

Strengthening safety, dignity and resilience of flood affected people

In March 2021, BHP completed a holistic recovery project to assist thousands of households affected by the devastating prolonged monsoon flood in 2020. The project provided support to 12,500 most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged households with focus on top three sectors: food security and livelihood; shelter; and WASH across six upazilas in most affected Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat and Sirajganj districts. Despite a host of challenges, the project has successfully reached 100% of its targets within the six months project period starting from September 2020. The effort was financially supported by UK's Foreign, Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

With the support of cash for work, cash for livelihood, plinth raising of family shelters, rehabilitation of community infrastructures, repairing and installation of tube wells and latrines integrated with flood resilience features, distribution of hygiene kits, upgradation of school WASH facilities, and increasing awareness on safe hygiene practices including COVID-19 safety measures, the project has established a solid foundation for ensuring the safety and dignity and building resilience of the targeted households. [\(Read more\)](#)



Project highlights



Increasing food security and livelihood options

8,250 households engaged in cash for work.

4,090 households received livelihood cash grant.

10,500 households' nutritional status improved through agricultural inputs.



Repairing and rebuilding flood resilient family shelters

2,850 Families' shelters repaired through cash for work.

20 community structures built and repaired including embankments and roads



Improving water access and sanitation facilities

1,050 Households with access to safe water through 3,100 new/ repaired tube wells

6,600 households with access to proper sanitation

4,500 people sensitised on hygiene practices

3,100 hygiene kit distributed

40 schools equipped with WaSH provisions



Shahinoor's aspiration

Shahinoor (19) lives in Lalmonirhat Sadar. Her household was submerged at up to waist level for 18 days during the prolonged flood in 2020. For Shahinoor, flood means added challenges; she has dwarfism, and for days, she had to tread through floodwater that came up to her neck. During this devastating time, all Shahinoor could think of is resuming her education and returning to college, which was closed due to the COVID-19 lockdown. At this point, her family's livelihood suffered, she was not sure whether she could continue her education.

BRAC humanitarian programme selected Shahinoor as a participant of the flood recovery project, and granted a livelihood support of BDT 24,000. She purchased a tailoring machine and clothing material,

and began tailoring business to cater to the women in her village. She also tutors primary school students in her village for a very minimal fee which brings her some extra earnings. With her double income, Shahinoor is confident that she can pursue the higher education of her choice.

In the future she aspires to bring the people of her village out of poverty and do something about the recurring floods that affect her community. "I want to help educate the children of this village, not only myself," Shahinoor said with a smile. "I believe that everyone in my community has to be empowered, so that meaningful change can bring us out of our suffering."



Inception meeting of Climate Bridge Fund project

On 9 March 2021 BRAC Humanitarian Programme (BHP) jointly with Ultra Poor Graduation (UPG) Programme of BRAC conducted the inception meeting of “Strengthening resilience of climate-induced migrants in vulnerable urban communities” project in Khulna. The meeting was held at the auditorium of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) in participation of relevant stakeholders including councilors and senior officials of KCC and representatives of different government agencies and NGOs. Mr. Talukder Abdul Khaleque, honorable mayor of KCC was present in the meeting as the chief guest.

With the funding support of Climate Bridge Fund – a collaboration of BRAC and KfW, the project intends to strengthen the economic, social and climate resilience of 600 ultra-poor women participants in the selected slums/ poor communities in Khulna and Rajshahi through integration of BRAC’s Ultra Poor Graduation Model with community-based climate change adaptation measures. ([Read more](#))

2nd round training of BRAC Emergency Response Team

From 13 to 15 March 2021, BHP conducted the second-round training for BRAC Emergency Response Team (ERT) with special focus on cyclone preparedness and response. The three-days training was organised close to the communities in Shymnagar Upazaila under Satkhira district, that experienced the devastation of recent cyclone Amphan. The initiative provided an opportunity to the ERT members to learn the devastating experiences of most vulnerable communities as well as to build their skills through hands-on exercises, and drills. Renowned external experts from

government organisation and individual consultants in the relevant field along with in-house experts of BHP facilitated the training.

ERT is a group of trained, skilled, and self-driven human resource composed of representatives from different programmes and departments of BRAC. The team is formed with an aim to deploy at short notice for carrying out strategic and operational management functions to any large-scale emergency response both nationally and globally. ([Watch the video](#))

In March 2021, BHP has completed a project titled “Strengthening Cyclone Preparedness and Response” for early actions in highly vulnerable cyclone prone districts, especially in Khulna region and in Cox’s Bazar in order to minimise impacts of cyclone in future.

With the financial support from FCD0 through UNOPS, the project prepositioned 2,980 sets of Non-Food Item (NFI) packages including emergency shelter items and three potable desalination plants. The items are stored in the strategic locations in Khulna, Jessore and Cox’s Bazar to deploy immediately as and when needed after a major cyclone. The prepositioning of these items has increased organisational capacity and readiness of BRAC with the contingency stock, which will help with timely response during any major cyclone in future with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Early action to cyclone response



Released BRAC Disaster Resilience Marker

In March 2021, BHP has released BRAC's Disaster Resilience Marker; a guiding tool that will help set standards for programme and projects while prioritising on capacity building to withstand adversities and disaster risks. The marker will help both humanitarian and development programmes of BRAC to improve its activity design in a way that programmes continue to function sustainably even after a natural disaster or other crisis event, putting focus on increasing communities' capacity to realise its resilience. The activities, approaches, and strategies of BRAC's Ultra Poor Graduation Programme, Urban Development Programme and Integrated Development Programmes were critically reviewed and field operations were observed to understand BRAC's current practices of disaster consideration. The marker will help to portray BRAC's priority and capacity of disaster risk management to the donors and partners. This resilience marker may also be a starting point for building resilience for other national development organisations that rely on BRAC as an example-setter.

Youth's role in Cyclone Preparedness – an animated video for community awareness

In March 2021, BHP released an animated video on cyclone preparedness at community level. As a part of the "Crisis within Crisis" series, this awareness building animated video focuses on community-based cyclone risk reduction during the COVID-19 pandemic. The video especially emphasises on the COVID-19 health guidelines that communities need to consider preventing disease spread while they take shelter.

Promoting youth's role in disaster risk reduction is one of the priorities of BHP's programmatic interventions. This video promotes such the idea in a fun and colorful way. ([Watch here](#))

BRAC Humanitarian Programme is one of the core programmes of BRAC that builds resilience across vulnerable communities and provides holistic humanitarian support to the people affected by both natural and human induced disasters, by working alongside government and other humanitarian actors.

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