

Bangladesh Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6

North-eastern Flood



Girls whose homes have been flooded collect dignity kits supplied by UNICEF from a distribution point in Sunamganj. © UNICEF Bangladesh/2022/Imukut

Report date: 16/07/2022

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- An estimated 7.2 million people (3.5 million children) have been severely affected by devastating flash floods in nine north-eastern districts of Bangladesh.
- The situation continues to be dire for the families who have returned to their homes, as their houses are damaged, water-points and latrines need to be repaired. There are still 19,221 people, including 3,229 children, living in 275 shelters.
- Despite the difficult situation, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to reach 639,864 children with the Vitamin-A campaign in Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts.
- More than 1.23 million people of which about 40 per cent are children have received one or more humanitarian assistance/services supported by UNICEF.
- 14,041 vulnerable adolescents and family members (7,589 female and 205 people with disabilities) have been reached with mental health and psychosocial support through social workers.
- A joint press statement¹ published by the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UN and Donors (ECHO and UK Government) on the 6th July calls for urgent scale-up of the humanitarian response to complement the Government efforts in responding to the flood.
- The funding gap remains huge at 94%. UNICEF need US\$ 45.7 million to support the affected population with immediate and medium-term interventions.

7.2 million

People affected by flash flood²

3.5 million

Children affected by flash flood

64 Deaths

Including 26 children³

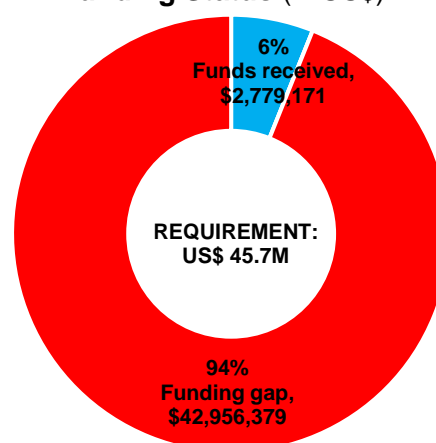
9 Districts

Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh and Sherpur affected

1.23 million

Reached by UNICEF and partners in the flood affected areas.

Funding Status (in US\$)



¹ [Joint Press Statement on Flash Flood - July 2022 | United Nations in Bangladesh](#)

² 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)

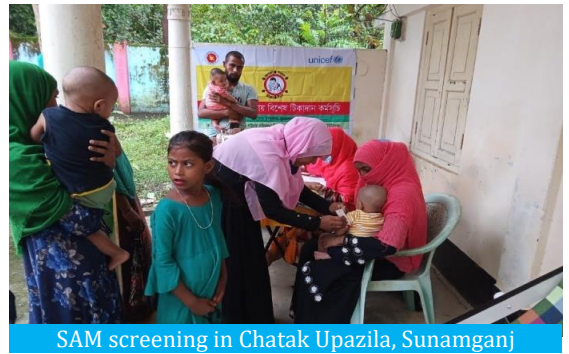
³ Sylhet Divisional director health report, 13 July 2022

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Overall, an estimated 7.2 million people have been severely affected following devastating flash floods which began in May 2022, with a second wave in mid-June 2022 in nine north-eastern districts of Bangladesh: Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Kishanganj, Netrakona, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh and Sherpur. Despite the water receding steadily, the humanitarian situation continues to be dire in the flood affected areas, particularly in Sunamganj and Sylhet districts. Thousands of homes and farmlands remain inundated.

According to local authorities, majority of the displaced families who have been housed in over 1,600 temporary shelters have returned to their homes. However, there are still 19,221 people including 3,229 children and 166 people with disability (PWD) living in 275 shelters in Sylhet and Sunamganj⁴. Hundreds of families are reportedly staying with their relatives and extended family members while some others remain in common buildings. There are people living in remote sub-districts that remain hard to reach due to flooding and poor road infrastructures.

Basic services, notably health facilities, are slowly returning to normal, while some facilities like schools that were used as shelters require cleaning and repair works. Nevertheless, the massive challenges remains in the WASH sector, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) estimated that some 106,727 water points and 283,355 sanitation facilities have been immensely damaged, all needs restoration and reconstruction. Meanwhile, the risk of Acute Watery Diarrhoea outbreaks, skin and respiratory diseases continue to be high. As of 13th July, 12,503 cases of waterborne diseases and other ailments have been reported in Sylhet division³. Schools remain closed till 18 July 2022 due to regular break period.



SAM screening in Chatak Upazila, Sunamganj

Immediate needs and UNICEF support

Health :UNICEF supported local NGOs to provide referral support to high-risk pregnant mothers as well as consultation and basic medicines to some 1,250 people (500 children including 255 girls) for health issues like high fever, acute diarrhoea, skin diseases, urinary tract infections and injuries. Meanwhile, 215 children (110 girls) were vaccinated. 429 UNICEF supported mobile medical teams working under the Health department managed by District civil surgeon offices and City Corporation are serving people living in flood shelters and communities of 197 affected unions of Sylhet division. Following the request from Sunamganj district, UNICEF is currently procuring additional medicines to support affected population.

Nutrition



UNICEF supplies arriving in Sylhet
© UNICEF Bangladesh/2022/Mukut

UNICEF supported nutrition centres to provide lifesaving therapeutic and preventative nutrition services to the displaced population and those living in the affected locations. 84 children were identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 70 were admitted in the SAM unit of Upazila health complexes for treatment. UNICEF provided 2,136 cans/pots of therapeutic milk (F-75 and F-100) to the Civil surgeon office and Upazila health complex totalling US\$ 10,106. Procurement of 60 cartons of therapeutic milk and nutrition kits for SAM treatment to the civil surgeon office and district hospitals is underway.

To support continuity of services, UNICEF procured supplies for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), as a result, 639,864 children received Vitamin-A Supplementation (VAS) in Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts. Also, a total of 26,226 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW)

⁴ District Relief and Rehabilitation Office reports, Sylhet and Sunamganj, 12 July 2022

benefitted from Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling services and 12,369 pregnant women received folic acid.

WASH



Water trucking took place in Kanaighat Upazila, Sunamganj



supplies arriving in Sylhet © UNICEF Bangladesh/2022/Mukut

UNICEF and partners conducted chlorination of 46 waterpoints and continued water trucking, distributing hygiene kits, jerry cans and water purification tabs to the displaced population focusing on the most vulnerable people. 4,173 Hygiene Kits and 31,236 jerry cans are in delivery pipeline, expected to arrive by 31st July and benefit 85,101 affected people. In the remote sub-districts, safe drinking water has been provided through two UNICEF supported water treatment plants and reached 500 affected people daily.

Education :With the school closure, the education activities remain halted. 94 percent of primary and secondary schools in Sunamganj and 80 per cent schools of Sylhet district have been affected by floods. District Education Officials reported that more than 3,000 primary and secondary schools in two districts were inundated affecting nearly 673,000 children⁵ as per a rapid assessment conducted by UNICEF partner (Jagorani Chakra Foundation) on 4th July. In Sunamganj district, 100 per cent (285) of the UNICEF supported Learning Centres (LCs) were inundated by flood waters, of which nearly seven per cent were completely damaged. With financial support from UNICEF, implementing partner will start the repair of affected UNICEF learning centres and also replenish teaching learning materials within one week.

Child Protection :A total of 14,041 vulnerable adolescents and family members (7,589 female and 205 PwD) have been reached with mental health and psychosocial support through social workers as part of case management intervention. Child Protection risks already emerged before the flash floods, ranging from child labour and child marriage. As of 15th July, UNICEF upscaled awareness messages on drowning prevention, GBV and family separation, reaching 16,736 people (9,757 female, 219 PwD).

There has been an increase in calls since June 2022– over 1,000 calls were received via the Child Helpline 1098 from five flood-affected districts. The Child Helpline became an essential support for women and children seeking support. The issues recorded were mostly related to floods, drowning, and physical and mental health issues. UNICEF plans to distribute 88 recreational kits in children and adolescents' clubs in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Habiganj districts within one week through the Department of Women Affairs.

Social and Behavioural Change (SBC)

With UNICEF assistance, the Risk Communication and Community Engagement



Children at a Child Friendly Space supported by UNICEF at Department of Social Services in Sylhet

⁵ Directorate of Primary Education, Sylhet, 5 July 2022

(RCCE) Consortium partners in Sylhet region continue conducting awareness raising interventions on emergency protection and lifesaving sectoral messages through courtyard meetings, one to one counselling sessions, community dialogue and have been able to reach over 465,000 people (185,000 women) in June through 110 courtyard sessions and distributed 6,000 leaflets (emergency flood protection, lifesaving, health, nutrition, WASH and protection messages developed by UNICEF) in the community and shelters. The consortium continues to disseminate messages on hygiene and sanitation practices and preventions of AWD and COVID-19.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy :On 14th July, there was a donor meeting held by the UN Resident Coordinator to present the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to Head of agencies. UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocation of five million USD has also been approved to support the flood response taken forward by five UN agencies and targeting 250,000 most affected population. UNICEF allocation was 1.65 Million , UNICEF can reach 250,000 people with this funds .

| Agency | Sector/Cluster | CERF allocation, US\$ | Beneficiaries |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| FAO | Food Security/Agriculture | 500,000 | 100,000 |
| UNFPA | Protection, Health (SRHR) | 850,000 | 51,800 |
| UNWOMEN | Protection/Displaced women | 200,000 | 20,000 |
| UNICEF | WASH, Child Protection, Nutrition | 1,650,000 | 250,000 |
| WFP | Food Security/Food Assistance | 1,800,000 | 215,000 |
| Total | | 5,000,000 | |

UNICEF organised a training on Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) for four Government and non-governmental partner organisations and UNICEF staff working in Sylhet division on 7th July 2022. The objective of the training was to provide a refresher on CCCs commitments and benchmarks to humanitarian workers. The session also covered policies, programmatic and operational commitments, and accountabilities on humanitarian response.



Core Commitment for Children (CCCs) training

Funding situation : With six per cent of funding requirement received, critical funding gaps in all sectors restricted

UNICEF's ability to meet all priority needs of girls, women and people with disabilities. Flexible donor funding is critical to provide essential support to flood affected women and children in northeast of Bangladesh. UNICEF urgently requires US\$18M to address immediate needs and US\$27 million to cover medium term needs.

| Sector | Requirements | Humanitarian resources received in 2022 | Funding gap | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|------------|
| | | | \$ | % |
| Health | 3,000,000 | 204,228 | 2,795,772 | 93% |
| Nutrition | 2,700,000 | 54,987 | 2,645,013 | 98% |
| Child Protection | 8,335,550 | 402,929 | 7,932,621 | 95% |
| Education | 7,200,000 | 77,614 | 7,122,386 | 99% |
| Water, Sanitation and Hygiene | 22,500,000 | 2,032,947 | 20,467,053 | 91% |
| C4D and cross-sectoral | 1,000,000 | 6,466 | 993,534 | 99% |
| Humanitarian coordination | 1,000,000 | - | 1,000,000 | 100% |
| Total | 45,735,550 | 2,779,171 | 42,956,379 | 94% |

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