

BANGLADESH
RAPID RESPONSE
ANTICIPATORY ACTION PILOT
FLOOD
2020

20-RR-BGD-44022

Mia Seppo

Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator

PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

Reporting Process and Consultation Summary:

Please indicate when the After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated.

27 October 2020

The AAR was conducted on 27 October 2020. CERF Focal Points for concerned Agencies, Senior Management and Programme staff participated to the review.

Please confirm that the report on the use of CERF funds was discussed with the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team (HCT/UNCT).

Yes No

The report on the use of CERF funds has not been discussed with the UNCT. However, the report was discussed between the 3 recipient agencies.

Please confirm that the final version of this report was shared for review with in-country stakeholders (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?

Yes No

The report on the use of CERF funds will be discussed with the humanitarian community once finalized.

1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator:

The CERF Allocation provided life-saving assistance to 321,715 persons (39% women, 34% men, 13% boys and 13% girls) including 5,355 persons with disabilities. Of this, 220,750 persons were reached through anticipatory action (38% women, 32% men, 15% boys and 15% girls). In addition to this collective achievement, the allocation contributed to raise awareness on the added-value of Anticipatory Action (AA) and to provide avenues for collective efforts in that regard. Moreover, the process of preparing for the implementation of the AA pilot as well as its implementation helped building national capacities for such approach. The learning associated with the pilot helped to identify areas for increased effectiveness and efficiency in the future. That concerns notably the need for localized trigger systems and enhanced preparatory work for future AA interventions. Bangladesh intends to scale up the approach in 2021 with strong government involvement and with additional partners.

CERF's Added Value:

CERF funds led to a relatively fast delivery of assistance to people in need and it helped to respond to time-critical needs mostly due to the pre-identification of targeted beneficiaries. However, given COVID-19 restrictions and the pilot nature of the CERF allocation and of its implementation, scope for optimization of the reach and of the impact of Anticipatory Action was identified (e.g. increased level of preparedness for implementation of anticipatory action; promotion of a community driven approach for the triggering of anticipatory actions; closer collaboration with the national and local authorities). The allocation improved the coordination amongst the humanitarian community notably with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)-led working group on Forecast-based Financing. The support of OCHA at headquarter and regional levels was instrumental in the success of the pilot. A strong engagement has been built with the agencies and NGOs interested in moving forward on AA. However, there is scope for improvement of coordination at both national and local levels (e.g. integration of the assistance between concerned Agencies, coordination between humanitarian and development stakeholders for streamlining AA-related processes and for the provision of more comprehensive package of assistance; increased dialogue with local authorities and communities notably for the selection of beneficiaries). Collaboration with partner NGOs was particularly good and the feedback from the beneficiaries was strongly positive. The CERF pilot allocation did not help to improve resource mobilization for AA in 2020. Moreover, the Monsoon Floods HRP was only 30% funded as of January 2021. However, the Qatar Fund for Development informed in October 2020 its intention to support AA in Bangladesh in 2021 for a total value of US\$ 600,000.

Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to people in need?

Yes

Partially

No

Did CERF funds help respond to time-critical needs?

Yes

Partially

No

Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

Yes

Partially

No

Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

Yes

Partially

No

Considerations of the ERC's Underfunded Priority Areas¹

The CERF allocation helped address all of the four chronically underfunded humanitarian priority areas at various levels. Mostly it helped to address support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment and other aspects of protection. In addition to the prioritized project focusing on gender-based violence and reproductive health, the Food Security Project and the Multipurpose Cash assistance contributed to supporting women and girls. While there was no specific project targeting specifically people with disabilities, all projects reached people with disabilities. Other aspects of protection were also considered notably for what concerns highly vulnerable transgender persons. Moreover, toll-free hotline numbers were circulated for affected populations to voice any concerns they face, with their confidentiality ensured throughout. In terms of Education, while the context of this CERF allocation did not concern a protracted crisis, Education was promoted at agency and partners' level and/or at beneficiary level. For instance, M&E reveals that girls who received hygiene kits were more likely to continue attending school. Furthermore, staff briefings were provided on protection related issues and protocols to ensure that women and children specifically were not placed in any jeopardy. Project partners were also given AAP and PSEA orientations prior to any engagement with project beneficiaries. Moreover, to ensure that adolescent girls were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their menstruation, flashcards with lifesaving information on accessing GBV-related and PSS services, managing their menstruation were provided to them. The pilot nature of the allocation associated with limited implementation period did not allow advancing significantly on these areas through the CERF allocation. However, all identified opportunities were pursued.

Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)

Total amount required for the humanitarian response	5,189,062
CERF	5,189,062
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable)	0
Other (bilateral/multilateral)	0
Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)	5,189,062

Table 2: CERF Emergency Funding by Project and Sector/Cluster (US\$)

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
FAO	20-RR-FAO-023	Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)	500,000
UNFPA	20-RR-FPA-027	Protection - Sexual and/or Gender-Based Violence	425,890
UNFPA	20-RR-FPA-027	Health - Health	13,172
WFP	20-RR-WFP-034	Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific) - Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific)	4,250,000
Total			5,189,062

¹ In January 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration and visibility when funding is allocated to humanitarian action. The ERC therefore recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and HCTs/UNCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. These areas are: (1) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (2) programmes targeting disabled people; (3) education in protracted crises; and (4) other aspects of protection. While CERF remains needs based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas..

Table 3: Breakdown of CERF Funds by Type of Implementation Modality (US\$)

Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods	4,514,423
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	12,646
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	191,390
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	109,449
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	361,154
Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*	674,639
Total	5,189,062

* Figures reported in table 3 are based on the project reports (part II, sections 1) and should be consistent with the sub-grants overview in the annex.

2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIZATION:

Overview of the Humanitarian Situation:

Bangladesh is one of the 10 most disaster-affected countries in the world and is highly exposed to severe monsoon flooding. Since the beginning of the millennium, more than 112 million people have been affected by climate-related events. In an 'average' year, about a quarter the country is inundated during the monsoon; every four to five years severe floods may cover two-thirds of Bangladesh. Intense floods surpass the ability of communities to cope, leading to deaths and the destruction of key infrastructure, livelihoods and homes, creating widespread humanitarian needs with longer-term development consequences. Bangladesh has received over \$110 million in CERF allocations since 2006 for traditional humanitarian responses. There is significant expertise and experience related to early warning and anticipatory action at Government level and within the humanitarian community.

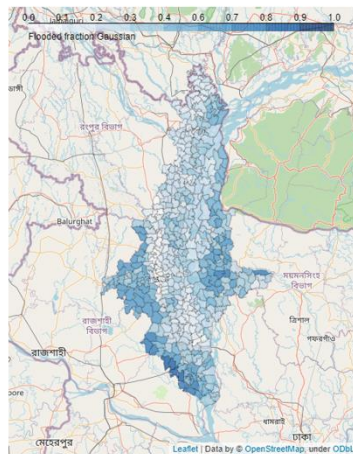
According to the HCTT Monsoon Flood's monitoring dashboards, the 2020 floods had some remarkable characteristics in comparison with major floods in the recent past. It started earlier than usual (late June), and it lasted more 60 days in some areas. The Jamuna river flowed 17 cm above the 2019 water level record set in 1988 according to Floods Forecasting Warning Centre (FFWC). According to the government, one million households were waterlogged. The disruption of services hindered meeting basic needs and, people suffered from hunger, illness, thirst and filthiness. 5.5 million people were affected with peak levels on 4 August. Among them, 211,859 families were displaced, and 94,414 people were evacuated in 1,525 shelters. 928,60 tube-wells and 100,223 latrines were damaged 83,000 hectares of paddy fields were affected. 257 people lost their lives due to the floods. The HCTT launched a Monsoon Flood Humanitarian Response Plan on 4 August 2020, requesting \$40 million to help 1.1 million people. As of 30 November, \$12.2 million were received to allow 651,000 people to receive aid. For reference, the 2019 flood affected over 7.6 million people, and damaged nearly 550,000 homes.

Estimating 2020 flood evolution in Bangladesh

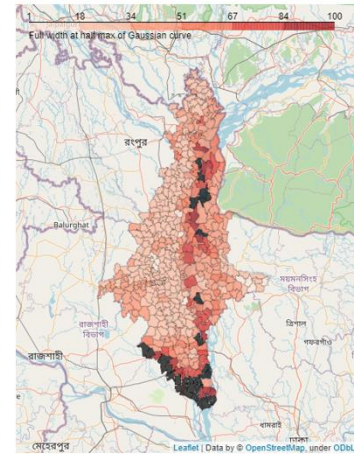
Timing



Magnitude



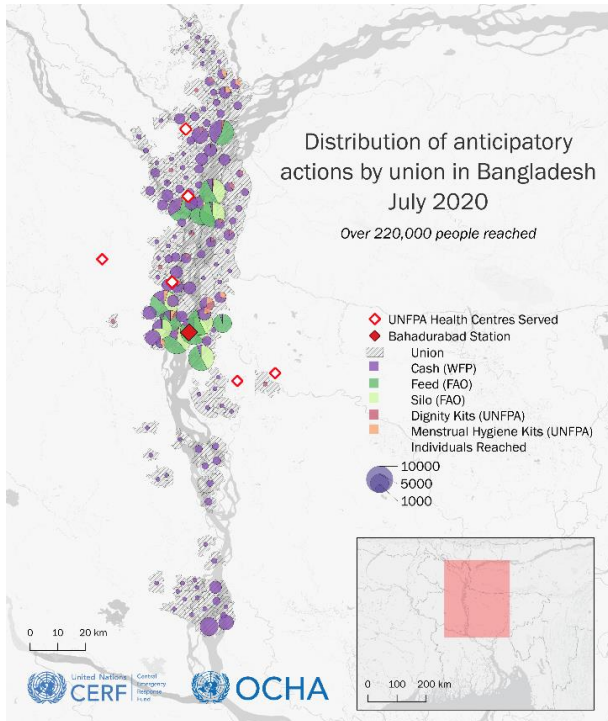
Duration



Anticipatory Action Pilot:

Approximately 80% of yearly rainfall in Bangladesh occurs during the monsoon season between June and October. Floods usually occur during March to September with peaks between June and September. In some years monsoon flooding in Bangladesh is intense and exceeds the capacity of communities to manage, leading to losses and the damage of key infrastructure, livelihoods and homes. It is often possible to predict severe monsoon flooding events and a targeted anticipatory approach² can lead to a more timely, effective, efficient solution to respond to and ultimately lessen humanitarian needs.

In late June 2020, the Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh pre-approved and endorsed an [anticipatory action framework](#) to scale up more effective, timely and dignified humanitarian assistance ahead of peak monsoon flooding. Building on existing structures and experiences by the IFRC, WFP and the Government of Bangladesh, the framework was set up in two months. It combines a 10-day lead-time probabilistic with a 5-day lead-time deterministic flood forecast. Thus, a trigger is issued at least 10 days before flooding peaks and may be confirmed 5 days before flooding peaks. The first acts as a “readiness trigger”, while the second acts as an “activation trigger”.



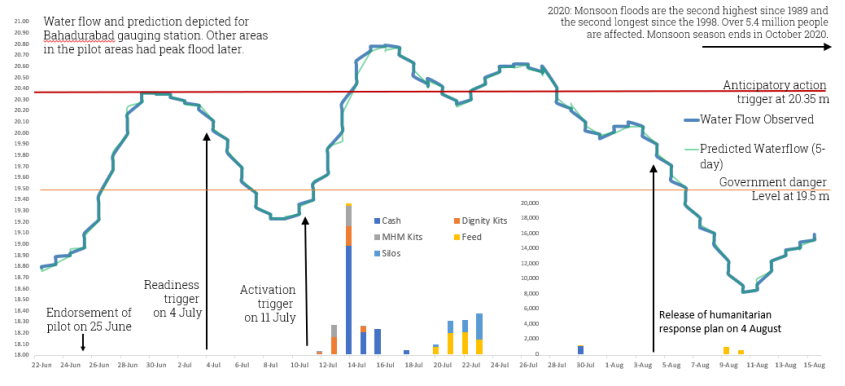
probabilistic with a 5-day lead-time deterministic flood forecast. Thus, a trigger is issued at least 10 days before flooding peaks and may be confirmed 5 days before flooding peaks. The first acts as a “readiness trigger”, while the second acts as an “activation trigger”.

In early July, the framework was triggered, enabling agencies to deliver humanitarian assistance to more than 220,000 people before the peak floods hit. With projects, funding mechanisms and triggers having been pre-agreed, CERF was able to launch what became the fund’s fastest-ever allocation of \$5.2 million. Once the trigger was reached, within 4 hours on 4 July 2020 the funds were allocated, allowing agencies to start delivering assistance. With some \$2.8 million from the allocation, some 23,000 families received multi-purpose, unconditional cash, 7,000 families received water-tight dry storage drums, some 12,000 farmer families received animal feed. In addition, some 15,000 women, girls and transgender people received dignity and hygiene kits, and benefited from prepositioned health, safe birth and rape management kits.

Documenting the impact, lessons and evidence from the Bangladesh pilot has been a key component of the pilot. Similar to other OCHA-facilitated pilots, there are three “buckets” of learning: First, learning from the process of setting up anticipatory action frameworks. Second, learning from agency-specific monitoring and evaluations of the anticipatory projects. Third, independent evaluations of each activated pilot. OCHA works closely with other actors in the anticipatory action community to share lessons and evidence on anticipatory action.

On the first bucket, an independent process learning review by the Centre for Disaster Protection has been [completed](#). It confirmed that

Timeline



² Anticipatory action: A set of actions taken to prevent or mitigate potential disaster impacts before a shock or before acute impacts are felt. The actions are carried out in anticipation of a hazard impact and based on a prediction of how the event will unfold. Anticipatory actions should not be a substitute for longer-term investment in risk reduction and should aim to strengthen people’s capacity to manage risks. (World Disaster Report, 2020)

“through effective coordination and encouragement, even with a very short turnaround, partners took a major step in scaling up anticipatory action with CERF support, demonstrating what it takes and the potential human impact”. The review also confirmed that the pilot demonstrated “the feasibility of scaling up anticipatory action with CERF funding”. According to the review, the anticipatory action pilot in Bangladesh demonstrates what can be achieved by building on previous experience, country-based systems, and expertise.

And while the final analysis for the other buckets is still ongoing (to be completed Q1 in 2021), some key benefits have emerged:

1. Anticipatory action was faster than regular rapid response, with agencies being able to implement before the peak floods.
2. The anticipatory response is more cost-efficient compared to CERF rapid responses in previous years, due to:
 - More people reached at half the cost. We compare the [2017](#) and [2019](#) CERF rapid response to monsoon floods to the 2020 CERF anticipatory action to monsoon floods.

Overview	CERF \$	People reached	Cost per person reached
2017	2.4 million	105,000	\$23
2019	5.2 million	200,000	\$26
2020 (AA only)	2.8 million	220,000	\$13
2020 (AA + RR)	5.2 million	292,500	\$18

Please note that in 2020, \$2.4 million from the initial CERF grant of \$5.2 million was reprogrammed for a rapid response. This was channelled through unconditional cash to some 30,500 households (of which about 14,500 were new households, or an additional 72,500 people).

- Agency-specific cost-savings. This is a different metric from above. UN agencies receiving CERF grants budgeted against their known emergency costs, i.e. applying humanitarian response budgets. However, given that agencies were able to procure ahead of peak needs, prices were lower, and the transport of relief items was cheaper, given access to remote, flooded places was not yet an overwhelming issue. These savings were primarily achieved by agencies which distributed relief items directly to beneficiaries. UNFPA for instance saved 12% from their overall budget due to these gains (roughly \$51,000 out of \$440,000). FAO could increase their reach by about 10% to a total of about 18,800 people due to unspent funds.
 - Impact of anticipatory action: see below on the independent evaluation. Final results expected in Q1 2021.
3. Anticipatory action was more dignified: Beneficiaries received support ahead of the peak of the floods, empowering them to be prepared and face the crisis on their own terms. There were concrete spill-over effects and productive assets were spared. For example, women and girls who received dignity or hygiene kits were more likely to access health care and continue their education.
 4. Anticipatory action has improved the quality of programming: Planning ahead allowed agencies better to take into account aspects such as gender. UNFPA, for example, for the first time specifically designed dignity kits for the transgender community in Bangladesh.

Results from agency-specific monitoring and evaluation activities are currently being collected and a final report is expected in early 2021. Preliminary findings show a high satisfaction rate by beneficiaries and appreciation for timeliness of the assistance. Quality of life and financial health of recipient families are better compared to other groups. The quality of the assistance provided was higher overall (effective targeting of those most in need, women and men equally supported). In addition, spill-over effects of anticipatory action become more evident.

The results from the independent evaluation is ongoing and includes three additional elements: an impact evaluation through household surveys, a beneficiary assessment, and a review of the forecasts and triggers.

Initial results from the household survey (impact evaluation) are promising, showing robust results of how the anticipatory actions improved child food consumption and life satisfaction. Asset loss appears to have been robustly mitigated through the cash transfers, along with the

level of borrowing. There are also indications that households have an improved “earning potential”, measured by whether plots have been re-cultivated, and number of hours worked.

Preliminary results from the beneficiary assessment show that the anticipatory actions achieved a high degree of inclusivity, i.e. reaching the most vulnerable. More than 80% of reported that their quality of life improved due to the anticipatory actions, especially through money used to buy food, improved personal hygiene and better livestock health. The data also shows that more than 93% of recipients agreed that the aid went to households in their communities that needed it the most, and 70% reported that the aid benefitted both men and women equally, and another 26% reported the aid benefitted women and girls more.

Finally, initial results from the review of the triggers and forecasts shows potential to further improve the system, but also a potential to expand the application of the triggers to more river basins in Bangladesh and perhaps applicability in other countries affected by severe monsoon flooding.

Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results:

In an innovative approach to dealing with the effects of severe flooding in Bangladesh, the United Nations is using the latest data and predictive analytics to forecast the next major monsoon floods, gauge likely impacts – and act – before possible disaster hits. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), and building on previous experience, the objective of this pilot was to deliver a more effective, timely and dignified humanitarian response to vulnerable communities in anticipation of severe monsoon flooding of the Jamuna River. The pilot supported 3 UN agencies - WFP, FAO and UNFPA - as well as the Bangladesh Red Crescent, focusing on the Rangpur (Gaibandha, Kurigram), Rajshahi (Bogura, Sirajganj) and Mymensingh (Bogura, Jamalpur) divisions. The allocation enabled the UN agencies and partners to distribute cash, livestock feed, storage drums, and hygiene, dignity and health kits. While FAO and UNFPA completed their anticipatory actions, early September, WFP received CERF’s approval to reprogram US\$ 2.4 million to reach 36,500 households for one round of cash distributions in line with the HRP.

People Directly Reached:

The allocation originally planned to provide assistance to 390,000 people. Ultimately the three projects concerned by the CERF pilot allocation benefitted 321,715 persons including 110,316 women; 99,188 men; 39,210 girls and 38,772 boys. 220,000 people were reached through anticipatory actions ahead of peak flooding, utilizing \$2.8 million from the total grant. The remaining funds were reprogrammed for rapid response activities. The beneficiaries of the three projects and of their components were different individuals. Therefore, the number of beneficiaries of each project were added to reach this total figure and the sex and age breakdown. The Food Security-Agriculture project reached more beneficiaries than planned. The multi-purpose cash project reached less beneficiaries than planned for anticipatory action, but funds were reprogrammed to reach additional households after the floods.

People Indirectly Reached:

Although there is no detailed estimate of the number of people indirectly reached through the pilot allocation, family members and close neighbours of direct beneficiaries are expected to have benefited indirectly from the allocation. It concerns notably the increased knowledge and information about the available GBV services, easy directions of accessing critical GBV services provided by the case workers, including emergency referrals to medico-legal services and for psychosocial support. Moreover, while cash transfers were made typically to women in affected households, the support benefitted the entire household as well as their assets. Reports from the cash beneficiaries indicate that some chose to use the funds to rent barges on which other families also found shelter for instance.

Table 4: Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Sector/Cluster*

Sector/Cluster	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500	70,000	27,792	26,934	18,409	20,670	93,805
Health - Health	4,545	0	0	0	4,545	4,320	0	0	0	4,320
Protection - Sexual and/or Gender-Based Violence	5,955	0	4,500	0	10,455	5,955	0	4,500	0	10,455
Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific)	93,447	81,998	64,922	69,134	309,501	88,268	83,962	19,376	21,529	213,135¹
of which Anticipatory Action Pilot						46,454	44,188	10,197	11,330	112,170
Allocation total	116,902	99,498	86,922	86,634	389,956	126,335	110,896	42,285	42,199	321,715
of which Anticipatory Action Pilot	116,902	99,498	86,922	86,634	389,956	84,521	71,122	33,106	32,000	220,750

¹ WFP reached 213,135 individuals in flood-affected areas, including 112,170 individuals with assistance before the floods, and 182,500 individuals after the flood. The figure of 213,135 excludes double-counting of beneficiaries who received assistance both before and after the floods.

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

Table 5: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Category*

Category	Planned	Reached
Refugees	0	0
Returnees	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0
Host communities	0	0
Other affected people	389,956	321,715
Total	389,956	321,715

Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sex & Age	Planned	Reached	Number of people with disabilities (PwD) out of the total	
			Planned	Reached
Women	116,902	126,335	2,439	1,835
Men	99,498	110,896	2,095	2,362
Girls	86,922	42,285	1,251	624
Boys	86,634	42,199	927	534
Total	389,956	321,715	6,712	5,355

PART II – PROJECT OVERVIEW

3. PROJECT REPORTS

3.1 Project Report 20-RR-FAO-023

1. Project Information			
Agency:	FAO	Country:	Bangladesh
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)	CERF project code:	20-RR-FAO-023
Project title:	Agricultural livelihoods protection through humanitarian Anticipatory Actions in Jamuna river, Bangladesh		
Start date:	01/06/2020	End date:	30/11/2020
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 500,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 0
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 500,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 31,140
	Government Partners		US\$ 12,646
	International NGOs		US\$ 0
	National NGOs		US\$ 18,494
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ 0	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

CERF funds enabled timely assistance to 93,805 people (49% female, 42% children, 7% elderly, 2% disabled) from 18,761 households (11,761 through receipt of 75 kg concentrated ruminant feed, and 7,000 through receipt of 66 litre sealable drums). Though initially it was planned to assist 14,000 households, FAO was able to cover an additional 4,761 households through cost saving. Among these household more than 85% received assistance prior or during the flood peaks. The project was implemented in the flood affected districts of Gaibandha, Kurigram and Jamalpur during July to November 2020 in partnership with Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and national NGO partner Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) and with strong engagement from local government authorities. An impact assessment conducted in August, after the response activities had ended, indicated that the assistance allowed flood affected households to avoid anticipated damage of valuable, productive assets (livestock, seeds, food grain) during the flood and promptly restart livelihood activities soon afterwards (e.g. plantation, higher prices for healthy livestock). The assessment also showed that beneficiaries were able retain acceptable food consumption and avoid negative coping mechanisms, particularly in relation to avoiding loans and borrowing of food. The beneficiaries also reported high satisfaction in terms of timeliness and usefulness of the assessment (4.6 and 4.3 in average out of 5 respectively). In addition, 68% respondents mentioned at least some market dysfunctionality, which provides strong justification behind FAO's non-cash assistance during one of the most extreme flooding event in the last 35 years. In addition, as the first anticipatory response for FAO in Bangladesh, the project brought valuable operational lessons in terms of the importance of pre-positioning stocks through for rapid action, technical sensitization of government counterparts, flexibility and agile operational planning and financing along with opening new avenues of opportunity like that of utilizing geo-spatial analysis for future anticipatory responses.

3. Changes and Amendments

Although the award was received for anticipatory (T-10 days) response, 15% of the households received assistance after the peak floods (after July 23 to August). However, it should be noted here FAO was able to cover 114% of the initial target within the flood peak. The reasons for this include quicker than expected trigger activation, reducing lead time for pre-positioning/procurement of products. FAO inputs were not readily availability in the required quantities and the cattle feed has a short shelf-life, and required associated quality control (e.g. lab test, lot quality assessment), Other challenges included unavailability of a technically suitable CSO partner and the Eid-ul-Adha holidays which immediately followed the flooding. Multiple modes of transportation had to be utilized to deliver the inputs at safe and convenient locations for the beneficiaries, which challenged adherence to the initial distribution plans. It should also be mentioned that following an assessment of critical needs along with Government partners agencies, changes were made for the planned relief items with a focus on saving seed, food stocks and livestock. Ropes, vaccines for livestock, water purification tablets and anti-parasite medicines were dropped at DLS request and in discussion with UNRCO/CERF Secretariat). The changes in the items resulted in a cost savings (\$220,570 from lower procurement costs and dropped assistance items) for FAO allowing for an increase in the overall beneficiary outreach by 30% (90,717 people compared to initial plan of 70,000).

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500	70,000	27,792	26,934	18,409	20,670	93,805
Total	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500	70,000	27,792	26,934	18,409	20,670	93,805
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	350	350	350	350	1,400	244	1,018	144	190	1,596

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

N/A

6. CERF Results Framework

Project Objective Safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable households at high risk of monsoon flood with support to protection of livestock and agricultural assets

Output 1 Most vulnerable households have protected grains/seed and other assets through provision of safe storage drums.

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	# of people (farmers) receiving food/grain and assts storage drums together with ropes within T-5 days before floods inundation	35,000	33,848	Distribution muster-rolls, photos, impact assessment report

Explanation of output and indicators variance: A portion of the drums were delivered following the threshold, however still contributed to household food security and reduced asset loss.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Undertake joint targeting of households with concerned stakeholders and beneficiaries under the guidance of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and Department of Livestock services (DOLS)	DAE, FAO
Activity 1.2	Stockpiling at safe storage drums and ropes near targeted community	DAE, FAO
Activity 1.3	Distribution of safe storage drums and ropes	DAE, FAO, NGO
Activity 1.4	Follow up monitoring and provision of technical support with DAE and DOLS	DAE, FAO

Output 2 Flood affected households safeguarded their livestock through provision of livestock feeds at community animal aggregation centres

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	# people received livestock feeds (Concentrate ruminant feed) during T-5 days and post-flood period	12,500	56,869	Distribution muster-rolls, photos, impact assessment report

Explanation of output and indicators variance: Readjusted number of beneficiaries up to utilize unspent funds due to change of input purchase as per agreement with GOB and OCHA

Activities	Description	Implemented by
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Activity 2.1	Undertake joint targeting of community animal aggregation centres and households with concerned stakeholders and beneficiaries under the guidance of the Department of Livestock Services (DOLS)	DLS, FAO
Activity 2.2	Technical supervision and stockpiling of concentrated ruminant feed to the community	DLS, FAO
Activity 2.3	Distribution of feeds to transfer centres	DLS, FAO, NGO
Activity 2.4	Follow up monitoring and provision of technical support with DOLS	DLS, FAO

Output 3	Flood affected households safeguarded their livestock through provision of vaccines at community animal aggregation centres			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/Ccuster	Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 3.1	# people covered with vaccines for livestock-(FMD &-PPR) at community animal aggregation centres	10,000	0	N/A
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		This activity was dropped due to GOB request and OCHA agreement to focus on key inputs.		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 3.1	Undertake joint targeting and design of provision of vaccines with concerned stakeholders and beneficiaries under the guidance of the Department of Livestock Services (DOLS)	N/A		
Activity 3.2	Technical supervision and campaigns for vaccines	N/A		
Activity 3.3	Stockpiling and provision of vaccines to DOLS	N/A		
Activity 3.4	Follow up monitoring and provision of technical support with DOLS	N/A		

Output 4	Flood affected households safeguarded their livestock through provision of water purification tablets and anti-parasite medicines at community animal aggregation centres			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 4.1	# people received water purification tablets and anti-parasite medicines	10,000	0	N/A
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		This activity was dropped due to GOB request and OCHA agreement to focus on key inputs		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 4.1	Undertake joint targeting of community7households households with concerned stakeholders and beneficiaries under the guidance of the DAE and DOLS	N/A		

Activity 4.2	Technical supervision and stockpiling of water purification tables and anti-parasite medications	N/A
Activity 4.3	Stockpiling and distribution of water purification tables and anti-parasite medications	N/A
Activity 4.4	Follow up monitoring and provision of technical support with DAE and DOLS	N/A

Output 5	Most affected households safeguarded their livestock through provision of emergency veterinary services			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sector/cluster	Food Security - Agriculture (incl. livestock, fisheries and other agriculture-based livelihoods)			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 5.1	# people received emergency veterinary services	2,500	0	N/A
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		This activity was dropped due to GOB request and OCHA agreement to focus on specific key inputs		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 5.1	Undertake joint targeting of households with concerned stakeholders and beneficiaries under the guidance of the Department of Livestock Services (DLS)	N/A		
Activity 5.2	Assessment of livestock with needs serious treatment and survey	N/A		
Activity 5.3	Provision of services/treatment as required	N/A		
Activity 5.4	Follow up monitoring and provision of technical support with DLS	N/A		

7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas³ often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been integrated and given due consideration.**

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)⁴:

The implementation (e.g. beneficiary selection, distribution and monitoring) of the project was carried out in close collaboration with local government representatives. In addition, the project's primary beneficiary selection criteria included female-headed households, households with disabled members, pregnant, lactating, elderly members along with extremely poor households. There were also AAP

³ These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas.

⁴ AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

messages that were disseminated to the beneficiaries during distribution, which included information on the selection process and entitlements along with instruction on use of the FAO complaint monitoring and response mechanism to addresses beneficiary feedback.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

In the aforementioned AAP message, staff contacts were included so that beneficiaries were able to directly inform FAO as necessary. In addition, FAO operationalized its dedicated hotline for complain/feedback monitoring. Also there were complain/feedback boxes at distribution points to allow beneficiaries to lodge any concerns.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)²:

FAO follows the UN standard for handling sexual exploitation and includes reference to PSEA in its AAP messaging. All recruited staff have been briefed and monitored by the supervisor and the gender focal point of FAO. No complaints were received during the project implementation. FAO dedicated CRM hotline is also capacitated to properly direct PSEA related issues.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

A total of 59% of the project beneficiaries were women. Also, as mentioned above, households that are women-headed or had transgendered members were given priority during beneficiary selection.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

Households with disabled members were given special attention during selection and were provided with support for the final to-the-door delivery of their items,

f. Protection:

All staff were briefed on protection related issues and protocols to ensure that women and children specifically were not placed in any jeopardy. Project partners were also given AAP and PSEA orientations prior to any engagement with project beneficiaries. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Unit specialists followed up with regular monitoring and oversight missions.

g. Education:

N/A

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
No	No	N/A

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

N/A

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
FAO Bangladesh Facebook Posts	https://www.facebook.com/FAOBangladesh/posts/177281420544037 https://www.facebook.com/FAOBangladesh/posts/161741088764737 https://www.facebook.com/FAOBangladesh/posts/163753665230146
FAO website	http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/stories/stories-detail/en/c/1298316/ http://www.fao.org/emergencies/appeals/detail/en/c/1300744/
FAO Bangladesh Tweeter	https://twitter.com/FAOemergencies/status/1298998481583972356 https://twitter.com/FAOBangladesh/status/1296068399039164417 https://twitter.com/FAOemergencies/status/1293128129767145473 https://twitter.com/FAOemergencies/status/1292717038482399232 https://twitter.com/FAOemergencies/status/1291748219525967872 https://twitter.com/UNCERF/status/1290265863912927232 https://twitter.com/FAOemergencies/status/1288758731489124352 https://twitter.com/FAOemergencies/status/1285933193103802370 https://twitter.com/FAOAsiaPacific/status/1283328098453184512

3.2 Project Report 20-RR-FPA-027

1. Project Information

Agency:	UNFPA	Country:	Bangladesh
Sector/Cluster:	Protection - Sexual and/or Gender-Based Violence Health – Health	CERF Project Code:	20-RR-FPA-027
Project Title:	Anticipatory Action Framework pilot project to reduce flood impact on women and girls in areas of SRHR, GBV and Adolescent Youth		
Start Date:	01/06/2020	End Date:	30/11/2020
Project Revisions:	No-cost Extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Re-Deployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Re-Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 439,062
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 0
	Amount received from CERF:	US\$ 439,062
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:	US\$ 191,390
	Government Partners	US\$ 0
	International NGOs	US\$ 191,390
	National NGOs	US\$ 0
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation	US\$ 0	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through the CERF Anticipatory Action project, UNFPA Bangladesh and its implementing partners have achieved three key results mentioned below:

- 5,955 Dignity kits (DKs) were distributed among the most vulnerable and most disadvantaged women of reproductive age (19-45 years) to mitigate the GBV risks during the flood, of which 451 DKs were distributed to transgender people and 178 were provided to women with disabilities. The district wise distribution was: Kurigram - 3,000 DKs, followed by Gaibandha - 1,800 and Jamalpur - 1,155. Each kit package contained a flash card with GBV referral information and PSS helpline contacts.
- Similarly, 4,500 Menstrual Health Management Kits (MHMs) were distributed to adolescent girls (10-18 years) with information on menstrual health management and GBV referrals, of which 170 adolescent girls with disability were reached with MHM kits.
- 3 district hospitals have been equipped with RH kit 3 for post rape treatment and 3 Upazila Health complexes have been provided RH kit 2B (clinical delivery kit) for use of midwives and birth attendants at the facilities. Through Kit-2B, overall, 3,720 women benefited in four months (Jul to Oct), 15 midwives who received Kit-2B in 3 Upazila Health Complex (Chilmari, Fulchhari and Melandaha) provided maternal care services to 3,720 women. In addition, a total of 600 pregnant women were reached with clean delivery kits (RH Kit 2A) to ensure their safe deliveries at home. RH Kit 2-A was distributed to 600 pregnant women. Total reach for RH Kits is 4,320. The beneficiaries of Kit 3 are not reported, as per the GBV IMS and GBV guiding principle we could not report the number of GBV survivors

Dignity kits were customised as per the practical needs of women and girls and based on the norms of appropriateness cherished by their local community and social context. The Kits were aimed to promote mobility and safety of women and girls by gender, and culturally appropriate items (such as saree, footwear, local towel, nail clipper, underwear, bathing and laundry soap, hand sanitizer and small containers for washing personal items). In addition, the beneficiaries were also provided with sanitary supplies and basic hygiene items to prevent spread of COVID-19. Specific dignity kit content was developed for Transgender group to meet their specific needs. The MHM kits were designed in consultation with an implementing partner, directly working with adolescents and youth with consideration of menstrual health and hygiene needs of adolescent girls at the displaced locations. According to a survey conducted during distribution of kits, 95.3% of the beneficiaries said that the Kits were very useful or useful to cope with the effects of flood. In addition, about 98% of surveyed respondents expressed their satisfaction with such support.

UNFPA Bangladesh collaborated with its implementing partners in the targeted 3 highly vulnerable flood-prone districts to take early actions before flood crisis.

Standard operational procedures were enacted to make the distribution centers women-friendly with provision of sitting arrangement for persons with disabilities and pregnant mothers, breastfeeding corner for lactating mothers, drinking water facilities, etc. In addition, social distancing measures and other COVID19 preventive measures were ensured at the distribution points. Besides, separate handwashing facilities were installed, and proper queues were maintained with the support of the distribution volunteers. The Civil Society Organizations and volunteers provided door-to-door distribution services for some beneficiaries who were unable to reach the distribution points due to floodwater and lack of transportation. With the support of an efficient team of volunteers and experienced local IPs the whole distribution work for all kits was completed within 4 days before flooding occurred.

3. Changes and Amendments

A reprogramming request was made by UNFPA and approved by CERF to maintain the significant savings left after the implementation of the grant. The savings largely attributed to the bulk procurement of menstrual health management (MHM) kits, which resulted in economies of scale. Specifically, the reduction of the unit cost of the MHM kits, originally budgeted at USD 26 per unit, reduced to USD 24 as the items were procured at a high volume. Implementing Partners conducted distribution/post distribution monitoring virtually which reduced transport cost and some staff cost.

The originally planned activities and targets remained unchanged, as those were fully achieved during the implementation period. UNFPA intended to absorb the balance of funds by conducting a series of exercises to monitor, evaluate, learn, and document the impact of the pilot. This includes the recruitment of a consultant to develop a lessons learned and best practices report focusing on the delivery of the MHM kits as well as disseminate the report with the key stakeholders at the field level. Also, the recruitment of another consultant to capture videos, stories, and photos and develop a photo story book and infographics detailing the impact of the distribution of MHM kits on the lives of targeted adolescent girls.

The savings were also used to capture lessons learnt through interactions with Government and local stakeholders regarding the challenges of the Anticipatory Action Pilot and the ways of improvement for future emergency-related anticipatory actions.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Health – Health									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	4,545	0	0	0	4,545	4,320	0	0	0	4,320
Total	4,545	0	0	0	4,545	4,320	0	0	0	4,320

People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Sector/cluster	Protection - Sexual and/or Gender-Based Violence									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	5,955	0	4,500	0	10,455	5,955	0	4,500	0	10,455
Total	5,955	0	4,500	0	10,455	5,955	0	4,500	0	10,455

People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total

273	0	300	0	573	178	0	170	0	348
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* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

Along with 5,955 dignity kits and 4,500 MHM kits, women and girls were also provided with flashcards containing information on referral mechanisms, helpline for reporting GBV-related incidence to respond and mitigate risks of GBV and COVID 19 prevention as per the guidelines. The Kits' recipients, their families and close neighbours are expected to gain knowledge and information about the available GBV services, easy directions of accessing critical GBV services provided by the case workers, including emergency referrals to medico-legal services and for psychosocial support. The flash card distributed include GBV risk communication messages and COVID-19 prevention messages based on WHO guidelines. During the monitoring visits lots of adolescent girls reported that they shared the information in flash cards with their friends, mothers and sisters, though It is difficult to calculate how many indirect beneficiaries were reached but a significant number of women and girls benefited indirectly.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project Objective	To mitigate the impacts of GBV, maternal deaths and challenges in menstrual health of adolescent girls during natural disasters, by deploying flood response activities in the above-respective areas just prior to the disaster occurrence across selected districts
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Output 1	Life-saving GBV services are delivered for women and girls including adolescent youth in an anticipatory manner to reduce disaster impacts on the most vulnerable in selected 3 districts.
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Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster	Protection - Sexual and/or Gender-Based Violence			
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Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Number of women and girls, including those with disabilities and transgender received Dignity Kits including GBV service information	5955	5,955	Master Role, Beneficiary list
Indicator 1.2	Number of adolescent girls who received MHM Kits	4,500	4,500	Master role, final beneficiary list

Explanation of output and indicators variance: N/A

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Distribution of Dignity Kits to the most vulnerable and disadvantage women and girls of reproductive age to mitigate the GBV risk during flood	BACE, AFAD, MJSKS, RSDA, SKS with support of UNFPA implementing Partners Action Aid and Care
Activity 1.2	Distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits to adolescent girls ages 10-19 years	Plan Bangladesh
Activity 1.3	Monitoring and documentation of the process, implementation and impact of Anticipatory Actions Pilot	UNFPA

Output 2 Women including those pregnant provided life-saving supplies and support

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster	Health - Health			
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Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
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Indicator 2.1	Number of pregnant mothers provided with the Clean Delivery Kits	600	600	Beneficiary database, ANC register at Upazila Health Facilities
Indicator 2.2	Number of District Hospitals equipped to respond to the immediate consequences of sexual violence	3	3	District hospital register
Indicator 2.3	Number of health care workers and midwives trained on the virtual refresher training on CMR	15	15	Participants list
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		N/A		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 2.1	Distribution of the Individual Clean Delivery Kit to pregnant mothers	Lamb Hospital		
Activity 2.2	Distribution of RH kit 3 (Post-Rape Kit) to District Hospitals	Lamb Hospital		
Activity 2.3	Provide virtual refresher training on CMR to health care workers including midwives at the District Hospitals	UNFPA		

7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas⁵ often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been integrated and given due consideration.**

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)⁶:

UNFPA Bangladesh and local partners ensured that the poor and disadvantaged women living in the highest flood prone areas of the selected districts were included in the beneficiary selection processes through identification of women and girls of reproductive age, pregnant women, adolescents and youth as well as women and girls at risk of gender-based violence in their respective communities. The needs of the most marginalised groups such as the transgender community and women were considered during the planning and distribution of the Dignity Kits.

The MHM kits were designed after an extensive consultation with crisis affected girls to ensure that the kits truly met their needs. Crisis affected young people were also meaningfully engaged in the implementation and monitoring of the project and were capacitated to promote their empowerment, confidence, and skills development. Volunteers who were involved in project implementation and monitoring were recruited from the affected communities.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

⁵ These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas.

⁶ AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

UNFPA and its partners designated one female staff member/senior management staff to serve as a complaint response mechanism (CRM) focal person, whose contact number was shared in the distribution card, provided to the women and adolescent girls who received dignity kits and MHM kits. Both UNFPA and IP-s followed up on each complaint received – which were largely focused on missing items in the MHM kits – to address the issues of the beneficiaries and meet their expectation. A complaint box was also installed at each of the distribution points, which placed in a convenient spot and made accessible to all the women and girls who came to collect the Dignity Kits.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)²:

The UNFPA Partners, Action Aid and Care conducted brief training on Minimum Standards and GBV guiding principles to the local IP staff and volunteers prior to their engagement in the distribution of Dignity Kits. UNFPA, Action Aid and Care also ensured site monitoring of the distribution points to facilitate safe and smooth distribution of kits among women, girls, and transgender and sex worker groups. Also, to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse at the distribution point number of women staffs/volunteers were engaged in managing beneficiary que, distribution etc. With the help of local government security and safety were ensured for the beneficiaries.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

Dignity kits were intended to contribute to strengthening gender equitable benefits for women, therefore the package was customised as per the practical needs of women, girls and transgender based on the norms of appropriateness cherished by their local community and social context that would promote their mobility and safety. The Dignity Kit packages contained age, gender, and culturally appropriate items (such as saree, footwear, local towel, nail clipper, underwear, bathing and laundry soap, hand sanitizer and small containers for washing personal items), in addition to sanitary supplies to meet specialised needs of women and girls it also included basic hygiene items to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The protection of adolescent girls as well as their empowerment was the crux of the project. MHM kits were specifically designed and customized to address the unique needs and challenges experienced by adolescent girls in terms of their menstrual health.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

For Dignity Kit distribution the priority was given to displaced women, women with disabilities, pregnant and lactating mothers, women headed households, and transgender people.

170 adolescent girls with disabilities also received MHM kits in accordance with UNFPA commitment to leave no one behind. To ensure accessibility the UNFPA partners delivered the MHM kits to the homes of those girls.

f. Protection:

The Distribution process prioritised the most vulnerable groups, including women and girls, transgender, PwD-s and sex worker groups. Volunteers and IP staffs identified the potential beneficiaries from the beneficiary data from last year humanitarian response. After that physically they verified it and selected the targeted beneficiaries for the distribution of kits. The Transgender group were identified through their group. Based on the previous experience with local NGOs and consultation with the beneficiaries the selection criteria were selected.

g. Education:

The GBV intervention Dignity Kits was provided to 5955 vulnerable women and girls, transgender, PwD-s, and sex workers' group.

To ensure that adolescent girls were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their menstruation, a set of flashcards with lifesaving information on accessing GBV-related and PSS services, managing their menstruation was provided to them. Besides preventive measures from COVID-19 was also provided.

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
No	No	N/A

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

N/A

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
Transforming Humanitarian Action for the Transgender Community	Web story: https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en/news/transforming-humanitarian-action-transgender-community Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNFPABangladesh/status/1295991771684454401
Preparation saves lives	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/photos/3314813748584181 Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNFPABangladesh/status/1283017383246884869 Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CCn-NUen1Pi/
Moslema Khatun's story: Menstrual Hygiene Kits	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/photos/3385958498136372 Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNFPABangladesh/status/1291981530051440643 Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CDnmYpfnTkC/
Sina's story: Menstrual Hygiene Kits	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/photos/3406349989430556 Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNFPABangladesh/status/1294521225251700737 Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CD55JEWnO8B/
VIDEO by UN in Bangladesh, shared by UNFPA Bangladesh	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/posts/3354594191272803 Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNFPABangladesh/status/1288090528626565125
RH Kit Distribution	Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNFPABangladesh/status/1281913389308973056

3.3 Project Report 20-RR-WFP-034

1. Project Information

Agency:	WFP	Country:	Bangladesh
Sector/cluster:	Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific)	CERF project code:	20-RR-WFP-034
Project title:	Forecast based Anticipatory Early Action to Support Disaster Preparedness for Flood Affected Vulnerable Households		
Start date:	01/06/2020	End date:	30/11/2020
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 4,250,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 0
	Amount received from CERF:	US\$ 4,250,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:	US\$ 452,109
	Government Partners	US\$ 0
	International NGOs	US\$ 0
	National NGOs	US\$ 90,955
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation	US\$ 361,154	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through the CERF-supported Anticipatory Action programme implemented in response to the July floods in northern Bangladesh, WFP reached a total of 213,135 individuals in flood-affected areas, including 112,170 individuals with assistance before the floods, and 182,500 individuals after the flood⁷. The figure of 213,135 excludes double-counting of beneficiaries who received assistance both before and after the floods. The unique achievement of this programme was the ability – enabled by flexible CERF financing – to reach affected people (81,535) before and after the floods, completing the cycle of assistance and aiding early recovery. This way, the anticipatory action extended beyond pre-disaster support to post-disaster recovery and demonstrated an effective model (to the government and other partners) of timely, need-based humanitarian support.

WFP was unable to reach the initial target and implement all activities planned under the anticipatory action pilot, and hence requested approval to utilise remaining funding on post-disaster support for the same communities. The main reason for the under-achieved target was the need to operationalize the programme immediately after the flood trigger on 4 July, despite a weak beneficiary database and the inability to physically verify beneficiaries.

The unique achievement of the CERF-supported forecast-based financing ahead of the floods was the ability to reach the same people with assistance before and after the disaster, completing the cycle of assistance and early recovery; and thus demonstrating an effective model to the government and partners. This would not have been possible if two requests for re-programming funds had not been approved – this flexibility allowed WFP to scale up its appeal and deliver a stronger response.

In August, the re-allocation of USD 2.4 million (of the CERF grant of USD 4.25 million) enabled WFP to provide additional assistance to those who received anticipatory support and were still in need of relief and recovery support. In early December 2020, WFP received approval to re-allocate funding to reach households identified as extremely vulnerable with one round of additional cash transfers; with a focus on including people with disabilities, pregnant women, and female-headed households.

⁷ Individual beneficiary figures were calculated based on a household size of 5, in line with data on the actual number of individuals reached. At proposal stage, the target was set calculated based on a household size of 5.

The 213,135 beneficiaries (approximately 42,627 HHs) reached was against the initial target of 61,900 households. In addition to the 42,627 households, a total of 16,307 households received post flood assistance as well. If the two rounds of support may be counted separately, the total number of households reached is 58,934 (42,627 + 16,307), 95% of the initial target (61,900). Women-headed households with no regular source of income and a high number of dependents, people with little or no land and poor housing structures, and people with disabilities were prioritised for support. Anticipatory support was provided in the form of immediate food assistance through multipurpose cash grants using digital platforms (e.g. mobile banking).

A total of 22,434 households (112,170 individuals) received mobile-based anticipatory action (AA) cash transfers at least 2 days (between 2-4 days) before water levels at the Brahmaputra river rose to trigger levels.

The project targeted the most flood-prone districts (Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bogura, and Sirajganj). The final geographic targeting at union level was based on the 10-day warning trigger articulated in the anticipatory action framework. The exposure and vulnerability profiles are developed in advance so that once the forecast is available, the flood depth map can be overlaid, and the unions can be ranked in terms of levels of potential impact.

These actions minimize losses and damages caused by climate-related disasters and reduce the need for humanitarian assistance in their aftermath. Activities are closely aligned with national priorities, leverage local field expertise and build on existing coordination mechanisms. AA offers households the opportunity to use cash for multiple purposes therefore supporting, as one example, food security.

After anticipatory cash assistance, WFP conducted a post distribution outcome survey. The post distribution outcome survey reported a significant impact on food security and coping mechanisms. The outcome report shows 80% of affected households that received anticipatory action assistance received the cash assistance 2-3 days ahead of the peak flood, of which 88% of the cash was spent on food, 23% for medicine, 15% for repairing household and others. The report states 72% of households believe losses would be greater without the cash assistance. Most affected households used cash to hire boats and evacuate their households including their food stocks, livestock, and other valuable items.

During the post-flood response, a total of 36,500 households (182,500 individuals) received immediate food assistance. Among 182,500 individuals 30,000 (6,000 households) were supported by BDRCS. Affected households who were provided AA were prioritized for support, with 81,535 beneficiaries receiving recovery support as well. Each household received 4,500 Taka along with a Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and education package. Beneficiaries were informed of their entitlements and received nutrition messages through IEC material (BCC leaflets, posters, etc.) on food and nutrition, infants and young children, maternal nutrition, and COVID-safe procurement, food handling and preparation.

National and local level coordination was established with the office of the Resident Coordinator, with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, Bangladesh Metrological Department, German Red Cross, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Red Cross Climate Centre, Interagency collaboration -UNFPA, FAO, WFP, OCHA CO, humanitarian platforms (e.g., HCTT, NAWG, Food Security Cluster and Nutrition Cluster) and the FbF Working Group.

3. Changes and Amendments

In early July, a high probability of severe flooding was forecast in northern Bangladesh. Two weeks prior to this, WFP, FAO, UNFPA and OCHA had finalized an agreement on a participatory action pilot to respond to floods in the country. The forecast triggered the immediate release of CERF funding to support communities to urgently prepare and protect themselves ahead of the disaster. Within a week, in a joint effort with UNFPA and FAO, WFP identified 22,434 vulnerable households and released BDT 4,500 (USD 53) to each household using electronic transfers through mobile phone accounts. These 22,434 households were located in remote *char* (island) areas 2-4 days before the flood hit. WFP undertook (remotely) a thorough verification of the list of households obtained from different sources. As the monsoon floods occurred early, affected populations were affected by multiple floods, hampering WFP and partner NGO efforts to reach more households.

Against the original target of 61,900 households (55,900 households through WFP and 6000 through implementing partner, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society), WFP reached 22,434 HHs and BDRCS was not a part of the operation. Following the approved proposal for re-programming with the remaining balance, WFP reached 36,500 households over an implementation period of two months, of which 6,000 households were identified and supported by BDRCS) for one round of cash distributions worth 4,500 BDT/ USD 53 per household.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific) - Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific)									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	93,447	81,998	64,922	69,134	309,501	88,268	83,962	19,376	21,529	213,135
Total	93,447	81,998	64,922	69,134	309,501	88,268	83,962	19,376	21,529	213,135
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	1,816	1,745	601	577	4,739	1,413	1,344	310	344	3,411

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

WFP and partners coordinated efforts with the local-level officials of 139 Union Parishads, 22 Upazila Parishads (sub-districts) and 5 districts before and after implementation. At the national level, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Department of Disaster Management, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre were involved at every stage, with beneficiary identification, verification, field testing and the adjustment of anticipatory actions tools.

While the transfer is made typically to women in affected households, the support benefits the entire household as well as their assets. Through regular collaboration with key local government duty bearers and local partners, the response was localized, and is built on existing systems, lending itself as a model for the government to implement at scale.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project Objective	Households affected by the sever flood in remote and riverine chars retained food security and evidenced improved protective measures to reduce impact of flood Contribute to the proof of concept for Anticipatory Actions in consultation with the Government and other stakeholders			
Output 1	Provision of cash transfer to 307,500 people 61,900households - WFP 55,900 and BDRCS 6000) as Anticipatory Action (AA)Select an item from drop-down			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific) - Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific)			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Number of people reached through cash-based transfers	309,500	213,135 - 112,170 individuals with AA - 182,500 individuals with Post Flood Response (30,000 individuals with implementing partner, BDRCS)	Beneficiary Database, Fund Transfer to bKash Mother Account, Remote Monitoring
Indicator 1.2	Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries	3,280,700	- US\$ 1,189,081.27 with AA - US\$ 1,618,514.15 with Post Flood Response - US\$ 318,396.23 BDRCS	Post Distribution Outcome report, bKash system generated report, Process Monitoring Report and Remote Monitoring
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		N/A		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 1.1	Geographical targeting of the flood prone areas in the selected districts	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP		
Activity 1.2	Collection of pre-existing lists of households for the selection of potentially affected by severe flood for Anticipatory Actions (AA)	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP		
Activity 1.3	Development of household database for AA through verification	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP		

Activity 1.4	Cash transfer system implementation through bKash including registration and activation of account	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP
Activity 1.5	Ensure transfer of cash immediate after 2nd trigger (activation)	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP

Output 2 Design and field trial of early warning dissemination and preparedness actions (2021) for the households in the selected remote and riverine char

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific) - Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific)

Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	Number of early warning dissemination tools implemented	Tbd	N/A	N/A
Indicator 2.2	Number of early warning dissemination events organized, by types	Tbd	N/A	N/A

Explanation of output and indicators variance: This output related activities were planned for 2021

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 2.1	Develop early warning dissemination strategy for the AA in consideration of the movement restriction for COVID-19	N/A
Activity 2.2	Dissemination of early working for the selected areas	N/A

Output 3 Evidence generation and adjustment of systems and tools (beneficiary selection, trigger, cash transfer mechanism, early warning dissemination and preparedness etc.) to implement Anticipatory Actions in consultation with Government and other stakeholders

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific) - Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific)

Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 3.1	Number of tools developed and adjusted to strengthen national systems for anticipatory early action	4	3	Beneficiary database, Anticipatory Action Framework, Anticipatory Action Agency Specific SOD
Indicator 3.2	Number of government people engaged in field testing and adjustment of Anticipatory Actions tools facilitated by WFP	Tbd	336 (168*2)	Letter-MoDMR, DDM, District Administration, Upazila and Union Parishad

Explanation of output and indicators variance: N/A

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 3.1	Document evidences from field trial of the AA tools including geographical targeting, household targeting, cash transfer system and early action trigger setting, early warning and preparedness	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP

Activity 3.2	Revise systems and tools in consultation with other actors	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP
Activity 3.3	Organize sharing sessions with government and stakeholders	WFP; CP: RDRS, NDP

7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas⁸ often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been integrated and given due consideration.**

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)⁹:

Beneficiaries were selected based on direct and regular communication with vulnerable households throughout the identification and verification process; and were selected based on Sex, Age, Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD). The list of selected households and women recipients was shared with key government duty bearers and community representatives to cross-verify data. Cash transfers were made using bKash mobile accounts, reducing the risk of spreading COVID pandemic by limiting crowds and physical contact. WFP sent enrolment notifications to the mobile phones of all beneficiaries with WFP hotline numbers and complaint mechanisms. They were also sent messages after they received cash transfers, on their entitlements, the best use of cash, as well as awareness messages on the value of spending on nutrition. WFP staff regularly monitored the process remotely, pre- and post-disaster.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

WFP has an existing hotline through which beneficiaries and others can provide feedback and make complaints. WFP established a complaint response mechanism with dedicated toll-free hotlines. The hotline numbers have been displayed at different strategic locations of project areas (Union and Upazila Parishad). All calls received by the hotline have been attended to, with corrective action taken when necessary.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)²:

Beneficiaries were encouraged to report any kind of issues including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) using the toll-free hotline numbers. They were also assured about the safety and confidentiality of the reporting process.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

Partner staff were trained on gender and GBV guidelines and mechanisms, and all beneficiaries were made aware of help hotlines and complaint mechanisms. Questions asked as part of remote monitoring processes involved indicators of gender inequality at the household level. These were assessed and reported regularly, and the programme was bound firmly by the principles and guidelines of the global 'Do No Harm' approach.

⁸ These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas.

⁹ AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

The project does not focus specifically on persons with disability but considered disability as part of a larger vulnerability-based beneficiary selection criteria. In the beneficiary's selection process priorities were given to the families who have PwDs, older persons, and children as the family members.

f. Protection:

WFP has been entrusted with responding to the needs of people affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. It should be accountable to them for achieving results and for the manner in which programmes are implemented for two principal reasons. First, affected people have a right to be actively involved in the decisions that affect their lives. Ensuring that programmes are accountable to affected people is therefore a key aspect of rights-based programming. Second, engaging affected people in programme decisions makes food assistance more effective. Basing programmes on the preferences of affected people helps ensure that needs are correctly identified and understood and that programmes are designed in a manner appropriate to the context. Engagement with affected people can also help flag problems in programme implementation early on allowing for adjustments to take place. WFP toll-free hotline numbers were widely circulated for affected populations to voice any concerns they face, with their confidentiality ensured throughout.

g. Education:

N/A

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	A) 112,170 individuals with AA and B) 182,500 individuals with Post Flood Response

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

WFP provided cash support to 3,245 Households of Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) under CERF AA. This is included in the total AA households' figure. This prototype approach ensures the inclusion of government's regular social protection programme into the forecast based anticipatory action.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Anticipatory Action (AA)	112,170	US\$ 1,189,002	Unconditional	Unrestricted
Post flood	182,500	US\$ 1,940,382	Unconditional	Unrestricted

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
CERF Anticipatory Action Press Release	https://www.wfp.org/news/un-helps-monsoon-affected-river-communities-bangladesh-peak-flooding-hits
Article titled "Faster than floods: How to prevent a double disaster in Bangladesh"	https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/flooding-disaster-bangladesh-climate-emergency-a9665101.html

ANNEX: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

CERF Project Code	Sector	Agency	Implementing Partner Type	Total CERF Funds Transferred to Partner in USD
20-RR-FPA-027	Protection	UNFPA	INGO	\$20,456
20-RR-FPA-027	Protection	UNFPA	INGO	\$16,437
20-RR-FPA-027	Health	UNFPA	INGO	\$4,734
20-RR-FPA-027	Protection	UNFPA	INGO	\$149,763
20-RR-WFP-034	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$49,112
20-RR-WFP-034	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$41,843
20-RR-WFP-034	Food Assistance	WFP	RedC	\$361,154
20-RR-FAO-023	Agriculture	FAO	GOV	\$12,646
20-RR-FAO-023	Agriculture	FAO	NNGO	\$18,494