

Bangladesh Country Office

Humanitarian Situation Report No.5

Floods and Landslides in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar

15th November 2023



Little Ovi stands forlornly next to the ruins of their house as a result of damage caused by a landslide in Lama, Bandarban in August 2023. Left with nothing, he and his family have sought refuge in a relative's house. In the face of such climate emergencies, UNICEF remains dedicated, working tirelessly to provide essential services such as water and sanitation, healthcare, and protection, striving to rebuild shattered lives in the aftermath of this natural disaster. © UNICEF Bangladesh/2023/Mukut

Highlights

- In August 2023, Chattogram Division experienced the impact of devastating flash floods that left thousands without essential provisions and services such as food, clean water, functional latrines, health care and electricity. Heavy rainfall, ranging from 44 to 89 mm, led to flash floods and landslides in the Hill Tracts, especially in Bandarban Town and nearby areas. **1.3 million** people including **630,000 women** and **480,000 children** were affected while **600,000 people were assessed to be in need** humanitarian assistance in four districts (Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, and Bandarban). **51 deaths were reported including 12 children**¹.
- With UNICEF support, cumulatively **73 climate resilient latrines** have been constructed and **203 Hygiene promotion sessions** conducted where **16,717 people (7,168 female)** received hygiene promotion messages through a UNICEF partner (Green Hill) in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).
- With UNICEF support, more than **158,600 (110,200 women and 463 children with disabilities)** children and community members were reached with critical information and services through sporting events and hub activities via the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) outreaches.
- In Cox's Bazar, Of the total of **306 Learning Centres** damaged during flooding, heavy rainfall, and landslides, **124 learning centres** have been repaired, and 4 Learning Centres were reconstructed. The rest of 178 Learning Centres with minor defects were repaired immediately and have been operational since early October 2023. All learning centres are now fully functional, and those have enabled approximately 20,196 learners to continue their education.
- UNICEF received **US\$1.5M** from CERF to support the WASH response to the floods and landslides emergency in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. However, critical funding gaps remain across all sectors, with a HAC funding gap of **US\$54 M (31 per cent of funding requirements)** restricting UNICEF's ability to meet the priority needs of girls, women, and persons with disabilities across Bangladesh.

Situation in Numbers



1.3 million
People (0.63 million women, 0.48 million children (0-18 yrs old)) affected¹



0.6 million
People in need (198,000 children, 156,000 girls, 8,100 Persons with disabilities)¹



213,214
Estimated Temporarily Displaced¹



15,738
Waterpoints Damaged¹



112,820
Latrines Damaged¹

¹ Rapid Assessment of Chattogram Division Flash Flood and Monsoon Rain 2023

Humanitarian Situation and Needs³

In August 2023, Chattogram Division experienced the impact of devastating flash floods that left thousands without essential provisions and services such as food, clean water, functional latrines, health care and electricity. Heavy rainfall, ranging from 44 to 89 mm, led to flash floods and landslides in the Hill Tracts, especially in Bandarban Town and nearby areas. **1.3 million people including 630,000 women and 480,000 children (0-19 years old) were affected while 600,000 people need humanitarian assistance** in four districts (Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, and Bandarban). 51 deaths were reported including 12 children¹.

38 out of the division's 51 Upazilas (sub-districts) were submerged, leading to significant destruction of public facilities and infrastructure (such as WASH facilities, roads, schools, health facilities etc) in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, and Bandarban. Major rivers in the region were overflowing, crippling major transport routes, and resulting in the damage of up to 410 kilometres of roads. **Recovery efforts are ongoing and are aimed at addressing not only the basic requirements of the affected people but also infrastructure and supplies.**

Chittagong (Bandarban, Rangamati, Chattogram)

Chattogram District: A total of 843,505 people (401,959 women, 292,214 children including 7,013 CAWD²)¹ were affected by the flash floods and landslides in Chattogram City and 15 Upazilas (sub-districts) of Chattogram District, with Chandanaisa, Satkania, and Bonagura Upazilas severely impacted.⁵ A total of 28,070 houses were damaged, 18,885 partially and 9,185 houses fully. The District Administration reported 16 deaths including 1 child.

Bandarban District: 62,000 people (23,677 women, 13,680 children including 589 CAWD)⁵ were impacted by the flashfloods and landslides in over 7 Upazilas. 6,579 houses were damaged (**5,173 partially damaged and 1,406 fully damaged**). 108 para-centers were destroyed. 10 people died due to landslides and drowning, while 4 others were injured.

Rangamati District: 30,254 people (8,954 female and 11,981 children including 161 CAWD) from 8,425 households located in 29 unions of 7 Upazilas and Rangamati Municipality were affected. Five deaths were reported, **4 of them children**.³ The damage to school infrastructure is being repaired through the regular process by the Director of Primary Education (DPE) and Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB).

Khagrachari District: 15,000 people (4,439 women, 5,940 children) were affected in Khagrachari District.



Umra (13), Soimong Sai (11), Soithoyai (7), and Methui (4) stand resilient after a devastating flood struck northern Bangladesh in August 2023. Stranded for days as their home suffered damage, they had no shelter to shield them from the relentless challenges brought by the flood, serving as a stark testament to the uncertain future these children face in the wake of such adversity. © UNICEF Bangladesh/2023/Mukut

UNICEF Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- With UNICEF support, as an accumulative result, **73 climate resilient latrines have** been constructed and 203 Hygiene promotion sessions have been conducted where **16,717 people (7,168 female)** received hygiene promotion messages through a UNICEF partner (Green Hill) in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Nutrition⁴

- With UNICEF support, the National Nutrition Services (NNS) in Dhaka completed the **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) facility assessment** in flood- affected districts. The data analysis is in progress.
- A total of **25 children with SAM** received treatment in **9 targeted facilities** in flood affected districts (Bandarban, Rangamati and Chattogram).

² Children and Adolescents with disabilities

³ From the District Administration Assessment reports

⁴ SAM management status in the DHIS-2 is not yet uploaded by the facilities

Child Protection



UNICEF with support from the government and its dedicated social workers from the Department of Social Services distributed Family Kits and provide crucial support to the most vulnerable children & families affected by the severe flooding in Chattogram. © UNICEF Bangladesh/2023/Chakma

marriage, child trafficking, and child labor.

- With UNICEF support and in partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS), a total of **2,850 Family kits were distributed** to five affected districts (Bandarban, Chattogram, Rangamati, Feni, Chandpur) **that will benefit a total of 12,825 people**. In addition, more than **4,000 kits (2,000 Dignity; 2,000 Family)** are planned for distribution in the affected districts.

- More than **158,600 (110,200 women and 463 children with disabilities)** children and community members were reached with critical information and services such as sporting events and hub activities via the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) outreaches.

- The DSS with UNICEF support did case follow-up of the children in affected areas and provided psychosocial support, reaching **approximately 17,620 beneficiaries (9,150 women, 157 people with disabilities)**.

- In collaboration with the DSS and MoWCA, approximately **49,300 (33,723 women, 224 children with disabilities)** people were reached with drowning prevention, Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and prevention messaging on child

Health

- UNICEF is supporting the repair of IMCI, ANC, PNC corners, procurement of basic logistics for IMCI and ANC, PNC corners, repair of the damaged generator and provision IEC materials for continuation of basic services. The repair work is ongoing.

- UNICEF is supporting the Government of Bangladesh with dengue rapid detection combo test kits and the kits are distributed to Government facilities throughout the country. Chattogram City corporation health care providers are trained in Clinical management of dengue based on national dengue clinical management guidelines. **A total number of 210 health care providers are trained up**. To cover the rural areas, Civil Surgeon Chattogram will also organize training on Clinical management of dengue based on national dengue clinical management guidelines for upazila level medicine, gynecologists and Paediatricians.

Education

- A total of **111 Schools** among the affected **198 government primary schools with approximately 16,650 children** received Education in Emergency (EIE) kits while distribution of EIE kits to the rest of the schools is in progress. **As children have lost all their essential learning materials, these kits support will help them to continue education**. A survey in 22 most affected Government Primary Schools is ongoing to assess the current situation of learning for children after the flash floods.

- In Cox's Bazar, Of the total of **306 Learning Centres** damaged during flooding, heavy rainfall, and landslides, **124 learning centres** have been repaired, and 4 Learning Centres were reconstructed. The rest of 178 Learning Centres with minor defects were repaired immediately and have been operational since early October 2023. All learning Centres are now fully functional, and those have enabled approximately **20,196** learners to continue their education.



EIE kits distribution among children in 'Bol Piye Adam' Govt. Primary Schools were organized on 7 November where total 58 children (32 Girls: 26 Boys) received essential learning materials. © Sugandi Chakma, Education Focal, Green Hill

Social and Behavior Change (SBC)

- Through UNICEF- disseminated contextualized messages on post-flood scenarios to strengthen the recovery and enhance the preparedness of the affected population, a total of **81,010 people (39,985 male and 41,025 female)** including those in remote hilly areas were reached.

- **611 flood-affected people (291 female)**, including elected representatives from 7 sub-districts of Bandarban and Rangamati districts, shared their opinions on the flood response through the community engagement sessions on water point, demand on individual latrine, house repairing, learning materials, para center repairing, support for agriculture etc. organized by the SBC section. The participants were also oriented on the complaints and feedback mechanisms for the flood response. The community opinions and feedback is being documented and will be shared once the process is complete.
- **28 feedback messages and 2 complaints have been raised through the hotline** set up for the flood response by the Green Hill with the support of the SBC Section. In addition, 8 feedback messages and 1 complaint were also received through the complaint and feedback boxes set up in the programme areas. 30 feedback messages and 2 complaints have been addressed, which have been used to improve the quality of the response. One complaint is under investigation by the Feedback and Complaint Response Committee of the partner NGO.



Disseminating lifesaving information in the remote areas of Bandarban district through loudspeaker in a boat.

Humanitarian Coordination and Leadership

UNICEF's Chattogram Field Office is in regular contact and coordination with Government Departments to monitor the situation. UNICEF was involved in updating the floods response plan in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati, the Chairman of the Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC), the Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board and the Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and with other UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, WFP). UNICEF conducted a joint visit with Bandarban Hill District Council Chairman to flood-affected communities and para-centres and advocated for the renovation of 108 damaged para-centres in Bandarban. UNICEF coordinated with Hill District Council in Rangamati and Bandarban and advocated with ministry for mobilising funds for Para Center renovation. Bandarban Hill District Council have sent letter to the ministry for extending support to renovate damage Para Centers. BHD also allocated fund for 5 Para Centers renovation. Rangamati Hill District Council did not commit as they do not have any funds at this moment to support. Moreover, UNICEF participated in the Divisional Disaster Management Committee meetings chaired by the Divisional Commissioner and where several divisional-level multi-sectoral partners participated, including Deputy Commissioners. UNICEF participated in a UN coordination meeting in Chattogram and Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group meeting to discuss coordination and a multi-sectoral flood response. A CERF joint monitoring mission will take place from **19 to 23 November 2023** to the affected areas in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. UNICEF Field Office Teams are in regular contact with the sectoral focal points, the Office of The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and Deputy Commissioner's office as well as the Civil Surgeon's office and the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) and sharing relevant information when required. UNICEF is leading the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and Child Protection sub-cluster as well as co-leading the Education Sector in Cox's Bazar Rohingya Refugee Response.

Funding Situation

Critical funding gaps in the UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office HAC 2023 across all sectors restricted UNICEF's ability to meet the priority needs of girls, women, and people with disabilities during the flooding. Flexible donor funding is crucial to provide essential support to flood-affected communities in the southeast of Bangladesh. The current funding status is shown below:

Appeal Sector	Funding Requirements*	Funds available						Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year (2023)		Total	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-Over)		Total funds available	\$	%
		ORE	ORR		ORE	ORR			
Nutrition	22,026,730	3,230,884	0	3,230,884	2,894,170	10,817,027	16,942,080	5,084,650	23%
Health	25,818,757	6,864,482	0	6,864,482	4,579,224	7,504,999	18,948,705	6,870,052	27%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	34,521,320	14,905,724	85,732	14,991,456	1,606,757	7,195,482	23,793,696	10,727,625	31%
Child Protection/GBV	30,774,603	4,596,206	0	4,596,206	1,256,920	5,077,697	10,930,823	19,843,779	64%
Education	48,184,253	25,907,037	245,399	26,152,436	5,089,101	8,460,767	39,702,304	8,481,949	18%
Cross-sectoral	5,159,100	1,606,264	0	1,606,264	147,835	505,073	2,259,173	2,899,927	56%
Emergency Preparedness	7,000,000	5,642,075	24,630	5,666,705	947,470	0	6,614,175	385,825	6%
Total	173,484,762	62,752,672	355,761	63,108,433	16,521,476	39,561,045	119,190,955	54,293,808	31%

As of 31st October 2023

News Links

1. UN in Bangladesh starts implementing CERF-funded activities in flood-hit areas of Ctg - <https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/un-in-bangladesh-starts-implementing-cerf-funded-activities-in-flood-hit-areas-of-ctg/123396>
2. Thousands marooned as new areas flooded in Jamalpur <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/324340/thousands-marooned-as-new-areas-flooded-in>
3. Bandarban flood causes 700C in damage, affects 20,000 families <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/322921/bandarban-flood-causes-700c-in-damage-affects>
4. Brahmaputra water overflows in Gaibandha, flooding river basin areas <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/323921/brahmaputra-water-overflows-in-gaibandha-flooding>
5. Flood situation deteriorates in Gaibandha, Jamalpur <https://en.prothomalo.com/environment/flood-situation-deteriorates-in-gaibandha-jamalpur>
6. Academic activities of 60 schools suspended amid flood in Gaibandha <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/academic-activities-60-schools-suspended-amid-flood-gaibandha-693502>

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