



BULLETIN

NUTRITION SECTOR COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

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CONTENTS

#PAGE

Programme Update	1
Funding Update 2024	1
Sector Highlights (Apr-Jun)	1
Deworming Campaign	2
Fortified Rice Distribution	2
Success Story	3
• UNICEF	

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2024 JRP appealing partners of NS secured US\$ 23.5M (53 per cent) of the funding requested as of June 2024. Additionally, the donors have committed US\$ 8.5 million, or 19 per cent of the total requested JRP fund.
- A total 94,887 (101 per cent of target) children aged 24-59 months received deworming tablets through the first round of Deworming Campaign.
- For infant and young child feeding (IYCF) programme monitoring and harmonisation, a joint visit of the IYCF TWG in the integrated nutrition facilities of all the implementing partners was conducted on 7 May. The TWG team was comprised of representatives from the local NGOs, international NGOs and UN agencies.
- Some 25 participants (15 female) from the supporting and implementing partners participated in the IYCF programme review workshop on 4-5 June to review the present intervention modalities and reporting tools, IEC/BCC materials and training modules.
- Handicap International (HI) in collaboration with ISCG and NS arranged training in two batches on disability inclusion on 15-16 May and 10-11 June for 22 (five female) and 25 (eight female) nutrition staff participants respectively.
- In May, 130 officials from the Health and Family Welfare Department participated in an orientation organized by WFP on SBC to deepen their understanding and enhance SBC activities.

NUTRITION PROGRAMME UPDATE

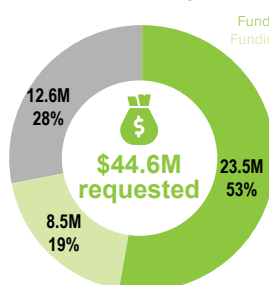
REFUGEE	2024 TARGET	PROGRESS (Jan-Jun)
SAM	12,200	5,393 (44% of target) Cure rate 89.92%
MAM	U5*- 59,400 PLW- 3,500	U5- 23,529 (40% of target) Cure rate 98.33% PLW- 1,717 (49% of target)
IYCF	86,100	77,330 (90% of target)
BSFP	U2*- 57,900 PLW- 40,300	U2- 56,551 (95% of target) PLW- 39,925 (99% of target)
NSEP	O2**- 86,700	O2- 82,787 (95% of target)
IFA	PLW- 33,600 Adolescent- 99,000	PLW- 10,622 (32% of target) Adolescent- 66,968 (68% of target)
GMP	154,400	156,843 (102% of target)
VAS R1	152,000	143,706 (94% of target)
Deworming R1	92,000	92,457 (100% of target)

HOST COMMUNITY	2024 TARGET	PROGRESS (Jan-Jun)
MAM	U5*- 5,000 PLW- 2,400	U5- 4,412 (88% of target) Cure rate 97.96% PLW- 1,134 (47% of target)
IYCF	27,200	10,802 (40% of target)
IFA	PLW- 12,000 Adolescent- 37,000	PLW- 9,265 (77% of target) Adolescent- 6,662 (18% of target)

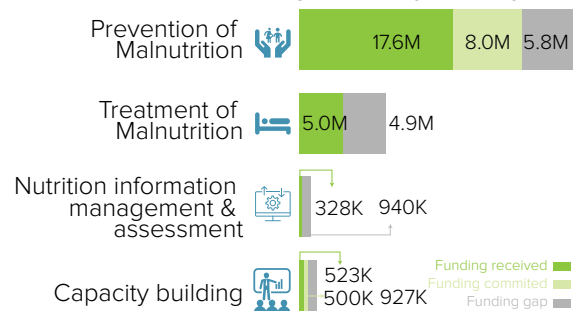
*U5 denotes children of 6 to 59 months; **O2 denotes children of 24-59 months.

FUNDING UPDATE AS OF 10 JUNE 2024

Overall Funding Status



Funding Status by Activity



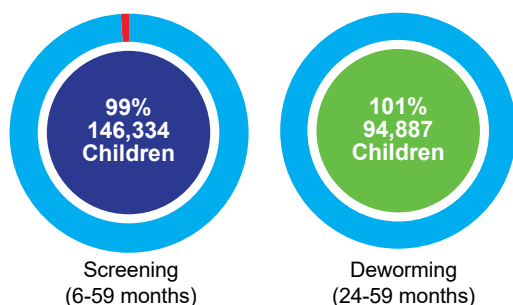
Note: Prevention and treatment of malnutrition is the most critical priority needs where USD 10.7M are still needed.

MASS MUAC SCREENING AND DEWORMING CAMPAIGN

UNICEF, in collaboration with Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the Nutrition Sector (NS) partners conducted a deworming campaign, targeting the children aged 24-59 months in 33 camps from 29 May to 6 June. The campaign also included mass MUAC screening for acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) messaging for the pregnant women and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months. Over 146,000 children aged 6-59 months (49 per cent of whom were girls) were screened for malnutrition using MUAC, representing 99



Figure 1: Mass MUAC Screening and Deworming Campaign Coverage



per cent of the total target of 148,000, and 94,887 children aged 24-59 months received deworming tablets, representing 101 per cent of the target of 93,500. During the campaign, a total of 1,148 children (51 per cent were girls) with acute malnutrition were admitted (216 children to the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme for the treatment of SAM, and 932 to the Targeted Supplementary Programme for the treatment of MAM). Furthermore, a total of 54,236 pregnant mothers and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received age-appropriate IYCF messaging.

A GREAT INITIATIVE TO PREVENT MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCY: FORTIFIED RICE DISTRIBUTION

In collaboration with food security and nutrition sector WFP is working to prevent micronutrient deficiency among the FDMN. From the beginning of this year 2024, WFP has launched Fortified Rice which is enriched with six essential micronutrients named- Iron, Zinc, Vit-A, Vit-B1, B12 and Folic Acid. On May 2024, WFP has increased its capacity and started distributing fortified rice among all of the refugees lived all over the makeshift camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf through WFP supported GFA outlets. To enhance knowledge and raise awareness about fortified rice, WFP has conducted a series of meetings, workshops, and training sessions for relevant sectors, clusters, Imams, Majhis, volunteers, and other stakeholders. Additionally, in April 2024, WFP provided a Training of Trainers (ToT) on fortified rice to around 20 staff members from nutrition cooperating partners. Additionally, To boost demand and ensure acceptance, WFP organized training for 180 volunteers and staff on cooking demonstrations with fortified rice. These demonstrations were conducted at GFA outlets to encourage beneficiaries to taste, smell, and purchase fortified rice.



IN COX'S BAZAR, COMMUNITY CLINICS ARE A FRONTLINE DEFENCE AGAINST MALNUTRITION

Shabnoor is just 22 years old, but she has already found herself facing the daunting challenges of motherhood. Married as a child, and now with a 15-month-old daughter named Nusaifa, her life took an unexpected turn when she noticed her baby losing weight rapidly.

“My baby had a fever and was not eating properly,” says Shabnoor. “Nusaifa is my first child, and I was worried about her well-being.”



During a routine home visit, a community nutrition volunteer (CNV) from the nearby Koyainchhari Para Community Clinic measured Nusaifa's arm using a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tape and assessed the severity of her nutrition status. Her reading was red, indicating that she was suffering from severe wasting – the deadliest form of undernutrition. So, the volunteer advised Shabnoor to bring Nusaifa to the community clinic.

Despite significant progress in addressing malnutrition, millions of children in Bangladesh continue to suffer from wasting, meaning they are too thin and their immune systems are weak. In 2019, an estimated 1.6 million children under-5 in the country suffered



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from wasting, and about 375,000 of these children suffered from severe wasting.

Following the volunteer’s advice, Shabnoor took Nusaifa to the Koyainchhari Para Community Clinic, which acts as a primary service point for early screening, detection, counselling and post-treatment follow-up of severe wasting. Each month, around 250 children come to the clinic for check-ups and visits.

After assessing Nusaifa’s nutrition status, the staff at the community clinic confirmed that the child was suffering from severe wasting and referred her to the Teknaf Upazila Health Complex to receive specialised inpatient treatment in the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) unit.

“[Nusaifa] had a high fever when she was admitted to the health complex,” says Senior Staff Nurse Sohana Akter. “Although she was born healthy and weighed 2.5 kg at birth, she has been lacking proper nutrition since birth.”

In the stabilisation centre, Nusaifa received medicine and therapeutic food, which helped stabilise her condition and minimise further medical complications. When she was discharged, her MUAC measurement had increased from 10.1 cm to 10.4 cm.

Thanks to support from the European Union, UNICEF is working with the Government of Bangladesh to support the SAM units in the health complexes and district hospitals in Cox’s Bazar, ensuring that the severely wasted children like Nusaifa receive the emergency treatment they need.

“Nusaifa’s health has improved,” Shabnoor shares. *“I will follow the advice of doctors and nurses. I will feed my baby regularly, maintain proper hygiene and spend more time with her,”* she adds. Read more [here](#)

Abbreviation

BSFP	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
FDMN	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals’
GFA	General Food Assistance
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid
INF	Integrated Nutrition Facility
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JRP	Joint Response Plan
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NSEP	Nutrition Sensitive E-Voucher Programme
O2	Children over 2 years
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
RUSF	Ready-to-use Supplementary Food
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SD	Standard Deviation
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program
U5	Children Under 5 years
WHO	World Health Organization
WHZ	Weight for Height Z-score

Nutrition Sector Contacts

Sector Coordinator

Kibrom Tesfaselassie

✉ ktesfaselassie@unicef.org

☎ +880 1701 208902

Information Management Officer

Mohd Mostakim Ali

✉ mmoali@unicef.org

☎ +880 1824 016708

UNV Nutrition Officer

Suparna Das Toma

✉ stoma@unicef.org

☎ +880 1952 251759

About Nutrition Sector (NS)

The Nutrition Sector was established in 2017 during the Rohingya refugee influx in Cox’s Bazar, with the goal to provide coordinated nutrition interventions. To ensure effective delivery of nutrition services, the Sector collaborates with 09 partners, including the Government of Bangladesh in 2024. This collaboration allows the Sector to operate at the forefront of nutritional interventions. The Sector has a Strategic Advisory Group that advocates for strategic priorities and supports contingency plans. Currently, the Sector comprises three technical working groups, namely, the Infant and Young Child in Emergency Working Group, the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition Working Group, the Assessment, and Information Management Working Group. These working groups guarantee compliance with national and international standards.

This quarterly bulletin for the Nutrition Sector in Cox’s Bazar in 2024 showcases the sector’s achievements, updates, and emergency responses etc. The bulletin highlights the sector’s success in strengthening humanitarian nutrition coordination, which has led to a predictable and accountable response. In addition, it captures the high-level brainstorming workshop that was held to enhance the sector’s capabilities to address potential nutrition issues. Additionally, the bulletin features survey findings and success stories that illustrate the sector’s outstanding work. The sector’s commitment to cutting-edge humanitarian responses is evident in this bulletin, which doubles as a testament to its unwavering dedication. Consequently, the Sector has been able to provide effective nutritional interventions to those in need.