



Situation Report #2







Floods in eastern Bangladesh continue to place lives at risk

Photo: © UNFPA/Bangladesh

Country:	Bangladesh ▾
Emergency type:	Climate disaster ▾
Start Date of Crisis:	Aug 22, 2024
Date Issued:	Sep 16, 2024
Covering Period:	Aug 30, 2024 to Sep 5, 2024
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Key Figures

The numbers indicated below are estimated based on the latest [Situation Overview](#) issued by the Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG).

 5,822,740 Total people affected	 2,125,650 Overall people in need (PIN) in 11 districts	 1,630,370 Women of Reproductive age	 59 Number of deaths (confirmed)	 72,470 Number of persons with disabilities	 78,350 Currently pregnant women
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Highlights

- Communities in the eastern region of Bangladesh continue to face multiple crises due to sudden flooding, specifically, women and girls who experience unique challenges during disasters. . The devastating flood has impacted 5.8 million people, with over 500,000 displaced taking refuge in evacuation centres.
- The first phase of UNFPA's immediate response within 72 to 96 hours has been completed. With additional resources, UNFPA is continuing its response in the most affected areas.
- From 31 August to 5 September, a UNFPA emergency team field mission was conducted in Noakhali and Feni, the two most affected districts, to assess the situation and verify needs in relation to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV).
- The Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) consisting of the UN Agencies, International NGOs and donors met on 1 September and agreed to revise the existing Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to include the eastern flood response needs and resource requirements.
- The UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and the relevant UN Heads of Agencies leading national clusters, including UNFPA, met with the Interim Government's Advisor for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief on 3 September and discussed strengthening a coordinated humanitarian response.

Situation Overview

- According to the latest Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) report dated 31 August, 5.8 million people in eastern Bangladesh have been affected by the flooding, with around 502,501 displaced currently sheltering in 3,403 evacuation centres. The disaster has claimed 59 lives so far.
- UNFPA participated in an inter-agency mission from 26 to 28 August. The report highlighted that the local administration is overwhelmed due to political transition, and that inadequate early warning had left communities unprepared. Key concerns include limited access to emergency assistance due to flooding and overcrowded shelters. The joint team recommended improved disaster response coordination, targeted relief, and support for food security, health, and education recovery.
- Women and adolescent girls in the 11 affected districts urgently need GBV risk mitigation and response services. However, the reduced presence of officials and essential service providers is preventing them from reporting incidents or accessing help. Many women left belongings behind during evacuation and require personal and protection-related items. GBV cluster members, including UNFPA, are assisting vulnerable groups, including 130 transgender individuals in Noakhali Sadar.
- During an emergency field mission from 31 August to 5 September, UNFPA found that women and girls face increased risks of GBV due to inadequate privacy, sanitation, and lighting in shelters. Female-headed households, with many men working abroad, face additional safety concerns. Many volunteers lack training in GBV principles, potentially increasing risks for women and girls.
- The UNFPA team visited marginalised communities to assess their health and protection needs. As floodwaters recede in Feni, most people are returning home, though some are being forced out of shelters by school authorities. These families are struggling with basic needs like sleeping mats and firewood, placing a particular burden on women responsible for gathering essential household items.

UNFPA Response

UNFPA initiated its immediate humanitarian response within 72 hours from the onset of the flood, focusing on providing immediate support to women, adolescent girls, and pregnant women in Noakhali, Feni, and Khagrachari.

SRH: To date, nine mobile SRH camps have been organised in Noakhali, Moulvibazar, and Khagrachari districts providing services to over 1,600 women and adolescents. In Feni district, six health camps were organised, offering care to around 200 women of reproductive age. These were co-funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO). Additionally, 350 baby kits were distributed in Noakhali district and another 50 kits in Moulvibazar. A handover ceremony of the baby kits was conducted in Dhaka on 4 September with the British High Commission and UNFPA’s partner, the Center for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB).

GBV: As of 5 September, 1,514 dignity kits were distributed to women of reproductive age in Noakhali and Feni. Cash for the purchase of dignity items has been provided to 60 transgender women and is being planned for distribution among 40 women with disabilities in Noakhali, and 100 vulnerable women from the floating snake charmer community in Feni. A mobile GBV response team, including mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) counsellors, case workers, and community volunteers, reached 450 flood-affected women through one-on-one counselling and 2,050 women through group information sessions in flood shelters in Noakhali.

Adolescent & Youth: 2,003 menstrual health management (MHM) kits have been distributed to adolescent girls in evacuation centres in Noakhali, Feni and Khagrachari (813 in Noakhali, 490 in Feni and 700 in Khagrachari).



Due to the reduced presence of local government officials and service providers during this transitional period of the interim government, response activities in the field are facing coordination challenges. In response, UNFPA Bangladesh has deployed its Field Officers in the three most affected areas. Their primary responsibility is to strengthen coordination in the UNFPA lead areas - GBV and SRH - as well as to contribute to the overall coordination on the ground and provide technical assistance to the implementing partners. Additionally, experienced implementing partner staff from the northern belt of the country have been redeployed to the affected areas to support the response activities.

Results Snapshots



2,200
 People reached with **SRH services**
 100% Female







2,003
 People reached with **Adolescent friendly SRH services**
 100% adolescent girls



4,074
 People reached with **GBV risk** mitigation and response activities
 100% Female



15
SRH Health Camps for Women and Girls supported

	1,514	Dignity kits distributed to women
	2,003	MHM kits distributed to adolescent girls
	400	Baby kits distributed to pregnant mothers
	60	Transgender individuals who received cash for the purchase of dignity kit items

Coordination Mechanisms

Gender-Based Violence:

GBV Cluster update:

- The national GBV Cluster met on 4 September to discuss the district coordination of the GBV response as well as the revision of the Humanitarian Response Plan to include the Eastern Flash Floods.
- The Cluster is issuing weekly situation overviews with key messages and the 2nd GBV Cluster Situation Report was issued on 03 September.
- The Cluster also organised a day-long orientation on 4 September in Noakhali on GBV core concepts, coordination, accountability to the affected population (AAP), and safe referrals for local GBV actors, relevant government stakeholders and other humanitarian responders.
- The Cluster has initiated service mapping in Noakhali, Feni, and Khagrachari, for the establishment or strengthening of GBV referral pathways.

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

- One National SRH working group meeting was held on 24 August. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) sent out a request letter to the affected districts to ensure SRH services for pregnant women are prioritised in the aftermath of the disaster and the District Civil Surgeon office issued an official letter to the upazilas with a plan for mobile camps and baby kit distribution.
- One SRH working group meeting was held in Noakhali on 4 September. The SRH working group confirmed that SRH needs are a priority and that the working group will facilitate coordination among the different stakeholders responding to the flood. The Civil Surgeon will also monitor the coordinated response closely.

Other working groups

- The UN Resident Coordinator's Office, together with the national clusters, initiated support for the district level coordination in Noakhali and Feni. UNFPA has nominated respective Field Officers to represent the GBV cluster and SRH WG in this district level forum. The first meeting of the district level coordination took place on 4 September.
- The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) met on 2 September and discussed the revision of the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Funding Status

UNFPA started its immediate response on 24 August 2024. An operational plan was developed amounting to US\$ 87,861 for the initial response in Noakhali, Feni, and Khagrachari. This was complemented by releasing emergency kits prepositioned through the Regional Prepositioning Initiative (RPI) funded by DFAT Australia. On 28 August, UNFPA Bangladesh allocated an additional US\$ 80,000 for this response from its Regular Resources. Moreover, US\$60,000 was allocated from FCDO to the SRH response activities. UNFPA Bangladesh now estimates US\$ 4.92 million is required to reach its target population of 90,500 women, pregnant women, and adolescent girls including gender diverse population and persons with disabilities, of which only US\$0.24 million (4.8%) has been mobilised so far.