

BANGLADESH

OPERATIONS, FACTS AND FIGURES



OVERVIEW

Over 40 percent of the population in Bangladesh live below the food poverty line, of whom 28 million are "ultra poor" - consuming less than 1,800 calories a day, lacking productive assets and adequate food to provide for their sustenance.

Since 1974, WFP has delivered millions of tons of food aid to Bangladesh. With support from WFP, communities receiving assistance have upgraded 135,000 kilometres of roads, planted over 37 million trees and given the country its first fortified whole meal wheat- flour mills.

WFP targets vulnerable women in food-insecure areas, helps to improve their nutritional well-being and acquire life and income-generating skills, increasing their mobility and participation in decision-making bodies. WFP school feeding programmes have contributed to increased attendance and enrolment rates for primary schoolchildren. Food-for-work activities have allowed poor people to gain skills through building infrastructure such as roads, schools and irrigation canals.

WFP aims to enhance preparedness and create additional infrastructure to mitigate the negative impact of the country's recurrent natural hazards.

PROGRAMMES

Country Programme 10410.0

January 2007 to December 2010

The goal of WFP's Country Programme is to support the Government of Bangladesh to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by improving ultra poor households' food security, nutritional well being and livelihoods. CP has the following activities:

Activity 1: Vulnerable Group Development

Focuses on income-generating and social awareness training for "ultra poor" vulnerable women through food assistance and development support in partnership with NGOs.

Activity 2: Community Nutrition

Targets vulnerable communities and ultra poor individuals in the most food-insecure areas, focusing on community-based nutrition interventions, with priority to pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and children under 2 years of age.

Activity 3: Food-For-Education

Provides assistance to pre-primary and primary schoolchildren in highly food insecure areas, specifically vulnerable rural communities. Each child receives a pack of micronutrient-fortified biscuits that are produced by local biscuit factories. The school children are de-wormed twice a year in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF.

WFP COUNTRY OFFICE
Dhaka

SUB-OFFICES
Dhaka/Mymensingh, Chittagong,
Cox's Bazaar, Rangamati,
Rangpur, Jessore

WFP Presence since 1974

WFP OPERATIONS IN 2009

WFP beneficiaries: 5.3 million, e.g.

Vulnerable Group Development - 1,157,690 beneficiaries

Community Nutrition - 23,004 participants

School Feeding - 550,000 children

Enhanced Resilience - 186,170 beneficiaries

Assistance to Refugees: 23,862 beneficiaries

Assistance to cyclone affected people: 3,420,521

FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 145 million

Children Under 5 - 12.3 %

Human Development Index Rank: 140

Per Capita GDP (PPP\$): 2,053

Adult Literacy:

Men - 53.9%

Women - 40.8%

Primary School Attendance:

Boys - 77%

Girls - 79.4%

Population Undernourished - 30%

Children Under 5 Suffering From:

Underweight - 41%

Stunting - 43.2%

Wasting - 17.4%

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PROGRAMMES, continued

Activity 4: Enhance Resilience

Provides food for training to develop skills in preparedness, planning and survival during crises, and implements food-for-work activities to reinforce disaster-resistant community assets. The activity also builds preparedness among local institutions, including pre-positioning of relief items and established a financial mechanism for rapid disbursement of funds for emergency activities.

Activity 5: Strengthening National Capacity to manage Food-assistance and Hunger-reduction Programmes

Promotes dialogues and advocates for strategies to address hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and brings together best practices, together with partners.

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 10045.4: Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar

January 2009 – December 2010

In the early 1990s approximately 250,000 people from Rakhine State in Myanmar took refuge in southeast Bangladesh. Repatriation started in 1992 and by mid-1997 more than 90 percent had returned, leaving a residual group of around 22,000 refugees. In the absence of any durable solution despite the continuing efforts of UNHCR and the international community, WFP continues to provide food assistance to this Rohingya population in partnership with UNHCR and NGOs. Goals include safeguarding the nutritional status of the refugee population and improving their self-reliance through participation in training and educational activities. Due to the continued need for humanitarian support, a fifth phase of the PRRO (10045.4) with the same mode of operation and coverage has been approved refugees for another two years beginning 1 January 2009.

Emergency Operation 10715.0: Food Assistance to Cyclone-Affected Population in Southern Bangladesh

November 2007 – February 2009

The objectives of the EMOP were to meet the immediate food needs of the people in severely affected areas to maintain adequate food consumption and to prevent deterioration of the nutritional status of women and children while restoring livelihoods and rural community infrastructures in the affected areas through General Food Distribution, Emergency School Feeding, Micro-Nutrient Powder Initiative and Food-For-work and Cash-For-Work involving the worst affected districts

Comprehensive contingency plan, capacity building efforts, pre-positioning of commodities and stand-by agreements with partners enabled WFP to reach beneficiaries within 24 hours of the disaster.

Emergency Operation 10788.0: Emergency Safety Net for Vulnerable Groups Affected by High Food Prices and Natural Disasters in Bangladesh

November 2008 – July 2009

WFP launched a new EMOP (10788.0) aimed at providing emergency safety net assistance to five million people affected by high food prices for a period of nine months

Components of this EMOP are: Targeted Relief Assistance, Nutrition Intervention, School Feeding, Employment Generation and Technical Assistance to strengthen the capacity of the government to design and manage effective safety nets.

Beneficiaries including pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls will receive wheat-soya blend through the Supplementary Feeding Programme under Nutrition Initiative of which severely malnourished children (6-24 months) will receive family ration of rice and pulses.