



# Bangladesh: Eastern Flash Floods 2024

Situation Report No. 02

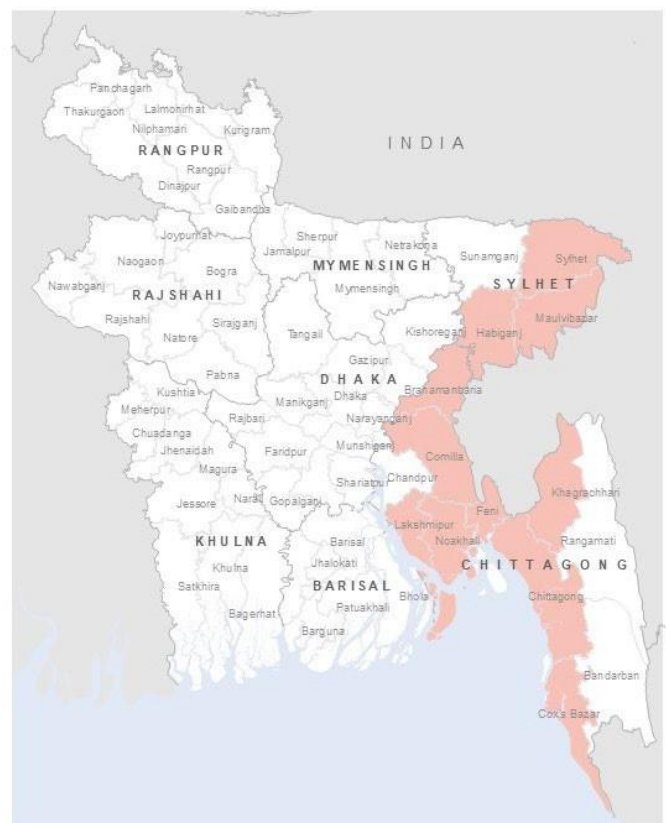
As of 30 August 2024

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 25 to 29 August 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Recent flash floods in Bangladesh, triggered by heavy rainfall and upstream water flows from India, have had a devastating impact on communities across 11 districts in the eastern regions of the country.
- According to the National Disaster Response Coordination Center (NDRCC), some 5.8 million people in the northeastern and southeastern regions have been affected and more than 1 million people are in communities cut off by the flooding. A reported 502,501 people are displaced in 3,403 evacuation shelters.
- 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. A total of 339,382 hectares of crops have been completely damaged.
- Over 7,000 schools are closed due to flooding, affecting 1,750,000 primary students across the affected districts. Displacement and overcrowded temporary shelters have heightened protection concerns, including for women and girls. The flooding of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities across affected areas is of concern in terms of health and water-borne diseases.
- Access challenges have been exacerbated by the submersion of rural roads and electricity outages. In Noakhali, over 50% of the affected areas remain unreachable by local authorities and frontline responders. The affected communities have minimal access to markets, necessitating most agencies to provide in-kind support.
- The UN and humanitarian partners are mobilizing targeted multi-sectoral emergency activities to support the Government-led flood response and to complement local/CSO efforts in assisting the most vulnerable flood-affected people and communities.

BANGLADESH: Eastern Flash Flood 2024 Affected District



**5.8M** People affected



**3,403** Flood shelter sites opened



**502,501** People in flood shelter sites



**52** Confirmed deaths

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND RESPONSE

### Health

#### Impact

# 4,786

People injured

- From 21-28 August, a total of 4,786 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 1,397 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases, 782 Skin diseases, 264 Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Cases, 279 Injuries, 209 Snake bites, 22 near-drowning, 11 eye infection and 1,822 other cases were reported from health facilities of affected districts.
- <sup>1</sup>Total number of deaths is 52: (Drowning 25, injury 3, Diarrhea 2, Acute Respiratory infection 1, Lightning 3, Snakebite 1, Electrocution 5 and others<sup>12</sup>)
- The health facilities and services of these areas is impacted. Sadar hospitals, Upazila Health Complexes, Community Clinics are submerged in some sub-districts. Furthermore, the functioning health facilities are struggling with patients seeking emergency care, including those with waterborne diseases and injuries related to the floods.
- Children, pregnant women and elderly people are most vulnerable in these impacted places.
- 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

- There are significant shortages of medical supplies, including medicines, vaccines, and equipment needed for emergency care and disease prevention. DGHS provided an updated request list of emergency drugs for managing impending disease outbreaks. Antibiotics, antipyretics, antifungal ointment, and injection cholera saline are needed for managing water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, skin disease, and acute respiratory infection.
- Disease surveillance and strengthen Health Promotion activities need to be strengthened
- Special care and attention for children, pregnant women, elderly people and persons with disability including transportation support for medical team and referral support for the vulnerable population (pregnant women, children, disabled)
- Access to emergency medical services and treatment for waterborne diseases and injuries.
- Availability of reproductive Health care services, Maternal, Neonatal and Child health, Immunization, and Mental & Psychosocial Health Services
- Repairment of damaged health facilities and replacement of damaged equipment

#### Response

- The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has activated a total of 1295 Mobile Medical Teams to tackle the health problems in the flood affected areas.
- Health cluster partners are working with the government counterparts to enhance coordinated response to the affected.
- WHO field based staff will facilitate establishing outbreak control room to monitor outbreaks in each district and Upazila.
- The BRAC has deployed 7 doctors and 21 paramedics across Comilla, Noakhali, Feni, and Chattogram, providing emergency healthcare at outreach camps in shelter centers and nearby communities. Additional medical staff are set to be deployed within 2 days.
- IFRC delivered 22,000 Normal Saline to the Medical Sub Depot of Chattogram and is going to provide 25,000 Cholera Saline. BDRCS/IFRC has also planned to deploy 10 Mobile Medical teams in the affected areas.
- UNICEF delivered 300,000 ORS and is planning to deliver more ORS including more 460,000 ORS, 100,000 Zinc Tab, 20,000 Syp. Azithromycin and 20,000 Syp. Amoxicillin.
- WHO is in the process to procure 35,000 Tab. Ciprofloxacin, 25,000 Tab. Azithromycin, 50,000 Tab. Zinc, 20,000 Syp. Azithromycin, 40,000 Syp. Zinc, and 40,000 Syp Amoxicillin.
- UNFPA is supporting the health and family planning department in starting mobile Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) camps in Noakhali and Khagrachari districts. To date, 04 health camps have been organized, and over 500 women and adolescents have received SRH services from the camps and distributed 350 kits in the health facilities in the Noakhali district.
- MSF and BRAC initiated a rapid need assessment to offer essential support where required with the collaboration of Government and other Non-Government Organizations.

#### Gaps & Constraints

- Flooded roads and damaged transport networks make it difficult for patients to reach healthcare facilities and for health workers to deliver services effectively.
- The risk of outbreaks of waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea, dysentery, skin disease has increased due to contamination of water sources and inadequate sanitation facilities
- Shortage of essential medicine and medical supplies and the need is increasing in these affected areas.
- 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.

## Nutrition

### Impact

- 521,345 children (263,280 girls) under-five have been affected by flashfloods in 11 districts. Most of them have poor access to diversified age-appropriate food. The quality and quantity of food for children is also insufficient. Due to lack of potable water and poor sanitation conditions, children suffer from various gastrointestinal diseases including acute watery diarrhea which will result in acute malnutrition. There is no separate place for pregnant and lactating mothers in shelters where they can easily breastfeed their children and take care of their younger children including ensuring complementary feeding. Therefore, children are very much vulnerable to malnutrition if prevention measures are not undertaken.

### Needs

- Need to provide appropriate food for children under 5.
- Counselling pregnant and lactating mothers on breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding is critical.
- Screening, referral, management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children as well as strengthening SAM corners at the hospital level is urgent.

### Response

- In the Chattogram Division, CARITAS screened 4,960 children under five, identified 61 with SAM, referred 45 for treatment, and admitted 36 to SAM corners.
- On August 25, 2024, the nutrition section held an ad-hoc meeting with the National Nutrition Services (NNS) Line Director and her team to seek approval for lipid-based nutrient supplements (LQ-LNS).
- UNICEF reviewed therapeutic milk availability, identified gaps, and addressed requirements to ensure SAM units' effective operation. Consequently, the Government Medical Sub-Depot in Chattogram, with UNICEF support, has prepositioned enough therapeutic milk (600 tins of F-75 and 408 tins of F-100) to treat an additional 300 SAM children in flood-affected districts of Chattogram Division.
- UNICEF has expanded its nutrition response through an existing contract with BRAC in 1 Upazila of Habiganj and 4 Upazilas of Moulavibazar district, screening 35,600 under-five children for SAM and providing counseling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCFE) to 31,757 caregivers of under-two children.
- Preparations are underway to address health needs in at least 3 other districts: Feni, Noakhali, and Cumilla.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Some organisations distributed powder milk as substitute of breastmilk which is harmful for children under 6 months and prohibited by law (BMS code).
- At least around 0.5 million USD is required to meet the nutritional needs of children, pregnant and lactating women in the flashfloods affected areas.

## Shelter

### Impact

- 3403 evacuation shelter (school using as shelter) is accommodating 502,501 people
- Large areas remain submerged, and the affected district administrations estimate that it will take another 7-8 days for the water to recede completely. As a result, the extent of house damage remains unknown. The affected districts contain approximately 4.5 million Kutcha and Jhupri (temporary and mud) houses, which are particularly susceptible to destruction.
- HHs essentials were severely damaged due to inundation of houses, while cooking utensils were washed away or destroyed
- It is not possible for people to live in all the houses whose floors are made of mud because there is a lot of clay.

### Needs

- Cash support to reconstruct the houses
- Tarpaulins
- Tent
- Shelter toolkit
- Corrugated Galvanized Iron
- Bamboo, timber
- HHs NFIs, e.g. Cloths, Mosquito, Bed sheet, comforter, solar lamp,
- Kitchen utensils

### Response

- 5,000 ten-liter water jerrycans; 4,500 pcs of tarpaulin; 2,500 sets of hygiene parcels, 2,500 sets of dignity kits; 3,000 sets of shelter tool kits, and 2,000 kitchen sets have been dispatched to the affected districts by BDRCS.
- SCI and IPISA are supporting 11,700 households on shelter repairing and kitchen sets.
- BRAC, Caritas, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid, Aid Cumilla and other partners from Shelter Cluster are planning to provide shelter assistance in the affected areas.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Exact house damage information is not yet available
- Contingency stock of shelter items and NFIs
- Limited support in shelter sector
- Communication is still not possible due to the inundation of large areas.

## Displacement Management

# 0.5 M

People temporarily displaced (in evacuation shelters)

### Impact

- 540,510 people and 36,448 livestock are currently taking shelter at 3403 evacuation shelters. Many more households are marooned and unable or unwilling to go to shelters – mainly due to protection concerns. These households are in difficult to reach areas where aid does not typically reach.
- While water levels are receding in some districts, houses are still not fit for return in many places. It may take a further 1 to 2 weeks for them to be able to return to their home – and they are in need of life-saving assistance both until and after return.
- The long-term stay at evacuation shelters have resulted in diarrhea, skin diseases, malnutrition, fever and infections. Many evacuation shelters are also in need of cleaning and repair.
- Water levels are rising, and more people are in evacuation shelters compared to before in Noakhali and Laxmipur as per DDM data. In other districts, people are leaving evacuation shelters in order to rebuild and return home.
- Shelter managers/shelter management committees are missing in most of the evacuation shelters with the centers being managed by the community themselves.
- An estimated 1,227,554 households are in communities that are cut off due to flooded or damaged road networks, with many of them displaced by the floods. (Data collected from Cumilla, Feni and Noakhali.

### Needs

- For areas still inundated: Households displaced in evacuation shelters or marooned without access to relief or support are in dire need of cooked food or dry food, drinking water, medicine, sanitation and dignity kits, lighting, and food packages and cooking fuel.
- For areas where water is receding households displaced in evacuation shelters or marooned without access to relief or support will require food packages, emergency shelter kits,

### Response

- 3403 evacuation shelters have been opened across affected districts and a total of 502,501 temporary displaced people and 36,448 livestock have taken shelter.
- BDRCS and some other NGOs have been supporting the management of the shelters in absence of official shelter managers.

## Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

# 163K

Latrines damaged/destroyed

### Impact

- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services have been severely impacted in 520 unions of 77 Upazilas of 10 districts. In some sub-districts, 100% of WASH facilities are still under water. Water sources have also been damaged or destroyed, and many have been contaminated by fecal waste, oil, agricultural chemicals, industrial waste, and other substances.
- Sanitation facilities have been flooded and have either been washed away or have been damaged, posing major risks to water quality and health, adding an additional burden onto already struggling health facilities. According to Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), as of 27th August, more than 42,360 latrines were fully, and 121,128 latrines were partially damaged.

### Needs

- The immediate need is the swift provision of life-saving safe drinking water.
- Basic Sanitation facilities / Emergency Latrines/ Mobile Latrines/ Floating Latrines need to be repaired or newly built.
- Hygiene Kits with Sanitary napkins are required to prevent the water borne diseases in the most affected and vulnerable areas and in the flood shelters.
- Solid Waste Management needs to be enhanced to reduce the risk of pathogen spread and protect public health after the floods.

### Response

- Currently 10 WASH cluster members (BRAC, BDRCS, IFRC, CARE, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Save the Children, YPSA, Islamic Relief, Concern Worldwide, World Vision, Water Aid) are providing WASH services in the response to complement the government response.
- DPHE installed 10 floating latrines in Cumilla and Feni floods -affected districts which are currently in operation.
- 300 DPHE Tube-well mechanics inspected 1,033 tube wells, repaired 108, and disinfected them to ensure safe drinking water.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, DPHE distributed 3.6 million water purification tablets (WPTs), 3,766 Hygiene Kits, 21,645 Jerri-cans in flood affected districts of Chattogram and Sylhet divisions.
- A total of 45,903 people were provided with 114,757 liters of treated water and safe drinking water using 10 Mobile Water Treatment Plants (MWTPs) in Feni, Noakhali, Comilla and Moulvibazar districts.
- More than 160,000 leaflets have been distributed together with WPTs with messaging on the usages of WPTs.
- Temporary water points and mobile latrines are being constructed in the flood shelters.

## Gaps & Constraints

- More than 100 unions are still under water, with road communication completely disrupted. People can only travel by boat and thus is very difficult to assess the affected WASH facilities.
- Road communication is still one of the challenges in some upazilas.
- Most WASH Cluster members have been unable to deploy WASH focal persons at this stage, delaying effective coordination.
- Many upazila-level DPHE offices are inundated, unable to function properly, and without electricity.
- DPHE is unable to report daily using the online reporting templates due to the unavailability of internet network and electricity.
- Solid waste collection and disposal needs to be conducted hygienically and frequently, as dictated by the prevailing conditions.

## Food Security

# 339 K

Hectares of land flooded

## Impact

- The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) reported a total of 339,382 hectares of land were flooded in 11 districts.
- 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.
- The unprecedented Flash Flood impacted profoundly on Food Security and Livelihood. No food for humans and cattle at household level as almost all cooking facilities and household food stocks are destroyed. Even the richest households have no food or water and wait for external assistance. There is no standing crop in the field, fishes have flee whereas the area is considered as hub for plain water fishing, Fruit orchards are damaged, Livestock swept away and living ruminants are diseased and facing outbreak, Poultry is completely destroyed and dead poultry are floating here and there, Community infrastructures and agriculture infrastructures are damaged or destroyed, markets are nonfunctioning and stocks in the warehouse and shops are mostly damaged, Seeds and fertilizers stocks under private sector are damaged which is the key for the agriculture production.

## Response

- WFP has started distributing High Energy Biscuit (HEB) to Feni: 6,000 HHs, Cumilla: 4,000 HHs, Noakhali: 8,000 HHs, Moulvibazar: 12,000 HHs, Total: 30,000 HHs with 150 MT HEB. Implementing partners are YPSA, CNRS, CODEC. WFP is planning to cover an additional 98,782 household in coming week.
- 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 distributed 3,000 packets of dry food will be distributed through local procurement to the most affected areas.
- Concern Worldwide 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 1,100 families (BDT 2000 package value) with dry food and NFI's in Feni.
- Islamic Relief: a total of 1,580 families will receive multipurpose cash and hygiene kit. Each family will receive cash @ BDT 6000 along with a hygiene kit package. Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) is providing an additional 5,000 households with dry foods, food packages.
- ActionAid Bangladesh: Started response in Noakhali and will start in Feni soon. AAB has provided 50,000 cooked meals.
- World Vision Bangladesh: Started distribution of dry food and water in Laksam in Cumilla and Ramu, Cox' s flood affected unions. By 31 August 800 HHs to be reached.
- Save the Children: Four teams to start initial response in Feni, Moulavibazar and Noakhali.
- To date, BRAC has reached out to over 9,000 families with food and water.
- 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.
- Oxfam started to distribute dry food, water and ORS in Feni and Noakhali districts. Total coverage 2000 HHs.
- Caritas has distributed dry food and cooked food to 20,344 people.
- EPRC (NGO) has provided dry food to 1,225 people.
- Muslim Aid has provided dry food to 800 Households.
- Plan International Bangladesh is supporting 2,245 households with, dry food, multipurpose package.

## Gaps & Constraints

- Road and telecommunication disrupted.
- Physical access to the affected locations and lack of trained human resources.
- Warehouse facilities disrupted.
- Limited partner presence
- Markets not functional, and food commodities are not available

## Education

### Impact

- Initial data indicates that over 7,000 schools are currently closed due to flooding, affecting more than 1,498,781 children (749,390 girls) (aged 5-18 years) in Chittagong Division. Most schools are currently being used as shelters for the families displaced by the floods.
- Additionally, 247 Government Primary Schools (GPS) out of 3,579 in the three affected districts in Sylhet division are non-operational, disrupting education for more than 50,000 children (25,500 girls).
- Many educational institutions are either submerged or repurposed as shelters.
- 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.
- There are concerns regarding the lack of schooling for children in shelters. With schools closed, many children are not being engaged in learning activities as schools are being used for shelter and storage of livestock, household items and cooking. The shelter compounds are under water and teachers are scattered in different locations. Parents require support to encourage children to continue basic learning activities.

### Response

- UNICEF has initiated the procurement of 600 Education in Emergencies (EiE) kits and 200 emergency learning packages, adequate for 18,000 learners (9,180 girls) in the flood-affected schools. The materials will be stored in Primary Teacher Training Institute (PTI) which are not inundated with floods for delivery to schools when the water recedes.

### 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.

## Child Protection

### Impact

- An estimated 0.52 million children (0-4 Years) and 1.54 million children and adolescents (5 to 19 Years) are affected by the eastern flash flood.
- Displacement and overcrowded temporary shelters have heightened the risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation, including child labor, trafficking, and gender-based violence. The lack of privacy and adequate safety measures in these shelters further exacerbates these risks.
- The flood has caused significant psychosocial distress among children, many of whom have witnessed destruction, injury, or loss of life.
- The loss of livelihoods due to flooding has intensified economic hardships for families, potentially driving children into hazardous child labor or other exploitative situations to help support their families.

### Needs

- Addressing the Vulnerability of Displaced Children and their families: Displaced children, particularly those separated from their families, are at heightened risk of exploitation, abuse, and neglect. There is a critical need for effective mechanisms to reunite families and provide interim care.
- Enhancing Support for Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs: There is a pressing need for sufficient mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. Currently, the lack of adequate MHPSS leaves many children to cope with trauma and stress without necessary assistance.
- Increase the number of social workers to enable the most affected populations obtain access to services.
- There is a lack of Police and Child Advisor Police Officers (CAPOs) in hot spot locations and areas prone to trafficking. It is critical that police return to their duties and that we increase their capacity to support women and children.
- Overcoming Barriers to Effective Community Engagement: Community engagement in child protection efforts is currently limited. Implement cash-based interventions or social safety nets to support affected families, helping to prevent negative coping strategies such as child labor, child marriage, and exploitation.
- Provision of family and dignity kits to the most vulnerable children and adolescent girls to ensure their safety and well-being.

### Response

- UNICEF in partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS), psychosocial counselors and social workers provided psychosocial support to 2,421 children, adolescents and caregivers through visits to shelter homes and households in Chattagram and Sylhet divisions. Additionally have enrolled 1,658 additional children affected by floods for case management services and

referred 5,229 children to various service providers, including food, clothing, health care, shelter, and cash assistance through referral system in Chattagram and Sylhet divisions.

- With UNICEF support, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Youth and Sports ( MoYS) and Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), reached 141,050 community members with lifesaving awareness messages and sessions on drowning prevention, snake bite, child marriage, child labor, child trafficking, GBV, PSEA, avoiding family separation, CHL-1098 and other child protection issues.
- Partners including MoWCA have begun outreach to ensure safe spaces are established in shelter locations for children including adolescents.
- YPSA carried out a rapid assessment in flood-affected areas to identify vulnerable children at risk. Trained child protection officers were deployed to assist families and children directly. YPSA also worked with law enforcement, legal aid organizations, and local administration to tackle violence, exploitation, and abuse
- EPRC has been disseminating awareness messaging on flood safety, child protection, and drowning prevention to safeguard children, adolescents, and women in shelters across Feni and Chandpur districts.
- BDRCS mobilized boats to support rescue operations and launched a fundraising campaign to secure additional resources for the ongoing flood response.
- Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) provided critical support to 5,000 families, distributing multipurpose cash grants, along with hygiene and dignity kits to ensure the well-being of those affected by the floods.

## Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited comprehensive data on at-risk children, resulting in gaps in targeting and service delivery.
- Insufficient integration of child protection considerations across other sectors (e.g., WASH, health, education, food, and shelter) within the broader emergency response.
- Inadequate numbers of trained child protection personnel in affected areas, hinder the ability to conduct rapid assessments, identify vulnerable children, and provide effective case management support.
- Challenges in monitoring and reporting incidents of child labor, trafficking, and gender-based violence, particularly in remote and flood-affected regions.
- Restricted funding and resources, constrain the ability to meet the needs of all affected children, including the provision of human resources, relief supplies, and technical support.
- Heightened Risk of GBV for Children, Especially Adolescent Girls: Floods have exacerbated the risk of GBV, including child marriage, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. There is lack of specialized services and safe reporting mechanisms for GBV survivors, particularly girls.



## Impact

- Since the last report, many women and girls are still staying in evacuation centers across Feni and Noakhali. The situation in Noakhali is particularly dire, as the water levels continue to rise. According to government sources, approximately 540 women and persons with disabilities have sought refuge in shelters in Feni. In Noakhali, the number was significantly higher, with 60,841 women and persons with disabilities taking shelter. While most of the evacuees in Feni have returned home as the floodwaters recede, the opposite is happening in Noakhali, where vulnerable groups of people especially women, pregnant mother, girls, ill people, and persons with disabilities are still being rescued and brought to shelters.
- According to the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) calculator of UNFPA, this recent flood affected an estimated 1.63 million reproductive-aged women, 78,349 currently pregnant women and 444,600 adolescent girls aged 10-19.
- After visiting Noakhali, the interagency mission team reported that women and girls remain in shelters without proper lighting, as electricity is still unavailable. Police authorities have expressed concerns that the lack of lighting and prolonged absence of girls from school could expose them to gender-based violence (GBV) and early marriages.
- The affected communities are enduring extremely crowded and miserable conditions due to the flood. In Fulgazi Upazila, Feni, the team found that only one shelter was operational in the area they visited. This shelter initially housed 1,000 people but now accommodates just 150, primarily children and women. Conditions are dire, with only two toilets available for 270 people. The mission team also observed that the local government is highly disorganized due to the transitional government and frequent administrative changes, severely impacting post-flood response activity.
- ASHIKA-Rangamati reported that women and girls staying away from home and community are facing a lack of social safety, leaving them vulnerable in the absence of secure shelters and protective measures.
- Concern Worldwide shared that most of the adolescent girls and women in shelters are being exposed to GBV due to overcrowding, lack of lighting, separate space in shelters, and lack of separate toilets.
- Concern Worldwide and Action Aid, Bangladesh (AAB) expressed concern that the long-term impact of this sudden flash flood could result in an increased risk of child marriage, as adolescent girls may face a higher likelihood of dropping out of school.
- Pregnant women, in particular, face heightened challenges due to limited mobility and lack of access to essential services. BDRCS reported that rescuing vulnerable individuals, particularly pregnant women and the elderly, presents a significant challenge in this flood situation.
- The NGO PRAN (NGO) reported that women are confined in their homes and unable to move freely due to submerged roads and disrupted transportation. They are under immense work pressure, taking more responsibilities in caring for their families. This additional care burden creates mental stress in families, especially in women and girls with uncertain livelihoods as well as futures.
- Women and girls who venture out for work or household tasks in the floodwaters face significant health risks, including exposure to contaminated water and an increased vulnerability to diseases. Adolescent girls have expressed that maintaining basic hygiene has become increasingly complex, with potential implications for their reproductive health.

## Needs

- Deployment of community women volunteers in evacuation centers, equipped with lifesaving GBV referral information, is still a priority. These volunteers must be capacitated to provide psychosocial support to minimize the mental stress caused by the impact of the flood.
- Dignity kit items, mainly clothing, menstrual, and sanitary items, must be prioritized and targeted to those who are still in evacuation centers or isolated.
- Cash for dignity kits Items should be undertaken in flood affected areas where markets are functional and resumed normally.
- Further to multi-sectoral needs assessment, GBV response needs can be prioritized.

## Response

- UNFPA is mobilizing 1,479 dignity kits in Noakhali and Feni, and 500 dignity kits have already been distributed in Feni.
- BDRCS has distributed 3,000 dignity kits in Noakhali, Cumilla, and Feni.
- UNWOMEN has 500 dignity kits pre-positioned to be distributed tentatively in Khagrachari, or Noakhali, and Feni.
- Plan International Bangladesh with Sajida Foundation will distribute 5,000 dignity kits in Noakhali, Feni, and Khagrachari.
- IFRC distributed 500 dignity kits in Noakhali, 500 in Cumilla, and 500 in Feni.
- CBO-Bangladesh has supported 330 hijras in Feni and Cumilla.
- BDRCS deployed more than 1,000 volunteers, and Prerona, with DYD, deployed 400 volunteers to provide humanitarian assistance and disseminate warning messages supporting evacuations.
- Prerona, with the DYDF emergency response team, distributed food packages, including hygiene items, to 3,100 flood-impacted families in Noakhali, Feni, Khagrachari, Habiganj, Moullobhazar, and Laxmipur.
- AAB launched a dedicated website called "Bonna 2024," to provide critical information about flood warning, the flood impacted, rescue teams, and donation options.
- Concern Worldwide distributed food packages including hygiene items to 6,000 HH in Noakhali Sadar, and Sonaimuri. They are also working for disseminating GBV referral information in Noakhali district
- OXFAM has initiated the Rapid Gender Analysis in Feni and Noakhali and Plan International Bangladesh has initiated a Rapid Need Assessment in Feni, Noakhali, and Khagrachari.
- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has supported 300 and 500 HH with food packages, including hygiene items, in Rangamati and Noakhaali.

## Gaps and constraints

- Mobility challenges for pregnant women, ill people, and elderly people are suffering in their homes submerged by water as they cannot be brought to shelters or health facilities.
- The need for dignity kits and hygiene items is higher than the relief items distributed. A shortage of these items in the local market is also a challenge.
- The absence of active GBV referral pathways in many of the impacted districts due to the collapse of government administrations may significantly increase GBV risks. This breakdown creates serious barriers for women and girls who seek access to GBV services, leaving them more vulnerable in already precarious situations.

## Logistics

### Impact

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

### Response

- As the custodian of the resources left by the UN Logs Cluster, WFP has shared the availability of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), generators, tarpaulins, among other NFIs that partners are welcome to request for in support of their response operations.
- WFP deployed a logistics associate to Cumilla to undertake a logistics assessment of Cumilla, Feni and Noakhali in order to explore the feasibility of a common approach to storage and boat transport solutions. WFP is exploring possible locations for the possible, temporary erection of MSUs or prefab warehouses to provide some storage options for its own emergency response, and the possible use of partners responding in these areas. WFP has also compiled and shared a list of boat transport service providers in Feni and Noakhali to cluster members for their quick reference as needed.
- WFP is also sharing road accessibility information from the Cumilla, Feni and Noakhali areas with cluster members.

### 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.



## FUNDING

- Partners are mobilizing internal and external resources to respond. The Start Fund decided to allocate £428,755 in response to flash flooding in Feni, Noakhali, Cumilla, Khagrachhari, Moulvibazar, Chittagong and Laxmipur District in Bangladesh and other partners have mobilised internal emergency funds.
- 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).

## GENERAL COORDINATION

- The Needs Assessment Working Group will produce Situation Overview 3 by 30 August 2024, and the existing HRP will be updated to include the eastern floods.
- A joint mission involving 10 UN and humanitarian partners was conducted in Feni, Cumilla, and Noakhali from 26-28 August to monitor the flood's impact. A report has been produced detailing the needs, gaps, and the complementary support required for the government-led response to the flood-affected population. Finding will be shared to the Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) and the Local Consultative Group Ex-Com in two strategic meetings.
- The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and National Cluster Coordinators are actively meeting regularly. The online 5W (Microsoft Power BI) will continue to capture ongoing response activities related to disaster events.
- The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office has sent an official letter to the Secretary of MoDMR, offering international assistance. Coordination is ongoing across all clusters and sectors.
- Due to lack of coordination in district level, UNRCO plans to deploy a humanitarian affairs officer to support coordination and liaison with government and humanitarian agencies.

For further information, please contact:

Inter-cluster Cluster Coordination Group Secretariat- Humanitarian Coordination Task Team

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