

FLOOD 2006 SITUATION REPORT

PREPARED BY
UTTARAN

Date- Period- to

Submitted to: Oxfam GB

1. **Nature of Disaster** Flood Cyclone Earth quak other
a. If other specify-

2. Background:

Repeated flood situation in the adjoining water-logged areas of Jessore, Satkhira and Khulna districts have already caused massive havoc at the very beginning of the rainy season and the situation is worsening every hour with raising of water level as well as engulfing of new areas. At present millions of people those who are living in the Kapatakha, Hari and Bhadra catchment area of Monirampur, Avainagar, Keshabpur, Tala and Kolaroa upazila are living a serious waterlogging situation. Uttaran is uniquely involved in combating disasters both in preparedness and relief operation but in this case, has put more emphasis on advocacy and lobbying with the key actors for a permanent solution of the problem. In response to the current situation Uttaran has already contacted the relevant authorities and arranged a day-long workshop with participants from the high officials of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Water Development Board (WDB), Institute for Water Modeling (IWM), Elected Peoples Representatives (EPR) from the affected areas, NGO Leaders and other civil society personalities for an appraisal of the current situation. The meeting resolved in firm commitment from all concerned for an appropriate response to the situation in terms of emergency as well as short-term and long-term intervention.

3. Reasons of current flood:

There are 3 major reasons of this year's flood in southwestern region of Bangladesh. These are:

- i) Incessant heavy downpour
- ii) Increased tide height in the rivers; and
- iii) Drainage congestion and loss of navigability of rivers in the region.

Incessant heavy downpour:

Incessant heavy downpour since beginning of July'06 has caused the flood situation. Relevant authorities have recorded 350 mm rainfall as of 15 July'06 and forecast another 200-300 mm rainfall in next 15 days. Normally the water flow of Meherpur, Kushtia, Jessore and part of Jhinidaha use Kapotaksha and Betna river as drainage channel.

Sea level rise and increased height of tide of rivers:

The level of high tide of the sea gets raised because of deep low pressure in the sea. For this reason, the already silted-up drainage channel cannot function properly. Vast area under Tala upazila have been inundated by over-flow of the Kapotaksha river.

Drainage congestion and loss of navigability of rivers in the region:

The major rivers of this region are Sree Hari, Vadra, Kapotaksha and Betna. The water flow in Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhinaidah, Jessore and part of Khulna district reach the sea through these rivers. Because of coastal embankment, the tidal wetland has experienced severe environmental impairments in this region. For example, the riverbed of the rivers have been raised by siltation and as a result the rivers have lost navigation and drainage capacity. Moreover there are also siltation in the mouth of sluice gates and drainage canals within the polders have become inoperative.

4. Geographical area affected:

The flood in question very much relates to the river basins of Sree Hari, Vadra and the Kapatakha. Hence the geographical area affected may be considered as follows:

Basin	District	Upazila	Name of Affected Union	No.of Villages/Ward		Population		
				Total	Affected	Total	Affected	
Sree Hari	Jessore	Monirampur	Kultia	16	14	16554	9142	
			Nehalpur	3	3	12448	7813	
			Monohorpur	5	4	11167	6184	
			Haridaskati	22	18	20790	11281	
			Dhakuria	16	11	23546	12137	
			Durbadanga	17	10	11873	9174	
			Bhojgati	10	3	11478	7187	
			Khanpur	7	4	24787	4132	
		Keshabpur	Panjia	17	8	12000	6700	
			Supalakati	15	8	15600	6300	
			Goirighona	9	5	16000	4570	
		Avoinagar	Sundoli	13	13	16000	14000	
			Paira	12	9	25000	18000	
			Chelisha	13	7	25000	12000	
	Pourashava		9	4	100000	40000		
	Prembag		13	8	23000	7500		
	Khulna	Dumuria	Dhamalia	12	6	21509	11500	
			Raghunathpur	12	5	26252	12109	
			Rudoghora	7	3	20875	9619	
	Vadra	Jessore	Keshabpur	Panjia	17	9	13200	5217
Mongolkot				14	12	19903	8300	
Pourashava				9	6	52000	15000	
Gourighona				9	4	11700	5390	
Supholakati				15	7	14870	5690	
Keshabpur				12	10	16000	8900	
Majidpur				12	8	16000	6300	
Bidyandankati				18	12	19320	13110	
Khulna		Dumuria	Maguraghona	7	5	22190	8310	
			Atulia	28	5	28120	7325	
Satkhira		Tala	Tetntulia	17	7	20052	7972	
			Tala	16	6	24938	18325	
Kapatakha	Jessore	Monirampur	Moswimnagar	12	8	28267	9320	
			Jhapa	13	9	24214	16310	
			Hariharnagar	12	9	22722	12309	
			Rohita	13	6	26491	7916	
		Keshabpur	Sagordari	16	16	24132	4452	
			Tremohini	13	12	31312	3912	
		Satkhira	Kolaroa	Deara	12	4	24300	1215
				Jugikhali	14	4	30312	3505
	Joinagar			11	3	25500	3244	
	Jalalabad			13	3	17000	2290	
	Tala		Dhandia	14	4	16251	1923	
			Sorulia	27	5	24002	2827	
			Nagarghata	23	10	23072	3294	
			Kumira	17	6	19113	2280	
			Islamkati	16	6	23132	3276	
				628	339	1051992	397260	

3,97,260 people of 339 villages of 42 union under Satkhira, Jessore and Khulna district are affected by flood. Around are affected

5. Deaths and Injuries:

1 child died at Durbadanga union of Monirampur upazila under Jessore district.

6. Damages:

Most of the people in flood-affected areas were living at houses made of mud walls. Due to repeated flood their homesteads have been completely damaged and destroyed. They have erected alternative shelters on their homestead. Some are living on the plinth of their damaged houses under open sky. Continuously they are passing their days in tremendous sufferings due to incessant heavy downpour. As a result they are suffering from various respiratory problems which could pose long term health hazards for the marooned people. Houses and crops are severely damaged in Hari basin area. ***In Kultia union of Monirampur upazila there is about 100 per cent houses are under water. Till today, the affected people did not get food, medicine, drinking water or temporary shelter. Because of this disregard, 200 affected people already declared that they will go for suicide.***

Agriculture land is under water for the last two years. In one hand the land owners cannot grow crops on their land and on the other hand the day laborers have lost employment opportunity in agriculture fields.

7. Food situation:

The flood victims face tremendous hardship for managing food items. Everywhere we went, we have found that the flood victims are staying at their inundated houses for the last 2 years. They have totally lost the opportunity for agriculture production or selling labour in agriculture fields. Instead they are catching small fish and selling them in the roadside or nearby fish markets and buying food items. They also find it very difficult to manage fire wood for cooking purpose. During the last 2 years they did not receive any mentionable support from the government or other sources. They have been forced to reduce their daily intake which have already resulted malnutrition for many people. At present they are taking one to two meals in a day which consists of rice, salt and chilly and sometimes they find vegetables. Protein is absolutely absent in their daily food intake.

8. Health, hygiene, water and sanitation:

Health, hygiene, water and sanitation situation in the flood affected areas have totally collapsed. Most of the tubewells have gone under water. People mostly women have to wade long distances in flood water to fetch drinking water. Sanitary latrines are not available in the affected areas. The water is polluted by human defecation. Affected people bathing as well as washing their utensils in flood water.

For the last 2 years Most of the families' income is too little to meet the food expenses. They can hardly save any money for purchasing clothing. Women and adolescent girls are

the worst sufferers in this regard. They are forced to cover themselves with wet cloths after bathing which enhances various skin diseases.

9. Poultry birds and livestock:

The flood affected families have been forced to sell their poultry birds and livestock at a nominal price not only they because they failed to arrange shelter and fodder for them but also due to poverty.

10. Job situation:

Agricultural activities are the major occupation of the local people with major thrust on sweet water prawn cultivation in the rainy season and boro paddy cultivation in the winter. Major occupation of the affected people in general is selling the valuables (poultry birds, cattle, trees and jewelry items) and bargaining with NGOs for credit. The poorer families are engaged in catching small fishes with '*hatcha*' (fine mesh net with 3 bamboo sticks). There is acute shortage of employment and income opportunities but people are seen reluctant to migrate to nearby urban areas as Uttaran learnt from the affected people during the field visit in Shundhali Union on 20/07/06. Some household heads have fled the area just to escape harassment by NGO Workers for recovery of loan installments.

11. Education:

Most of the educational institutions have been functionally closed. In some areas teachers and students were seen imparting lessons in the veranda of the inundated school houses.

12. Other Interventions:

Uttaran has 75 permatant (temporary shelter). Uttaran gave these permatant among the affected people for temporary shelter. Uttaran installed 35 sanitary latrine and 3 tube well in the affected area. From Oxfam GB provided emergency store, Uttaran distributed 2500 water purifying tablet, 650 packet ORS, polythene sheet among 223 families those are living on the road.

Government did not start any operation for the affected people. Also other NGO or donor did not come forward.

13. Uttaran's role:

Uttaran is closely observing the situation. The senior management team and response team sat several times to analyze situation and take future steps. Assessment team of Uttaran already submitted a need assessment report on July 23, 2006. Assessment team is now assessing the situation. This week this team will submit 2nd assessment report. One liaison officer has been deputized for communication and facilitating coordination in Uttaran Dhaka Liaison office. Uttaran's Shanjog network members have been put on alert for any possible intervention. Uttaran's mobilized volunteers to intervene the serious flood situation.

Uttaran organized meeting with the members of District Risk Reduction Committee (DRRC) and Upazila Risk Reduction Committee (URRC) of the affected areas. Uttaran organized meeting in each and every affected union parishad. Beside, Uttaran organized a sharing meeting where 40 union parishad Chairman were participated and shared the devastating flood and waterlogging situation.

14. Sources of information:

- Visit the flood affected areas and discussion with marooned people particularly women
- Discussion with Local Elected Bodies (LEBs), and community leaders
- Information on sharing meeting with the UP Chairmen and Civil Society Personalities from the affected area
- The government reports, Uttaran Need Assessment Report and newspaper reports

Prepared by
Fatima Halima Ahmed
Coordinator
Uttaran