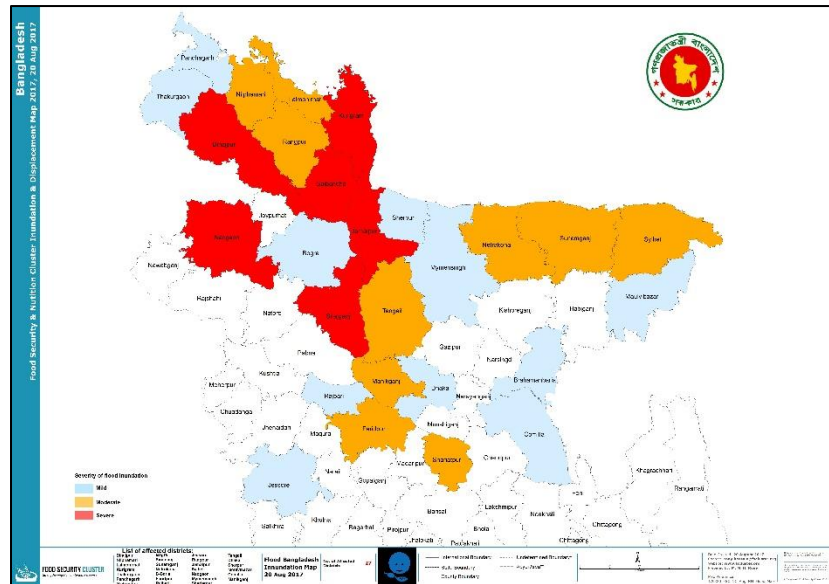


Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Flash Update No. 3

Monsoon Floods: Bangladesh

August 20, 2017: Monsoon floods are affecting around 5.7 million people in 27 districts. An estimated total of 40,167 houses are reported fully damaged and 491,774 others are partially damaged¹. 98 persons lost their lives due to the floods². The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) informs that 1,330 shelters in flood-affected areas are sheltering almost 300,000. An estimated 4,680,000 hectares of cultivated land are damaged³ and almost 50,000 tube-wells are either partially or fully damaged. 179,123 household latrines are inundated, damaged or washed away leaving people without easy access to potable water and risk of public health⁴.



The northern region of Bangladesh remains particularly vulnerable as flood-protective embankments were breached in Saidpur, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Rajshahi and Badarganj. According to the Bangladesh Flood Forecast and Warning Centre (FFWC), the Ganges-Padma River is in rising trends; while the Brahmaputra-Jamuna, Surma and Kushiara rivers are in falling trend. Access to affected areas is challenging as around 1,214 km of roads, 100 bridges and culverts and 15 km rail track between Dinajpur and Dhaka are damaged⁵.

The government has allocated 65.6 million BDT (USD \$ 0.82 million), 20,695 MT of rice and 58,450 dry food packet to flood-affected districts. It has also allocated 27,337 bundle of Corrugated Iron (CI) sheet and BDT 82.01 million (USD 1.02 million) for house reconstruction. A Total 1,945 local medical teams are deployed to the flood affected districts to address emerging communicable diseases. The Start fund has been activated in Bangladesh and a total of £659,306 has been awarded to ActionAid Bangladesh, Care International, Concern Worldwide, Handicap International, Relief International with HelpAge International, Save the Children and Plan International. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) opened an emergency control room and, its national disaster response teams together and more than 1,000 of its volunteers are providing emergency assistance.

A joint Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCT), including UN agencies, International and National NGO's, Government, and Donors organized a meeting on August 19, 2017 and decided that the on-going coordinated needs assessment will be finalized after consultation with the affected communities in the next couple of days. Clusters Leads/Co-Leads will meet with their national counterparts to learn about their on-going/planned response and jointly identify gaps that could be supported by the international community. Development Partners (DP) representatives are expected to inform rapidly on possible funding opportunities that could be made available at a given point in time in order to plan for and to prioritize possible interventions, which would respond to time critical needs. GoB assured that support will be provided to facilitate NGO's authorization processes for speed delivery of assistance. Based on this additional information, the HCTT will meet again to prioritize possible coordinated humanitarian interventions that would supplement and complement GoB's efforts.

¹ Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

² National Health Crises Management Centre (NHCMC) of Director General of Health Service (DGHS) control room

³ Department of Agriculture(DAE)

⁴ Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)

⁵ Roads and Highway Department and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)



Education

UNICEF has allocated US\$90,000 to the three affected divisions for emergency school repair and support to temporary education arrangements for displaced children in temporary shelters.



Food Security

The BDRCS reached more than 4,500 families with dry and cooked food. Food parcel for 10,000 HH consisting of rice, pulse, oil, sugar, salt and semolina to cover food needs for 7 days. 150 MT of fortified biscuits will be distributed by WFP to 40,000 households (3-day ration, one shot distribution). FSC member's response mainly in the north-western districts- Islamic Relief Bangladesh: food package (dry food) to 31,000 HH; World Vision international Multi-Purpose Cash Grant (MPCG) targeting 3,502 households and food package for 487 households; Oxfam MPCG targeting 5,650 households through their Emergency Grant Facility. The food security cluster is strongly involved in the 72 hour-needs assessment with WFP-Vulnerability Analysis Map unit, with the support of WFP-Regional Bureau Asia and Pacific (RAP). Oxfam/48-hour assessment informs that markets are generally functional. They have observed that the prices have increased but not significantly.



Gender Based Violence

To mitigate risk of gender-based violence resulting from flood displacement, UNFPA is coordinating with the Office of the Civil Surgeon in Kurigram and Jamalpur districts to distribute 3,000 kits including personal hygiene and selected items to enable the mobility, dignity, and safety of women and girls. An additional 5,000 kits are pre-positioned for distribution in partnership with organizations responding in Kurigram, Jamalpur, and Sirajganj districts. Initial field reports and assessments from Terre des Hommes (TdH), Plan International, and Oxfam indicate acute protection risks for women and children related to insecure shelter and absence of latrine and bathing facilities. To address this, TdH has distributed 450 tarpaulin sheets to flood victims across 4 upazilas in Kurigram district. Support systems to respond to gender-based violence are weak. Critical needs include integration of clinical care for sexual violence survivors in health response and provision of psychosocial support services.



Health

WHO has provided emergency drugs including 30,000 Cholera saline to the Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet Medical Sub-Depot (MSD) that are being used to tackle existing flood related health problems and distributed IEC materials such as pictorial posters, leaflets to improve awareness. UNICEF supported travel costs for the Medical Mobile Teams in Kurigram district that provided medical support to flood affected families. BDRCS has mobilized two medical teams and the volunteers are supporting the government medical teams and providing first aid services in district level. UNFPA is dispatching 2,000 clean delivery kits to be distributed to visibly pregnant women in the affected communities. BRAC, TdH Foundation and other members are also continuing their support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) interventions.



Shelter

Bangladesh Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) with the support from International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), has already mobilized 2,000 tarpaulins and currently distribution is in process. Additional 5,000 tarpaulins have been allocated for the flood affected districts. Planning for Emergency shelter to 10,000 households through providing tarpaulin, ropes for those who are displaced and living in open sky.



WASH

For the immediate response, UNICEF in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has provided 278,360 water purification tablets, 528 hygiene kits, 1,935 jerry cans and 425 kg of bleaching powder to approximately 4,250 flood affected people in Kurigram, Gaibanda, Sirajganj, Nilphamari, Netrokona, Jamalpur and Sylhet. In Rangpur, the DPHE is providing portable clean water to affected communities using UNICEF supported mobile water treatment plants. WASH clusters members Tdh has established 2 mobile water treatment plant; they will distribute water purification Tab-10L (aquasure) at household level; BDRCS has distributed 8,964 liter of purified water, around 1500 families through 15,000 liters of clean drinking water; 6,000 water jerry cans and 40,000 ORS have been sent to the affected districts for distributions. Further DPHE with the support of UNICEF is responding to flood affected community raising 2,006 tub-wells; repaired 3,645 tub-wells; disinfection 5,796 tub-wells; newly installed in flood centers 258 tub-wells; Emergency latrine construction in flood shelters 586; water purification tablet (WPT) distribution 615,350; bleaching powder distribution 1,584 (kg); Jerry can distribution 3412; hygiene kit distribution 589. In addition, 5 (five) water treatment plant (2,000L/hour) started producing safe water in five districts.



Communication with Community (CwC)

A set of multi-purpose messages have been prepared, with endorsement by the Department for Disaster Management, aimed at providing affected communities with key self-help information around water purification, hygiene, water-borne disease, snake bite and drowning awareness as well as specific information aimed at ensuring services for and protection of vulnerable groups. Messages are available in audio format (for radio broadcast / boat or rickshaw micking) and video/infographic format (for use on social media or in face-to-face settings). All tools available here: <https://app.box.com/s/zggjjcpqkcrn30yb7p71fm31u9x2l46v>

Several agencies have mobilized community outreach activities, including boat-based loudspeaker announcements, to disseminate key information to the most affected communities. Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and community radio stations in affected areas have been broadcasting key life-saving information for affected communities. Community radio stations in the affected area collected information from listeners and reporters, highlighting key 'pockets of need', to inform the multi-agency needs assessment process.

Shongjog (the multi-stakeholder platform for communication with communities) has established a temporary 'humanitarian communications agency' to assist agencies to produce and use communication products and 2-way communication activities to support the response. Support is available with design and production of communication products (leaflets/posters, audio, video, face-to-face activities, etc) as well as technical advice and support to agencies wanting to embed 2-way CwC activities within their response. Requests can be made via: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIqLHs5QARY5Fi90_gX0-7oG8Mo5hDc_P_pZAh4KoLM2n73A/viewform

UNICEF in close coordination with divisional Government is supporting broadcasting of key messages on drowning and snake bites through national and regional radio as well as mobile teams with loud speaker to prevent death.

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