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Ref: GUS/ Flood Kurigram /2020

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# GUS FLOOD SITUATION REPORT

Name of Disaster: Heavy rainfall and rapid onrush of water triggered massive inundation in Char-Rajibpur Upazilla Kurigram District Northeast part of Bangladesh.

Time of Reporting: June, 29-2020.

Contribution: GUS Staff and other actors.

Information Source: DRM-Kurigram and MoDMR website, UZMC, UDMC, reports, electronic and print news sources.

Report Compilation: Garib Unnayan Sangstha (GUS) Char- Rajibpur, Kurigram, Bangladesh.

### Context:

Kurigram District is located in the Northeast region of Bangladesh along the border territory of India. The population is 2,069,273 (2011 national population census). This District is surrounded by Cooch Behar District of India in the North, Gaibandha District in the South, Assam state of India in the East and, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur Districts in the west. Weather of the Kurigram District is a bit during summer temperature is higher and during winter is lower than middle or southern part of Bangladesh. The average maximum temperature is about 32-33 degree Celsius when average minimum temperature is about 9-10 degrees. Heavy rainfall is usually observed during the rainy season like other parts of Bangladesh and the average annual rainfall is about 3000 mm. Several rivers are flowing through the heart of this District. The major rivers are Brahmaputra, Jinjiram, sonavori, Holholia, Gangadhar, Dharla, Tista with minors are Dudhkumar, Phulkumar, and etc.

Most parts of Bangladesh are less than 12m (39.4ft) above river level. As a result, from the beginning of the monsoon (which normally lasts from June to September), 92% of perennial wetlands located in the basins are annually inundated with water, as the rivers flow into the wetlands. Embankments have been constructed throughout the country, which both helps and hinders the situation. While they provide a safe haven for flood affected households, the lack of sluice gates (or intentional blockage of sluice gates for fish farming) means that flood waters cannot escape the low lying areas, resulting in water-logging. Torrential rain starting from mid June 2020 resulted in floods and landslides, claiming lives and causing the destruction of homesteads and significantly affected major parts of Kurigram District.

The economic loss of this flood is still unknown but it is reported that people have lost their vegetables garden, pond fishes and Jute, paddy due to this flood. It is estimated about 30,000 hectares paddy land has been inundated and thus caused extensive economic loss. On the other hand it is estimated that more than 500,000 houses are fully and partially affected by the flood. Experience tells that without

external assistance or other essential support deliverables, people may not be able to restore their normal livelihoods. Presently, people are completely unemployed and already have utilised their savings over the last 10 days' and thus it may led negative coping mechanism for their survival. Already people are selling their domestic livestock due to shortage of fodder no safety places to retain them the incidence of burglary has increased and to maintain their daily household needs even selling these at 40 to 50% less prices.

GUS Staff and other development actors are working in close collaboration with the Upazilla and District administration and coordinate service deliverables to avoid duplication and overlapping. Most Development actors stood by affected community and helped them to give information about flooding situation, flood shelters availability, Early Warning System (EWS) Govt. response to relief, attending Upazilla and District level coordination meetings with the Government offices.

So far Govt. Have allocated 302 tonnes of rice and Tk 30 lakh 50 thousand were allocated to the affected Upazila. It is very little, (as on 29-06-2020) but this is very inadequate for the affected people to meet their needs. So far, the respective Minister and Secretary from the MODMR and DDM have visited the areas and directed administration to extend support as much as possible in a transparent manner. However, these relief efforts are absolutely inadequate and affected people need more allocation and assistance.

According to DRR-Kurigram and as on 29 June,2020 water level in rivers are stated below

| Sl# | Name of the Rivers | Present Water Level                          |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 01  | Brahmaputra        | At Chilmari point<br>66 cm over danger level |
| 02  | Dharla             | 65 cm over danger level                      |
| 03  | Dudhkumar          | 54 cm over danger level                      |
| 04  | Tista              | 35 cm below danger level                     |

#### **Impacted on the community:**

According to DRR, Kurigram estimation till 29 June, 2020.

- Over 380,000 people are affected in Kurigram Districts of Bangladesh by flooding
- 92,000 peoples are living in 182 flood shelters
- 1 people died
- all educational institutions are affected
- 339,000 houses damaged affected
- Estimated 120,000 hectors of cultivated land affected
- Over 40,000 Tube wells affected
- More than 82,000 Peoples living in shelters
- Number of flood shelters opened 186

- More than 1300 km rural roads affected

### **Community needs:**

1. Dry food for marooned people and in shelter centre.
2. Cooking Arrangement for floating people who are continuously moving
3. Fodder and safe shelter for cattle
4. ORS, Water purifying tablets, Repellent for skin diseases as more than two third water sources have been impacted and contaminated due to flood.
5. Sanitation facilities as almost all latrines are affected and then contaminating the surface water
6. Safe temporary Shelter
7. Emergency Medical facilities as much as more team required
8. Dignity items tailored to the needs of women and adolescent girls, including female personal hygiene products

### **Current Supports**

The Govt. has allocated very little.

### **NGOs:**

- INGOs have communicated with potential partners to coping the present crisis.
- No remarkable deliverables yet channeled to beneficiaries with some exception
- It is assumed that response will be triggered soon.

### **Priority Areas of Action**

- ❖ More Relief and food support
- ❖ Cash Grant
- ❖ Ensure sufficient supply of fodder for livestock
- ❖ Allocate more VGF cards
- ❖ Increase fare rice and OMS (rice)
- ❖ Cease wetland lease for alternative livelihoods
- ❖ Ensure other alternative livelihood options
- ❖ Provide health and nutrition services
- ❖ Immediate support for Education in Emergencies
- ❖ Take GO/NGO initiative to improve water quality
- ❖ Construct or reconstruct damaged or partially damaged houses
- ❖ Construct rural road and growth centers

- ❖ Announcement from Govt. Inviting all willing sectors to be involved in relief work to speed it up.
- ❖ Consider special intervention considering inclusion; women, adolescent girls, PWD, elderly.
- ❖ Crop insurance would have provided some form of security
- ❖ Initiative for crops diversification
- ❖ Engagement of Private Sector in Char Development
- ❖ Comprehensive Data and Rigorous Research
- ❖ Multi-sectoral development initiatives
- ❖ Coordination among Government Agencies
- ❖ Rectifying the working process of WDB

# The Garib Unnayan Sangstha (GUS)(works with the Helpless to overcome poverty and sorrow.

*Attached*

*Pictures of the flood*

*Various newsletters:*

**KURIGRAM**

*Flood Kurigram 27-06-2020 Picture Collection Garib Unnayan Sangstha GUS Rajibpur Kurigram Bangladesh.*

