

Situation Report-3, Southeastern Flood in Bangladesh | 28 August 2024

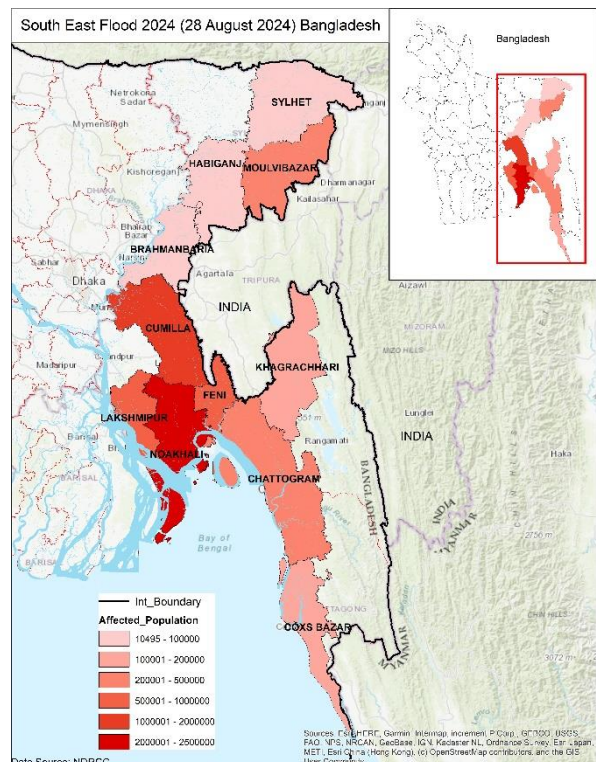


A Red Crescent Youth (RCY) member, Ms Afroza Akhter from the Khagrachari district rescued a toddler in a flood-affected area and brought the baby to safety. Photo: BDRCS

Overall Situation:

Severe flooding has affected **73 upazilas (sub-districts)** and **528 unions/municipalities** across **11 districts** in northeastern and southeastern Bangladesh. These districts are Feni, Cumilla, Chattogram, Khagrachari, Noakhali, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Brahmanbaria, Sylhet, Lakshmipur, and Cox's Bazar. According to the Sitrep of National Disaster Response Coordination Center (NDRCC) on 27 August, a total of **1,227,554 families** are waterlogged, impacting **5,822,734 people**. The floods have resulted in **31 deaths** (Comilla-12, Feni-2, Chattogram-5, Khagrachari-1, Noakhali-6, Brahmanbaria-1, Lakshmipur-1, Cox's Bazar-3) with **two people** missing in Moulvibazar. **4,003 shelters** have been accommodating **5,40,510 people** and **39,531 livestock**, while **619 medical teams** are active in the affected districts¹.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has mobilised its volunteers in the affected districts and from the day one of this flood response, they are continuously on the ground, supporting the affected families. More



¹ Sitrep-MoDMR_NDRCC_28 August_2024






than **1,600 Red Crescent Youth (RCY)** and **100 staff engaged by BDRCS** in the flood response.

This recent devastating flood also submerged **311,419 hectares** of land, and damaged **6,542 kilometres** of roads and **1,066 bridges and culverts** - disrupted road and rail links between Dhaka and Chattogram. Over **7,000 schools** are closed, impacting approximately **175,000 primary students**. Power outages and connectivity issues still continued to affect communication and coordination efforts.

According to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), the flood situation in the country is expected to improve within next 24 hours. The water levels in all rivers are receding, and there is no forecast of heavy rainfall. As the situation gradually improving, more signs of further damages are being visible.

Priority Needs and Gaps:

The following table provides a concise overview of the priority needs and gaps for each sector:

Sector/Focus Areas	Priority Needs
 <p>WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe drinking water supply; temporary emergency sanitation facilities. • Emergency drugs (antibiotics, antipyretics, antifungal ointments, cholera saline). • Water purification tablets and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) for water-borne diseases. • Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services for pregnant women; mobile SRH camps; transportation for institutional delivery. • Hygiene kits.
 <p>Food Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of dry food packages, cooked food and Food Parcels. • Support for crop and livestock loss.
 <p>Shelter & NFIs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional evacuation shelters. • Emergency shelter materials, essential household supplies, cash assistance, and non-food items (NFIs).
 <p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of school infrastructure; cleaning of school premises post-flood. • Education in Emergency (EiE) kits; learning packages for educational gaps.
 <p>Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection for children and Adolescent women from abuse, exploitation, violence, and psychosocial distress in the Evacuation center • Safe spaces for children and adolescents; mental health support; case management services. • Dignity kits including clothing and sanitary items.

Gaps & Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Power outages and network issues delaying information gathering ▪ Shortage of safe water, food, and sanitation increasing disease risk ▪ Shortage of medicine and midwives; insufficient transportation for pregnant women ▪ Changes in local authorities ▪ Disruptions in road and telecommunication networks, and warehouse facilities. ▪ Shortage of trained humanitarian personnel and Limited presence of humanitarian partners. ▪ Scarcity of functional evacuation shelters. ▪ Non-functional markets and unavailability of food commodities, NFIs. ▪ Power supply and mobile phone networks in the affected areas are completely disrupted, making it difficult to reach officials. The government at the national level also has no relevant data as they are unable to connect to the field officers. ▪ In areas where rescue is delayed women and girls are at high risk of gender-based violence.

BDRCS Actions:

Some key actions taken by BDRCS are highlighted below. On 27 August, a high level joint team of BDRCS and IFRC visited the flood affected Feni district and listened to the affected community and the local RCY volunteers working at the field.



- BDRCS has activated contingency plans for the flash flood response operation.



- Over 1,662 youth volunteers and 100 officials/employees are actively working in the flood-affected districts to support ongoing relief operations. Since the beginning of the Flood, BDRCS volunteers have been disseminating early warning messages through PSAs, coordinating evacuations, and distributing cooked food in collaboration with the government.
- 20 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT)/NDRT WASH members have been deployed across five districts—Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Chittagong, and Cumilla, to coordinate with local units and RCY in the response operation. Additionally, 4 BDRCS staff have been deployed to respective flood-affected units to strengthen the coordination and to ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.



- Noakhali, Chattogram and Khagrachari units of BDRCS have conducted fundraising campaign locally and received cash and in-kind donations from different sources. Additionally, they have provided dry and cooked food among the affected population.
- BDRCS Fund Raising department in NHQ, is conducting a fundraising campaign through the society's website, online platforms, and physical donations in both NHQ and Unit offices. Till now BDRCS raised a total of BDT 6,995,520/- (USD 58,000) through contributions from Various banks, corporate institutions, embassies, and Individuals.



- BDRCS Immediately mobilized BDT 4,300,000 (USD 35,800) from the National Headquarters for the purchase and distribution of essential food items (Dry and Cooked Food) to the flood-affected districts. Dry food packages have been allocated for more than 11,600 families (Noakhali: 3,700; Feni: 4,700; Chittagong: 1,000; Comilla: 1,900; Khagrachari: 300). As of now, BDRCS have distributed more than 15,000 packets of dry food packages. This package contains flattened rice, sugar/molasses and biscuits, firebox, and candles. ORS and bottled water were also provided with dry food package to an additional 5,000 families.
- Local RCY volunteers have prepared cooked food and distributed 15,550 meals.
- BDRCS already allocated 30,000 packs of 7-day food packages (this include 7.5 kg of rice, 1 kg of lentils, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of salt, 1 liter of soybean oil, and 0.5 kg of semolina per packet).



- 7 mobile water treatment plants (4 in Feni, 2 in Noakhali, and 1 in Cumilla) were dispatched from the National Headquarters. With this Capacity, BDRCS is purifying and distributing 35,000 liters of water per day. As of now, around 1,82,886 liters of water have been supplied. Moreover, 19104 Pcs of ORS has been distributed



- 5,000 ten-liter water jerrycans; 4,500 pcs of tarpaulin; 2,500 sets of hygiene parcels, 2,500 sets of dignity kits; 3,000 sets of shelter tool kits, and 2,000 kitchen sets have been dispatched to the affected districts.



- 224,000 water purification tablets (WPT) have been allocated to the flood-affected districts. Among which 60,100 WPT already distributed. RCY is also providing user guidelines explaining the use of those tablets. An additional 550,000 pcs of WPT are in stock to be allocated based on need.



- Three generators have been deployed to the Feni district to provide electricity support



- BDRCS engaged **19 boats (speed boats, country boats, inflatable boats, makeshift raft)** both Rented and owned in rescue operations in Noakhali, Feni and Khagrachari, Chattogram districts. 4500 families have been rescued and transferred to shelter centers in Khagrachari. Red Crescent Society volunteers are collaborating with the Army and Navy in these efforts.



- One **mobile medical team** has already been deployed to Feni and units also mobilized local doctors for providing medical support among **1,069** patients with medication. An additional five mobile medical teams are ready for deployment to Cumilla, Noakhali, and Feni, equipped with essential medicines to ensure healthcare.
- As diarrhoeal diseases are increasing in flood-affected areas, and also, they are at high risk for mosquito-borne disease outbreaks. BDRCS with the support of IFRC, under the ASEF stockpile project, has committed to providing the following supplies for the flood response in close coordination with DGHS, delivered **10,000 bottles Cholera Saline**, and an **additional 50,000 bottles are being procured. 22,000 bottles normal saline** are scheduled for delivery by 2 September. **12,000 bottles Dextrose Normal Saline** are also scheduled for delivery by 2 September. **12,000 pcs dengue kit** to be delivered by 5 September 2024.



- BDRCS is in the process to **provide financial assistance of BDT 6,000 to 3,000 families** through mobile banking to meet emergency multi-purpose needs.



- Through the USAID-IFRC supported GRIP project, USD 250,000 funding is allocated for the flood response. Moreover, a request has been submitted to IFRC to support BDRCS in scaling up the ongoing relief operations. In-country participating national societies (PNSs) - Swedish Red Cross (BDT 1,000,000) and American Red Cross (BDT 3,000,000) already allocated to BDRCS.
- The Red Cross Society of China has pledged a donation of USD 100,000 for flood response operations.
- Grameen Phone contributed BDT 16,000,000 for food packages (10,000 pack for 7 days), mobilisation of 5 mobile medical teams (1 week) and 5 mobile water treatments plants (2 weeks).
- City Bank contributed BDT 2,000,000.
- Mutual Trust Bank contributed BDT 500,000.

Government Approaches:

- The MoDMR has allocated following resources for flood victims across the affected districts:

District Name	Cash Grants (BDT)	Relief Rice (MT)	Dry Foods (Packets)	Baby Food (BDT)	Cattle Food (BDT)
Chattogram	35,00,000	2,100	-	5,00,000	5,00,000
Cumilla	75,00,000	2,600	-	-	-
Feni	82,00,000	2,900	6,000	5,00,000	5,00,000
Noakhali	75,00,000	2,600	1,000	5,00,000	5,00,000
Sylhet	45,00,000	2,600	4,000	5,00,000	5,00,000
Moulvibazar	30,00,000	2,350	1,000	-	-
Habiganj	35,00,000	2,400	3,000	5,00,000	5,00,000
Brahmanbaria	15,00,000	1,600	-	-	-
Lakshmipur	30,00,000	500	-	5,00,000	5,00,000
Khagrachari	10,00,000	500	-	-	-
Cox's Bazar	20,00,000	500	-	5,00,000	5,00,000
Total	4,52,00,000	20,650	15,000	35,00,000	35,00,000

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- Government's relief efforts are ongoing across all flood-affected districts, with sufficient storage of relief items available nationwide.
- Relief distribution is being carried out by both public and private entities in flood-prone areas. District Commissioners, coordinators from the anti-discrimination student movement, the Army, Navy, and Fire Service are working together with Civil Defence, medical teams, and other volunteers to ensure coordinated relief efforts.
- According to the information from the Cumilla GOC, the Bangladesh Army is distributing food items throughout all subdivisions of the Cumilla district. Additionally, 4 medical teams from the Army have been deployed to 4 upazilas in Comilla district, equipped with necessary supplies.
- Field hospitals have been set up in Feni by the Army and district civil surgeon's offices to provide health services, with doctors currently offering care. Local clinics, hospitals, and healthcare institutions are also being supported to address the needs of flood victims. District Administrators have been instructed to ensure these services are maintained.
- The Honourable Advisor and Secretary assigned to the MoDMR are continuously monitoring the flood situation. Mobile and telephone communications have been restored in the Feni district.
- As floodwaters recede, there is a concern about potential water-borne diseases and all concerned parties are advised to stay vigilant and take necessary action.
- The MoDMR management and relief control room is operational around the clock. For cooperation, the cell number **0255101115** is available.

Photos of BDRCS in Actions:



BDRCS volunteers are on the front lines, working tirelessly as first responders to evacuate the water-stranded community.



Despite challenging conditions and water-stranded roads, RCY volunteers are delivering dry food and humanitarian assistance to remote communities, meeting the urgent needs for food and drinking water.



For Further Information:

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