



Two children wading through water in Sylhet where over 2,000,000 people, including over 772,000 children, are affected by the devastating floods in north-eastern Bangladesh.. UNICEF is working with the Government of Bangladesh and local stakeholders to distribute safe water and emergency supplies to the affected communities. © UNICEF/UNI597014/Mukut

UNICEF Bangladesh

Situation Report on Floods in Sylhet Region No. 2

25 June 2024

Highlights

- **On the 30th of May 2024**, flash floods inundated parts of Sylhet Division due to heavy monsoon rainfall that impacted the northeastern region of Bangladesh leaving more than **2 million people (772,000 children)** affected by floods with over **51,000** people seeking shelter in **1,685 shelters**¹.
- The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) reports significant damage to water and sanitation infrastructure with **15,034 tube wells (TWs)** fully damaged, **87,395 TWs** partially damaged, **67,256 latrines** fully damaged, and **54,021 latrines** partially damaged.
- Nearly **50% of the 91** Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCHs) have been flooded and partially damaged in the Sylhet Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, and Habiganj districts. This has impacted **over 130,000 children**.
- Exposure to child protection risks has increased for families who abandoned their homes, with increased cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) reported.
- With support from UNICEF, **231,770 flood-affected people (117,044 Females and 89,556 children)** were reached through the distribution of **1,078,000 water purifying tablets (WPT)**. Additionally, **10,238 jerry cans**, and **2,078 hygiene kits** were distributed in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar districts. So far, **1,952 Tubewells were repaired**, and another **643 Tubewells were disinfected**.
- **73 community clinics** in Sunamganj district and **66 community clinics** in Sylhet district have been submerged by flood water.
- **About 1100 households with pregnant women** have received **US\$ 51** (60% of MEB²) as multipurpose cash transfers
- The UNICEF Sylhet Field Office has activated a contingency partnership with BRAC, a local NGO, to accelerate the emergency response interventions in WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education, and community engagement activities.
- UNICEF requires **up to US\$3.3 m** for urgent life-saving multi-sectoral interventions for children and pregnant and lactating women impacted by the floods.

Situation in Numbers



2 million

People affected by the floods.



772,000

Children (0-19) affected by the floods.



823

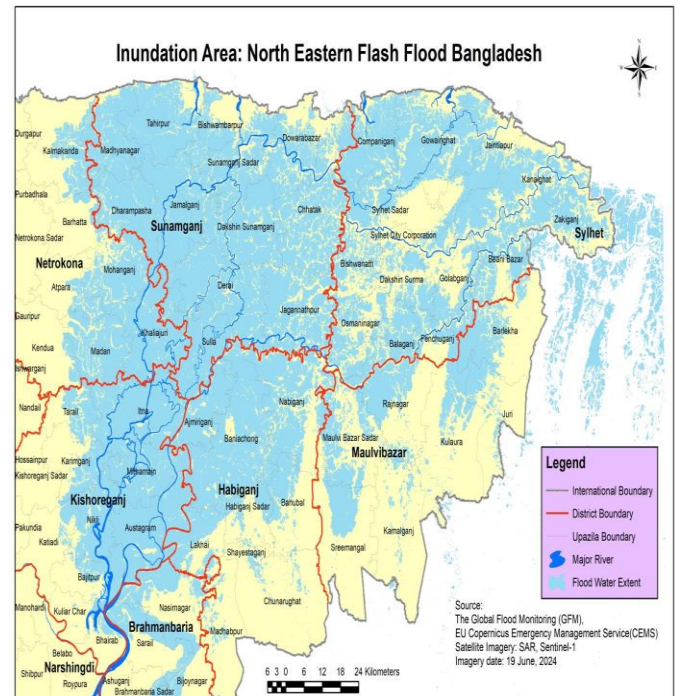
Government schools and learning centers have been flooded

¹ ECHO Daily Flash (europa.eu)

² Minimum Expenditure Basket

Flood Situation

On the 30th of May 2024, flash floods reportedly inundated parts of Sylhet Division due to heavy monsoon rainfall that impacted northeastern region of Bangladesh. The flood situation has been deteriorating with rivers inundating vast tracks of land. The number of people affected by the floods rose to over 2 million, with more than **51,000 being moved into 1,685 shelters**. Continuous heavy rainfall inside the country over the past three days and on-rushing water from upstream have flooded the northeast Haor region of Bangladesh. Sylhet and Sunamganj districts have experienced 242 mm and 223 mm of rainfall respectively, which exceeded monthly averages. Almost **75% of Sylhet District** is now flooded, with more than half of the crops and paddy fields in the region submerged under water, and this is likely to have lasting impacts on people's livelihoods and food security³. According to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), **15,034 tube wells (TWs)** are fully damaged by the flood with **87,395 partially damaged**. A total of **67,256 latrines have been fully damaged**, while **54,021 were reported partially damaged**. Nearly **50% of the 91 Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCHs)** have been flooded and partially damaged in the Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, and Habiganj districts. This impacts **over 130,000 children**.



A total **676 Govt primary schools (in Sylhet and Sunamganj)** are affected by floods. In the 'Let Us Learn' Project area in Sunamganj, a total of **147 LC houses (66.52% of the total)** are affected by flood right now where the LC floor of the LCs is damaged and the courtyards of LCs are inundated. A total of **2,637 learners under the 'Let Us Learn Project' (30.84% of the total)** are directly affected by flood in Sunamganj. 13 Upazilas of Sylhet district and nearly 11 Upazilas of Sunamganj district have been affected by flash floods⁴, with the ground floor of the Osmani Medical College hospital and three Upazila health complexes (Fenchuganj, Gowainghat and Companiganj) inundated, and patients have been safely moved to upper floors. **73 community clinics in Sunamganj district and 66 community clinics in Sylhet district** have been submerged by flood waters.

Nearly 50% of the 91 Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCHs), operated under UNICEF partnership with MoWCA, have been **flooded and partially damaged** in the Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, and Habiganj districts. This **has affected over 130,000 children** who regularly participate in hub activities.

³ ECHO [Daily Flash \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

⁴ Reports from the Divisional Director of Health in Sylhet

Key highlights from different Sectors

WASH

- With support from UNICEF, **231,770 flood-affected people (117,044 Females and 89,556 children)** were reached through the distribution of **1,078,000 Water Purifying Tablets (WPT)**, including **274 kg of bleaching powder, 10,238 jerry cans, and 2,078 hygiene kits** in Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Moulavibazar Districts.
- So far, **6,232 tubewells (TWs)** were inspected with **1,952 TWs repaired**, and **643 TWs** disinfected.
- UNICEF has stocked **5,393,500 water purifying tablets (WPT)**, **33,195 jerry cans**, and **6,786 hygiene kits** in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulavibazar, and Hobiganj Districts for the floods response.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), deployed **4 mobile water treatment plants (MWTPs)** in Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Moulavibazar Districts for the provision of clean water.
- **3 additional MWTPs** are being prepared (servicing and testing) for deployment.



UNICEF supported flood resilient water point constructed during 2022 flood response at Kanaighat Upazilla, Sylhet. June 2024, the flood affected people collecting water from this water point. Credit: Saleha

Health

- **13 Upazilas of Sylhet District** and nearly **11 Upazilas of Sunamganj District** have been affected by flash floods⁵. The ground floor of the Osmani Medical College hospital and three Upazila health complexes (Fenchuganj, Gowainghat and Companiganj) were inundated, and patients have been safely moved to upper floors.
- **73 community clinics in Sunamganj District** and **66 community clinics in Sylhet District** have been submerged by flood waters.
- **256 cases of acute watery diarrhoea** and other waterborne diseases have been confirmed.
- **335 medical teams** have been deployed to shelters and communities, distributing **Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS)**, Water Purifying Tablets (WPT) and other medicines to reduce water-borne and other infectious diseases.
- **34 EPI sessions (Sylhet City Corporation [7], Jaintapur [1], Companiganj [10] and Gowainghat [15])** could not be held in the affected areas in Sylhet District due to flooding and inaccessibility. Planning for immunisation catch-up sessions is ongoing.
- The Line Director for Communicable Disease Control (LD-CDC) in the Director General of Health Service's (DGHS) Office is coordinating the health response actions at the national level.
- The Line Director for Upazila Health Complexes (LD-UHC) convened a meeting of all health managers of the affected Upazilas to deliberate on the flood situation and plan for emergency stockpiles
- Through the Divisional Director and Civil surgeons, DGHS-UHC distributed **3,250 bags of cholera saline (100 of 500ml bags and 150 of 1,000ml bags per Upazila)** to all the affected Upazilas.
- UNICEF is in the process of procuring an additional **160,000 Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS)** to support acute watery diarrhoea case management.
- Additional financial support is required to ensure pregnant women and children access essential health services during the floods emergency.

Nutrition

- The current supply status of prepositioning of therapeutic milk **F-75 and F-100** has been updated in all Upazila health complexes and district hospitals.
- **168 cans of F-75 and 60 cans of F-100** from the district reserve store (divisional warehouse) are currently distributed to **4 SAM facilities**.
- The Sylhet Field Office is coordinating with the National Nutrition Service (NSS) to ensure additional supplies are provided as required.

⁵ Divisional Director of Health, Sylhet.

Education

- As the flood situation worsens in **Sylhet District**, **417 of the 1,477 government primary schools** are submerged under floodwaters. Additionally, **154 schools** are being used as flood shelters.
- In **Sunamganj district**, out of **1,475** government primary schools, **259 are waterlogged** with floodwaters on the school premises and **148 schools are being utilized as flood shelters**.
- In addition, in Sunamganj, **147 (66.52%) Learning Centers** are affected by flooding, **affecting 2637 learners, which constitutes 30.84% of the total number of learners under the the Let us Learn (LUL) project**.
- The Government Education Department has mobilised communities and headteachers to move learning materials to safe places.
- UNICEF is closely working with the communities and given guidance for cleaning the classrooms where the water has receded to prepare for school reopening.



On June 20, 2024, flood victims Minara Begum and Nahida Begum sought shelter in a relative's home in Shimultola, Companiganj, Sylhet. Filled with uncertainty, they are preparing food before moving to the shelter center to ensure they have enough for survival. © UNICEF/UNI597078/Goni

Child Protection

- In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, **28 Child Protection Community Facilitators (CPCFs)** and **2 Child Protection Community Mobilizers (CPCM)** have conducted **156 orientation sessions** on drowning prevention, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and the **CHL-1098 helpline**, reaching over **2,800 community members**, including children and parents.
- **Nearly 50% of all the Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCHs) equalling 91**, operated under our partnership with MoWCA, have been **flooded and partially damaged** in the Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, and Habiganj districts. This **impacts over 130,000 children** who regularly participate in hub activities and support.
- **13 MoWCA field-based teams**, along with over **440 community facilitators and 442 peer leaders**, are on the ground assessing the situation, supporting children and families with drowning prevention sessions, preventing family separation, and providing psychosocial support. The team maintains close contact with government service providers and disseminates information shared by the government.
- More than **100 CPCHs**, managed in a partnership with MoWCA, are functioning and providing direct support to families and children. Over **80,000 individuals** were reached over the last two weeks.
- **28 social workers from the Department of Social Services, psychosocial counselors, and 197 welfare volunteers** at the village level are actively providing essential support to children and families affected by the floods through case management and linking them with necessary services across the Sylhet Division.
- Social workers have identified and brought over **1,000 of the most vulnerable children** (poor children, out of school, experience violence at home, work in informal sector and involve in hazardous work, and have limited access to services) affected by the flood in Sylhet Division under case management. Additionally, over 1,200 children already on the case management caseload have been followed up.
- With UNICEF support, DSS has identified vulnerable families in Sunamganj and Sylhet who are due to receive **500 family kits and 1,460 dignity**.



On June 20, 2024, three-year-old Ayesha's eyes fill with hope and as she and her family receives the hygiene kit that will address their basic hygiene needs while they strive to return to normal life amidst the ongoing flood crisis in Sylhet. © UNICEF/UNI596904/Mukut

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

- UNICEF supported the district information offices and regional stations of Bangladesh Betar in disseminating early warning and response information to the affected people.
- In collaboration with the District Information Officer, Emergency Life Saving Messages such as prevention of acute watery diarrhoea, keeping the children safe from drowning and snake bites, were disseminated among communities in hard to reach areas and crowded locations and reached more than 15,000 affected population.
- Bangladesh Betar is disseminating messages on flood safety tips, talk-sessions, interview of key government officials, technical professionals with UNICEF support.



District Information Office in Sylhet disseminating the lifesaving information and messages to the flood affected people.

Humanitarian Cash Transfer

- **About 1,100 households with pregnant women** have received **US\$ 51** (60% of MEB⁶) as multipurpose cash transfers to facilitate their access to a range of critical goods and services.
- The multipurpose cash transfers have so far benefited over **2,700 individuals**, helping to cope with financial hardships and support the families to have access to food and basic services.

Government and other Partners' Response

WASH

- A sub-national level WASH Cluster meeting was held at the Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHS, Sylhet to ensure a coordinated WASH response to the flood emergency in Sylhet.
- World Vision Bangladesh distributed water purifying tablets (WPT) to **3,000 households** in Gowainghat, Tahirpur, and Sadar Upazilas of Sunamganj District.
- **7 WASH Cluster members** are providing WASH services, reaching up to **35,000 floods-affected people**.



On 20 June 2024, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and local stakeholders, UNICEF is distributing jerry cans, water purification tablets, and hygiene kits to meet the immediate needs of flood-affected children and families, ensuring their safety and well-being. © UNICEF/UNI597007/Mukut

Nutrition

- **200 packets of dry foods** have been distributed in the affected Unions by the government.
- Medical doctors and nurses from the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)** are treating SAM children at the SAM corners of hospitals, referred by government and NGO field staff.
- **The Asia Arsenic Network (AAN)** has more than **500 community leaders in Kanaighat, Balaganj, Kularua, and Dharmapasa Upazilas** who are mobilized for emergency response at the local level based on need.
- **Caritas** has **540 task force members** ready to support the emergency response.
- **Shushilan** has standby staff and volunteers reposing to the emergency response.
- **BRAC** is working on a rapid needs assessment and will share the report by Thursday, 27th June.

⁶ Minimum Expenditure Basket

Child Protection (CP)

- **The Child Protection Cluster has convened meetings of the Child Protection in Emergency (CPIE) Working Group** with local NGOs and other stakeholders to evaluate the current flood situation and coordinate partners' response.
- **FIVDB, together with Concern Worldwide**, has provided cash assistance to **328 individuals** in Gowainghat Upazila.
- **The Reliant Women Development Organization (RWDO)**, in collaboration with **Plan International**, will conduct a survey to assess the needs arising from the flood.
- **FIVDB and Caritas have extended rescue assistance to affected families** and are actively monitoring and supporting operations in shelters.



Education

- Cluster members (who currently run education programs in the affected areas) are closely monitoring the situation and maintaining regular communication with the school authorities and District and Sub-district level Education officials and the Sylhet City Corporation to identify needs and plan a response before schools open on the 3rd of July 2024.
- The schools remain flooded and many are being used as shelters. Consequently, partners are currently unable to support with repairs to the schools or the replenishment of teaching and learning materials. However, organizations such as **BRAC, Save the Children and Esho Shikhi Project** are prepared with response plans, ready to be implemented as soon as the schools become accessible.

Social and Behavior Change (SBC)

- The District Information Office provided lifesaving information to the families in evacuation shelters, on topics such as on the importance of drinking purified water and staying safe from drowning and snake bites.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The UNICEF Sylhet field office is working in close collaboration with the Divisional Commissioner's office in Sylhet to coordinate the response activities. In efforts aimed at strengthening the government's disaster preparedness and response efforts in the affected districts, UNICEF has supported the local administration with emergency kits and gears to facilitate an effective response.

UNICEF has activated the flood response contingency partnership with its implementing partner BRAC. The contingency partner is set to conduct a quick assessment on the current situation and identify priority needs. Sub-national level WASH and CPIE clusters have been activated. Meetings of these clusters are being held on a regular basis to enhance better coordination among all concerned stakeholders. UNICEF Sylhet Field Office is coordinating other with UN agencies working in the division to ensure an efficient and coordinated response.

Funding situation

UNICEF requires **US\$ 3.3 million** for multi-sectoral life-saving emergency response in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Moulvibazar Districts.

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