

Flash Flood 2022

Situation Report #3, Date:18 June 2022

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society



Overall Situation:

Last month, a devastating flash flood struck the northeastern districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj in Bangladesh. The continuous heavy rainfall in the north-eastern Indian region terribly affected more than 2 million people who live on the Surma-Kushiyara river's bank of Bangladesh. Kanaighat, Gowainghat, Companyganj, Jaintapur, Zakiganj, Sylhet sadar, Fenchuganj, and many more upazillas (subdistricts) of Sylhet as well as several upazilas of Sunamganj and Netrokona districts have been inundated. A recurrence of heavy rainfall during the last



Flood situation Sylhet city. Photo: BDRCS.

couple of days, leaves millions stranded in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona again. Quoting India Meteorological Department (IMD), media reported that in the last 24 hours on 17 June, there is 972 millimeters rainfall in Cherrapunji of India, which is the highest in June in 122 years. This upstream water, combined with 185 mm of rain in Sunamganj in the last 24 hours, has inundated even the tallest peak of the town. The flash flood water also inundated marketplaces, residences, shops, highways, tube wells and schools in the centre of Sylhet and Sunamganj district this time.

According to a spokesperson for the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), the water level was 70 cm over the danger line at the Sunamganj site in the Surma river during the great flood in 2020, which was surpassed today by water running 74 cm above the danger level.

Heavy rains have been pounding since Wednesday, 15 June 2022, exacerbating the flood scenario. More than 300 villages, and roadways in the upazilas of Companiganj, Gowainghat, and Jaintapur in Sylhet were submerged. In Gowainghat, 42 shelters have been opened for flood victims. Meanwhile, water from the Surma River invaded buildings and stores in district. All road communications in Gowainghat upazila were disrupted. Approximately 90% of the residents of the upazila were stuck. On 18 June, medical services at MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet have been disrupted due to power cut after flood water entered the hospital premises. Services at the hospital's surgery department and intensive care unit (ICU) are being hampered because of the power outage.

According to the forecast from the BWDB and Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), by tomorrow night, Surma River is expected to rise by 10-50 cm compared to this evening. Therefore, there is a chance that other parts of Sylhet district and the surrounding area will be newly flooded.

Few Highlighted Points:

- 80% percent areas have been inundated in Sylhet.
- Communication system by road, air and train have fully disrupted in the affected areas. Only, communication by boat is feasible. But boats are not enough in the affected areas for search and rescue and other purposes. And boats are also not readily available.
- Markets are not fully functional in the affected areas.
- People are harshly searching life-saving support such as food, safe drinking water, search and rescue, first-Aid, safe shelter, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, etc.
- Power supply to the region was disrupted with several power stations going under the water. Which also affected the mobile network communications.

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Notable Actions taken by the Government of Bangladesh:

- The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has already been working in the flooded areas to evacuate people to shelter centers.
- Emergency medicines and dry foods are being provided amid problems with transportation issues.
- Emergency coordination meetings at DC office being held in a regular interval to share damage reports and support plans.
- Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has deployed Army for rescue & evacuation support on 17 June. Subsequently, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard join rescue efforts on 18 June.
- Government has also allocated BDT 22.5 million, 400 MT rice, 41,000 pkt of dry and other food in 11 districts including Sylhet and Sunamganj.

Actions Taken by BDRCS:

The Disaster Response Department of BDRCS along with IFRC has been monitoring the situation, coordinating with BDRCS units (branches) and in country Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners. Considering the current flood situation, following initial activities are being considering for quick response for second round of flood with the consent of BDRCS authorities:



Packaging of dry food by BDRCS volunteers in Sylhet branch. Photo: BDRCS

- BDRCS has allocated additional BDT 200,000 (approx. USD 2,120) for each unit (Sunamganj & Sylhet) and BDT 100,000 (approx. USD 1,060) for Netrokona unit for dry food distribution among the affected people especially who have taken refuge in different shelters.
- Three water purification units along with National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT) members and volunteers are ready to be deployed to provide safe drinking water. In addition to more than 1,200 pcs jerrycans and 1,000 dignity kits have been allocated for distribution.
- From the ongoing Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operation ([IFRC launched DREF on 25 May 2022](#)), Additional mobile medical teams have been kept in standby and will be deployed soon. BDRCS with the support of volunteers, National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and staff currently in the affected communities and conducting household assessment to identify 4,000 families for multipurpose cash grant assistance (*each family will receive BDT 4,500, approx. USD 48*). BDRCS is working to reach the most vulnerable affected families (*Target 4,000 families*) with cash assistance by end of June 2022. At the same time NDWRT members and volunteers have been working to install emergency latrines and disinfecting tube wells.



BDRCS volunteer helping a resident in Sylhet to evacuate. Photo: BDRCS

Ongoing and Completed Activities Under Flash Floods DREF Operations:

- BDRCS reached more than 6,000 people with dry food package
- 75,000 liters purified and safe drinking water distributed among 5,000 people in Sylhet district
- BDRCS reached 1,665 households with jerrycan support.
- BDRCS reached 1,000 households with hygiene parcel (HP).
- BDRCS reached 142 households with dignity kits.

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- BDRCS deployed its medical teams and reached 3,065 people with primary medical services.
- BDRCS reached 1,021 people with Psychological First Aid (PFA) support.
- BDRCS reached 303 households through disinfecting 303 tube wells.
- In Sylhet district, BDRCS has planned to provide multipurpose cash grant (MPCG) support among 2,500 flash floods affected households. BDRCS already completed household level assessment and phone call verification. After getting community feedbacks, BDRCS will finalize the beneficiary list as early as possible.
- In Sunamganj district, BDRCS has planned to provide multipurpose cash grant (MPCG) support among 1,500 flash floods affected households. BDRCS is conducting households level assessment in Chatok, Dowarabazar and Sunamganj Sadar upazilas. Already, 872 households' data have collected. Assessment team (NDRT and volunteers) are on the ground to complete the assessment when situation will permit.

Actions Taken by IFRC and in-Country Partners National Societies (PNSs):

- Based on the BDRCS request, IFRC has released CHF 404,434 (approx. USD 417,619) from its DREF pot to BDRCS for scaling up the local response particularly for providing safe drinking water, jerrycan, hygiene parcel and dignity kit, emergency latrine installation, tube well disinfection, health care support and multipurpose cash assistance to flash floods affected people.
- IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation along with the in-country participating national societies (PNSs) has been closely monitoring the current situation and supporting BDRCS to update the contingency stock, issuing situation updates and develop the response strategy.
- IFRC Bangladesh is also closely coordinating with its Regional Office and HQ in Geneva and keeping them informed about the situation.
- With IFRC and PNSs support, BDRCS has been maintaining its contingency stock for immediate response and already mobilized relief items like hygiene parcels, jerrycans etc.
- At the same time, IFRC is closely coordinating and collaborating with the relevant clusters and working groups.
- As convenor of shelter cluster, IFRC has been updating members about the flood situation and coordinating with its members for potential intervention.
- IFRC along with BDRCS, is closely working with the national Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG), Food security cluster, WASH cluster, health cluster etc.
- Danish Red Cross will support around 2,500 food package (15 days food pack per family).
- American Red Cross is also ready to support around USD 50,000 for food package/cash grant/direct support to beneficiaries.
- Qatar Red Crescent will support around 4,700 food package (7 days food package).



Floods water entering houses making it extremely hard to process foods by the residents. Photo: BDRCS.

Highlighted Media Reports on the Flash Floods:

- I. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuTpGXyZbE4>
- II. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/06/16/300000-people-marooned-in-sylhet-flood>
- III. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/environment/52-educational-institutions-closed-due-fresh-flood-sunamganj-440958>
- IV. <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/local-news/flood-situation-deteriorates-in-sylhet-sunamganj>
- V. <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2022/06/16/thousands-marooned-as-flash-floods-hit-sylhet->

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- VI. <https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/climate-crisis/natural-disaster/news/sunamganj-floods-have-surpassed-all-previous-records-3049551>
- VII. <https://www.thedailystar.net/tags/sylhet-flood>
- VIII. <https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/climate-crisis/natural-disaster/news/flood-worsens-many-parts-sylhet-sunamganj-without-electricity-3049571>

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Above photos from Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrokona shared by concerned units and Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers.

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