



Rapid Assessment of Northeastern Flood 2024

Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG)

Date: 28 June 2024

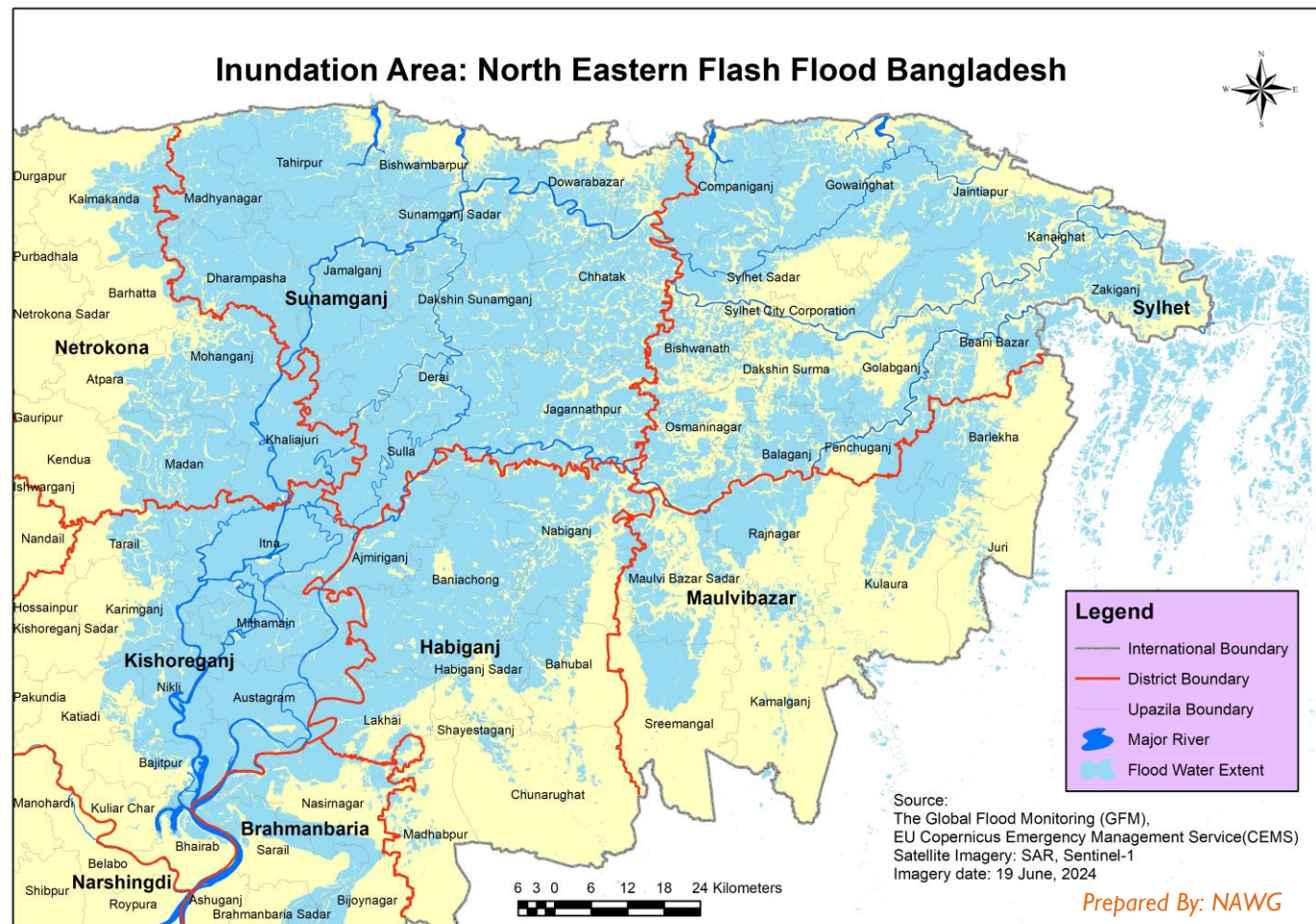
Coordinated efforts of



Brief Overview

Monsoon rains of exceptional intensity and overflowing rivers in India's Assam and Meghalaya states have triggered catastrophic flooding across northeastern Bangladesh. The districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj are particularly affected, with over 3 million people have been affected, displaced from their homes, and facing disrupted livelihoods. UNICEF reports a concerning number of vulnerable individuals among the displaced population. More than 772,000 children are at heightened risk of drowning, malnutrition, and waterborne diseases. Urgent humanitarian assistance is required to address their critical needs.

Several areas recorded a staggering 200 millimeters of precipitation daily, exceeding the typical monthly average for the season. This excessive rainfall has resulted in widespread inundation, severely impacting agricultural production, infrastructure, and local economies. The situation remains critical, with continuous downpours further exacerbating the flooding and causing damage to essential infrastructure, including schools and healthcare facilities.



Timeline of Key Actions



Northeastern Flood 2024

Since **early June 2024**, continuous monsoon rains lashed Northeastern Bangladesh, particularly impacting Sylhet and Sunamganj districts. The relentless downpour caused the rivers to overflow, inundating homes and displacing hundreds of thousands. Some areas received over 200 millimeters of rain, exceeding the monthly average rainfall for the season.



ICCG Meeting

23 June 2024

The meeting discussed the overall impact and damages and decided to assess to understand the preliminary Impact and Key Needs Assessment on Northeastern Flood 2024.



Tools Review and Finalization

24 June 2024

Deliberating and finalizing the tools, methodologies, and approaches essential for carrying out a comprehensive assessment.



Data Collection

25-26 June 2024

Collecting HHs and KIIs data to determine the severity ranking and assess sector-specific losses and damages.



Next Step

HRP and Response Monitoring



NAWG: Situation Overview of Northeastern Flood 2024 # 1

20 June 2024

Situation monitoring and preparing and compilation of all available information.



Emergency NAWG meeting on possible assessment for Northeastern Flood 2024

23 June 2024

A meeting was conducted to address the severity of the floods and conduct rapid needs assessment to determine the requirements, priorities, and response for those affected.



Tools Design in Kobo and online Orientation

24-25 June 2024

Finalization of the field assessment team survey formation and online orientation.

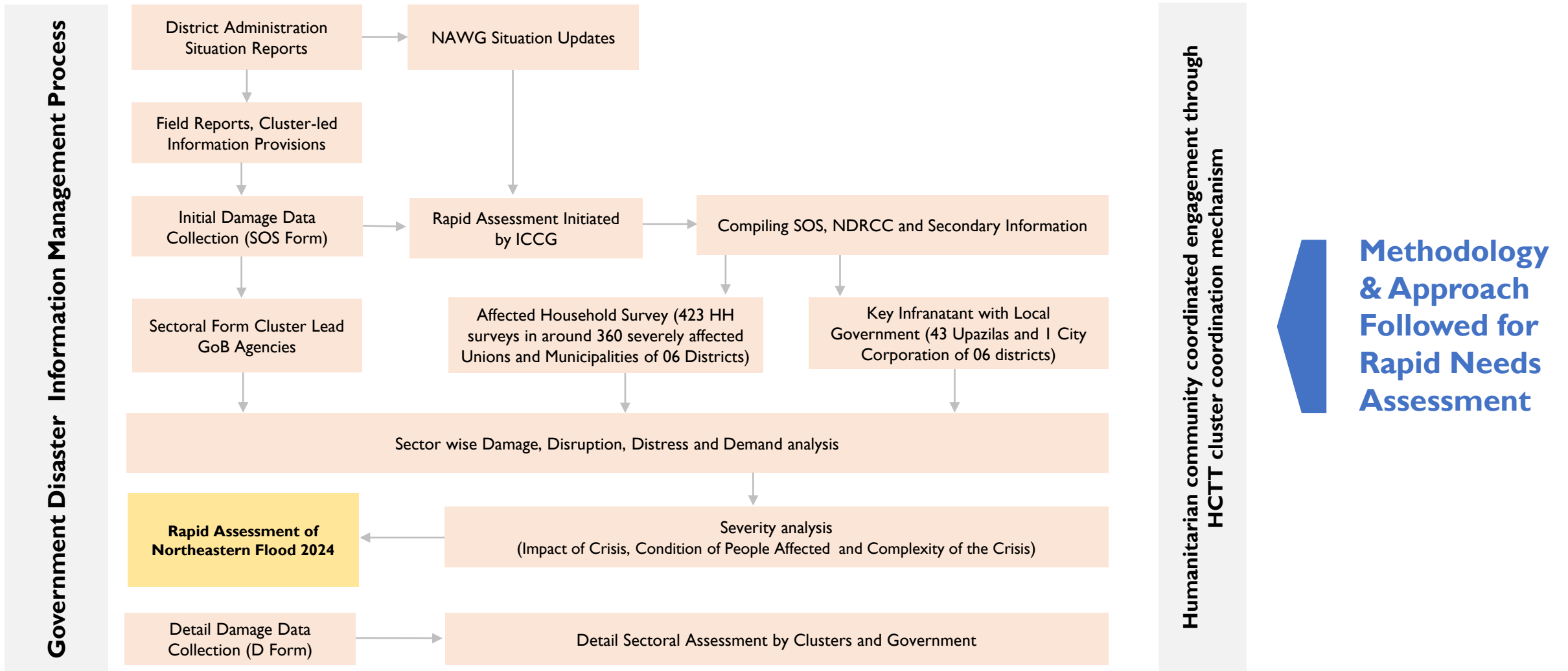


Data Analysis & Reporting

27-28 June 2024

Analyzing the collected data and compiling it into Upazila-wise severity ranking

Complementing GoB initiatives Through Rapid Assessments by the NAWG of ICCG



Overall Impact (as of 26 June 2024) *

Key Figures



3.74 M
People Affected



1,004
Shelter Opened

0.26 M
Temporary Displaced



63,807**
Shelter damaged or destroyed

Geographical Coverage of Impact



06
Districts

64
Upazila

360
Union



10***
Death

Breakdown of Impacted Population



1.93 M
Women



1.65 M
Children (0 - 19)



333,425
Elderly (60+)



50,365
Pregnant and Lactating Women



37,219
Person with Disabilities

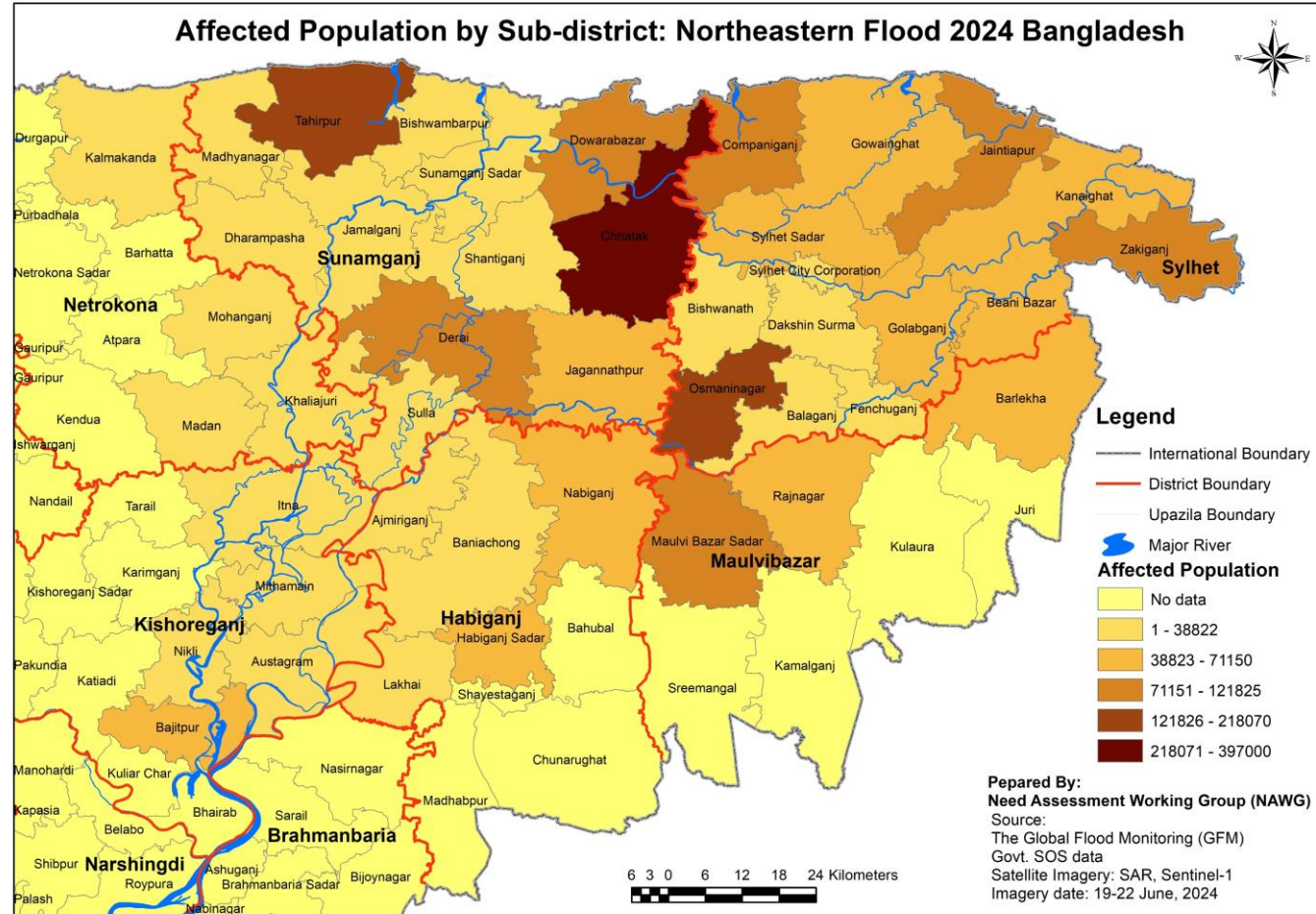
Sector-wise Impact



23 Million USD****



59,338 ***** Waterpoints and
118,412 Latrine facilities Damaged



* District Administration, SOS form, Government-led cluster information.

** Estimated from KII

*** Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC)

**** Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE)

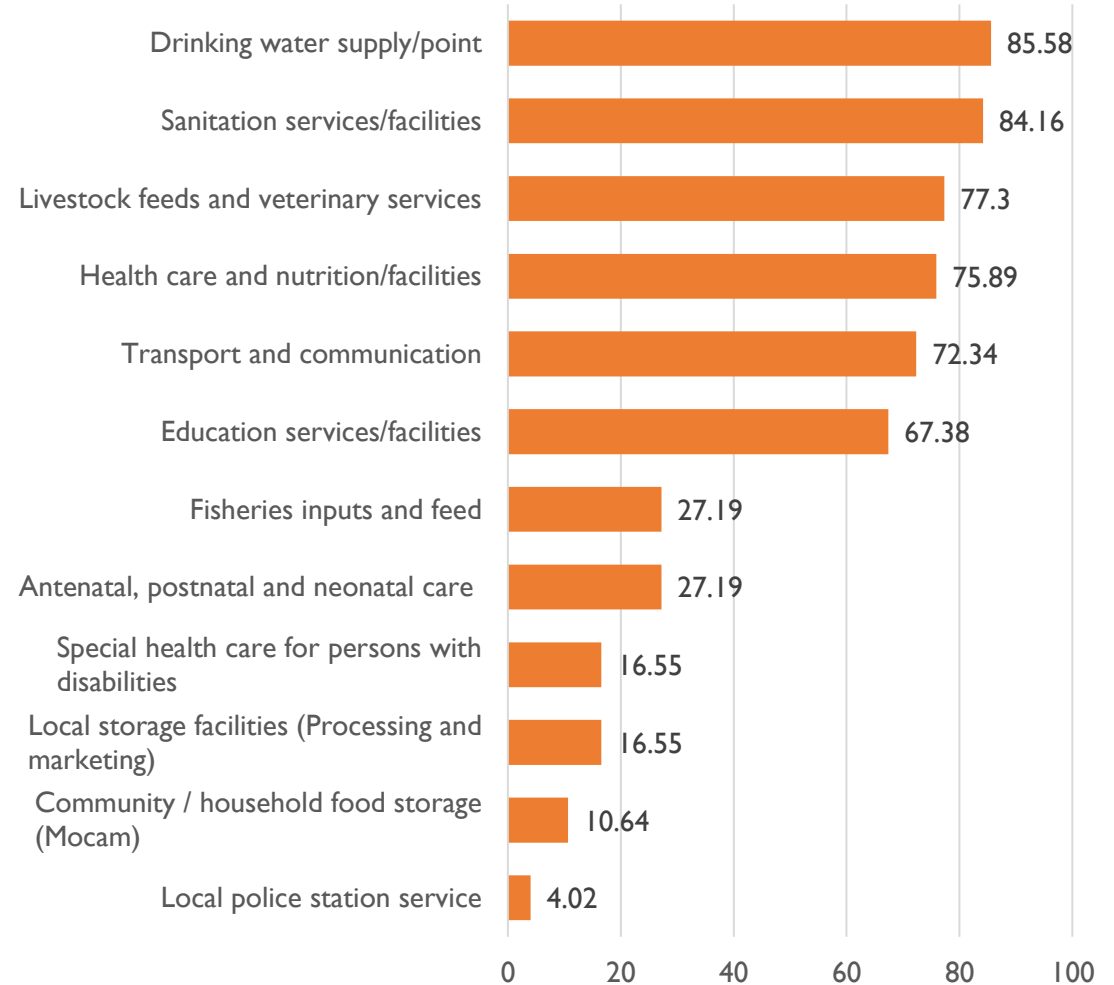
***** Department of Health Engineering (DPHE)

Disruption of Economic Activities, Service Provisions, and Social Functions

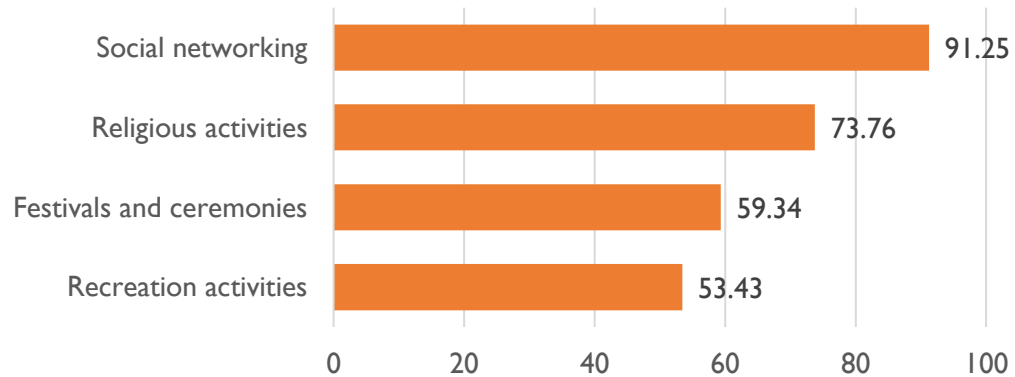
Economic Activities Disrupted (in %)



Service Provisions Disrupted (in %)

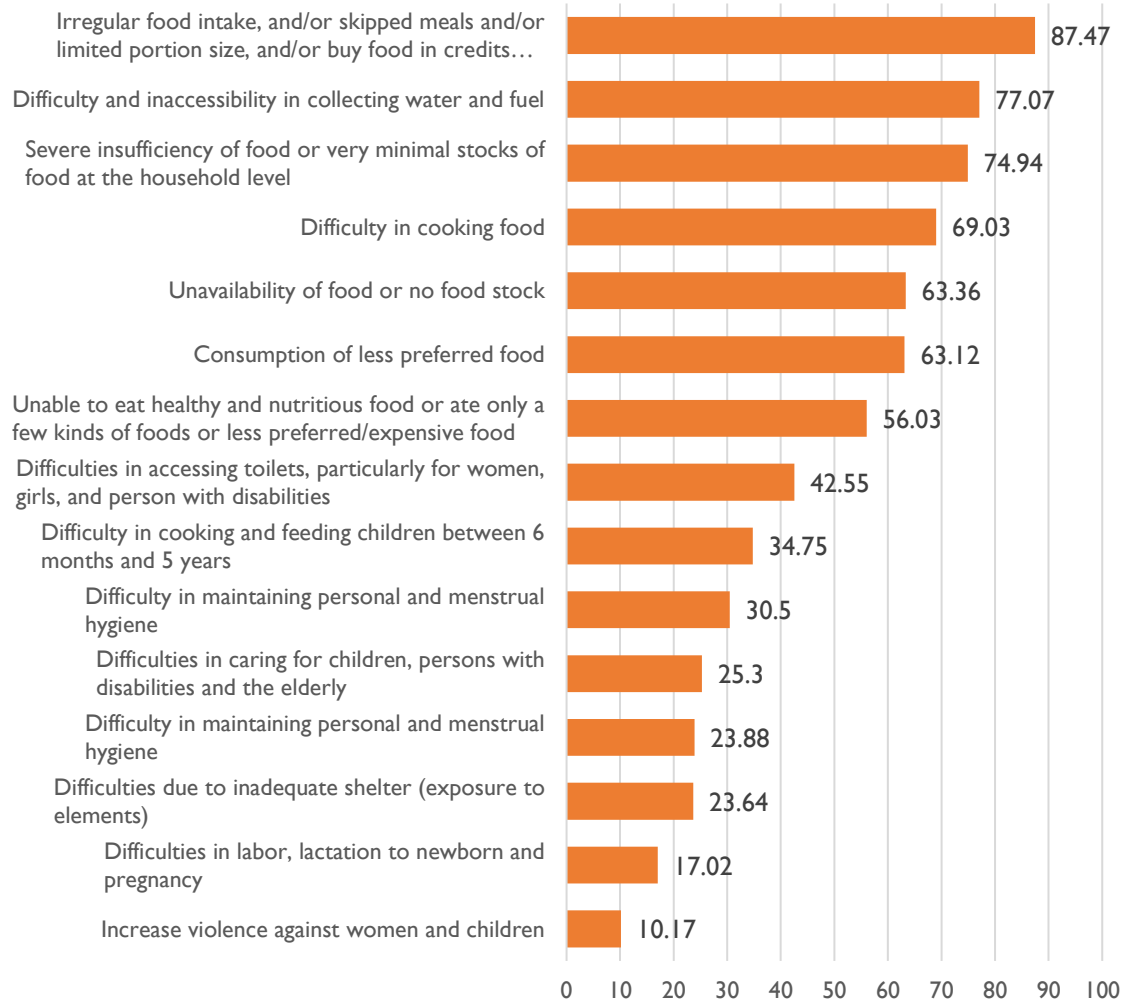


Social Functions Disrupted (in %)

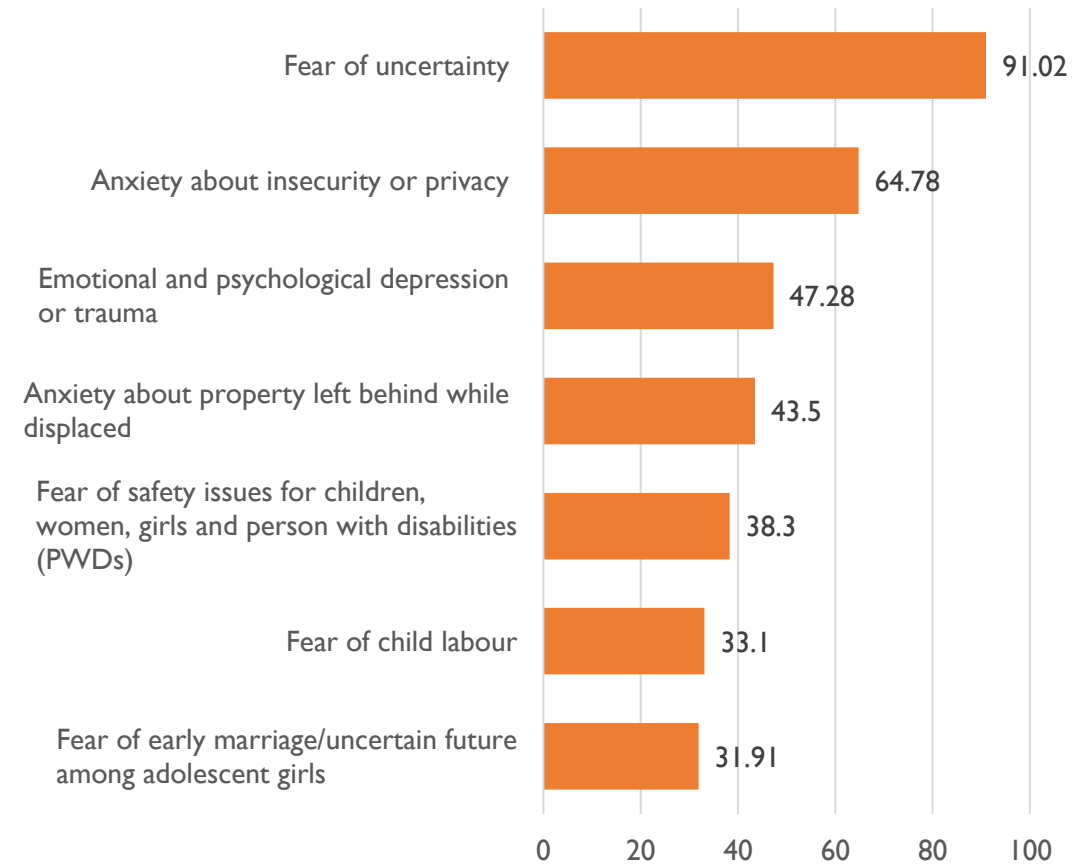


Distress/Sufferings and Coping Practices of the Affected Communities

Physical Sufferings (in %)

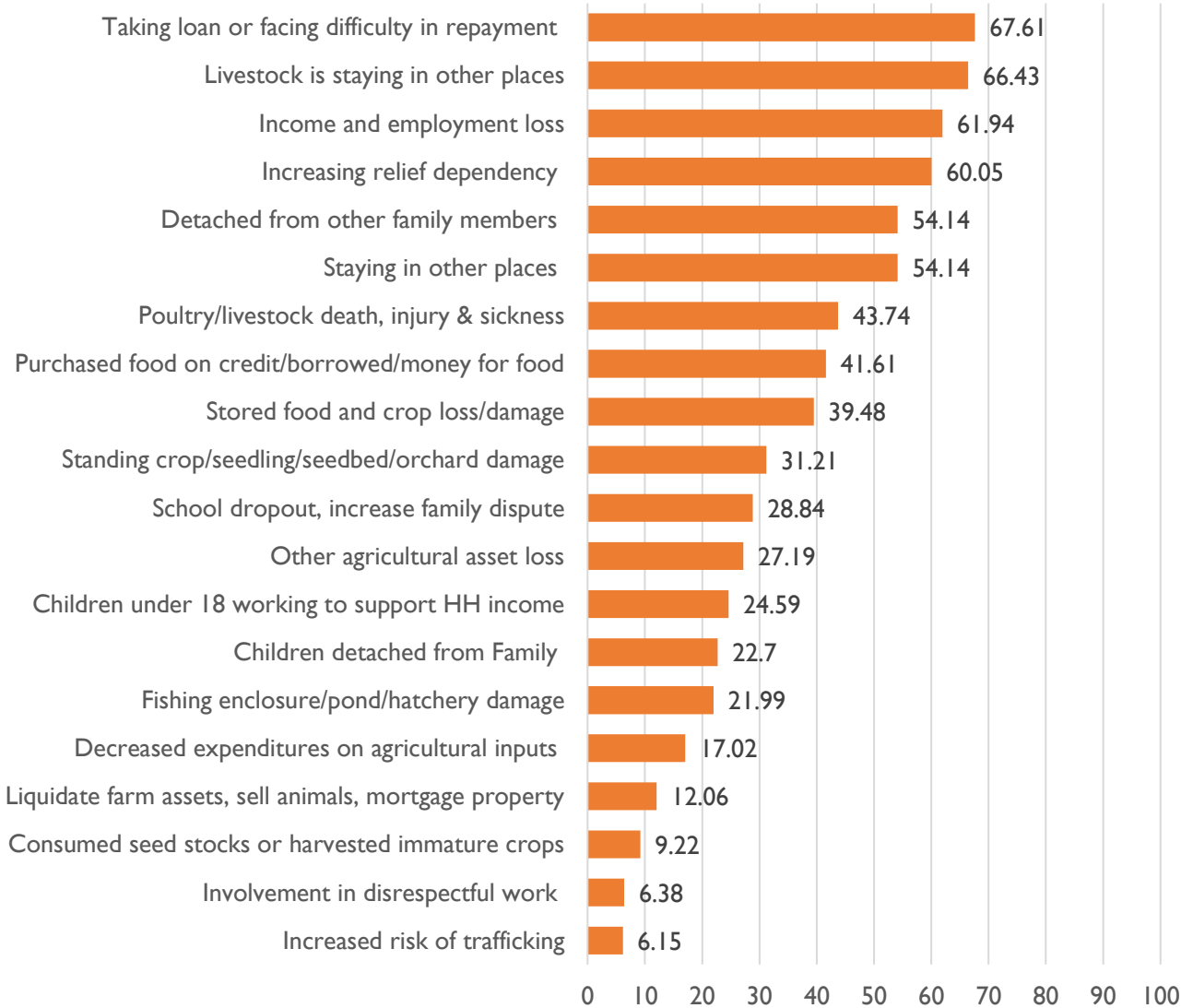


Mental Health and Psycho-Social Distress (in %)

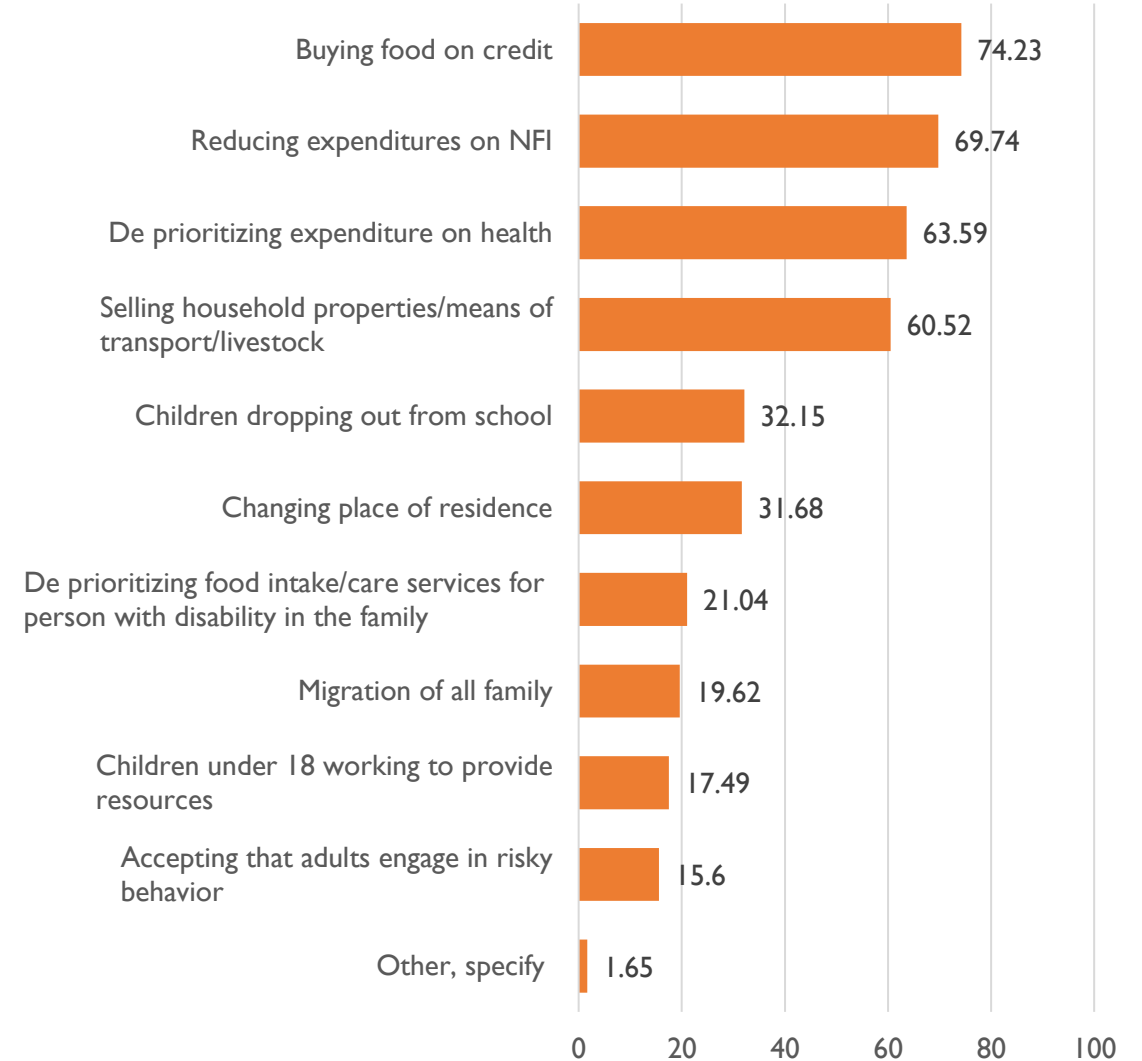


Distress/Sufferings and Coping Practices of the Affected Communities

Social Sufferings (in %)

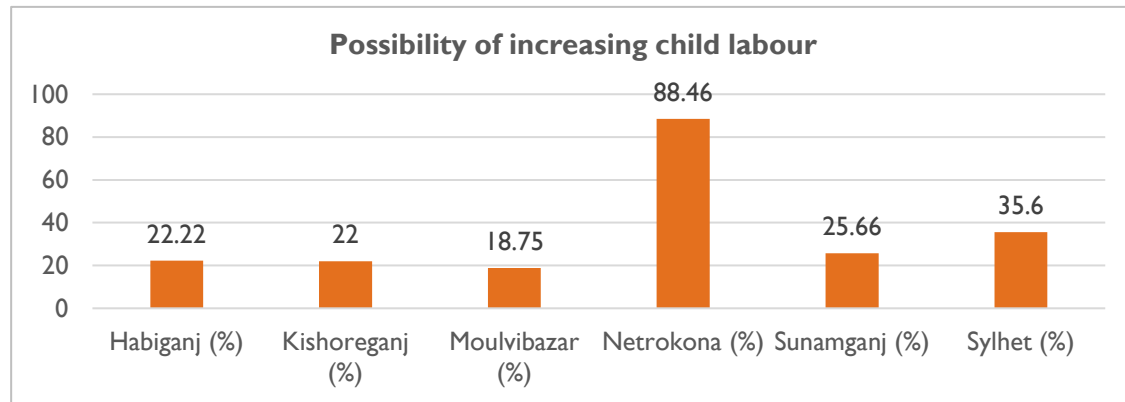


Coping Practices Adopted (in %)



Sectoral Impact: Damage, Disruption and Distress

Child Protection: In the districts of Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Moulvibazar, Netrokona, Sunamganj, and Sylhet, various child protection issues are interconnected and exacerbated. Netrokona shows the highest possibility of increasing child labor (88.46%) and fears of early marriage (50%), correlating with severe economic and social instability. Moulvibazar, while lower in child labor (18.75%) and early marriage (25%), faces the highest rate of children detached from families (50%). These issues are compounded by increased violence against women and children (37%), with fears of income loss, increased child labor, early marriage, degrading work, trafficking, and family displacement prevalent. Comprehensive interventions are urgently needed to address these intertwined challenges.

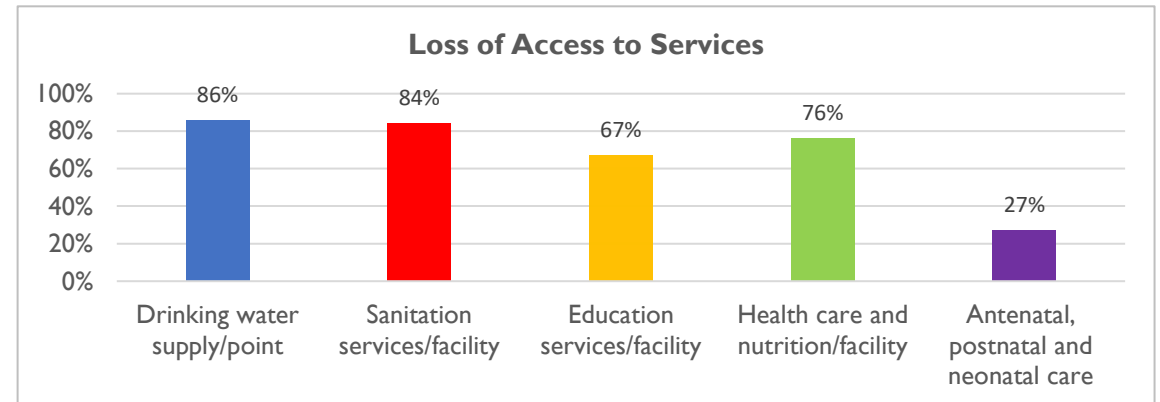


Education: Education is not typically seen as a life-saving activity during disasters, but the damage caused to schools by disasters and their use as shelters often goes unrecognized. This year, the Sylhet flood has extensively damaged numerous primary and secondary schools and learning centers. Rapid Needs Assessment data confirms that over 917 schools have been directly impacted across six districts in the Sylhet division, while another 991 schools were used as flood shelters. Approximately 600,000 learners are affected by the damage caused to schools. In addition to government education facilities, 147 Learning Centers under the Let Us Learn (LUL) project were damaged, impacting 2,637 out-of-school learners. Chhatak upazila from Sunamganj district, Companyganj and Gwainghat from Sylhet district, and Borolekha from Moulvibazar district have the highest number of affected schools. Key damages to schools include damage to the WASH blocks, dirt and dampness in the classroom, and loss of teaching-learning materials. Although the Eid break prevented the loss of contact hours, if infrastructure and resource damages are not addressed quickly, children will suffer once schools reopen.

Displacement Management: It was found that in the 24 upazilas surveyed, a total of 723,331 people were displaced during the disaster, with approximately 599,767 in evacuation shelters and 123,564 in other places such as roads and embankments. In the Balaganj Upazila of Sylhet, more than 60% of those displaced are still unable to return home. A significant proportion (20-40%) of those displaced in Bishwanath, Golapganj, Kanaighat, and Osmaninagar Upazilas of Sylhet, and Jamalganj Upazila of Sunamganj also remain displaced. Finally, while there are some people still displaced in Shantiganj and Tahirpur Upazilas of Sunamganj, and Companiganj, Dakshin Surma, and Jaintapur Upazilas of Sylhet, most of those in other upazilas have returned to their places of origin. The current situation shows a varied picture of displacement across different regions. While most people have returned in some areas (less than 10% displaced in Kishoreganj, Netrakona, and Habiganj), others face ongoing displacement. In specific locations (Sunamganj's Shantiganj and Tahirpur, and Sylhet's Companiganj, Dakshin Surma, and Jaintapur), 10-20% of those displaced remain unable to return. A significant number (20-40% displaced) are still displaced in other areas (Sylhet's Bishwanath, Golapganj, Kanaighat, and Osmaninagar, Sunamganj's Jamalganj, and Moulvibazar's Baralekha). The situation is most critical in one region (Sylhet's Balaganj), where over 60% of the displaced population hasn't been able to return home.

Some of the acute sufferings reported by the displaced include:

- Disruption of supportive social networks (91%)
- Anxiety about insecurity or privacy (69%)
- Being detached from other family members (67%)
- Income and employment loss (63%)
- Anxiety about being left behind while displaced (59)
- Anxiety about property left behind while displaced (49%)
- Fear of safety issues for children, women, girls, and persons with disability (43%)
- Having to buy food on credit (74%)
- Concern that livestock is being kept elsewhere (74%)



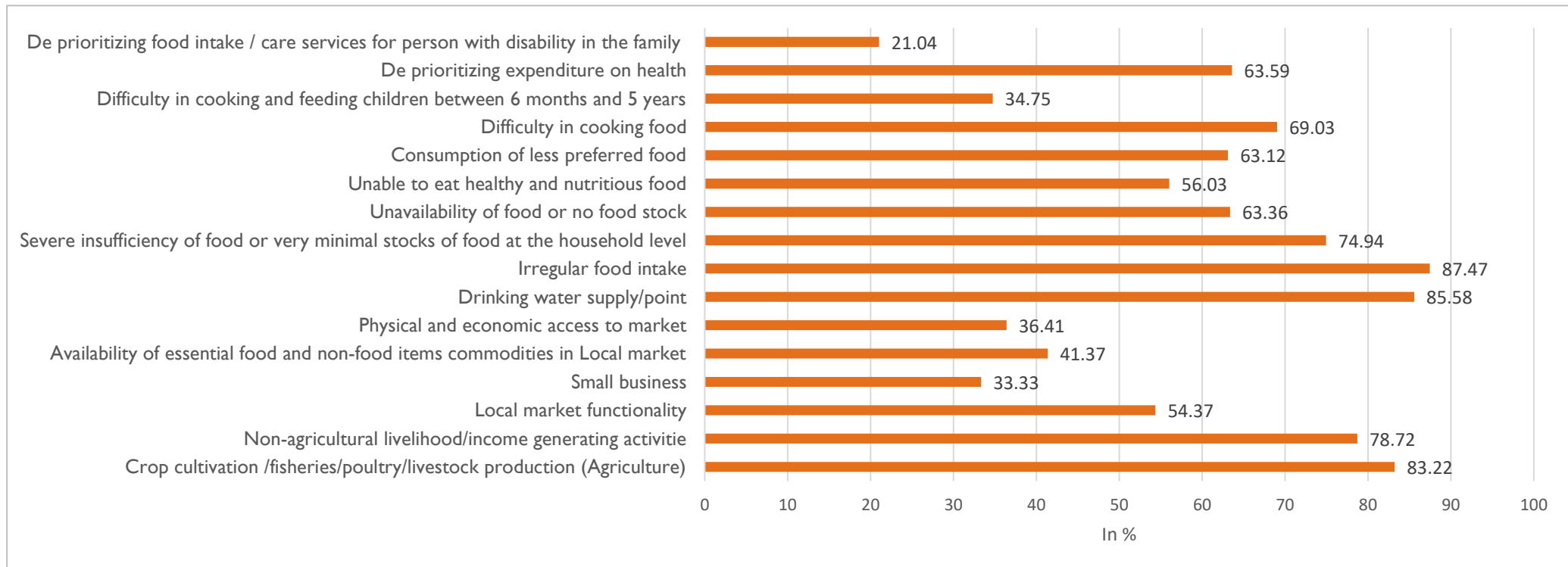
Sectoral Impact: Damage, Disruption and Distress

Food Security: The livelihoods of stone and sand laborers are greatly challenged. Agricultural and community infrastructures are severely damaged, resulting in a loss of income and decreased resilience. Fisheries enclosures are damaged, and the fish population has drastically reduced. The damage to agricultural infrastructure is significant, disrupting local and agricultural markets, and creating transportation challenges. Poultry and cattle are scarce feed due to the loss of straw.

According to the recent MVAM, 32 percent of households are moderately to severely food insecure, with three in ten households unable to afford adequate diets. Affected households increasingly rely on coping strategies, with 72 percent depending on livelihood-based coping strategies and 35 percent on food-based coping strategies.

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (2024) classifies Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj, and Moulvibazar as Level 3 or worse (Crisis/Emergency), indicating an urgent need for support to protect livelihoods and address food consumption gaps. The IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis (2019-2024) categorizes all Haor districts, except Sylhet, as Phase 3 or worse, with Sunamganj in Phase 4, underscoring the need for safety net programs to improve food consumption.

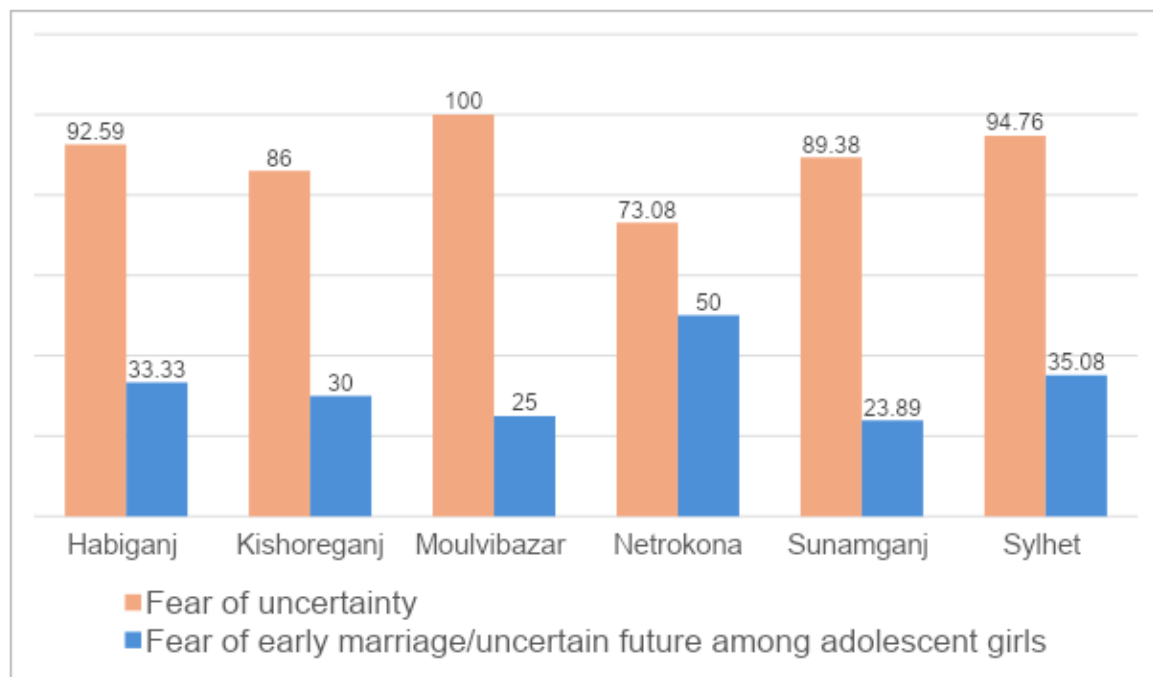
The region also faced severe floods in 2022, which incurred a loss of USD 230 million in the agriculture and livestock sectors (ADB). According to BBS, the region is characterized by a high prevalence of moderate and severe household food insecurity (HIES 2022: Mymensingh 26%, Sylhet 27%), stunting, wasting, underweight (MICS 2019), and poverty (HIES 2016). Respondents from Sunamganj (16.2%) and Sylhet (13.5%) reported the most severe damage to food stock during Cyclone Remal. The worst food security outcomes, characterized by moderate recent food insecurity (RFI), were observed in Haor and the flash flood areas in August 2023. According to DAE, over USD 23 million worth of damage occurred in the Sylhet division.



Sectoral Impact: Damage, Disruption and Distress

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): 38% of surveyed flood-affected households fear safety issues for children, women, and persons with disabilities, which may be due to the displaced situation primarily and the fear of uncertainty (91%). Secondly, in these haor regions, flash floods isolate households, making accessibility to safe evacuation shelters extremely challenging. The adoption of negative coping mechanisms, such as de-prioritizing health expenditure (64%) and reducing expenses on essential non-food items (70%), particularly for women and girls, will increase GBV risks. It is also very likely that the flood will have a disproportionate impact on adolescent girls, as 32% of households indicated fear of early marriage or an uncertain future for them, especially in a context of high child marriage prevalence - Sunamganj at 42%, Kishoreganj at 40%, and Netrakona at 43%. The key population groups (gender diverse groups, sex workers) in these areas, the most disproportionately affected, are at heightened risks of gender-based violence.

Fear of uncertainty and Fear of early marriage/uncertain future among adolescent girls (in %)

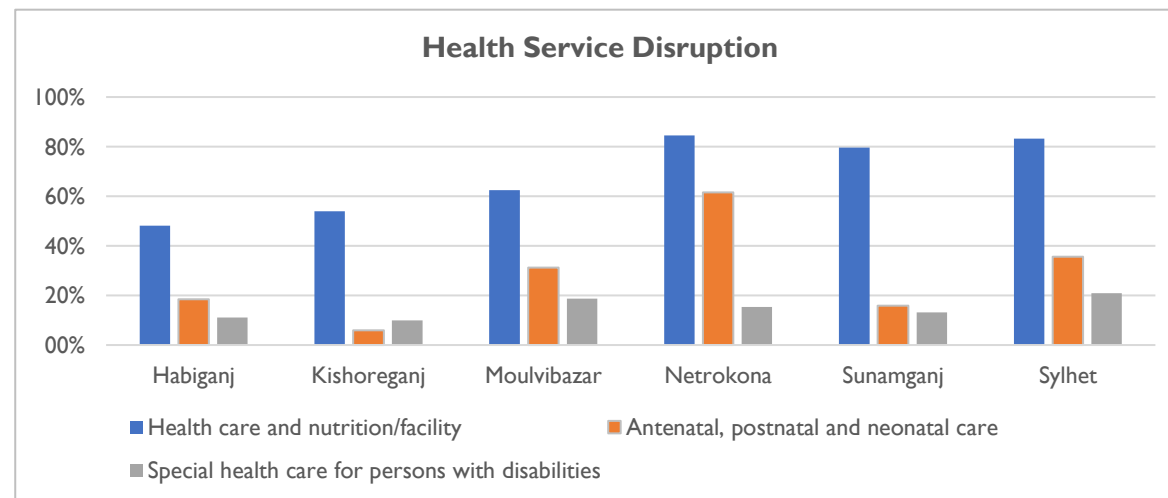


Health:

- From June 1 to June 26, 2024, the National Health Emergency Operations Centre and Control Room of DGHS recorded a total of 4,998 cases of diseases and injuries. Among them, 1,070 were cases of diarrhea, 375 were skin diseases, 334 were acute respiratory infections, 13 were eye infections, 4 were near-drowning cases, 2 were snake bites, and 3,200 were non-specified cases. To address health issues, the emergency departments of all upazila health complexes, district hospitals, and medical college hospitals are providing healthcare services.
- During the same period, the death toll reached 10. Among them, nine deaths were due to drowning, and another was from unidentified causes; all occurred in the Sylhet (3) and Moulvibazar (7) districts.

Sexual & Reproductive Health and Maternal & Child Health

- In Sunamganj district, 28 community clinics in Chatak, Taherpur, and Santiganj upazilas were affected, with water entering the clinics. In Santiganj upazila, two union-level health and family welfare centers were affected by the flood, whereas in Taherpur, one FWC was affected. In Chatak's 20-bed hospital, water entered the hospital, and people took shelter on the first floor. In Dowarabazar, the majority of the community clinics were affected, with water entering the hospital during the flood.
- The ground floor of the Osmani Medical College hospital and three Upazila health complexes (Fenchuganj, Gowainghat and Companyganj) were inundated, and patients have been safely moved to upper floors.
- 34 EPI sessions (Sylhet City Corporation [7], Jaintapur [1], Companyganj [10] and Gowainghat [15]) could not be held in the affected areas in Sylhet District due to flooding and inaccessibility. Planning for immunization catch-up sessions is ongoing.



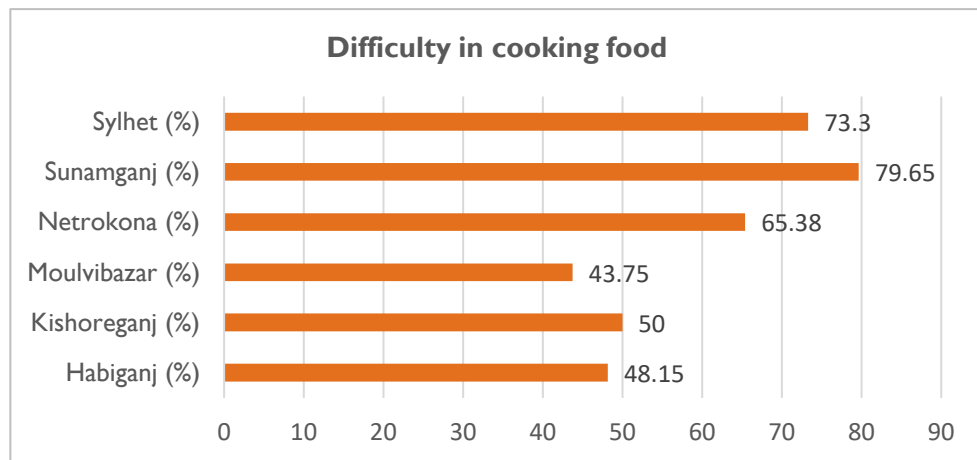
Sectoral Impact: Damage, Disruption and Distress

Shelter Cluster: Now that the floodwaters have begun to recede, the true extent of the damage caused by the flood is becoming increasingly apparent. The full scope of the devastation is expected to be known shortly. It has been observed that there has been extensive damage to homes in the affected areas, particularly to Kutcha and Jhupri houses. Additionally, a significant amount of essential household items and kitchen utensils were destroyed in the flood.

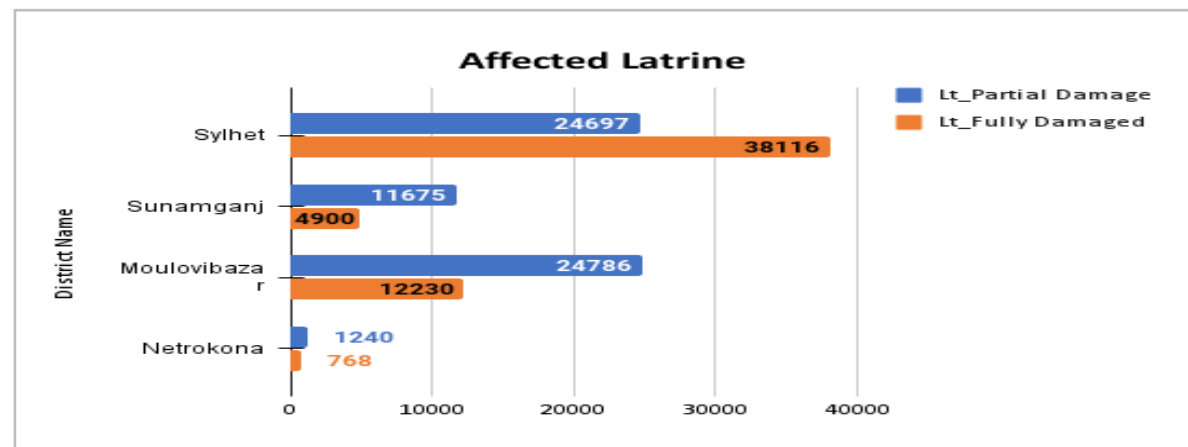
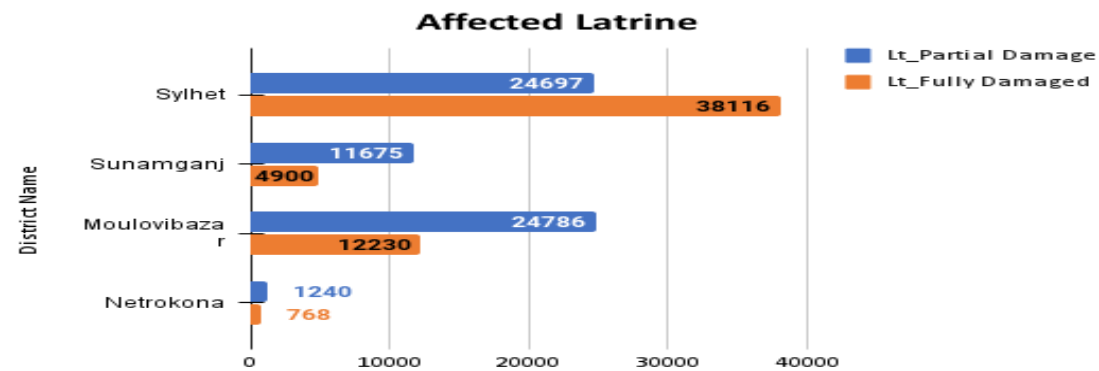
According to the assessment by NAWG (National Assessment Working Group), 83% of households have suffered impacts on their livelihoods, indicating that many cannot afford to repair or rebuild their homes due to loss of income. Furthermore, 72% of households have reported disruptions in transportation and communication systems, highlighting widespread damage to these infrastructures. Moreover, 69% of households are currently facing challenges with cooking, underscoring the urgent need for household items and kitchen supplies. Approximately 24% of households are grappling with inadequate shelter, indicating that many residents in affected areas are living in very constrained conditions. The flood has caused profound loss for many, with 91% of households expressing deep uncertainty about their future. Additionally, 60% of households are worried about safety and privacy due to insufficient living space. A considerable number of homes have been damaged, with 54% of households displaced and an equal percentage of household members separated from their families.

In the immediate aftermath of the flood, people have resorted to negative coping strategies to survive. The assessment reveals that around 61% of households have sold off essential belongings, and approximately 71% have reduced spending on non-food items, leaving them in a perpetually vulnerable state. It is evident that a humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the affected regions, and the affected population cannot recover to their previous stability without external assistance. The assessment underscores the urgent need for emergency shelter and long-term support.

Based on information from NAWG, there is an urgent demand in the community for shelter materials and household items at this critical juncture. Moreover, there is a pressing request for sustained support for long-term shelter solutions. Negative coping mechanisms, such as selling household possessions, purchasing food on credit, cutting back on expenditures, and children dropping out of school, are exacerbating vulnerabilities, further emphasizing the necessity of external aid for recovery.



WASH Cluster: The northeastern region of Bangladesh is experiencing flash floods for the second time in 2024. As the water levels begin to recede, families who sought shelter in various locations have started to return to their homes. Services are gradually resuming normal operations. Some facilities, such as schools that were used to house displaced people, require cleaning and minor to moderate repairs. Initial data from the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) indicates that in the five districts most severely affected by the flood, 59,338 water points and 118,412 latrine facilities were significantly impacted. Concurrently, the risk of contamination of regular water sources by microorganisms, sewage, agricultural or industrial waste, and chemicals has increased. This poses a heightened risk of outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea, skin diseases, and respiratory diseases, which can lead to serious illnesses or fatalities and further strain the already overwhelmed health facilities.



Key Needs and Priorities



Immediate needs and gaps for WASH include the supply of safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. Water quality testing is essential to ensure adherence to standards for drinking water. Proper restoration, operation, maintenance, and disinfection support for household water points are necessary, along with the installation of new water points and tube wells. Additionally, repairing or reconstructing damaged latrines and constructing new ones is crucial. Undertaking awareness sessions on hygiene behavior is also an immediate need.



Immediate needs include providing food assistance such as dry food, cooked meals, and ready-to-eat options, as well as addressing challenges with cooking facilities and fuel for displaced individuals. Support is crucial for populations at IPC level 4 and those affected by floods, including alternative livelihoods for laborers and cash-for-work programs to restore infrastructure. Awareness of fishing bans during breeding seasons and livestock support are also priorities to revive agriculture-based livelihoods. Cash for Work (CFW) to restore Agriculture infrastructure, community infrastructure, agriculture production and livelihood restoration.



Shelter materials and HH items are urgently needed, including emergency shelter support, essential supplies, housing repair, and rental aid. Displaced populations need food, emergency shelters, sanitation items, and livelihood restoration. Immediate 3–6-month recommendations include providing tarpaulins, toolkits, fixing materials, and technical guidance, along with essential items like clothing and mosquito nets.



Key immediate needs of the displaced include repairing or providing temporary and accessible toilets, ensuring a supply of drinking water, distributing food packages (such as rice, lentils, and oil), repairing and disinfecting drinking water sources, and maintaining and repairing shelters. Additionally, displaced populations require multipurpose cash grants to cover expenses like rent and transportation during their displacement.



Transport support is needed to distribute Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and other essential medicines to the affected areas. Emergency supplies of baby kits are required to accelerate institutional delivery in those affected health facilities. Additionally, transport support (cash support) is necessary to contact the facility for SRH services.



Cash support to women-headed households, pregnant women, and households with persons with disabilities to access essential health services, including reproductive and maternal health, and GBV referral, including psychosocial support. It is also important to prioritize affected households with adolescent girls to prevent child marriage. Provide immunization catch-up support.

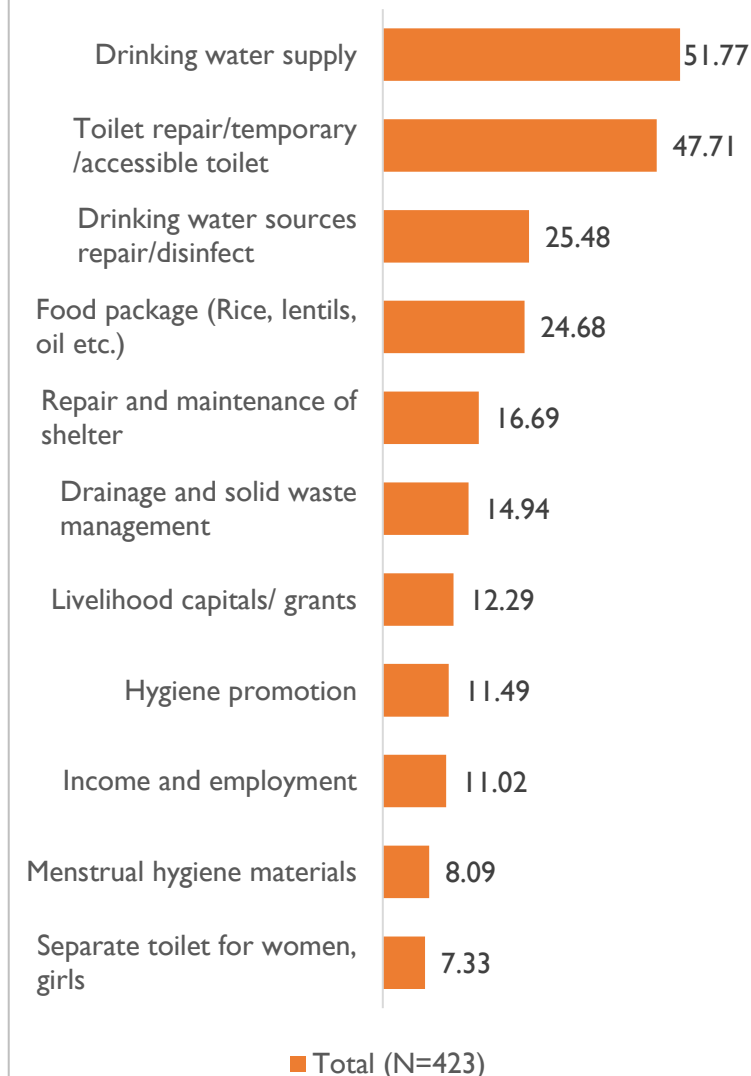


Schools need immediate support for cleaning the premises, including classrooms, repairing damaged WASH blocks, furniture, doors, and windows, and procuring/mobilizing teaching aids and learning materials.



Immediate support for affected families is crucial to alleviate pressures that increase violence and force children into labor and marriage. Strengthening and expanding child protection services, particularly case workers and social workers will ensure vulnerable children have access to psychosocial services, legal aid, safe spaces, and protective support. Investing in the rebuilding and enhancement of essential services and infrastructure is necessary.

Key Immediate Needs Based on the People's Preference (in %)



Humanitarian Response (Govt and Non-Govt.)

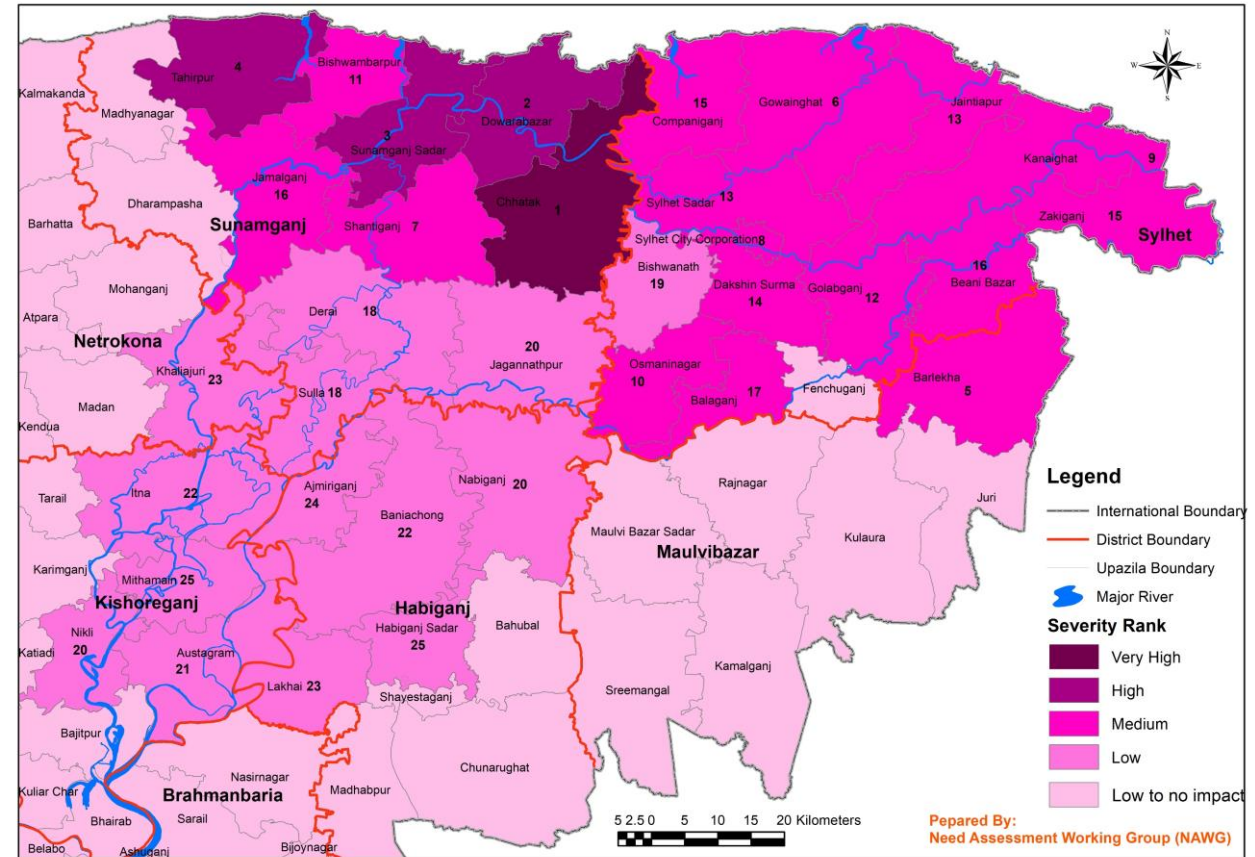
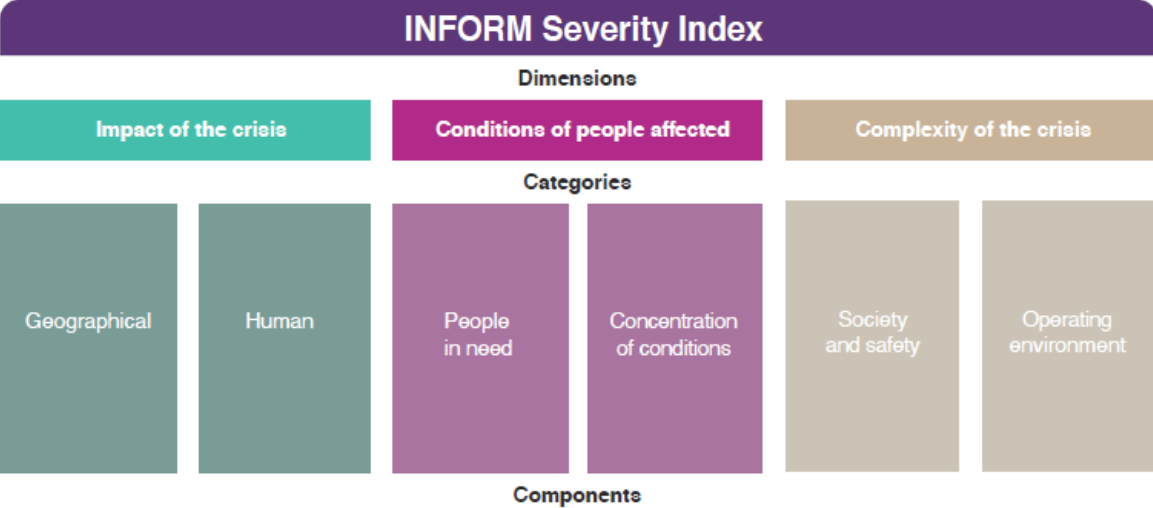
Government of Bangladesh (GoB)	In Sunamganj, Government has already distributed 995 MT of Rice, 1,233 packets of Dry Food, BDT 2,200,000 of GR Cash, 3,000 packets of cooked food, BDT 850,000 cash for fodder, and BDT 850,000 cash for Baby food, water purifier tablets to 4,230 households. In addition, Government has allocated BDT 410,000 for GR Cash, 100.5 MT for GR Rice, 5050 packets of dry food, BDT 150,000 for fodder, and BDT 150,000 for Baby food. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in Sunamganj has distributed 550,000 water purifying tablets.
**Source – District Administrations	In Gowainghat Sylhet, Government has distributed 99 MT of Rice, 200 packets of Dry Food, BDT 250,000 of GR Cash, and BDT 90,000 cash for fodder. Also, there are allocation of 99 MT of Rice, and BDT 90,000 cash for baby food. In addition, there are 10 medical teams are being formed to support the affected community. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has already allocated BDT 1,000,000 and 100 MT GR rice for the affected areas.

Organization	District/s	Funded Amount (USD)	Funded Amount (BDT)
SAJIDA Foundation	Sunamganj (Tahirpur)	\$4,092	₹480,690
FAO	Sunamganj (Tahirpur), Netrokona (Khaliajuri), Kishoreganj (Itna)	\$200,000	₹23,492,000
World Vision	Sunamganj, Sylhet	\$33,864	₹3,977,702
Concern Worldwide	Sylhet (Gowainghat)	\$13,111	₹3,807,273
UNFPA	Sunamganj	\$39,550	₹4,645,543
UNICEF (WASH)	Sylhet, Sunamganj and Mowlavibazar	\$130,000	₹15,269,800
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	Sunamganj (Dowarabazar)	\$200,000	₹23,492,000
BRAC	Sunamganj (Sadar, Shalla), Sylhet (Sadar)	\$1,450	₹170,000
Islamic Relief Bangladesh	Sunamganj (Chatak), Sylhet (City Cooperation and Companigonj)	\$64,302	₹7,552,913
AMAN (Association for Mass Advancement Network)	Sylhet (Companiganj, Jaintapur), Sunamgonj (Tahirpur)	\$13,769	₹1,617,340
CARE Bangladesh	Sunamganj (Dharmapasha)and Netrokona (Khaliajhuri)	\$40,237	₹4,707,772
FIVDB	Sylhet (Gowainghat, Sadar, Jaintapur)	\$185,169	₹21,750,000
Manusher Jonno Foundation	Sylhet (Biswambarpur) with food support to 75 HHs and Hygiene Kit support to 240 adolescents	\$1,692	₹199,618
Reliant Women Development Org-RWDO	Sylhet(Companiganj,Guwainghat,jaintapur, sylhet Sadar, Sylhet City Corporation)	\$2,000	₹354,920
Brac (Unicef Education)	Sunumganj, Sylhet and Moulvibazar (EIE kit)	\$24,689	₹2,900,000
UNFPA (Health)	Sunamganj	\$2,322	₹272,742
Unicef (Health)	Sylhet and Sunamganj	\$22,434	₹2,635,057
WFP	Sylhet and Sunamganj (117 MT Fortified Biscuit)	\$300,000	₹35,238,000
Total (Non-Government Response, Including Anticipatory Action)		\$1,278,681	₹152,563,370

Severity Analysis and Ranking of Affected Upazila

This severity ranking is developed based on the contextualization of the Inform Severity Ranking Methodology. Information collected from the severity ranking survey and impact information as well as various vulnerability information combined and analyzed for this ranking. There are dimensions such as the Impact of Crisis,

The condition of the People Affected and The complexity of the Crisis is considered for this analysis, For more information please click [here](#).



District	Upazila	Impact of Crisis	Condition of People Affected	Complexity of Crisis	Severity category
Sunamganj	Chhatak	4.3	5.0	3.1	Very High
Sunamganj	Dowarabazar	2.8	3.9	3.1	High
Sunamganj	Sunamganj Sadar	1.9	5.0	3.3	High
Sunamganj	Tahirpur	2.9	3.3	2.3	High
Moulvibazar	Baralekha	3.2	1.4	3.7	Medium
Sylhet	Gowainghat	2.7	1.7	3.5	Medium
Sunamganj	Shantiganj	2.0	2.9	2.8	Medium
Sylhet	Sylhet City Corporation	2.3	2.8	2.1	Medium
Sylhet	Kanaighat	2.5	1.5	3.3	Medium
Sylhet	Osmaninagar	3.7	0.7	3.6	Medium

Please find the full severity table [here](#)

Number of People in Need (PiN) by District and Cluster

District	Population Total	No. of Affected People (assessed districts)	People in Need (PIN)											PIN as per % of Total Population
			Child Protection	DMC	Education	Food Security	GBV	Health	Nutrition	Shelter	WASH	Area PIN	PIN as per % Affected	
Sylhet	3,857,037	852357	119,141	19,738	84,838	127,854	33,098	52,795	179,451	112,356	323,896	323,896	38%	8%
Sunamganj	2,695,495	847696	137,524	44,294	109,567	381,463	13,121	103,549	197,005	73,488	449,279	449,279	53%	17%
Netrokona	2,324,856	456939	101,512	29,542	48,258	137,082	60,226	70,626	80,182	23,454	109,665	137,082	30%	6%
Maulavibazar	2,123,445	411569	85,143	62,508	40,068	82,314	1,372	21,317	52,463	30,432	131,702	131,702	32%	6%
Habiganj	2,358,886	356021	92,962	65,778	40,851	71,204	1,435	22,456	73,202	30,759	113,927	113,927	32%	5%
Kishoreganj	3,267,630	818342	172,352	43,044	101,442	245,503	26,457	201,545	160,876	39,923	261,869	261,869	32%	8%
Total	16,627,349	3,742,924	708,634	264,904	425,024	1,045,419	135,709	472,287	743,178	310,413	1,390,338	1,417,754	38%	9%

About the Working Group : The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) is the platform for government and non-government humanitarian agencies under Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT). The secretariat of the Working Group is hosted by CARE Bangladesh under the “**Supporting Bangladesh Rapid Needs Assessment (SUBARNA) III Project.**”

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Please reach us for any queries related to this report

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<https://response.reliefweb.int/bangladesh/needs-assessment-working-group-nawg-bangladesh>

For Live Updates



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