Overall Situation

The Northeastern Indian states, particularly Cherrapunji, have had a lot of rain over the past few days (beginning on June 10), which has significantly raised the water levels of the rivers in the Sylhet division. In Cherrapunji, the past three days have seen the most rain in 122 years. (Newspaper)

Heavy rains and mountain runoff from upstream in India’s Meghalaya and Assam have flooded at least 13 districts in Bangladesh, according to Bangladesh Water Development Board’s Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre. Sylhet recorded 282 millimetres of rainfall in a 24-hour period, the highest in the country (Newspaper).

Floods in Bangladesh’s northeast have spread to other districts as heavy monsoon rains continue to pummel Sylhet and Sunamganj districts, leaving millions of people stranded without power, food and drinking water (Newspaper).

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 23rd June 2022. Many parts of Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrokona have been without electricity since Thursday evening due to the flooding of power substations. Floods and power outages have also disrupted mobile networks. The local administration said a lack of boats hampered the rescue operation as residents were suffering due to a shortage of food and drinking water. The government has deployed troops to help the civil administration (Newspaper).

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre or FFWC on Tuesday (21/6/2022) said the flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona, Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts might improve with little possibility of heavy rains inside the country and upstream over the next 48 hours (reliefweb).

Around six million people have been affected by the flash flood in Sylhet and Mymensingh Division reported by National Disaster Response Coordination Center/ District Administration. According to Unicef humanitarian situation report #2, affected population are in need for shelter, food and safe drinking water including Sylhet city corporation areas.
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The FFWC, Google Flood Alert, FFWC-RIMES, and Indian Meteorological Department are indicating that the heavy rainfall will keep continuing for the next few days. With this, the flood situation will remain stagnant and/or worsen in some areas (NAWG and Start Fund Bangladesh).

Actions taken by the Government of Bangladesh

- The Prime Minister has provided BDT 1.2 crore for those in Sylhet and Sunamganj who have been affected by the floods. The government provided various levels of assistance as an emergency response to the districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona, Habiganj, Moulovibazar, Sherpur, Mymensing, and Jamalpur, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDRM) and National Disaster Response Coordination Center (NDRCC) report. According to the report, the government has given the following humanitarian aid to the 47,705,982 flood affected people.
  - 3520.5 metric tons of GR rice and BDT 35,380,000.00 in cash have been allocated for distribution. Furthermore, the government delivered 560,688 dry food packages to affected districts.
  - On the other hand, the government has already given the Sylhet district a total of BDT 200,000 in dry food supplies, including flattened rice, puffed rice, and molasses, as well as non-food items, such as fireboxes, water purification tablets, and oral saline. In addition to this, four water treatment mobile units have been installed in Sylhet district.
  - Furthermore, cooked food is being distributed to 20,000 individuals every day through the government response effort in Sunamganj district.
- The government has deployed army personnel in Sylhet and Sunamganj to speed up flood rescue and relief efforts.
- The government has deployed 319 medical teams in Sylhet, Moulovibazar, Habiganj, and Netrokona districts for the flood-affected people’s emergency health services.
- 444,282 affected people are currently staying at 1948 flood shelters located in Sylhet, Sunamgaj, Moulovibazar, Habiganj, and Netrokona district.

Actions Taken by BDRCS

The Disaster Response Department of BDRCS, along with IFRC, has been monitoring the situation, updating the contingency stock and situation report as well as coordinating with BDRCS units (branches) and in-country Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners. Considering the current flood situation, the following initial activities are being considered for quick response to the second round of flooding.

BDRCS has allocated BDT 650,000 for dry food (Sylhet BDT 200,000, Sunamganj BDT 200,000, Netrokona 100,000, Habiganj 50,000, Sherpur 50,000, and Kurigram 50,000) among the flood-affected people in particular who have taken refuge in different shelters.
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Besides, BDRCS allocated BDT 900,000 (Sylhet BDT 400,000, Sunamganj BDT 300,000 and in Netrokona BDT 200,000) for the distribution of cooked food among the flood-affected people.

BDRCS has planned to distribute 15-day food packages to 1500 flood-affected households in Sylhet, 1,000 flood-affected households in Sunamganj and 1,000 flood-affected households in Netrokona.

- In Sylhet and Sunamganj, BDRCS has deployed 3 mobile water purification units along with jerrycane in order to provide safe drinking water to the flood affected people.
- 200,000 pieces of water purification tables were allocated for 10 districts (Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Tangail, Bagura, Jamalpur, and Lalmonirhat). Furthermore, 500 hygiene parcels have already been allocated for Sylhet and Sunamganj.
- BDRCS has planned to provide multipurpose cash grants (MPCG) to 4000 families (Sylhet 2,500 and Sunamganj 1,500) and will provide BDT 4500 for each family. Regarding this, BDRCS has already completed household level assessment and phone call verification for cash distribution for the flood affected people.
- 400 tarpaulins have been distributed to flood-affected residents of Sylhet and Sunamganj.
- National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT) members and volunteers are being deployed to provide emergency support to the flood-affected people.
- Four mobile medical teams have been working to care for patients in Sylhet and Sunamganj.
- Aim to carried out emergency response operation in the aforementioned flood-affected districts, BDRCS mobilized more than 600 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers. RCY volunteers are provided with safety equipment such raincoats, gumboots, and life jackets.
- CHF 404,434 (BDT 36,399,060) as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has been operationalized to deal with the emergency response (IFRC launched DREF on May 25, 2022).
- BDRCS is going to launch an emergency appeal for CHF 10 million (BDT 1000,000,000), of which 7.5 million from IFRC and 2.5 million from domestic sources, as a part of the National Society response plan.
- BDRCS, along with IFRC, is closely working with the national Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG), food security cluster, WASH cluster, health cluster, etc.
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Completed Activities Under Flash Floods DREF Operations (till 22 June 2022)

- BDRCS has already distributed 1,675 dry food packages in Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Netrokona districts, and the remaining dry food package distribution is ongoing.
- BDRCS Sylhet and Netrokona RC units distributed 3,000 packages of cooked food among the flood-affected people. This activity is ongoing at the field level.
- BDRCS reached 420 households by distributing 4,200-liter safe drinking water along with 70 jerricans. Furthermore, BDRCS provided Jerricans to 1,665 households separately.
- BDRCS reached more than 6,000 people with dry food packages.
- 75,000 liters of purified and safe drinking water were distributed among 5,000 people in Sylhet district.
- BDRCS reached 1,000 households with hygiene parcel (HP).
- BDRCS reached 142 households with dignity kits.
- BDRCS deployed four medical teams and treated 3,065 patients with primary medical services.
- BDRCS reached 1,021 people with psychological first aid (PFA) support.
- BDRCS reached 303 households through disinfecting 303 tube wells.

IFRC, ICRC and Partners National Societies (PNSs) Contributions

- As a supporting partner of BDRCS, IFRC has released CHF 404,434 from its DREF pot to BDRCS for scaling up the local response, particularly for providing safe drinking water, jerrycane, hygiene parcel and dignity kit, emergency latrine installation, tube well disinfection, health care support and multipurpose cash assistance to flash flood affected people.
- The IFRC Bangladesh is also closely coordinating with its Regional Office and HQ in Geneva and keeping them informed about the situation.
- As the convenor of the shelter cluster, IFRC has been keeping its members informed about the flood situation and cooperating with them for potential intervention. At the same time, IFRC is closely coordinating and working with the relevant clusters and working groups.
- The Danish Red Cross is donating approximately 3,500 food packages (15 days of food per family) as well as BDT 900,000 for cooked food distribution.
- Qatar’s Red Crescent will support around 4,700 food packages.
- The Turkish Red Cross will provide in-kind support of USD 750 for distributing dry food in Sunamganj.
- In the country, PNSs are also ready to support an emergency appeal to be launched for BDRCS.
- The ICRC will contribute CHF 20,000 as an operational cost for emergency flood response.
- The Swiss Red Cross will contribute CHF 100,000 as multilateral support and CHF 35,000 as bilateral support (soft pledge).
- The Thailand Red Cross has committed to providing CHF 20,000 in bilateral assistance.
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Local Support

- A 7-day food package will be provided for a significant number of HHs by the telecommunications company Grameen Phone, along with support for the deployment of four mobile medical teams for 10 days.
- For the distribution of food in Sylhet and Sunamganj, the Barguna and Chattogram Red Crescent Units will each provide BDT 100,000 and 700,000, respectively.

Man-pack: Drinking water purification  Purified and safe drinking water distribution
Cook food distribution  Dry food ready for distribution

Contact Information

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