

**ALERT****FLOODS****actalliance****Regional Alert: South Asia**

Bangkok, 23 July 2019

**SITUATION**

More than 12 million people are affected by heavy rains, landslides and flooding brought about by monsoon rains in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.<sup>1</sup> Myanmar has also been affected. Some areas are still inaccessible because of the floods and landslides. There are about 152 deaths across the region.<sup>2</sup>

**India** has more than 10 million people affected in Assam and Bihar. Around 900 relief camps have been setup with 265,000 families displaced. In Assam, 30 districts have been affected with Barpeta district most affected with 996,160 people. The continuous rains in Nepal makes the situation in Bihar much worse as the water levels of several rivers have been rising following heavy rains. The death toll in the Bihar floods mounted to 24, with 2.566 million affected people in 12 districts of the state.

**Bangladesh** estimates that about 4 million people in Northeast and Central Bangladesh are affected. Around 367,341 houses have been damaged or destroyed. Cox's Bazar with more than one million Rohingya Refugees have also been affected by heavy rainfall. Most of the community people living in bamboo fenced or mud houses with straw and CI sheet roof are damaged by this sudden onrush of flood waters. Presently they have taken shelters on road side, embankments of in schools. Local markets are not functioning properly, income sources have been totally disrupted for daily wage earners. Drinking water sources and sanitation badly hampered.

**Nepal** reported heavy rains in East and Central Nepal have resulted in heavy flooding and landslides in Province 1, 2 and 3 affecting approximately 500,000 people. Most affected districts are Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Saptari, Bara, Parsa, Siraha, Dhanusha districts in Province 2 and Morang, Jhapa, Udayapur in Province 1. According to the National Emergency Operation Centre at the Ministry of Home Affairs, 10,385 households have been displaced by floods and landslides. A report prepared by Nepal police showed that as many as 19 people in 13 districts of Province 3 died in floods and landslides, within three days.

**NEEDS**

The floods have put South Asia region 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:

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | sufficient food and nutrition   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | safe shelter and basic household items                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | basic health services and facilities                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | livelihood  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | protection  |

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.

In all three countries:

**Shelter**

- Needs of safe shelter is acute for displaced families.

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/india/monsoon-rains-bring-severe-flooding-and-landslides-across-south-asia-affecting-more>

<sup>2</sup> <https://weather.com/news/news/2019-07-20-monsoon-flooding-deaths-india-nepal-bangladesh-south-asia>

- Temporary shelter in form of tarpaulins sheets is needed as most of the people are forced to stay in makeshift plastic tents.

### Food

- Affected people are living on noodles, beaten rice and biscuits. In India, dry food is needed as people return to their homes. In Nepal, Food supplies has not reached the affected families yet. Nepal Food Corp will distribute the foods in affected area but will take 3 weeks to mobilize. In Bangladesh, food is needed to augment the assistance given by the government.

### WASH

- Disinfectant, water purification kit needed. Community level drinking water sources have been inundated.
- Even if water recedes, there will be health hazards and chances of epidemic.
- Hygiene kits are needed for affected families, and those who are in most remote locations.
- Wild and Domestic animals lost their lives due to floods which brings possibility of water and food contamination in the area. So, people also needs to be sensitized on ways to avoid contamination.
- There is a dire need of separate temporary toilet along with sufficient water supply.
- Distribution of AQUA tablet is highly recommended but proper orientation is required
- Quick orientation on hygiene practice and management is needed (including mensuration hygiene management)

### Protection

- Safe space for women and children has not been identified in Nepal
- There is highly potential of increasing GBV cases but no such mechanism is in place in Nepal
- Dignity kit for adolescent girl and women are highly demanded but not yet distributed. In India and Bangladesh, the government has distributed hygiene kits but there is still unmet needs.

### STAKEHOLDERS

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

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| National government             | National governments have already provided food packs in the affected areas. In Nepal, the local governments have reached out to NGOs for assistance but there is still no call for international assistance. Local government units in three countries have also been coordinating with humanitarian actors, including members of the national ACT Forums to augment their response. |
| UN Agencies                     | UNICEF has reported that they will be scaling up their response in the three countries.   |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement | Red Cross and Red Crescent movement has given assistance in Bangladesh to the affected population   |
| National NGOs                   | BRAC in Bangladesh has allocated BDT 5 million resources to respond in all affected areas.  |

### ACT Alliance

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance has national forums in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. The three forums have given assistance to disaster affected population in recent past including Typhoon Fani in India, the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and Nepal Earthquake. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the floods, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.   |

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The <b>ACT Bangladesh and India Forum</b> , respectively, is planning on submitting a proposal for <b>Rapid Response Fund</b> to augment the government and other humanitarian actors response for floods affected persons' basic needs are met. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

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