

Friendship Flood Response 2016 Report

Date: 21st August 2016

Flood situation:

In Bangladesh, an estimated 3.7 million people in 19 districts have been affected by the recent floods which began in mid-July. More than 250,000 houses are reported damaged. Around 110 deaths have been reported.



Flood affected Gaibandha and Kurigram districts Photo: DMID sector Friendship

Of the total number of people affected by the latest floods, around 2 million lives in Jamalpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha - Bangladesh's poorest districts, where around a third of the population falls below the poverty line. These northern areas were also hit by severe flooding in September 2014.

The water has now started receding but experts cautioned about different post flood crisis like water borne diseases, food insecurity, water scarcity, lack of sanitation facilities, and environmental hazards.

Friendship's response:

“In giving relief, we must beware that we do not take away their self-respect and dignity. Then we take more than what we give.”

– Runa Khan, Founder and Executive Director, Friendship



Distributing food relief in Naiar Char, Chilmari



Emergency Medical Camp in Kalasona Char, Fulchari

- **Rescue:** Friendship made available 5 boats for rescue services
- **Shelter:** Arranged shelter for 1,287 people and 1,278 cattle in Friendship schools and raised plinths

- **Water Sanitation:** installed water sanitation facilities in 25 locations where people took shelter
- **Medical support:** provided medical services to 9,056 people through 83 emergency medical camps in Gaibandha, Kurigram, Bogra, Jamalpur and Sirajgonj
- **Cattle vaccination:** vaccinated 122 cattle in collaboration with government
- **Staff and Volunteers services:** 100 community volunteers and at least 500 staff are involved
- **Food relief:** The 1st phase relief distribution for 10,757 families in 50 chars are in progress with a target to support over 20,000 families. The food relief contains 5 days' food for a family of five people which includes 8 kg rice, 1 kg dal (pulse), 2 kg potato, ½ kg shuji (Semolina), 1 kg sugar, 1 liter oil, 5 packs oral saline, 1 kg salt and a hygiene pack (containing soap, toothpaste, petroleum jelly and detergent powder)

We would like to thank all our donors for their generous contributions.



From procurement to management and distribution of flood relief to 10,757 families

Stories:

Story of Omisa

“It is too difficult for me to stay here while all my school friends are scattered. I cannot even continue my schooling with my friends and beloved teachers. I am really upset that I could not say bye to my teachers when we left the char. This makes me even more sad than staying away from my home”, says Omisa, a student of class Three in Friendship School in Roydashbari. She had to leave home all of a sudden due to severe flooding and took shelter in an open field of a rural market named Kunderpara along with her family.



Story and Photo: Education sector, Friendship

Friendship supported government's relief initiative

In Bandebar union, the local government has engaged Friendship volunteers to assist the government's relief distribution, while the Minister of Disaster Management and Relief Mr. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury (Maya) Bir Bikram, MP and the Director General of the Department of Disaster Management Md. Reaz Ahmed visited Rowmari area in Kurigram district for observation of relief operation.

Report and Photo: DMID sector Friendship



Friendship trained rural young men and women for disaster response

Friendship has trained 100 youth volunteers, both men and women, from the remote communities who are now working together to help their own community to raise awareness through health messages, call for cattle vaccination camp etc. In remote Rowmari were young women are still perceived to be conservative, are now coming forward and volunteering to stand beside others to support and restore.

Story and Photo: DMID sector, Friendship



Story of a land donor

One of the influential community members who once donated his land to Friendship to build a plinth for the community to support future disaster victims, never thought there may be a day when his own house will be drowned under water. Today he himself took shelter in that plinth. Today he is thankful to Friendship with different realization for building that plinth.

Photo: DMID sector, Friendship



Technical skill for water option maintenance

As part of Friendship's disaster preparedness programme, people from the community were given simple technical knowhow on how to fix a tube well and sanitary latrine and were also provided with basic tools which now coming in handy. The community people themselves are now fixing the tube well, while its out of order, resulted making water available in emergency situation.

Story and Photo: DMID sector, Friendship



Mobility

'Give us a boat to go to the shore', water logged people urged to the Friendship team when they were visiting by boat to observe the flood situation in the pocket areas of Kurigram district. Only a rescue boat could help those people get out of that miserable situation and get connected with mainland community. Many had family members in distant location who could provide support. However, they were unable to move from one place to the other due to flood water. By giving them a solution for their mobility Friendship helped them get connected with others.

Photo: DMID sector, Friendship



Plinth, a shelter solution for the community

Friendship plinth is a raised oval-shaped land which gives shelter to 30 families and their cattle during the time of disaster. When the poor flood affected people primarily struggle to find shelter for themselves, often they have to leave their valuable cattle behind and incur a great loss. Friendship's plinth has been a great support to the community during this flood.

Story and Photo: DMID sector, Friendship



For more information, visit: www.friendship-bd.org