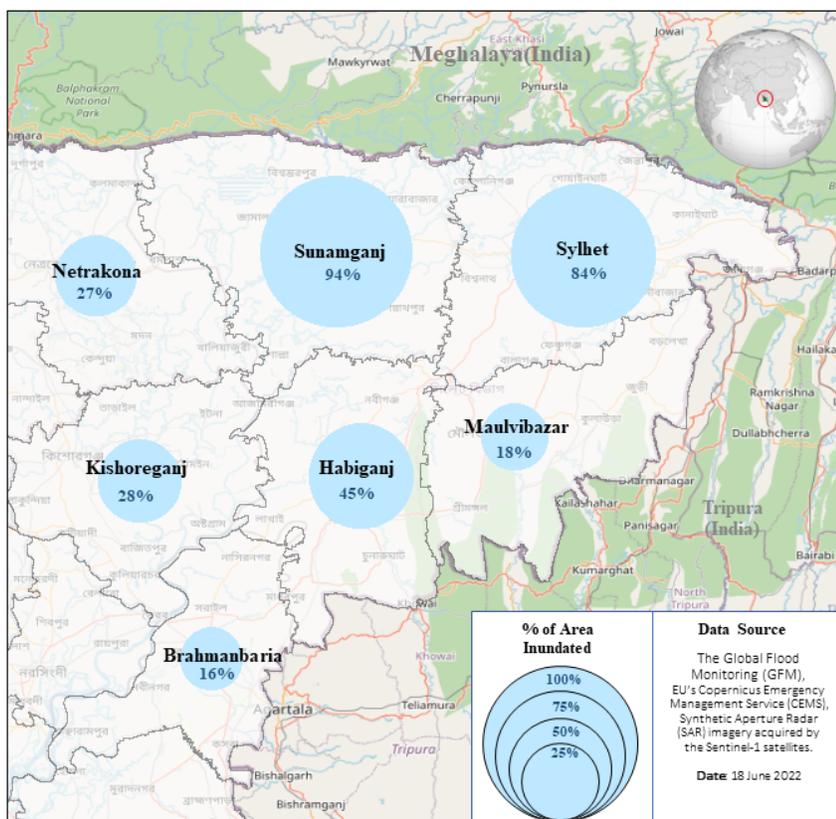




Situation Overview

Heavy monsoon rains and water from upstream in India's northeast have inundated large parts of the Sylhet division, leaving millions of people marooned and triggering a humanitarian crisis. The flash floods swept away homes and inundated farmlands, forcing families to seek shelter on higher ground and temporary flood shelters, while power cut is making life miserable. According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), around 94 percent of Sunamganj and over 84 percent of Sylhet are submerged. The FFWC forecasted that the flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona districts may deteriorate further in the next 24 hours, and the water level will continue to rise for the next three days. Experts considered the flood worse than the ones they had experienced in 1998 and 2004. The crisis struck at a time when the people of the division were recovering from unexpected recent floods that hit in late May. An estimated 4.3 million people are impacted by this sudden flash flood and water congestion in seven northeastern districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulivazar, Habiganj, Netrakona, and Brahmanbaria. Many households are isolated due to floods, while some have taken shelter in open areas. The safety and security of women and girls in those households are at high risk. As many as 25,000 people have been taken to around 450 shelter centres in Sylhet; at the same time, 65,000 people were evacuated to 200 shelter centres in Sunamganj in a combined effort of the Army, Navy, Fire Service, and the local authorities, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). Besides the northeast, the mild flood also hit the northern districts. The GoB in a press conference said 64 Upazilas in 10 districts have been hit by the flood all over Bangladesh.





Summary Information

Sl.	District	Inundated Areas (sq. km.)	Impact Population	Shelter Centre	Evacuated People
1.	Sylhet	1,304 (84%)	839,748	450	25,000
2.	Sunamganj	998 (94%)	452,354	200	65,000
3.	Maulvibazar	420 (18%)	168,707	-	-
4.	Habiganj	688 (45%)	281,975	-	-
5.	Brahmanbaria	254 (16%)	190,031	-	-
6.	Kishoreganj	372 (28%)	54,331	-	-
7.	Netrakona	533 (27%)	50,774		

Source: Ministry of Disaster Management (MoDMR) 18 July 2022.

Highlights and Key Message

- Preliminary information highlights the scarcity of transportation/ boats for search and rescue operations, which would make it particularly difficult for evacuating the elderly, and persons with disability.
- National authorities postponed the SSC exam countrywide; educational institutions have been closed in the affected areas. Government primary schools use as flood shelters in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts.
- Flight operations in Sylhet's Osmani International Airport have been suspended for three days as flood water has reached the runway.
- People in Sylhet and Sunamganj were without power as the electricity supply was stopped to avoid accidents.
- Due to disrupted electricity connections, mobile communications are difficult to get updated information in the affected areas.
- Major regional highways, including Sylhet-Sunamganj and Sylhet-Bholaganj, are submerged, and road connectivity has already snapped due to the intensity of flooding.
- Most of the markets in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts are not functioning, and people are managing their buffer foods and taking help from neighbours.
- Evacuation centres are not equipped with the required provisions to ensure the safety and security of women, girls, and children.
- Health facilities at the Upazila level, Upazila Health Complex (UHC), Community Clinic (CC), and Union Health & Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC) are impacted significantly due to the flood.



Humanitarian Response

- The national disaster management authority has already allocated dry food, rice, and cash to the affected districts, but road communications delayed the relief supply to the affected population. So far, the ministry has allocated 400 tons of rice, 41,000 packets of dry food, and Tk 2.25 crore in cash as relief for the flood-hit people.
- Army and Navy personnel have been deployed in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts to evacuate people to safer places. They are running rescue operations with firefighters, civil administration, law enforcers, and local council representatives. Bangladesh Army has launched toll-free numbers to help the flood-affected people in Sunamganj and Sylhet districts.
- Local Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) in Sylhet and Sunamganj are opening the flood shelter at the schools on higher ground. Local Government Institutions' disaster readiness delayed the evacuation and collective flood centre management.
- Local and National Agencies (L/NAs) mobilise the volunteers and their limited contingency funds to support the affected community. Hygiene kits and WASH packages are provided through local NGOs including provisions of items that meet the specific needs of women and girls.
- The Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) co-led by the MoDMR and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office together with the UN, the clusters liaised closely with their national technical Government partners to analyse jointly the situation and to identify possible areas where complementary support from the humanitarian community would add-value to the government-led response.

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