



2010 Annual Report

Bangladesh



World Food Programme

Table of Contents

Message from the WFP Representative	5
WFP's vision and strategy	7
Overview	8
2010 in brief	10
WFP tools	12
Empowering women and girls	13
Food security and vulnerability analysis and mapping	14



Partnering with the Government on safety net reform	15
Overview of WFP’s operational activities in Bangladesh	16
Country Programme	18
Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation	26
Emergency Operation	28
Partners	30
Donor contributions	32
Staffing	33





Message from the WFP Representative

This is an exciting time to work in Bangladesh. The country is achieving significant gains, both economically and socially. Production and trade are expanding and more jobs are being created for both men and women. With good management and ongoing growth, the country will continue steadily towards its vision of achieving middle income status by 2021.

Sadly, behind this impressive economic growth lies an enormous undernutrition burden that will limit the ability of the next generation to fulfil this ambition. With one in two children under five suffering from chronic undernutrition, this is not just limiting each of their potential, but the country's as a whole.

It has been widely proven that undernourished children perform poorly academically, professionally and physically in comparison to their well-nourished peers. By investing in this generation, we can ensure that all children have the opportunity to meet their potential and the country can achieve its development goals.

Education will be equally crucial to ensuring that the next generation has a more promising future. The poorest children still continue to miss out on the right to get a proper education as they are forced to work to help provide for their families. The Government is taking a strong lead in improving education opportunities and we are greatly encouraged by the introduction of the Government's School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas in 2011.

Urbanisation and its associated impact on the ultra poor also presents additional challenges and a need to begin refocusing programmes. WFP has begun to expand its school feeding programme into urban areas and is soon to commence maternal and child nutrition activities. We have strengthened our food security analysis in this



sector with the publication of the Urban Food Security Atlas. This will provide the foundation for targeting our expansion in these areas.

It is through close partnerships with the Government, communities and other stakeholders that we can leverage our strengths and achieve significant reductions in hunger and undernutrition. The Government's Sixth Five Year Plan outlines an ambitious development agenda. WFP, working in collaboration with UN partners under the UN Development Assistance Framework, will assist the Government to provide the children of today with the opportunity to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Christa Räder'.

Christa Räder
Representative
Bangladesh
World Food Programme





WFP's vision and strategy

“Through an effective partnership, WFP and the Government of Bangladesh will achieve significant gains in reducing hunger and undernutrition in the next five to ten years”

The Government of Bangladesh and WFP are integral partners in the fight against hunger and undernutrition. Our goal is one in which every man, woman and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. The Government is leading the way and has set the year 2021 as the target to achieve this aim.

In 2010, WFP developed its Country Strategy which represents a shift in approach to address the challenges of food insecurity and undernutrition in Bangladesh. It places a greater emphasis on strengthening the Government's social safety nets as they are scaled up and reformed; specifically those that aim to ensure food and nutrition security.

WFP will also focus resources and expertise in developing innovative nutrition and hunger solutions, specifically in areas where WFP has experience, strength and potential to innovate. Activities will be more geographically focused and will converge in areas of greatest food insecurity and vulnerability, including increasingly to urban slum areas. WFP will continue to target the poorest and most food insecure women, children and men with priority being given to breaking the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition and strengthening resilience to shocks.

The objectives guiding WFP's operations are to:

- Reduce undernutrition among women and children under five;
- Increase access to pre-primary and primary education for children;
- Enhance the resilience of communities and households vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change; and
- Enhance nationally-owned safety net programmes addressing hunger and household food and nutrition insecurity.



Overview

Bangladesh has high levels of poverty and undernutrition that are exacerbated by frequent natural disasters and a high population density. An estimated 60 million people consume less than the minimum daily recommended amount of food¹. Achieving gender equality remains a challenge, as significant disparities persist in health, education and income.

However, things are changing for the better. Over the past decade, Bangladesh has achieved rapid economic growth and substantial progress towards some of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly for gender equity in schools and poverty reduction. But levels of food insecurity, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies continue to remain high.

In particular, the prevalence of chronic and acute undernutrition among children and women is alarming. Growth retardation,

an outcome of chronic undernutrition, is widespread, affecting almost one in two of the country's 17 million children below five years of age². The number of children who are underweight, which is a reflection of acute and chronic undernutrition, is 37 percent, or about 6 million children under five².

In addition, the high prevalence of early marriage, adolescent pregnancies and undernourished mothers leads to a cycle of undernutrition where more than one in three newborns have a low birth weight³. This is strongly related to high infant mortality and poor cognitive development that affects education outcomes later in life.

This cycle is further perpetuated by the high dropout rate from primary education, particularly for children from ultra poor households. Although Bangladesh has made encouraging progress in

-
- **Two** in **five** people go to bed hungry every night
 - **One** in **two** children are chronically undernourished
 - Almost **one** in **two** children do not complete primary school
 - On average, a major natural disaster hits every **two** to **three** years
-

increasing enrolment and achieving gender parity in primary education, major problems persist. An estimated 3.3 million children do not go to primary school and just 55 percent will end up completing primary education⁴.

Rapid urbanisation is placing greater pressure on the need for safety nets and food security activities for the ultra poor. The nutrition situation in urban slums is alarming. The population living in slums of major urban centres have been found to have high prevalence of anaemia and are in poor health conditions. WFP

estimates that about 30 percent of slum populations are severely food insecure and rates of acute undernutrition are about 17 percent, well above emergency thresholds⁵.

Adding to the challenge, Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The high frequency of natural disasters, such as cyclones and floods, lean season crises and droughts, undermines poverty reduction and food security efforts. Natural disasters are expected to increase in severity over the coming decades due to the accelerating

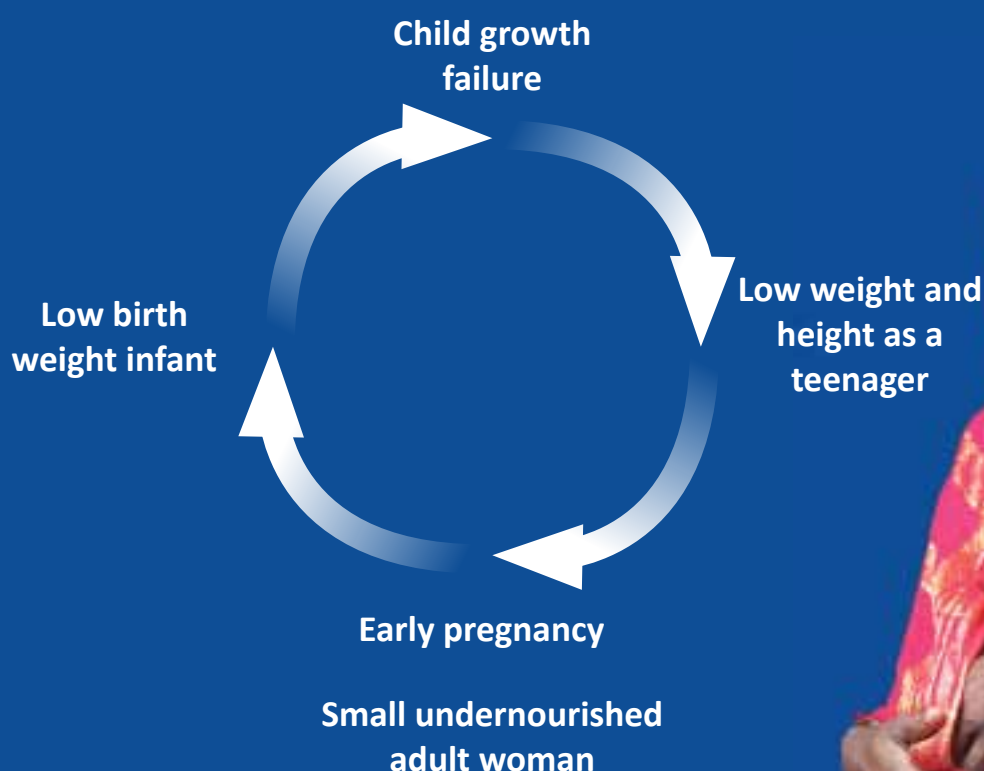
effects of climate change. These events regularly force millions of families to reduce the number and quality of meals, sell productive assets, such as livestock, and pull children out of school. This leads to increased vulnerability of these households and worsens their prospects of escaping the poverty cycle.

(Sources: 1-Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2005; 2-Household Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, 2009; 3-National Low Birth Weight Survey of Bangladesh, 2005; 4-UNICEF, 2009; 5-Urban Health Survey, 2009)

The intergenerational cycle of undernutrition

One of the greatest challenges facing Bangladesh is the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition. The below diagram illustrates how small mothers – stunted by chronic undernutrition – give birth to low birth weight babies. These children then have a poor start in life and are more likely to have growth failure which, when combined with inadequate food intake and caring practices, leads to stunting and being underweight as a child and teenager. The high rate of adolescent pregnancies further exacerbates the situation as they are more likely to have a low weight newborn.

Breaking the cycle requires a multi-dimensional approach focusing on improving the nutritional status of women, adolescent girls and children, delaying marriage and first pregnancy, and improving education and livelihood opportunities for women.



2010 in brief

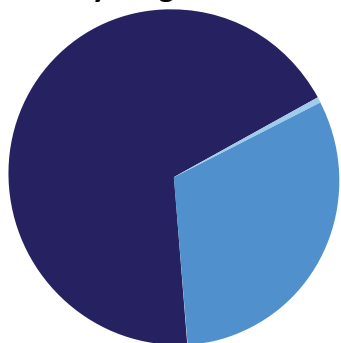


3,493,500

Number of beneficiaries assisted.

2,948,100

Country Programme



24,100
Refugee
Operation

1,362,000
Emergency
Operation

*Beneficiary numbers do not add up due to overlap.

ENHANCING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Strengthened the resilience of 322,700 ultra poor beneficiaries and their communities in disaster prone areas. This involved the construction of over 1,000km of roads, canals and embankments, the provision of training to enhance the ability of households to deal with future disasters, and recovery assistance to help families after disasters and other shocks.

US\$82m

Amount spent by WFP in Bangladesh.

104,250

Amount in metric tonnes (mt) of food distributed.

US\$23m

Amount of cash distributed. Of which, the Government of Bangladesh contributed US\$3.5m.

6

Number of Government ministries WFP works with.

SCHOOL FEEDING

Provided micronutrient fortified biscuits to a total of 1.2 million pre-primary and primary school children in almost 10,000 schools.



GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF SAFETY NETS

Successfully transitioned the Vulnerable Group Development programme – which provides food and livelihood assistance to 750,000 ultra poor women – to full government management.

PARTNERSHIPS

Developed new partnerships which will lay a strong foundation for the years to come. The Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) Initiative and the private sector consortium of Project Laser Beam will provide significant technical and financial support.

HIGH FOOD PRICE RESPONSE

Continued vital employment, livelihood, nutrition and school feeding assistance to 1.4 million beneficiaries to deal with the after effects of the high food price crisis of 2007 to 2008 in which an additional 7.5 million people fell below the poverty line. This led to longer-term infrastructure being created to strengthen future agricultural production.

FOOD SECURITY FOR THE ULTRA POOR

Launched innovative cash grant and livelihood programme to 30,000 ultra poor women and their families which led to doubling incomes and strengthening food and nutrition security.



TARGETING AND MONITORING FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY

Played a lead role in monitoring the impact of food price volatility on the ultra poor and in the production of poverty maps to improve targeting. The publishing of the Urban Food Security Atlas marked new territory for WFP in its goal to have a greater role in urban mapping and programming.

IMPROVING MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION

Contributed to breaking the intergenerational cycle of under-nutrition through supplementary feeding for 68,600 under-nourished children under five, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls as well as the delivery of a complementary nutrition education package across all programmes. This led to 81 percent of undernourished participants recovering and reduced low birth weight incidence.



REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Supported 24,100 Rohingya refugees through diversified food and nutrition assistance in Cox's Bazar.

26

Number of local and international non-government organisation partners.

CYCLONE AILA RESPONSE

Provided recovery assistance to 62,800 victims of Cyclone Aila (2009) through food and nutrition assistance which led to significant declines in acute undernutrition in children under five and pregnant and lactating women.

For Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN), this includes 20,300 participants from the high food price response; 45,618 from the Country Programme (comprising 42,809 from the IMCN activity and 2,809 from the Cyclone Aila response); and 2,723 from the refugee assistance (including targeted and blanket supplementary feeding). For school feeding, this includes 568,224 school students from the high food price response; 6,607 from the refugee assistance; and the remainder from the Country Programme. For Enhancing Resilience (ER), this includes 62,835 from the response to Cyclone Aila; 43,150 from the Rodent Crisis Recovery; and the remainder from the ER activity.

RODENT CRISIS RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Supported 43,100 severely food insecure people affected by a rodent plague in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This led to 86 percent of households reporting an increase in income and 96 percent with an acceptable food consumption score.

WFP tools



Cash

Cash is an expanding modality used by WFP to enhance people's access to food and to strengthen local markets when they are functioning. WFP provides cash to beneficiaries as either part of a wage, monthly allowance or cash grant for the purchase of a livelihood asset.

How much? For cash wages, participants are paid 150 taka per day (US\$2) or equivalent. For cash grants, participants usually receive a monthly allowance of 500 taka (US\$7) and a one off payment of 14,000 taka (US\$190).



Diversified food basket

WFP provides a diversified food basket to meet the macro and micronutrient needs of beneficiaries. For food and cash for asset activities, WFP provides rice or wheat and soon pulses and vegetable oil. In emergencies, WFP also supplements the food basket with fortified blended foods.

How much? Participants normally receive a family ration equivalent to 2,073 kilocalories per person per day.



Fortified blended foods

WFP uses micronutrient fortified blended foods for supplementary feeding. These are designed to provide protein supplements to prevent and address nutritional deficiencies. From 2012, WFP will pilot blanket feeding of Super Cereal (WSB++), which contains animal protein from milk powder, to children under two.

How much? Participants receive about 980 kilocalories per day.



High energy biscuits

WFP distributes micronutrient-fortified high energy biscuits as part of the school feeding programme and in the initial phase of emergencies. The biscuits provide two thirds of the daily vitamin and mineral requirements of children as well as a supplementary caloric intake.

How much? Children receive a 75g packet of biscuits that provides 338 kilocalories on all school days.

Empowering women and girls

In 2010, WFP assisted 1.8 million women and adolescent girls in the most food insecure and disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are central to the reduction of poverty and hunger, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the accomplishment of WFP's objectives in Bangladesh. Women in Bangladesh are extremely vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity: they earn less than men, are more likely to be undernourished, and face additional social and cultural barriers to achieving their full potential.

WFP's approach

Women are essential actors in the implementation of WFP's strategy to reduce hunger and undernutrition in Bangladesh.

1) Prioritising women

WFP assists pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls through nutrition interventions, prioritises women in all food and cash for community asset creation, and targets women in individual asset creation activities.

2) Enhancing participation and decision-making

WFP focuses strongly on women's participation, leadership and decision-making at all levels. Women are involved in improving children's education through school management committees and participate equally with men in food management committees.

3) Improving knowledge and skills

WFP supports women's access to training activities to develop knowledge, skills and self-confidence and help enhance their status in the household, family and community.

4) Involving men and boys

Engaging with men and boys is crucial to changing gender dynamics. In 2010, WFP began engaging men and boys more effectively in behavioural change activities in order to reduce gender discrimination.

WFP Gender Assessment

WFP undertook a Gender Assessment in 2010 which found that WFP activities have contributed to significant achievements in gender equality and women's empowerment. Although these findings included that unequal gender relations within households and families are still widely present, women have gained stronger influence on food and cash allocations and use, as they substitute male members in the traditional role of breadwinner. Mobility, which is a major indicator of women's empowerment, has increased and decision-making, either alone or jointly in household decisions, has improved as women become income earners.

Following the assessment, WFP is improving and sustaining gender mainstreaming in all activities, especially through the provision of additional facilities for women at project sites, such as breastfeeding and child care areas; by increasing access to training and employment opportunities for women; and by promoting the involvement of men and boys in gender equality. There is also a stronger focus on monitoring the positive and possible negative impacts of programmes on gender roles.



Food security and vulnerability analysis and mapping

In Bangladesh there is considerable variation in the level of food insecurity across the country. Extreme poverty, incidence of natural disasters, cultural practices and access to health facilities all play a role in explaining why certain areas are more vulnerable than others. Identifying these areas and understanding the food economies of vulnerable households are key responsibilities of WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) unit.

VAM makes use of a variety of information sources and analytical methods — from the use of satellite images, statistics on education, health and nutritional status, to the monitoring of changes in market prices and household coping behaviour, to simple face-to-face discussions with men, women and children from food insecure and vulnerable communities.

VAM information products support key WFP programming decisions and include poverty maps, food security monitoring bulletins and assessments, and analytical

reports with research institutes. VAM products also support the complementary needs of the Government, UN agencies, donors, non-government organisations, and the broader international community. The VAM unit also participates in policy dialogue on food security, poverty and social safety nets.

Functions

Problem assessment

Understanding why and when conditions of food insecurity and vulnerability exist.

Beneficiary assessment

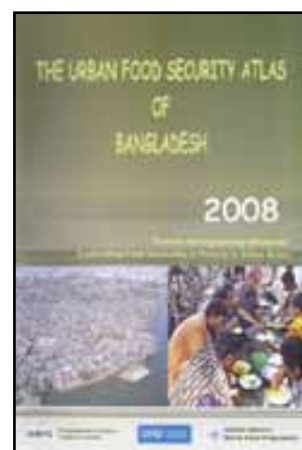
Identifying who are most likely to face conditions of food insecurity and vulnerability.

Geographic targeting

Identifying areas with high concentrations of hungry, poor and vulnerable populations.

Advocacy for the poor

Providing timely and evidence-based information to decision-makers to better address the needs of the ultra poor.



Partnering with the Government in their reform of safety nets

Situation

There are significant gaps in the number of food insecure people being covered by safety net programmes in Bangladesh. Against the 60 million people who are food insecure, WFP estimates nearly half of them remain uncovered by Government, donor, NGO or UN safety net programmes.

In 2010, the Government implemented 30 major safety net programmes spending 2.5 percent of Bangladesh's gross domestic product – or about US\$2.6 billion¹. The Government's efforts are having a beneficial impact for the ultra poor, but the effectiveness of programmes needs to be strengthened through improved targeting, greater coverage and more efficient administration.

Response

In 2010, WFP began to place a greater emphasis on strengthening the capacity of the Government to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their safety net programmes through policy dialogue, training workshops and advocacy. This is and will continue to be a key focus of WFP's activities. WFP will be directly

involved in assisting the Government to strengthen its Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme and in the launching of the Government's School Feeding programme in 2011. WFP is also involved in piloting innovative safety net approaches, such as the Food Security for the Ultra Poor project. These pilot projects will provide valuable lessons that WFP and the Government will be able to draw upon as future programmes are designed.

WFP's role with the VGD programme

WFP has been implementing the Vulnerable Group Feeding and later the VGD programme jointly with the Government since the 1970s. Over the past 10 years, WFP's role has gradually transitioned from the role of programme implementer to systems strengthener. At the end of 2010, the Government took over full running of the VGD programme. WFP continues to work with the Government to strengthen targeting, programme design, monitoring and evaluation, and administration.

(Source: 1-Ministry of Finance Budget, 2010)

The Vulnerable Group Development programme

The VGD programme is one of the world's largest food-based safety net programmes targeted at poor and vulnerable women. The ultimate goal of the programme is to bring sustainable improvement to the lives of ultra poor households.

Currently about 750,000 women (about 3.8 million beneficiaries) from ultra poor households receive a monthly food ration combined with a package of development services. This includes life and income generating skills training as well as a personal savings programme and access to micro-credit.

The Government's School Feeding programme

In 2011, the Government of Bangladesh plans to launch its school feeding programme to reach 1.2 million primary school children. This will involve the distribution of micro-nutrient fortified high energy biscuits, based on the WFP design and with WFP support.



Overview of WFP's operational activities in Bangladesh

WFP assists the food insecure in Bangladesh through the following mechanisms:

Country programme activities

WFP's development activities in Bangladesh aim to improve the long-term food and nutrition security of ultra poor households in the poorest and most food insecure rural areas and urban slums. It achieves this through supplementary feeding, nutrition education, food and cash for assets and training, school feeding, and piloting innovative hunger solutions.

Protracted relief and recovery operations




WFP is providing assistance to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who are living in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps in Cox's Bazar district. Activities include general food distribution, supplementary feeding and school feeding.

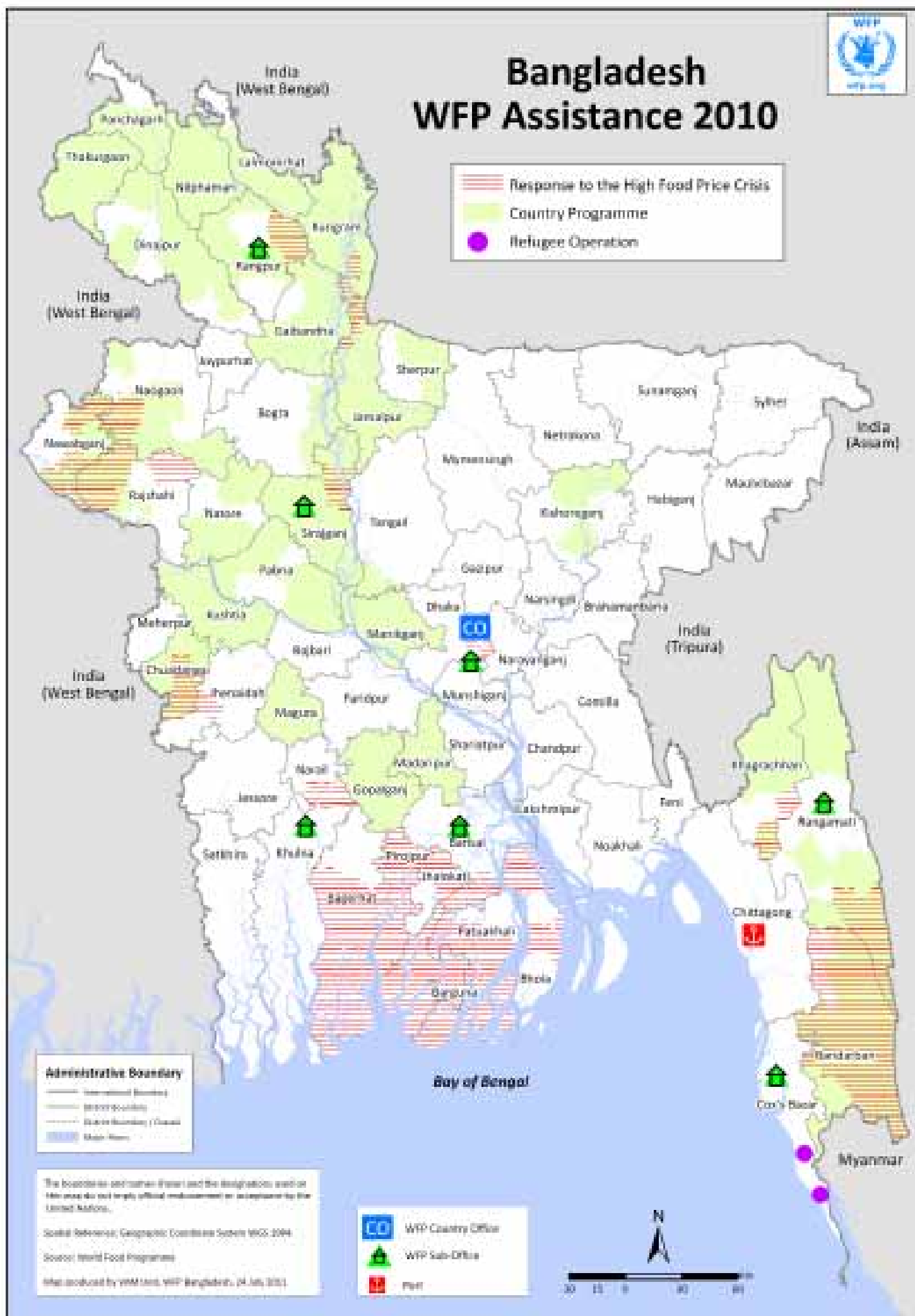
Emergency operations

WFP is frequently involved in large-scale emergency responses to natural disasters and man-made crises. In the past, WFP has responded to large-scale relief efforts following cyclones, floods and other disasters that have struck Bangladesh. In 2010, WFP implemented one of the world's largest responses to the high food price crisis.



Bangladesh WFP Assistance 2010

-  Response to the High Food Price Crisis
-  Country Programme
-  Refugee Operation



Country Programme activities



School feeding in poverty prone areas

WFP distributes micronutrient fortified high energy biscuits to rural and urban pre-primary and primary schools in areas of high poverty to provide an additional incentive for parents to keep children in school. The snack is distributed to children on all school days during the year. This is complemented with a learning package to children, parents and other community members on health, nutrition and hygiene. Children are also de-wormed and WFP promotes women's leadership in the School Management Committees.

WFP works closely with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education to establish the guidelines and technical capacity to launch the Government's national School Feeding Programme in 2011. The strong support that WFP continues to receive from the Government of Bangladesh, the United States Department of Agriculture and Australia have enabled this programme to be such a success.

Key achievements in 2010

- Provided school feeding to 1,170,719 pre-primary and primary school children (51 percent girls) in 9,965 schools.
- Each child received an average of 182 feeding days during the year, amounting to 8,191mt of high energy biscuits.
- Established 375 school gardens to demonstrate good homestead gardening practices and to deliver food and nutrition security messages.
- Increased female representation in School Management Committees from 18 percent in 2009 to 37 percent in 2010.

Benefits of school feeding

According to an outcome evaluation undertaken between 2007 and 2009, schools that benefited from school feeding have demonstrated:

- Increased school attendance for boys and girls from 76 percent to 84 percent.
- Increased absolute enrolment for boys and girls by 16 percent in primary schools.
- Reduced drop out rate for boys and girls from 23 percent to 17 percent.
- Prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia, which affects children's ability to learn and fight disease, of 10 percent compared to non-assisted schools of 22 percent.



Improving maternal and child nutrition

The aim of WFP's nutrition strategy in Bangladesh is to support the Government in breaking the inter-generational cycle of undernutrition by giving priority to a child's first 1000 days, from conception to two years of age. In 2010, WFP focused its efforts on providing supplementary feeding to undernourished pregnant and lactating women, children under two and adolescent girls. WFP complemented this with a nutrition education package focusing on maternal and child nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, food preparation and delaying marriage and pregnancy until after adolescence.

The Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiatives provide important coordination mechanisms to implement and scale up nutrition interventions. Through Project Laser Beam (PLB), WFP will be able to access funding and technical expertise of the private sector. These initiatives were scaled up in 2010 and provide mechanisms for strengthening WFP's nutrition approach into the future.

Key achievements in 2010

- Provided supplementary feeding to 42,809 participants made up of 11,811 pregnant and lactating women, 23,437 children under two, and 7,561 adolescent girls.
- Provided nutrition education to 40,000 pregnant and lactating women, mothers of young children and adolescent girls.
- Achieved an 81 percent recovery rate from moderate and severe underweight (weight for age).
- Achieved an incidence of low birth weight of 28 percent compared to the national estimate of 36 percent (although the baseline incidence of low birth weight in programme areas was likely higher than this estimate).
- Distributed 1,512mt of fortified blended food.

Steps of the Community Nutrition programme*



Participants are screened for acute undernutrition by measuring middle-upper arm circumference (MUAC)



Mothers and adolescent girls participate in nutrition training



Participants are regularly monitored throughout the process and linked with other services as needed



Undernourished pregnant and lactating women and children under five are provided with fortified blended foods for up to four months

*This diagram shows the community nutrition programme operated by WFP in Bangladesh since 2011. In 2010, participants were screened using weight for age rather than middle-upper arm circumference, adolescent girls were included, and supplementary feeding was provided for up to six months.

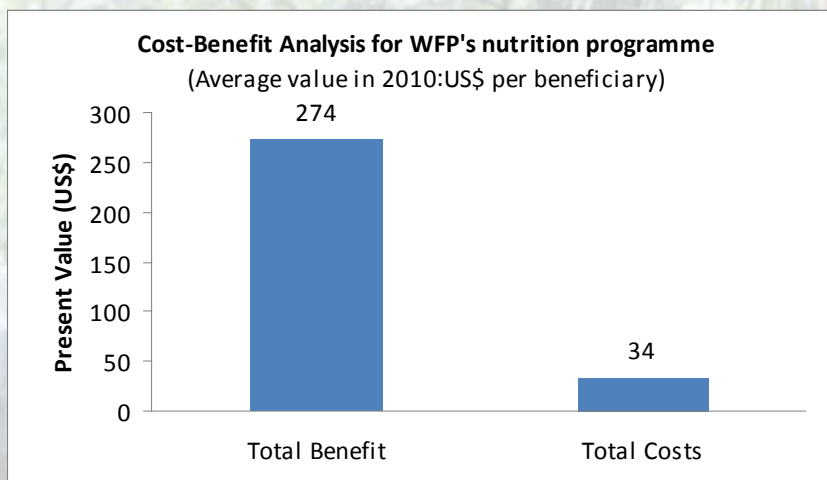
The evidence for maternal and child supplementary feeding

Trials on supplementary feeding of undernourished pregnant women and young children have shown a range of positive outcomes, including maternal weight gain, improved birth weights and positive growth responses in children. This results in decreased maternal and infant mortality.

In 2010, the Boston Consulting Group undertook a cost benefit analysis of WFP's Maternal and Child Nutrition programme in Bangladesh and found that every \$1 spent achieved a return on investment of \$8 over

the course of a child's life. This shows that investing in a child's nutrition achieves both long-

term economic benefits and short-term humanitarian objectives.



Protecting and promoting food security and nutrition for families and children

WFP, UNICEF and FAO are teaming up to enhance the food and nutrition security of vulnerable children, women and their families.

The Spanish-funded Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Fund is financing a programme that is focusing on accelerating progress towards MDG 1 and 4: halving hunger and undernutrition, and reducing child mortality by two thirds.

Each agency brings a comparative strength that, in combination with the Government of Bangladesh and non-government organisations, will address the availability of nutritious food, household's and children's access to food, the proper utilisation of food, and strategies to achieve improvements in their nutrition status.

The programme is implemented in six unions of Barisal division in the southern coastal belt of Bangladesh. This region has alarming rates of undernutrition and is frequently struck by natural disasters, particularly cyclones and salt water intrusion exacerbated by climate change.



Enhancing resilience to disasters and the effects of climate change

WFP's Enhancing Resilience programme engages communities to build community assets, such as roads, embankments and canals, that increase resilience to disasters and strengthens agricultural production. The programme receives strong support from the Local Government Engineering Department which provides technical assistance for infrastructure construction and the cash portion of wages; Japan provides valuable support for the food portion.

In 2010, WFP introduced a local level planning process to involve communities in the decision-making of asset planning and creation. WFP also expanded operations into the southern coastal belt which is one of the most vulnerable regions in the country to the effects of climate change.

As part of this activity, WFP also responds to small and medium-scale natural disasters. In 2010, this included leading the food security component of the joint United Nations response to Cyclone Aila and the Rodent Crisis Response Programme in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

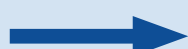
Key achievements in 2010

- Provided assistance to 322,670 ultra poor beneficiaries in disaster prone areas.
- Assisted 87 communities through improved infrastructure to mitigate the impact of disasters and climate change.
- Constructed over 1,000km of roads, raised 1,935 homesteads and assisted in digging fish ponds to improve food security, market access and disaster resilience.
- Increased the percentage of households with an adequate food consumption score, which measures dietary intake and diversity, from 20 percent to 81 percent.
- Distributed more than 19,762mt of rice and wheat which was complemented by US\$3.5 million in cash wages from the Government.

Steps of the Enhancing Resilience programme



Local level planning is initiated to review and prioritise community asset requirements



Participants are selected from ultra poor households in disaster prone areas



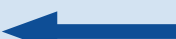
Food and Cash for Assets is undertaken



Roads/embankment construction



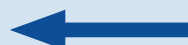
Village raising



Food and Cash for Training is undertaken



Participants learn skills in disaster preparedness and mitigation; nutrition and life skills; and income generating activities



On distribution days, participants come to centres to collect their food and cash wages



Canal excavation

Response to Cyclone Aila

Between August 2010 and April 2011, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to victims of Cyclone Aila. This cyclone, which struck in May 2009, had washed away thousands of kilometres of embankments forcing many people in low lying areas to seek refuge on the remaining embankments. WFP, in coordination with UNDP and UNICEF and funded by the United Kingdom, launched a multi-sector response to facilitate the recovery process and to assist families while the embankments were rebuilt.

WFP provided food assistance to 62,835 beneficiaries in the hardest hit regions. This resulted in substantial improvements in household food security and the nutritional status of the affected population. According to surveys undertaken, 90 percent of households reported adequate food consumption following assistance, up from 50 percent initially. By the end of WFP's operations all households reported they consumed three meals a day compared to a year earlier when it was just one in three house-

holds.

In addition, WFP provided supplementary feeding to 2,809 pregnant and lactating women and children under five. This led to a reduction in the prevalence of acute undernutrition in children under five by seven percent and for pregnant and lactating women by 14 and 19 percent respectively.



Rodent crisis recovery in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

In 2008, thousands of families in the Chittagong Hill Tracts suffered severe food insecurity, unemployment and undernutrition. The area was overrun by millions of rats, caused by seasonal flowering of bamboo, which destroyed the crops and thereby livelihoods of the people living in the region.

That same year WFP launched a response funded by the European Union's humanitarian agency, ECHO, and Australia for 43,150 beneficiaries to prevent deterioration of the food security situation and to protect and restore livelihoods of the affected population. By 2010, WFP had transitioned to a recovery phase and focused on building roads to link communities with markets. This was complemented with training on nutrition, livelihoods and other life skills. WFP also provided cash grants for the purchase of Jhum seeds to assist people get back on their feet.

These activities resulted in 96 percent of households reporting acceptable food consumption scores and 86 percent consuming three meals a day. The activities also led to 86 percent of households reporting an increased income and almost all (99 percent) households becoming re-involved in Jhum cultivation, except Sajek Union due to a temporary government ban on Jhum cultivation.



Improving food security for the ultra poor

In 2009, WFP started its Food Security for the Ultra Poor project with financial assistance from the European Union for a period of four years. The project is a promotional safety net intervention that aims to improve the food security and nutritional well being of 30,000 ultra poor households in north-western Bangladesh.

At the same time, the project began providing valuable evidence and lessons to feed into WFP's dialogue with the Government on safety net reform. It is based around a 24-month cycle which features a cash grant, a monthly allowance, savings assistance, asset creation assistance and a curriculum of specialised trainings to assist participants purchase and manage livelihood assets, such as livestock, weaving equipment or rickshaws.

Participants increase the value of their asset by reinvesting profits over the duration of the project. WFP provides ongoing support, including regular follow up visits and full time veterinarians. Self help groups are also organised for the women where they share ideas, pool savings and discuss topical issues, such as early marriage and dowry.

Key achievements in 2010

The first outcome survey for the Food Security for the Ultra Poor (FSUP) project, released in July 2011, found the following:

- The value of total household assets increased from 20,103 taka to 38,113 taka.
- The value of productive assets increased from 3,773 taka to 31,285 taka.
- Monthly earnings for women increased from 327 taka to 1,129 taka.
- Household average incomes increased from 1,953 taka to 4,715 taka per month.
- Household food consumption scores increased from 33 to 50.
- Ultra poor women reported significantly higher levels of mobility, which is a proxy for women's empowerment.

Steps of the Food Security for the Ultra Poor programme



Women from ultra poor households are selected using criteria that emphasise vulnerability, food insecurity and lack of land and assets



Through self-help management group formation, women are provided with entrepreneurship development and training in an income generating activity of their choice

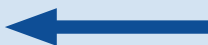


Beef fattening



Rickshaw-van

Women then invest their one-time asset grant in an income generating activity of their choice



Poultry farming



Weaving



Women collect their monthly cash allowance and one-time cash grant on distribution days

A family business: Ranu and her investments

In Khoksha Bara village in northern Bangladesh, dozens of women belong to village savings and support groups. These women meet twice a month to help each other improve their businesses, develop plans for using their group savings and to discuss current issues, such as dowry and early marriage. The groups are organised by WFP through the FSUP project. These women receive a cash grant combined with a series of trainings to assist them in looking after a small business. They use the money for a wide variety of investments that include livestock raising, crop cultivation, fish farming and fabric production.

Ranu Rani is a participant in one of these groups. Ranu used her asset grant to invest 5,000 taka in materials for basket weaving and the remaining 9,000 taka to start a barber shop business for her husband. From these investments, Ranu and her family now earn a regular income of 5,500 taka per month. In six months, she saved 13,500 taka which she used to buy two pigs that her father looks after. Ranu and her husband have also been able to install a proper toilet, replacing the open pit used earlier, and they have plans to expand their barbershop.



Ranu points out that she is now able to better support her 10 year old son and 8 year old daughter: “My children will have a brighter future if they get a proper diet and an education so I will struggle to make this happen”.

The economic development officer, who provides ongoing assistance to Ranu and other participants, explained: “together, the women’s group that Ranu belongs to have savings of over 21,000 taka. They regularly contribute 100 taka per month and for those that are going through difficult times, the group pitch in to help. In one case, a group member’s cow died and the other members raised 2,500 taka to help her get back on her feet.”

“Our barber shop, basket weaving business and pigs enable us to save money for the future, survive the present and support our children”

Ranu, women’s group member

Ranu hasn’t needed this support so far. She lives in a disaster prone area and she noted that through the training she learnt strategies to better prepare for disasters. She has stockpiled 20kg of rice, prepared a moveable stove and has identified a safe location to take her family should disaster strike.



Ranu Rani



Nurjahan

Women leading the way

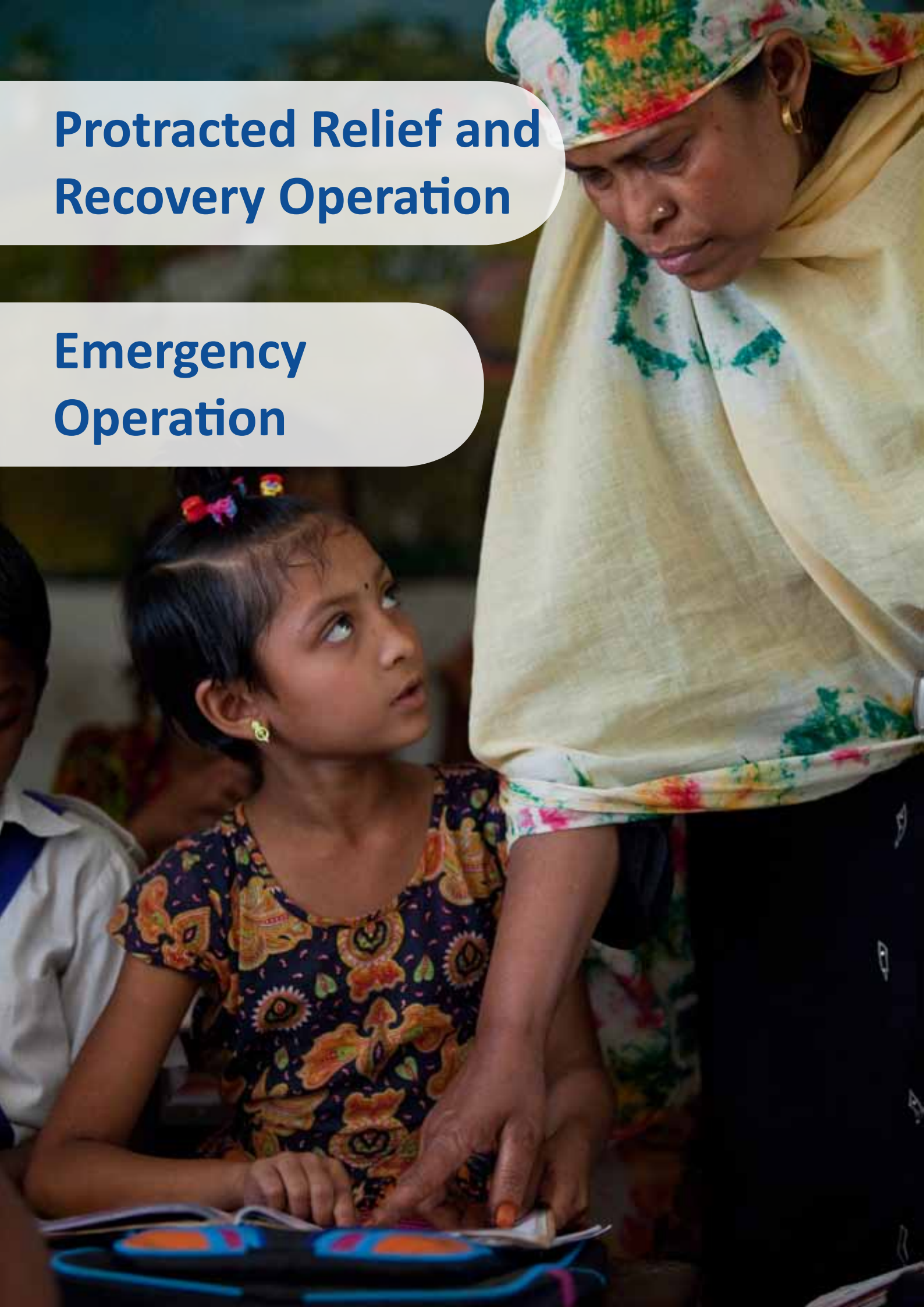
As a clear indicator of increased empowerment, eight women from the FSUP project were elected in local elections in early 2011.

The women are now representing a cluster of surrounding villages in official Union-level executive committees, the so-called Union Parishads: the backbone of the Bangladesh local governance system. This was unplanned and unprecedented, as normally ultra poor women would simply not even think of campaigning.

Nurjahan (pictured) became a participant of the FSUP project in early 2010. She invested her cash grant in crop production and grew both her crops and financial base over the course of the year. After support from her self-help group she decided to campaign for election and won a landslide victory, gaining 1452 votes, three times more than her closest competitor.

**Protracted Relief and
Recovery Operation**

**Emergency
Operation**



Supporting refugees through difficult times

Situation

Since 1992, WFP has provided food assistance to refugees from Myanmar residing in camps in Cox's Bazar District, south-eastern Bangladesh. As refugees, freedom of movement and access to income is limited so international humanitarian assistance is vital in order to meet their basic needs.

Food security and undernutrition in the camps remain a concern, with 77 percent of households experiencing high to very high levels of food insecurity and acute undernutrition close to the 15 percent emergency threshold. This situation is related to a range of factors, including sharing of the food rations with unregistered family members, limited access to complementary foods, high child

morbidity and sub-optimal infant care practices. WFP works in close collaboration with UNHCR, the Government of Bangladesh and a range of NGO partners to continue to strengthen its nutrition and food security support in the camps.

Solutions

Prospects for durable solutions remain limited as local integration or repatriation are not currently options and resettlement opportunities are few. Under current conditions, food assistance from WFP continues to be essential to meeting the refugees' basic needs.

Response

WFP seeks to safeguard the nutrition and food security of the refu-

gee population through a package of interventions designed to address the minimum caloric needs of the whole registered refugee population as well as the specific nutritional needs of particularly vulnerable groups.

In 2010, this included provision of a general food ration to refugees in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps. WFP also supported a supplementary feeding programme as part of a Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme in partnership with UNHCR and Action Against Hunger. To encourage school enrolment and attendance, WFP continued to provide school snacks to all school students and adolescent literacy learners in the camps.

Key achievements in 2010

- Provided a fortnightly general food ration to 24,106 refugees to strengthen their food and nutrition security.
- Enhanced refugee nutrition situation by introducing micronutrient fortified blended food (WSB+) in the general and supplementary feeding rations.
- Distributed fortified biscuits to 6,600 refugee school children and adolescent literacy learners on every school day.
- Introduced blanket supplementary feeding for children under two to address the high rates of undernutrition amongst this age group.
- Provided supplementary feeding support to almost 1,000 pregnant and lactating women and 750 moderately undernourished children under five, and provided blanket feeding support to 980 children under two.
- Established refugee Food Management Committees to enhance refugees', particularly women's, participation in the management of food distribution.



WFP response to the high food price crisis

Between 2009 and 2010, WFP responded to the high food price crisis of 2008 and a series of natural disasters after receiving substantial support from the European Union Food Facility and other donors. The price crisis resulted in acute undernutrition of children under five rising to 25 percent in the hardest hit areas of Bangladesh and led to an additional 7.5 million people falling below the poverty line.

WFP undertook a relief effort designed to meet the immediate food security and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable households and communities as well as strengthen their longer-term food security to cope with future price rises and disasters. This involved the construction of community assets to protect from future disasters, improve market access and increase agricultural production. Employment generation was undertaken during the lean seasons to protect households from heightened food insecurity.

WFP also scaled up school feeding to reduce drop outs and maintain attendance levels. Women were provided with cash grants and livelihood training to assist them to strengthen their household food security situation. A pilot nutrition programme using micronutrient powders was also undertaken to test the benefits of this approach in the Bangladesh context. This multi-faceted approach proved successful in limiting the impact of the food price crisis on beneficiaries and has provided the skills and resources to prepare them to better cope with future shocks.

Key achievements in 2010

- Provided assistance to 1,361,999 beneficiaries (51 percent women) through the distribution of US\$18,434,460 in cash wages and cash grants for asset creation and 16,500mt of rice, high energy biscuits and micronutrient powders for food and nutrition security support.
- Created short-term employment for 158,755 ultra poor participants (60 percent women). This led to the construction of 5,276km of roads, embankments and canals, 43 fish ponds and 156 raised homesteads.
- Constructed embankments and canals benefiting an estimated 50,851 hectares of land which in turn increased future agricultural productivity by an estimated 30 percent.
- Provided school feeding to an additional 568,224 children in 3,500 rural and urban primary schools.
- Provided cash grants and training to 25,000 women with 83 percent reporting a sustained increase in income.
- Distributed micronutrient powders to 25,000 women and children under five leading to a decline in iron deficiency anaemia from 29 percent to 18 percent.



Food security through agricultural assets

In response to the high food price crisis, WFP undertook a canal re-excavation project in Fakirhat Upazila in the southern coastal belt. This scheme has led to a significant increase in food security and livelihood opportunities for the people living along its banks. According to local farmers, the land around the canal had not produced a harvest for five to seven years due to a lack of available fresh water for irrigation.

The canal has led to a reliable supply of fresh water for 7 months of the year, and for the remaining 5 months, when salt water is present, it provides alternative income earning opportunities through shrimp cultivation. Fresh water stored in ponds is used for continued irrigation.

Farmers are now optimistic that they will be able to undertake three harvests per year and they reiterate the enormous impact it has made to the availability of food in the region as well as the additional income they derive from the harvest. Before the canal, they noted that they were forced to migrate to cities for work, but this is now much less the case.

The farmers and other residents also report that the canal has brought other benefits, particularly related to enhancing resilience to disasters. The canal has acted as a drainage and embankment system in times of flooding as well as protecting communities from tidal surges.



Type of project: Canal re-excavation scheme

Location: Fakirhat Upazila, Bagerhat District

Length: 11.2km

Number of employment days: 95,434

Cost: US\$210,000

Dates of construction: April – June 2010

Number of participants: 2,314 (women: 531)

“For the past five years we have not been able to harvest this land. Now we no longer have to go to the cities for work and we are able to harvest three times a year.”

Syed, local farmer.



Our partners in Bangladesh

“When we act together we have the power to bring about real change in the lives of millions of people who would otherwise struggle to feed their families”

Sheila Sisulu, WFP Deputy Executive Director for Hunger Solutions

By working in partnership, WFP has created opportunities to leverage the strengths and resources of the Government and other partners as well as create synergies between different activities.

The Government of Bangladesh

The Government is WFP’s main partner and donor in Bangladesh. It has been a strong supporter of WFP since the 1970s, providing both technical and implementation assistance and in-kind contributions of food and cash. WFP works with the Government to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by improving the food security, nutritional status and livelihoods of the ultra poor.

Communities and beneficiaries

WFP involves communities and beneficiaries in the decisions that affect their lives and adapts programmes to best meet their needs. Programme participants are represented on all food and cash management committees.

Non-government organisations

NGOs are the front line of WFP’s activities in Bangladesh. In 2010, WFP partnered with more than 30 local and international NGOs. NGO partners bring strong community level links and assist in providing a continuum of development services to complement and implement WFP’s activities.

Donors and corporate partners

Donors – both public and private – are integral partners in Bangladesh providing financial, policy and operational support to WFP. Bangladesh is leading the way for WFP globally in forging partnerships with the private sector, particularly through Project Laser Beam.

Research partners

In 2010, WFP teamed up with leading agencies to drive practical research. WFP worked with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) and a number of other leading institutions.

United Nations partners

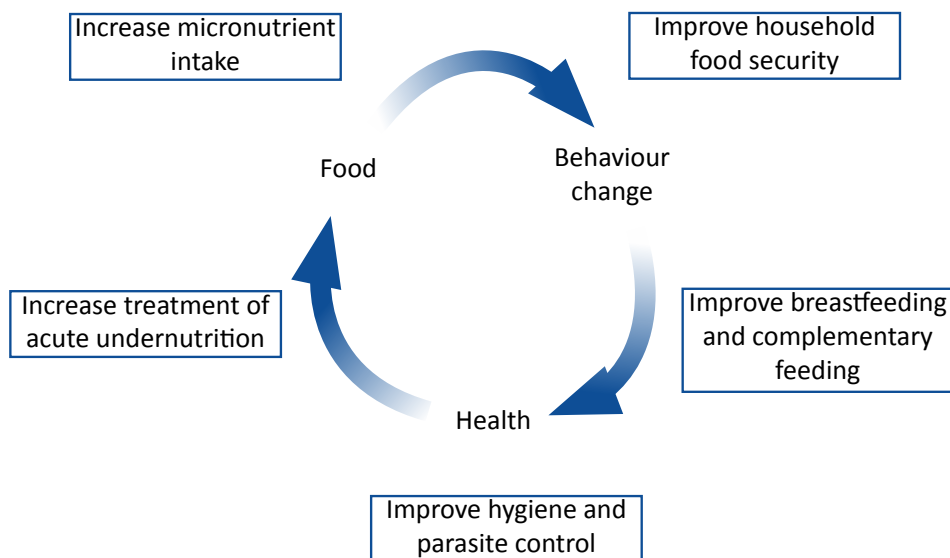
WFP’s United Nations partners are essential in providing a multi-faceted approach to our interventions. In 2010, WFP worked with UN partners in the development of a new UN Development Assistance Framework, the implementation of emergency response and recovery programmes and in policy dialogue with the Government.



The REACH initiative

The 'Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition' initiative was launched in Bangladesh in July 2010 jointly by WFP, FAO, WHO and UNICEF.

REACH is a global partnership committed to meeting the nutrition needs of the world's most vulnerable children and women, through evidence-based analysis and innovative programming that builds government institutional capacity, strengthens policy planning skills and prioritises scarce resources. REACH promotes the scale-up of proven and effective nutrition interventions as shown in the diagram.



Project Laser Beam

Project Laser Beam (PLB) is a five-year, US\$50 million public-private partnership that seeks to significantly reduce child undernutrition. PLB brings together the expertise of WFP with leading food and nutrition companies so that WFP can harness the ideas, creativity and technology of the private sector.

PLB was unveiled by former US President Clinton in September 2009. The partnership will centre around three main pillars: food, hygiene and behavioural change. PLB will employ the many nutritional solutions already available in the marketplace, ensuring they are accessible to those in need.





Donor contributions

Donors enable WFP to deliver programmes to the ultra poor. They provide valuable financial support, but also work with WFP to strengthen programmes and foster cooperation between agencies.

In 2010, WFP received contributions from countries, multilateral institutions, the private sector and private donors. WFP also hosted a number of senior donor delegations and worked with in-country representatives to deliver programmes in a more integrated and coordinated manner.

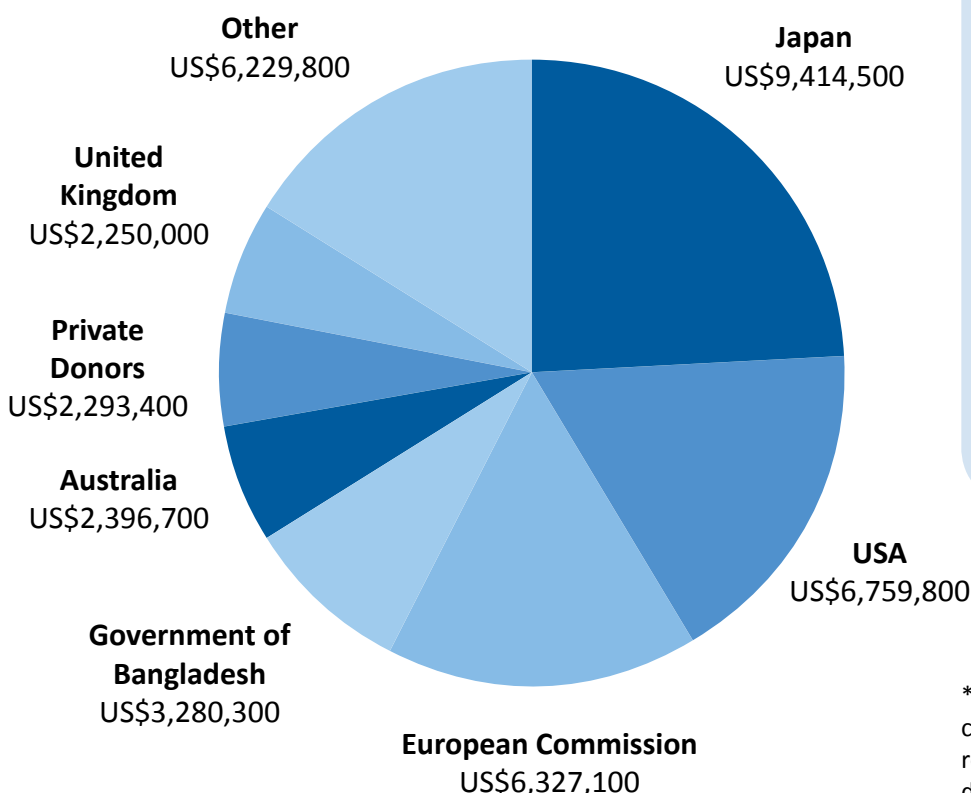
During 2010, WFP developed its Country Strategy for the next five to ten years. This involved extensive consultation with donors through bilateral meetings, local consultative groups, and policy dialogue forums. This active engagement of donors enabled WFP to strengthen its approach to food and nutrition security.



Strong support from the Government

The Government of Bangladesh is WFP's largest donor, providing over US\$50 million in food and cash over the past five years as well as vital technical assistance. The Government is an essential partner, in both development activities and emergency operations. In emergencies, the Government advances food from its own stocks to enable WFP to more quickly reach those in need.

Total direct donor contributions in 2010 (US\$38,951,600*)



Multilateral and multi-year contributions

From WFP multilateral contributions, the Bangladesh Country Office received US\$4,745,500 from Germany and US\$3,099,800 from New Zealand.

WFP also received US\$3,540,800 from Spain in 2009 through the Millennium Development Goal Fund to be used over a three year period.

*Total does not include multilateral contributions and only includes funds received in 2010. Figures do not add up due to rounding.

Our staff

At the end of 2010, WFP had a team of 139 people working across the country: in the Country Office in Dhaka and six sub-offices in Rangpur, Khulna, Sirajganj, Barisal, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar. This included twelve international staff and 127 national staff. Of the international staff, there were four Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, an AusAID-sponsored programme.

Women made up 36 percent of WFP's workforce in Bangladesh and efforts are being undertaken to increase this ratio towards gender parity. A challenge that WFP is attempting to overcome is to increase the number of qualified female applicants for professional positions.

WFP is undertaking greater efforts to recruit qualified women by creating greater visibility about WFP's vacancies. This, in turn, is expected to lead to a larger pool of female applicants.

Statistics in 2010

Total staff:

139

International to national ratio:

12 to 127

Sub offices:

43 percent

Proportion of women:

36 percent

Credits

Photos: From left to right, top to bottom. Cover: AKM Shehab Uddin; p2-3: Shehzad Noorani; p4-5: GMB Akash; p6-8: AKM Shehab Uddin; p9: Nathan Sarker; p10: GMB Akash, Shehzad Noorani; p11: GMB Akash, Amy Johansson; p12: GMB Akash, Rein Skullerud, GMB Akash, WFP/Photolibrary; p13: GMB Akash; p14: Shehzad Noorani; p15: GMB Akash; p16: Nathan Sarker; p18: Amy Johansson; p19: GMB Akash; p20: All GMB Akash; p21: Amy Johansson; p22: Top left, Chandon Robert Robeiro, all others GMB Akash; p23: Andrew Biraj, Nathan Sarker; p24: All Amy Johansson except top right, Shehzad Noorani; p25: All Amy Johansson, except middle, WFP/Photolibrary; p26: AKM Shehab Uddin; p27: WFP/Photolibrary; p28: GMB Akash; p29: Philip Hulcome, WFP/Photolibrary; p30: GMB Akash; p31: GMB Akash; p32: Md Harun Rashid Tutu; p33: All GMB Akash; p34: Amy Johansson.

Design and editing: Philip Hulcome.

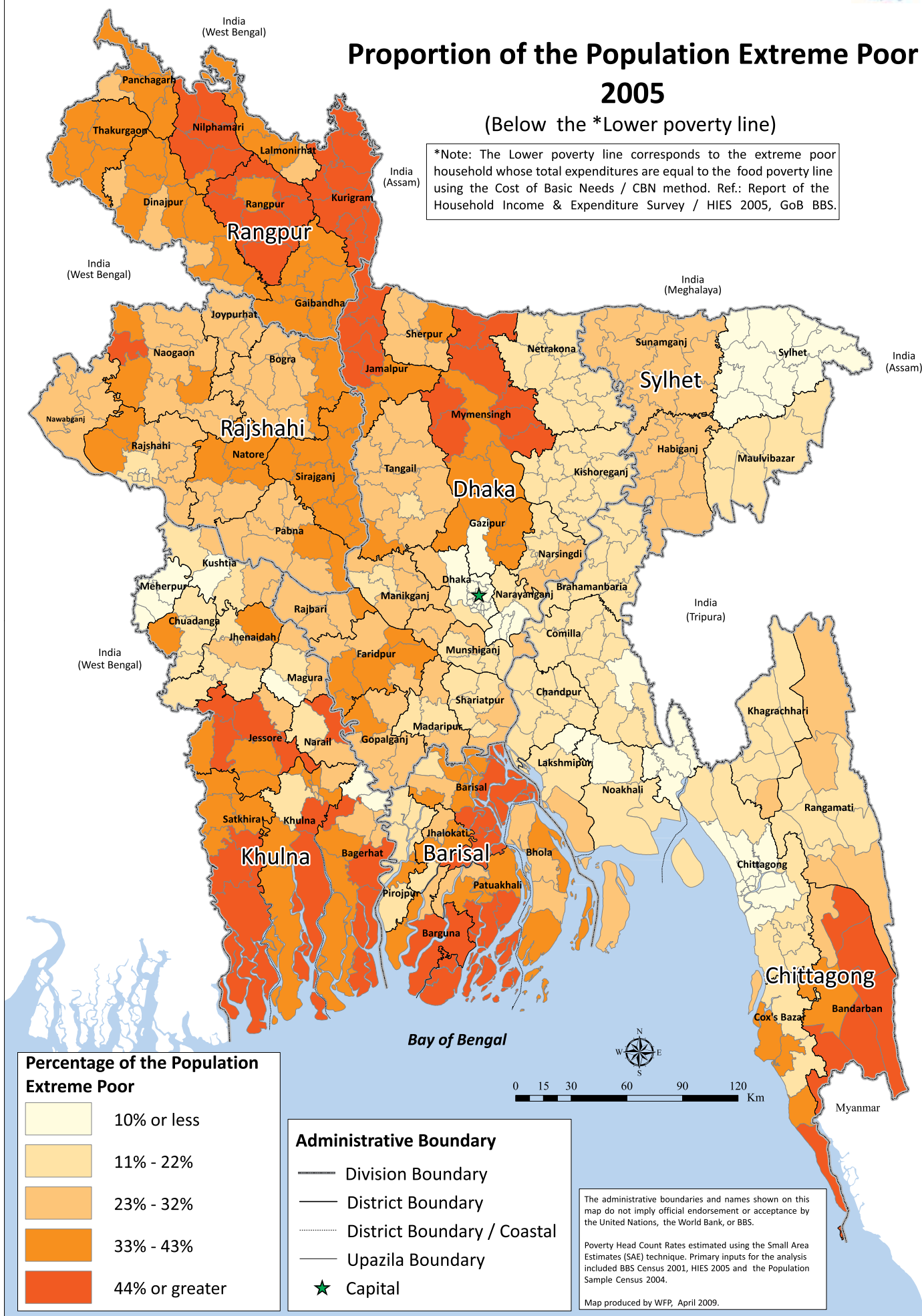




Proportion of the Population Extreme Poor 2005

(Below the *Lower poverty line)

*Note: The Lower poverty line corresponds to the extreme poor household whose total expenditures are equal to the food poverty line using the Cost of Basic Needs / CBN method. Ref.: Report of the Household Income & Expenditure Survey / HIES 2005, GoB BBS.



**World Food Programme
Bangladesh**

Country Office
IDB Bhaban, E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani,
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Tel: +8802-8116344
WFP.Dhaka@wfp.org
www.wfp.org/Bangladesh



World Food Programme