



# FOOD CITIES 2022

# PROFILE MONGLA



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**MONGLA POPULATION  
40 THOUSAND**



Mongla port in Bagerhat District was famous even before the administrative work started after the independence of Bangladesh. The navigability of the Mongla and Pasur river was the key driver to move Mongla from a general place to a busy port. Apart from its business significance, it is one of the most climate vulnerable areas in Bangladesh and is just around 50 kilometers away from the Bay of Bengal. Fortunately, parts of the Sundarbans beside Mongla have acted as a shield for Mongla for cyclones and storms, though there is another major problem — salinity. Except from these issues Mongla is very known for its fresh environment and work opportunities. A rail line is developing to connect Mongla with Khulna and other parts of the country and this rail connection will increase Mongla’s economic importance more in the coming years.

People of Mongla need saline tolerant varieties for more production. During the Covid-19 outbreak, the municipality received some funding and help from Municipal Section 2, but that was not sufficient for the municipality inhabitants comparing to their number.

There are two privilege cards including the VGF card and Fishermen Card given out in collaboration with sub-district administration. The river in Mongla is rich in fish and this is the most available protein source for inhabitants. The card holders get a certain amount of crops and catch. These cards are not adequate too comparing to the number of inhabitants.

As this place is a disaster-prone area, during any disaster or hazard, they receive help/products from the government and distribute accordingly to needy people. The main problem is the lack of resources and the number of people needing the services.

### Food System Challenges

As a disaster-prone area of Bangladesh, Mongla faces many problems in growing food and providing enough food to the inhabitants. Salinity intrusion and disaster are destructing and disturbing food production. So, in most of the cases, Mongla has to depend on other areas for food. In the previous years of Covid-19, people have suffered a lot, going hungry or skipping meals.

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Jinia Nowrin



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Hanna Ruszczyk

### Food Strategy

As in Bangladesh there is a central food strategy including in the national plan. Everything follows the main plan, followed by several policies and regulations related to food. Though these policies aren't always followed directly by the municipality.

- Following the 8th five-year Plan and Prospective Plan: 2021-2041
- National Food Policy
- Collaboration with Sub-district level administration relevant to food issues
- National Agriculture Policy
- National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh

### City Food Vision

Mongla's vision is to create a sustainable food system including agriculture and easy market availability. Mongla wants to become a self-sufficient city for food production, at least for staple foods. This city needs self-sufficiency as, in most of the cases, during disasters people have to rely on outside food. The city needs more climate resilient / saline tolerant varieties with high growth as they have to battle with these issues. People practices vegetable cultivation even in tiny spaces here.

### Expertise

Mongla is very enthusiastic about food system related works. They are very much experienced in distribution and management during any natural disaster as these types of situations are part of their daily life. The people are very enthusiastic about adapting with the situation, but the salinity and frequency of disasters are obstacles for them again and again. People are becoming aware and want to focus on nutritious food at present.

### Learning Needs

Mongla needs special support for food production and storing facilities for disasters. People are eager to cultivate and grow crops but they also need assistance for growing crops in saline prone areas. Climate smart agriculture could be a possible solution for them. They need training regarding urban food production, accessing markets, usage of saline tolerant varieties for sustainable and self-dependent Food system in their city. The city also aspires to learn what other vulnerable cities are doing to cope with their situation.

