

**Bangladesh**

Bangkok, 16 August 2017

SITUATION

In the afternoon of Tuesday the 15th August 2017 severe floods were caused due to incessant rains in 20 districts in the northern part of Bangladesh. According to National Health Crises Management Centre (NHCMC) of Director General of Health Service (DGHS) control room on 14th August 2017, the death toll has risen to 89¹ and approximately 1.7 million people² have been affected by the floods. At least 110,400 hectares of cultivated land have been affected. An estimated 1,031 primary schools had to be closed. Even though the flood-affected families have taken shelter in higher ground but some are marooned in rising flood waters. Roads and railway communication between northern districts and the capital remain disconnected. Flood waters are flowing downstream and new areas in central part of the country are being affected. The Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Ganges and Padma rivers along with other major river systems in the country are expected to continue to rise during next couple of days, flooding more down stream areas. Affected people have taken shelters along the highways, road sides, embankments, and schools.

NEEDS

The floods have put the 20 districts in a state of crisis. The flood affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to sufficient food, safe shelter and basic non-food items, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, livelihood activities and adequate nutrition.

The dire situation is further compounded for the flood affected people with vulnerabilities, more specifically for woman and girls in northern part of Bangladesh.

Many people of the community people living in bamboo or mud houses with straw and corrugated iron (CI) sheet roofings. These tenements have been damaged by the sudden onrush of flood waters. People have taken shelters on highways, road sides, embankments, and schools. Local markets are not functioning properly, income sources are totally disrupted for daily wage earning laborers, drinking water sources and sanitation has collapsed. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

The national government has already allocated 6.8 million BDT (USD \$ 0.09 million) and 2,991 MT of rice to flood-affected districts, while 1,219 local medical teams have been deployed to the flood affected districts to address emerging health problems. The armed forces are providing rescue services along with and embankment repair and food distribution. And the affected communities are also helping in repairing embankments and rescue.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by a joint Humanitarian Coordination Team, including UN agencies, Government and civil society to ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, ACT Bangladesh Forum will take part in meetings with all relevant stakeholders and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

1 Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

2 National Health Crises Management Centre (NHCMC) of Director General of Health Service (DGHS) control room

ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance has been working in Bangladesh since 2004, now helping/planning to help people affected by the floods. ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the floods, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities. ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment. In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in sufficient food and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap. The ACT Bangladesh forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide food support to ensure that the basic needs of floods affected persons are met with regards to adequate food. ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing food support to 4,000 affected households in the coming days. Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the floods are amplified.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa (Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org).

For further information please contact:

Forum Coordinator, Joyanta Adhikari, Executive Director, CCDB (joyanta.adhikari@gmail.com) mobile # 01713-004086

ACT Regional Programme Officer, James Phichet Munpa (James.Munpa@actalliance.org)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>