

# Northern and Central Bangladesh Second Wave Flood

Briefing Note – 06 August, 2020

Approximately 37% of the country is currently flooded; As of 02 August, 2020, 1022 unions from 158 upazila have been inundated by flood water, affecting 5.4 million people and leaving 1,059,295 families water logged. As per DGHS control room 135 people has already lost their life, where drowning has been the major cause of the death with 70% of deaths occurring in children. ([NAWG, 2020](#)). Moreover, 17 tourists died due to a trawler capsized in Netrokona due to these unfavorable weather conditions ([Press Report](#)).

The flood initially started around end of June, went through a second spell when water levels in Brahmaputra and upper Meghna basins started rising again from 9 July and later in Padma basin inundating low-lying areas of northern, north-eastern-western and central districts of Bangladesh.

According to [NAWG Preliminary Impact Report](#), 16 most affected districts include Bogura, Faridpur, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Netrokona, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Sirajganj, Sunamganj, Sylhet and Tangail.

Apart from inundation, currently, affected districts are also now **facing threat of water borne diseases, increased risks of snake bites in addition to loss of shelter and livelihood.**

## Overview of affected population and response:

District	Affected population	Relief: GR Rice (MT)	Relief: GR Cash (BDT)	Relief: Dry Food (Packet)	Relief: Animal Food (BDT)	Relief: Child Food (BDT)	Other Actors
Faridpur	2,07,204	450	600,000	6,000	120,000	600,000	Non
Munshiganj	1,12,046	202	300,000	3,100	300,000	00,000	Non
Netrokona	1,10,350	135	200,000	1,000	200,000	200,000	IFRC and WFP
Shariatpur	3,37,035	720	1,100,000	4,000	720,000	200,000	Non
Tangail	1,06,314	900	1,300,000	10,000	900,000	200,000	IFRC
Naogaon	75,600	450	400,000	6,000	600,000	300,000	IFRC
Lalmonirhat	88,425	120	200,000	3,000	450,000	400,000	IFRC, Plan Int. BD

Source: DRRRO Report of districts published after 25/07/20

Disbursement Pot	Validity
GBP 1,101,926	6/8/20 to 30/11/20

**Scope:** Immediate response to support most vulnerable households suffering as a result of unmet gaps during current flood is vital.

## Priority Needs



Shelter and NFI



WASH (and Covid-19)



Health



Livelihood

## Response

- IFRC released CHF 577,496 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) fund to enable BDRCS to reach 25,000 families with livelihood and basic needs; shelter; WASH; health and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) at Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Bogura, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Tangail, Noagaon, Netrokona, Sunamganj, Manikganj, Sherpur and other districts.
- Government support has been summarized in table below

**Humanitarian Constraints:** High risk of infection due to COVID-19 outbreak in areas under alert note. Additionally, transportation constraint in water-logged areas of flooded districts will also make implementation difficult.

## Key characteristics of affected districts

District	Extreme Poverty Headcount Ratio (%)	Katcha Housing (%)	Dependent on agriculture (%)	Access to water: Tube well (%)
Lalmonirhat	16.7	75	6.4	98.6
Tangail	18.0	82	15.5	99.2
Munshiganj	15.6	71	12.0	93.2
Naogaon	7	54	23.3	95.6
Netrokona	19.5	71	20.4	94.1
Faridpur	19.4	74	15.9	98.3
Shariatpur	34.4	78	16.0	96.1

Source: HIES 2016 and BBS 2018

## Crisis Impact Overview:

### Shelter and NFIs:

- More than 11,000 households have been fully damaged in Netrokona, Tangail and Naogaon. Families that have lost their shelters due to heavy rain will need immediate shelter support to rebuild or repair their houses
- Need for NFI items such as clothing may be an immediate necessity for health and dignity protection

### WASH:

- More than 90% of the population in the respective districts are dependent on tube well water which are highly likely to be inundated due to flood water leading to contamination.
- Those marooned or sheltering on open space will have limited access to sanitation facilities increasing the rate of open defecation.

### Health:

- There is a high risk of waterborne diseases including itch, sore, diarrhoea, dysentery, and vomiting currently. ([Article. The Daily Star](#))
- It has been observed that incidence of drowning followed by snake bites during floods claim lives.

## COVID-19

District	Number of Infection
Lalmonirhat	294
Tangail	1690
Munshiganj	3021
Naogaon	931
Netrokona	638
Faridpur	4862
Shariatpur	1035

Source: [DGHS Dashboard](#)

The table above summarizes COVID-19 prevalence in flooded districts. The presence of confirmed cases increases the need for WASH facilities and physical distancing in shelters as well as houses with decreased WASH facilities due to damage by flood.

### Livelihoods:

- 72 per cent of the population in Bangladesh has been found to be unemployed due to movement restrictions and workplace closures ([Report by Flood Resilience Alliance](#)) especially daily wage workers, such as rickshaw and transport drivers, masons, garment workers, small scale traders and farmers.
- According to District level D-forms, Naogaon and Tangail have significant damage to cultivated land; in Tangail more than 2000 hectares of land and in Naogaon more than 3500 hectares of land have been damaged.
- Livelihoods of day-laborer and low-income people has become a threat as flood has damaged their means of employment (mostly depended on agri-related activities).

## **Aggravating Factors**

### **Food Security:**

- Floods may affect food stocks of inundated areas; Marooned houses with inhabitants will face difficulty to access nearby markets.
- Price hike, inundated food market, transportation of food in the local market etc. can pose threat to food security of people.
- Relief food extended by government may not be sufficient. With flood water remaining for more almost 2 weeks, households will run out of food stocked or obtained through relief earlier
- The social capital dried of due to months long lockdown, lack of income opportunities and purchase power

### **Protection:**

Children sheltering on embankments are at risk of drowning. Drowning is the number one cause of death among children in Bangladesh ([News Article, Dhaka Tribune](#)). In addition, children in these situations are less likely to receive assistance than children in flood shelters, as they are harder to identify and harder to reach.

Flood shelters often have inadequate WASH facilities. Past disasters have shown that this poses risks to women and adolescent girls, who resort to various harmful practices to avoid exposure (including waiting until nightfall to go to the toilet, bathing in dirty water). In the past, privacy to breastfeed has also been an issue.

### **Market Analysis**

Markets have been observed to be functional, however, due to the monsoon rains and inundated agricultural lands, the supply of dry foods, vegetable, hygiene kits and cattle foods are not sufficiently available as per need which have pushed prices higher.

### **Vulnerable groups**

In addition to houses under poverty and extreme poverty, other vulnerable groups include:

- People with disabilities often face difficulties with evacuating their shelters and accessing shelters due to stagnant water, terrain or obstruction. They may also face difficulties accessing aid.
- Houses with high dependency where *children and aged members* are present. These households will be more financially burdened than others as needs of more members will have to be fulfilled

- Transgender population who are treated as outcasts in the country; they may not receive support or relief items as a result of community discrimination
- Female headed households face risk of exposure to protection related issues as GBV and SRHR.
- Households with decreased income due to COVID-19's impact; many have travelled back from cities after losing jobs, resulting in being pushed towards poverty

### **Coping mechanisms**

As seen in historical floods, the following negative coping mechanisms are often practiced:

- Selling assets: After the July 2017 floods, affected people in northern districts were reportedly already selling livestock at lower rates due to a lack of fodder. This is particularly apparent in Sirajganj, one of the largest cattle producing districts.
- Decreasing meal/meal portions to save more food
- Taking informal loans at higher interest: Selling their labour in advance or taking out loans on higher interest rates

### **Lessons Learnt**

*Based on learnings from recent flood responses under Start Fund Bangladesh:*

- Providing life-saving support items such as life jackets may have a sustainable impact as recurring floods claim lives majorly through drowning every year
- WASH support in the form of repairing/ decontamination of tube wells will be needed
- Cash support has been effective for tackling negative coping mechanisms of affected population; however, hygiene items such as sanitary napkins should be directly provided as MPCG may not ensure female hygiene essentials as this may not be seen as a priority in the HH
- Advocacy through multiple communication media is needed for ensuring attention of government and other non-government institutions for long term support of households that have been left homeless
- Ensuring coordination among all actors present to ensure no overlap in selection of project participants
- Abiding by proper guidelines to take into account COVID-19 IPC is vital during implementation for staff and community safety

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- Appointing separate staff for ensuring community accountability will be an integral part of ensuring community participation is ensured throughout program implementation

