



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BANGLADESH

Tropical Cyclone Remal: rapid assessment report

Food Security Situation and Agricultural Needs Overview
June 2024



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Acronyms

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CATI	Computer-assisted telephone interviews
CXB	Cox's Bazar
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
DIEM	Data in Emergencies Monitoring
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DoF	Department of Fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HH	Household
ICCG	Inter Cluster Coordination Group
ISCG	Inter Sector Coordination Group
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
KII	Key informant interview
NAWG	Needs Assessment Working Group
NFI	Non-food Item
PIN	People in Need
PWD	Person with Disability
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Introduction

Cyclone Remal stands as the most devastating cyclone to strike Bangladesh in recent years. Formed as a depression on May 24th, Cyclone REMAL slammed into Bangladesh's coasts on May 26th with heavy rain and strong winds. Weakening inland, REMAL caused significant damage, particularly across at least 16 coastal districts, with millions evacuated, and widespread infrastructure damage. Cyclone REMAL made landfall near the Bangladesh-India border, in the western part of Sundarbans in Shatkhira district. Major rivers overflowed due to tidal surges, damaging embankments. Eight districts namely Pirojpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola and Barisal remain the most affected. The tidal surge breached embankments, resulting in extensive flooding and damage to homes, agricultural fields, and fishing farms in low-lying areas.

Different findings that have already been published, are limited in scope because of the fragmentation of the impact. This analysis aims to consolidate these different sources to assess the severity, along with sector-specific losses and damages in terms of food security and agriculture.

The consolidated data includes the following sources.

- Synthesis of the findings from the rapid needs assessment carried out in Cox's Bazar¹.
- Unweighted analysis of data gathered through DIEM follow-up interviews at the HH level.
- Analysis of remote sensing data from Sentinel 1, UNOSAT, WFP ADAM etc.
- Compilation and analysis of relevant information from the NAWG rapid needs assessment report along with ICCG/ISCG brief, damage and loss data from DDM, DAE, DLS and DoF control room.

However, it's worth mentioning that, in the coming weeks Data in Emergencies will produce a more detailed assessment based on primary data.

Photo 1. Marooned Household in Dacope Sub-district, Khulna



¹ For the data collected from DIEM, the information for Cox's Bazar can be found under the strata named "Hill Tracts and Coast – Host"

Crisis Overview



HAZARD

- Tropical Cyclone **REMAL-24** made landfall on 26 May 2024 (Cat. 1.5)
- Up to 12 feet, 102 Km/h wind, 400 Km² periphery and heavy rainfall
- 19 districts (119 upazilas, 934 unions) affected
- **Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur** and Satkhira most affected overall
- **Heavy rain triggered flash floods in between 26 to 29 May 2024**



PEOPLE

- 16 deaths confirmed and 22 missing/injured
- **4.6M affected and 895K PIN of food security assistance**
- **0.8M temporarily displaced**, 173 886 shelters damaged, 9 424 shelters opened
- 16 500 tubewells and 134 269 latrines damaged
- 17M people without power and 20,000 cell towers out of service



FOOD SECURITY

- **3.5M people are in IPC AFI Phase 3+ in 8 most affected districts**
- MoDMR allocated over \$0.35M in cash, 5,500 MT rice, \$0.14M for child food, 5000 packets of dry food, \$14M for cattle feed
- 32 210 people received food from Care, CWW, IRB, SCI, WVI and WFP
- 31 735 HHs received cash transfers from IRB and WFP



CROP

- **More than 537 234 crop farmers affected**
- \$96.7M worth of loss in the agriculture sector
- Over 80 591 Ha cultivable land inundated
- 287 756 MT crop loss
- Highest damage for summer vegetables, Aus rice and cash crops
- Bagerhat and Bhola most affected



LIVESTOCK

- **\$4.46M worth of loss in livestock sector**
- 264 cows/buffaloes (990 farms), and 249 goat/sheep dead
- 225 269 poultry dead (556 farms)
- 6 266 MT feed/fodder and 1 518 Ha grazing land
- Bhola, Pirojpur and Patuakhali most affected

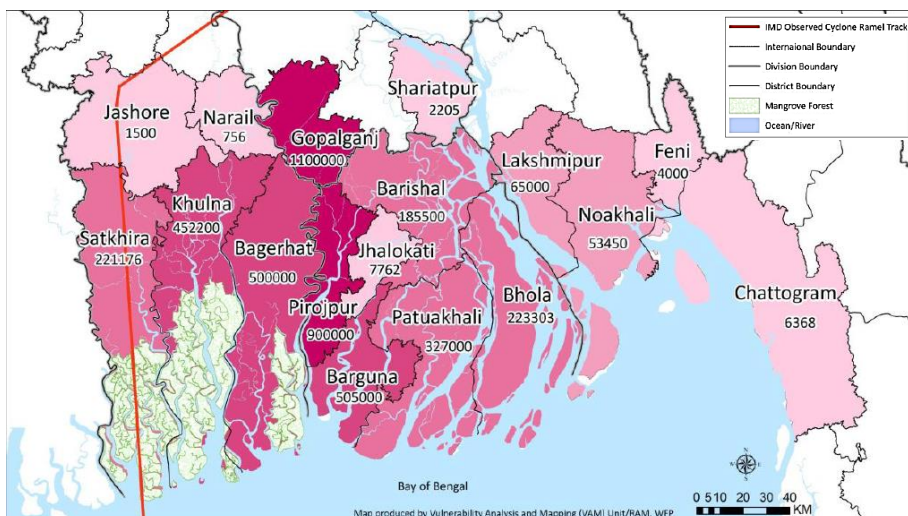


FISHERIES

- **\$78.2M worth of loss in the fisheries sector**
- 50,000 fish enclosures, 34,000 ponds, and 4,000 crab farms flooded
- Bagerhat was most affected
- Boat/trawler/water transport and fishing net damage worth of \$0.4M

Source: Estimated from preliminary information received DDM, DAE, DLS, DoF, ICG, ISCG, and NAWG 2024

Map 1. District-wise affected population

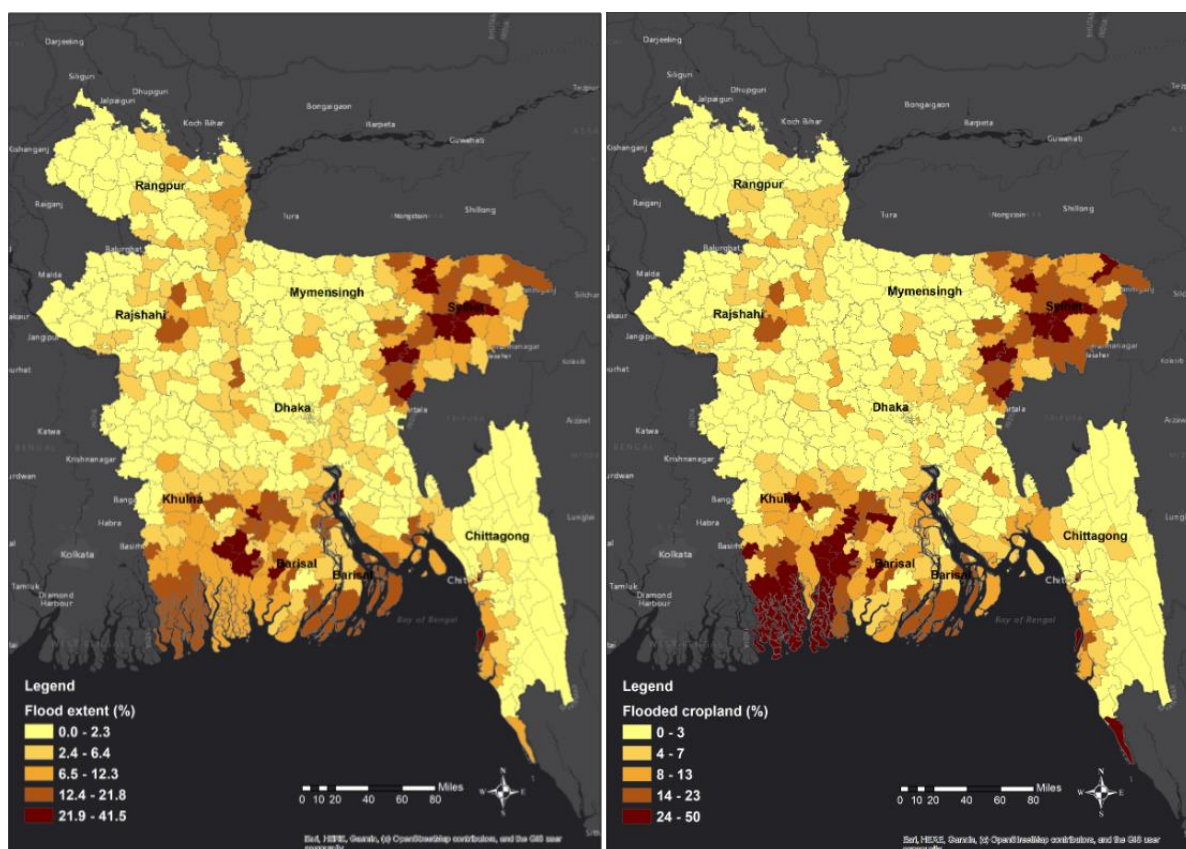


Source: Estimated from preliminary information received DDM and NAWG 2024

Shock Exposure

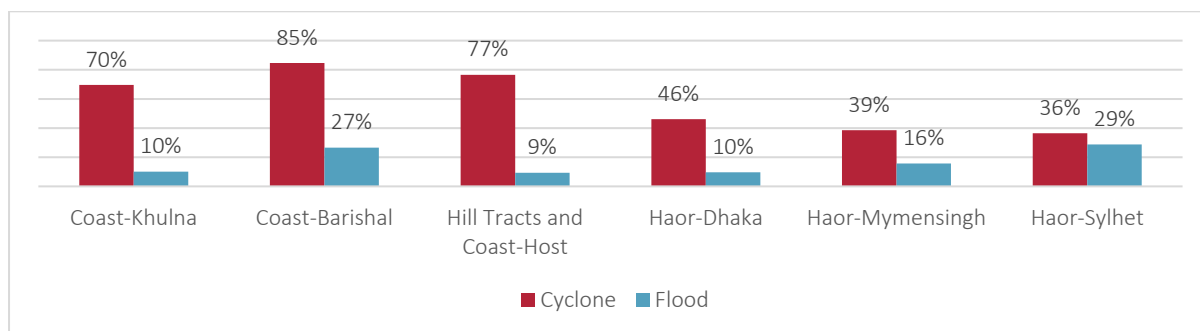
According to satellite-based findings, large parts of Bangladesh, from southwest coastal districts to inner parts, have been impacted between 26-29 May 2024 (Map 2). Sentinel-1 SAR radar imagery indicates that the most affected cropland areas were in Khulna, as well as the Haor region (mostly Sylhet division, but also parts of Mymensingh and Dhaka) by the flash floods from 26-29 May 2024. Refugee settlements in Bhasanchar were also impacted². FAO’s Data in Emergencies Monitoring survey indicates a similar geographic extent of the cyclone and associated floods (Figure 1. Cyclone and Flood Experienced by Hotspots/Division .

Map 2. Flood extent (left) and flooded cropland (right) by sub-districts on 27 May 2024 (percent)



Source: WFP, 2024

Figure 1. Cyclone and Flood Experienced by Hotspots³/Division



Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

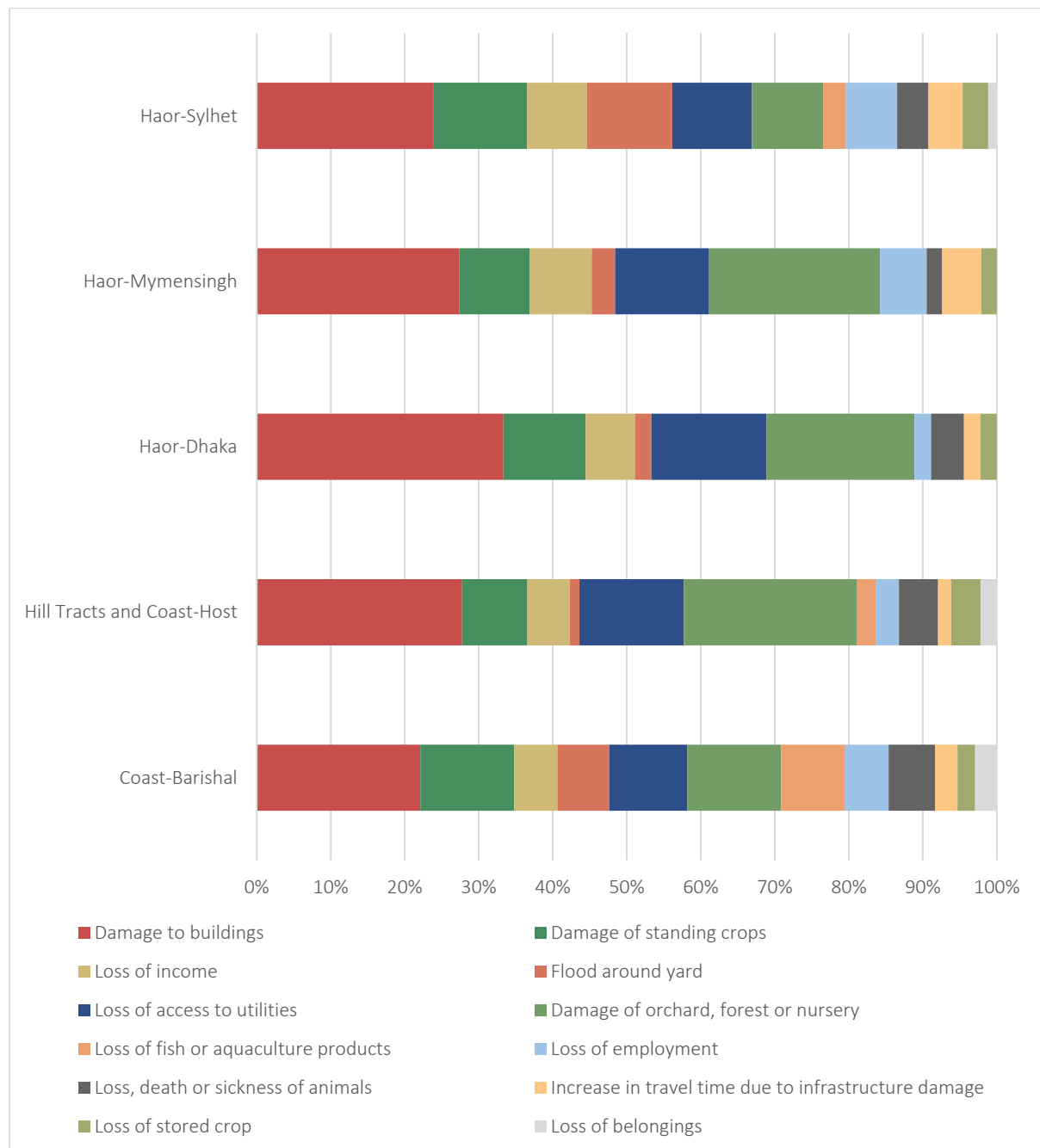
² <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/88c85107d0c24040891e3f05ca26edc3>

³

<https://oldweb.lged.gov.bd/UploadedDocument/UnitPublication/1/756/BDP%202100%20Abridged%20Version%20English.pdf>

Apart from the high damage to buildings, DIEM primary unweighted data indicates significant damage to orchards, forests or nurseries (23 percent), damage to standing crops (19 percent), loss of income (10 percent), loss of fish or aquaculture products (6 percent), loss of employment (9 percent), loss, death or sickness of animals (9 percent), and loss of stored crop (4 percent) at a geographically varying degree. Though the loss of standing crops was low, a combination of all the losses can further deteriorate household productive capacity in the coming season.

Figure 2. Impact of cyclone and floods by Hotspots/Division



Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

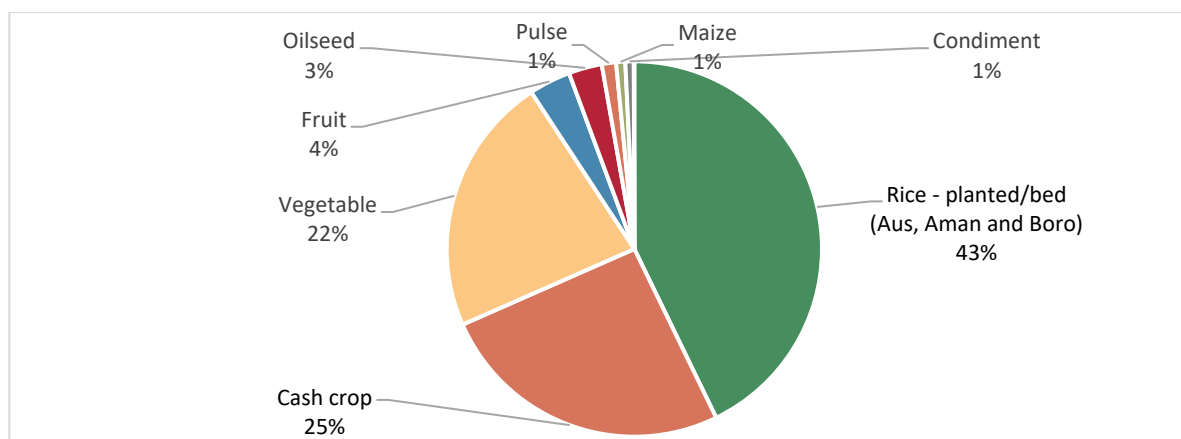
Only 64 percent of the affected households reported receiving early warning messages – primarily through mobile phones, miking and word of mouth. Furthermore, over 80 percent of the respondents from the coastal areas reported receiving this while only 38 percent of the households from the overall Haor region received such.

Agricultural Production

Crops

The cyclone timing coincided with the Boro harvest (late-planted), Aus planted/seedbed, Rabi maize harvest (late-planted) and Kharif maize growing, kharif mungbean growing season. Although the combined area for rice cultivation was the highest among all crops it primarily constituted Aus rice and Aus rice beds, as most of the Boro rice has been harvested. The second most affected crop in terms of cultivated area were summer/Kharif vegetables followed by fruits (e.g. mango) and oilseeds (e.g. sesame). However, it should be noted that most of these crops only sustained minor impacts, as per the preliminary estimates by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

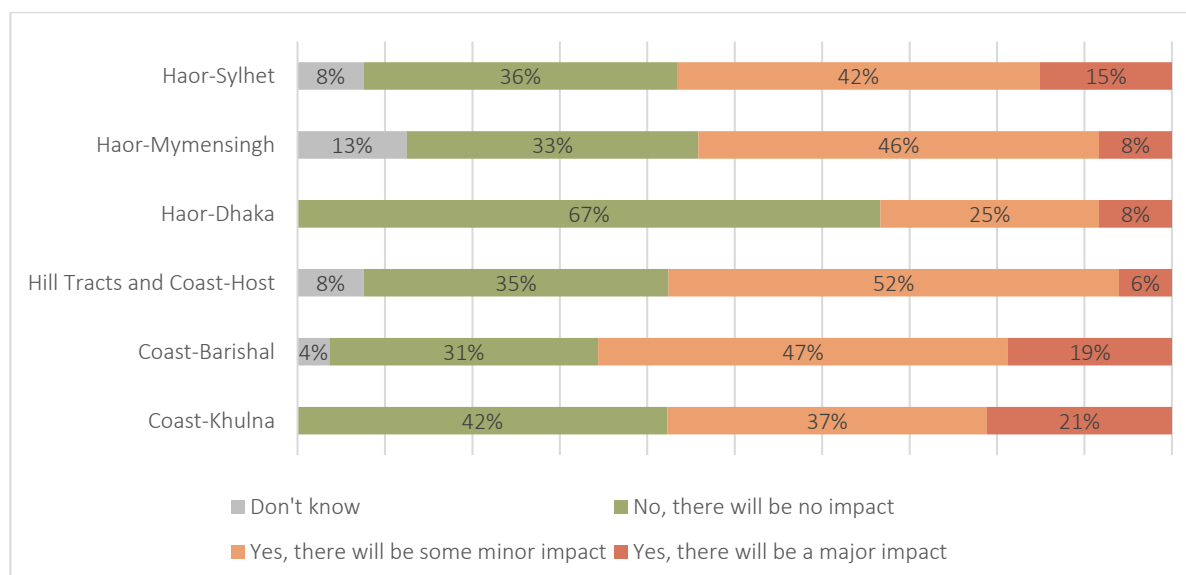
Figure 3. Affected cropland by type



Source: Estimated from DAE loss and damage information, 2024

Many of the respondents from the DIEM household survey perceived having some impact on crop production during the coming season – particularly in the coastal districts of Khulna and Barishal divisions, and Sylhet. According to the NAWG Rapid Needs Assessment, 93 percent of the respondents reported the disruption of income-generating activities and 86 percent of agricultural activities.

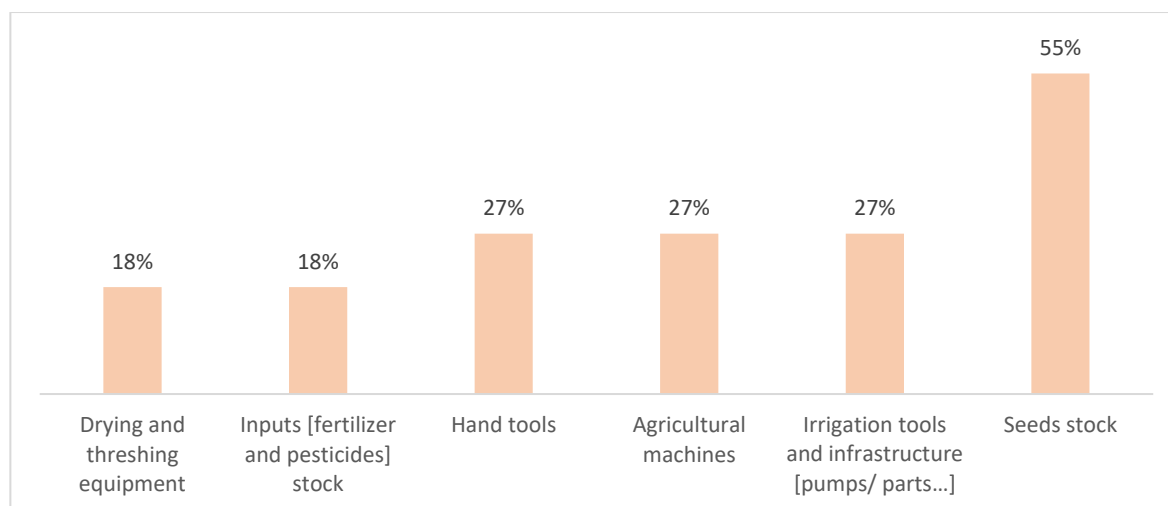
Figure 4. Impact on crop production in the next season by hotspot/division



Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

Over half of the farmers reported loss/depletion of seed stocks that can impact the capacity to plant as usual.

Figure 5. Loss of asset reported by crop producers

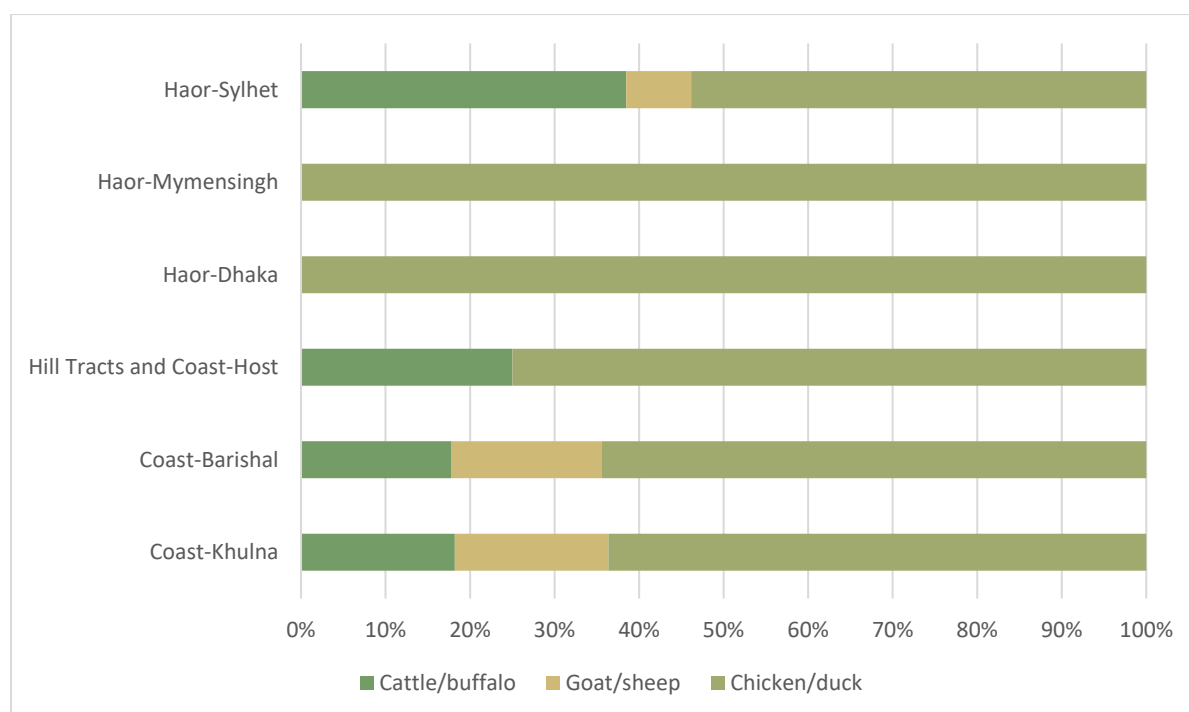


Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

Livestock

The highest death, injury and sickness of animals were reported for poultry, followed by cattle and buffalo. Also, some 24 percent of HHs reported observing outbreaks of animal diseases after the flood/cyclone in their locality – particularly in the coastal districts of Barishal (29 percent) and Khulna, along with Sylhet.

Figure 6. Death, injury and sickness of animals by type and hotspot/division

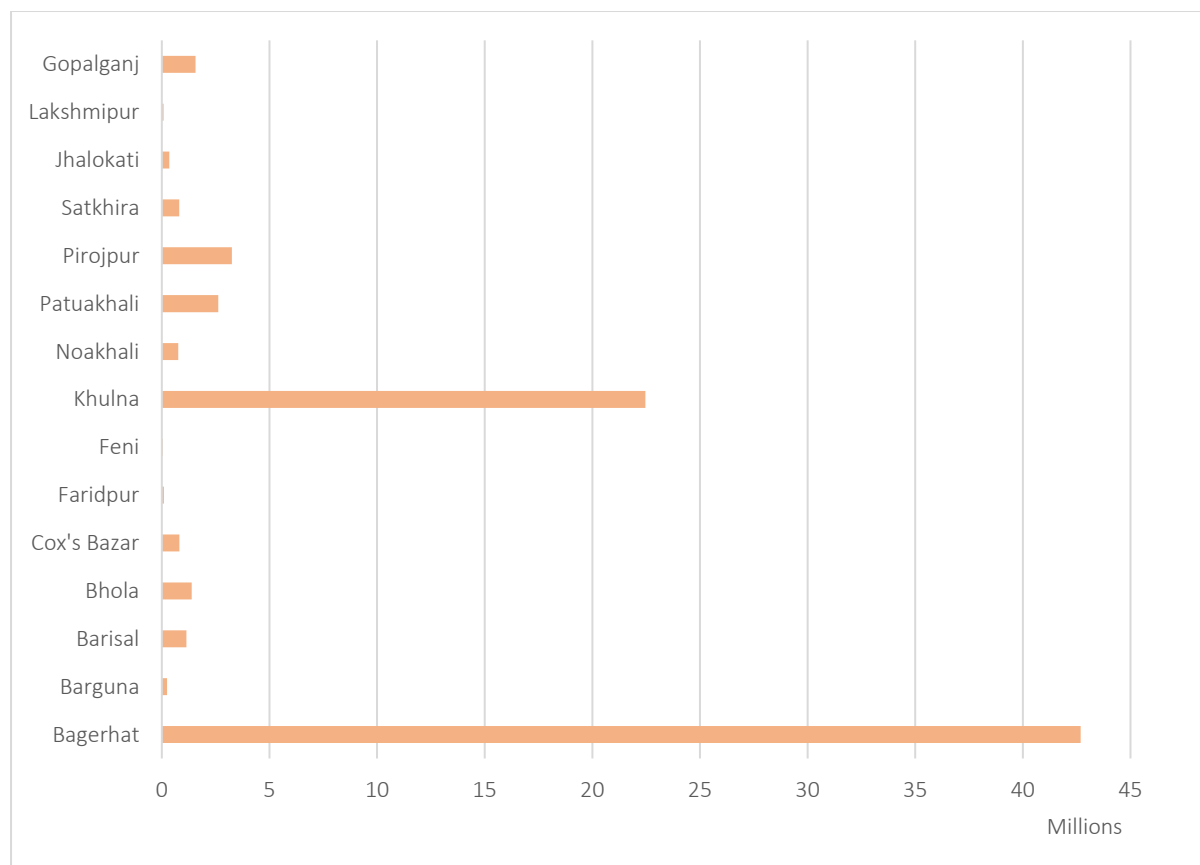


Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

Fisheries

Fishermen, who are solely dependent on sea fishing, were doubly impacted due to the annual fishing ban (65 days from 20 May) coinciding with the cyclone. The cyclone resulted in an estimated financial loss of approximately USD 78.4 million in the Fisheries sector. The devastation included the flooding and destruction of ponds, enclosures, hatcheries, and fisheries, significantly impacting shrimp farms and fish fries. The Khulna division alone reported losses exceeding USD 65 million.

Figure 7. District-wise financial loss in the fisheries sector (USD)



Source: Preliminary damage and loss information received from DoF, 2024

Forestry

According to satellite-based findings, over 55 000 ha of mangroves were affected by the cyclone induced flooding - in particular, Satkhira and Khulna ranges. As of 29 May, Forest rangers discovered 39 dead deer and rescued 17 injured deer from the Sundarbans.

Table 1. Flooded areas in Sundarbans Reserve

District	Total Area (Ha)	Flooded Area (Ha)	Flooded Area (percent)
Khulna Range	170 679	14 819	9
Chandpai Range	97 520	3 925	4
Sharankhola Range	145 659	7 291	5
Satkhira Range	186 803	19 844	11
Total	600 662	45 879	8

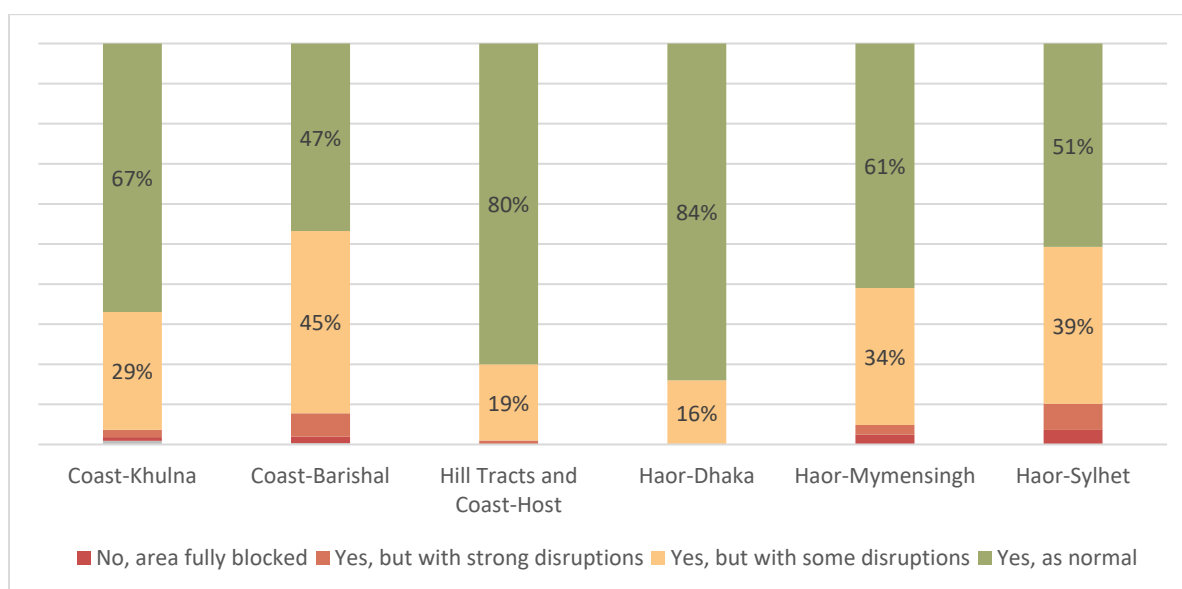
Source: WFP, 2024. ESA Worldcover, 2022

Approximately 3 ha of forests, 103 ha of plantation, and 2 nurseries were damaged in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Ukhia, and Teknaf, with an estimated value of USD 17 775.

Markets

Over 18 percent opted to face market functionality issues in terms of access or product availability. Nearly 50 percent of the DIEM respondents also reported issues in marketing their products. In addition, significant market disruptions in the transportation of agricultural products and food commodities into and out of the area were reported from the Barishal and Khulna's coastal districts and the Haor districts in Sylhet and Mymensingh. This is consistent with the findings from the NAWG Rapid Needs Assessment, reporting 43 percent of respondents lacked access to the markets and 47 percent with disruption of local market functionality. Nearly 25 percent of respondents also reported disruption of local storage facilities according to the same source.

Figure 8. Disruptions in the transportation of agricultural and food commodities by hotspots/divisions



Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

Around 67 percent of surveyed traders in Maheshkhali, Teknaf, and Cox's Bazar Sadar reported having difficulties with transportation of agricultural products and food commodities, likely to impact on market supply and price. On the other hand, 49 percent of the farmers in Teknaf, Maheshkhali, and Cox's Bazar Sadar reported difficulty accessing inputs, with limited availability and/or due to higher prices.

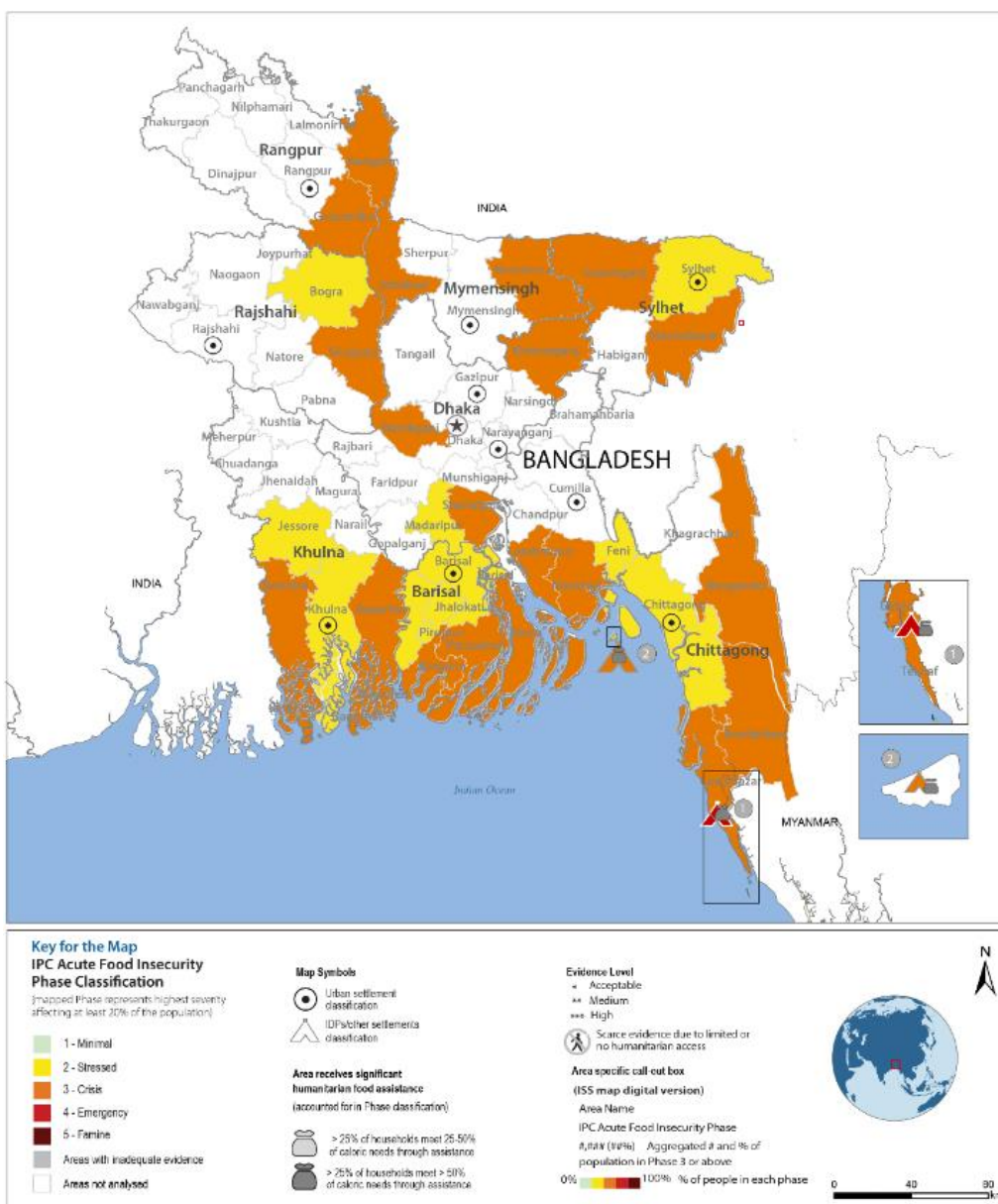
Photo 2. Livestock death in Patuakhali (left); Embankment breach in Khulna (right)



Food Security

Seventeen coastal districts out of the 19 districts affected by Cyclone Remal are projected to host over 8.2 million Bangladeshis (21 percent) in Phase 3 or worse⁴ as per the recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) – Acute Food Insecurity Analysis. It is noteworthy to mention that 60 percent of the one million⁵ Forcibly Displaced Rohingya Population (FDMN) residing in the coastal districts of Cox’s Bazar (Teknaf and Ukhiya) and Noakhali (Bhasanchar) are projected to be in Phase 3+. The same analysis projected over 3.3 million people (22 percent) in Phase 3 or worse from the five analysed Haor districts, with 136 886 people in Phase 4 in Sunamganj⁶.

Map 3. Projected IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) Map (April - October 2024)



Source: IPC. 2023. Bangladesh: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for Feb - Mar 2024 and Projection for Apr - Oct 2024

⁴ Population in Phase 3 or worse (Crisis, Emergency and Famine) require urgent action to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps, save lives and livelihoods, and revert/prevent a total collapse of livelihoods

⁵ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/bgd>

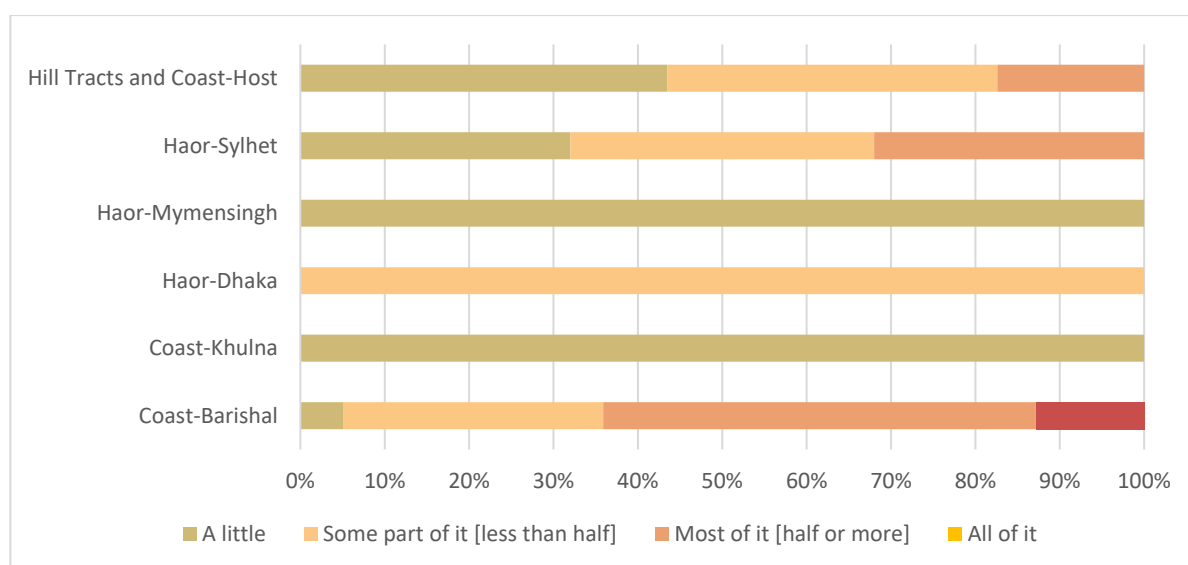
⁶

https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Bangladesh_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Feb_Oct_2024_Report.pdf

Despite record cereal harvests in 2022 and 2023, which have improved food availability, concerns about access to food remain due to persistent high food inflation that diminished the purchasing power of vulnerable households. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), food inflation has gradually strengthened since August 2022, reaching 12.4 percent every year last September, the highest level in 12 years. The high food inflation rate is attributed to the high costs of production and transport that makes domestically grown cereals expensive. Reduced cereal imports, especially of wheat, a key staple in the country, coupled with the significant depreciation of the local currency resulted in strong price increases, contributing to the inflationary pressure.

A majority of the respondents (44 percent) from the coastal districts of Barishal, Sylhet and Cox’s Bazar host community reported significant (i.e., most/all of it) damage to stored crops. This can have negative impacts on the household’s food consumption status in the coming season.

Figure 9. Damage of stored crop by hotspot/division









Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

Around 13 percent of the DIEM survey respondents reported taking loans to cope with the impacts of the cyclone/floods, with 55 percent foreseeing/planning to take loans for the same purpose within the next six months. In addition, the findings of the NAWG Rapid Needs Assessment indicate that almost 87 percent faced difficulties in collecting water and fuel, while 91 percent had difficulties to cook.

Insufficient food supply is impacting to around 17 percent of the households mostly in Cox’s Bazar Sadar, Teknaf, and Maheshkhali.

Special Analysis for Cox's Bazar

Highlights

	<p>Food security Price hike and temporary shortage of food affecting 17 percent of households</p>		<p>Market functionality Sales & transport difficulties Insufficient food supply Price hike</p>
	<p>Crop 137 ha damaged = \$127 283 Storage facility damaged = \$12 055</p>		<p>Fishery 171 MT fish and shrimp lost = \$409 132</p>
	<p>Forestry 3 ha of forests, 103 ha of plantation, 2 nurseries damaged = \$17 775</p>		<p>Rohingya camp 458 shelters, 41 homestead gardens damaged in 5 camps</p>

Host Community

Table 2. Damage and loss in Cox's Bazar Host Community by sub-districts

Sub-districts	Unions	HHs	Cropland (ha)	Stand. Crop (USD)	Stored Crop (USD)	Fish (MT)	Shrimp (MT)	Fish (USD)	Forest (ha)	Plant. (ha)	Nursery (No.)	Seedlings (No.)	Forestry (USD)
Chakaria	3	380	20	5 023	0	3	13	81 279	0	0	1	200	37
CXB Sadar	3	870	12	25 000	0	10	20	168 950	0	15	0	0	1 802
Kutubdia	2	276	11	5 845	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maheshkhali	5	438	14	26 393	3 196	75	20	109 589	0	0	0	0	0
Pekua	5	940	24	35 525	2 740	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ramu	5	850	9	12 055	0	25	5	49 315	3	61	1	400	2 329
Teknaf	6	1 046	44	15 251	6 119	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	11 598
Ukhia	1	100	3	2 192	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2 009
Total	30	4 900	137	127 283	12 055	113	58	409 132	3	103	2	600	17 775

Source: FAO. 2024; DoF. 2024

Rohingya Camps

In the Rohingya camps, 458 shelters and 41 homestead gardens were damaged. No human deaths, landslide events, or livestock deaths were reported.

Table 3. Damage and loss faced by the Rohingya Community by camps

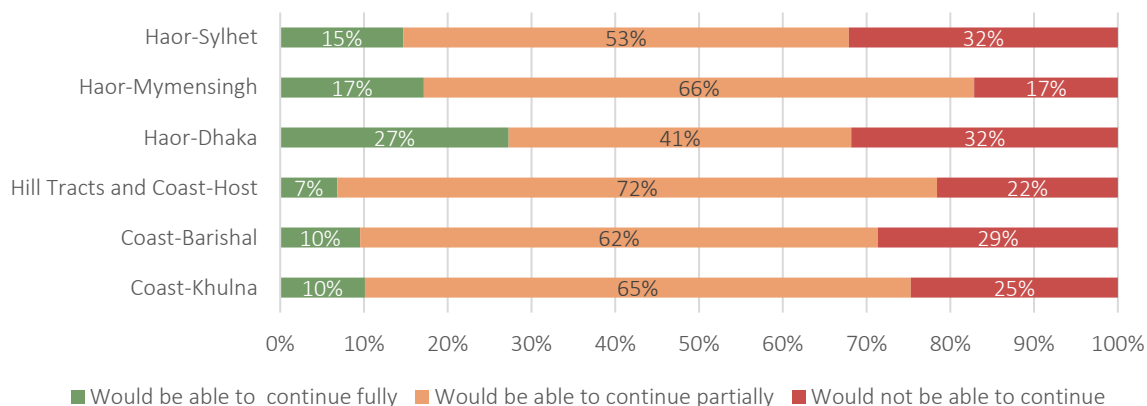
Camp	Shelters damaged	Homestead gardens damaged	Monetary Value (USD)
Camp 4	169	39	5 297
Camp 4E	0	0	0
Camp 12	222	0	8 110
Camp 20E	22	0	387
Camp 24	45	2	731
Total	458	41	14 524

Source: FAO. 2024

Needs

A large portion of farmers perceived not being able to continue agricultural activities (27 percent).

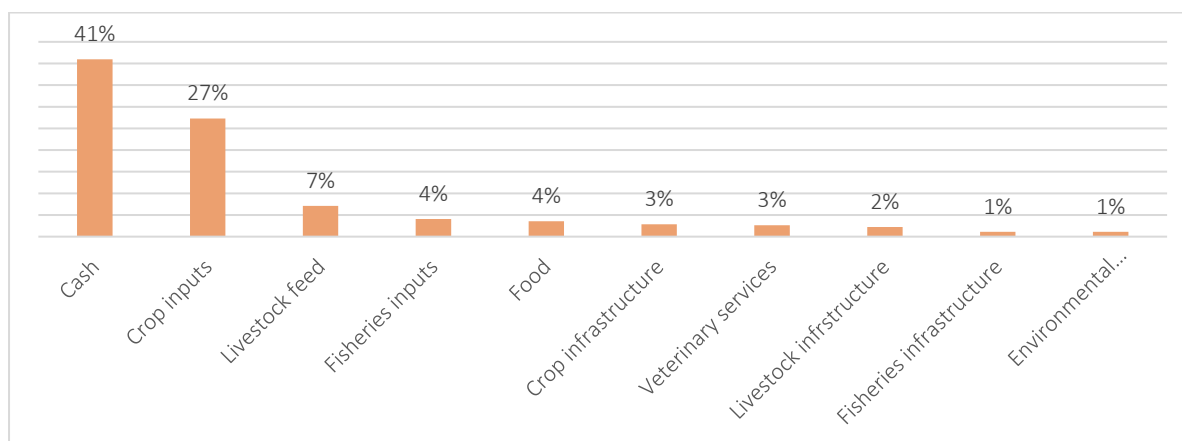
Figure 10. Capacity to continue agricultural activity without assistance by hotspot/division



Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

The DIEM respondent households involved in agricultural activities opted for cash, crop inputs (seed, fertilizer, pesticide, tools/equipment, machinery, irrigation, fuel/transport and labour), livestock feed, veterinary services and relevant infrastructures as the most priority needs for the next 3-6 months. In particular, the farmers mentioned rice, leafy vegetables, chilli, sweet gourd and bitter gourd seeds as crop inputs.

Figure 11. Assistance needed for agricultural activities



Source: FAO. 2024. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (May 2024)

For Cox’s Bazar crop sector, the priority needs of the farmers are vegetable seeds (83 percent) followed by fertilizer (80 percent), cash (50 percent), and gardening tools (43 percent). In the fisheries sector, the primary need is alternative livelihood opportunities (80 percent), followed by cash (68 percent), food (65 percent), and fish feed (52 percent). In forestry, its seedlings were mentioned (88 percent) followed by patrolling equipment (75 percent), training (63 percent), and maintenance support (25 percent).

Priority needs for the surveyed Rohingya camps are shelter and food, followed by homestead gardening tools and protection support.

Implications for Food Security and Nutrition

The heavy damage and loss in agriculture due to the cyclone and flooding is likely to impact food security and nutrition security. Before the cyclone, nearly 26% of the populations in the most affected districts were food insecure (IPC 3+). Damages on crops, livestock and poultry death, destruction of fish ponds as well as disruption of farming activity and market, will reduce availability of food and therefore exacerbate food insecurity. Household access to food can further deteriorate due to potential high food price inflation which may affect affordability of food because of reduced availability and market disruption. Destruction of homestead gardens will reduce the availability of fresh food and vegetables for families. Negative coping strategies such as buying food on credit, selling livestock, taking loans, etc. will affect the productive capacity of households, making it difficult to cope with future shocks without drastic measures (crisis and emergency coping strategies). On the other hand, decreased income with associated decreased purchasing power coupled with lack of access to inputs and services, infrastructure disruption is likely to compound existing challenges in accessing diverse and nutritious foods, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition.

Because salinity takes a longer time for restoration of agriculture livelihoods, the negative consequences may be felt on food security and nutrition for the next 2 to 4 years, which will be more costly.

Priority Needs to be Addressed

The priority actions for food security and livelihoods sector.

- Food Assistance and cooking facilities
- Food security and livelihood grants, and Cash for Work schemes
- Crop inputs like tools, seeds, and fertilizer
- Cattle feed, fodder and veterinary services
- Fish feed and fishing equipment
- Agroforestry nursery kits

Targeting

Targeted/meaningful interventions in the affected districts should be carried out where the damage, disruption and distress on food security and livelihood are prevalent.

The target groups should include households or individuals that are/have:

- Faced damage and disruptions in livelihood and agriculture activities (crop, fisheries, livestock or forestry) due to cyclone and inundation
- Food insecure (IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase 3+ or similar food security outcomes)
- Vulnerable and marginalized (Person with Disability, Pregnant and Lactating Woman, ethnic, women-headed household, high dependency ratio etc.)
- Low adaptive capacity (unsustainable livelihood, low income, education, limited access to extension, credit and social protection services etc.)
- Low asset base (agricultural land, livestock etc.)
- Limited access to basic services (drinking water, cooking fuel etc.)

The package of interventions to be provided to HHs will depend on subsector-specific damage.

The targeting should focus on the affected population along with food insecurity, structural risks, and sub-sector-specific damage/loss.

Table 4. Summary of loss and damages across agricultural sub-sectors

District	Affected Population	IPC AFI Phase 3+ (percent)	INFORM Risk (0-10)	Crop Damage/ Loss	Livestock Damage/ Loss	Fisheries Damage/ Loss	Forest Damage/ Loss	Food Security/ Agricultural Response Priority
Jashore	1 500	15	5.1	Medium				Low
Satkhira	221 176	30	5.9	Medium	Low	Medium	High	High
Khulna	452 200	15	5.7	Medium	High	High	High	Very High
Bagerhat	500 000	25	5.9	High	Medium	High	Medium	Very High
Gopalganj	1100 000		5.3	Low		Low		Low
Shariatpur	2 205	20	5.6	Low				Low
Pirojpur	500 000	20	5.6	High	Low	Medium		High
Jhalokati	7 760	15	5.1	Low	Low	Low		Low
Barishal	185 500	15	5.6	Low	Low	Medium		Low
Barguna	115 000	30	6.0	High	Medium	Low		High
Patuakhali	327 000	30	5.6	High	High	Medium		Very High
Bhola	223 303	25	5.5	High	Medium	Medium		High
Chandpur			5.4	Low	Low			Low
Lakshmipur	65 000	20	5.7	Low	Low	Low		Low
Noakhali	53 450	25	5.8	Low	Medium	Medium		Low
Feni	4 000	15	5.3	Low		Low		Low
Chattogram		15	5.3	High	Medium			Low
Cox's Bazar ⁷		33	6.2	Medium		Low	Low	Medium

Source: Elaborated from information received from DDM, DAE, DLS and DoF, IPC AFI, INFORM

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a household survey in Bangladesh through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring⁸ (DIEM-Monitoring) System to assess the impact of the cyclone and associated floods on agricultural livelihoods and food security. This survey reached 986 eligible households from the cyclone-affected coastal areas and flash flood-affected Haor areas. Since the survey was not representative at the district level, for the analysis hotspots identified in the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and divisions (admin level 1) were combined for geographic disaggregation. Data were collected via computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) between 30 May and 1 June 2024.

For the Cox's Bazar special analysis, FAO collected data through Key Informant Interviews (KII), using a snowball approach with Upazila-level respondents and purposive sampling with union-level respondents. 145 in-person and phone KIIs were conducted with respondents from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD), Disaster Management Committees (DMCs)/Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), traders, and site management officials from five Rohingya camps (Camp 4, 4E, 12, 20, 24) where FAO is currently operational were interviewed. Data was collected by FAO's partners and cleaning, processing, analysis, and reporting were facilitated by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Unit of FAO Cox's Bazar sub-office.

⁷ Estimated by aggregating host and non-host local Bangladeshi community

⁸ <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

