

Monsoon Floods: Bangladesh

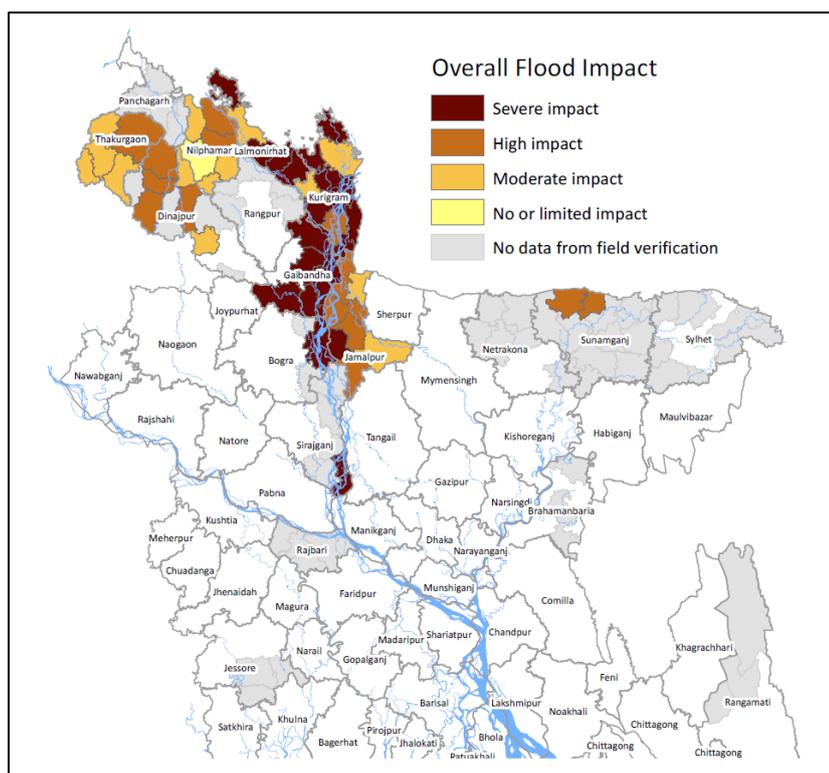
Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) - Situation Report N. 1

(as of 28 August 2017)

This report is produced by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) of Bangladesh in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 20 to 27 August 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 4 September 2017.

Highlights

- Monsoon rains have caused flooding across 32 districts in the northern, north eastern and central parts of the country, affecting a total of more than eight million people.
- An estimated total of 55,383 houses are reported to be damaged and 640,786 have been destroyed; 140 persons are known to have lost their lives due to the floods.
- The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) informs that 335 shelters in flood-affected areas are sheltering more than 106,000 people.
- A total of 13,035 cases of water-borne diseases linked to the extensive flooding (Acute Watery Diarrhoea, Skin Disease, Acute Respiratory Infection and Eye Infection) have been reported.



Source: Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG)

8 million
Affected people

32
Affected Districts

140
Dead

55,400
Houses Damaged

641,000
Houses Destroyed

335
Shelters

Situation Overview

Since 11 August 2017, heavy monsoon rains have caused intense flooding across more than one-third of Bangladesh, with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) reporting that the floods are the worst in the last four decades. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department's latest bulletin warns that further heavy rainfall is expected to continue.

As of 27 August 2017, the Government of Bangladesh reports that the floods have affected 32 districts in the northern, north eastern and central parts of the country due to the overflowing of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river, affecting a total of more than eight million people. It is feared that the central region of the country will soon be more affected by floods as waters move north to south towards the Bay of Bengal. Nearly 100 metres of a dam in Manikganj has already been washed away, and the lower part of the capital city, Dhaka, is predicted to be flooded in the coming days.

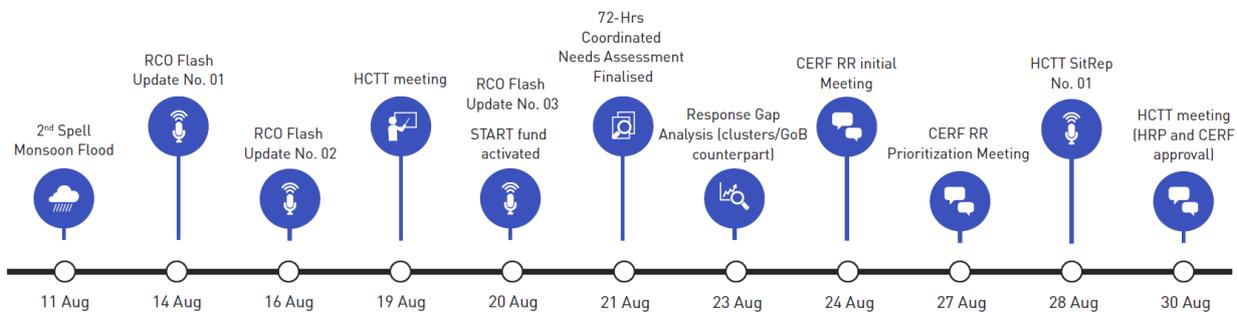
An estimated 55,383 houses are reported to have been damaged and 640,786 are believed to have been destroyed by the floods, while 140 people are known to have died. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has reported that as of 27 August, 335 shelters in flood-affected areas are sheltering more than 106,000 people

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 13,035 cases of water-borne diseases have been linked to the extensive flooding, including Acute Watery Diarrhoea, Skin Diseases, Acute Respiratory Infection and Eye Infection. More than 2,000 Medical Teams have been deployed and are providing support to address these emerging communicable diseases.

Access to the most affected areas in the northwest remains a challenge as roads are either severely damaged or submerged under flood water. It is estimated that around 9,000 km of roads, 500 bridges and culverts have been damaged. Nearly 100 km of rail lines, especially in the northwest districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Lemonhead, Gurugram and Thurman, have been damaged severely by the flood. Eleven train services, two of which are intercity, have been suspended since 13 August. Around 714 km of embankments have also been washed away.

Land-line communication is disrupted in many of the affected areas due to damage to the underground cabling by flood water, however, the mobile communication network has been restored and is currently functioning. As flood waters start to recede, access to *char* (river island) areas is becoming more difficult as boat access is being restricted by low water levels.

Timeline of key events



Funding

The Government has allocated 87.43 million BDT (USD \$ 1.1 million), 26,726 MT of rice and 65,260 dry food packets to flood-affected districts. It has also allocated 31,980 bundles of Corrugated Iron (CI) sheeting and BDT 95.9 million (USD 1.2 million) for house reconstruction.

The Start fund has been activated in Bangladesh and a total of £659,306 (USD \$ 850,505) has been awarded to ActionAid Bangladesh, Care International, Concern Worldwide, Handicap International, Relief International with HelpAge International, Save the Children and Plan International.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched an Emergency Appeal seeking CHF4.7 million (USD \$ 4.9 million) to enable the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to deliver assistance and provide support to 20,000 families (100,000 people) for 12 months, with a focus on the following sectors: health, shelter (and non-food relief items), water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), food security and livelihoods (including unconditional cash) and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Oxfam - Bangladesh has allocated more than 20 million BDT (USD \$ 250,000) from its Humanitarian Response Grant Facilities (HRGF) under its IKEA funded ELNHA project and OXFAM Catastrophe Fund.

Canada has committed CAN\$262,500 (USD \$ 210,000) through the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund to support Plan International in providing immediate assistance to over 10,000 people affected the monsoon floods in Bangladesh.

Humanitarian Response



Food Security

Needs:

- An estimated 623,402 hectares of standing crops across 32 districts have been damaged (35,023 ha fully damaged and 588,378 ha partially); the worst-hit crops are paddy (summer rice), jute (vegetable fibre), dhaincha (multipurpose legume) and vegetables.
- The damage to agriculture will likely have an impact on the availability and price of food, with 1.5 million people in need of food assistance (immediate and short term); 179,943 children under five and 90,568 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) need Targeted Food Distribution.
- Significant damage to fishing infrastructures and fish cultures.
- Damage to agriculture is likely to have an impact on livelihoods.
- The Food Security Cluster is planning to target 11 most affected districts: eight districts in the Northwest and three in the Haor region.

623,401 ha
Crop lands affected

1.5 million
people

In need of Food
Assistance

Response:

- Immediate food assistance provided to more than three million people by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) (2.8m people), WFP (200,000 people - 40,000 HH - living in four of the worst-affected areas of Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat with micronutrient fortified biscuits), BDRCS (21,000 people), INGOs (11,000 people).
- Short-term food assistance provided to 170,000 people by GoB (81,325 people) and INGOs (88,670 people) through Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPCG).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Targeted food assistance for pregnant and lactating women and children under five is very limited.
- Ten out of the 11 targeted districts have been provided with immediate food assistance; Netrokona is the only district where coverage is below the target. 73 per cent of households have been covered.
- 1.3 million still require short-term food assistance; USD \$ 5 million is required to meet this need.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Almost all flood-affected people require some form of WASH assistance.
- An estimated three million people (children, women, adolescent girls, elderly, disabled) have special needs that require targeted WASH assistance.
- Due to the contamination of water sources - especially tube wells, which are the main source of safe water in affected areas - the affected population is using alternative and unsafe water sources, which may lead to an outbreak of water-borne diseases, and exacerbate any pre-existing health and nutrition issues.

3 million

Most vulnerable people
need special WASH
assistance

65,000

Tube wells damaged

218,400

Latrines partially or
fully damaged by
monsoon floods ¹

Response:

- The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), with the support of UNICEF and other WASH cluster partners, has reached 1.8 million people.
- 22,181 tube-wells have been raised, 5,621 tube-wells repaired, 15,145 tube-wells disinfected, 303 tube-wells installed and 696 latrines have been constructed in flood centres.

¹ DPHE Top Sheet 26/08/17

- 731,575 water purification tablets, 3,025 kg of bleaching powder, 4,821 jerry cans, and 797 hygiene kits have been distributed.
- Five water treatment plants have started producing safe water (2,000L/hour) in five districts (Jamalpur, Sirajgonj, Bgura, Kurigram, Gaibandha). Terre des Hommes (TdH) has also mobilized three mobile water treatment plants and has distributed water purification tablets to 3,000 families in Kurigram.
- The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is distributing purified drinking water through five water purification units; a total of 46,760 liters have been distributed to approximately 30,000 people. BDRCS has distributed additional 14,000 water purification tablets, 6,000 units jerrycans and 40,000 sachets of Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) to 4,000 families.
- BRAC has distributed WASH NFI to 25,255 people in 11 districts, installed 24 temporary latrines and 15 tube wells in Dinajpur (Sadar and Chirirbandar) and Jessore (Keshobpur) districts.
- World Vision has distributed hygiene kits and disseminated hygiene messages to 3,439 HHs in five districts (Dinajpur, Joypurhat, Nilphamary, Nowgaon and Sunamgonj).
- Oxfam has distributed safe water to 1,500 HHs, distributed 1,150 hygiene kits and provided Multi-Purpose Cash Grant (MPG) to 5,650 households amounting to BDT 4,000/HH in five districts (Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Sirajgonj).
- Save the Children has distributed 250 hygiene kits.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of funding to support the WASH response.
- Lack of timely data and information sharing.



Health

Needs:

- Immediate needs include Bleaching Powder, Cholera saline, Water Purifying Tablets, Anti-Snake Venom and other Emergency Drugs.
- Need to enhance disease surveillance.
- Transport, speed boats and life jackets are required for the Rapid Response Teams and the Medical Teams.
- Limited availability of Reproductive Health care services, Immunization, Mental and Psychological Health Services.
- Need to strengthen health promotion activities.
- Repairs to damaged health facilities and replacement of damaged equipment.

483

Community clinics
damaged in Rangpur
Division

Response:

- The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has activated a Health Emergency Operation Centre and Control Room (Hot Line +88 0 1759114488) as well as 32 Control Rooms in the flood-affected districts;
- Civil Surgeon Offices have been activated and are on stand-by 24/7.
- Pre-positioned emergency drugs and other medical stocks are being used to address health problems.
- More than 2,000 Medical Teams have been deployed in the flood-affected areas. Eight Medical Teams treated more than 10,000 cases in Rangpur Division. Two mobile medical teams from BDRCS treated approximately 1,000 patients.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Key gaps include; prevention of post-flood communicable disease outbreaks; continuation of primary health care services to affected population including emergency obstetric and neonatal care services, immunization, mental health and psychosocial care support; accessibility to health facilities; coordination and information management services.

 Shelter
Needs:

- Further assessments are required to better understand humanitarian shelter needs.

Response:

- More than 60,000 people are being targeted for emergency shelter relief, focusing mainly on in-kind distributions of tarpaulins and NFI packages.
- The Bangladesh Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) with the support from the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), has mobilized 2,000 tarpaulins and the distribution is ongoing. An additional 5,000 tarpaulins have been allocated for the flood-affected districts.

320,000

People in need of emergency shelter assistance

Gaps & Constraints:

- A total of 320,000 people is estimated to still require some form of shelter support.
- Lack of detailed needs assessment information and limited funding to scale up operations.
- Lack of funding remains an impediment to a fast and comprehensive humanitarian shelter response.

 Education
Needs:

- A total of 3 million people need Education Cluster assistance.
- At least 4,000 primary and high schools, colleges and madrasas in northern and northeastern district of the country are affected by floods and require immediate repairing interventions.
- More than 1,000 educational institutions have been closed either due to flooding or because they are being used as emergency shelters for displaced people. This is impacting the learning ability of students and is damaging the teaching learning material.
- More than 2,000 schools are not functioning due to heavy rain and flash floods.
- The Government has suspended the Bachelor Degree examination and is planning to reschedule primary school level examinations.
- There are concerns for protection related issues, including school drop-outs and an increase in child labour and marriage.

3 million

People in need of Education Cluster assistance

1,000

Educational institutions closed

Response:

- UNICEF is working with district education authorities to support temporary education arrangements for displaced children in shelters.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Approximate two million Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), under 5 children and adolescent girls need Nutrition Cluster assistance.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) is difficult as mothers cannot feed complementary food due to the lack of food and cooking facilities.
- There is no private space for breast-feeding in shelters, and this is interrupting breast-feeding practices.
- Children are not getting adequate breast-milk as mothers need to procure food.
- Facility-based nutrition services (including community clinics) are not functioning due to infrastructure damage or are not accessible in the heavily inundated areas.
- Sunamgonj and Kurigram are identified as IPC² level 4 districts where the nutrition status is chronically bad.

2 million

People need Nutrition assistance

² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Response:

- The Integrated SMART³ survey is ongoing in the Haor region (funded by UNICEF) and Kurigram (TDH).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of availability of nutrition-specific data.
- Limited funding.
- Limited skilled nutrition service providers.

**Logistics****Needs:**

- Access by road to the most affected areas in the northwest districts is challenging and urgent repair is needed for severely damaged roads to re-establish communication.

Response:

- The Roads and Highways Department is working relentlessly to restore road communication, especially between Dhaka and Rangpur-Dinajpur.
- 100 km of damaged trackbeds need soil before any repair work. It will take several weeks to restore/repair rail communication in some places.
- Due to the limited access by road, market food prices have increased in some places. Local boats are used for transportation of food commodities.
- The Armed Forces Division (AFD) has been deployed to the Northern districts since the beginning of the flood to protect vulnerable embankments and conduct urgent repair of damaged ones.
- AFD and the Government concerned ministries and departments have been working in coordination to maximize support for the affected communities.

9,000 km

Roads severely damaged

457 bridges

And culverts damaged

100 km

Rail lines damaged

Gaps & Constraints:

- Repairs to approximately 100 km of the Western Railway Zone will require more than BDT 200 million (USD \$ 2.5 million).
- Due to the active monsoon and the ongoing rain, repair work of roads and rail lines is hampered and delayed in many places.

**Protection****Needs:**

- It is estimated that 186,337 people need GBV assistance.
- Women and girls in the most severely-affected areas do not feel safe in the areas they are currently living, including embankments, emergency shelters, roadways, school buildings, and under the open sky.
- 50 per cent of the total affected population are children exposed to the risk of not receiving regular care and protection from care givers.
- 15 children died and 8 children survived from drowning.
- Children in shelters are exposed to insecurity and injury as they remain long hours unattended and displaced from their home.

2,000 dignity kits

Distributed to disaster affected women and girls

50 per cent

Of the total affected population are children

³ Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions

- Many families are sending their children for laboring in near urban areas, preventing their return to a normal education cycle once flood waters start receding.
- Lack of play grounds and child-friendly activities in the flooded area. This is creating a negative impact on the children's mental and physical health, resulting in children's loss of self-confidence and self-esteem.

Response:

- The total estimated people reached with GBV assistance is 2,000 people.
- 2,000 Dignity Kits have been distributed to disaster-affected women and girls across Kurigram and Jamalpur districts.
- Ongoing assessment and monitoring of GBV threats and risks at field level by GBV partners including OXFAM, Plan International, and Terre des Hommes.
- 22 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) are operational in Kurigram under the Child Protection cluster.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Unsafe living conditions and absence of private bathing and toilet facilities heightens risk of sexual violence and exploitation in disaster shelters and informal temporary settlement locations.
- Loss of personal goods and water scarcity hinders women and girls from maintaining basic hygiene needs, safety, or freedom of movement.
- Health systems response to gender-based violence is weak in most flood-affected areas and requires stronger integration into immediate response efforts.
- Compromised roads and communication systems due to flood inundation limit access to life-saving care for GBV survivors.
- Referral systems for multi-sectoral response are not functioning.
- Breakdown of normal family care system and protection services in the worst affected areas for children.
- Lack of protection, mental health, psychosocial and recreational support for children.
- Systems to report and respond to separated/unaccompanied children or any other forms of violence and missing child in flood-affected areas are not in place.



Early Recovery

Needs:

- The Early Recovery Cluster has initiated in-depth assessments to identify needs and required actions in community infrastructure, off-farm livelihood, environment and protection.
- Local businesses and SMEs have been severely affected by the current floods, with infrastructure damaged, limited availability of savings and disruption to regular employment opportunities.
- Limited purchasing power for essential goods and services is also affecting local enterprises.

2 million

People need early recovery support

Gaps & Constraints:

- As flood waters start to recede, the Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief, as the co-lead of the Early Recovery cluster, will continue to work with UNDP to assess affected community infrastructures, and take the necessary action to reconstruct/rebuild critical facilities.
- Cash support for off-farm livelihood recovery and resumption.



Communication with Community (CwC)

Needs:

- Information needs related to water, shelter/accommodation, food, how to register for aid, information about sanitation and updated weather reports. Face-to-face channels (through NGOs and community leaders) are the preferred sources of information for affected people.
- Social media (especially Facebook) is emerging as a key information source amongst affected people.

All affected people

Need CwC assistance

- Mechanisms for affected communities to provide feedback to relief providers are not yet well established.

Response:

- Shongjog has developed a series of communication products, alongside the Department for Disaster Management, to provide affected communities with critical information around water purification, hygiene, waterborne disease, snake bite, drowning and protection of vulnerable groups. Products are being disseminated by several agencies (including Bangladesh Betar, BDRCS, Community Radios, Concern Worldwide, Help Age International, IFRC, Relief International, Save the Children and UNICEF) through electronic and face-to-face channels. Materials are available here: <https://app.box.com/s/zggjjcpqkcrn30yb7p71fm31u9x2l46v>
- Bangladesh Betar Rangpur has started a daily 15-minute phone-in programme targeting flood-affected communities, and is planned to continue until at least 29 August.
- Shongjog has launched a temporary 'humanitarian communications agency' to provide technical support and advice to responders and ensure that two-way communication is embedded within the response.
- Community radio stations in the affected area collected information from listeners and reporters, highlighting key 'pockets of need', to inform the multi-agency needs assessment process.
- ICCO Cooperation have launched a mobile-enabled community feedback mechanism for Gaibandha district, to capture views and needs from affected people and ensure that community voices are reflected in the response.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Community leaders and NGO personnel are key information sources for affected people, and need support to ensure they can provide practical, actionable information to affected communities. Clusters are encouraged to prioritise CwC interventions within their sectoral approach, so affected populations can receive practical and actionable information on key issues.
- Comprehensive, two-way communication activities to solicit and collate community feedback are already launching in Gaibandha, but are absent in other affected areas.
- Committed funding to CwC activity is currently insufficient and relying on very small amounts of internal resources mobilized by a small number of Shongjog members.
- The information and communication needs of people in southern districts (where flood events appear to have happened slightly later) are not yet sufficiently understood.

General Coordination

A meeting of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), including UN agencies, International and National NGO's, Government, and Donors was organized on 19 August 2017. As a result, it was agreed that clusters Leads/Co-Leads would meet with their national counterparts to learn about their on-going/planned response and jointly identify gaps that could be supported by the international community. Development Partner (DP) representatives were requested to inform rapidly on possible funding opportunities that could be made available to plan for and prioritize time-critical interventions. GoB has assured all concerned that support will be provided to facilitate NGO's authorization processes for speed delivery of assistance.

The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), in coordination with the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) and the technical support of the Senior GenCap Advisor, is supporting clusters in gender analysis and integration of gender issues into response activities.

The HCTT will be meeting again on Wednesday 30 August to prioritize possible coordinated humanitarian interventions that would supplement and complement GoB's efforts.

For further information, please contact:

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