



Children are happy and relieved as they collect water purification tablets and jerrycans – the first sip of safe drinking water in days. © UNICEF/UN0659826/Mukul

Report date: 27/06/2022

# Bangladesh Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4

## North-eastern Flood



### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Highlights

- An estimated 7.2 million people (about 3.5 million children) have been affected by the flash flood in north-eastern part of Bangladesh and need immediate lifesaving support<sup>1</sup>. Flash floods are putting children and women at high risk of drowning, water borne diseases, family separation, Violence Against Children and Women (VACW), including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Intimate partner violence.
- The conditions inside the shelters are challenging with overcrowding, disruption to power supplies leading to lack of lighting, insufficient safe spaces for women and children as well as damage to the water supplies, latrines and other sanitation facilities which are inadequate for the sheltering population.
- UNICEF has provided emergency life-saving support to over 752,000 people in Sylhet and Sunamganj through 1,750,000 Water Purification Tablets (WPTs) for 4 days (12 L per family for a day), 9,000 Jerrycans, 2,000 Hygiene Kits, 10 tents, 1,800 dignity kits, 39 cartons of therapeutic milk and eight sets of nutrition kits along with water filter.
- UNICEF urgently needs US \$2.5 million to support the Government-led response to reach children and families affected by the floods with lifesaving services.

**7.2 million**

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

**3.5 million**

Children affected by flash flood

**52 Deaths**

Including 19 children<sup>2</sup>

**9 Districts**

Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulivazar, Habiganj, Kishorganj, Netrakona, Brahman Baria, Mymensingh and Sherpur affected

**472,856**

People have been evacuated to 1,605 safety centres<sup>1</sup>

#### Situation Overview

The north eastern region of Bangladesh is experiencing flash floods for the second time in the year 2022. According to the Flood Forecasting & Warning Centre (FFWC), it had predicted the early arrival of monsoon than usual. As predicted, cumulative amount of rain exceeded 122 years record in the surrounding area and it is worse than the 1998 and 2004 floods as it struck at a time when the people were recovering from the earlier flood that hit in late May, it swept away homes and inundated farmlands, forcing families to seek shelter on higher ground. So far, some 472,856 people have been evacuated to 1,605 safety centres with support from the Army, Navy, Fire Service, and the local authorities<sup>1</sup>. This flood wreaked havoc to people's lives and livelihoods in nine north-eastern districts of Bangladesh, whereas Sunamganj and Sylhet are the severely affected districts.

<sup>1</sup> North Eastern Flash Flood, May June 2022, Key Immediate Needs and Situation Analysis, Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), Bangladesh Date: 26th June 2022 (version 03)

<sup>2</sup> Sylhet Divisional director health report, 26 June 2022

According to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), 44,254 water points and 49,885 sanitation facilities have been immensely damaged, increasing the contamination risk of the regular water sources with microorganisms, sewage, heating oil, agricultural or industrial waste, chemicals and other substances, the sanitation facilities are also poor and unhygienic while the power cuts are making the situation more miserable, all of this are increasing the risk of potential Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks that can cause serious illness, mortalities and can overwhelm the already strained health facilities. The flood water has started receding from many parts of the affected areas and people will start having health issues like diarrhea and skin diseases. As of 26<sup>th</sup> June, 3,935 cases of waterborne disease have been reported in Sylhet division. Health facilities at the Upazila level, Upazila Health Complex (UHC), and Community Clinic (CC) and Union Health & Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC) are impacted significantly due to the flood. 430 medical teams are working tirelessly to provide supports<sup>4</sup>. More than 6,370 Government Primary schools and over 306 Secondary schools are affected in seven districts, additionally 980 primary schools and all the secondary schools have been used as shelter in the affected districts<sup>3</sup>. As shelters are overcrowded, girls and women are at higher risks of GBV and rape in worst scenarios.

## Humanitarian Coordination

Since the second flood started on 17 June, all UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, IOM, FAO, UNFPA and WHO) working in Sylhet division meet every day virtually to discuss the staff wellbeing issues. Sub-national level WASH cluster meeting was also organized in Sylhet on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to discuss “Who is doing What and Where? How they can support WASH response activities?”. Upon request from DPHE, Sylhet, cluster NGOs members agreed to provide support in the distribution of Water Purification Tablets (WPTs) in flood affected areas. On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) Meeting was organized to share the Needs Assessment and rapid gender analysis findings and agree on the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on flash flood 2022. Chief of Field Office in Sylhet and team members visited the Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet to brief on UNICEF response activities and supply details transported to Sylhet from Cox’s bazar warehouse.



Chief of Field office in Sylhet briefed Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet and his team on the progress of UNICEF supported Emergency response and supply details

## Immediate needs and UNICEF support

As of 26<sup>th</sup> June, a cumulative number of 3,935 people (2,007 women) got affected by waterborne diseases in Sylhet division. Up until now, UNICEF has distributed 1,500 hygiene kits for adolescent girls and women, and 3,500 jerry cans, benefitting 9,973 people (4,987 women) through the DPHE and local administration. 430 medical teams are supporting the flood-affected people in Sylhet (140), Sunamganj (123), Moulvibazar (74) and Habiganj (93) districts<sup>4</sup>. With UNICEF support, 40 project staff from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP) are supporting Sylhet City Corporation medical teams. Through their support in routine immunization, around 1,000 children (510 girls) have got vaccinated in the flood affected areas in the last one month. In addition, since the second flood started on 17 June, 3,000 people (1,530 women) have received medical treatment in the flood shelters and at communities through continuous medical team support. UNICEF also already delivered 39 cartons of therapeutic milk and eight sets of nutrition kits along with water filter to health facilities in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts, reaching approximately 360 children (180 girls) with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).



People collecting safe water from DPHE mobile water treatment plant using UNICEF Jerrycan

<sup>3</sup> Data compilation sheet from DPE and DSHE on Flash Floods

<sup>4</sup> Divisional Director Health report 26 June



UNICEF handed over 1,800 Dignity Kits and 10 tents, and starting the distribution aiming to reach 1,800 adolescent girls & women in Sylhet (500) and Sunamganj (1,300). All dignity kits have been transported to the upazila level (sub-district level) and city corporation by the direct involvement of Department of Women Affairs and Department of Social Services in Sylhet and Sunamganj. UNICEF is also providing messages on drowning prevention and providing psychosocial support to vulnerable adolescents and family members. Adolescent clubs have been used as Child Protection Safe Spaces in different locations to respond to children, adolescents and women needs in the affected areas and calling CHL 1098 has been promoted in the flood affected areas.

More than 6,370 Government Primary schools and over 306 Secondary schools are affected in seven districts, additionally 980 primary schools and all the secondary schools have been used as shelter in the affected districts<sup>3</sup>. A total of 2,471 non-formal learning centres are sub-merged in seven affected districts including 285 Learning Centers supported by UNICEF in Sunamganj. 8,550 learners are at risk of huge learning loss.

With UNICEF support, the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Consortium partners NGOs in Sylhet region have continued to disseminate messages on hygiene and sanitation, Acute Water Diarrhoea (AWD) prevention and water treatment, including COVID-19 communication. The partners are continuously doing miking at the most affected communities of 16 Upazilas and disseminating lifesaving messages, which reached 400,000 people (160,000 women). They also organized sessions in 40 flood shelters and disseminated same messages for 50,000 displaced people (20,000 women).



UNICEF staff handed over dignity kits to beneficiaries in Sunamganj districts



UNICEF-supported learning center got damaged in Sunamganj district

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