



USAID
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USAID

BANGLADESH

COUNTRY PROFILE

The United States has long shared a strong friendship with Bangladesh since the country's independence. It is a partnership driven by common interests that also recognized Bangladesh as a key U.S. strategic partner in South Asia. USAID's Bangladesh portfolio is one of the largest in Asia, with some of the world's most important food security, Food for Peace, and non-HIV health programs, along with strategically important democracy and governance, basic education, and environment activities. USAID also oversees a large humanitarian assistance portfolio in Bangladesh in response to the Rohingya crisis. As a long-standing partner, USAID remains committed to supporting Bangladesh on its journey to becoming an upper middle-income country by 2031.

OUR WORK

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

In partnership with the Government of Bangladesh (GOB), USAID increases the availability and access to diversified nutritious foods, improves the sustainable productivity of targeted value chains through climate smart agriculture in 23 districts of southern Bangladesh, and enhances private sector competitiveness through a market systems approach. Digital agriculture and private sector engagement are used to promote economic growth, good corporate practices, and supply chain development that benefits poor smallholder farmers and small and medium enterprises. In addition, USAID assistance improves the formulation, analysis and implementation of food policy in Bangladesh through research, monitoring, training, and coordination with Bangladeshi stakeholders including government agencies, NGOs, CSOs, media, academia and financial institutions.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The majority of Bangladeshis rely on the country's natural resources to supplement their livelihoods, placing tremendous strain on heavily degraded ecosystems (e.g., forests, wetlands) and its biodiversity. The situation is further exasperated as the country hosts the world's largest refugee population near the southern coastal areas. Frequent natural disasters significantly diminished ecological health, and ever-increasing energy demand are key challenges facing Bangladesh as it transitions to a middle-income country. USAID works with the GOB and the private sector to enhance the country's energy security and resilience, improve trade and business enabling environments to build the resilience of individuals, communities, institutions, and the economy to the impacts of natural hazards and changing climatic conditions.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Good governance and accountability are critical for economic growth, health, education, and high-quality public services. USAID democracy and governance activities focus on enhancing citizen confidence in government by strengthening democratic processes and civil society, increasing access to justice, protecting human rights, supporting a culture of tolerance, and providing development opportunities for women, youth, and the marginalized. The activities integrate participation, inclusion, transparency, and accountability to support citizen responsive governance.

HEALTH

Bangladesh's sustained development progress is challenged by high mortality rates among women and children, the continued spread of tuberculosis, high prevalence of malnutrition, and weak health systems. To address these challenges, USAID works to strengthen resilient health systems to improve maternal and child health, expand family planning and reproductive health, reduce the burden of tuberculosis, and prevent and treat malnutrition. USAID supported every aspect of the COVID-19 response in Bangladesh including testing, treatment, contact tracing, community education, and vaccination.

EDUCATION

Over the past decade, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in expanding access to education by achieving near universal net primary enrollment, with over 98 percent of children of primary school age enrolling in school. Bangladesh has also achieved gender parity in equal access to education for boys and girls. Despite these advances in access, the quality of education remains a challenge. Children from marginalized communities and children with disabilities are underrepresented and underreported in Bangladesh's education system. USAID increases access and improves quality at pre-primary, primary and higher secondary education levels with an emphasis on education system strengthening. USAID's integrated youth programming empowers Bangladesh's youth to advance their own economic, civic and social development enhancing their resilience to shocks and stressors.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Since 1972, USAID has provided \$2 billion in non-emergency and emergency food assistance and disaster risk reduction to communities in Bangladesh. Non-emergency food assistance activities provide an integrated package of services to the poor and extreme poor and facilitate engagement in agriculture, livelihoods, health, nutrition, WASH, inclusive small business development, microfinance, women's empowerment, and social accountability. USAID supports disaster risk reduction activities by building institutional capacity, coordination and infrastructure required to prepare, respond, and reduce risks related to natural disasters like cyclones, floods and other environmental shocks.

ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE

The United States is the leading contributor of humanitarian assistance in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, having provided nearly \$1.4 billion in Bangladesh since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. Of this, approximately \$966 million has gone to assist Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh. USAID provides life-saving humanitarian assistance to meet the critical needs of refugees in camps, such as food and nutrition needs, while also supporting efforts to reduce disaster risks in camps which remain vulnerable to natural hazards. In addition, USAID programs support host communities affected by the refugee influx through food security, economic resilience, and disaster risk reduction activities to help households meet their basic needs and reduce exposure to disasters.

CONTACTS

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