

CARE Canada's Intervention

September 17, 2014

The Humanitarian Coalition (HC) Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF) is funded by the Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD). It was created in 2014 to ensure timely funding is available to fund lifesaving responses to smaller-scale disasters. The CHAF is a central feature of the Humanitarian Coalition disaster response system.



Photo credit: CARE; A woman wades in waist-deep water in Northwestern Bangladesh

Summary: CAD \$279,820 has been transferred to CARE Canada to meet the immediate Non Food Items (NFI), WASH and Livelihood needs of 7,000 severely affected households (men, women, boys and girls) in five of the most severely flood affected districts in Northwest Bangladesh (Kurigram, Pabna, Sirajganj, Jamalpur and Bogra.

Background on Disaster

Northwest Bangladesh has been severely affected by flooding resulting from heavy monsoon rains since August 13, 2014. While the rainfall has steadily decreased, the flooding has already caused significant damage to the region. The worst affected districts in the northwest are Bogra, Sirajgonj, and Gaibandha, while Kurigram has the highest number of affected people. According to the latest situation report from the Government of Bangladesh, as of September 10, 2014¹, 14 deaths have been reported and almost 3 million people or 629,243 households have been affected. In addition, over 30,000 hectares of rice crops have been inundated and countless educational institutes have been flooded and declared closed. Many affected people have knee to waist deep water in their homes and have been forced to take refuge on 'higher ground', including the roofs of their houses, schools and temporary shelters alongside their poultry and livestock. As most sanitation facilities have been submerged, ground water sources have been contaminated, causing a shortage of safe drinking water and threatening water borne diseases, such as diarrhea, and skin infections, etc.

¹ <http://www.cdmp.org.bd/modules.php?name=Situation>

Outline of Needs

Assessments: CARE Bangladesh led a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) by HCTT (Humanitarian Coordination Task Team) consisting of international NGOs, IFRC and UN organizations. The JNA was intended to provide a rapidly available shared understanding of the impact of river and monsoon flooding in northwest Bangladesh to: identify priority needs (immediate needs and recovery needs) of the affected population; provide approximate numbers of affected people; identify severely affected unions and upazilas; provide initial recommendations to inform strategic decisions on resource mobilization and response planning; and recommend steps for future assessments.

Unconditional cash: Food, livelihoods and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) have been identified as the most pressing emergency needs of the affected communities. However, the needs may vary in magnitude from one household to another – while one family may be in need of immediate food, another may be more eager to resume their livelihoods and waiting for some support to buy agricultural inputs. An unconditional cash distribution can cater to any/all of these needs and empower the affected households to prioritize and decide on which of their needs to address first. The JNA report identified that the provision of cash (and agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers) for investment in

cultivation (particularly in Bogra, Kurigram and Jamalpur) would be high impact emergency response for many households among the affected population. Moreover, fast mobilization of livelihoods to rehabilitate the households vulnerable to cold waves during the impending winter would also be of essence to minimize further shocks to these already severely affected families.

Hygiene: With little access to appropriate cleaning and washing agents and poor access to clean water, households may have poor hygiene and potential health problems like water borne diseases, infections and personal hygiene related problems. The hygiene awareness of such extreme poor, illiterate households is likely to be low and nonexistent in case of health risks of unhygienic practices during crises like floods. As a result, access to cleaning and washing agents like soap and awareness of the importance of hygiene especially during/after a flood and the health repercussions of poor hygiene practices would be very important for the affected population.

Health: While poor hygiene may cause significant threats to health, inadequate access to food may hamper nutrition and contaminated water may cause water borne diseases and infection cases of which are already being reported in thousands. Cold related diseases such as pneumonia have also surfaced due to exposure to low temperatures amidst heavy rain and flood water, especially of people who are living on raised platforms with no roofs and have been unable to reach shelters. In response to this, it would be very important to facilitate the affected population's access to basic health care and medication to minimize the aggravation health.

Non-food items: Almost half the affected households have no ability to cook, partly due to the unavailability of ingredients but also due to the lack of access to cooking utensils and accessories. Households also lack access to containers to store food and water, away from contamination. While the situation may not enable cooking immediately, it is important that the affected population is able to safely store food being distributed through various initiatives including CARE's ongoing interventions as well save safe drinking water to minimize further health problems caused by contamination to food and water.

Organizational Capacity

CARE (lead)

CARE will be leading the proposed project with technical inputs, purchase and mobilization of distribution packages, monitoring and evaluation while 7 implementation partners carry out the distribution.

- **Strong local presence**
- **Ongoing disaster management work**
- **Strong planning and readiness in collaboration with partners**
- **Background work advanced**

CARE has been a trusted humanitarian response organization in Bangladesh for decades and has managed significant operations during the majority of recent disasters, including Cyclone Sidr in 2007.

CARE regularly responds to emergency needs of vulnerable communities in the frequent natural disasters in Bangladesh. CARE's long experience makes it well prepared with concrete plans for humanitarian responses and in this particular instance, the timely implementation of the JNA to assess the extent of the effect of the flood on vulnerable communities was the first critical step to quickly strategically mobilize a holistic strategy in two specific phases: (i). emergency response and (ii). recovery.

Partners

All implementation partners have existing programs in disaster management and or WASH in the affected regions. This proposed project will complement the existing interventions of partners and help draw synergies while sharing their existing infrastructures and stakeholder relations. CARE is working with 7 partner NGOs in the area with a long history and proven capacity to respond to humanitarian crises in the affected areas. The partners are:

1. **SOLIDARITY**
2. **MohidebJuboShamajKalyanShangstha (MJSKS)**
3. **SKS Foundation**
4. **Unnayan Sangha (US)**
5. **Gram Bikash Kendra**
6. **Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO)**
7. **National Development Programme (NDP)**

The Proposed Response

Main objective

To meet the immediate non-food items (NFI), WASH and livelihood needs of 7,000 severely affected households (men, women, boys and girls) in five (Kurigram, Pabna, Sirajganj, Jamalpur and Bogra) of the most severely affected districts in Northwest Bangladesh.

Targeted beneficiaries

The proposed project will target 7,000 flood affected households representing 35,000 individuals (5 members per household and primary distribution through women members of the household). The most vulnerable will be targeted considering the following criteria:

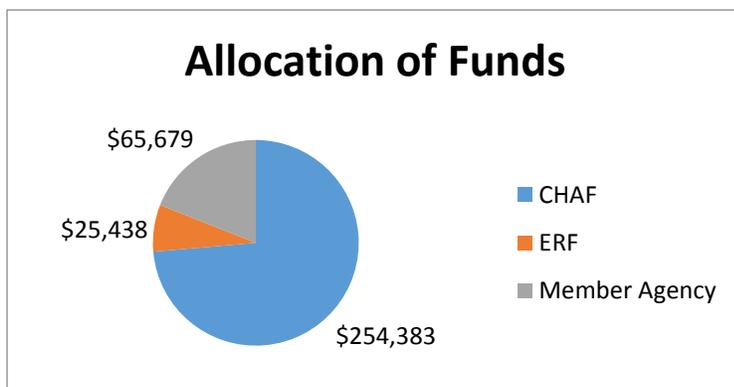
- Families whose houses and property was damaged/washed away during the floods
- IDPs who continue to live on embankments or in villages in marooned locations
- Socially vulnerable people (female-headed and child headed households, elderly people, and people with special needs) lacking purchasing capacity
- Households that have no or little access to income generating activities
- People who have no means to recover from their losses on their own
- Families with a widow, person with a disability, a member who is pregnant and an infant
- Landless laborers, small and marginal farmers
- Families that suffer discrimination due to their minority status - neglected minority groups

Activities

The approach is household focused. As a result, gender disaggregation will vary from household to household based on how many males and how many female constitute each family. However, the distribution packages will primarily target women who in each household will be responsible for using the kit for the benefit of all her family members. Each activity on distribution would therefore be implemented focusing primarily women. However, the hygiene awareness sessions would reach out to males and females directly, and separately.

- **Activity 1:** Distribution of hygiene kits (two bathing soaps and two laundry soaps) to 7,000 households.
- **Activity 2:** Sanitation awareness sessions– 3 sessions for each of the 35,000 individuals (7,000 households), in gender segregated groups of 25.
- **Activity 3:** Distribution of 10 packs of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) to each of 7,000 households to combat dehydration from diarrhea due to contaminated water.
- **Activity 4:** Distribution of cash to 7,000 households– a cash amount of BDT 1,800 (CAD 26) will be provided to enable families to address additional priority basic needs as they cope and begin to repair shelters, clean up homesteads, purchase agro inputs, small stock, other household items, food supplements, meet health costs, etc.
- **Activity 5:** Distribution of non-food items ((1 aluminum cooking pot, 1 plastic bucket and 1 ‘10 liter’ jerry can to each of 7,000 households (CIK match contribution from CARE)).

Project Budget



Our interventions in response to localized disasters are supported by the CHAF (75%), the member agencies of the Humanitarian Coalition (15%) and the Humanitarian Coalition Emergency Response Fund (10%)

