

BANGLADESH


High food prices and climatic shock are exacerbating acute food insecurity in Bangladesh

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

March - September 2023

Published on June 1, 2023

CURRENT SITUATION: MARCH - APRIL 2023


 **8.9M**
(24% of the population analysed)

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	973,955 People in Emergency
Phase 3	7,932,649 People in Crisis
Phase 2	13,543,460 People in Stress
Phase 1	15,786,775 People in food security

PROJECTED SITUATION: MAY - SEPTEMBER 2023

 **11.9M**
(31% of the population analysed)

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	2,219,890 People in Emergency
Phase 3	9,694,196 People in Crisis
Phase 2	12,897,716 People in Stress
Phase 1	13,425,038 People in food security

Overview

Nearly 9 million people in parts of Bangladesh (24 percent of the analysed population) experienced high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in IPC Phase 3 and 4 between March and April 2023 (harvest season). An estimated 7.9 million people are in IPC Phase 3, Crisis and nearly 1 million people are in IPC Phase 4, Emergency. High inflation, coupled with reduced incomes and repeated climatic shocks are putting extreme stress on the poorest households and driving acute food insecurity in the analysed population. Urgent action is required to protect their livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps. A majority of the analyzed districts have been prone to shocks and previously classified between moderate-to-severe levels of chronic food insecurity (IPC Bangladesh Chronic Food Insecurity Situation 2019-2024 report).

The situation is projected to deteriorate between May and September 2023 due to extreme weather events such as cyclones and flooding. The number of people in Phase 3 or higher is likely to increase to 11.9 million in this period – an 8 percent increase from the current period. Over 2 million people are projected to be in IPC Phase 4, Emergency between May and September 2023 with a majority of these people being forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. It is likely that household access to food will further deteriorate in this period due to the slow recovery from shocks that occurred in 2022 – severe flooding and prolonged exposure to high food prices – as well as a lean season.

The influx of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) will continue to increase due to the reduction in humanitarian assistance in March 2023 and funding shortfalls in the projected period.

Key Drivers



High food prices

Bangladesh's annual inflation rate increased to 8.78 percent in February of 2023 from 8.57 percent in the previous month. It was the highest inflation rate in three months, driven by higher prices of food items (8.13 percent vs. 7.76 percent in January) impacting the purchasing power of most households.



Reduced employment/income opportunities

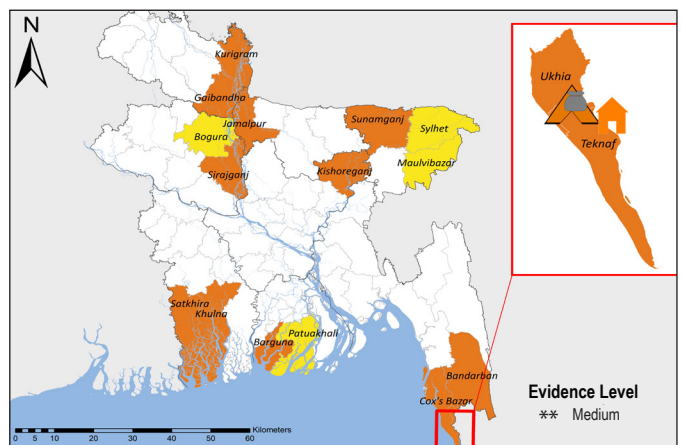
Vulnerability to shocks and loss of employment especially in agriculture is the predominant districts where there was an overall decrease in income.



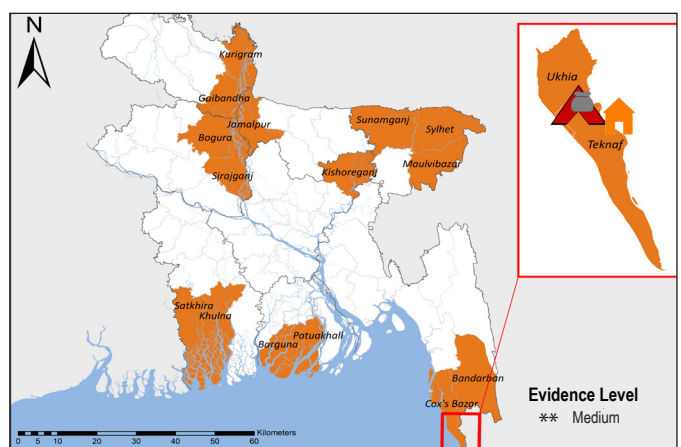
Climatic shocks:

In 2022, heavy monsoon rains and water flowing downstream from India's northeast have inundated large parts of the flood prone Haor region leaving millions of people marooned and triggering a humanitarian crisis - forcing families to seek shelter on higher ground and temporary flood shelters.

Current Acute Food Insecurity : March - April 2023



Projected Acute Food Insecurity : May - September 2023



Key for the Map

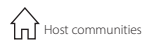
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20 percent of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas not analysed



Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs)



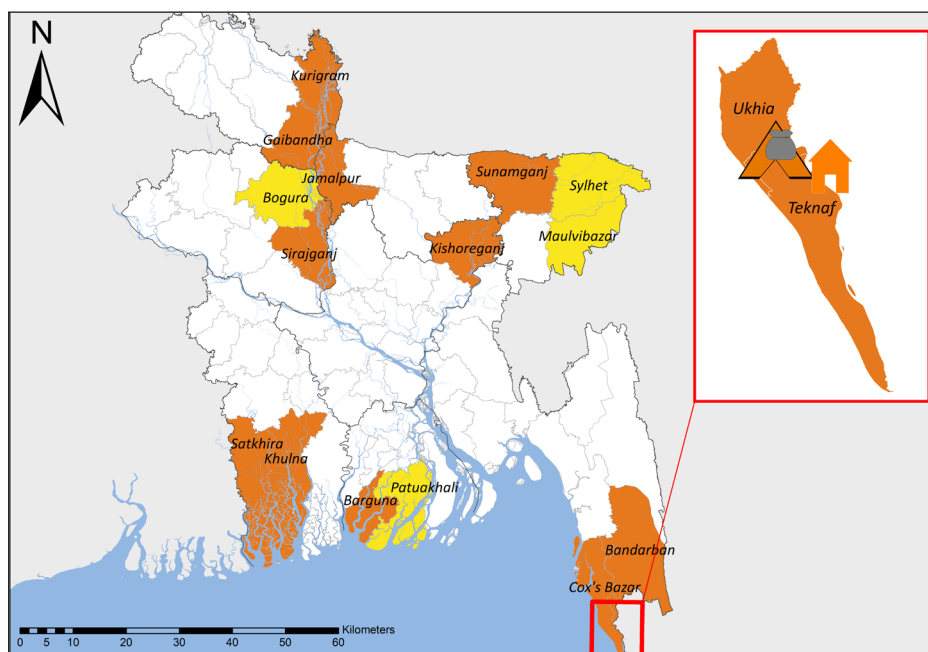
Host communities

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

> 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance

> 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (MARCH – APRIL 2023)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20 percent of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Areas not analysed

Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs)

Host communities

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

> 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance

> 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Evidence Level

** Medium

Division	District	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#pp	%		#people	%
Barishal	Barguna	1,010,530	404,212	40	404,212	40	151,580	15	50,527	5	-	-	3	202,107	20
	Patuakhali	1,727,254	690,902	40	777,264	45	172,725	10	86,363	5	-	-	2	259,088	15
	Barisal Total	2,737,784	1,095,114	40	1,181,476	43	324,305	12	136,889	5	-	-		461,194	17
Chattogram	Bandarban	481,109	216,499	45	144,333	30	96,222	20	24,055	5	-	-	3	120,277	25
	Cox's bazar	2,463,329	1,354,831	55	492,666	20	492,666	20	123,166	5	-	-	3	615,832	25
	Chattogram Total	2,944,438	1,571,330	53	636,999	22	588,888	20	147,222	5	-	-		736,110	25
Cox's Host & Displaced	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals	957,971	47,899	5	478,986	50	383,188	40	47,899	5	-	-	3	431,087	45
	Host communities	359,936	107,981	30	125,978	35	107,981	30	17,997	5	-	-	3	125,978	35
	Cox's Host & Displaced Total	1,317,907	155,879	12	604,963	46	491,169	37	65,895	5	-	-		557,065	42
Dhaka	Kishoreganj	3,267,630	1,633,815	50	980,289	30	653,526	20	-	-	-	-	3	653,526	20
	Dhaka Total	5,767,367	2,633,710	46	1,730,210	30	1,403,447	24	-	-	-	-		1,403,447	24
Mymensingh	Jamalpur	2,499,737	999,895	40	749,921	30	749,921	30	-	-	-	-	3	749,921	30
Khulna	Khulna	2,613,385	1,045,354	40	914,685	35	653,346	25	-	-	-	-	3	653,346	25
	Satkhira	2,196,581	658,974	30	878,632	40	549,145	25	109,829	5	-	-	3	658,974	30
	Khulna Total	4,809,966	1,704,328	35	1,793,317	37	1,202,492	25	109,829	2	-	-		1,312,321	27
Rajshahi	Bogura	3,734,300	1,867,150	50	1,307,005	35	560,145	15	-	-	-	-	2	560,145	15
	Sirajganj	3,357,708	1,846,739	55	839,427	25	671,542	20	-	-	-	-	3	671,542	20
	Rajshahi Total	7,092,008	3,713,889	52	2,146,432	30	1,231,687	17	-	-	-	-		1,231,687	17
Rangpur	Gaibandha	2,562,232	896,781	35	1,153,004	45	384,335	15	128,112	5	-	-	3	512,447	20
	Kurigram	2,329,161	698,748	30	1,048,122	45	465,832	20	116,458	5	-	-	3	582,290	25
	Rangpur Total	4,891,393	1,595,530	33	2,201,127	45	850,167	17	244,570	5	-	-		1,094,737	22
Sylhet	Maulvibazar	2,123,445	849,378	40	955,550	45	318,517	15	-	-	-	-	2	318,517	15
	Sunamganj	2,695,495	539,099	20	943,423	35	943,423	35	269,550	10	-	-	3	1,212,973	45
	Sylhet	3,857,037	1,928,519	50	1,349,963	35	578,556	15	-	-	-	-	2	578,556	15
	Sylhet Total	8,675,977	3,316,996	38	3,248,936	37	1,840,496	21	269,550	3	-	-		2,110,045	24
Grand Total		38,236,840	15,786,775	41	13,543,460	35	7,932,649	21	973,955	3	-	-		8,906,604	24

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and as a result they may be in need of continued action. IPC analyses produce estimates of populations by IPC Phase at area level. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION OVERVIEW (MARCH –APRIL 2023)

In the current period, corresponding with the harvest season, Patuakhali, Bogura, Maulvibazar and Sylhet districts are in IPC Phase 2. All the remaining areas are in IPC Phase 3. According to the analysis, 8.9 million people (24percentage of the analysed population) is experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4. This includes roughly 8 million in IPC Phase 3 and one million in IPC Phase 4. The areas with the highest percentage of the population in IPC Phase 3 or higher are Sunamganj (45 percent), host communities in Cox's Bazar (35 percent), Jamalpur (30 percent), and Satkhira (30 percent), with 45 percent for the FDMN. Among the 15 analyzed districts, Sunamganj has the highest proportion (10 percent) of the population in IPC Phase 4, while Barguna , Patuakhali , Bandarban , Cox's Bazar , host communities in Cox's Bazar, Satkhira , Gaibanda , Kurigram and the FDMN all have 5 percent.

The March IPC analysis focuses on 15 districts, the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) and host communities in Cox Bazar, which includes upazilas (sub-districts) and respective camps of Cox's Bazar that comprise the North-Eastern, North-Western, North-Central, South-Western (Coastal), and South-Eastern (Coastal) regions. Cox's Bazar district has been analysed considering three different populations which include the FDMN, host communities, and other populations of Cox's Bazar district. All the above populations are generally the most food insecure given the high levels of poverty, negative coping strategy use, vulnerability to hazards and shocks, particularly climatic shocks linked to disasters and rainfall variability, along with high food prices.

Hazards and vulnerability

Bangladesh is a riverine and fertile country and the main livelihood activities of the majority of the population is predominantly agriculture, including crop, livestock and fisheries along with other economic activities. However it is one of the most susceptible countries to climate change for which management of climate risks has been central to the country's development. Bangladesh's impressive economic growth is heavily backed by years of systematic investments and interventions in climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

The analysis areas cover approximately 30 percent of Bangladesh's landmass and are categorised into various disaster-prone zones grouped into the following zones: Flash Flood prone North-Eastern/Haor (comprising Sunamganj, Sylhet, and Moulvibazar); Monsoon Flood prone North-Western and North-Central/Haor (including Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Bogura, Jamalpur, and Kishoreganj); Cyclone and Tidal Surge prone South-Western/Coastal (comprising Satkhira, Khulna, Barguna, and Patuakhali); and Cyclone, Landslides, and Flash Flood prone South-Eastern zone/Chittagong Hill Tracts and Coast (composed of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar).

Prior the current period, disasters that have made an impact include heavy flooding and continuous riverbank erosion. Atypical flooding in 2022 impacted over 7 million people and caused over 2 million people to displace, and affected mainly the northeast region, especially affecting districts of Sunamganj and Sylhet with an economic loss of \$507.9 million and \$146.5 million respectively according to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief situation report. The extent of the flooding surpassed any in previous decades including the ones in 1998 and 2004.

The June floods struck the people of the region as they were recovering from another unexpected recent flash flood in late May and mid-April. An estimated 7.2 million people have been affected by flooding and water congestion in the nine northeastern districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh, and Sherpur. Among the nine districts, five that have been especially heavily impacted are Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, and Netrakona. As many as 472,856 people have been taken to around 1,605 shelter centres in a combined effort of the local authorities, armed forces, Fire Service, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). Riverbank erosion continues to make districts such as Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, and Sirajganj highly vulnerable and the leading cause of internal displacement in these districts. Although one cyclone hit the country in the year 2022, the impact was very low and almost negligible compared to the loss and damage brought about by previous cyclones.

Availability

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) estimated total food grains (Rice and Wheat) production for the fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 at 39.04 million metric tons (MMT) and targeted 42.73 MMT in FY 2022-23. Favourable weather conditions would help achieve the targets. During FY 2021-22 the public sector procured about 2.02 MMT of rice which is 39 percent higher compared to the previous fiscal year's procurement. The total import of rice and wheat for the FY 2021-22 was 5.00 MMT, of which rice was 0.99 MMT and wheat was 4.01 MMT.

2022-23 rice area and production report from MOA

	District name	Name of rice				Name of rice			
		Area (ha)				Production (m ton)			
		Aman	Aus	Boro	Total Area	Aman	Aus	Boro	Total Production
1	Bandarban	11258	12439	6174	29871	35899	23665	26529	86093
2	Coxsazar	78327	3550	53815	135692	236040	10366	216337	462743
3	Kurigram	119952	6335	116522	242809	369947	16026	498955	884928
4	Jamalpur	111000	3336	129640	243976	331340	9152	558504	898996
5	Kishorgonj	82620	23885	166656	273161	264863	67101	722000	1053964
6	Patuakhali	189950	20550	16970	227470	449067	53190	65608	567865
7	Barguna	99024	52811	8270	160105	231895	121018	41753	394666
8	Sirajgonj	87918	6089	141050	235057	248883	14990	561428	825301
9	Bogura	183475	15802	186821	386098	596285	45085	707721	1349091
10	Khulna	99935	3630	62730	166295	283793	5633	279382	568808
11	Sathkhira	88525	6895	77220	172640	249257	19457	309882	578596
12	Maulovibazar	101600	42870	57570	202040	300776	118032	228273	647081
13	Sunamgonj	82218	8826	216147	307191	206165	22065	872149	1100379
14	Sylhet	145523	13272	82171	240966	370255	32959	327377	730591
15	Gaibandha	129699	14955	127880	272534	377154	37562	561423	976139

From July 2022 to March 2023, a total of 3.22 MMT food grain was imported (Rice 1.05 MMT, Wheat 2.17 MMT). Imports of rice increased, while wheat decreased towards March 2023. The current Stock of grain as of 21 March 2023 is 1.94 MMT (Rice 1.52 MMT, Wheat 0.41 MMT, Paddy 3 Thousand MT) under Govt. public food distribution system (PFDS). In March 2023, public stock has been prevailing at a satisfactory level per the suggested National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2020.

The public stock of food grain has increased compared to the previous year. Total food grains distribution through the PFDS during FY 2021-22 was 3.1 MMT which was a record for the Public Food Distribution System and it was 34 percent higher compared to the previous fiscal year's actual distribution. According to the proposed revised food budget for the fiscal year 2022-23, the target of total public food grain distribution has been set at 3.28 MMT, of which 2.58 MMT is rice and 0.71 MMT is wheat. Until 21st March 2023, the PFDS distribution was 2 MMT.

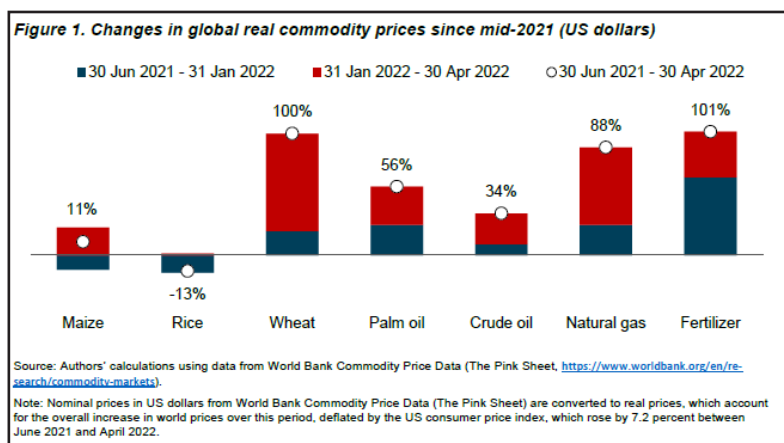
The prices are likely to impact production cost and profitability. The marginal increase will not cover the higher costs of inputs such as fertilizer or associated transportation or processing costs from higher fuel prices. It is not likely to cover the expected loss in income due to lower production yields as farmers use less fertilizer. Accessing other essential inputs like livestock feeds are also a common problem for many producers. The country produced 13.07 MMT milk, 9.27 MMT meat and 23,354 million eggs in 2021-22 fiscal year. In addition, Bangladesh is also one of the largest fish producing countries with a total production 4.59 MMT in fiscal year 2021-22 with 1.32 MMT in inland capture fisheries, 2.73 MMT in inland culture fisheries and 0.71 MMT in marine fisheries. It is anticipated that throughout the projection period, there will be high risk of flash flood, regular flood, waterlogging, and cyclones in the different districts under analysis. This will pose some difficulties in the physical accessibility of available food.

Access

There is strong indication that there has been gradual improvement in dietary diversity throughout the recent years moving from primarily cereal based diet to more balanced diet. According to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in fiscal year 2021-22, on average 63 gm fish, 148 gm meat and 209 ml milk is consumed per day per person.

The gap between current consumption levels and those required for a healthy diet surpasses for many households in both rural and urban areas. Similarly, the ability of many households to meet or partially meet minimum caloric or dietary requirements is largely coming from social safety nets or programmes or supplemented through market purchases.

The worldwide food crisis due to the war in Ukraine has led to higher prices for both food and non-food items resulting in higher household expenses. While it is expected that the impact of COVID-19 containment measures on food insecurity would be diminished due to various short, medium and long-term initiatives taken by the government, the recent global

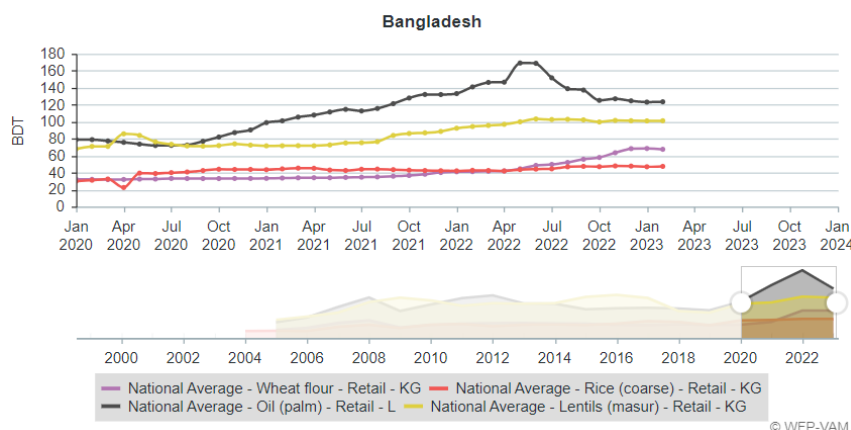


also increased. Currency devaluation together with decreased foreign reserves and remittance earnings are other factors, as to the period of analysis. All these together are making the financial access to the food more difficult. WFP (mVAM) reported that almost three in ten households relied on food based coping strategies which consequently impacted social access to food in the current situation.

The rapidly increasing vulnerabilities because of climate change may impose a severe threat to access of food items, particularly in the coastal belt as well as flood-prone areas of the country. As a result of coming climatic shocks or disasters, fishing ban, and other existing economic challenges, more people will be projected to lose economical access to food compared to the current situation in the projected period. Due to the risk and vulnerabilities in the coming months, it is also expected that some sort of disruptions will be there for social access to food for older people in the family, as well as women and children. Therefore, ensuring access to food for vulnerable and marginalised populations, particularly those who live in the disaster-prone areas will likely be a serious challenge in the upcoming months as the scenario is being impacted in all dimensions: economically, physically and socially.

Utilization

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable advancement in food production in the last decade and made significant progress in universal access to improved water sources, with more than 98 percent of the people having access to improved drinking water sources in 2019. However, it has been found that 47.9 percent people use safely managed drinking water services, while 84.6 percent use improved sanitation services. Availability of commodities and access to food does not necessarily mean better utilisation of the intake.



Overview of outcome indicators

The Food Security first-level outcomes for the IPC Acute analysis used the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), Food Consumption Score (FCS), Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) under food consumption and the Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCSs) used for the areas under analysis. Fifteen Districts were considered, with two separate analyses done for two particular areas, namely Cox's Bazar Host and FDMN communities.

Two major sources were used to collect outcome level indicators' values: DIEM (FAO) and mVAM (WFP). DIEM data collected information on 15 districts under consideration, whereas mVAM data collected data on 12 districts under consideration (Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, and Kishoreganj were outside the mVAM data).

Based on mVAM, all twelve districts reported a borderline FSC (indicative of Phase 3) between 25 percent - 45 percent, while poor FCS (indicative of Phase 4-5) was less than 6 percent. All twelve districts reported Phase 2 rCSI, between 20 percent - 40 percent and less than 3 percent in Phase 3 rCSI. All the twelve districts reported households using crisis livelihood coping strategies (Phase 3) between 20 percent - 30 percent, with minimal emergency (Phase 4-5) coping.

Data from DIEM, nine districts out of 15 Districts reported poor (Phase 4-5) Household Dietary Diversity, whereas six Districts reported moderate (Phase 3) HDDS. The poorest dietary diversity was reported in Patuakhali (37 percent), Gaibandha (34 percent) and Jamalpur (32 percent), and Kurigram (32 percent). No districts reported severe or very severe hunger in the HHS (Phase 4 or 5) and only four districts had HHS moderate (Phase 3) values above 20 percent (Cox's Bazar, Bogura, Gaibandha, Kurigram). The LCSi indicates that more than 20 percent of households in Jamalpur and Kurigram districts are using emergency (Phase 4 - 5) livelihood coping strategies, whereas the remaining 13 districts reported crisis (Phase 3) livelihood coping between 25 percent - 50 percent. Livelihood strategy exhaustion was reportedly low to minimal, however the most reported emergency coping strategy was to "mortgage/sell houses or land because of lack of food or money."

Concerning the host community and the FDMN populations of Cox's Bazar, both the RIMA and REVA were available. For the host communities, the rCSI from both the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) and Refugee Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) indicative Phase 1-2, while the FCS shows Phase 3 and the LCSi shows a Phase 2 and Phase 3 respectively. For the FDMN, both the RIMA and REVA indicative phases show rCSI Phase 2, FCS is Phase 3 and a LCSi Phase 3.

Humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian assistance plans shared in the analysis covered the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals for both analysis periods. In the data collection period, the humanitarian assistance plans indicated 100 percent coverage of the FDMN population with a full ration (full daily caloric requirements). In the current period, the assistance coverage remains the same (100 percent), though the caloric contribution on average decreases to 93 percent. While in the projection period on average, the assistance will cover 55 percent of the population and only covering 53 percent of the daily caloric requirements.

No humanitarian assistance plans were shared for the 15 districts or the host communities in the analysis for either analysis period. While not disaggregated and meeting IPC protocols for incorporating humanitarian assistance into the analysis, some information was shared in the period of data collection (October – November 2022) as follows.

During the year 2022, there were several climate-related natural disasters both in the northeast and southern part of Bangladesh which created the need for humanitarian assistance. The extent of the flooding surpassed any in previous decades including the ones in 1998 and 2004. The June floods struck the people of the region as they were recovering from another unexpected recent flash flood in late May and mid-April. An estimated 7.2 million people have been affected by flooding and water congestion in the nine northeastern districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh, and Sherpur. Among the nine districts, five that have been especially heavily impacted are Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, and Netrakona. As many as 472,856 people have been taken to around 1,605 shelter centres in a combined effort of the Army, Navy, Fire Service, and local authorities, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).

Immediate food assistance (dry and cooked foods) was provided at the onset of the disaster, most vulnerable HHs got FSC assistance packages in both in-kind and cash grants; cattle and poultry feed, livestock extension services, agriculture, fisheries, and livestock input distributions, and livelihood grants to restore livelihood activities. The government has distributed 475 MT of Rice, USD 95,000, a total of 19,000 packets of dry food and biscuits. The government also has tried to respond through different safety net programs and departmental recovery projects.

Special Analysis on Cox's Bazaar Host and Forced Displaced Rohingya Population

Rohingya Community:

Around 978,000 Rohingya people need to meet their basic needs (JRP, 2023). The Rohingya community is fully dependent on assistance to meet their basic needs provided by different NGOs, INGOs, and UN agencies. On-going restrictions on livelihood activities declined the scope of doing any sustainable livelihood intervention inside the camp which made them fully dependent upon assistance. Around 83 percent of the FDMN community was found as highly vulnerable, with the rest being moderately vulnerable (REVA-6, 2023) before the ration cuts in March 2023. Moreover, different occurrences i.e. LPG explosions, gun fighting between different perpetrator groups, landslides, fire incidents, and disease breakouts became a common phenomenon in the camp. A very recent fire incident swept through Camp-11, around 15,926 households were affected and 2,805 shelters were damaged (ISCG SitRep Report, 2023). Between January 2021 and December 2022, there were 222 fire incidents in the Rohingya camps (Bangladesh Defence Ministry Report, 2023). Gender-based violence has been a pernicious problem here since the population exploded five years ago with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar. One in four Rohingya women and girls in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, has suffered gender-based violence (GBV), according to data gathered by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in their centres between July and December 2019 which has been confirmed by ISCG Secretariat in 2020. A remarkable portion is suffering from insufficient food consumption. Based on REVA-6 and RIMA-2 (data collected from Oct. to Dec. 2022) findings Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Consumption-Based Coping Strategy (rCSI) are converging indicative in phase 3. Considering the continued restriction on livelihood activities and according to the REVA-6 findings the livelihood change is indicative in phase 3. Taking into account all these issues, it can be stated that this community is in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) despite the presence of significant assistance. Additionally, the presence of IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) population highlights additional needs and inability to meet their essential needs.

In March 2023, WFP cut the food ration to 10 USD per capita which was 12 USD at previous times due to the funding shortfall (WFP, 2023). According to the REVA-6 assessment without assistance, the scenario for the Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) is 82 percent of FDMN will be below the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) for food, 11 percent will be between the MEB and MEB 7 percent, and the remaining 7 percent will be above the MEB. The restriction on livelihood activities is likely to be continued this year. Consequences of the recent cut will be felt in the current period and expected to decrease food consumptions patterns, dietary diversity and erode the ability of households to restore or create an asset base.

With additional reductions planned in the projection period, the situation is expected to further deteriorate as available humanitarian assistance continues to reduce. These impacts are expected to exacerbate existing food access issues, the adoption of more severe or detrimental livelihood coping strategies along with an increase in malnutrition rates. Due to the limited livelihood diversification of households, and the inability to accept formal employment, the loss of income will be very difficult to replace. Existing protection related concerns may expand or become more severe in the face of reduced assistance and limited relocation, movement or livelihood options.

Host Community:

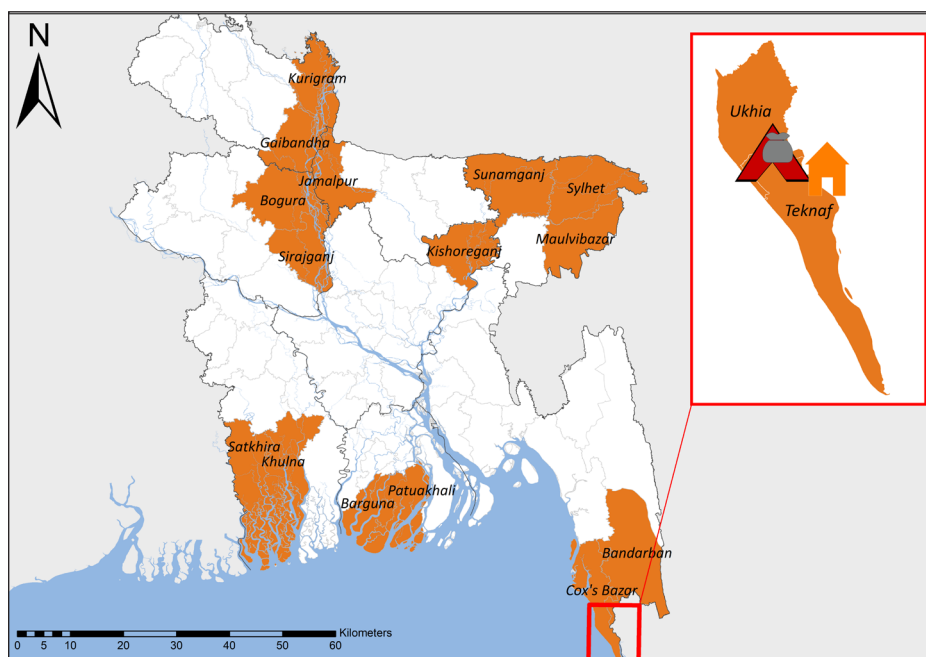
After August 2017, due to the violence in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, more than 700,000 Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) migrated to Cox's Bazar. This influx made the total Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar over 900,000 (IOM, 2022). The majority of these Rohingya people are living in the two sub-districts (*upazila*) namely Ukhia and Teknaf which is a big presence within the host community living in these two sub-districts. Impacts are wide-ranging on the lives of the host communities ranging from higher prices and lower wages to shortage of drinking water due to depletion of the water table. The water levels around the Rohingya camps have fallen by around 5 to 9 metres because of excessive dependence on groundwater in the areas where FDMN people are living (UNDP, 2019). Overall food prices increased in Ukhia by a significant 8 percent, and prices of protein and vegetables increased by 7 and 36 percent, respectively, relative to other similar sub-districts (Nogales, R. 2022). The environment and climatic conditions have been adversely affected due to the massive deforestation to accommodate the Rohingya community.



Approximately, 3,500 acres of the total 2,092,016 acres of forest land have already been lost. It amounts to a loss of 1.67 percent of the total forest area of Cox's Bazar (Rahman, S. 2023). The labour market has also shrunk after the arrival of the FDMN community. The Rohingya people are available at a lower cost as a labour force than the host community, despite being illegal. Therefore, the client prefers to work at a lower cost which leaves the labourers from the host community workless. In consequence, many people from the host community are shifting to risky and temporary jobs. (Financial Express, 2023). As the recent influx has caused financial strain on the male heads of the households, they tend to get into arguments with their wives during financial discussions. These arguments often lead to violence against women and gender-based violence cases increased by 50 percent after the influx (Financial Express, 2023). Conflicting attitudes toward the Rohingya community exists among the host community. The host community people think that drug dealing increased after the arrival of the Rohingya (IRI, 2022). Food insecurity also exists among host community populations. According to the RIMA-2 and REVA-6 findings, Food Consumption Score (FCS) is converging indicative of Phase 3. Moreover, according to the REVA-6 findings livelihood change is indicative of Phase 3.

As Cox's Bazar is a coastal area there are chances of cyclone surges in the coming months. Being a coastal area, a remarkable portion depends on fishing as their main source of livelihood. However, for fair breeding of fish, the government imposed restrictions usually in May-July which affects the fishing community. Tensions, due to the existence of Rohingya and the strain on income, livelihood, environmental degradation, are likely to increase in the coming year.

PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (MAY – SEPTEMBER 2023)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20 percent of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Areas not analysed

Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs)

Host communities

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

> 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance

> 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Evidence Level

** Medium

Division	District	Total population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#pp	%		#people	%
Barishal	Barguna	1,010,530	303,159	30	454,739	45	202,106	20	50,527	5	-	-	3	252,633	25
	Patuakhali	1,727,254	604,539	35	690,902	40	345,451	20	86,363	5	-	-	3	431,814	25
	Barisal Total	2,737,784	907,698	33	1,145,640	42	547,557	20	136,889	5	-	-		684,446	25
Chattogram	Bandarban	481,109	192,444	40	144,333	30	120,277	25	24,055	5	-	-	3	144,332	30
	Cox's bazar	2,463,329	1,108,498	45	615,832	25	615,832	25	123,166	5	-	-	3	738,998	30
	Chattogram Total	2,944,438	1,300,942	44	760,165	26	736,110	25	147,222	5	-	-		883,331	30
Cox's Host & Displaced	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals	957,971	-	-	335,290	35	383,188	40	239,493	25	-	-	4	622,681	65
	Host communities	359,936	71,987	20	143,974	40	125,978	35	17,997	5	-	-	3	143,975	40
	Cox's Host & Displaced Total	1,317,907	71,987	5	479,264	36	509,166	39	257,490	20	-	-		766,656	59
Dhaka	Kishoreganj	3,267,630	1,307,052	40	1,143,671	35	816,908	25	-	-	-	-	3	816,908	25
	Dhaka Total	5,767,367	2,181,960	38	1,768,605	31	1,691,815	29	124,987	2	-	-		1,816,802	31
Mymensingh	Jamalpur	2,499,737	874,908	35	624,934	25	874,908	35	124,987	5	-	-	3	999,895	40
Khulna	Khulna	2,613,385	914,685	35	914,685	35	653,346	25	130,669	5	-	-	3	784,015	30
	Satkhira	2,196,581	549,145	25	878,632	40	658,974	30	109,829	5	-	-	3	768,803	35
	Khulna Total	4,809,966	1,463,830	30	1,793,317	37	1,312,321	27	240,498	5	-	-		1,552,819	32
Rajshahi	Bogura	3,734,300	1,680,435	45	1,120,290	30	746,860	20	186,715	5	-	-	3	933,575	25
	Sirajganj	3,357,708	1,343,083	40	1,175,198	35	671,542	20	167,885	5	-	-	3	839,427	25
	Rajshahi Total	7,092,008	3,023,518	43	2,295,488	32	1,418,402	20	354,600	5	-	-		1,773,002	25
Rangpur	Gaibandha	2,562,232	768,670	30	1,024,893	40	640,558	25	128,112	5	-	-	3	768,670	30
	Kurigram	2,329,161	582,290	25	815,206	35	698,748	30	232,916	10	-	-	3	931,664	40
	Rangpur Total	4,891,393	1,350,960	28	1,840,099	38	1,339,306	27	361,028	7	-	-		1,700,334	34
Sylhet	Maulvibazar	2,123,445	849,378	40	849,378	40	424,689	20	-	-	-	-	3	424,689	20
	Sunamganj	2,695,495	539,099	20	808,649	30	943,423	35	404,324	15	-	-	3	1,347,747	50
	Sylhet	3,857,037	1,735,667	45	1,157,111	30	771,407	20	192,852	5	-	-	3	964,259	25
	Sylhet Total	8,675,977	3,124,144	36	2,815,138	32	2,139,520	25	597,176	7	-	-		2,736,696	32
Grand Total		38,236,840	13,425,038	35	12,897,716	34	9,694,196	25	2,219,890	6	-	-		11,914,086	31

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and as a result they may be in need of continued action. IPC analyses produce estimates of populations by IPC Phase at area level. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW (MAY - SEPTEMBER 2023)

The rapidly increasing vulnerabilities because of climate change may impose a severe threat to access of food items, particularly in the flood-prone areas as well as the coastal belt of the country. As a result of coming climatic shocks or disasters, fishing ban, and other existing economic challenges, more people will be projected to lose economical access to food compared to the current situation in the projected period. Therefore, ensuring access to food for vulnerable and marginalised populations, particularly those who live in the disaster-prone areas will likely be a challenge in the upcoming months as the scenario is being impacted in all dimensions: economically, physically and socially.

In the projection period, around 12 million people are projected to be in IPC Phase 3 or worse, about 9.7 million individuals in IPC Phase 3, with another 2.2 million people in IPC Phase 4, corresponding to 25 percent and 6 percent of the population analysed respectively. Four districts, Patuakhali, Bogura, Maulvibazar, and Sylhet, have moved from IPC Phase 2 to IPC Phase 3, while the FDMN have moved from IPC Phase 3 to IPC Phase 4 in the projection period. The percentage of the population analysed in IPC Phase 3 or higher has increased from 24 percent to 31 percent in the projection period.

Sunamganj district and the FDMN will have the highest percentage of population in IPC Phase 4 with 15 percent and 20 percent respectively. All other areas have at least 5 percent of the population analysed in IPC Phase 4 except Kishoreganj and Moulvibazar. The areas with the highest percentage of the population in IPC Phase 3 or higher are Sunamganj (50 percent), the Host communities in Cox's Bazar (40 percent), and Jamalpur (40 percent), while all other areas are between 20 - 35 percent.

The projection period aligns with seasonal flooding and cyclones, notably in the July - September period, and is expected to impact already vulnerable communities. The communities previously impacted by last year's significant flooding will remain vulnerable due to asset loss or damage and the inability to adequately cope with new shocks in the projection period. Households are already using emergency and crisis livelihood coping strategies and may continue to employ them if unable to meet consumption needs. While food availability may remain high generally, or even increase due to estimated crop and fishery production in 2023, households' capacity to access available food sources remains hindered. High prices and reduced incomes are compounding existing food access and diversity issues due to low purchasing power, especially for populations under the poverty line.

Assistance shortfalls to the FDMN may have spill over effects on the host communities as well. These difficulties will be compounded in the projection period as shared humanitarian planning figures indicate assistance to the FDMN will continue to decrease in the projection period, starting as early as July 2023. As nearly the entire FDMN population (88 percent) was estimated to be highly vulnerable and unable to meet the minimum expenditure basket before the March 2023 cuts, the situation is concerning. Food availability and access are expected to significantly reduce for the FDMN population in this period as households will be unable to cover the consumption and income deficits due to movement and work restrictions. The available asset base and minimal savings are expected to exhaust in this period if current assistance plans are maintained. The adoption of more severe livelihood coping strategies like early marriage, illegal employment, or activities (smuggling, prostitution, among others), is expected to increase from current levels.

Key Assumptions

- 1. Inflation and unemployment:** Inflation is expected to remain high or vary slightly and the unemployment rate will decrease from 5.40 percent to 4.70 percent in 2023 (World Bank). General inflation will decrease from the current rate of as per historical/seasonal trends if fuel and fertilizer subsidies are not changed.
- 2. Prices:** Rice/cereal prices are expected to increase gradually in the June to September period. Fertilizer prices are controlled, so no large variation is expected.
- 3. Imports and production:** Major crop imports by public sector (Wheat and Rice) will be completed. Wheat imports by private sector will continue until June. Rice harvest estimated over 41 million tonnes, well above average. Wheat harvest is estimated to remain similar (1.1 million tonnes). Maize harvest is estimated over 5 million tonnes or higher (above average).
- 4. Rainfall forecast (up to July):** Drier than normal conditions are projected up till July.
- 5. Flooding and cyclones:** Compared to the current period, the risk of flooding and riverbank erosion will increase in the July to September 2023 period. Historically this is the period with the most floods. Lingering impacts from seasonal cyclones in April-May will still impact communities.
- 6. Social safety nets and HFA:** Government social safety net programmes will continue to operate and provide support each month, with food aid/price support for lean season for poor households. Around 1MMT of food grain for distribution in the March, April, May and June period under the public food distribution system, while September will also see a major distribution of food grains.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

The acute analysis of fifteen geographical areas and two population groups in Bangladesh found that around 8.9 million people are in crisis due to natural disasters (floods, cyclones), price hikes, increased inflation rate, post-pandemic situation, loss of employment, displacement, and other contributing factors.

At the same time, it was also projected that if natural disasters like floods strike those areas in April-September and/or cyclones landfall in April-May, the situation will deteriorate. In that case, the number of vulnerable people will increase.

To minimise the crisis, we need to scale up the responses in those specific geographical locations and enhance the existing capacities. Nearly 12 million people in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) require interventions relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), livelihood, resilience enhancement, and anticipatory action so that their condition does not deteriorate in case of a shock. More than 9 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse need urgent support to protect livelihoods and cover food gaps.

- Close cooperation between humanitarian and development cooperation actors is needed to focus on around 8 million people (stage 3 or worse) and urgent assistance to protect lives, livelihoods, and food security.
- Field implementation of a natural adaptation plan needs to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by increasing adaptive capacity and resilience and adapting to new and existing policies and programs, especially development strategies.
- Prioritise the distribution of resources to the impacted groups and industries, and assist in a seamless exit from the current economic difficulties.
- The government should also provide more assistance to low-income and poor households by expanding the availability of goods in the market.
- Floods, cyclones, salinity, river erosion, water-logging, loss of employment, and price shocks were noted as being among the most important drivers of food insecurity, along with food access and consumption.
- Around 8 million people in Phase 3 or worse need urgent support for the protection of lives, and livelihood and to cover food gaps. Life-saving humanitarian aid should be provided to ensure food security whereas 0.5 million includes forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and Cox's Bazar host community may get urgent attention.
- Around 3 million people in the haor and flash flood areas (especially, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Sunamganj, and Kishoreganj) need urgent support to cope with the devastating impact of natural shocks and environmental effects, like flood and river erosion. Comprehensive plan needed to be implemented by the government to cover more than 2 million people in the coastal zone to combat cyclones, salinity, water logging, and river erosion problems.
- The government should provide more assistance to low-income and poor households by expanding the availability of goods on the market. The poor and small businesses should continue to get stimulus packages.

Immediate/short-term recommendations:

- Continue to support the vulnerable people in Phase 3 and worse (including forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and Cox's Bazar host community) with humanitarian projects focused on food, nutrition, protection, and health care.
- Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and other departments under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture together to promote the cultivation of flood, drought, salinity, and high-temperature tolerant crop varieties in the ground-level to cope with climate change effects.
- Mitigation actions need to be taken by the local government to prevent or reduce the risk to life, property, social and economic activities, and natural resources from natural hazards.
- The purchasing power of people will have to be enhanced by putting money into their hands. It will boost aggregate demand in the economy.
- The Bangladesh government will need to keep a careful eye on the market with the presence of an efficient monitoring team.

- The nation should procure food commodities from the international market as soon as possible at competitive prices and distribute necessities at lower costs through open market sales.
- Create and promote self-employment facilities, especially in poultry and livestock.
- The poor and small businesses should continue to get stimulus packages.

Medium to long-term recommendations:

- Invention of flood, drought, salinity, and high-temperature tolerant crop varieties to cope with climate change effects.
- Ensure the availability of high-quality seeds to farmers.
- Introduction to crop zone technology.
- Implementation of projects related to the marketing of agricultural products and development of rural communication to ensure a fair price for agricultural products.
- Creation of Agricultural Information and Communication Center (AICC) at the union level.
- Promotion of agriculture and agro-based services by developing several web-based activities such as an online fertiliser recommendation program, Bangladesh rice knowledge bank, etc.
- Promotion of agriculture and agriculture-based services through mobile operators.
- To reduce the unemployment problem, the government may provide technical and technological education for workers, create self-employment facilities - especially in poultry and livestock facilities, and create an investment-friendly environment to attract foreign direct investment.
- A pragmatic and sustainable approach must be adopted to ensure harmonious and peaceful coexistence of the host and Rohingya community until any practical signs of value repatriation of the community have been observed.
- The government should boost the top limits of volunteer stipends for Rohingyas, broaden livelihood prospects to the main camps, and coordinate with regional governments to help Rohingyas find temporary employment opportunities.

Risk factors to monitor

Strengthen real-time monitoring of imports and national supply chains for critical commodities for forecasting and timely policy response

Price Shocks - Price hikes can have a significant impact on food security, particularly in low-income vulnerable populations. As the price is raised, it becomes harder for people to afford the food they need to live, which can lead to food insecurity. Establish stronger mechanisms to monitor grower and retail prices of major food commodities to ensure that farmers receive a fair price.

Floods -Damage to croplands due to floods happens almost every year. Vulnerability to foods and people likely to be displaced temporarily due to it needs to be monitored. Strengthen social safety net and soft loan services during lean and ban (e.g. fishing) periods along with insurance services;

Cyclones - Cyclone season in the Bay of Bengal mainly occurs during pre and post-monsoon season, between April-May and October-November there is need to closely monitor the most cyclone-affected Districts.

Loss of employment - If any disaster strikes then people in the affected area will face a loss of employment for a certain period of time especially the daily labor/agricultural labour waged.

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Process and Methodology

Since January 2013, the IPC in Bangladesh has been coordinated jointly by the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), the Ministry of Food, and the IPC Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG membership comprises technical experts from more than 35 government units, UN agencies, international organisations, academia, civil society organisations, and the private sector. The TWG, with the support of FPMU, is responsible for the review and validation of findings. For this analysis, the TWG guided the IPC process supported by the FAO Assessing and Strengthening Food Security in Bangladesh project, FAO MEAL Unit, WFP VAM, and IPC Global Support Unit.

Prior to the Analysis, the IPC TWG organized a three day IPC Level 1 training from 14 to 16 March at BARC. Around 60 participants from Government line ministries, INGOs, LNGOs and UN participants participated in the capacity building initiative which was based on the latest IPC Version 3.1. Subsequently, the analysis team travelled to Gazipur for the IPC analysis which took place from 18 to 23 March 2023. The analysis was attended by over 50 analysts representing key line ministries, International and local NGOs including the UN partner agencies.

The technical review was carried out by FAO Bangladesh MEAL Unit, WFP-VAM, and IPC TWG in technical consultation with FPMU, and the Ministry of Food along with consultation meetings, presentation to various stakeholders as well as the quality assurance by the IPC Global Support Unit

Sources

Data sources used for this analysis included:

- Asian Development Bank (Inflation projection)
- Bangladesh Bank. (Statistics Division)
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. (Agriculture Census, Consumer Price Index, Report on National Survey on Persons with Disabilities, Population and Housing Census: Preliminary Report and Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics of Bangladesh)
- Bangladesh National Nutrition Council. Nutrition profile
- Department of Agricultural Marketing. Commodity-wise report
- Department of Fisheries. Fish Production Estimates
- Directorate General of Food. MISM
- Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre. District alerts and water levels
- FAO. (DIEM, RIMA, GIEWS)
- FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World
- Food Planning and Monitoring Unit. Bangladesh Food Situation Report
- IFPRI. RAPIA Model - Impact from Russia/Ukraine War
- ISCG. Joint Response Plan Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis
- Ministry of Agriculture. Rice production estimates
- Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. INFORM Sub National Risk Index Bangladesh
- Ministry of Planning and Asian Development Bank. Bangladesh Climate and Disaster Risk Atlas: Exposures, Vulnerabilities, and Risks
- UNICEF. Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey
- UNRCO. (Flash Floods Situation Report, HRP Joint Response Plan)
- WFP. (Bangladesh Food Security and Vulnerability Monitoring (mVAM), Rainfall and NDVI (Weather) - DataViz, Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA), Statement on ration cut from lack of funding
- WHO - (Epidemiological highlights, Health sector bulletin)

Limitations of the Analysis

- The timing of assessments and IPC analysis should be synchronized to ensure timely use of information especially linked to shocks. Most of the data used was collected in the October to December period and was made available for use around March.
- Since the unavailability of statistically representative and up-to-date data, consecutive rounds of data had to be merged and analysed within a short time. In addition to this, the available information between datasets on some occasions provided quite different insights.
- There were challenges with some key indicators like Food Insecurity Experience Scale were not used due to different cut-offs shared and there was the unavailability of nutrition information in most of the areas with available information coming from 2019 MICs report.

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

Contact for further Information

Md Momtaz Uddin, ndc

IPC Chair

Director General (Additional Secretary), Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food
dgfpmu@mofood.gov.bd

Imtiaz Ahmad

Senior Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Specialist
ahmad.imtiazahmad@fao.org

IPC Global Support Unit
www.ipcinfo.org

This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food. It has benefited from the technical and financial support of UN Joint SDG Fund and IPC Global Support Unit.

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition are conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners:

