



A massive influx of refugees in 2017 from Burma into Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District, one of the least developed districts in the country, has prompted a large-scale humanitarian response. Additionally, recurring natural disasters, such as floods and cyclones, continue to exacerbate poverty-related food insecurity and malnutrition in many parts of Bangladesh.

SITUATION

- Attacks by armed actors on Burmese security posts in August 2017 and subsequent military operations in Burma's Rakhine state, home to the majority of Rohingya, have caused a major humanitarian crisis in neighboring Bangladesh. The violence in Burma has forced nearly 706,000 people—mostly Rohingya refugees—to flee into southeastern Bangladesh, joining more than 212,000 Rohingya living in the country prior to August 2017, the UN reports.
- The majority of Rohingya refugees live in 34 extremely congested settlements in Cox's Bazar District, where they remain reliant on food assistance to meet their basic needs. The influx has nearly tripled the population of Teknaf and Ukhiya *upazilas* in Cox's Bazar District, which currently hosts the highest concentration of refugees in the world. Vulnerable host communities in the area also face food insecurity and limited livelihood opportunities.
- While levels of extreme poverty are in decline, nearly 32 percent of Bangladeshis still live below the national poverty line, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Approximately 25 percent of the population in Bangladesh remains food-insecure and 36 percent of children younger than five years of age suffer from stunting, a common measure of chronic malnutrition, WFP reports.



RESPONSE

- In FY 2019, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) contributed more than \$123 million for emergency food assistance to vulnerable communities in Cox's Bazar District. FFP partners WFP and World Vision provide emergency food assistance to Rohingya refugees and implement self-reliance activities such as community kitchens and disaster risk reduction projects. With FFP support, Action contre le Faim, WFP, and World Vision support cash-based, income-generating activities for affected host community members in Cox's Bazar.
- FFP supports both WFP and the UN Children's Fund to implement nutrition activities for refugees in Cox's Bazar, where children younger than five years of age and pregnant and lactating women receive specialized foods to prevent and treat acute malnutrition.
- FFP partners with CARE International, Helen Keller International, and World Vision to implement multi-year development programs to promote agriculture, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, maternal and child health, and women's empowerment in multiple regions throughout the country. In FY 2019, FFP contributed more than \$35 million to these non-governmental organizations in support of these efforts.

FOOD FOR PEACE CONTRIBUTIONS		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PER FISCAL YEAR (FY)		
	U.S. DOLLARS	METRIC TONS*
FY 2020	\$1.91 million	-
FY 2019	\$158.7 million	135,762 MT
FY 2018	\$150.6 million	76,858 MT

*Metric tonnage does not reflect funding for vouchers or cash transfers

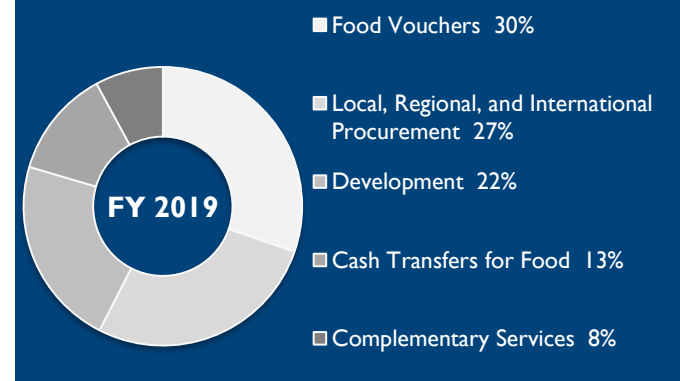


Photo: Rohingya women and their children gather to receive WFP nutrition assistance. WFP/Saikat Mojumder