



A UNICEF supported learning centre in Sunamganj inundated in the heavy floods devastating northern Bangladesh © UNICEF Bangladesh/2022/JCF

# Bangladesh Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report No. 02 North Eastern Flash Flood

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## Highlights

- Around four million people (about 40 per cent children) have been affected by the flash flood in Sylhet Division<sup>1</sup>. Affected population are in need of food and safe drinking water including Sylhet city corporation areas. The government of Bangladesh has deployed Army and Navy for conducting search and rescue operation.
- According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), around 90 per cent of Sunamganj and 80 per cent of Sylhet were submerged. Flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona districts may deteriorate further until 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.
- UNICEF provided 400,000 Water Purification Tablets (WPTs) for 80,000 Households for seven days (15 L per family for a day). 10,000 Jerry cans and 1,800 dignity kits are on the way.
- UNICEF dispatched 140 posters on drowning prevention to distribute through clubs and communicated with the education sector regarding collaboration in schools.
- UNICEF developed partnership with local NGO on the ground to deliver multi-sectoral response.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**4 million**

People affected by flash flood<sup>1</sup>

**1.6 million**

Children affected by flash flood (UNICEF estimate)

**17 Deaths**

Including 8 children<sup>2</sup>

**2 Districts**

Severely affected by the flash flood – Sylhet and Sunamganj

**90,000<sup>3</sup>**

People Including 36,000 children stay in the 650 shelters as of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Situation Overview

The north eastern region of Bangladesh is experiencing flash floods for the third time in 2022. According to Flood Forecasting & Warning Centre (FFWC), the early arrival of monsoon was predicted than usual and in Sylhet and Sunamganj, it has rained heavily and the adjacent Indian States Assam Meghalaya, and Part of West Bengal are the main causes of this recent flash flood.

As of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, people started experiencing intense flooding in several areas of Sylhet division, especially Sylhet and Sunamganj districts. According to District Disaster Management Committee in Sylhet,

<sup>1</sup> The daily star, [https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/climate-crisis/natural-disaster/news/40-lakh-people-stranded-sylhet-sunamganj-floodwater-3050221#\\_Yq19pU7vGXC.whatsapp](https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/climate-crisis/natural-disaster/news/40-lakh-people-stranded-sylhet-sunamganj-floodwater-3050221#_Yq19pU7vGXC.whatsapp)

<sup>2</sup> Divisional director health report

<sup>3</sup> The daily star, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/06/18/state-minister-sylhet-sunamganj-floods-worst-in-122-years>

90,000 people including 36,000 children are in the shelter as of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Sylhet Airport is currently closed for two more days due to the presence of water on its runway.

## Immediate needs and UNICEF support

UNICEF is working closely with its government counterparts and implementing partners to support key life-saving services as part of the emergency response. UNICEF developed partnership with local NGO on the ground to deliver multi-sectoral response. UNICEF reprogrammed internal resources to address immediate needs.

UNICEF urgently needs USD 2.5M to continue the support.

UNICEF partner, Islamic Foundation in Sylhet, and their members disseminated emergency preparedness messages in the flood-affected areas. Overall, approximately 410,000 people (40 per cent of children) have been reached with messages on the prevention of waterborne disease, drowning, preventing family separation and snake bites through District Information Offices, Bangladesh Betar and Islamic Foundation.

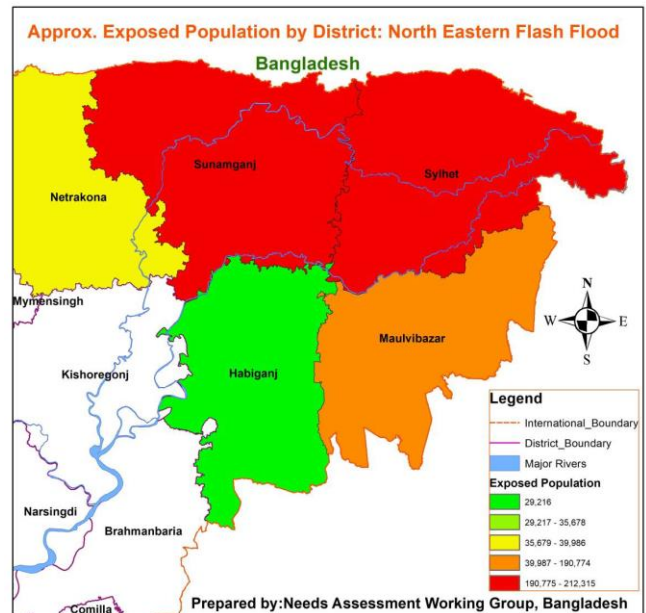
More than 90 per cent health facility have been inundated. 263 medical teams are supporting the flood-affected people in Sylhet (140) and Sunamganj (123). As the Sylhet district health office reported, they immediately need 500,000 packets of Oral rehydration salts (ORS) to support estimated 50,000 Households (HHs), around 20,000 Tab Azithromycin 250mg and 20,000 of 500 mg medicines to support 2,000 HHs. UNICEF reprogrammed some internal resources to procure emergency supplies to address their needs.

UNICEF prepositioned 1,050 F-75 and 400 F-100 cartons of therapeutic milk at Central Medical Stores Depot. Based on the requisition from field, the facilities in Sylhet will receive the milk. Due to waterlogged situation, National Vitamin A Campaign (NVAC) sites have been shifted from 4 community clinics to schools to continue NVAC campaign.

As of 18<sup>th</sup> June, accumulative number of 1,700 people have been affected by waterborne diseases, 65 on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022. UNICEF provided 400,000 Water Purification Tablets (WPTs) for 80,000 HHs for 7 days (15 L per family for a day). Additionally, the Executive Engineer from Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in Sylhet requested UNICEF support for Life-saving Water Trucking, 14,000 Jerricans to distribute to people who are in urgent need of water containers, around 600,000 WPTs to support 60,000 HHs and also an immediate need for at least 6,500 Hygiene Kits to support adolescents and female members of 6,500 HHs. UNICEF is working to support this request.

Learning continuity is also a priority for UNICEF. The education ministry postponed Secondary School Certificate and equivalent exams across the country that were scheduled to begin on Sunday due to the floods. According to the District Assistant Primary Education Officer, as of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 230 primary schools in the district have been flooded and suspended. According to the Sylhet District Secondary Education Office, 150 high schools, colleges and madrasas have been flooded in the district, of which 137 have been closed due to severe flooding. Apart from this, 59 educational institutions are being used as flood shelters. The Deputy Director, Primary Education Office, Sylhet has mentioned that the school learners, teachers and their family members in Sunamganj and Sylhet are in need of foods and other life-saving support.

About 84 UNICEF-supported Adolescent clubs in Sylhet division are affected by floods. An estimated 2,520 members are displaced in different degrees with their families. Among them, 7 clubs (245 members' families) in City Corporation are in the worst condition. As shelters are overcrowded, girls and women are at risk of GBV and rape in worst scenarios. Club members in tea gardens area at risk of snake biting and drowning due to rising water in nearby water streams. There is a need for an estimated 5,000 Family kits and 5,000 Dignity kits to support 5,000 families specially who are living in the 450 shelter centres. UNICEF will provide 300 Family Kits and 1,800 Dignity Kits immediately and will procure more in coming few days.



Source: The Global Flood Monitoring (GFM), EU, Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) Satellite Imagery: Synthetic Radar (SAR), Sentinel-1 Imagery date: 00 UTC, 16 June 2022

Who to contact for further  
information:

Sheldon Yett  
Representative  
UNICEF Bangladesh  
Tel: +8802 5566 8088  
syett@unicef.org

Veera Mendonca  
Deputy Representative  
UNICEF Bangladesh  
Mob: +8809604107002  
vmendonca@unicef.org

Saja Abdullah  
Chief Field Services  
UNICEF Bangladesh  
Mob: +8801730089085  
sabdullah@unicef.org