



Call to Action for 2022 Flash Floods in Northeastern Bangladesh

Snapshot: June Flash Flood in Northeastern Bangladesh

- The flood situation in the northeastern part of Bangladesh, especially in the Sylhet and Sunamganj districts, has worsened and turned into an extremely severe flood due to the continuous downpour and surge of water from the upstream.
- With a record rainfall in 27 years in the upstream, the current flood is expected to prevail for at least a week, with situations worsening in the next 48 hours.
- The affected population will require robust transportation, medical, hygiene and relief support in the coming days.
- Disruptions in communication channels and limited mobility are making it difficult to gauge the numeric of current losses, which without a doubt have surpassed damages of previous floods this year.
- In one estimate (by Prothom Alo), at least 4 million people are affected by the current flash flood in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts only. Earlier on May 2022, flash floods in the Sylhet region affected 2 million people.

"The kitchen is under water. So, we have to stop cooking. There is no dry food in the house either. We can't even get drinking water as the tubewell is submerged. We can't even go out of the house because of flood water."

- Cherag Mia, affected by the flood

Source: The Business Standard (online), 18 June 2022 [<https://bityl.co/CIW>]

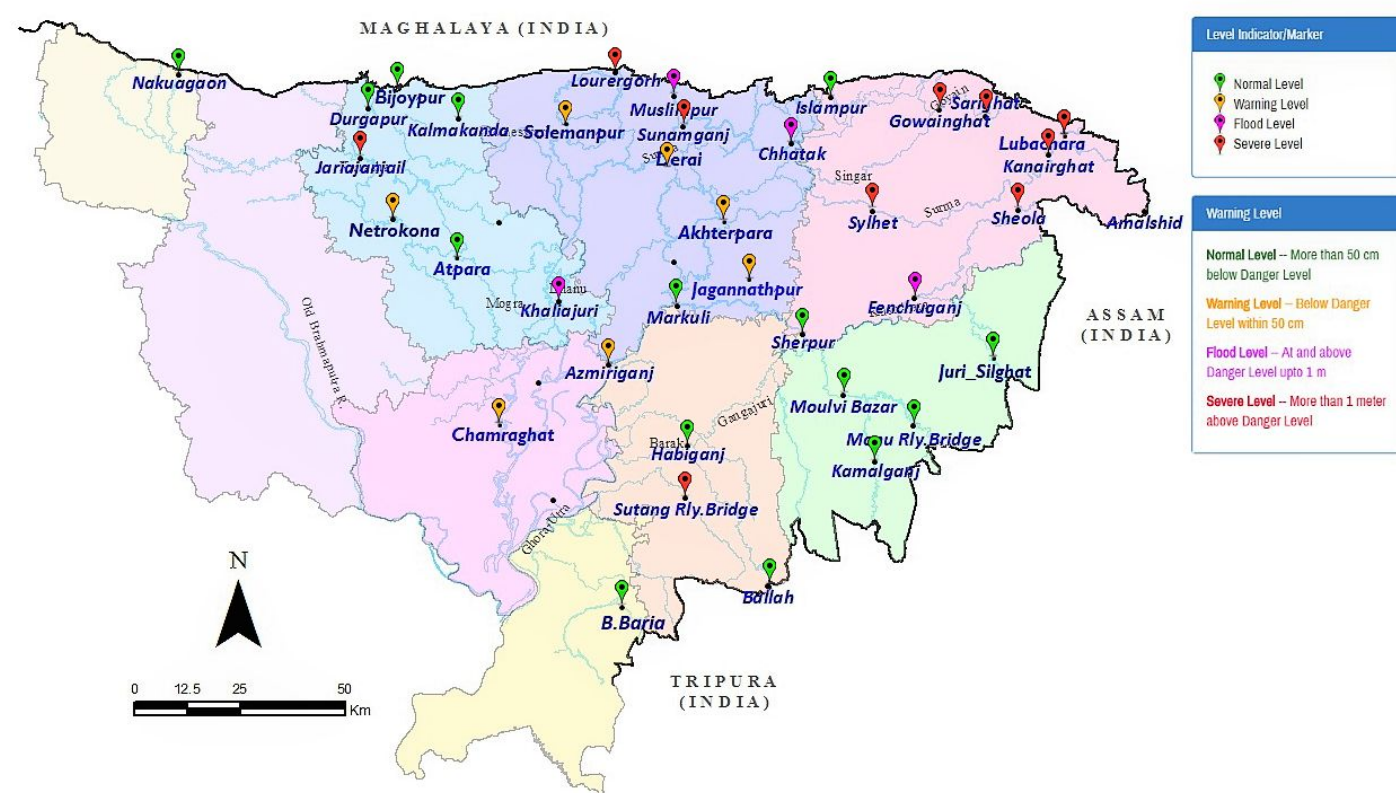
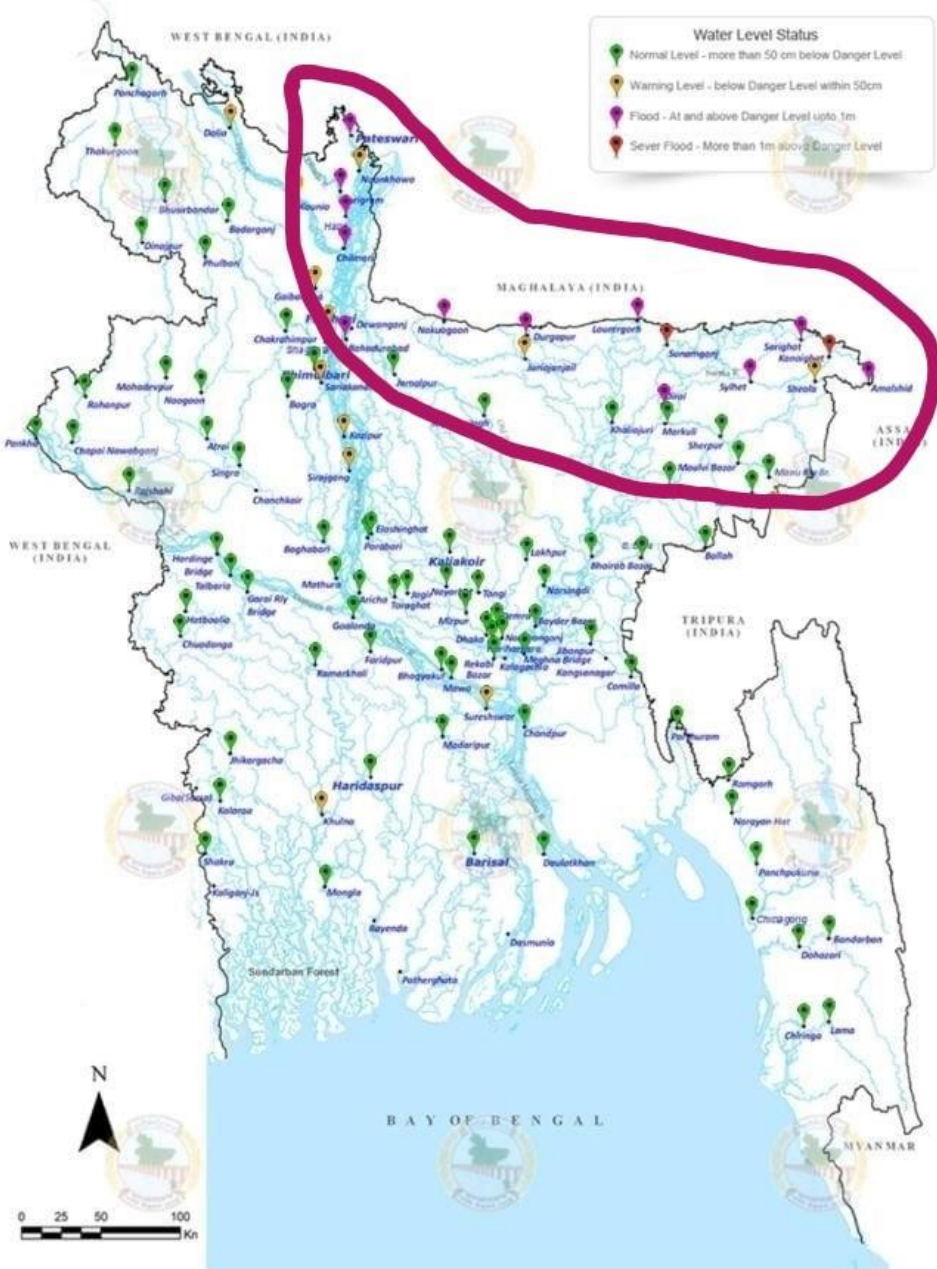
Current Overview of the Situation

- Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrakona, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Sherpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, and Habiganj are currently affected by the flash flood
- This is the third round of flash floods in the northeastern region of Bangladesh, especially in Sunamganj
- Sylhet and Sunmangaj districts have been hit the hardest. At least 80% of areas in Sylhet are now underwater, while 90% in the case of Sunamganj. Habiganj and Netrokona are catching up fast
- At least 4 million people are waterlogged in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts; only thousands have made it to shelters
- The northeastern region is disconnected from the rest of the country; presently, the evacuation process is very challenging
- Electricity supply is halted, and mobile networks and internet services are disrupted
- Around 200 branches of BRAC have been inundated, and 750 staff are affected
- The flood situation in the Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrokona may further deteriorate in the next 24 hours

Sources: BRAC's assessment and staff updates, and websites of The Daily Star, The Business Standard, Prothom Alo, and Aljazeera as of 18 June 2022 morning.



Flash Flood Situation in Bangladesh



Source:

Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)

<http://www.ffwc.gov.bd/>

<http://geo.iwmbd.com:4003/>

@01 pm, 18 June 2022

Current flood situation is expected to persist for at least a week

- According to the meteorologists, rivers will continue to swell in the next three days before starting to recede. The situation will prevail in the region for at least seven more days.
- Water levels in 13 points of major rivers across the country is rising; water of Surma and Kushiara rivers is flowing above danger levels on all points.
- Cherrapunjee, an upstream area in India's Meghalaya state, has experienced 2,500 mm rain in 72 hours till yesterday morning, the most in 27 years. And, Sylhet division has seen more than 800 mm rain during the same period, leading to the flooding. [Source: [The Daily Star](#)]
- Rivers in Sunamganj and Sylhet may swell by about another 1,000 mm and 500 mm respectively in the next couple of days if the rain continues.
- The flood condition may further worsen in the low-lying areas of Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur and Kurigram districts in the next 48 hours.



Initiatives by the Government & BRAC

Govt Initiatives

- The district and Upazila administrations are undertaking emergency relief efforts including allocation of water purification tablets, emergency medicines, dry food, and rice and pulses in the affected areas.
- Government has arranged for shelter centers in the affected districts.
- Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy started urgent rescue operations and relief distribution in flood-hit Sylhet and Sunamganj
- Bangladesh Army has launched toll-free numbers to help the flood-affected people in Sunamganj and Sylhet

BRAC's Initiatives

- **BRAC has already allocated BDT 30 million from its own fund to respond to this crisis as immediate life-saving support for 52,000 families.**
- BRAC is closely working with District Administrations and Bangladesh Army to rescue and distribute relief amongst the flood-affected people.
- BRAC Upazila Disaster Management Teams in Sylhet and Sunamganj are assessing the situation to determine the number of affected people and their needs.
- BRAC is using boats to directly reach families in the worst affected Upazilas with dry food and drinking water.
- BRAC Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is activated at Head Office and the BRAC Disaster Risk Management (DRM) team has been in close contact with BRAC field staff in the affected districts.
- Donation support from public will be availed via **Dakche Amar Desh** channel to save many lives that are at stake.

Immediate Needs and Asks for the Affected Communities in Sylhet and Sunamganj

Shortages and Needs

- Crisis of transportation for evacuating people to the shelter
- Fast reducing stocks of dry food at homes
- Shortage of dry food due to disruption in supply chain and inundated inventory
- No access to safe drinking water
- Stoves are unusable to cook food
- Power outage/cuts
- Fodder shortage for livestock
- Medical supplies shortage
- Sanitation challenge

Immediate Asks

- Renting country boats for evacuation
- Food and oral rehydration support
- Drinkable water in jar/cans
- Halo tabs to purify water
- Fuel for cooking food for makeshift stoves
- Mobile power banks
- Fodder for livestock
- Medical supplies
- Hygiene kits for women and adolescent girls
- Installation/upgradation of sanitation facilities in shelter centers

BDT 250m is needed to aid 80,000 families with the life-saving supports, particularly food and water, for next 1 month.

ডাকছে আমার দেশ

আসুন একসাথে ভালো থাকি

Bangladesh is calling



Northeastern Bangladesh is underwater, in the worst flood in decades.

People and animals are stranded on rooftops. Schools, businesses and residences are inundated. Electricity is disrupted and the only transport in many areas is boat.

BRAC is on the ground, providing shelter, food, transport and rescue supports.

Stand beside us, as we stand beside Bangladesh.

For Donations, please visit the BRAC webpage of [“Dakche Amar Desh”](#) Campaign.