Monsoon Floods: Bangladesh
Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) - Situation Report N. 5
(as of 28 September 2017)

This report is produced by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) of Bangladesh in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 18 to 27 September 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 10 October 2017.

Highlights

- According to the second round of needs analysis conducted by the Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), priority concerns of flood-affected communities are food security, livelihood and shelter.

- A 4W map (Who, What, Where, When) for the current flood response was developed by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT).

- Shongjog (the multi-stakeholder platform on Communication with Communities in Bangladesh) is collecting and collating feedback from communities affected by floods in Bangladesh.

Situation Overview

The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) has conducted a second round of assessments and analysis to identify how needs and priorities have changed in the affected areas as water has receded and affected people are trying to go back to their regular life. According to the available affected population data from the Department of Disaster Management (DDM)¹, 15 districts were identified, of which one most affected Upazilla was selected for data collection.

The needs analysis report issued on 20 September, indicates that the priority concerns of flood-affected communities are food security, livelihood and shelter. In the flood-affected areas, most of the crop lands has been submerged for at least 5-7 days causing damage to crops, houses, infrastructures. People have lost their stored foods (rice, pulse, wheat etc.) as stocks have been washed away during the floods. Opportunities for income-generating activities have been very limited. Most of the houses are made of mud and straw and they have been fully damaged. Many people are still living in makeshift shelters, in relatives’ home or under the open sky. These conditions might trigger security incidents in the affected areas and many affected people are worried about their family member’s safety and security.

The Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has developed a six-year Climate Resilient Community Development (CRCD) project in the country’s northwest region with a greater focus on building flood protection for rural communities. The potential range of interventions of the project include early warning about floods; strengthening community preparedness about floods and climate change by providing information; temporary floods shelter for people and livestock during severe floods, improving productivity and diversity of crops within the limits of quality of soil.

HCTT partners have scaled up the emergency response in the flood-affected northern and central parts of Bangladesh. On 1 September 2017, the HCTT launched an Emergency Response Plan to complement the timely and effective response by the Government of Bangladesh.

**Funding**

The Government has allocated 89.15 million BDT (USD $1.1 million), 27,207 MT of rice and 71,260 dry food packets to flood-affected districts. It has also allocated 31,980 bundle(s) of Corrugated Iron (CI) sheeting and BDT 95.9 million (USD $1.2 million) for house reconstruction.

The UK-supported 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).

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. Irish Aid has committed 100,000 Euros (USD $119,000).

In support of the Government’s swift response and to assist those who have been affected, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated USD $2.4 million to support the humanitarian response. The CERF funding will allow agencies to scale up their responses and reach 100,000 people who have been most acutely affected by the flooding in the two most severely affected districts, Dinajpur and Jamalpur. The funding will be used to provide water and sanitation facilities, food assistance through cash transfers, health support for pregnant women and newborn babies, and emergency shelter kits.
The Multi-Purpose Cash Grant (MPCG) package amounting to BDT 4,000 (USD $50) /HH/month was agreed for the current flood response. A total of 39,999 households (199,896 people) were covered/planned with BDT 159,996,000 (USD 2 million) by OXFAM, Action Aid, CARE, CBM, Concern Worldwide, Christian Aid, Save the Children, Plan International, ADRA Bangladesh and BDRCS/IFRC. Humanitarian partners are encouraged to follow the MPCG agreed package.

A dashboard has been released to provide an overview of current funding allocated to the monsoon flood response. According to the dashboard, the plan is currently 40 per cent funded. Multiple humanitarian crises in Bangladesh mean that resources, personnel, and funding are being diverted from the flood response to address other humanitarian needs. There is an urgent need to ensure that targeted humanitarian assistance continues to be delivered in flood-affected areas.

Humanitarian Response

Early Recovery

Needs:

- Destroyed road networks and bridges have limited humanitarian access in some areas and many people are still without coverage of early recovery activities.
- To address the early recovery needs, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared the following priorities: rebuilding for those affected who lost their homes, provision of seedlings for the farmers whose seedbeds were washed away and medical support for those who are ailing. She also urged the microcredit lenders not to press the poor farmers to repay the loan instalments for the next three months.
- The Department of Disaster Management and Relief is now preparing the detailed D Form including information related to the total losses in community infrastructures.

Response:

- Government counterparts have inspected the affected areas and are providing support for CfW assistance.
- BRAC has provided early livelihood recovery to 4,216 households.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Humanitarian partners need to facilitate early recovery efforts of the most vulnerable households through the provision of basic services and urgent rehabilitation of community infrastructure.

Food Security

Needs:

- Over 650,000 hectares of standing crops across 32 districts have been damaged; the worst-affected crops are paddy (summer rice), jute (vegetable fibre), dhaincha (multipurpose legume) and vegetables.
- 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.
- There is reportedly significant damage to fishing infrastructures and fish cultures and on livestock (disease, increase of the price of hay and fodder) although the impact will only be fully understood when waters recede. Damage to agriculture is likely to have an impact on food security and access to daily labor opportunities for the most vulnerable. Department of Livestock Services is seeking emergency support from the Government for

1.5 million people
In need of Food assistance
livestock feed for flood-affected livestock holders in greater Jamalpur, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Bogora and Netrokon districts. They also require FMD vaccine to mitigate spread of disease in livestock shelters, and post-flood rehabilitation assistance for small-holder farmers (restocking and interest-free loans)\(^2\).

**Response:**
- Number of people reached: 699,471 people reached in total.
- Immediate food assistance: 583,180 people.
- Short term food assistance: 108,191 people including 33,845 people who received MPCG.
- Livelihood recovery: 41,945 people 33,845 people who received MPCG.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Limited funding, especially for recovery.
- The FSC team is overstretched by the Rohingya crisis and has decided to postpone the phase three light assessment until further notice.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>15-Sep</th>
<th>Budget Required</th>
<th>Mobilized</th>
<th>Budget Gap</th>
<th>% gap</th>
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<td>292,130</td>
<td>707,870</td>
<td>71%</td>
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</table>

**Health Needs:**
- Mobilize emergency drugs and medical supplies for replenishing medical buffer stock at district and division level.
- Disease surveillance and health promotion activities to be continued.

**Response:**
- WHO has provided 6 million water purification tablets country-wide.
- Monitoring the public health situation due to on-going flood through Health Emergency Operations Centre and Control Room (Hot Line +88 017 5911 4488) and daily Health Bulletin.
- Health Promotion and education activities have been intensified in the flood affected areas.
- Surveillance & Immunization Medical Officers (SIMO) are providing support to District Civil Surgeon Offices in disease surveillance and coordination of activities without hampering routine immunization activities.
- The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has mobilized ten mobile medical teams and provided basis medical assistance for 14,208 flood affected people. Additional four 4 mobile medical teams were recently deployed to assist flood-affected people in Sirajganj, Lalmonirhat, Barga and Rangpur districts.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Continuation of primary health care services to affected population including emergency obstetric and neonatal care services, immunization, mental health and psychosocial care support.

\(^2\) DG communication with ECTAD/FAO project, 24/08/2017
Protection-GBV

Needs:
- Total estimated people in need of GBV Cluster assistance: 100,810.
- Provision of emergency GBV case management services at identified entry points for service referral.
- Distribution of clothing, personal hygiene items, and torches to enhance personal dignity, safety, and mobility of women and girls.
- Identification of safe spaces for women and girls as entry points for GBV service referral.
- Establishment of community watch groups to monitor safety and security risks in settlement areas.

Response:
- Total estimated people reached with GBV Cluster assistance: 5,033.
- Delivery of integrated GBV/sexual and reproductive health emergency mobile health services in 35 locations across Kurigram, Gaibandha, and Jalampur.
- Health workers trained on communication and care approaches with GBV survivors provided psychosocial support to 183 women and girls.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Total estimated gap in GBV Cluster (total needs minus total response): 105,000.
- Hardship accessing comprehensive care services at One Stop Crisis Centers (OCC) for GBV survivors due to distance, terrain, lack of service awareness, and weak coordination of care at service delivery points.
- No identified service providers conducting GBV case management services to enhance linkages between law enforcement, legal, medical, and psychosocial support services for GBV survivors.
- No spaces for women and girls to access safe, confidential GBV survivor support services.
- Weak service provider networks to facilitate multi-sectoral GBV response at district level.

Shelter

Needs:
- The latest Government figures show that 103,855 houses have been fully damaged, and 633,722 houses have been partially damaged.
- The total estimated people in need of emergency shelter assistance is 386,360 people.

Response:
- To date, Shelter Cluster agencies have reached 37,250 people with emergency shelter and support for a further 99,365 people is in the pipeline.
- Agencies have also planned early recovery support for additional 43,160 people.
- Priority is given to displaced people who do not have sufficient resources to repair or rebuild their homes. Special attention is placed on those who are highly vulnerable due to landlessness, people living in vulnerable areas, female-headed households, people with disabilities and the elderly.
- Many people have begun to return to their homes and are undertaking construction or repairs; providing training and materials for appropriate construction in flood-prone areas is a priority.

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4 Estimate based on results from the initial 72-hour rapid assessment, and only focusing on fully damaged houses
Gaps & Constraints:

- Many families, particularly those who were living close to river banks and on chars (river-islands) have lost their land and are living on temporary sites. They are unable to start the recovery process until there is some certainty about their future permanent location.
- Many mud houses were washed away, and more resilient housing typologies are needed for reconstruction.
- There is limited information available about ongoing shelter needs outside of the assessments being undertaken by Shelter Cluster partners as part of their targeting and beneficiary selection.

Further information is available on the Shelter Cluster Bangladesh Monsoon Floods website: https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/bangladesh-monsoon-floods-2017

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 waterborne diseases, and exacerbate any pre-existing health and nutrition issues.

Response:

- Total estimated people reached with WASH assistance: Approximately Total 2.1 million.
- The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), with the support of UNICEF and other WASH cluster partners, has reached 2.1 million people.
- DPHE has raised 2,294 tube-wells, repaired 10,814 tube-wells, disinfected 30,592 tube-wells, installed 379 new tube-wells, and constructed 836 latrines in flood shelters, distributed 1,069,855 water purification tablets, 5,401 kg of bleaching powder, 6,500 jerry cans, and 849 hygiene kits.
- In addition, DPHE mobilized five water treatment plants and 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 distributed 26,484L purified water to 2,789 households and has distributed 3,000 hygiene kits to 3,000 families in Kurigram.
- The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) with support from IFRC is distributing purified drinking water through five water purification units; a total of 50,000 liters have been distributed to approximately 30,000 people. BDRCS has distributed additional 14,000 water purification tablets, 16,000 units jerrycans and 130,000 sachets of Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) to 13,000 families. Besides, 5000 Hygiene kits were distributed among the 5000 household in Kurigram, Dinajpur, Tangail, Jamalpur and Sirajgonj.
- BRAC has reached 28,100 people in 20 Upazila under 11 districts and distributed NFI. BRAC also installed 29 temporary latrines and 18 tube-wells in Jessore and Dinajpur 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 in Gaibandha district, and 3,295 hygiene kits in 4 districts (Sirajgonj-1,000 HHs, Kurigram - 1,145 HHs, Dinajpur - 800 HHs and NilPhamari - 350 HHs). A total of 200 tube-wells were disinfected in Dinajpur and Nilphamari. Oxfam is mobilising resources for additional 2,360 HHs in these four districts. Oxfam will be distributing WASH hygiene kits to 2,000 HHs in Dinajpur and Kurigram.
- Save the Children has distributed 1,550 hygiene kits.

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7 DPHE with support from UNICEF; approx. 25,025 people by BDRC/IFRC, approx. 28,000 people by TdH; approx. 80,987 people by BRAC; approx. 43,350 by Plan International. Data from other partners not confirmed still to date.
Concern Worldwide has distributed 1,700 hygiene kits to 1,700 families in Lalmonirhat district.

Plan International Bangladesh has distributed 32,000 water purification tablets, 124 kg of bleaching powder, 10,000 liters of safe water, 150 jerry-cans, soap and NFI to 2009 HH. In addition, Plan International has conducted the following activities in the Dinajpur, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts: installed 21 improved latrines and 16 hand tube-wells; repaired 300 tube-wells and disinfected another 1,300; monitored water quality of 800 TWs, and repaired 1406 HHs latrines. Awareness raising on hygiene practice was conducted for 18,045 people and 75 school’s students in Kurigram district.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Total estimated gap in WASH (total needs minus total response): 5.1 million people.
- The Government (DPHE) is responding with the support from UNICEF and other partners, but additional funding is urgently required.

Communication with Communities (CwC)

Needs:

- Total estimated people in need of CwC assistance: 6.9m (all affected people need access to information and 2-way communication).
- New information from communities suggests confusion about cash - communities need better information about information about how long relief payments will last for and whether they are recurring or one-off.
- Information needs around work and livelihoods are now prominent. Information about how to avoid increasing debt levels and access to education are also needed.
- Mechanisms to collect and collate feedback from affected communities continue to grow slowly, but remain far from comprehensive.

Response:

- Additional communication products (on livestock feed and care; rainwater harvesting; and the proper use of Halazone purification tablets) have been added to the materials library. These products were in response to community feedback requesting more information on these topics, and agency requests. All materials remain available here: https://app.box.com/s/zggjjcpqkcm30yb7p71fm31u9x2l46v
- Several more agencies, including BDRCS, SKS Foundation and World Vision, began incorporating structured beneficiary feedback mechanisms into their sectoral responses.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a particular need for more information to communities receiving cash-based relief.
- CwC activity needs integrating and embedding within upcoming activities around shelter reconstruction and livelihoods support.
- Comprehensive mechanisms to disseminate critical information are not yet established and there are significant geographical areas where information needs are not being met.
- Comprehensive two-way communication activities to solicit and collate community feedback are only established in a small number of areas.

Over 300,000 people reached with life-saving information through Facebook
General Coordination

A cluster coordinators’ meeting took place on Monday 25 September to continue to support clusters for the flood response with information management, resources mobilization and planning.

The Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) working group, with the technical support of Senior GenCap Advisor, has finalized the development of the Gender Analysis framework for the HCTT Cluster Specific Gender Analysis for 2017 August Floods. The Purpose of the Gender Analysis is to assess the gender dimensions of the Cluster specific needs of flood affected populations. The gender analysis will also examine how gender dynamics (traditional norms, gender roles and gender inequalities) affected women’s, girls’, boy’s and men’s capacity to respond to the 2017 August Floods in Bangladesh and show how that relates to early recovering from the impact of 2017 August Floods. The framework which was sent out to clusters on Tuesday 5th September 2017 includes the tools with key questions for data collection. Gender analysis questions should be incorporated into specific Cluster needs assessments.

Support to other clusters is available with design and production of communication products (leaflets/posters, audio, video, face-to-face activities, etc) as well as technical advice and support to agencies wanting to embed 2-way CwC activities within their response. Requests can be made via: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIqLHs5QARY5Fi90_gX0-7oGP8Mo5hDc_P_pZAh4KoLM2n73A/viewform