

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Heavy monsoon rains and water from upstream in India's northeast have inundated large parts of the Sylhet and Mymensing division, leaving millions of people marooned and triggering a humanitarian crisis. The flash floods swept away homes and inundated farmlands, forcing families to seek shelter on higher ground and temporary flood shelters, while power cut is making life miserable and telecommunication cut-off. Experts considered the flood worse than the ones they had experienced in 1998 and 2004. The crisis struck at a time when the people of the division were recovering from unexpected recent floods that hit in April and late May 2022. An estimated 7.2 million people are affected by this sudden flash flood and water congestion in nine northeaster districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulivazar, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Brahman Baria, Mymensing and Sherpur. Among the nine districts, five heavily impacted are Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulivazar, Habiganj and Netrakona. As many as 472,856 people have been taken to around 1,605 shelter centres in a combined effort of the Army, Navy, Fire Service, and the local authorities, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). Many households are isolated due to floods, while some have taken shelter in open areas. The livestock situation even worse due to lack of animal shelter and feed.

SUMMARY INFORMATION:

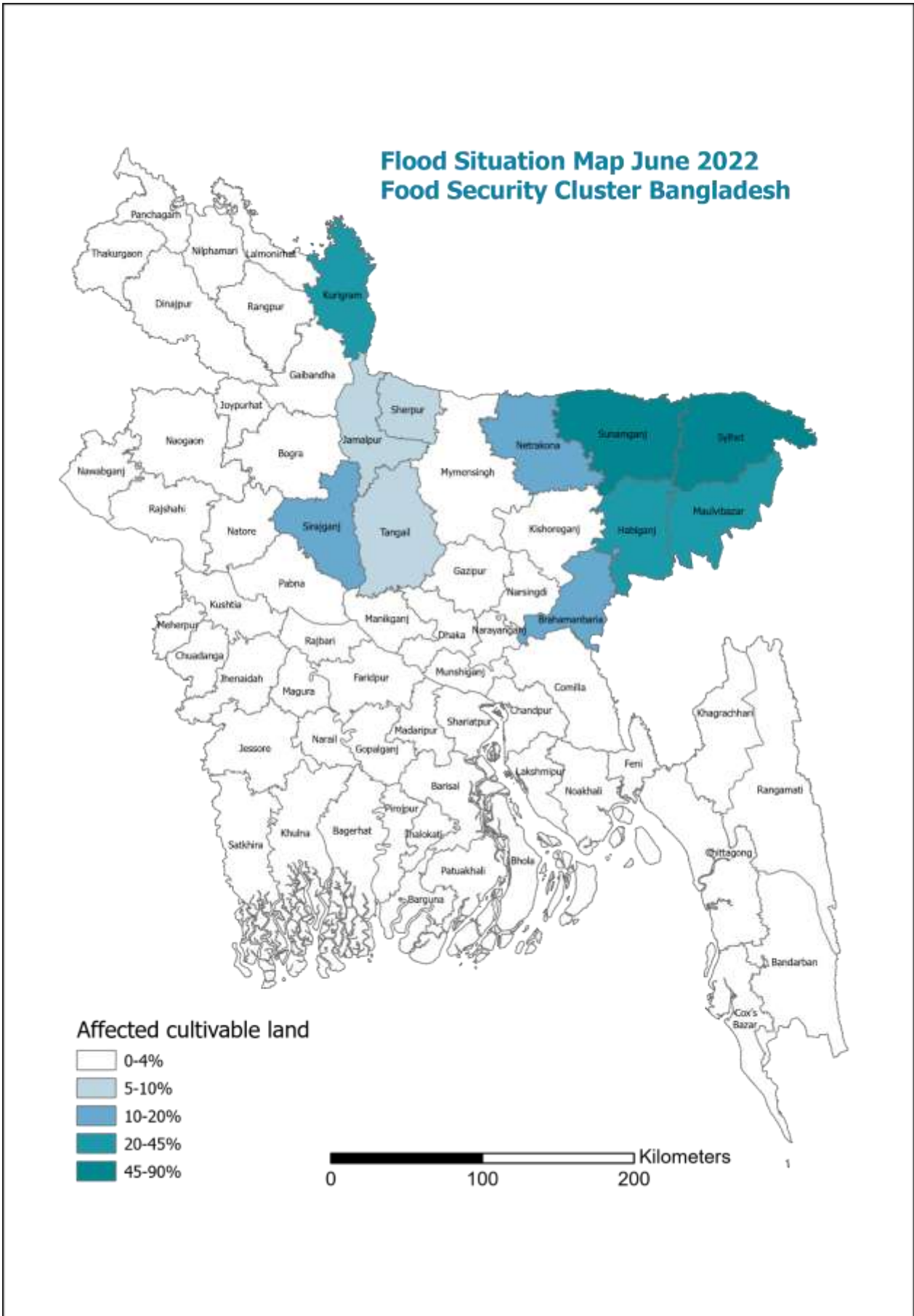
S.L	District	Population	Population Affected (UNOSAT)	Agriculture Land Affected (Hectare)
1	Sylhet	3,756,796	1,547,560	28,944
2	Sunamganj	2,768,912	1,821,950	13,803
3	Maulvibazar	2,114,247	417,700	12739
4	Habiganj	2,398,505	822,900	23760
5	Brahmanbaria	3,252,325	230,330	3594
6	Kishoreganj	3,193,124	1,003,840	
7	Mymensingh	5,738,236	415,880	106
8	Sherpur	1,330,645	3,830	448
9	Netrakona	2,461,098	996,670	1119
	Total	27,013,888	7,260,660	84,513

AGGRAVATING FACTORS:

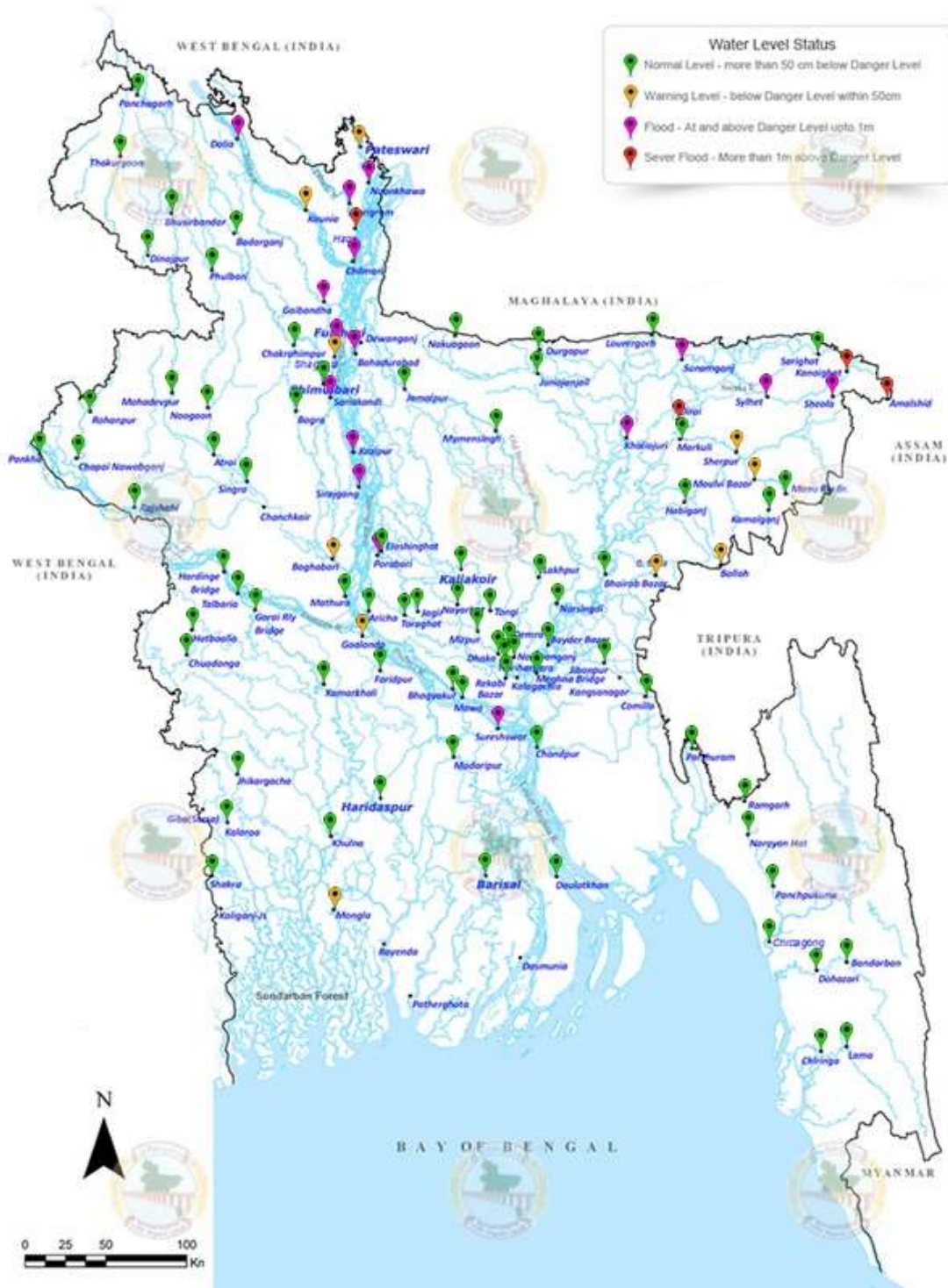
- Availability and access are challenged due to the disruption of market.
- Huge Food Safety and public health concern around flooded food commodities.
- Huge price hike in national and local market.

SECTORAL NEEDS:

- Immediate ready-to-eat food assistance followed by emergency food assistance to address hunger.
- Livestock and poultry feed with veterinary services and community livestock shelter.
- Agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, fertilizer etc.)
- Livelihood and agriculture recovery.
- Livestock shelter and destocking of livestock.
- In-kind nutrition-sensitive food assistance (fortified rice, fortified oil, iodized salt) with orientation on an available alternative nutritious diet.
- Linkage to a regional market to sell agriculture (Crop, livestock, poultry and fisheries) products at a competitive price.



Data Source: Department of Agriculture Extension and Food Security Cluster as of 20 June 2022



Source: Flood Forecasting & Warning Centre, 22 June 2022



HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY MESSAGE:

1. Household food store and cooking facility have been washed away. Scarcity of ready-to-eat food is reported everywhere, including the formal shelters.
2. Hunger is the main issue at this point in time. Food Security is highly challenged.
3. In kind assistance is required more as market is not functioning, communication disrupted and limited food stock.
4. With an average general inflation of 7.43, Food inflation 8.30 and highest rate of increase in the prices of essential commodities in eight years, cash distribution may increase the inflation and price hike.
5. Animal food is in dire need. Poultry, duck and fisheries have been washed away.
6. Boro harvest was done but all the private grain storage are inundated leading to huge grain loss
7. Markets are non-functional. Private & market food storage are inundated.
8. Debride management is a big concern due to dead animals and rotten food grain.
9. The honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh and high officials visited the flood-affected areas to expedite the humanitarian assistance operations and to provide guidance to the local Disaster Management Committee.
10. Osmani International Airport will resume its flight operations soon. Previously, flight operations in Sylhet's Osmani International Airport were suspended for three days as flood water has reached the runway.
11. Power returns to parts of Sylhet and Sunamganj at coordinated efforts of the Bangladesh Army, Sylhet City Corporation, and Power Division. People in Sylhet and Sunamganj were without power as the electricity supply stopped to avoid accidents on 18 June 2022.
12. Railway and road transportation resumed.
13. Health facilities at the upazila, union and community levels are significantly impacted due to severe flooding and many of these centres have been converted to makeshift/temporary shelters. A total of 140 medical teams is formed for the treatment of the flood-affected people across the affected districts.
14. According to the Ministry of Food, government food stocks are at a satisfactory level. The government total food stock is 1.508 million MT while three is 12.86 million MT of rice, 168,000 MT of wheat and 82,000 MT of paddy. Import of rice is also under process to increase the food stocks.
15. Private sector rice import has been reduced compared to last year.
16. Female headed households (FHH) are always more vulnerable in any disaster situation especially to exploitation, abuse and violence.

SECTORAL IMPACTS:

- Hunger is the main issue at this point in time. Food Security is highly challenged.
- This is the third wave of flash floods in northeastern districts. According to the latest IPC ranking, Sunamganj district is in IPC level 4, and other districts are in IPC level 3. Flash flood in these districts has primarily affected the availability of food stocks and agricultural produce. Affected people are reportedly surviving on limited minimal stocks of dry foods.
- People sheltering on inundated residences, embankments. and shelters have limited food supplies and no or limited cooking facility. The flood has already been occurring for a few days. Therefore, it is highly expected that people have limited food stocks.
- Majority of people in these districts are dependent on agriculture for livelihood and employment, hence their means of livelihood is heavily damaged during the crisis time.
- Multiple shocks have exhausted their resilience capacity coupled with average general inflation of 7.43, Food inflation 8.30 and highest rate of increase in the prices of essential commodities in eight years.

- It is evident that private sector food grain import is reduced compared to the last year (5650.38 to 3646.63 thousand MT). The loss of standing crops and harvested Boro rice will create an additional food price hike.
- The major rice supply is Boro rice which was early harvested and stored at the household level for further processing. Most of these paddies are submerged and will not be usable.
- Food safety will be an issue as food stored in private warehouses, household, shops and in chatals are damaged by flood water. People will try to utilize this food and may cause food safety issues.
- Department of Livestock Services reported 211,557 MT of straw worth BDT 1,058 million, 190,507 MT grass worth BDT 402 million, ready feed worth BDT 31 million and total livestock loss is BDT 2618.3 million.
- Major sources of animal feed are destroyed. The livestock, poultry and fisheries sector are affected heavily due to lack of feed and will force farmers to sell at a cheaper price causing additional loss.
- 113,297-hectare croplands are affected (more information is coming). Mainly Aman paddy, seedbed, maize, vegetable, and cash crops.
- Household food storage, cooking facility and livelihood assets are damaged significantly with will negatively impact agriculture production and livelihood.
- Hunger and negative coping strategy will accelerate the under-nutrition situation.
- Straw and fodder shortage for livestock
- Market is not functioning and food stored in shops and private warehouses is damaged with flood water. In-kind assistance will be required to address the price hike and food safety.
- Debride management will be a big challenge as tools and resources are very limited.

RESPONSE:

- Department of Disaster Management has allocated 3,141 MT of rice, 58,620 packets of dry food, BDT 2,670,000 for child food distribution, and BDT 2,150,000 for cattle feed distribution.
- World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP) provided biscuits that were distributed by our partner BRAC among 34,000 Households (2.5 KG / HH).
- BRAC has allocated BDT 30 million from its funds to provide relief packages in Sylhet, Suamganj, and Netrokona districts with dry food (Chira - 2kg, Muri - 1kg, Gur - 500gm, Biscuit - 2 pack) for 52,500 households. Planned to distribute cattle feed to 7,964 families in Sylhet and Sunamganj. Distribution will start in the next 2-3 days.
- Department of Livestock Services is providing vaccination and veterinary services.
- Islamic Relief Bangladesh is distributing FSC dry food package among 5,000 HH and cattle feed among 525 HH.
- ActionAid Bangladesh is distributing Dry food among 1850 HH.
- Bidyanondo Foundation is a non-profit organisation as part of the emergency response to the flash floods in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Kurigram and Netrokona, Bidyanondo teams have been helping to distribute food and water purification tablets amongst the people of the flood-affected areas.
- Save the children is distributing food package with dry food among 1,900 HH.
- BDRCS is distributing dry food package.
- CNRS, CARE Bangladesh and Norwegian Refugee Council are Responding.

GAPS AND CONSTRAINTS:

- Debride management will be a big challenge as tools and resources are very limited.
- Market situation and stock information.
- Information on livelihood loss.

Food Security Cluster Contact

Mohammad Mainul Hossain Rony, Cluster coordinator, Mohammad.rony@wfp.org

Pictures

Photographs taken by cluster partners





