### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Highlights

- As of 21 July, there are still 1,590 people, including 636 children, living in 53 shelters in Sylhet district. All families in Sunamganj have already left shelters. The families returning to their damaged homes and lacking access to basic services are in urgent need of multisectoral humanitarian assistance, focused on restoration of services they had before.

- Despite all the challenges induced by the devastating flood, about 94,314 people (46,030 female) received COVID-19 booster (3rd dose) with UNICEF ongoing support in vaccination.

- UNICEF provided Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling services to a total of 50,041 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and 24,083 pregnant women received folic acid.

- As of 21st July, UNICEF in partnership with NGO Friends In Village Development Bangladesh, provided lifesaving support on Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education and C4D to about 13,000 affected people (6,500 female).

- Over 1.23 million people of whom about 40 per cent are children have received one or more humanitarian assistance/services supported by UNICEF.

- The funding gap remains huge at 94 per cent. UNICEF needs US$ 45.7 million to support the affected population with immediate and medium-term interventions.

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1 District Relief and Rehabilitation Office reports, Sylhet and Sunamganj, 21 July 2022
2 North Eastern Flash Flood, May June 2022, Key Immediate Needs and Situation Analysis, Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), Bangladesh Date: 26th June 2022 (version 03)
3 Sylhet Divisional director health report, 21 July 2022
Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Overall, an estimated 7.2 million people have been severely affected following devastating flash floods which began in May 2022, with a second wave in mid-June 2022 in nine north-eastern districts of Bangladesh: Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh and Sherpur. Despite the fact that water is receding steadily, the humanitarian situation continues to be dire in the flood affected areas, particularly in Sunamganj and Sylhet districts. Thousands of homes and farmlands remain inundated.

Majority of the displaced families have returned to their homes, however, there are still 3,839 people, including 1,536 children and 58 people with disability (PwD) living in 107 shelters in Sylhet district¹. Hundreds of families are reportedly staying with their relatives and extended family members, while some others remain in common buildings. Communities living in remote sub-districts remain hard to reach due to flooding and poor road infrastructure.

Basic services are gradually returning to normal, although massive challenges remain, for example, some facilities like schools that were used as shelters require extensive cleaning and repair works. In the WASH sector, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has estimated that some 106,727 water points and 283,355 sanitation facilities have been immensely damaged and needs restoration or reconstruction. Meanwhile, the risk of Acute Watery Diarrhoea outbreaks, skin and respiratory diseases continue to be high. As of 21 July, 16,469 cases of waterborne diseases and other ailments have been reported and 73 people died including 33 children in Sylhet division³.

Immediate needs and UNICEF support

Health

UNICEF through its partner, Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), provided referral support to high-risk pregnant mothers as well as consultation and basic medicines through mobile medical camps. To date, four high risk pregnant mothers received referral support for safe delivery in health facilities. Through special vaccination sessions, 538 children (238 girls) in shelters, who missed routine immunization, were vaccinated. Civil Surgeon of Sylhet and Superintendent of District Hospital of Sunamganj requested additional support for medicines such as antibiotics, analgesics, etc, as cases of waterborne disease continue to be reported.

Nutrition

To date, 139 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were admitted in the SAM unit of Upazila health complexes for treatment. A total of 50,041 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) benefitted from Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling services and 24,083 pregnant women received folic acid.

The procurement of additional 28 nutrition kits and water purifier is under process for 28 SAM unit. 57 carton F-75 and 32 Carton F-100 have been delivered to Civil surgeon office reserve stores in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Habiganj and about 684 children can be reached. Under the contingency partnership with FIVDB, UNICEF supported 77 pregnant mothers to receive nutrition counselling on importance of breastfeeding, IYCF and Breastmilk substitute Act 2013.
UNICEF and partners conducted chlorination of 46 waterpoints, a precautionary measure to restore services of facilities that were inundated, continued water trucking in five sub-districts and one city corporation and reached 6,257 displaced people (3,050 women) with 522 hygiene kits, including water purification tablets. 34 water points have also been repaired at household and community levels, benefiting 2,337 people (1,168 women). To date, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) served 121,889 affected people (60,944 women) through distribution of 2,669 Hygiene Kits and 23,844 jerry cans received from UNICEF. As people started going back to their locations, more restoration work is being planned by UNICEF and DPHE for damaged water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Education

In Sunamganj district, 221 UNICEF supported Learning Centres (LCs) were inundated, of which nearly seven per cent were completely damaged. 673,000 children have been affected by the flood based on the rapid assessment by UNICEF partner, Jagorani Chakra Foundation. Also, all schools have been re-opened after the Eid vacation, starting from 18th July 2022. However, a large number of schools needs cleaning and renovation to restore teaching- learning activities. Lack of funds is critical. Financial support has not been provided to government schools to support repairs and replenishment of leaning materials. All 285 UNICEF supported Learning Centres have been re-opened in Sunamganj district, out of which 239 LCs are being held in alternative places.

Child Protection

As of 17th July, 35,197 vulnerable adolescents and family members, including 19,066 females and 392 people with disability (PWD), have been reached with mental health and psychosocial support through social workers as part of case management intervention.

UNICEF, the Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) and the Department of Social Service (DSS) reached 341 children, adolescent, women and men through sessions and brochures on Avoiding Family Separation in Emergencies.

As of 20th of July, more than 1,400 calls were received through Child Help Line (CHL) 1098. UNICEF is mobilizing 94 recreational kits for children and adolescents’ clubs in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Habiganj districts through the DWA, which are expected to arrive by next week. UNICEF also participated in Divisional Coordination Meeting organized by DSS, where 26 government stakeholders from Sylhet division have attended and discussed about child protection issues and response in flood affected districts. As of 21st July, UNICEF upscaled awareness messages on drowning prevention, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and disaster, reaching 28,551 people (18,852 female, 221 PWD).
Social and Behavioural Change (SBC)

With UNICEF support, 470,000 people (190,000 women) have been reached through awareness raising interventions on emergency protection and lifesaving sectoral messages through 150 courtyard sessions, one to one counselling sessions and community dialogue by the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Consortium and contingency PD partners in Sylhet region. In addition, UNICEF supported the District Information Offices to disseminate emergency messages to prevent drowning of children and snakebites in Sunamganj and Sylhet, reaching 300,000 people (140,000 women). UNICEF partner, Bangladesh Betar Sylhet Regional Radio Station is also continuously broadcasting emergency flood protection and lifesaving messages, reaching an average of 500,000 people throughout the Division.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF Sylhet Field Office continued monitoring the situation of flood affected children and families and provided lifesaving support. To make our response effective and efficient, UNICEF is coordinating the humanitarian support with Upazila and district administration to avoid overlaps. For better coordination at local level, WASH cluster has been activated and will hold bi-weekly meetings under the leadership of DPHE and UNICEF. 4Ws matrix was introduced, and the gaps and priority actions were identified. On 21 July, Child Protection cluster coordination meeting was conducted involving the national and sub-national cluster members. A range of issues, challenges and protection risks, such as drowning, family separation, snake bite, child labour and future actions have been discussed.

Funding situation

With only six per cent of funding requirement received, critical funding gaps across all sectors restricted UNICEF’s ability to meet priority needs of girls, women and people with disabilities. Flexible donor funding is critical to provide essential support to flood affected communities in the northeast of Bangladesh. UNICEF urgently requires US$18M to address immediate needs and US$27 million to cover medium term interventions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Humanitarian resources received in 2022</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>204,228</td>
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<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<td>C4D and cross-sectoral</td>
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<td>Humanitarian coordination</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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