



UNICEF supported water treatment unit mounted on a boat providing drinking water to affected areas in Silchar, Cachar

Highlights

- The second wave of flood in the state of Assam has seen some improvement this week with water receding in some areas. The districts of Barak Valley and Cachar districts, particularly the city of Silchar continues to remain inundated.
- As of 26 June, 2.2 million people including 530,000 children and 790,000 women from 2,542 villages of 28/35 districts have been affected. 121 lives lost and 35 people have been reported as missing.
- There are 564 flood relief camps functioning with 217,413 people in camps including 61,878 children, 574 pregnant/lactating mothers, and 46 persons with the disability. Additionally, 116 relief distribution centers are reaching out to people with essential relief supplies. As per initial estimates, 16,208 houses have been fully damaged, and 110,284 have been partially damaged.
- 26 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, 6 columns of army including 6 columns of the Engineering Task Force (ETF), 11 Aircrafts of Indian Air Force are supporting in the evacuation and rescue as well as relief distribution efforts.
- Health Camps are being conducted by the district administration in Lower Assam to prevent public health risks.
- UNICEF has mobilized the support of 12 existing partners and deployed 3 teams of consultants to support line departments and the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) led responses in relief camps for assessments and relief distribution support.
- Four water treatment units were installed by UNICEF, including two mounted on boats to ensure access to portable drinking water in Silchar city in collaboration with DDMA and Oxfam India. Based on joint request by UNICEF and the District Administration, 6 Tea Estates have deployed water tankers to meet drinking water needs of the affected people in Silchar.
- UNICEF will reach out to 3,000 households with hygiene kits. A total of 1,000 kits are being distributed to households in Hojai district. Extensive hygiene promotion to cover 50,000 people in 4 districts with Oxfam India and Caritas India.
- 100 schools and 10,000 children will be reached with education continuity and mental health support in partnership with Save the Children.
- Food security and nutrition, WASH, access to social protection measures, continuity of education and protection services are the priority needs identified.

Assam, India

Floods 2022 Situation Report

27 June 2022



Situation in Numbers

527,296

Children affected by flooding

(Source: Daily SitRep, FRIMS, ASDMA dated 26 June 2022)

2,221,577

People affected in 2,542 villages of 28 districts

(Source: Daily SitRep, FRIMS, ASDMA dated 26 June 2022)

61,878

Children in 564 relief camps in 17 districts

(Source: Daily SitRep, FRIMS, ASDMA dated 26 June 2022)

217,413

People in 564 relief camps in 17 districts

(Source: Daily SitRep, FRIMS, ASDMA dated 26 June 2022)

121 lives lost and 35 reported missing

16,208 houses fully damaged and 110,284 partially damaged

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The flood situation resulting from the 2nd wave of floods in Assam has improved. However, the situation continues to be grim in Barak Valley districts (Cachar, Karimganj, Hailkandi) particularly in Silchar city of Cachar district where flood water is receding very slowly.

As of 26 June, 2.2 million people including 530,000 million children and 790,000 n women from 2,542 villages of 28/35 districts are affected.¹ A total of 121 lives have been lost and 35 people have been reported as missing². There are 564 flood relief camps running with 217,413 people including 61,878 children, 574 pregnant/lactating mothers, and 46 persons with disability remaining in the camps. Additionally, 116 relief distribution centers have been set up to distribute essential relief supplies to those who are not in the camps³. As per initial estimates, 16,208 houses have been fully damaged, and 110,284 have been partially damaged during the two waves⁴.

Many parts of Silchar city continue to remain inundated with people dependent on external aid for food, water, medicine. Relief camps are provided with essential supplies and the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is ensuring continuity of supplies. Health camps are being conducted in areas where water has receded to reduce public health risks. Food security and nutrition, WASH, access to social protection measures, continuity of education and protection services are the priority needs of the flood affected communities.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF is coordinating with Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) to assess emerging needs and areas for technical assistance. UNICEF has developed and shared a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) with ASDMA on accelerated relief administration within the first 48 hours, which is currently being reviewed by ASDMA. UNICEF has mobilized 3 teams including consultants and partners for immediate deployment to affected districts. Two teams covered Nalbari, Bajali, Chirang and Udalguri districts, completed assessments of relief camps and supported the administration in addressing gaps. UNICEF is developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) jointly with ASDMA for the rapid mobilization and deployment of organizations and volunteer networks like the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC).



UNICEF team interacting with relief camp inmates in Bajali district

UNICEF is supporting ASDMA in streamlining flood preparedness review and coordination with a pilot initiative called 'District Preparedness Assessment Scorecard.' The scorecard helped DDMA's to identify critical preparedness gaps and work towards improving the same. Districts identified with major areas of improvement are being provided with additional support from ASDMA.

¹ ASDMA Daily Situation Report generated on FRIMS on 26 June http://www.asdma.gov.in/pdf/flood_report/2022/Daily_Flood_Report_26.06.2022.pdf

² National Emergency Operation Centre, Situation report regarding Flood/ Heavy rainfall as on 26 June 2022 at 1800 Hrs <https://ndmindia.mha.gov.in/NDMINDIA-CMS/viewsituationDisasterReportPdfDocument-840>

³ ASDMA Daily Situation Report generated on FRIMS on 26 June http://www.asdma.gov.in/pdf/flood_report/2022/Daily_Flood_Report_26.06.2022.pdf

⁴ National Emergency Operation Centre, Situation report regarding Flood/ Heavy rainfall as on 26 June 2022 at 1800 Hrs <https://ndmindia.mha.gov.in/NDMINDIA-CMS/viewsituationDisasterReportPdfDocument-840>

UNICEF has entered into partnership with a local NGO based in Cachar to strengthen Inter-Agency Coordination in three districts of Barak valley where state Inter Agency Group (IAG) did not have any presence.

Based on experience of the 1st wave, UNICEF is coordinating with National Service Scheme to map, enlist, train, and deploy volunteers to the affected districts as per need. Currently a group of 50 volunteers from Assam University are supporting mobilization and distribution of drinking water and food in affected areas.

UNICEF sectors are coordinating with their respective departments in preparedness/response actions. The Sector teams are participating in departmental review meetings and have supported in the development of appropriate Government Orders related to the ongoing response. Trainings have been completed for the Social Welfare department. Rural Volunteer Centre, a UNICEF partner, is organising block and district level trainings on camp management, CPIE (Child Protection in Emergency), operation of CFS and alternate schools in Dhemaji and Majuli. Training for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on the flood response has also been conducted. UNICEF is also supporting ASDMA in a campaign to reach 50,000 households from flood vulnerable areas with key preparedness messages and information about their rights and entitlements in humanitarian situations. The campaign is currently ongoing.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian response is guided by the Core Commitments for Children. UNICEF has been supporting the government of Assam in risk informed programming and preparedness. As a result, child centric response actions have been actively demonstrated by the government. Revised SoPs and trainings are ensuring integrated service delivery to flood affected children, pregnant and lactating mothers through child friendly spaces in relief camps as well as outreach by the respective departments in affected areas. UNICEF supported ASDMA in pre-positioning COVID-19 adaptive risk communication and community engagement materials in all districts for 1500 relief camps in four local languages. UNICEF deployed teams in seven districts during the 1st wave and 3 teams in the 2nd wave and provided daily updates to the DDMA on what is working well as well as things that need improvement. UNICEF mobilized support for 12 existing partners to support line departments and DDMA led responses.



Social media post by ASDMA on boat mounted water treatment units operational in Silchar city

Response plan budget (In US\$)	Fund available and used (In US\$)	Gap in funding
1,013,273	362,527	623,030

Summary Analysis of Programme Response (by Government and technical assistance by UNICEF)

UNICEF Sector Specialists/Officers are working with department teams to assess the situation and respond as required.

Health

The department of health is closely monitoring the situation and necessary actions, advisories, outreach activities and coordination with other departments for public health post flood is being done. Detailed reports of impact are still pending from the department and partners. Initial estimates suggest 139 health institutions⁵ have been impacted in the 1st wave of flooding. Alternate health facilities have been identified. State, district, and sectoral medical teams have been deployed for relief camps and other shelter places. Stock-taking and review meetings are being held by the health department at the State and district levels. UNICEF is part of these meetings and is supporting the department in preparedness and response planning and implementation. Districts Flood Response Plans have been prepared, prepositioning of essential drugs, consumables, commodities, and items has been conducted. Daily fever surveillance has started. Regular fogging is done. Districts have been instructed to maintain the list of the vulnerable population including that for pregnant women, neonates, sick children and link them to the appropriate health services. Health facilities have been instructed to have emergency wards ready to manage any disease out-breaks or flood-related accidents. Daily review of stocks has been emphasized upon. Boat clinics are operational in many of the affected districts to ensure continuity of health services. Care is taken to split teams to cover both formal and informal camps in

⁵ Numbers for internal UNICEF reference only based on initial estimates. Should not be published or quoted

this wave of flooding. UNICEF is also supporting National Health Mission (NHM), Assam in developing post flood communication materials to be used during health camps.

Nutrition

Based on a pre-developed module on continuity of essential nutrition services, 300 officials covering all districts were trained in May 2022. Following the training, with UNICEF's advocacy, multiple directives have been issued by the state focusing on continuity of nutrition services and adherence to the Information Management System (IMS) act. On 30 May, the Department of Social Welfare issued a directive to all districts outlining the required preparatory and response actions for continuity of essential nutrition services. Based on the state level training and directives, Anganwadi workers are supporting distribution of dry rations at household levels; hot cooked meals at relief camps; and are also helping in setting up child friendly spaces and breastfeeding corners.

The department has strengthened supportive supervision by ensuring daily visits by project level Child Development Project Officer (CDPOs) and sector level functionaries Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) supervisors to relief camps and affected Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). UNICEF has reached out to existing academic and CSO partners to provide technical support for the ongoing flood response programmes in respective districts. With support from Tezpur University, Assam Medical College & Hospital (AMCH) and World Vision India technical support for the continuity of nutrition interventions (including regular screening for malnutrition; micronutrient supplementation) is being provided in 12 districts. Between 20 to 24 June, partner teams visited 29 relief camps and shared insights on the status of



continuity of essential nutrition services with district authorities. Further with UNICEF's advocacy, on 21 June, the Department of Social Welfare issued a directive highlighting the importance of the IMS act and outlining possible nutritious options for food distribution to different age groups of children. The initial assessments from 24 districts undertaken by the Department of Social Welfare show that about one-fifth of the state's AWCs are affected (partially damaged/destroyed). UNICEF is working closely with the Department of Social Welfare in planning for the recovery phase, with a focus on essential nutrition interventions.

WASH

Initial estimates of the first wave of flooding indicated that 329 piped water supply schemes (PWSS), 1,271 spot sources and 4,914 individual household latrines (IHHL) were impacted as per data from the Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS) and as per the Public Health Engineering Department PHED, Government of Assam. Preliminary estimates for the second wave indicate 216 PWSS have been damaged in multiple locations, 360 spot sources and 4,326 individual household latrines impacted in respective districts. UNICEF provided technical assistance to Samagra Siksha Abhiyan for a rapid assessment of WASH facilities and services in schools in seven districts. Out of the 703 assessed schools, 465 schools were flood-affected resulting in damaged school toilets, handwashing stations, and water points being submerged. The PHED is ensuring portable drinking water and temporary toilets in camps and other locations in the 2nd wave. A total of 41 squatting pans have been provided to the flood victims in 10 relief camps under Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin.

Hygiene kits distributed in Hojai District

UNICEF deployed team provided support to DDMA's field coordination with academic institutions, technical support agencies, and CSOs to ensure hygiene promotion in camps. UNICEF has been providing continuous technical support to PHED in response to planning and monitoring of the WASH situation in relief camps and villages. UNICEF-supported state consultants and district coordinators of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and JJM (JAL JEEVAN MISSION) are supporting day-to-day coordination support to the districts. UNICEF's ongoing WASH partnership with Oxfam India



ensuring day-to-day coordination with DDMA, and PHED and engaging with volunteers, and district IAGs to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion in the most affected villages and the relief camps of Cachar and Hojai, which are currently the worst affected. Four water treatment units supported by UNICEF are running including two which are boat mounted to ensure access to portable drinking water in Silchar city in collaboration with DDMA and Oxfam India. A WASH committee was formed to support health and hygiene promotion interventions in the villages. Installation of 12 gender-segregated temporary toilets in Rajeshwarpur 2 and Mohadevpur 2 in Cachar has been completed benefiting 160 people. 20,000 water purification tablets have been distributed, covering 2,000 households. Distribution of hygiene kits and extensive hygiene promotion for the flood-affected populations has been taken up in Cachar and Hojai. An ongoing partnership with the Rural Volunteer Centre in Dhemaaji and Majuli supports 100 volunteers to disinfect water sources and conduct hygiene promotion interventions. UNICEF is in the process of finalizing another partnership with Caritas India to deliver hygiene kits, water treatment units and hygiene promotion in two more districts.

Education

More than 1,600 elementary schools have been damaged, and more than 350 schools doubled as shelters and relief camps during and after floods in the first wave of flooding (May 2022). In the second wave many more schools have been affected, while the data on the school damages is still not available according to news reports, the second wave has been more severe than the earlier one. In Dhubri district, more than 1,000 of the 2,014 schools have been damaged by the ongoing floods. In many places the schools are not inundated but the approach roads have been damaged making the schools inaccessible. UNICEF has partnered with Save the Children to support the continuity of education/learning recovery through alternate/temporary schools in collaboration with Education department in four districts, covering 100 fully damaged schools. UNICEF has also piloted a self-reporting chatbot to collect data on school damages and school days; the data will be shared with the government to propose a state-wide rollout to estimate the school days lost due to floods. UNICEF is also coordinating with SmSA (Samagra Siksha Abhiyan) to develop a comprehensive learning recovery plan at state level considering the disruption and learning loss caused by floods in 2022.

Child Protection

UNICEF is monitoring the situation with government and partners and is in touch with Child Protection institutions. District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) in the affected districts have been alerted and UNICEF is advocating for deployment of counsellors from DCPUs to monitor the situation in affected villages and relief camps. UNICEF has supported ASDMA in setting up helpline service which is operational for providing Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services to the flood affected children and their families. A total of 30 Child Friendly Space (CFS) kits have been pre-positioned in the Lakhimpur, Majuli and Dhemaji. Village Defence Party and Village Disaster Management and Land Management and Conservation Committee are also being trained at Revenue Circle level in Majuli and Dhemaji on monitoring, reporting and referral linkages of Child protection and Gender based violence during emergency. UNICEF plans to link the assessed MHPSS needs of flood affected children with appropriate services. Capacity building of the Child Protection workforce is also planned on CPIE issues in worst affected districts.

Seventeen district coordinators (DCs) were activated for relief camp assessment across 17 districts. A total of 21 relief camps were assessed between 21-22 June across 14 districts while 46 relief camps in 9 districts were covered on 23-24 June. Gaps in drinking water, toilets, access to menstrual hygiene products, lack of lighting arrangements and Child Friendly Spaces were conveyed to the District Social Welfare Officers (DSWO) and district administrations. District Coordinators also conducted awareness sessions in the relief camps highlighting the importance of protecting vulnerable children and women, referral to psychosocial support, and sensitizing families to avoiding negative coping strategies such as Child Labour and Child Marriages. Joint rapid needs assessments (JRNA) were also conducted in three districts in flooded villages with adolescent girls and women. UNICEF is working with the Indian Tea Association in Barak Valley and through them 36 Tea Estate Owners/Managers to support water tankering in affected areas. This support has been activated immediately. So far six Tea Estates have deployed their water tankers to meet drinking water needs of the affected people in Silchar.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC & RCCE)



UNICEF is working with ASDMA, District Administrations and partner organizations for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). Few of the major SBC/ RCCE interventions include:

- Deployment of district Social Behaviour Change (SBCC) coordinators (Social Mobilization network) in flood affected districts: District coordinators were oriented by the DRR team on JRNA and flood relief camps monitoring. District coordinators of affected districts are part the UNICEF teams deployed to support district administrations in flood response.
- A comprehensive IEC package (in four languages) for the flood relief camps was developed in collaboration with ASDMA incorporating relevant sectoral messages. The IEC kits for the relief camps are supplied to all districts, this has also been integrated into the relief camps monitoring checklist.
- Finalized partnership with Brahmaputra Foundation: Community radio and its network of community facilitators are reaching out to the flood affected villages/communities of three districts (Dhemaji, Majuli and Dibrugarh. Partnership started from 1st June 2022.
- Door to Door awareness campaign on flood preparedness and RCCE: 50,000 households of 6 priority districts will be reached out through the campaigns. The IEC materials for the campaign were designed and printed by UNICEF in collaboration with ASDMA. The district social mobilization network is supporting the DDMA's in planning and monitoring.

Social Policy

UNICEF is working to strengthen Gram Panchayat's role in both disaster preparedness and building disaster resilience. The Gram Panchayats (GPs) are playing a significant role in initiating response at local level in the affected districts.

Multiple rounds of training at Block level in Dhemaji and Majuli as well as at the state level with State Institute for Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD) have been conducted this year to address the role of GPs in flood preparedness and response. Since the house related damages are linked to compensation, UNICEF is working with ASDMA to create awareness among flood vulnerable communities on their rights and entitlements. Assessment of access to emergency assistance (rehabilitation assistance) and intensive awareness on rights and entitlements of flood affected households is being planned.

Safety and Security

Barak valley is currently inaccessible by road. Many districts in lower Assam have reported flood water overflowing national highways. Any movement of staff and consultants to flood affected areas will be guided by safety of route for travel.

UNICEF India: <https://www.unicef.org/india/>

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