

Bangladesh: Eastern Flash Floods

Situation Report No. 01

As of 25 August 2024

This report is produced by the Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in collaboration with cluster coordinators, humanitarian partners, and members of the Humanitarian Task Team (HCTT). It covers the period from 21 to 25 August.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 21 August, eleven districts in northeastern and southeastern Bangladesh were severely affected by flash flooding due to prolonged and heavy monsoon rains caused by the active monsoon and a low-pressure area¹.
- According to the National Disaster Response Coordination Center (NDRCC), some 4.94 million people in the northeastern and southeastern regions have been affected.
- At the time of reporting, 18 people have died, including five in Chattogram, four in Cumilla, three each in Noakhali and Cox's Bazar, and one each in Feni, Brahmanbaria, and Lakshmipur districts.
- A total 311,419 hectares of land is reportedly flooded.²
- The most affected districts are Noakhali, Cumilla, Laxipur, Feni, Chattogram, and Moulvibazar. Rural roads, agricultural fields, and fishponds have been submerged, cutting off essential access and severely impacting livelihoods.
- Power outages and limited connectivity are hampering communication and coordination. As of 24 August, some 928,000 people in nine districts remained without power, and 1,807 cell towers are out of service.³ Floods damaged 462 kilometers of roads across 12 districts,⁴ and disrupted road and rail links between Dhaka and Chattogram.

BANGLADESH: Eastern Flash Flood 2024 Affected District



Over 7,000 schools are closed due to flooding, affecting an estimated 175,0000 primary students across the
affected districts.



4.94 MPeople affected



3,527 Flood shelter sites opened



284,888 People in flood shelter sites



18 Confirmed deaths

¹ The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)

² Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)

³ Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources

⁴ Roads and Highway Department

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND RESPONSE



Health

Impact

1,551

People injured

- From 22-24 August, a total of 1551 cases of illness and injuries were recorded by the National Health Emergency Operations Centre and Control Room of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
- A total of 488 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases, 219 Skin diseases, 311 Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Cases, 176 Injuries, 26 Snake bites, 07 near-drowning, and 592 other cases were reported from health facilities of affected districts.
- Health facilities at the Upazila level (Chattogarm, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Feni, Noakhali, Laxsmipur, Chandpur, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria) Upazila Health Complex (UHC), Community Clinic (CC) and Union Health & Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC) are affected significantly due to flood. (Total Upazila Health Complex (UHC) 99 affected 9; total Sub-Centre 346, affected 71; total community clinic 2700, affected 443)
- There is a potential risk of a communicable disease outbreaks as floodwaters recede.
- Pregnant women are not able to come to the facility for antenatal care, institutional delivery by the midwives, postnatal care and post-partum family planning services due to difficulty to access and lack of funds for transport costs.

Needs

- DGHS provided a list of emergency drugs for managing impending disease outbreaks. Antibiotics, antipyretics, antifungal
 ointment, and injection cholera saline are also needed for managing water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, skin disease, and
 acute respiratory infection.
- Water purification tablets and oral rehydration salts are priority needs for managing ongoing and impending disease outbreaks, particularly in the remote areas.
- Need of SRHR services for pregnant women at the facility level, tracking of EDD (estimated date of delivery) to ensure timely
 referral, transportation and institutional delivery. Districts also need mobile SRH health camps to the hard-to-reach areas to
 ensure doorstep SRH services for women and pregnant mothers.

Response

- The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has activated a total of 1217 mobile medical teams (MMT) with essential
 drugs and commodities at different flood centres in the affected 11 districts to provide health care services.
- In addition to Government medical teams, Armed Forces Division, IFRC BDRCS and philanthropic organizations also providing health care services through Mobile Medical Team.
- Pre-positioned Emergency drugs of Medical Buffer Stock (Antibiotic, Anti-snake venom etc.), are being used to manage health problems.
- Health cluster partners are working with the government counterparts to enhance coordinated response to the flood.
- UNFPA will support the health and family planning department to organize 08 mobile SRH camps through its implementing
 partners in Noakhali and Khagrachari districts for pregnant and reproductive-age women. 800 women and adolescents are
 targeted to received SRH services from the camps.
- 500 baby kits will be distributed to the pregnant women coming to the facilities for institutional delivery.
- Pregnant women who are close to the delivery date will be referred to 6 maternity waiting homes or at the union level health and family welfare centre at Khagrachari district.

Gaps & Constraints

- Power outages and network issues are delaying information gathering.
- The shortage of safe water, food, and sanitation raises the risk of respiratory infections and waterborne diseases.
- Shortage of medicine.
- Lack of midwives in the affected district to join the medical team at the district.
- Lack of transportation and referral support for the pregnant women coming to the facility for institutional care.

This Displacement Management / Shelter

Impact

An estimated 1,047,029 people are in communities that are cut off due to flooded or damaged road networks, with many of them displaced by the floods.

People inaccessible

- In Cumila many people are currently displaced in areas around Gomti River embankment in Burichang and Chauddagram upazilas.
- Government sources from Parshuram and Chhagalnaiya upazilas reported that people have been displaced throughout the
- There are a total of 4.5 million Kutcha and Jhupri houses (shacks and mud houses) in the affected districts, which are most vulnerable to damage during flooding events.

Needs

- There is a reported need for a greater capacity in functional evacuation shelters In Feni.
- Emergency shelter materials, essential HHs supplies, cash assistance, non-food items are currently needed in the affected areas.

Response

3,654 evacuation shelters have been opened across affected districts and a total of 415,273 temporary displaced (people in shelter).

Gaps & Constraints

- The exact number of people displaced in Feni is not yet estimated due to communication disruptions in remote areas.
- Relief operations are hampered due to communication breakdowns and transport disruptions.
- Contingency stock of shelter materials/items.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Impact

Estimated 26,584 water points and 62,528 toilets damage as per latest report of DPHE

26,584 Water points damaged

Needs

Immediate needs are the swift provision of a safe drinking water supply and temporary emergency latrine facilities.

Response

- Over 2,000,000 Water Purifying Tablets (WPTs) were mobilized to flood-affected districts by UNICEF and DPHE
- 500 Hygiene Kits (HK) were distributed in Noakhali, reaching 2,250 people, with an additional 1,200 kits sent from Chattogram to Comilla, Feni, Laxmipur, and Khagrachari districts.
- Over 1,550 jerricans distributed to t 6,975 people, and 03 Mobile Water Treatment Plants (MWTPs) were deployed to Feni, Noakhali, and Khagrachari to provide safe drinking water.
- DPHE staff inspected 1,033 tube wells, repaired 108, and disinfected them to ensure safe drinking water.
- DPHE provides safe water to flood shelters and affected people through WPT distribution, water point installations, water trucking, and emergency latrine installations. Also distributing hygiene kits and life-saving hygiene messages to those affected by the floods.
- Executive engineers of DPHE are providing safe water to flood shelters and affected people through WPT distribution, water point installations, water trucking, and emergency latrine installations. They are also distributing hygiene kits and life-saving hygiene messages to those affected by the floods.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Disruptions in transport and communications networks.
- Shortages of vehicles for water trucking.



Impact

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) reported a total 311,419 hectares of land are flooded in 11 districts.

Hectares of land flooded

The Department of fisheries (DOF) reported a total loss to fisheries to the order of an estimated USD 135 million.

The Department of Livestock has reported an initial loss of livestock to the order of an estimated USD 34 million.

Response

- WFP has started distributing High Energy Biscuit (HEB) to Feni: 6,000 HHs, HEB-30 MT, Cumilla: 4,000 HHs, HEB-20 MT, Noakhali: 8,000 HHs, HEB-40 MT, Moulvibazar: 12,000 HHs, HEB-60 MT, Total: 30,000 HHs with 150 MT HEB. Implementing partners are YPSA, CNRS, CODEC.
- BDRCS has allocated 7-day food packages: 1,000 packages for Feni, 500 packages for Chattogram and 500 packages for Noakhali. Each package contains 7.5 kg of rice, 1 kg of lentils, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of salt, and 3 liters of soybean oil. A total of BDT 750,000 has been mobilized for cooked/emergency dry food distribution for Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali and Khagrachari. BDRCS has distributed3,000 packets of dry food will be distributed through local procurement to the most affected areas.
- Concern Worldwide: Launch a total of 100,000 euros from the Concern central emergency fund. Starting to response to 6000 households in Noakhali Sadar and Sonaimuri Upazilla with the support of implementation partner Sajeda Foundation. Expect to start distribution of life saving dry food and NFI's package costing of BDT 2000 each. Targeting 1,000 families (BDT 2000 package value) with dry food and NFI's in Feni. It mobilized BDT 2,000,000 from their emergency fund primarily. A team is on standby to deploy on the ground.
- Islamic Relief: Initially allocated 100,000 GBP and began response on 23d August with its surge team in Feni and Cumilla. A total of 1580 families will receive multipurpose cash and hygiene kit. Each family will receive cash @ BDT 6000 along with a hygiene kit package.
- ActionAid Bangladesh: Started response in Noakhali from today and will start in Feni soon. ActionAid Bangladesh allocated 40.000 GBP and BDT 12,00,000 primarily for the response in Noakhali and Feni.
- World Vision Bangladesh: Started distribution of dry food and water in Laksam in Cumilla and Ramu, Cox's flood affected unions. By tomorrow 800 HHs to be reached.
- Save the Children: Four teams to start initial response in Feni, Moulavibazar and Noakhali. Will update accordingly.
- BRAC: BRAC distributes food, water and other essentials across all affected districts. To date, BRAC has reached out to over 9,000 families with food, water and other essentials and has some additional plan as well. BRAC has allocated BDT 3 crore from its own source including along with Upazila contingency fund over BDT 50 lac and called for a donation worldwide.
- Care Bangladesh: Care is providing Multi-Purpose Cash Grant and Hygiene Kits in Sadar Upazila of Noakhali by the local partner Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). Targeted Population is 1720 from 400 HHs. Total proposed budget: 35,000 USD
- Oxfam: Oxfam started to distribute Dry food, water and ORS in Feni and Noakhali districts. Total coverage 2000 HHs. GBP 15000 allocated and exploring more funding for this emergency.

Gaps & Constraints

- Road and telecommunication disrupted.
- Warehouse facilities disrupted.
- Limited partner presence
- Scarcity of formal shelters
- Markets not functional, and food commodities are not available



Education

Impact

- Over 7,000 schools are closed due to flooding, affecting an estimated 175,0000 primary students across districts affected.
- Many educational institutions are either submerged or repurposed as shelters.
- Access routes to schools have been damaged.
- The education sector in the affected districts is likely to face significant infrastructural damage, loss of teaching materials, decreased attendance, and increased dropout rates.

Needs

- Repair of school infrastructure
- Cleaning of school premises once the floodwaters recede.

- Education in emergency (EiE) kits for schools.
- EiE learning package for addressing learning gaps.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Sectoral data on the impact and needs are currently unavailable, as most locations, offices, and institutions are inundated and remain inaccessible.
- Power supply and mobile phone networks in the affected areas are completely disrupted, making it difficult to reach officials.
 Government at the national level also have no relevant data as they are unable to connect to the field officers.



Impact

- An estimated 5,200,000 children under the age of 5 are affected.
- An estimated 1.54 million children and adolescents (5 to 19 Years) are affected.

Needs

- Protection for children and adolescents from abuse, exploitation, violence, psychosocial distress, GBV, family separation.
- safe space for children including adolescent.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for children including adolescents.
- Case management support for children already on the caseload and identified as vulnerable as well as those identified as
 Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Children with Disability.
- Family and Dignity kits for the most vulnerable children and adolescent girls.

Response

- UNICEF in partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS), is delivering 4,000 family and dignity kits to Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali, Moulovibazar and Habiganj.
- UNICEF and DSS are deploying 200 social workers to the flood affected areas of Cumilla, Feni, Noakhali.
- UNICEF provided 15 inflatable air boats, 180 gum boots and 180 life jackets to frontline workers to support services.
- Partners outreach to ensure safe spaces are established in shelter locations for children including adolescents
- CIPRB dispatched lifeguard team to Noakhali for rescue support specially for children and women as well as raising awareness on safety and drowning prevention and protection from floods.
- RWDO is distributing relief items, dry food in Moulovibazar. In shelters, they are providing awareness on Child Protection and GBV through miking.
- In Moulovibazar, BRAC is supporting the evacuation and distributing dry food to 1,800 families. In Chattagram, BRAC has
 distributed over 1000 dry food and menstrual hygiene packages in Hathazari and Fatikchari upazilas.
- World Vision Bangladesh (WVB) supported 300 families in Cumilla Laksham and 500 families in Ramu CXB.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Feni district has totally separated due to the flood. All sort of communication got disrupted. Difficult to send logistics support.
- Few Child Protection Community Hubs in existence in hotspot areas of Feni and Noakhali



Impact

- According to the Minimum Initial Service package (MISP) calculator from UNFPA an estimated 1.38 million women of reproductive and 444,600 are adolescent girls aged 10-19 years, are affected by this recent flood.
- The World Vision (WI) team in Feni/Comilla informed that women and girls in evacuation centers report concerns on safety, including
 in case cases when the men of the family have stayed back in flooded areas to guard homes and family assets.

Needs

- Ensuring safety and protection of women and girls in the evacuation centers through deployment of community.
- Dignity kit items, particularly clothing, menstrual and sanitary items are needed as immediate support. Items are preferred over cash
 as markets are still non-functional in certain areas and prices are high.
- AID- Comilla a local organization from Cumilla informed that there is urgent need for clothing and sanitary items for women and girls.

Response

OXFAM is planning to initiate the Rapid Gender Analysis by next week in Feni and Noakhali.

- UNFPA is mobilizing distribution of 1,479 Dignity kits in Noakhali and Feni.
- BDRCS has 3000 dignity kits pre-positioned and to be mobilized immediately as the water recedes in certain areas.
- The GBV cluster has initiated Dignity kit mapping to facilitate support in areas of gaps. The cluster also called for a meeting on 26
 August with cluster members in Dhaka, Rangamati and Banderban to discuss impact and response.

Gaps and constraints

- Situation of prioritized marginalized and vulnerable groups is still unknown.
- Local NGO AID-Comilla has reported that significant damage to the dam has led to severe flooding, forcing many residents, including
 women and girls, to seek refuge on roads and atop the remaining sections of the dam. In areas where rescue is delayed women and
 girls are at high risks of gender-based violence.

Logistics

Impact

Transportation access to affected area (limited route options; massive traffic jams).

Response

 BDRCS is mobilizing 7 boats from the Chattogram warehouse to support rescue operations in affected areas in Chattogram, Feni, Noakhali, and Cumilla.

Needs

- Alternative modes of transport (besides road transport) to reach affected populations.
- Updated information on access and alternate routes as main roads are blocked.

Gaps

- Lack of adequate storage facilities for humanitarian supplies
- Lack of physical access to affected people due to disruptions to road networks.
- Districts and upazilas experiencing power outages, damaged mobile towers are causing communication disruption with government counterparts and frontline responders.

5 FUNDING

- Partners are mobilizing internal and external resources to respond. The Start Fund decided to allocate £122,064 in response to flash flooding in Feni, Noakhali, Cumilla, Habigani, Moulvibazar, Khagracchari and Rangamat District in Bangladesh.
- On 14 July, the humanitarian community in Bangladesh launched its first-ever multi-hazard humanitarian response plan (HRP) for cyclone and monsoon floods, targeting a total of 1.2 million people. The HRP seeks \$79.8 million in funding, but as of now, agencies have reached around 700,000 people with humanitarian assistance and raised only \$15.6 million (19.2 per cent of the HRP funding).

X GENERAL COORDINATION

- Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and National Cluster Coordinators is active and meeting regularly. The online 5W
 (Microsoft Power BI) will continue to capture activities for ongoing responses cyclone REMAL and subsequent flooding events.
- The United Nation Resident Coordinator's Office sent an official letter to the Secretary of MoDMR to offer international assistance. Coordination is taking place across all clusters and sectors.
- Subnational coordination is a challenge due to disruptions in electricity, telecommunications, and road infrastructure in affected areas.
- The Needs Assessment Working produced two situational reports and currently is planning a joint assessment.
- A joint mission among 10 humanitarian partners is in Feni, Cumilla and Noakhali from 26-28 August to monitor the impact of the floods and identify what support is required for the Government-led response to meet the humanitarian needs of the flood-affected population

For further information, please contact:

Inter-cluster Cluster Coordination Group Secretariat- Humanitarian Coordination Task Team
Aleyda Valdes, Humanitarian Affairs Adviser, valdes@un.org; Pankaj Paul, DRR/Nexus Specialist, pankaj.paul@un.org; Jacklin
Rebeiro, Humanitarian Affairs Specialist, jacklin.rebeiro@un.org; H M Shahid Hassan, National Risk Officer,
shahid.unrcobd@outlook.com