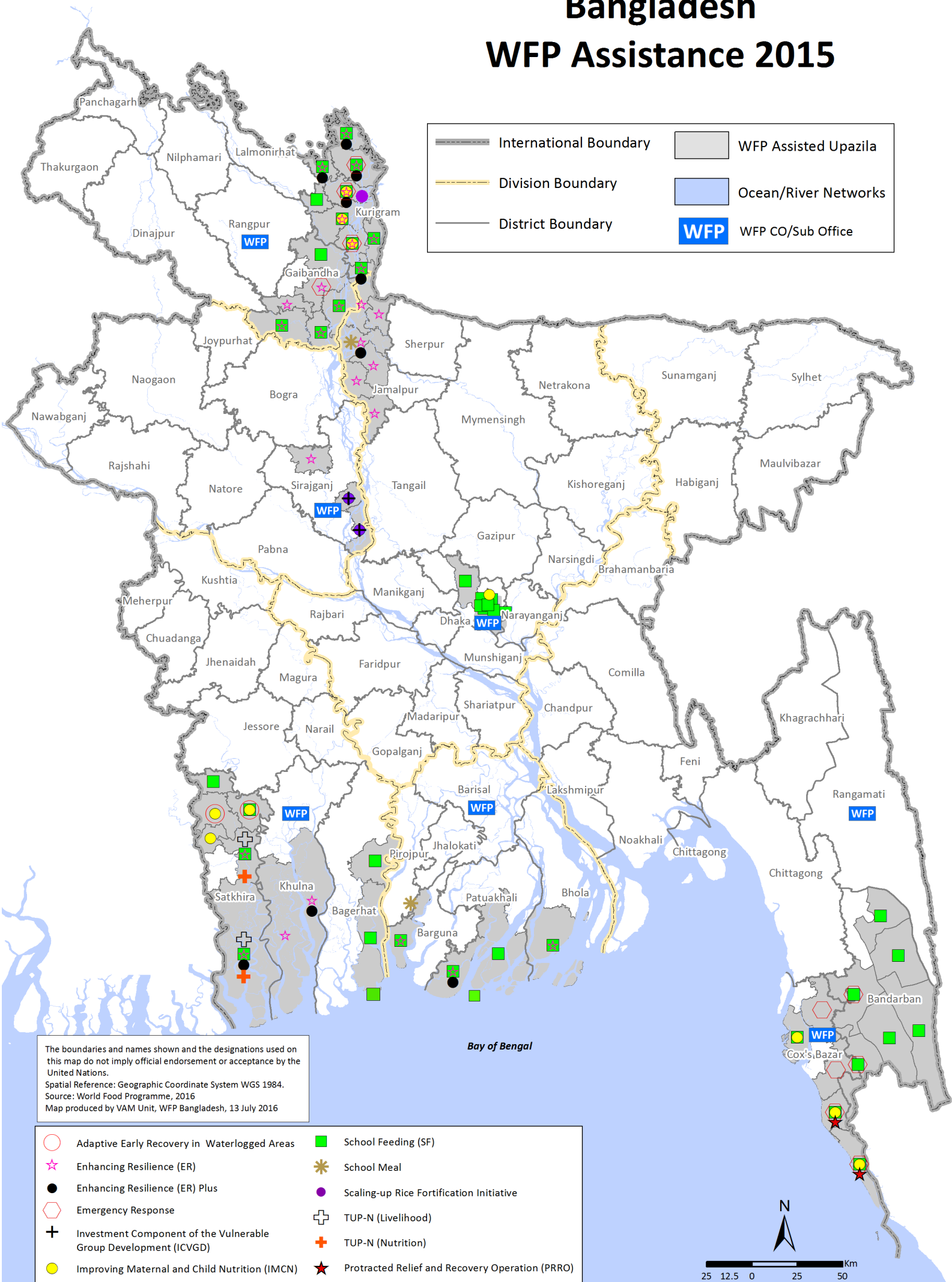
WFP in Bangladesh 2015 in Review



World Food Programme

Bangladesh

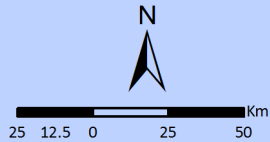
WFP Assistance 2015



	International Boundary		WFP Assisted Upazila
	Division Boundary		Ocean/River Networks
	District Boundary		WFP CO/Sub Office

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Spatial Reference: Geographic Coordinate System WGS 1984.
 Source: World Food Programme, 2016
 Map produced by VAM Unit, WFP Bangladesh, 13 July 2016

	Adaptive Early Recovery in Waterlogged Areas		School Feeding (SF)
	Enhancing Resilience (ER)		School Meal
	Enhancing Resilience (ER) Plus		Scaling-up Rice Fortification Initiative
	Emergency Response		TUP-N (Livelihood)
	Investment Component of the Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD)		TUP-N (Nutrition)
	Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN)		Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO)



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WFP USA/Daniel Johnson for HUMAN

A Message from the WFP Representative

In 2015 WFP Bangladesh engaged in programme implementation and support to national programmes, and created evidence on emerging food security and nutrition challenges; we also started planning for the future:

WFP has been present in Bangladesh for more than four decades, supporting and complementing the Government's efforts towards ensuring food security and improved nutrition for the most vulnerable in the country.

Traditionally, WFP has had an operational focus: designing and implementing programmes together with the Government and NGOs, and delivering disaster relief to people in need.

In 2015 that was the case, too, as we gave schoolchildren daily snacks and women and children the nutritious supplements they need, and helped vulnerable families in disaster-prone areas to manage climate-related shocks and stresses without eating less or making poorer dietary choices. We also responded to floods and provided refugees with food assistance.

"That shift will essentially transform WFP into a streamlined capacity supporter, even as we continue to deliver to particularly vulnerable populations and when disaster strikes."

As Bangladesh has experienced impressive economic growth, reached lower-middle-income status and made significant gains in reducing hunger and improving nutrition, WFP's role in the country is changing.

Moreover, with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, world leaders have framed development agendas and policies over the next 15 years.

WFP is now introducing a strategic architecture at both global and country level that will enable us to demonstrate our contribution to SDG 2, namely to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition.

As part of this, WFP commissioned an independent strategic review of food security and nutrition that examines the country's prospects of achieving zero hunger by 2030. The recommendations resulting from this review will inform the Government and development partners on prioritised actions required to achieve SDG 2.



The recommendations will also shape WFP's four-year Country Strategic Plan starting 2017, which will see a shift from direct programme implementation to remaining a valued partner of the Government by supporting policy, strategy and programme development as well as implementation and related evidence creation.

That shift will essentially transform WFP into a streamlined capacity supporter, even as we continue to deliver to particularly vulnerable populations and when disaster strikes.

It is with great enthusiasm and humility that WFP is continuing its transformation in 2016, as the Government defines its own action plan to fight hunger and undernutrition in a new global era.

Christa Räder
Representative
WFP Bangladesh

2015 at a Glance



Photos: WFP USA/Daniel Johnson for HUMAN



Supporting the Government

Students through the **School Feeding Programme in Poverty-Prone Areas** **2,500,000**

Ultra-poor women, including their families, through the **Vulnerable Group Development Programme** **3,750,000**

Vulnerable people, including family members, through the **Enhancing Resilience Programme** **250,000**

WFP Direct Delivery

Schoolchildren received a daily snack through WFP's programme **500,000**

Vulnerable people supported in resilience projects **16,000**

Undernourished women and children got food supplements **61,000**

Flood-affected people received food and cash **213,000**

Refugees and locals in Cox's Bazar were provided with food and other support **50,000**

Feeding Schoolchildren

To help the Government achieve universal primary education, WFP works with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education to provide food to young schoolchildren in particularly disadvantaged areas.

While providing technical support to the Government's School Feeding programme, which has grown to cover over 2.5 million children nationally, WFP has concentrated its own scheme to 500,000 students in other extremely poor rural and urban areas. All these children get a packet of biscuits enriched with essential vitamins and minerals each day they attend school.



To explore future possibilities, WFP is running a pilot initiative with nutritious cooked school meals as an alternative to biscuits. WFP is also helping the Government design a national School Feeding Policy and Strategy, and identify potential ways to finance universal school feeding in Bangladesh.

Feeding Minds Changes Lives

Keeping children in school really is one of the most effective ways to ensure long-term prosperity for both the children and society. However, poor families sometimes need children to help out with work or care for younger siblings, preventing them from getting a proper education.

Still today, 3.3 of 20 million children of primary-school age remain out of school and only 8 in 10 complete five years of primary education. A daily snack is a powerful incentive for poor households to keep their children in school.

Even as more people nowadays can afford to prioritise education for their children – sons and

daughters alike – many still face difficulties in providing them nutritious food; hunger and nutritional deficiencies can hamper children's education and job prospects.

Covering 70 percent of their daily vitamin and mineral needs, the biscuits help address widespread micronutrient deficiencies and let children focus on their studies rather than stomachs.

Boosting Nutrition and Awareness

WFP's own School Feeding programme spans urban slums and remote villages, helping 500,000 children learn without feeling hungry in small NGO and large Government schools alike. The programme also includes a so-called essential learning package, through which students, parents and other community members have set up school vegetable gardens and learned about issues such as sanitation and nutrition, early marriage and pregnancy.

In a key milestone for the programme, WFP integrated a range of activities to improve literacy among the children. New computers have brought learning opportunities to 5,000 students, reading corners were set up in more than 100 schools, and 500 teachers received training on teaching methods.

Moreover, around 2,300 women and 1,200 men took part in a training that includes gender sensitisation, in a bid to enhance women's leadership prospects in School Management Committees.





Supporting the Government Scale-Up

In 2015, WFP handed over support for more than 500,000 children to the Government's School Feeding programme which now covers 2.5 million students nationally through contracted NGOs, an impressive figure compared to the 55,000 initially supported when the scheme was set up in 2011.

Without the Government expansion, reaching 3 million children would have required nearly US\$80 million annually from donors. To facilitate a smooth transition, WFP provided training to almost 1,400 newly engaged Government and NGO officials on, for example, implementation, monitoring and supply-chain management.

In addition to implementing its own programme in the poorest areas not yet covered by the Government, WFP has continued to provide tailored technical assistance to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Directorate of Primary Education, toward a School Feeding programme that is fully owned and implemented by the Government.

WFP also facilitated a high-level workshop in October 2015, after which the Government reconfirmed its intention to prepare a national School Feeding Policy and Strategy as well as to identify ways to finance universal school feeding in Bangladesh. WFP remains committed to help the Government achieve this.

Food in Progress!

To explore opportunities and modalities, WFP, in collaboration with the Government, is running a pilot initiative with cooked school meals to provide a home-grown lunch instead of biscuits.

Vegetables, fruit and spices are purchased from local women farmers and the meals are prepared by women, helping entire communities benefit from the programme. The project currently covers 20,000 students in the upazilas of Bamna and Islampur, and efforts are underway to provide skills training to 570 women vegetable cultivators.

Nutritious Snacks: Fighting Urban Hunger

In the midst of Dhaka there is 13-year-old Anwar, one of half a million children that WFP reached through its School Feeding programme in 2015. Anwar lives in Bhashantek, an impoverished slum whose inhabitants are mainly garment workers and rickshaw pullers. Six days a week, he and his friends make the short walk to school and look forward to their mid-morning snack, the packet of nutritious biscuits.

"My parents can only afford two meals per day, usually in the afternoon and before bed, so coming to school knowing there will be something to eat helps," says Anwar. That snack is a powerful incentive for poor households to keep their children in school.

This is something that Anwar's mother, Rabeya, knows too well. Living in a simple shack and with a monthly income of around US\$90, her family of six barely gets by. "We are very poor and everyone has to help with the daily chores," Rabeya says.

Day labourers, like Anwar's father, are often relegated to this type of precarious and intermittent work due to a lack of education. If Anwar is able to continue his schooling, he may be able to seek better opportunities in life.

Helping the Government Reduce Food Insecurity



WFP/Kauser Haider

WFP helps the Government enhance social safety nets addressing hunger and food insecurity by providing training and other assistance, giving cash grants to women so they can start a business, and implementing an operational research project to learn whether chronic undernutrition among children can be prevented by giving ultra-poor mothers livelihood and nutrition support.

WFP also works to mainstream rice fortified with vitamins and minerals into the safety nets to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in high-risk groups.

Ultra-Poor Families Leaving Poverty and Food Insecurity Behind

The Government of Bangladesh is working towards the eradication of poverty as a middle-income country and its social safety net expenditure is substantial. Unfortunately, national safety nets suffer from leakage, inefficient targeting, and face

criticism in their ability to contribute effectively to eliminating extreme poverty and food insecurity, and, even more so, to improving child nutrition.

WFP supports the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme, a Government social safety net helping 750,000 ultra-poor women and their families, by providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. That support aims to enhance the quality of services delivered, such as income-generating activities for the women and life-skills trainings.

21,000 of these women are also to receive a one-time cash grant of 15,000 taka (US\$190) to start small businesses, along with food and additional training in nutrition and business skills.

That initiative, titled the Investment Component of VGD, and carried out together with the Government and local NGOs, will give the grant to participating women after they have initiated training and completed a business plan.

In 2015, a first group of 2,000 women in the upazilas of Belkuchi and Chowhali in Sirajganj district was already taking part. The Investment Component is carried out to see whether similar promotional approaches to safety nets may be integrated into existing social protection programmes to assist women and their families to leave extreme poverty and food insecurity.

Scaling Up Rice Fortification

The VGD women also receive 30kg of rice fortified with vitamins and minerals each month while they take part in the initiative.

As low dietary diversity and scanty intake of nutrient-rich foods remain a challenge in Bangladesh, fortified rice can reduce micronutrient deficiencies in high-risk groups such as children and women, and have a positive impact on health, education and job prospects.

Work is underway to support the Government to continue integrating fortified rice in social safety nets. WFP is also collaborating with private actors to create supply and demand on the market so that women can purchase fortified rice at a reasonable cost after they leave the programme.



WFP/Ranak Martin

Empowering Women to End Child Stunting

WFP and BRAC's Targeting the Ultra Poor-Nutrition (TUP-N) operational research project seeks to economically and socially empower women with small children, and help them break the intergenerational cycle of chronic undernutrition.

This is done through providing intensive livelihood and nutrition support including a monthly allowance and a cash grant for investment, food supplements for acutely undernourished, and intensive behaviour change communication.

To accelerate a shift in societal norms and practices, the training also includes husbands, other influential family members, and local elites. The programme's impact will be measured in 2016 focusing on the prevention of child stunting.

Nutrition Training Helps Jesmeen Lead a Healthier Life

Like many other girls in the village Jesmeen was married off early on, and so had to discontinue her education and assume responsibility for taking care of her newfound husband and parents in law. Now 30 and a mother of three, Jesmeen is a participant in the Government's VGD programme.



WFP USA/Daniel Johnson for HUMAN

That entitles her to receive food support and to regularly attend a participatory nutrition training that focuses on issues such as breastfeeding and child care, hygiene and dietary diversification. The training has been developed in partnership with WFP.

In the training she has learned the importance of handwashing with soap after using the toilet and before eating.

"I knew we should wash our hands, but no one told me exactly when and why it's so important. My parents didn't know either," says Jesmeen.

The training also taught her how important it is to include vegetables and fish in her family's diet.

"Before, we only ate rice with some onion and chili. Now I cook three times a day and make sure to add vegetables," she says, adding that she goes to the market herself to buy the greens.



WFP/kausar Haider

Building Resilient Communities and Reducing Climate Change Impacts

Climate-related shocks and stresses such as floods and cyclones regularly leave up to half of Bangladesh inundated, making it tough for coastal and riverine communities to leave ultra-poverty and food insecurity behind.

The Government and WFP are helping communities adapt to, and fight back against, those climate-induced disasters.

Creating Community Assets and Economic Opportunities

WFP works to reduce risks and help people meet their food and nutrition needs in vulnerable households and communities in the north (Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur) and southwest (Satkhira, Khulna) through the creation of community assets and economic opportunities.



The so-called Enhancing Resilience programme engages participants in cash for work to build community assets during the dry season, in cash for training during the rainy season, and provides a cash grant for investment.

Including family members of the 50,000 participants, over 250,000 people benefit directly from the programme, which continues until June 2017. Around 70 percent of participants are women.

Participants identify needs together with other members of their community and construct or repair embankments, raise roads, excavate irrigation canals and lift homesteads. Embankments protect homes and agricultural fields; canals prevent waterlogging during the rainy season and irrigate fields in the dry season.

All participants also take part in training sessions on topics such as disaster preparedness, nutrition and health awareness, and gender equality – knowledge that will empower their lives.

In the third programme year, a female member of each participating household receives a one-off cash grant for investment and a monthly subsistence allowance, to help her strengthen the family's economic resilience.

This is a joint programme with the Government, which over the years has covered the major part of the costs and demonstrated its long-term commitment by taking ownership. Its Local Government Engineering Department, or LGED, takes the technical lead in the construction and maintenance of assets.

WFP is strongly engaged in technical support on programme design and evidence creation to help enhance the quality of services. Local NGOs do beneficiary selection and other implementation-related services.

Adaptive Early Recovery in Waterlogged Areas

In the district of Satkhira, in the very southwest of Bangladesh, the effects of climate change are particularly tangible. Already poor and undernourished people are fighting additional hardships here since massive floods hit the area in 2011.



These coastal communities are dealing with multiple vulnerabilities including flooding, salt water intrusion and waterlogging. The paradoxical



WFP/Ranak Martin

result is a severe fresh water shortage coupled with saturation of previously arable land, resulting in reduced harvests and fewer employment opportunities for the ultra-poor, and thus increased food insecurity and undernutrition.

WFP, together with UNDP and FAO, assists 16,000 people in 3,200 households in two upazilas by enhancing community resilience and helping people graduate out of extreme poverty, in a scheme similar to the Enhancing Resilience programme.

In 2015 the participants – mostly women – excavated over 14 kilometers of drainage canals at six locations, and received training on disaster preparedness, nutrition, and livelihood planning.

These proud and informed women, who have helped facilitate agriculture and increase crop production, are in 2016 about to receive the chance of their lifetime: a one-off US\$150 cash grant for investment in productive livelihoods.

WFP, FAO and UNDP throughout the project are also working with the local government and other institutions to help identify longer-term solutions to the waterlogging problem in the wider area.

Parveen’s Story: Sewing for Life

Hena Parveen from the disaster-prone district of Khulna runs a tailoring shop right around the corner from her house.

“Before, people from my village would travel for half an hour to get to the closest tailor; these days they all come to me,” she says.

Hena set up her shop after having received the cash grant for investment and attended a business and entrepreneurship training, where she was taught how to cut the fabric but also to do bookkeeping.

With no prior formal work experience, Hena now makes about 12,000 taka per month of which she sets aside a little more than a tenth in a recently opened savings account. And – of course – everything is recorded in a neat ledger.



WFP/Kausar Haider

For Hena, tailoring and managing a small business has offered a steep learning curve.

“In terms of business knowledge, I wasn’t a very clever person,” says the unassuming 26-year-old. “Now I am getting orders and trying to expand. I want to employ people and set up a bigger shop in a nearby village.”

Having a regular income is helping Hena to buy nutritious food for her family.



"I was crying to see my son sick and pale, and didn't know he could be so cheerful that soon."

Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition

WFP provides supplementary food to children and pregnant and nursing women in the poorest and most food insecure parts of Bangladesh, along with advice on how to change nutrition and health behaviour, to help break the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition.

A Critical Window of Opportunity

Despite great improvement in recent decades, undernutrition remains a major challenge with significant consequences for individuals, the economy and health systems, costing Bangladesh more than US\$1 billion in lost productivity annually. It is estimated that 36 percent of children under five are chronically undernourished and that 14 percent suffer from acute undernutrition.

By taking action during the first 1,000 days of a child's life – from conception to two years of age – WFP is helping to prevent that lack of nutrients has a long-term impact on mental and physical development, growth, learning ability as well as future productivity and income.

Towards a Better Future

WFP's interventions target moderate acute malnutrition among pregnant and nursing women and children aged 6-59 months in particularly food-insecure areas where poverty is compounded by endemic undernutrition. In 2015, that included urban slums of Dhaka, flood-prone areas of Kurigram in the north, parts of waterlogged Satkhira, and Cox's Bazar district.

The malnourished children and women receive food supplements enriched with vitamins and minerals. For the women, this is accompanied by behaviour change communication activities on nutrition, hygiene and feeding practices, thus combining treatment and prevention measures.

Changes in feeding behaviour, such as practicing exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a child's life, can significantly improve their health and nutritional status.

Involving Communities and National Health Systems

WFP's activities are carried out either by NGO staff or through public health clinics in a so-called community-based approach, in which a patient is

screened for acute malnutrition during regular health check-ups. The condition can thus be detected and addressed before the child or woman becomes seriously ill.

To ensure ownership and sustainability, WFP is working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to further integrate the programme into existing public health structures and connect it with the national system for nutrition service delivery, or NSS for short.

Boosting Child Nutrition in Urban Slums

Tawhid is a 12-month old boy supported through the WFP and BRAC Nutrition programme. He lives with his parents, Sohel and Shefali, who are new to city life, in the Bhashantek slum of Dhaka.

Having migrated from a nearby rural district, they are now struggling to make ends meet, with Sohel working for a meager income as a day labourer. He rarely can afford to buy nutritious let alone enough food for his family.

During a regular household visit, nutrition volunteers identified Tawhid as undernourished with a 12 cm mid-upper arm circumference. He has since then received fortified supplementary food to boost his nutrition.



Photos: WFP USA/Daniel Johnson for HUMAN

"I was crying to see my son sick and pale, and didn't know he could be so cheerful that soon," says his mother Shefali.

With daily intake of the nutritious food supplement, Tawhid's health and nutrition status improved significantly within three months.

Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies

WFP assists Government preparations for a large-scale emergency, and stands ready to respond in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

In 2015, WFP has arranged disaster simulation exercises to test coordination mechanisms and identify areas of improvement, launched a new pilot project that will help Bangladesh take urgent measures to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and delivered food and cash to 213,000 flood-affected people through two relief operations in different parts of the country.



Getting Ready for Disasters and Tackling Climate Change

As a long-standing partner to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, WFP has helped organise a series of disaster simulation exercises bringing together key emergency-response agencies. That includes Government officials and NGOs as well as WFP and other UN agencies.

The simulations are designed to improve readiness so as to reduce the impact of a future disaster, be it an earthquake or cyclone.

Although emergency preparedness in Bangladesh to date has reduced the number of deaths from cyclones, the country remains one of the most vulnerable in the world to natural disasters.

Further, experts forecast that climate change will likely result in more frequent and more intense disasters in the region, raising fears that violent cyclones, saltwater intrusion and floods will increase food insecurity and potentially offset gains in poverty reduction and agricultural production.

That is why WFP, together with partners, also has launched a new pilot project that will help Bangladesh prepare for and respond to the kind of large-scale emergencies we can expect climate change will bring about in the future.

Through the project, titled Forecast Based Preparedness, WFP is working with the Government to identify climate risks, assess the effectiveness of the national early warning system for floods and cyclones, and determine whether links to other preparedness activities may be strengthened.

Delivering Food and Cash to Flood-Affected People

When southeastern Bangladesh faced repeated floods, landslides and a violent tropical storm in mid-2015 – affecting nearly 2 million people – WFP immediately provided emergency food assistance to displaced people who did not know where their next meal would come from.

But when disaster strikes, there is also a more protracted impact on the food security and nutrition situation, as crops and businesses may have been washed away and work opportunities become scarce.



So WFP also supported the most vulnerable with financial assistance in installments over three months.

This way, families could choose options that paralleled their priorities – be they food, medicine or investments in livelihoods.



WFP/Ranak Martin

When there is food available, as was the case, but people lack the means to buy it, cash transfers are powerful and effective; they introduce the element of choice and help stimulate local markets.

Later in the year, following chronic monsoon flooding over the summer months that affected more than 1 million people in the north, WFP reached almost 28,000 of the most vulnerable people in the districts of Kurigram and Gaibandha with unconditional cash assistance, to help avoid that an already alarming food security and nutrition situation turned catastrophic. This was a joint UN operation, where UNICEF, UNDP and FAO provided other kinds of disaster relief.

A Flood Victim Sees Relief

When the flood waves came, Rizia Begum seated her two children on a rickety stool.

"I couldn't even put them to bed since it was under water," she says. "My daughter caught a cold and fever, and there was no money for medicine or food."

Rizia is one of nearly 2 million people affected when floods and landslides struck southeast Bangladesh last year following Tropical Storm Komen. Many people left their homes for safety and shelter – often without knowing where their next meal would come from.

A single mother living in a modest shack and working the fields as a day labourer, Rizia and her family were especially vulnerable. Within a week she had received emergency food assistance from WFP consisting of nutritious biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals.

But while that kind of support helps alleviate immediate suffering, it does not address longer-term challenges when crops, businesses and other livelihoods have been destroyed.

"The fields were flooded, so there was no work for me," says Rizia.



WFP/Kamrul Mithon

WFP then provided financial assistance in installments over three months to affected people like Rizia, so they could purchase food and afford other necessities.

"Receiving this money allowed me buy the foods we needed. Most of it I spent on rice, lentils and small fish, but also on medicine and school costs for my children," Rizia says.

It took months before the floodwater had receded and work was available. "Without this assistance, how else would I've been able to pay for my children's meals and studies?"

Assisting Refugees and Ultra-Poor in Cox's Bazar



Photos: WFP/Ranak Martin

WFP works to improve the food security and nutrition situation of registered and unregistered refugees from Myanmar as well as locals in camps, makeshifts and communities of Cox's Bazar.

WFP is providing food support to 34,000 registered refugees in the two official camps; is helping nearly 150,000 ultra-poor unregistered refugees and Bangladesh nationals alike through promotional and protective safety net programmes; and has launched an emergency nutrition intervention covering 6,200 unregistered refugee women and children in Kutupalong makeshift settlement.

Meeting a Chronic Need in Kutupalong and Nayapara

Under a so-called Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, WFP works with the Government, UNHCR and local and international NGOs to improve the food security and nutrition situation of about 34,000 registered refugees from Myanmar living in the official camps Kutupalong and

Nayapara, including all those who arrived before new registrations were stopped in 1992, and their children born after that. The support plays an important role in safeguarding the well-being of refugees whose movement is restricted and who have limited opportunities to achieve self-reliance.

In 2015, all registered households continued to benefit from the innovative FoodCard: electronic vouchers that work like a debit card and with which refugees can purchase food at three registered shops inside each camp, freely choosing from a range of 18 different items.

The biometrically coded FoodCard is recharged at the beginning of each month and refugees may grocery shop six days a week, throughout the day, as often as they want.

To strengthen women's decision-making power in their households and communities, and because they are in charge of the kitchen, a woman from each household is designated as principal FoodCard holder.

The food support has also included take-home rations of specialised food to all pregnant and nursing women and children aged 6-23 months. Children below five suffering from moderate acute malnutrition also received the food supplements, and parents and caregivers learned about nutrition through behaviour change communication.

Moreover, WFP is providing a packet of nutritious biscuits to all pre- and primary school students each day they attend class. While this snack cannot reverse any damage done by nutritional deprivation in the early years of life, it addresses the problem of chronic hunger and offers nutrients that can help children to function better.

Beyond the Official Camps

Those refugees who do not live in the official camps are unregistered refugees and reside in either villages or so-called makeshift sites adjacent to the official camps. WFP works with both groups and does not differentiate between unregistered refugees and locals, but uses poverty and food insecurity criteria to select beneficiaries.

In villages of Maheshkali, Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas, WFP is implementing a safety net programme titled Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition.

Its first component addresses the underlying drivers of food insecurity and undernutrition by enabling some of the most vulnerable inhabitants transform their lives. It covers 9,600 ultra-poor women, and, including their families, nearly 50,000 people benefit from the support which includes a monthly cash allowance for almost two years and a one-off investment grant along with business and entrepreneurship training. The women and their families also attend participatory learning sessions on for example nutrition, hygiene and health practices.

The second component has a predominantly protective function; using a life-cycle approach, it aims to shield unborn babies and children below 11 years from the most acute forms of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Additionally, it has a promotional function through supporting the education of children in primary schools. As of late

2015, 17,300 pregnant and nursing women and children below five received extensive nutrition support, and more than 120,000 primary school students got a daily nutritious snack.

Alarming Undernutrition in Makeshifts

WFP's work with unregistered refugees in makeshift sites comprises an emergency nutrition intervention in Kutupalong makeshift settlement, where undernutrition rates are particularly alarming. Programme interventions include specialised food support to all children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women, as well as behaviour change communication trainings for the women. The assistance covers 6,200 women and children and is carried out together with Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Helping Women Take Control of Their Lives

50-year-old Khadiza has lived in Kutupalong refugee camp for over 20 years, where a conservative and traditional culture prevails. The electronic vouchers launched in 2014 have significantly invigorated the role of women in the camps. Once confined to their homes, Khadiza and many others now frequent the shops to take part in a novel reality, that of choosing and buying groceries for their families.

"Previously, we got a fixed amount of six different foods that we received all at once," she says. "I have more decisions to make and more responsibility now. I can go and shop like the men do outside the camps."

When the family needs food, Khadiza calculates her family's FoodCard balance and allocates the money to ensure enough remains for the rest of the month.

Almost two years into implementation, beneficiary feedback has confirmed that users are pleased with the system. This is particularly the case for women who cannot go and purchase food outside the camps. With safe shops inside the camps, female refugees are the main customers.





“Giving cash along with good nutrition training to ultra-poor women with small children has the greatest impact on child nutrition.”

Creating Evidence to Improve Food Security and Nutrition

To advance knowledge and strengthen food security and nutrition programmes, WFP is working with a number of research institutions, universities and development organisations.

Child Nutrition

Giving cash along with good nutrition training to ultra-poor women with small children has the greatest impact on child nutrition. That finding was presented last year by WFP and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), after a study had sought to determine what combination of cash, food and nutrition education in social safety nets brings the greatest benefits for ultra-poor rural families in Bangladesh.

The only modality that had any significant impact on chronic undernutrition, or stunting, was the combination of substantive monthly cash transfers and nutrition behaviour change communication. For example, in north-western Bangladesh, this combination led to a decrease of 7.3 percentage points in children suffering from stunting, an achievement almost three times the national average decline.

Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change

WFP and others have ascertained that floods, droughts and cyclones cause food prices and malnutrition to peak months after the disaster has occurred. The study since 2013 looked at the impacts of six different types of climate-related shocks and stresses, concluding that this food price inflation can be felt for up to nine months after the devastation has ended. In particular, the prices of oil, rice, potato, lentils, beef and egg remain higher than the national average.

At the same time, disasters in Bangladesh have a lasting impact on children's nutrition status, also affecting their health and growth for months – and for longer than was previously thought. The research provides a fresh lens for viewing conventional disaster responses and rehabilitation approaches, and offers a new perspective for addressing prolonged effects of the climate shocks.

Improving Nutrition in Urban Slums

A WFP study presented last year found that there has only been a modest improvement in recent years in the proportion of slum dwellers who are

malnourished. The study, conducted in the urban slums of Dhaka, Barisal and Sirajganj, shows that since 2006, the proportion of children in these slums whose growth is stunted or who are too skinny for their height decreased slightly.

However, nearly half of all children under five in urban slums still show signs of stunting and 16 percent show signs of wasting. People move into new slums in search of better economic opportunities or for temporary shelter due to natural disasters such as floods. It is now important to take up this new challenge of urban slum food insecurity and undernutrition.

Enhancing Resilience in Disaster-Prone Areas

After the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex reviewed the Enhancing Resilience (ER) programme, WFP organised a stakeholder consultation to build consensus on the way forward.

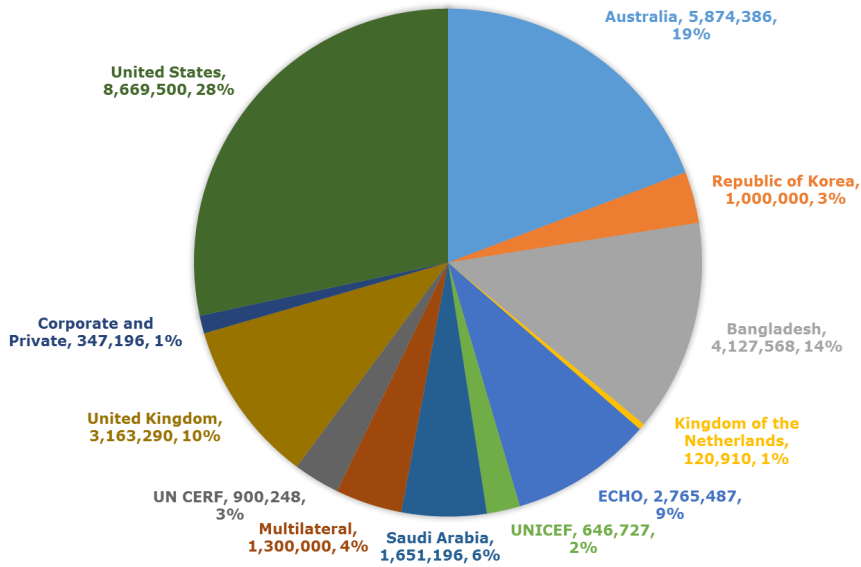
And so last year ER was strengthened by introducing a number of modifications including higher wages for participants, the inclusion of additional family members, and a real-time complaint mechanism.



WFP is further evaluating ER's impact with a specific focus on the resilience dimension. The working hypothesis of a study initiated last year is that programme participants show a lower propensity to adopt harmful coping responses – such as reducing family expenses or food consumption – during shocks and stresses like cyclones or flooding, and thus have a higher and quicker recovery rate after those disasters.

Donors and Funding

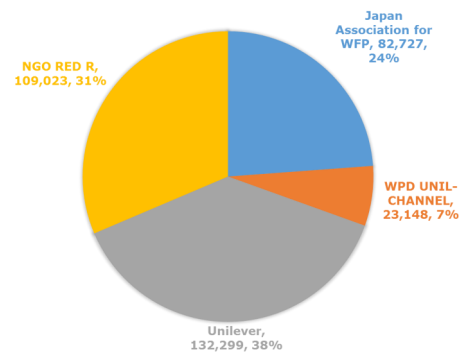
Donor Contributions to the Country Programme (CP) in Bangladesh



Directed contributions:
USD 29.2 million
Multilateral contributions:
1.3 million
**Total:
USD 30.5 million**

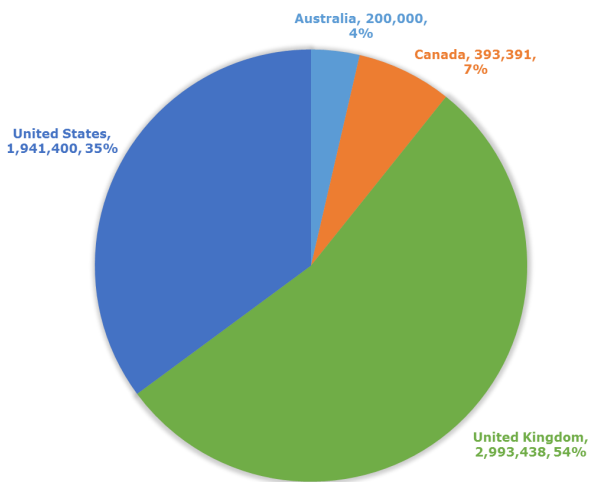
Overview Corporate and Private

Total:
USD 0.35 million



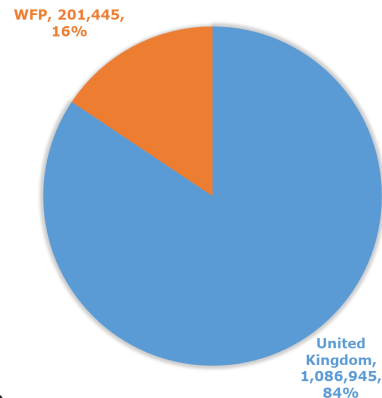
Donor Contributions to the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations Assisting Refugees from Myanmar (PRRO)

Total:
USD 5.5 million



Donor Contributions to the Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP)

Total:
USD 1.3 million



A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all our donors on behalf of the **650,000** children, women and men directly assisted in 2015!



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শিক্ষার্থীর পঠন দক্ষতা
মিতিত করতে হবে।



শব্দ কোষ

Table with 4 columns and 4 rows of Bengali words and their meanings.

বাক্য	আমি	বিশদ	একটি
বানর	নিয়ম	বিশেষ	অনেক
বাঘ	স্বাক্ষর	আজ	স্বাক্ষর
বন্ধন	অনেক	সম	স্বাক্ষর
ফেরা	আমরা	মা	শব্দ
হিলা	বিশেষ	হাস	জিন
মুঠো	কোনো	দেই	আমের
শ্রাবণ	সবে	আমের	পিতার

WORD LIST

Table with 2 columns of English words and their Bengali equivalents.

Color	রঙ
Light	আলো
Dark	কালো
White	সাদা
Black	কালো
Blue	নীল
Red	লাল
Green	হালধি
Yellow	হালুয়া
Pink	লাল
Brown	কালো
Orange	লাল
Purple	লাল
Grey	কালো
Black	কালো
White	সাদা
Blue	নীল
Red	লাল
Green	হালধি
Yellow	হালুয়া
Pink	লাল
Brown	কালো
Orange	লাল
Purple	লাল
Grey	কালো



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