

Flood in North-Eastern Region of Bangladesh

Situation Update # 1

June 17, 2022

Disaster Risk Management Programme



Situation overview:

The flood situation in the north-eastern part of Bangladesh, especially in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts has worsened and turned into an extremely severe flood due to the continuous downpour and onrush of water from the upstream. Thousands of people are marooned in 15 Upazilas in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrokona districts as flood water inundated their homesteads. The suffering of the people in the flood-hit areas has reached its peak already. A crisis of daily necessities and medicine is getting worse as the stores and markets get inundated. The overall support system has collapsed in the region. Flash floods disconnected Sunamganj from the rest of the country and left no place for people to take refuge in several upazilas.

- In Sylhet district, the most affected upazilas are Gowainghat, Kanaighat, Companiganj, Jaintiapur, and Sylhet Sadar, where the total number of inhabitants is around 1.5 million. At least 15 wards of Sylhet City Corporation have also been flooded. Sylhet International Airport has been declared closed for 3 days. Sunamganj town is the worst hit as almost all areas in the town have been flooded along with Chhatak, Dowarabazar, Sunamganj Sadar, Bishwambarpur and Tahirpur Upazilas. These Upazilas account for around 1 million inhabitants. More than 80% of areas in these Upazilas are flooded. Most of the houses are inundated up to the roofs. Electricity is cut off in many places, especially in Sunamganj Sadar and communication and transportation have been heavily disrupted due to severe inundation.
- According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center, all major rivers of the country are flowing over the danger level. Heavy rainfall prevails and the rainfall seems to continue for a few more days. The flood situation in these 3 districts may further deteriorate within 24 hours.
- Out of 130 BRAC offices in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts, most of the offices in the affected Upazilas including the 6 regional offices in Sylhet district have been inundated. Fifteen BRAC offices in Sunamganj are completely inundated. Around 2,000 BRAC staffs are working in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts and most of their houses are overflowed. Many of them took shelter in the two-storied BRAC offices or other offices which are still safe.



BRAC's initiatives:

- BRAC Upazila Disaster Management Teams in Sylhet and Sunamganj are assessing the situation on a priority basis to determine the number of affected people and their needs.
- Since most of the offices are inundated, BRAC teams in the affected Upazilas are dedicatedly working to shift office equipment, furniture, and assets (esp. records) as well as to evacuate affected staff and their family members to safe places.
- BRAC is preparing to respond to the badly affected Upazilas and will distribute dry food and drinking water to the affected people from tomorrow.
- BRAC Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is activated at Head Office and the BRAC Disaster Risk Management (DRM) team has been in close contact with BRAC field staff in the affected districts.
- BRAC field teams are in close coordination with the Upazila and district administration.



Government's initiatives:

- The district and Upazila administrations are undertaking emergency relief efforts including allocation of water purification tablets, emergency medicines, dry food, and rice and pulses in the affected areas.
- The Upazila administration have allocated relief and have distributed them through boats from house to house. According to Sunamganj District Relief and Rehabilitation Office, 330 tons rice and Tk 900,000 have been sent to the concerned Upazila administration and people's representatives for distribution.
- To rescue and distribute relief the marooned people the govt. has deployed Army in Sylhet city.

Immediate Needs

- Immediate evacuation support and shelter arrangements are a critical need for the affected population.
- As the affected people are not able to afford the cost of boats, there needs an immediate arrangement of sufficient boats for transporting them to the safest places.
- There is an immediate need for food, drinking water, oral rehydration saline and hygiene kits.
- Installation of sanitation facilities in shelter centers.