



Relief Support for Flood and Cyclone Affected Population in Need in South-East Bangladesh (RESPONSE) Project

Context and Background of the Project:

Heavy rainfall befell Bangladesh in the last week of June 2015, causing landslides and flash flooding.

29 Upazilas (sub-districts) of the South-Eastern districts of Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and Chittagong were the worst affected areas as identified by the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) - a Joint Needs Assessment revealed that a total of over 1.8 million people were adversely impacted.

Incessant rainfalls in turn resulted in a depression in the North Bay of Bengal and transformed in to a Cyclonic Storm 'Komen' on 30 July 2015, affecting 15 districts situated in the low-lying areas of the coastal belt, offshore islands, and chars. 'Komen' led to further heavy to very heavy rainfall across the entire country, and caused inundation in many areas of Southeast Bangladesh, including those which were affected by the initial phase of heavy rainfall. Consequently the lives and livelihoods of a large cross section of people from these areas were severely impacted – JNA and a post-cyclone rapid impact assessment conducted in the most affected districts revealed that the total number of people affected by flash floods and 'Komen' stood at 2.6 million in Southern Bangladesh!

The assessments identified Food Security/Supply, Livelihoods, WASH, and Shelter as the immediate needs of the affected people. Humanitarian actors came together to incorporate these needs in to a Joint Response Plan (JRP) aimed at addressing the immediate and emerging adversities facing the most vulnerable and affected

Flood affected upazilas of SE Bangladesh, June-July 2015



communities. The response plan was also endorsed by the key stakeholders including government and donor organizations.

Based on the JRP the **National Alliance for Risk Reduction and Response Initiatives (NARRI)** consortium undertook a response project in the most affected areas. NARRI responded to the immediate needs of affected communities by providing unconditional cash grants as assistance. CARE Bangladesh led the consortium with Oxfam, Concern Worldwide (CWW), Concern Universal (CU) and Plan International as consortium members, while Handicap International served as technical partner.

Funded By:

Department for International Development (DFID)

Project Period:

15 September 2015 – 14 January 2016

Total Grant:

£. 2.3 million.

Beneficiaries:

21,803 HHs; 108,127 persons

Intervention	Value	Duration
Multi Sector Unconditional Cash Grant (UCG)	Tk. 3,000/ month/HH Total: 9,000 BDT/HH	4 months



Project Targets:

Activity: Multi Sector Unconditional Cash Grant (UCG) with the package of BDT 3,000/HH/month for 03 months (Total: BDT 9,000 /HH) to 21,803 HH

Output: Flood and cyclone-affected HHs (21,803) in seven upazilas in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts have received unconditional cash grant support to meet their immediate basic needs

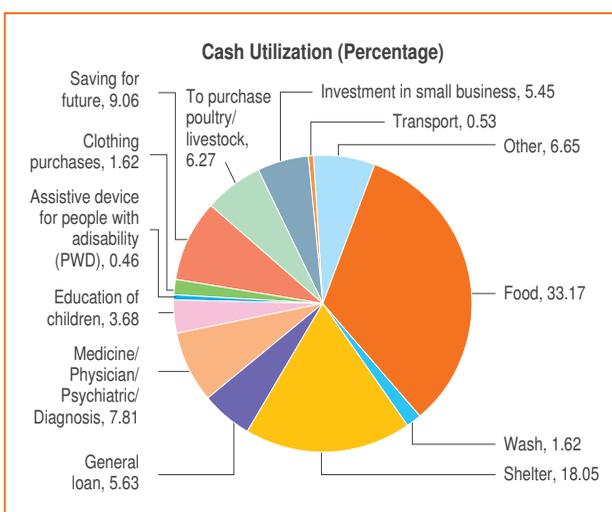
Outcome: Food and cyclone-affected HHs in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts are able to meet their immediate basic needs during the period of September 2015 to January 2016

Impact: To meet the immediate lifesaving needs and reduce vulnerabilities of flood and cyclone-affected HHs in South-East Bangladesh.

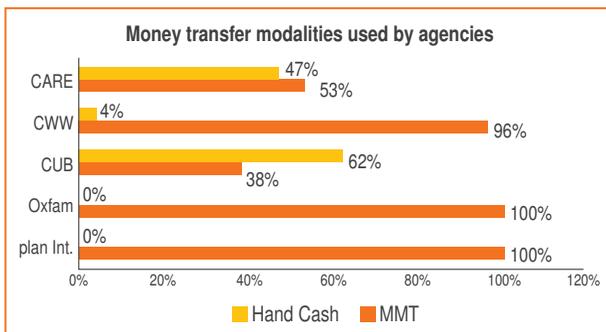
Project Achievements:

Indicators	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Impact Indicator: % of target population do not use negative coping mechanisms through improved access to basic immediate needs	50%	98.7 %	The comparison between baseline and PDM data shows that the ability of beneficiaries having 3 meals a day has been increased by 44%
Outcome Indicator: # of HHs in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts have received support to meet their immediate basic needs during the period of September'15 to January 2016	21,803 HHs	21,803 HHs	Beneficiaries: 21,803 Female: 19,142(88%), Male: 2,661(12%) Population: 108,127 Female: 55,517 (51.34%), Male: 52,610 (48.66%)
Output Indicator 1.1: # of HHs in 7 Upazillas (sub district) have received 3 monthly installments of unconditional cash grant of BDT 3,000 per HH, i.e. total of BDT 9,000 per HH	21,803 HHs	21,803 HHs	Due to the delay of the NGO AB approval, distributions in 8 out of 24 unions were done in a single installment; in rest of the 16 unions, funds were distributed in 3 installments
Output Indicator 1.2: % of the targeted beneficiaries selected based on their extreme vulnerability due to disability	10% of target HHs	10.30% target HHs	2,247 HHs. Female: 1,828(81%) and Male: 419 (19%)
Additional: All PWD beneficiaries have received additional cash grant of BDT 2,800 in a single installment	0 HH	2,247 HHs	This was additional support provided using the exchange gain and the savings from operational cost

All beneficiaries used the cash grant provided to meet basic immediate needs as well as towards the betterment of their livelihood situation. The chart shows that a significant portion of the grant was used for access to immediate needs including Food, Shelter, WASH, Education, coupled with spending for livelihood options for the future - for instance investments in small business, purchasing poultry or livestock and savings for the future.



The consortium had three options to consider for transferring cash grants - Banking, Mobile Money Transfer (MMT) and hand cash delivery. Based on suitability, Mobile Money Transfer (MMT) was used for 70% beneficiaries while hand cash delivery for 30% beneficiaries.



Key Lessons:

- More advocacy work with NGO AB is needed to make the approval process smoother and less time consuming. Simultaneously, INGOs need to reflect on what mechanisms can be adopted to get the FD6/FC1 approved swiftly and seamlessly;
- In case of CHT the consortium needed to involve the Regional and District Coordination bodies during the design stage and also select a partner well acquainted with and connected to the relevant committees;
- Diversified options for lodging complaints enables the community to share their issues more comfortably;
- Proper orientation for the project teams as well as community on CRM is an essential part of emergency response, especially for cash based interventions – and also to ensure understanding and implementation of such grants (conditional and unconditional);
- In depth analysis of opportunities and threats is critical towards improved decision making on selecting cash transfer modalities;
- The SIM registration process as well as the mobile account opening process needs to be simpler and less paper work - use of modern technologies may help to reduce hassle in this regard;
- Also, negotiation with mobile operators is needed to improve network condition in remote and rural areas where emergency operations usually need to be undertaken;
- Financial institutions needs to increase their outreach in to the last mile, so that such cash transfer operations can take place at the locations closer to people's homes and communities, in addition to Union Councils;
- Furthermore, increasing distribution centers by splitting catchment areas and targeting beneficiaries enables quality monitoring and helps manage operational challenges.



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