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DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME — BANGLADESH 10410.0 (2007–2010)



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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The country programme for Bangladesh (2007–2010) has been prepared in conformity with the guidelines of the Board and is consistent with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2006–2010) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2005) of the Government of Bangladesh. It contributes to domestic strategies for poverty reduction, enhanced nutrition and reduced vulnerability to recurrent shocks. The country programme design is based on experiences and lessons learned from the previous country programme (CP 10059) approved by the Board (WFP/EB.3/2000/7) in September 2000 for five years from 2001 to 2005 and subsequently extended to 2006.

Bangladesh is a promising Asian economy that has made impressive gains in human development indicators in the last decade. It ranks 139th of 177 countries in the 2005 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report. As a result of policy changes and investments, poverty in Bangladesh – defined as the percentage of the population below the income poverty line of US\$1 per day – fell from 50 to 36 percent between 1990 and 2003. During the same period, the proportion of undernourished people declined from 35 to 30 percent, with improvements in child and maternal mortality. Nearly 50 percent of children under 5 are underweight.

The country faces considerable challenges in sustaining and building on its achievements and remaining on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Bangladesh is a low-income, food-deficit country with annual average food grain imports of 2 million mt since 1990–1991. It has the third highest number of hungry people, after India and China; an estimated 28 million ultra-poor people survive on less than 1,805 kcal per day and risk losing life and livelihood to recurrent natural disasters. This is compounded by increasing disparity in income distribution and high prevalence of malnutrition among women and children.

According to the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the main elements in the fight against poverty in Bangladesh include improving food security, tackling malnutrition, reducing disparities in income and education, reducing gender disparities and improving protection against shocks. On the basis of these priorities, the goal of this country programme is to support the Government of Bangladesh in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by improving the food security of ultra-poor households, their nutritional well-being and their livelihoods. It addresses four of WFP's Enabling Development Policy priorities and four of its Strategic Objectives with the following major outcomes:

- (i) improved food consumption and enhanced livelihoods among ultra-poor households (Strategic Objective 2);
- (ii) enhanced resilience to disaster of ultra-poor people in areas with numerous recurrent shocks (Strategic Objective 2);
- (iii) improved nutrition of women, children and adolescents (Strategic Objective 3);

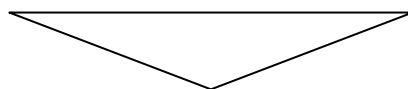


- (iv) increased pre-primary and primary school enrolment and attendance, reduced drop-out and enhanced learning at primary schools (Strategic Objective 4); and
- (v) enhanced capacity of the Government and partners to manage food-based programmes (Strategic Objective 5).

In line with WFP's General Rules and policies governing resource allocations for development, the budget for consideration has been capped at US\$101.6 million to cover the needs of 2,356,200 beneficiaries for four years.

The budget, which is based on expected regular pledges and contributions, covers only 33 percent of the needs that WFP's operational capacity could deal with in contributing to the national framework. WFP will therefore seek contributions from other sources to provide an additional US\$207.6 million for four years to address the needs of 5,358,080 additional beneficiaries with vulnerable group development, community nutrition, food for education, food for enhancing resilience, school feeding and initiatives for orphans and vulnerable children.

DECISION



The Board endorsed draft country programme Bangladesh 10410.0 (2007–2010) (WFP/EB.A/2006/8/8/Rev.1), for which the regular development food resources were 245,600 mt at a cost of US\$101.6 million covering all basic direct operational costs. The Board:

- (i) authorized WFP to mobilize additional contributions from other sources to the level of US\$207.6 million for four years to address the needs of 5.4 million beneficiaries; and
- (ii) authorized the Secretariat to formulate a country programme, taking account of the observations of the Board and after intense consultations with the relevant national and international agencies.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

1. Bangladesh is a densely populated country of 140 million¹ people. It ranks 139th out of 177 countries in the 2005 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report, which places it among countries with medium human development. Through effective policy changes and investment, gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.1 percent per annum and poverty declined from 50 to 36 percent between 1990 and 2003.²
2. Bangladesh faces considerable challenges in sustaining and building on achievements towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Macroeconomic growth and higher agricultural productivity are insufficient to address food insecurity and malnutrition. Disparity in income distribution is increasing, with Gini coefficients of 0.259 in 1991-1992³ and 0.32 in 2000;⁴ underweight and stunting among children under 5 are still among the highest in the world. Progress has been made on gender equality, but much remains to be done, particularly regarding social and economic empowerment.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Food Security

3. The low and marginalized status of women in society has a negative impact on the well-being of the entire population. Consequences include under-investment in human capital, which contributes to low health, nutrition and food security outcomes. Other factors associated with food insecurity in Bangladesh are:
 - the dynamics of a growing population that depends on a limited and fragile natural resource base;
 - recurrent natural disasters, particularly floods;
 - under-employment/unemployment, which leads to lack of purchasing power and inadequate access to food; and
 - under-developed public infrastructure and inefficient markets.
4. Although food insecurity exists to varying degrees throughout the country, it is particularly prevalent in the northwest, north, southeast and some of the southern coastal belt areas. The ultra-poor spend more than 75 percent of their incomes on food.
5. In recent years, Bangladesh has considerably increased domestic agricultural production. Production of grain, mostly rice, increased from approximately 11 million mt in the 1970s to 23.6 million mt in the 2003–2004 marketing year. However, production of wheat and other non-cereal products has not met national requirements. Since 1990–1991,

¹ Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS), 2004.

² Ibid.

³ World Bank/Asian Development Bank. 2003. *Poverty in Bangladesh. Building on Progress*, p. 7. Washington DC.

⁴ UNDP, Human Development Report 2005.



Bangladesh has imported an annual average of 2 million mt of food grain to fill the shortfall.⁵

6. Local production is the main source of staple food, but commercial imports have increased from negligible levels before 1990 to approximately 10 percent of overall grain availability today. Food aid as a percentage share of the national grain supply has decreased from approximately 20 percent in 1974 to less than 5 percent in recent years.
7. Largely because of frequent disasters, the Government is building its capacity to address large-scale food shortages. Bangladesh maintains a large national food reserve as a component of the national public food distribution system (PFDS). This reserve has a capacity of approximately 800,000 mt of grain, of which more than 450,000 mt is maintained for food-security purposes. PFDS storage facilities include five silos, 13 central storage depots and 600 local storage depots.

Lives and Livelihoods

8. Although poverty has declined in Bangladesh during the last decade, the country has the third highest number of hungry people in the world, after India and China;⁶ 63 million people live below the poverty line of less than 2,122 kcal/person/day; 28 million people consume less than 1,805 kcal a day.⁷ Of the 76 percent of the population who live in rural areas,⁸ 37 percent are considered ultra-poor, compared with 19 percent in urban areas. Women are especially vulnerable because of poor access to education, income-earning opportunities and social services, which results in higher destitution, malnutrition and morbidity among women and children.
9. The livelihoods of ultra-poor households depend on a variety of income-earning activities and social support networks. The households most vulnerable to food insecurity generally include those that lack productive assets and/or depend on irregular income from daily wage labour. Landless agricultural day labourers, casual fishers and beggars fall into this category.
10. Other vulnerable households live in disaster-prone areas that are often inaccessible or unsuitable for agricultural production. For example, the Northern Chars region contains high concentrations of ultra-poor households whose fragile livelihoods are undermined by a fragile ecosystem. The area is characterized by high rates of river erosion and flooding. Agricultural productivity is low, partly because of sandy soils that are often unsuitable for cultivation. There is limited infrastructure and access to services, and many parts of the region are extremely remote. Some households take hours or days to reach health and medical facilities. Most of the people living in the Chars are functionally landless: they sharecrop the land of absentee landlords, for which the rent is equivalent to about half their income. Most people are able to consume only about two meals a day. During the October–November lean season, many can afford only one daily meal of rice and green chillies. Unemployment levels during the non-agricultural season are very high. There is some labour-related migration to Dhaka; those who remain in the Chars have limited options for employment and often remain jobless throughout this period.

⁵ The import figure has been averaged out from the annual import figures provided by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management's Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU).

⁶ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2000. *Household Income Expenditure Survey*. Dhaka.

⁷ Estimate based on 19.98 percent of 140 million people (BDHS, 2004) consuming less than 1,805 kcal/day (HIES 2000, BBS).

⁸ UNDP, Human Development Report 2005.



11. The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region also has sizeable concentrations of ultra-poor households dependent on vulnerable and fragile livelihoods. Demographic diversity is high, with 12 different tribal groups residing alongside a non-tribal population. After more than two decades of politically motivated armed conflict, a peace agreement was signed in 1997 and is still under implementation. The region therefore continues to be characterized by chronic insecurity and instability, with a large number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in need of resettlement. Access to cultivable land is a major issue in CHT; much of the territory is reserve forests. Land settlement issues, particularly concerning returned refugees and IDPs, have yet to be addressed following the peace agreement. Cultivation problems are particularly acute in the most remote and hilly areas where many of the smaller ethnic groups reside. These groups traditionally engage in shifting cultivation. Although crop diversity is relatively high, yields tend to be low. Relative to the rest of the country, the CHT lean season is long — from May to September; severe food shortages occur during this period. Most food is grown for household consumption, although a portion is sold in the market to generate disposable income. Farmers face problems in bringing their produce to market because of poor roads, a limited transport system and hilly terrain. Producers are often forced to sell their products to intermediaries at unfavourable terms. Market facilities are generally underdeveloped. The insecure environment and poor infrastructure discourage private sector investment. During the non-agricultural period there is some labour migration to Chittagong city, but most people tend homestead gardens, cut wood from the surrounding forests or remain jobless. Unemployment is a serious problem throughout the year.

Nutrition and Health

12. Bangladesh made improvements in nutrition during the 1990s, but progress remains too slow to meet MDG goals. Nearly half of all children under 5 are underweight;⁹ nearly half of non-pregnant women are malnourished. Dietary intakes of children and adults are severely deficient in vitamins and minerals, particularly iron, vitamin A and zinc.
13. Significant progress has been made with vitamin A deficiency and night blindness among children and pregnant women, but high prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia persists; 67 percent of preschool children, 51 percent of pregnant women and 34 percent of non-pregnant women¹⁰ are affected by anaemia as a result of limited diet.
14. Maternal malnutrition remains worrying: one third of infants are born with low birth weight (LBW)¹¹ because most women and adolescent girls are malnourished.

Vulnerability to Natural Disasters

15. Flooding is common in Bangladesh, affecting the livelihoods of 60 million people in 1998 and 36 million people in 2004. Cyclones, tidal surges and droughts destroy crops, food stocks and the assets of the poor, reduce rural employment opportunities and erode past gains. The ultra-poor living in areas prone to floods, riverbank erosion, coastal cyclones and tidal surges are the most affected.

⁹ Helen Keller Worldwide. 2003. *Health and Nutritional Surveillance for Development*, p. 155. Dhaka.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. 1998. *Mid-Term Evaluation 1998 of the Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project*, p. 38; United Nations Children's Fund/World Health Organization (UNICEF/WHO). 2004. *Low Birth weight – Country, Regional and Global Estimates*. Dhaka.



16. The Government and its partners have made significant investments in disaster preparedness, including early-warning systems and a network of flood and cyclone shelters. In recent years, crisis preparedness and emergency relief systems have been strengthened.

Deprivations in Education

17. Bangladesh's success in increasing primary school enrolment has been significant in raising the country's human development index (HDI) — but one child in seven is still not enrolled in school. Attendance rates remain problematic: fewer than 60 percent of children attend school regularly;¹² the drop-out rate in the five-year primary school programme is 33 percent.¹³ Only 28 percent of children achieve minimal levels of competency in reading, writing, numeracy and life skills.¹⁴ Economic hardship forces parents to keep their children at home for domestic and paid work. This is compounded by a shortage of teachers and teaching materials in schools. Children from poor families and those living in remote areas are the main victims of low-quality education. To achieve universal primary education (MDG 2), Bangladesh must ensure that by 2015 all school-age children are enrolled and drop-outs are eliminated.

Government Policies and Priorities

18. The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) aims to halve the number of poor people by 2015 and to achieve substantial improvements in all aspects of human development. It builds on past achievements, aims to prevent slippages in areas where progress has been made, addresses weaknesses in implementation and includes a large number of targets and benchmarks to enhance the results orientation of poverty reduction efforts. Building on the policy triangle of growth, human development and governance, the PRS aims to make progress in: (i) employment generation; (ii) nutrition; (iii) maternal health; (iv) quality of education; (v) sanitation and safe water; (vi) the criminal justice system; (vii) local governance; and (viii) monitoring of results.
19. These PRS priorities will be pursued through: (i) ensuring a supportive macroeconomic environment; (ii) maximizing pro-poor benefits from growth, with special emphasis on the rural, agricultural and informal sector; (iii) protecting the poor, especially women, against anticipated and unanticipated income/consumption shocks through targeted and other efforts; (iv) fostering human development of the poor by raising their capability through education, health, sanitation and safe water, nutrition and social interventions; (v) supporting participation of the poor, especially women and other disadvantaged groups; (vi) promoting good governance through improved implementation capacity; (vii) improving service delivery of basic needs; and (viii) caring for the environment.
20. The PRS refers to WFP-assisted interventions, including vulnerable group development (VGD), the rural road maintenance programme and food for education (FFE), as effective safety-net interventions in food-insecure regions.

¹² United Nations. 2005. Common Country Assessment (CCA), Bangladesh, p. 40. Dhaka.

¹³ Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), 2002.

¹⁴ CCA Bangladesh, p. 40.



PAST COOPERATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

21. Since the 1970s, WFP's food aid programming has shifted its emphasis from emergency relief to food aid for development. Over the years, WFP, the Government and partners have initiated innovative food aid programmes that have enabled thousands of ultra-poor women to build their skills and gain access to micro-credit and income-earning opportunities. Food aid innovations such as fortification of wheat flour and biscuits with micronutrients are addressing micronutrient deficiencies. WFP is also implementing a two-year protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) to support 22,000 refugees from Myanmar.
22. Substantial lessons for improving the PFDS have been learned from a leakage study¹⁵ by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), whose recommendations are being implemented in partnership with the Government. A technical committee comprising seven ministries and WFP has been established to develop an action plan and monitor implementation of these recommendations. Measures such as the packaging of wheat flour in 15/25 kg packs have reduced leakages and increased awareness of entitlements. The major recommendations of the 2004 audit of the Bangladesh country office have been fully implemented. A full-cost-recovery policy will be applied for all contributions.
23. The 2004 enabling development evaluation concluded that the use of food aid is an effective catalyst for socio-economic development in Bangladesh. It noted that WFP programmes in Bangladesh adhered to the principles of Enabling Development and were relevant to national policies and programmes to support achievement of the MDGs.¹⁶ An evaluation by IFPRI in 2003 concluded that the school feeding programme has a positive impact on enrolment, attendance and drop-out rates and the nutrition of children.
24. Some weaknesses in past implementation were noted; to address these, geographic targeting will be more concentrated, and targeting criteria and entitlement levels will be harmonized across activities. Disaster-management activities were not previously mainstreamed; community disaster preparedness training modules will be mainstreamed into all CP activities. Uncertain resources made it impossible to maintain programming commitments. This CP will provide a framework to address these concerns.

STRATEGIC FOCUS OF THE 2007–2010 COUNTRY PROGRAMME

25. To achieve the MDGs, the Government PRS requires a mix of strategies and policies, including income diversification, agricultural and non-farm investments, access to credit, disaster preparedness and human development.
26. The goal of this CP is to support the Government in achieving the MDGs by improving the food security of ultra-poor households, their nutritional well-being and their livelihoods. The CP will address four areas of WFP's Enabling Development Policy, four of its Strategic Objectives and the Enhanced Commitments to Women (2003–2007). CP activities will contribute to improving the nutritional status of women and children through improved food consumption, education, skills development, livelihood

¹⁵ The 2003 study reported a range of factors contributing to leakage of food aid in the delivery and distribution chain. Leakages related to the WFP-assisted VGD programme averaged 13.6 percent; port losses 1.6 percent; local storage depot losses 1.0 percent; and losses between local storage depots and beneficiaries 8.0 percent.

¹⁶ Food Aid and Development (FAAD) Evaluation, 2004, Executive Summary, para. 10.



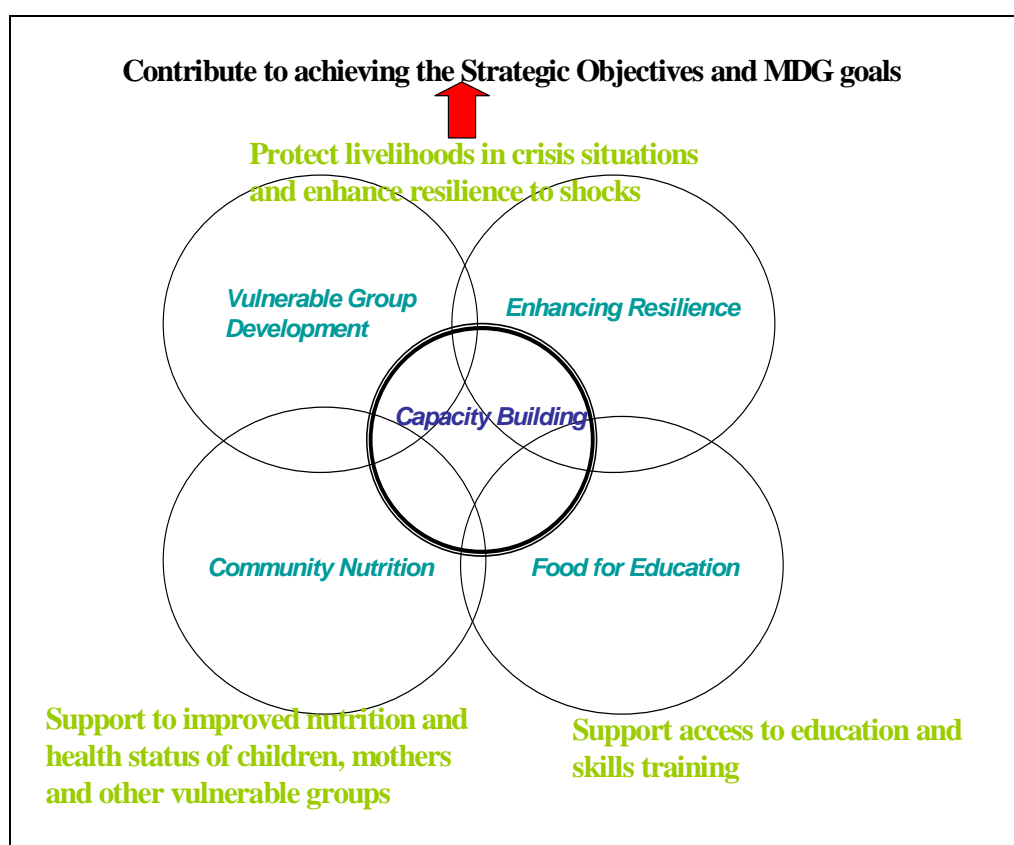
diversification and risk mitigation. Achieving this overall goal will require food-based interventions and strengthened government capacity.

27. The CP will focus on five priority areas:

- enhancing the food consumption and livelihoods of ultra-poor households Strategic Objective 2;
- enhancing resilience to natural disasters Strategic Objective 2;
- enhancing the nutrition of women, children and adolescents Strategic Objective 3;
- enhancing enrolment, attendance and learning, and reducing drop-outs in pre-primary and primary school Strategic Objective 4; and
- strengthening national and local capacity to manage food-based programmes Strategic Objective 5.

28. Figure 1 shows how these elements interact to maximize programme impacts for targeted ultra-poor households and national anti-hunger initiatives.

Figure 1: Country Programme Framework



29. WFP's strategy for this CP is to contribute to sustainable outcomes in health, nutrition, education and sustainable livelihoods through integrated and well-targeted programmes, with a focus on capacity building.

30. Three important principles will guide the activities of the new CP:
- (i) greater geographical concentration of complementary programmes to maximize the impact in places of highest need;
 - (ii) integrated packages designed to build synergy and bring complementary interventions to the same locations; and
 - (iii) greater engagement in policy dialogues and capacity building at the national and local levels.

Integrated Approaches

31. Isolated single-sector activities are insufficient to fight hunger and move households out of poverty. In regions of greatest need, where broad-based development gains are slow and shocks continue to impair progress, a convergence of inputs and services is required to generate synergies. This strategic approach is acknowledged in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and calls for: (i) integrated packages of community-based nutrition interventions implemented in tandem with other interventions to improve food security; (ii) food-based nutrition strategies to meet micronutrient deficiencies and dietary diversification; and (iii) community mobilization and sensitization on health and nutrition practices.¹⁷
32. To prioritize activities and resources in areas of highest need, a vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) geographical targeting analysis was undertaken, applying a variant of the small area estimation technique.¹⁸ The analysis resulted in estimates of the proportion of population below the lower poverty line, at the *upazila* (sub-district) level. The lower poverty line is food calorie consumption of less than 1,805 kcal/person/day.
33. Mapping the data revealed the following six geographical areas with concentrations of highly food-insecure *upazilas*:
- **The northwest**, characterized by frequent natural disasters and high in-country migration by heads of households. Priority districts include Thakurgaon, Nilpharmi, Lamonirhat, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Joypurhat.
 - **The North-Central Chars**, characterized by unstable marginal lands near the Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers. Most poor households are functionally landless, and sharecropping on the land of absentee landlords is common. The area is vulnerable to floods. Priority districts include Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj and Pabna.
 - **The drought zone**, north of the Padma river. Priority districts include Nawabganj, Rajshahi, Noagaon and Natore.
 - **The Haor Basin**, which is frequently flooded. The population is scattered, lives on small patches of raised land surrounded by waterlogged fields and relies on sharecropping. Sherpur, Mymensingh, Netrakona and Kishoreganj are priority districts.

¹⁷ UNDAF, 2005, pp. 21–22.

¹⁸ Government of Bangladesh, BBS and WFP. 2004. *Local Estimation of Poverty and Malnutrition in Bangladesh*. Dhaka. The small-area estimation technique was pioneered by the World Bank; it has been used to target development assistance in countries such as Brazil, Cambodia, South Africa and Thailand.



- **The coastal zone**, including a number of islands and *chars* (land created by river erosion or silting), where most of the land is washed away by tides and flooding. The priority district is Bhola.
 - **CHT**, an insecure and unstable region despite the 1997 peace agreement that halted more than two decades of conflict between the 12 ethnic groups and the Government. There are many IDPs; many indigenous people live in remote areas and rely on shifting cultivation to meet household food needs. WFP has assisted CHT since 1998 under a special project funded by bilateral donations, which is now to be integrated into the regular CP.
34. Defining these geographical areas is the first step in identifying priority areas. The annexed map provides more detail at the *upazila* level of priority areas in the clusters and districts identified. Further analysis will inform community-level and household-level targeting.
35. Types of activity will be prioritized according to the needs and capacities in targeted areas and the comparative advantages of WFP partners. WFP will work with the Government to focus its nationwide VGD programme in high-priority areas to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

Capacity-Building Towards an Exit Strategy.

36. The CP exit strategy will be based on: (i) progress made in strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of the Government and partners to manage food assistance programmes; and (ii) related changes in WFP's role in the country. After 30 years of food aid assistance in Bangladesh, there is strong demand among the Government, donors and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners for WFP to support the strengthening of technical and institutional capacity to target, manage and show results from food-based programmes.
37. The 2005 PRS acknowledges major weakness in safety-net programmes in Bangladesh, including: (i) lack of integration and coordination among programmes and providers; (ii) inadequate coverage; and (iii) inadequate understanding of the gender dimension of the poverty and socio-economic profile of the poor. WFP is a member of the working group on the formulation of a social protection policy to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Bangladesh will benefit from a national social-protection policy that realizes multiple gains to meet the needs of the changing economy.
38. In recognition of the improved rice production over the years, the increasing role of the private sector in catering for the shortfall in food production and declining multilateral food assistance to Bangladesh, targeted food aid assistance in the medium term will focus on: (i) addressing the inter-generational problems of malnutrition; (ii) human resource development; and (iii) support to livelihood strategies that mainstream risk reduction and disaster management. Capacity-building in local production of fortified foods, VAM, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), supply-chain management and results-based management (RBM) will be pursued.



Component 1

⇒ *Enhance Food Consumption and Livelihoods of Ultra-Poor Women*

Vulnerable Group Development

39. VGD is an integrated approach that provides food combined with training; it builds on experience from VGD and other CP activities to identify ultra-poor women trapped in the vicious cycle of hunger and uses food rations to enable them to participate in government- and NGO-supported development activities.
40. VGD aims to reach ultra-poor rural women with complementary inputs that will improve their nutrition and enhance their livelihoods and self-reliance. Over 24 months, the VGD assistance package will include:
 - fortified wheat flour or rice to offset the opportunity costs of participating in training programmes and to improve nutrition;
 - training in health and nutrition, civil and legal rights, literacy and numeracy, HIV awareness and prevention measures, child trafficking, budget management, and income-generating activities;
 - enrolment in personal savings programmes;
 - micro-credit aimed at securing small businesses to enhance livelihood security; and
 - NGO membership for women who repay loans.
41. Training in income-generating activities will reflect needs identified by beneficiaries in marketable skills/production to ensure that the skills learned enable women to expand their income-earning opportunities. Training will include homestead gardening to increase access to nutritious food.
42. Strict selection criteria will be followed to ensure the inclusion of women from ultra-poor households; the selection process will be closely monitored.
43. Women will be organized into groups. The development service packages will be designed and implemented by NGOs.

Component 2

⇒ *Enhance the Nutrition and Health of Vulnerable Children, Mothers and Adolescents*

Community Nutrition (CN)

44. The PRS states that “deprivation in health and nutrition (including food security) are the two most important causes and consequences of poverty”.¹⁹ In line with this assessment, the Government is reorganizing its major nutrition interventions and mainstreaming nutrition into the PRS. From 2006, the Government’s principal nutrition efforts —

¹⁹ The FAAD evaluation of Bangladesh pointed out that “given the extent of children’s malnutrition, and its consequences for education and girls’ livelihoods, food is an indispensable key to development for this target group. Besides enabling them to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related needs, children and expecting and nursing mothers were felt to deserve more attention in the CP.”



currently in the form of a National Nutrition Programme (NNP) — will be reformulated under the Health, Nutrition and Population Service Programme (HNPSP).

45. The aim of the new CP is to address nutrition in a holistic way that ensures sustainable effects among nutritionally vulnerable people.
46. The CN component will provide services for children aged 6 to 24 months, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls. The main components will be:
 - blended foods, fortified wheat flour and iodized salt;
 - nutrition, health and life-skills education;
 - deworming;
 - vitamin A and iron folic acid tablets; and
 - immunization.
47. WFP will help to develop the HNPSP strategy and complement the Government's roll-out of nutrition services by providing nutrition interventions in food-insecure regions not covered by the NNP, and initially not covered by the HNPSP. In line with NNP, the CN component will provide training, food supplementation, micronutrient supplements and services to adolescents. Partnership with donors and government programmes will be established to ensure the necessary technical and financial support for sub-programme activities, for example micronutrient supplements, deworming, and health and sanitation programmes. Partnerships will be developed with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Helen Keller International. CN activities will phase out and transfer when HNPSP services are fully in place. Collaboration with United Nations organizations on safe motherhood could be considered in relevant areas of the country.
48. Training in health and nutrition is fundamental to helping women to meet the needs of their children. Training in legal issues, basic numeracy and literacy, and income-generating activities all contribute to greater awareness, self-respect and self-reliance. The training package is an essential part of the CN component.
49. Bangladesh has a relatively low prevalence of HIV/AIDS²⁰ reported among risk groups such as sex workers, migrants and drug abusers, who are not necessarily located in food-insecure areas. WFP will mainstream HIV/AIDS through partnerships and strengthening awareness and education in all its programmes. In line with the common United Nations plan to support national responses to HIV epidemics 2005–2010, WFP will support ongoing education and communication activities.
50. WFP has been a pioneer in the development of fortified wheat flour for the VGD programme. It will take a lead in local development of a low-cost nutritious food for children, in collaboration with partners and the private sector.
51. WFP, UNICEF and the World Bank will collaborate on a global child hunger initiative to address the nutritional needs of children in Bangladesh.

²⁰ NASP, 1 December 2004.



Component 3

⇒ *Enhance Learning and Nutrition of School-Aged Children*

Food for Education (FFE)

52. The Government is committed to achieving the MDG goal of universal primary education by 2015. The UNDAF supports this by committing to the principle that all children “including the ultra-poor” have access to formal and non-formal education.²¹
53. To increase enrolment and attendance in schools with poor infrastructure and limited facilities, the Government, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, UNICEF and other stakeholders are reforming the primary education sector, focusing on quality improvement through better governance, management reform and the introduction of performance indicators, improved classroom infrastructure and teaching facilities, and the use of incentives to improve teachers’ commitment.
54. The FFE component supplements these initiatives by providing a food supplement to increase enrolment and attendance, reduce drop-out and enhance learning while improving micronutrient intake. Fortified biscuits will be provided daily to children attending government-managed and NGO-managed primary schools in targeted areas.
55. A 2004 evaluation by IFPRI²² on the impact of the school feeding programme concluded that it increased enrolment and attendance and reduced drop-out rates; the fortified biscuits were largely additional to children’s normal diet and improved their nutrition status.
56. School feeding will target regions with low enrolment and attendance and high food insecurity. Parents and community participation in school management committees will promote local ownership of the activities.
57. WFP and UNICEF are working on an early childhood education pilot in CHT to reach children aged 3 to 6. Support centres will provide communities with health and education services, including pre-school classes, local planning for water and sanitation, parenting education, support for immunization days and vitamin A distribution. WFP will provide fortified biscuits for preschool children.
58. The Government is encouraging “the use of schools as centres for dissemination of ideas about health care and nutrition”.²³ Partnerships with NGOs and UNICEF will be optimized to support early childhood learning for pre-school children in targeted areas where facilities and staff are available. A deworming component will be included in collaboration with WHO, in line with school feeding essential package guidelines.
59. WFP’s assistance will be phased out when the gender parity of district primary school net enrolment exceeds 85 percent and government programmes are in place. WFP will provide technical assistance for the government to develop and implement a national school feeding programme.

²¹ UNDAF 2005, p. 22.

²² Ahmed, A.U. 2004. *Impact of Feeding Children in School: Evidence from Bangladesh*. Dhaka, IFPRI.

²³ PRS, 2005, p. 31.



Component 4

⇒ *Enhance Community Resiliency to Disasters*

Enhance Resilience

60. The Government has drawn up a strategy for 2004–2008 for disaster management, including elements of early warning, networking, public–private relief responses and investment in preparedness. The 2005 UNDAF defines a role for WFP in these areas.
61. WFP Strategic Objective 2 places a premium on mitigating negative effects in advance of natural disasters in the context of development policy. Relief can be more timely and focused where development investments are made in advance.
62. The enhancement of resilience among vulnerable households and communities requires specific risk-reduction activities. Collaboration with government and development partners will shift disaster management from conventional response and relief practices to a more comprehensive risk-reduction approach.
63. This component will focus on:
 - FFT to develop skills in preparedness planning and survival during crises, and marketable post-disaster skills;
 - food for assets (FFA) to reinforce raised homesteads, flood and cyclone shelters, raised emergency livestock paddocks, enhanced drains, protected drinking-water sources and rural road construction and maintenance;
 - building preparedness among local institutions, including pre-positioning relief items, capacity building of Union Parishad (UP) officials and establishing a financial mechanism for rapid disbursement of additional donor funds for EMOP activities.
64. The activities will vary according to local conditions. The seasonality of hazards will be taken into account, with special attention to gender dimensions of vulnerability.
65. This component will provide a mechanism for a budget revision to facilitate rapid resource mobilization for emergency response and create a risk-reduction framework in the development context.

Component 5

⇒ *Strengthening National Capacity to Manage Food-Assistance and Hunger-Reduction Programmes*

66. In line with FAAD policy and the Strategic Plan (2006–2009), WFP will work with the Government and partners to promote dialogue on hunger and food insecurity, advocate for strategies to address hunger and malnutrition, bring together practitioners to influence policy and programme development, and provide technical assistance to enhance food-supported interventions.²⁴ These activities will complement existing capacity-building made possible through partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID).

²⁴ Another UNDAF (2005) framework priority is strengthening institutional capacities and mechanisms to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups. p. 25.



67. DFID committed US\$7.7 million for six years in October 2003. Two phases were planned to strengthen food aid programmes, with a focus on advocacy, disaster preparedness and response, and knowledge management. The second phase, for US\$4.3 million, will be based on the successes of the first; it will start in October 2006 to coincide with implementation of this CP. Funds made available for the second phase of the DFID partnership will be utilized to strengthen national capacity to manage food assistance and hunger reduction programmes.

Strengthening Technical Capacities

68. WFP will work with the Government and other partners on early warning, emergency needs assessment and disaster management to facilitate efficient early response.
69. Capacity-building interventions will be linked to WFP projects and independent interventions. The goal will be to strengthen the efficiency, transparency and impact of partners working on hunger and poverty reduction. WFP will train partners in problem analysis using VAM, in monitoring and reporting and RBM.

Policy Dialogue

70. Through policy and technical dialogues on food security, WFP will highlight issues of hunger and malnutrition and gather best practices to influence policy discussions. Focus areas will include food fortification, import tariff policy for micronutrient premix and sector-wide approach (SWAP) negotiations related to nutrition, health and food security.

Knowledge Management and Advocacy

71. Knowledge management will focus on research that informs policy-making, including communication of operational lessons learned and interpretation of professional and scientific thinking on issues relating to hunger and poverty.
72. Work on policy and programming will include:
- food security analysis and mapping of urban areas;
 - longitudinal analysis of the food security of the poor and vulnerable for the design and advocacy of food-security policies and programmes;
 - study of the livelihoods of the poor in highly food-insecure areas;
 - effectiveness and relevance of food, cash, and food-plus-cash in enhancing the food security of the ultra-poor; and
 - review of the relevance and feasibility of disaster-insurance schemes.

LOGISTICS, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Logistics Arrangements

73. WFP will continue to use the PFDS to receive, store and deliver cereals for the CP. WFP will cover 50 percent of the expenses incurred by the Government for internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH) from the port of entry to the local storage depots (LSDs) nearest to distribution points. It will use Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis



System (COMPAS) to monitor commodities handled in the PFDS and will cover transport and handling costs to final distribution points (FDPs), in consultation with partners.

74. For blended food, biscuits, pulses and wheat flour, WFP will arrange transport, storage and handling using the facilities of local service providers, in accordance with corporate guidelines. ITSH costs will be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in market prices using the landside transport, storage and handling (LTSH) matrix.
75. WFP will package food at regional warehouses. The logistics capacity of the Government and NGO partners will be enhanced through technical assistance, provision of non-food items and training in logistics, transport, procurement, port development and warehousing, food quality and safety monitoring, milling and micronutrient fortification. This will complement the 2003 IFPRI leakage study recommendations and build capacity to address leakages in the food distribution chain.

Appraisal

76. The CP activities are based on lessons learned during previous CPs and improvements recommended during consultations with the Government and stakeholders. For established activities, a formal appraisal will be required only when they are expanded to new priority areas. The country office will continue to consult stakeholders on initiatives that are not yet fully developed.

Resources

77. CP activities will be funded from three major sources: WFP regular development resources, the Government and WFP directed multilateral contributions such as twinning funds for government food contributions and donor support for capacity-building. The Government has been asked to cover the costs of managing its food contribution in the long term. During the CP period, twinning donors for Government will have to be identified until it can provide these costs. A flexible budget with resourcing scenarios will be used to define the other direct operational cost (ODOC) and direct support cost (DSC) rates for contributions, on the basis of the resources already allocated to the CP.
78. All contributions will comply with the full-cost recovery policy and will be registered in WFP's corporate system. Resources mobilized by the country office above regular development resources will be considered additional resources to meet the additional needs of the CP.
79. The total CP requirement is US\$309.1 million to benefit 7.7 million ultra-poor people. The budget submitted to the Board for regular development resources is US\$101.6 million to benefit 2.4 million beneficiaries (see Annexes II and III). Efforts will be made to mobilize additional cash resources from donors to complement the food assistance provided.
80. Wheat will be milled and fortified at 37 facilities managed by NGO partners; WFP funds the operational costs of the mills and premix supplies. Regular development resources will require 11 facilities and 46,150 mt of wheat a year. WFP multilateral funding is essential for the wheat requirement under component 1, because most of the government contribution is in rice.
81. VGD will not start until food commodities are committed for the two-year life of the component. Priority areas have been identified that will be covered as commodities are confirmed. FFE start after a review of the resourcing situation to ensure a reasonable duration.



Management

82. The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance is the communication channel between the government and WFP on policy matters. Ministries are responsible for implementing the activities under their mandates.
83. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs will be responsible for the VGD component. Component 2, CN, will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education will be responsible for FFE, component 3. The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives will be responsible for asset building and disaster preparedness interventions, component 4. Component 5 will involve all relevant ministries and NGO partners.
84. The Planning Commission will oversee sectoral allocation of resources. The Finance Division will be responsible for maintaining global accounts and overall reporting. A joint CP steering committee of ministry representatives will be co-chaired by ERD and WFP every six months.
85. Secretaries from the ministries involved will rotate as chair of the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) every three months to review programme implementation issues. Inter-ministerial meetings will be organized where activities overlap.
86. The country office gender team will continue to monitor implementation of the Enhanced Commitments to Women. Ministry and NGO partners will be encouraged to recruit more women staff and ensure that women participate in decision-making.
87. Collaboration with United Nations agencies is strong and will be optimized during implementation of the CP. WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen national capacity to design and implement food-security policies. MOUs will be developed with other United Nations agencies to enhance parallel and joint programming.
88. Collaboration with NGOs is productive: in each zone with WFP-supported activities, one lead NGO will be responsible for facilitating the targeting of WFP assistance. Partnerships will be developed with local organizations, especially in CHT.

Monitoring

89. With the roll-out of RBM in the country office, managing for results will be enhanced. A logical framework with indicators, baselines and targets will be developed for each component. Partners will be trained in data collection and analysis to inform programming decisions. Monitoring findings will be shared periodically with government counterparts and partners so that implementation problems can be corrected.
90. WFP field offices will facilitate and monitor the implementation of CP activities and will be responsible for strengthening partnerships with local government and NGOs.
91. Mid-term outcome monitoring will assess the achievement of results using quantitative and qualitative data. A Headquarters-led mid-term evaluation of the CP will be undertaken.

Evaluation

92. Baseline and follow-up studies will be undertaken in priority areas. Country-level evaluations will be carried out to guide programme design and implementation.



ANNEX I-A

BENEFICIARY COVERAGE AND FOOD ALLOCATION PER ACTIVITY				
Country programme activity	Quantity of commodities (mt)	Distribution by activity (%)	Number of participants male/female/total (CP period)	Percentage of female participants
	Regular Development Resources	Regular Development Resources		
Component 1: Vulnerable Group Development Plus (VGD-Plus)	184 600	70	341 000	100
Component 2: Community Nutrition (CN)	8 000	4	112 000*	75
Component 3: Food for Education (FfE)	33 000	16	734 000**	50
Component 4: Enhancing Resilience (ER)	20 000	10	80 000***	75
Total commodity (mt)	245 600			
Total participants			1 267 000	
Total beneficiaries			2 356 200	

* Component 2 will complement Component 1.

** 20 percent of Component 3 is estimated overlapping with Component 1.

*** 20 percent of Component 4 is estimated overlapping with Component 1.



ANNEX I-B

COMMODITY TYPE AND RATION SIZE					
Country programme activity	Types of food	Monthly ration size per each participant (kg)	Individual ration size (g/person/day)		Nutritional content (kcal, percentage kcal from protein) **
	Regular Development Resources	Regular Development Resources	Commodity	Ration	
Component 1: Vulnerable Group Development Plus (VGD-Plus)	Atta	25	Atta	170	595 kcal 13.14%
			Rice	170	612 kcal 7.70%
Component 2: Community Nutrition (CN)	Wheat-soya blend (WSB)	6	WSB	200*	740 kcal 21.62%
Component 3: Food for Education (FfE)	Fortified biscuits	1.5	Fortified biscuits	75	300 kcal 1004%
Component 4: Enhancing Resilience (ER)	Wheat	50 ***	Wheat	340	1,122 kcal 14.90%
			Rice	340	1,224 kcal 7.77%

* Under the CN activity, pregnant and lactating women, children (6-24 months) and adolescent girls will be assisted.

** Nutritional value refers to WFP rations only.

*** Adjustment will be made based on FFA and FFT.



ANNEX II: RESULTS AND RESOURCES MATRIX — DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME BANGLADESH 10410.0 (2007–2010)

Results hierarchy	Performance indicators ¹	Risks, assumptions	Resources required
<p>Goal at national level:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce proportion of people in extreme poverty. 2. Reduce under-5 child mortality rate. 3. Reduce maternal malnutrition. 4. Increase net enrolment rate in primary education. 	<p>National-level impact indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Share of poorest quintile in national consumption. ➤ Under-5 mortality rate. ➤ Infant mortality rate. ➤ Proportion of mothers who are malnourished. ➤ Net enrolment rate in primary education. 		
<p>UNDAF outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The most vulnerable groups have improved life conditions, skills, services and job opportunities. 2. Human security is strengthened and vulnerability to social, economic and natural risks is reduced. 3. Social changes are realized to reduce discriminatory practices and to pursue equity and employment for women and girls. 4. Survival and development rights of vulnerable groups are ensured within an environmentally sustainable framework. 	<p>UNDAF outcome indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Percentage of ultra-poor with access to life skills training, income earning, micro-credit services. ➤ Proportion of ultra-poor households with access to emergency food assistance. ➤ Percentage of ultra-poor households with access to nutritional food support. ➤ Net enrolment ratio in primary education. ➤ Percentage of ultra-poor women beneficiaries. ➤ Literacy rate differential. ➤ Infant and maternal mortality rates. 		

¹ Baseline and targets to be established; budget provisions are kept in DSC.



ANNEX II: RESULTS AND RESOURCES MATRIX — DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME BANGLADESH 10410.0 (2007–2010)

Results hierarchy	Performance indicators ¹	Risks, assumptions	Resources required
WFP CP outcome(s):	WFP CP outcome indicators		
Activity 1: Vulnerable group development plus 1. Improved food consumption and enhanced livelihoods among ultra-poor households.	1.1 Change in proportion of beneficiary household expenditures on food. 1.2 Change in percentage of beneficiary households having at least three full meals per day. 1.3 Change in percentage of beneficiary households consuming a balanced diet including carbohydrates, proteins, fat/oil and vitamins. 1.4 Percentage change in value of beneficiary households' physical productive assets. 1.5 Percentage of nutritional anaemia among ultra-poor women receiving fortified wheat flour. 1.6 User rate of acquired income-generating skills among trained ultra-poor women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complementary development programmes continue. ➤ Political and economic stability. ➤ Major natural disasters well managed. ➤ Required resources made available by donors and Government. 	Activity 1: US\$243,651,699
Activity 2: Community nutrition 2. Improved nutrition of women, children and adolescents.	2.1 Percentage of wasting (weight/height) among children under 2. 2.2 Percentage of stunting (height/age) among children under 2. 2.3 Percentage of underweight among children under 2. 2.4 Percentage of nutritional anaemia among ultra-poor pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and children under 2. 2.5 Incidence of low birth weight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Other causes of malnutrition do not result in epidemic; they are manageable if they do. ➤ Partnership with UNICEF and the Government to promote basic health activities is in place. ➤ Required resources made available by donors and the Government. 	Activity 2: US\$12,354,604



ANNEX II: RESULTS AND RESOURCES MATRIX — DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME BANGLADESH 10410.0 (2007–2010)

Results hierarchy	Performance indicators ¹	Risks, assumptions	Resources required
<p>Activity 3: Food for education</p> <p>3. Increased pre-primary and primary school enrolment and attendance, reduced drop-out and enhanced learning at primary schools.</p>	<p>3.1 Numbers of boys and girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools.</p> <p>3.2 Numbers of boys and girls attending WFP-assisted pre-primary schools.</p> <p>3.3 Absolute enrolment of boys and girls in grade 5 expressed as percentage of absolute enrolment of girls in grade 1.</p> <p>3.4 Percentages of girls and boys in WFP-assisted schools attending classes during the school year.</p> <p>3.5 Teachers' perception of children's ability to concentrate and learn in school as a result of school feeding.</p> <p>3.6 Rates of success in grade 5 achievement test (boys and girls).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Political and economic stability. ➤ Education system functions as at present. ➤ Required resources made available by donors and the Government. 	<p>Activity 3: US\$32,263,774</p>
<p>Activity 4: Enhancing resilience</p> <p>4. Enhanced disaster resilience of the ultra-poor in areas of high recurrent shocks.</p>	<p>4.1 Preparedness measures taken at the community and institutional levels.</p> <p>4.2 Percentage change in beneficiary community/households resilience-enhancing physical assets.</p> <p>4.3 Percentage of properly maintained resilience-enhancing physical assets created/rehabilitated under the programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supportive government policy for comprehensive risk reduction strategy continues. ➤ Project participants put their increased knowledge on disaster preparedness and mitigation into practice. 	<p>Activity 4: US\$19,319,812</p>



ANNEX II: RESULTS AND RESOURCES MATRIX — DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME BANGLADESH 10410.0 (2007–2010)

Results hierarchy	Performance indicators ¹	Risks, assumptions	Resources required
<p>Activity 5: National capacity-building in food-based programming</p> <p>5. Enhanced capacity of government and partners to manage food-based programmes.</p>	<p>5.1 Increased dialogue with the Government to identify potential areas for technical assistance and cooperation.</p> <p>5.2 Increased capacity of national government to identify food needs, develop strategies and carry out food-based programmes.</p>	<p>➤ Supportive government commitment and policy environment for food security continues.</p>	

Note: A full logical framework is available on request, in English only.



ANNEX III

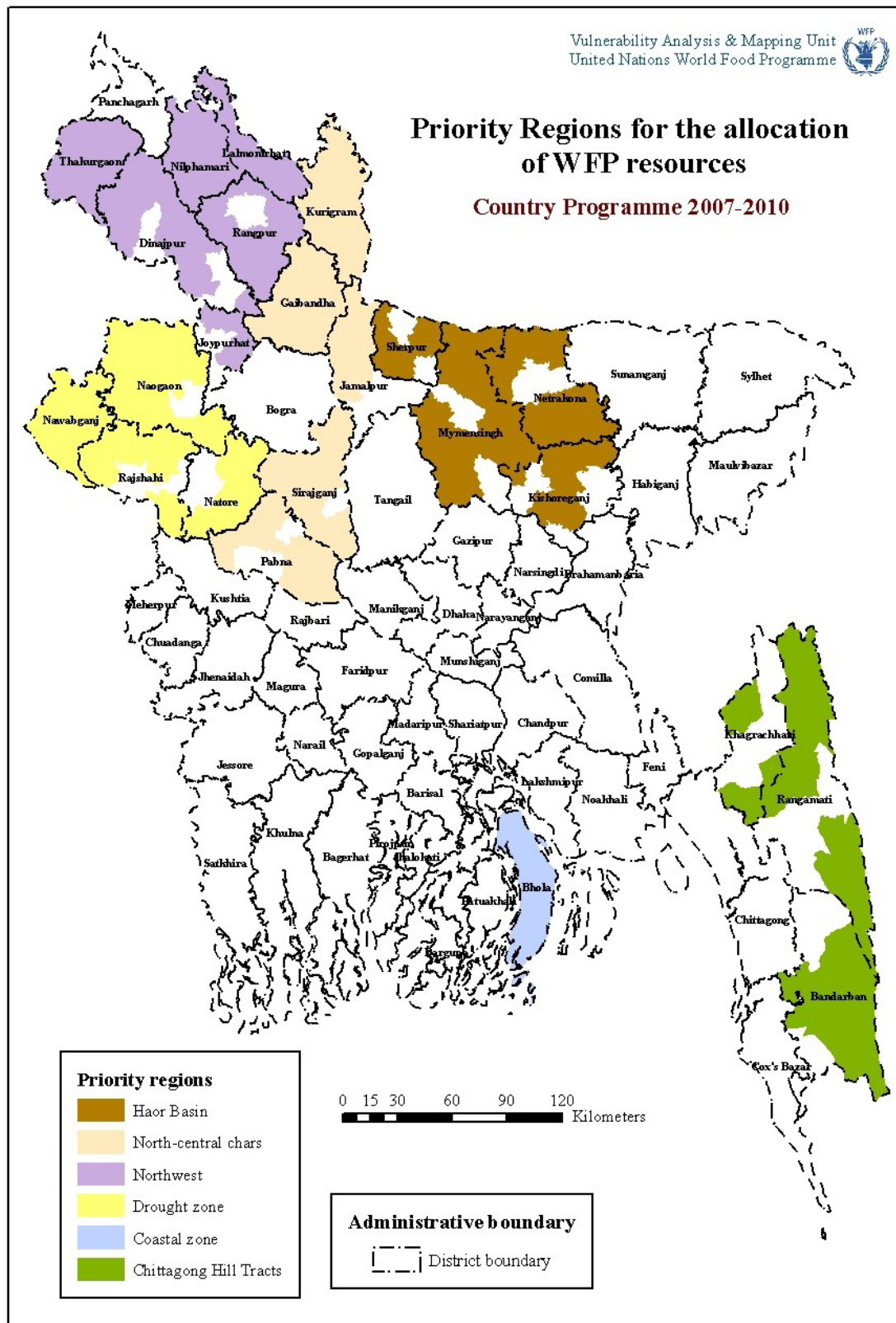
BUDGET SUMMARY FOR WFP BANGLADESH COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2007-2010)- BY COMPONENT					
Cost items	Regular Development Resources				
	Component-1	Component-2	Component-3	Component-4	Total
Food Commodities (mt)	184 600	8 000	33 000	20 000	245 600
Food Commodities (Value)	27 863 524	2 820 000	19 800 000	3 018 800	53 502 324
External Transport	13 215 135	572 704	2 362 402	1 431 759	17 582 000
LTSH (total)	6 440 246	281 176	1 112 445	707 553	8 541 420
LTSH (cost per mt)	34.89	35.15	33.71	35	139
ODOC	7 814 418	144 000	1 593 977	360 000	9 912 395
Total Direct Operational Costs	55 333 323	3 817 880	24 868 824	5 518 112	89 538 139
DSC ¹	4 180 667	159 453	657 744	398 632	5 396 496
ISC ²	4 165 979	278 413	1 786 860	414 172	6 645 424
Total Costs	63 679 970	4 255 746	27 313 427	6 330 917	101 580 060

Note: 50 percent of WSB (multilateral funded) is assumed in-kind contribution; the remaining is purchased locally

¹ The DSC amount is an indicative figure for information purposes. The annual DSC allotment for a CP is reviewed and set annually following an assessment of DSC requirements and resource availability.

² The ISC rate may be amended by the Board during the period covered by the CP.





The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
BANBEIS	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CN	community nutrition
COMPAS	Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System
CP	country programme
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DSC	direct support costs
EMOP	emergency operation
ERD	Economic Relations Division
FAAD	Food Aid and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDP	final delivery point
FFA	food for assets
FFE	food for education
FFT	food for training
FPMU	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
GDP	gross domestic product
HDI	Human Development Index
HIES	Household Income Expenditure Survey
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HNPSP	Health, Nutrition and Population Service Programme
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ITSH	internal transport, storage and handling
LBW	low birthweight
LSD	local storage depot
LTSH	landside transport storage and handling
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MFU	milling fortification unit
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding



NGO	non-governmental organization
NNP	National Nutrition Programme
ODB	Regional Bureau Bangkok (Asia)
ODOC	other direct operational costs
PFDS	public food distribution system
PMC	Programme Monitoring Committee
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SO	special operation
SWAP	sector-wide approach
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UP	Union Parishad
VAM	vulnerability assessment and mapping
VGD	vulnerable group development
WHO	World Health Organization
WSB	wheat-soya blend