

BANGLADESH RAPID RESPONSE FLOOD 2023

23-RR-BGD-61081

Gwyn Lewis

Resident Coordinator

PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

Reporting Process and Consultation Summary:

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

1 and 2 April 2024

A joint monitoring mission was organised from 19 to 23 November 2023 to Cox's Bazar and Chattogram by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) supported by UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, and WFP leading the four different projects from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The mission visited communities in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram and the program included an open dialogue with communities, meeting with implementing partners, visiting beneficiaries and discussions with local authorities <https://shorturl.at/bhs58>.

A second monitoring mission took place from 10 to 15 February 2024 to Bandarban District in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to oversee the implementation of the projects as well as look at programming in the recovery phase and longer-term development to build bridges between humanitarian and development. As part of the program the project sites were visited that were targeted by the CERF projects; FAO (seeds assistance), UNFPA (GBV and SRH), UNICEF (WASH) and WFP (cash-based food assistance). Specifically, the team gathered perspectives from community members and authorities on the extent to which the response had helped communities, good practices, and challenges.

Furthermore, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, Gwyn Lewis, an After-Action Review (AAR) was undertaken on 01 and 2nd April 2024 in Chattogram district with participation of government officials from various line departments at national level and Bandarban Hill District Council. The CERF recipient agencies focal points as well their implementing partners participated in the exercise. The AAR will be shared with the UNCT and Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG).

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

Yes
X

No

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
X

No

STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator:

The Chattogram Division of Bangladesh was severely impacted by flash floods and monsoon rain in 2023, leaving thousands stranded without food, clean water, medicine, and electricity. The floods, intensified by persistent heavy rainfall and surging water from upstream, impacted 1.3 million people of whom 600,000 needed assistances. The floods affected 66,000 hectares of farmland in an area where people are already facing food insecurity and needs were further compounded due to an outbreak of dengue fever, the worst on record. Urgent interventions were needed in sectors such as water supply, sanitation, food security, livelihoods, protection against gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health services.

The CERF was particularly critical to initiate response efforts and address key areas outlined in the HCTT Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 (Chattogram Division Flash Floods and Monsoon Rain). The four projects, navigated through local governance complexities and a heavily militarized region to provide lifesaving assistance. Priority sectors encompassed food security, livelihoods, water supply, sanitation, and safeguarding vulnerable groups like displaced women and children. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and sexual reproductive health (SRH) issues were also addressed. The CERF aided 101,890 individuals, including 3,365 seniors, widows, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), persons with disabilities (PWD) and third-gender individuals affected by the flash floods by targeting their specific needs. With a focus on Accountability to Affected Population (AAP), CERF initiatives adhered to global standards and the IASC's five collective outcomes. To ensure prompt and effective response, UN agencies expanded operations using contingency funds and reallocated resources as needed.

- https://x.com/UNinBangladesh/status/1726561014257422463?t=wmq_fA0csEjPjXm8WfDxQ&s=08
- https://x.com/UNinBangladesh/status/1726973065555501125?t=T62DhkNo0f51Xd0MHEAT_Q&s=08
- <https://x.com/UNinBangladesh/status/1726562857318597106?t=R9FS30cGtVC8Xl8UDa-dBA&s=08>
- <https://x.com/UNinBangladesh/status/1726266934998757397?t=g-OMetivzD9LrE7gGsbzfzQ&s=08>
- <https://x.com/UNinBangladesh/status/1726270715530490169?t=VdXBrg7EY8Qwrv6Dm9bWhw&s=08>
- <https://twitter.com/UNinBangladesh/status/1757311673185223156>

CERF's Added Value:

The allocation from the CERF was crucial, especially considering the direct impact of the flash flood and the vulnerabilities in the economic structure of the affected communities. In contrast to other regions of the country, the communities, government departments, in the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) have comparatively lower awareness, preparedness, and capacity to manage disasters. Additionally, certain remote and inaccessible areas of the CHT are marked by political instability and are susceptible to conflicts. Despite the challenges the four agencies involved successfully managed to coordinate response activities with active involvement from the different counterparts including government and local organizations providing life-saving assistance Food Security, Agriculture, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection (GBV), and SRH sectors.

Through this CERF, the RCO, with support from OCHA ROAP developed the first monitoring system which consisted in an automated 5W Matrix [Microsoft Power BI](#) to track the implementation of the response ([5W matrix –Who, What, Where, When and Why](#)) including [monitoring and managing responses](#). The 5W matrix will be used for other emergency responses in Bangladesh and have been received positively among all the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) which includes the Government, UN agencies and NGOs.

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

Yes

Partially

No

At the outset of the floods, the Government earmarked approximately USD 588,785, primarily directed towards distributing rice, cash, housing grants, and dry food, with a specific focus on districts like Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, and Chattogram. The Government's response was spearheaded by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), implemented through Disaster Management Committees at various levels (Districts, Upazilas, and Union Parishads). However, there was no official solicitation of

international aid from the Government of Bangladesh at the onset of the crisis. It wasn't until August 23-27 that the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was formulated and endorsed, almost a month after the emergency began, which in turn triggered the CERF allowing for the response to scale-up as the impact and full scale of disaster became clearer and partners were able to reach affected areas.

Did CERF funds help ~~x~~to time-critical needs?

Yes

Partially

No

The CERF allocation were urgent interventions needed in sectors like water supply, sanitation, food security, livelihoods, protection against GBV, and the continuation of SRH services.

In 2023, CERF funds were instrumental in aiding the most disadvantaged and ethnic community affected by the Chattogram flash flood. As the sole source of support for this response, these funds facilitated swift initiatives, supplying critical resources like food, clean water, sanitation, livelihoods, and protection to the impacted regions. The CERF allocation not only alleviated the immediate effects of the disaster but also laid the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilience within the community.

Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

Yes

Partially

No

The CERF allocation was done in consultation with UNCT and the Humanitarian Task Team a platform of 10 cluster Co-led by UN and Government delegates, 1 Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) led by the Resident Coordination Office (RCO), 6 working groups co-led by agencies. Additionally, while implementing the project, the four agencies involved did improve coordination between local government and clusters and the clusters jointly reflect on the challenges faced during the response, identifying bottlenecks and proposed solution around improving coordination in the CHT region in the future.

Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

Yes

Partially

No

Non-governmental and humanitarian organizations mobilized both internal and external resources to respond and collaborate with the people of Bangladesh. Immediate response funds mobilized include: the Emergency Response Fund of the Swedish Red Cross, Action Aid Bangladesh, Oxfam Bangladesh and, Start Fund Bangladesh which allocated to respond to the flash floods in Bandarban, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar, and Chittagong. Financial Tracking information from Localization Technical Working Group stated that the total Mobilized amount is about USD 9.8 million (including CERF funding)

Considerations of the ERC's Underfunded Priority Areas¹

The CERF strategy was built on sectoral efforts to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities in line with global commitments and reached a total of 101, 890 people (31,579 women, 30,949 men, 19,872 girls, 19,490 boys). Mechanisms related to Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and persons with disabilities (PWD) were part of the partnership agreements, prioritizing vulnerable people, putting girls, women, children and PWD at the center of their work and implemented activities considering their needs and preferences. The CERF projects directly reached a total of 3,365 people with disabilities.

The interventions included the protection of the most vulnerable from GBV with a component of SRH. UNFPA, in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts, provided 1,500 dignity kits, including two-way transportation costs and 4,043 cash support to identified beneficiaries. The recipients included 1,952 women of reproductive age, 2,735 pregnant and lactating women, 841 female-headed households and 15 transwomen, with 445 women having disabilities. Distribution per district consisted of 1,000 dignity kits and 2,710 cash support in Bandarban, and 500 dignity kits and 1,333 cash support in Cox's Bazar. Additionally, UNFPA established a women

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. Please see the questions and answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

and girl-friendly space (WGFS) in Bandarban, serving 3,116 individuals with group psychosocial support (1,673 PSS), individual psychosocial counseling (32), psychological first aid (PFA) sessions (1,035), and lifesaving information (376). Among the beneficiaries, 321 were pregnant, 453 were lactating women, and 2,342 were women of reproductive age.

All four projects had feedback/complaint mechanisms to listen to/from the affected population. Partners collected feedback/complaints from community leaders and directly from affected people while ensuring accessibility, confidentiality, and follow-up.

Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)

Total amount required for the humanitarian response	30,000,000
CERF	4,000,000
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable)	0
Other (bilateral/multilateral)	0
Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)	4,000,000

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

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
FAO	23-RR-FAO-031	Food Security - Agriculture	500,000
UNFPA	23-RR-FPA-039	Protection - Gender-Based Violence	335,000
UNFPA	23-RR-FPA-039	Health - Sexual and Reproductive Health	165,000
UNICEF	23-RR-CEF-050	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,500,000
WFP	23-RR-WFP-045	Food Security - Food Assistance	1,500,000
Total			4,000,000

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

Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods	2,106,298
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	1,180,466
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	0
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	713,236
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	0
Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*	1,893,702
Total	4,000,000

* 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:

In 2023, Flash floods in Chattogram Division of Bangladesh affected 1.3m people of whom 600,000 needed aid, 213,000 people were displaced and 51 people had lost their lives. The floods submerged 39 of the division's 51 Upazilas (districts), leading to significant destruction, including of 410km of roads. The floods affected 66,000 hectares of farmland in an area where people are already facing food insecurity. Among the affected districts, Bandarban and Rangamati were recognized as conflict zones, the area of face infrastructure damage and administrative complexities. Furthermore, the humanitarian needs were further compounded due to an outbreak of dengue fever, the worst on record eroded the coping capacities of the most vulnerable population.

Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results:

In response, the Emergency Relief Coordinator on 5 September allocated \$4 million from CERF's rapid response window for life-saving activities targeted people in the regions of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, and Bandarban Districts in Chattogram Division. As a result, a total of 101,890 people (31,579 women, 30,949 men, 19,872 girls, 19,490 boys including 3,365 persons with disabilities) benefited in this allocation.

The life-saving assistance package included (1) Food security assistance; (2) Emergency livelihoods assistance; (3) WASH interventions; (4) Emergency SRH services integrated. The CERF allocation contributed directly to the achievement of objectives- urgent lifesaving and livelihoods assistance for communities affected by the flash floods including PWD, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), Indigenous people, and the elderly.

For WASH, CERF covered 72,250 with access to sufficient quantities and quality of water to meet their domestic needs, and access to sanitation facilities which safely contain waste. For food assistance, WFP provided supported of 101,890 people with food for two months. While FAO provided complementary livelihood support to 84,060 through the provision of agricultural inputs such as vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and tools. The UNFPA intervention included responding to 37,060 people in need (female 37,908, male 848), focusing on health and protection needs. Of these, 29,249 benefited from health interventions, while 8,659 were protection sector matters, including women, transgender, adolescents, youth, and PWD. All agencies worked with both local government stakeholders and the local NGOs in the affected region, engaging proactively in coordination.

People Directly Reached:

The implementation of CERF funded projects directly reached a total of 101,890 people (31,579 women, 30,949 men, 19,872 girls, 19,490 boys including 3,365 PWD) through Food Assistance, Agriculture, Protection, GBV Protection, WASH, and Sexual and Reproductive Health interventions. To exclude significant overlaps and double counting, this total corresponds to the total number reached by the Food Security sector interventions as all agencies were operating in the prioritized districts of Bandarban, Rangamati, and Chattogram districts.

People Indirectly Reached:

People indirectly reached are the families of those directly attended by CERF beneficiaries, for example through trainings, information campaigns and materials as well as services that were used for several communities and may continue to be used within these and benefiting many people. For example, through GBV interventions approximately, 250 volunteers (30 from Protection-GBV; 220 from underwent orientation on basic humanitarian principles, GBV awareness, including Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and psychosocial first aid), and thereby bolstering community support network. Furthermore, WFP indirectly reached approximately 81,512 family members of assisted households. While cash, food entitlements, and nutrition messages were directed to household participants, their effects rippled through to other household members; UNICEF has reached 300,000 indirect beneficiaries (150,000 female) through WASH interventions such as community radio programming, social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (hygiene messages along with public health risk).

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	20,625	20,625	20,625	20,625	82,500	14,948	14,900	28,270	25,942	84,060
Food Security - Food Assistance	31,393	30,767	19,756	19,375	101,291	31,579	30,949	19,872	19,490	101,890
Health - Sexual and Reproductive Health	7,700	250	5,300	0	13,250	18,744	541	9,657	307	29,249
Protection - Gender-Based Violence	8,600	0	0	0	8,600	8,659	0	0	0	8,659
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	19,291	19,003	17,051	16,905	72,250	19,291	19,003	17,051	16,905	72,250

* 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	[Fill in]
Returnees	0	[Fill in]
Internally displaced people	0	[Fill in]
Host communities	0	[Fill in]
Other affected people	101,291	101,890
Total	101,291	101,890

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	Planned	Reached	Planned	Reached
Women	31,393	31,579	571	598		
Men	30,767	30,949	532	596		
Girls	19,756	19,872	477	1132		
Boys	19,375	19,490	473	1039		
Total	101,291	101,890	2,053	3,365		

PART II – PROJECT OVERVIEW

2. PROJECT REPORTS

3.1 Project Report 23-RR-FAO-031

1. Project Information			
Agency:	FAO	Country:	Bangladesh
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Agriculture	CERF project code:	23-RR-FAO-031
Project title:	Emergency support to flash flood affected HHs in Chattogram Division – Restoring livelihoods		
Start date:	28/09/2023	End date:	27/03/2024
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency’s sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 2,541,115
	Total funding received for agency’s sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 1,000,000
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 500,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 0
	Government Partners		US\$0
	International NGOs		US\$ 0
	National NGOs		US\$ 0
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ 0	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

In response to the devastating floods in the Chattogram division, FAO distributed rice and vegetable seed packages among 16,812 smallholder households (84,060 individuals) from 28 unions and 12 upazilas in Bandarban, Rangamati, Chattogram and Cox’s Bazar districts utilizing CERF funds against the target of 16,500 HHs (82,500 individuals). The distribution started in mid-November 2023 and was completed in January 2024. Of the entitlement recipients from the beneficiary households, 51 percent were male, and 49 percent were female. FAO also organized a short orientation session for the farmers on the usage of the inputs. These farmers were provided with essential agricultural inputs through two separate packages designed to their emergency needs.

- The first package, distributed to 8,406 farmers, included 5 kg of Boro rice seeds, 20 kg of fertilizers (Diammonium Phosphate-DAP and Muriate of Potassium-MoP), 1 food storage drum/silo, and 1 spade.
- The second package, also distributed to 8,406 farmers, comprised 12 types of vegetable seeds, 20 kg of fertilizers (DAP & MoP), 1 food storage drum/silo, 1 spade, and 1 watering cane.

During the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) assessment, 99 percent of households stated that the inputs were useful to rebuild their resilience after this heavy shock. Around 97 per cent of respondents perceived the assistance from FAO aligned with their household needs and priorities. Over 85 percent of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality of the inputs. About 95 per cent of respondents

reported that it took up to 60 minutes to travel to reach the distribution points and wait less than 30 minutes to receive the inputs. In addition, 100 percent of the respondents reported that they were very satisfied to receive BDT 100 as transportation cost. The project is estimated to enable beneficiary households to cultivate over 2,700 Ha of land and produce around 1.3 MMT of food. The PDM results also indicated over 50 percent of the households experienced improvement across food security outcome indicators (HH dietary diversity, livelihood coping strategy, economic vulnerability) – notable to mention that over 60 percent of the assisted households were facing high levels (equivalent to IPC Phase 3 or above) of Acute Food Insecurity.

3. Changes and Amendments

-

The project reached 84,060 against the targeted 82,500 individuals, utilizing surplus funds from realising the high levels of unmet needs at the response sites.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Agriculture									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Other affected people	20,625	20,625	20,625	20,625	82,500	14,948	14,900	28,270	25,942	84,060
Total	20,625	20,625	20,625	20,625	82,500	14,948	14,900	28,270	25,942	84,060
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	276	276	276	276	1,104	598	596	1,132	1,039	3,365

* 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

Alongside the 16,812 farmers who got help directly, others indirectly benefitted from the project too. For instance, through information campaigns, people nearby learned about farming practices and how to prepare for disasters. This helped them stay safer and farm better in the long run.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	To protect livelihoods of the flood affected vulnerable communities by enabling them to resume crop production				
Output 1	Flood affected agricultural households received to crop production inputs				
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sector/cluster	Food Security - Agriculture				
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification	
Indicator 1.1	Ag.1 Number of people receiving agricultural inputs (items/packages/kits) (inputs for vegetable production)	41,250	42,030	Muster roll	
Indicator 1.2	Ag.1 Number of people receiving agricultural inputs (items/packages/kits) (inputs for rice production)	41,250	42,030	Muster roll	
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		N/A			
Activities	Description	Implemented by			
Activity 1.1	Validation and finalization of final beneficiary list received from DAE and local government actors	FAO			
Activity 1.2	Procurement of seeds, fertilizers, and tools (watering can, silo/drum and spade) in required quantities	FAO			
Activity 1.3	Distribution of life-saving agricultural livelihood inputs for crop production (seeds, fertilizers, and tools)	FAO			
Activity 1.4	Organizing technical briefing on the use of the inputs during distribution	FAO			
Activity 1.5	Post distribution monitoring	FAO			
Activity 1.6	Report writing and submission	FAO			

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 areas² often lacking appropriate

² 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

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 addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)³:

The beneficiary household selection was facilitated in close consultation with Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and local government institutions (Union Parishad, Administration). After verification through the household survey, community consultations (with briefs on selection criteria and objectives) were arranged to gather community feedback on preliminary lists. Both at the inception meeting and community consultations, the project stakeholders and beneficiaries were informed about the details of the project. In addition, there were banners/signage/entitlement lists at distribution points containing information on the project and complaint/feedback mechanism, along with AAP messaging. The AAP messaging included reading out messages along with posters elaborating FAO's commitment to AAP and feedback channels.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

As per FAO Bangladesh's SOP for Feedback and Complaint Response Mechanism, a standard AAP message was utilized that included information on complaints and feedback response mechanisms as well as necessary details on confidential channels such as permanent, dedicated hotline and email, and suggestion boxes at distribution points. Is there available information if there were feedback received and how these were validated, processed, and addressed. That might be good to reflect here too.

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

The common AAP message/signage also included aspects of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and mechanisms in place to address any incidents. In case of any such incident, this would have been treated with extreme confidentiality as per existing SOP and communicated directly to FAO's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) through the FAO Representative and PSEA Focal Point. However, no such complaints were received.

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

Nearly 49 per cent of the project beneficiaries were female. Women were primarily targeted for agriculture, considering the sensitivity and economic engagement of women. Overall, an estimated 14,948 women and 28,270 girls benefitted from the assisted households.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

Households with disabled members were prioritized during selection and a total of 673 HHs were assisted under the criteria. To address their special needs along with women, separate sitting arrangements were made at the distribution points.

f. Protection:

FAO followed a non-discriminatory approach during the project implementation. This was well communicated during community and local government consultations as well as during AAP messaging.

g. Education:

N/A

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. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

³ 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](#).

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 utilized 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

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
N/A	N/A	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
N/A	N/A	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
N/A	N/A	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/QbJHfRFKZH6syxQt/?mibextid=xfxF2i
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/3zZRvj2NBnaYxevg/?mibextid=oEMz7o
Facebook	https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=907753731356444&id=100063654755868&mibextid=Nif5oz
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/2YQ2wJdxb7AWBNL/?mibextid=xfxF2i
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/61555289546904/videos/3656454331287938/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/aBRQdWBD45h789Ra/?mibextid=qj2Omg
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/4D4NtYJWeyU8oEHn/?mibextid=KsPBc6
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/DaKDScmjvdaNPozY/?mibextid=a6qBZI
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/61555289546904/videos/3656454331287938/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v

3.2 Project Report 23-RR-FPA-039

1. Project Information			
Agency:	UNFPA	Country:	Bangladesh
Sector/cluster:	Protection - Gender-Based Violence	CERF project code:	23-RR-FPA-039
	Health - Sexual and Reproductive Health		
Project title:	Addressing protection and sexual and reproductive health needs of flash flood affected women, adolescents and transgenders, including pregnant women and women with disabilities		
Start date:	27/09/2023	End date:	26/03/2024
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 3,375,606
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 193,505
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 500,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 461,073
	Government Partners		US\$ 0
	International NGOs		US\$ 0
	National NGOs		US\$ 461,073
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ 0	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Between 27 September 2023 and 26 March 2024, UNFPA, with three implementing partners, responded in eight flood-affected upazilas of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar reaching approximately 37,060 people in need (female 37,908, male 848), focusing on health and protection needs. Of these, 29,249 benefited from health interventions, while 8,659 were protection sector matters, including women, transgender, adolescents, youth, and persons with disabilities.

In Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts 1,500 dignity kits, including two-way transportation costs and 4,043 cash support for dignity kits, were provided. The recipients included 1,952 women of reproductive age, 2,735 pregnant and lactating women, 841 female-headed

households and 15 transwomen, with 445 women having disabilities. Distribution per district consisted of 1,000 dignity kits and 2,710 cash support in Bandarban, and 500 dignity kits and 1,333 cash support in Cox's Bazar.

Additionally, UNFPA established a women and girls-friendly space (WGFS) in Bandarban, serving 3,116 individuals with group psychosocial support (1,673 PSS), individual psychosocial counselling (32), psychological first aid (PFA) sessions (1,035), and life-saving information (376). Among the beneficiaries, 321 were pregnant, 453 were lactating women, and 2,342 were women of reproductive age.

Twenty community women protection volunteers (CWPV) and frontline humanitarian workers received comprehensive training GBV response and risk mitigation during emergencies. This facilitated access to lifesaving xGBV services and risk mitigation measures. Moreover, the national GBV cluster, together with the Child Protection cluster, engaged more than 40 local NGOs and government bodies in Bandarban, fostering the establishment of GBV referrals, sensitization initiatives on GBV concepts in emergencies.

Consistent with the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) and Bandarban Health Administration guidelines, UNFPA deployed 10 midwives in 10 union health and family welfare centres (UHF&WC) in the affected areas. These midwives reached 17,666 flood-affected women and girls, providing services such as normal vaginal deliveries, ANC/PNC, family planning, counselling, and other healthcare services. Additionally, 1,500 baby kits were distributed, and 25 mobile camps reached over 4,331 people, including adolescent girls, PLW, and men and boys. Furthermore, 200 pregnant women received conditional cash support. for referrals and new newborn care, while 5,550 MHM kits were distributed to ensure access to menstrual hygiene management services during emergencies.

3. Changes and Amendments

In the implementation of the project, several over-achievements were noted in the Gender- based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outputs, which did not necessitate adjustments to the original plan.

Under the GBV output, over-achievement was noted in the cash for dignity kit target, and the reach of the women and girls-friendly space (WGFS). The unexpected gains from the dollar exchange rates enabled 43 more recipients with cash support, while the WGFS surpassed the initial estimations, demonstrating a higher demand for safe spaces in the affected areas.

Similarly, under the SRH output, notable over-achievement was seen in the mobile health camp and union-level health facility reach. The mobile health camps exceeded expectations, particularly in hard-to-reach areas where the routine SRH services were limited. The volunteer's engagement and community outreach efforts facilitated a twofold increase in service uptake. Besides this, the deployment of midwives in the non-functional union level health facilities worked as a pull factor for communities to seek health services. These over-achievements were managed within the project's existing framework without requiring any adjustments or modifications. As such, there were no deviations from the original plan, and implementation proceeded smoothly.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Protection - Gender-Based Violence									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Other affected people	8,600	0	0	0	8,600	8,659	0	0	0	8,659
Total	8,600	0	0	0	8,600	8,659	0	0	0	8,659
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	180	0	0	0	180	445	0	0	0	445

Sector/cluster	Health - Sexual and Reproductive Health									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]

* 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.

Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Other affected people	7,700	250	5,300	0	13,250	18,744	541	9,657	307	29,249
Total	7,700	250	5,300	0	13,250	18,744	541	9,657	307	29,249
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	130	0	80	0	210	0	0	72	0	72

* 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

Approximately, 250 volunteers (30 from Protection-GBV; 220 from SRH) including for community outreach and sessions, community protection volunteers, beneficiary selection enumerators and youth volunteers were recruited from the project localities and underwent orientation on basic humanitarian principles, GBV awareness, including Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and psychosocial first aid), and thereby bolstering community support network. Information cards included in the Dignity kits and MHM kits distributed to women and girls also potentially created awareness to other family members and community. The deployment of twenty midwives in the health facilities broaden access to essential services beyond the project target groups. Additionally, UNFPA facilitated an orientation for 35 Mobile Money Transfer (MMT) service agents on data protection and GBV risk mitigation steps as part of its cash support.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	To address protection, sexual and reproductive health needs of women, adolescents, transgender people, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities affected by flash floods in the Chattogram Division			
Output 1	Lifesaving GBV response services are delivered to women, adolescent girls, and transgender people affected by the flash flood			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Protection - Gender-Based Violence			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Cash.3a Number people receiving conditional cash transfers	5,500	5,543	Cash register record and final report from the financial service provider
Indicator 1.2	Cash.3b Total value of conditional cash transfers distributed	129,000	129,000	Final report from the financial service provider
Indicator 1.3	SP.1 Number of menstrual hygiene management kits and/or dignity kits distributed (DK kits)	1,500	1,500	Master roll of Dignity kit distribution
Indicator 1.4	PS.1a Number of people accessing women and girl friendly safe spaces and/or centers	3,000	3,116	Safe space service register
Indicator 1.5	CC.3 Number of humanitarian workers (UN staff, implementing partner staff, etc) receiving training on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	10	55	Training/ orientation attendance sheet

Explanation of output and indicators variance:	Due to dollar exchange gain, we have increased the cash recipients' number to utilise total allocated budget for this activity line.
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Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Cash support to meet essential needs and promote protection, safety and respect of women, transwomen and women with disabilities affected by the flood	GUK-Tahzingdong
Activity 1.2	Distribution of dignity kits among women of reproductive age	GUK-Tahzingdong
Activity 1.3	Women and girls safe space providing integrated services on multi-sectoral GBV referral, Psychological First Aid (PFA), Psychological Support (PSS), including outreach and awareness through Community Protection volunteers	GUK-Tahzingdong
Activity 1.4	Quick orientation to frontline staffs, GBV response service providers and financial service providers survivor centered approach, data protection, GBV risk mitigation, PFA, CFRM and safeguarding practices	GUK-Tahzingdong

Output 2	Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health is provided to flood-affected women and girls.
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Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Sector/cluster	Health - Sexual and Reproductive Health			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	Number of Babykits distributed	1,000	1,500	Distribution record
Indicator 2.2	Number of mobile health camps are organised	25	25	Mobile health camp register
Indicator 2.3	Number of women and adolescents who received SRHR services from the mobile health camps	1,800	4,331	Mobile clinic service register

Indicator 2.4	Number of union level health facilities are provided midwifery led health care services	5	10	Health facility report
Indicator 2.5	Number women and adolescents received quality reproductive health care services at the union level facilities	5,000	17,666	Patient record
Indicator 2.6	SP.1a Number of menstrual hygiene management kits and/or dignity kits distributed (MHM kits)	5,000	5,550	Muster roll of MHM kit distribution
Indicator 2.7	SP.1b Number of people receiving menstrual hygiene management kits (MHM) and/or dignity kits (DK) (MHM kits)	5,000	5,550	Muster roll of MHM kit distribution
Indicator 2.8	Cash.3a Number people receiving conditional cash transfers	5,200	5,750	Cash distribution
Indicator 2.9	Cash.3b Total value of conditional cash transfers distributed	35,200	35,200	IP and FSP financial report

Explanation of output and indicators variance:

An additional 500 Baby kits were procured and distributed due to gains from the dollar exchange rate. This allowed for the provision of essential supplies to more infants contributing to improved maternal and child health outcomes.

The increased reach for mobile health camps was facilitated by the strategic location in hard-to-reach areas where routine SRHR services are usually scarce. This accelerated the service uptake twofold, ensuring that the women and adolescents in affected areas received essential health care services.

The decision to expand the reach of the union-level health facility was made as per request of the local Health Administration, who aimed to restore SRHR services in 10 union-level centres where services were significantly disrupted after the flood. Therefore, 10 additional facilities were selected, and 10 midwives were deployed to provide essential SRH services. This expansion resulted in increased access to SRH services for women and adolescent girls in the affected area.

Additional MHM kits were procured using gains from the dollar exchange rate. This enabled distribution of an extra 550 MHM kits and supported transportation costs for girls in need. This initiative aimed to ensure that adolescent girl's access to menstruation hygiene management resources, promoting their health and well-being.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
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Activity 2.1	Procure and distribute Baby kits to the flood affected women have delivered during flood or in the last trimester	Green Hill
Activity 2.2	Organize mobile health camps in the hard-to-reach areas at the union level to ensure quality reproductive health care services	Green Hill and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
Activity 2.3	Deploy midwives in selected union level health facilities to ensure the midwifery maternal health care services in those facilities where services have seriously disrupted due to flood	Green Hill and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
Activity 2.4	Cash assistance to the flood affected pregnant women coming to the facilities for institutional deliveries and to adolescent girls to cover transport cost for MHM kit collection	Green Hill and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), CWFD
Activity 2.5	Distribution of menstrual health management kits among adolescent girls	CWFD

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 areas⁴ 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 addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

Three implementing partners of UNFPA- GUK, CWFD and Green Hill implemented the response activities in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar.

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)⁵:

The vulnerable and marginalised groups and stakeholders were actively involved in the preparedness phase of the project. The standard contents of the kits (dignity kits, menstrual health management kits, and baby kits) were determined in consultation with respective target groups and stakeholders in the preparedness phase. All the necessary information related to the kits/services, time/location of the distribution, and uses of the items of the kits were provided to the beneficiaries well ahead and at the appropriate time. During response, a number of mechanisms including feedback forms, complaint boxes and assigned focal points, were used to collect feedback and adjust the contents if necessary. For example, based on feedback and considering cultural appropriateness, Thami (attire for women) was included in the dignity kits. Similarly, prior to cash distribution, the community was consulted, which revealed that the preferred cash transfer modality was mobile money transfer (MMT), and the modality accordingly changed from cash in hand to MMT.

⁴ 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. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

⁵ 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](#).

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

During the project implementation, a Complaint and Feedback Response mechanism (CFRM) was established to ensure accountability to the targeted groups. This involved installing a complaint box in the distribution site and creating a safe space to receive community feedback and complaints. A structured complaint and feedback form (one-pager) was provided to the kit recipients to share any concerns regarding the quality, quantity, process of distribution, and other feedback about the items in the dignity and MHM kits.

Implementing Partners (Ips) designated focal, with their contact information printed on beneficiary cards, allowing beneficiaries to raise concerns or provide feedback directly. This approach ensured that targeted groups could easily access and utilise the mechanisms, promoting the transparency and responsiveness in addressing their needs throughout the response period.

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

All the implementing partners designated PSEA focal points in each district to facilitate the reporting of issues relating to sexual exploitation and abuse. The name and contact number of IP PSEA focal points were printed on the distribution cards and made visibly available at the distribution and service centers.

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

The project focused on vulnerable women, including pregnant women, girls and transwomen, as they are disproportionately impacted by displacement, loss of income, disruption in communication, and so on caused by the flood. Dignity kits and cash for dignity kits ensured the protection of beneficiaries and supported them to prioritise and access other emergency services and recover fully. Menstrual health management support was critical for girls in maintaining safe practices and indirectly empowered them to retrieve safe mobility post-flood situation. Supporting pregnant women was critical for safe delivery, ensuring neonatal health and reducing maternal death. The flood-affected transwomen were provided with cash support for dignity kits, and dedicated outreach sessions on lifesaving information facilitated their right to access other support and, more importantly, brought to the attention of national stakeholders for these most marginalised groups of people.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

UNFPA, in collaboration with a local Organization of People with Disabilities (OPD), reached 445 women with disabilities with cash assistance for accessing Dignity Kit (DK) items in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar. Additionally, the Community Women's Protection Volunteers (CWPV) disseminated life-saving information to 445 women with disabilities through home visits in both Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts. UNFPA also reached 72 adolescent girls with disabilities with menstrual health management kits.

f. Protection:

The project focus was on the protection of women, girls and other vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, transwomen and women and girls with disabilities. The protection and health activities were designed to have integrated outcomes, particularly in the outreach sessions, DK and MHM kit distribution sessions, mobile health camps and women-friendly spaces. At the same time, providing project staff and volunteers with safeguarding equipment ensured the safety of these frontline workers and reduced their risks during response. Lastly, the national GBV cluster, together with Child Protection, brought together the local GBV and non-GGV actors to discuss the mainstreaming of GBV risk mitigation and overall protection in the response. The cluster also developed the district-level GBV referral pathway, oriented actors, and widely disseminated the information. The GBV cluster also jointly led an assessment of inclusion, gender mainstreaming, and GBV risk mitigation for the flood response.

g. Education:

Although the project did not directly contribute to the education sector, outreach sessions in the community, information sharing, and psychosocial counselling in facilities, particularly for adolescent girls, have enhanced their life skills and helped them reintegrate into mainstream education.

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	11,293

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 utilized 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.

The cash packages used in this project are sector-specific - under GBV - cash for supporting the transportation of beneficiaries when collecting Dignity kits and cash for dignity kits/ items. Under SRH, cash was provided for transportation costs of beneficiaries when collecting MHM kits, as well as cash for safe delivery and obstetric emergencies. The estimation of transport costs to beneficiaries is based on the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) 2019. The estimation of cash for dignity items is based on standard costs for a dignity kit. The estimation of conditional cash for pregnant women was based on the cost of a baby kit and transportation costs on MEB.

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
Activity 1.1	5,543	US\$ 129,000	Protection - Gender-Based Violence	Unrestricted
Activity 2.4	5,750	US\$ 35,200	Health - Sexual and Reproductive Health	Unrestricted
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
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Tasnim Akhter case story, MHM kit recipient	https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/posts/pfbid0pxtYs7PWUS7HNJZ4TZtC1GQvqheAnShiYuSzUHYnrmaeN3bUTQdffMhbZdrbx9PPI
'Women do not stop giving birth': Securing SRH services for women through flash flooding in remote Bandarban	https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en/news/%E2%80%98women-do-not-stop-giving-birth%E2%80%99-securing-srh-services-women-through-flash-flooding-remote
A mobile health camp in Naikhyangchori upazila, located 126 km away from Bandarban sadar, has brought crucial services like Antenatal Care (ANC), Postnatal Care (PNC), Family Planning for women and ASRHR services for adolescents.	https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/posts/pfbid0hzGR1TjchoxcP9u6sB948Y5KoGKZ8cLSJhrDSjuwyxdT8csBNa4znb6EGjri3Cyl
Story of Priyanti, MHM kit recipient	https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/posts/pfbid0VcY9DXcmTTuQzyWCuKDjatXGUCkuXEihu6vdg59efGjBM4JnyCWzqvE4uk46HYa5l
Facebook post on cash voucher assistance	https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/posts/pfbid02ALLKmxM6cQH8TPMFAXN3K1MsvUq6oHuyE65RV2GhAbSzcdEmyjCslP76tLougmhl
Facebook post on free health care service	https://www.facebook.com/unfpabangladesh/posts/pfbid02RvbQqHC7MNYm3mu6egpr4qKJ8v7ybQvkDBhPKHudT1wxLzx7X18h4Wrd11kagkjl

3.3 Project Report 23-RR-CEF-050

1. Project Information

Agency:	UNICEF	Country:	Bangladesh
Sector/cluster:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	CERF project code:	23-RR-CEF-050
Project title:	Provision of life-saving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services for the flood -affected people in Bangladesh		
Start date:	26/09/2023	End date:	25/03/2024
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>

Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 5,000,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 200,000
	Amount received from CERF:	US\$ 1,500,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:	US\$ 1,249,532
	Government Partners	US\$ 1,180,466
	International NGOs	US\$ 0
	National NGOs	US\$ 69,066
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation	US\$ 0	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) initiative has played a pivotal role in providing life-saving WASH assistance to flood-affected communities in Chattogram Division, including the most vulnerable in CHT. This CERF-funded project was implemented from September 2023 to March 2024 with a clear mission: to ensure that households across four districts—Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, and Rangamati—had reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services with the aim of addressing public health risks and foster socio-economic stability.

Through this grant, UNICEF reached **72,250 individuals**, primarily those most severely affected by the floods. These included 19,291 women, **19,003 men**, and **33,956 children**, as well as **2,022 people with disabilities**. In addition, approximately **21,600 flood-affected individuals** received hygiene kits, with a targeted focus on vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents, and women, as well as those with disabilities. Over 300 hygiene promotion sessions were conducted, reaching approximately **17,500 indigenous communities (50.43 per cent were female) in the CHT region**.

The project achieved its objectives through the construction of water supply systems and the renovation of damaged water points and climate resilient latrines. These facilities were designed to withstand the challenges posed by the region's climate. Importantly, the project also established a crucial link between humanitarian efforts and long-term development.

The combination of robust infrastructure and strategic aid distribution considered the unique needs of women, children, and individuals with disabilities. By raising awareness and promoting proper hygiene practices, this initiative aimed to strengthen community resilience against the adverse effects of natural disasters. The climate-resilient WASH infrastructure provided ultimately contributes to the humanitarian-development nexus ('Building Back Better') with 10 years return period and to sustainable development, while improving the quality of life for vulnerable and marginalised populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities.

3. Changes and Amendments

UNICEF requested authorization to the CERF Secretariat for change of funding source to reallocate the already committed but unspent funds (\$25,000) which is less than 2 per cent of the project cost to replenish prepositioned supplies stock that were utilized to respond to the floods emergency for the same population and same location as per the agreement. As Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) was not able to provide orientation to the local sanitation entrepreneurs to protect facilities from future floods and other climatic risks. For this activity, UNICEF transferred the fund the Contractor/agency.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene									
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	19,291	19,003	17,051	16,905	72,250	19,291	19,003	17,051	16,905	72,250
Total	19,291	19,003	17,051	16,905	72,250	19,291	19,003	17,051	16,905	72,250
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	540	532	477	473	2,022	540	532	477	473	2,022

* 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

300,000 indirect beneficiaries (150,000 female) reached through community radio listeners, social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (Hygiene messages along with public health risk)

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	To ensure the urgent and quick-impact provision of life-saving safe, sustainable, and climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to the 72,250 most vulnerable flood-affected people in the Bandarban, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar and Rangamati.			
Output 1	Flood-affected people have access to safe drinking water from restored/constructed water points, tube wells, piped water networks			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	WS.6 Number of people accessing sufficient and safe water for drinking, cooking and/or personal hygiene use as per agreed sector standard	50,750	50,750	Monitoring report, field visit,
Indicator 1.2	WS.15 Number of communal water points (e.g. wells, boreholes, water taps stand, systems) constructed and/or rehabilitated	653	653	Monitoring report, field visit, online platform
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		N/A		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 1.1	Construct new water points (deep tube wells; water networks) to replace destroyed water points, ensuring their climate resilience and undertake water quality testing	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)		
Activity 1.2	Rehabilitate (and disinfect) damaged water points (gravity flow systems; protected ring wells;) ensuring their climate resilience and undertaking water quality testing	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)		

Output 2	Flood-affected people benefiting from functional latrines built to agreed standards			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification

Indicator 2.1	Number of household members using newly constructed sanitation facilities (e.g. latrines)	6,000	6,000	Field Visit, Monitoring report, online platform
Indicator 2.2	WS.14 Number of household sanitation facilities (e.g. latrines) and/or household bathing facilities constructed or rehabilitated	300	370	Field Visit, Monitoring report, online platform
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		N/A		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 2.1	Construct new latrines to safely contain wastewater to replace destroyed latrines, ensuring their climate resilience	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)		

Output 3	15,500 affected people reached with hygiene promotion sessions through awareness on handwashing with soap, menstrual hygiene management and water safety plan sessions and message dissemination through mediums.			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sector/cluster	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 3.1	WS.17 Number of people receiving WASH/hygiene messaging	15,500	17,464	Field visit, monitoring report and Narrative Report from implementing partner
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		17,464 community members were reached through 300 hygiene promotion sessions within 13 Unions under 7 Upazillas and 3 Pourshova , 5 topics were covered in the hygiene promotion sessions, including safe management of sanitation, hygiene promotion including hand washing and menstrual hygiene management, safe water & water safety plan, and disaster management. Among the beneficiaries were 8,745 women, 9,019 men, and 36 people with disability .		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 3.1	Support hygiene promotion sessions on hand washing with soap, MHM, water safety plans through mass media, focused group discussions and/or other possible means.	Green Hill		

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 areas⁶ often lacking appropriate

⁶ 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

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 addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)⁷:

The UNICEF WASH interventions prioritized the inclusion of crisis-affected individuals, including vulnerable and marginalized groups such as women, children, and individuals with disabilities in all phases of the project. To ensure their meaningful participation, tailored approaches were adopted. During the design phase, consultations were conducted, particularly for site selection, inclusive design of WASH facilities to accommodate the needs of women and people with disabilities. Throughout its implementation, targeted outreach and support services addressed the unique challenges faced by these groups. Feedback mechanisms were adapted to be inclusive, considering diverse communication needs and ensuring the voices of all community members were heard. For example, the implementation of adjustable features in the toilet design exemplifies a feedback mechanism tailored to meet the specific needs of disabled children, fostering inclusivity and accessibility. Adaptations in project design, such as the installation of accessible facilities like water and sanitation facilities, were constructed in response to feedback, aiming to promote equity and enhance the project's impact on all members of crisis-affected communities.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

To ensure accountability to the affected population, a feedback mechanism was established at the community level through collaboration with WASH, Education, and local disaster management committees. This involved organizing sessions in eight flood-affected unions across seven Upazilas, with a total of 293 participants. These sessions encouraged feedback through a mobile hotline number and complaints and feedback boxes. Additionally, complaint boxes were set up in eight Union Parishads. A total of 55 suggestions and 3 complaints were received, contributing significantly to project implementation. The main raised concerns included: The need for community-based water points; Repairing ring wells; Sanitary latrines more hygiene kits. Promptly addressing these complaints ensured effective resolution and enhanced the project's impact on all members of crisis-affected communities.

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

Before the CERF project, UNICEF conducted PSEA training for government counterparts and NGO partners. These partners had their own PSEA policy, guidelines, and mechanisms to address SEA (Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) issues put in place while ensuring confidentiality, accessibility, and follow-up. To record and handle SEA-related complaints, implementing partners adhered to a mechanism guided by several important principles: Safety: Avoiding risks for those reporting allegations or concerns; Confidentiality: Ensuring privacy and protection; Transparency: Enabling clear communication; Accessibility: Facilitating ease of use. Strict information-sharing practices were enforced, including the use of code names and anonymous reporting. Prior informed consent was obtained from complainants, explaining how their information would be shared and for what purpose. By making these mechanisms clear and user-friendly, partners successfully maintained all necessary steps. Notably, no SEA cases were recorded or managed during the project period.

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

UNICEF WASH project strives to promote gender equality and empower women, girls, and individuals with disabilities through several key strategies. Firstly, it focuses on ensuring equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities—critical for the health, safety, and dignity of women and girls. By prioritizing their needs during the design and implementation of WASH interventions, the project aims to alleviate the disproportionate burden often placed on women and girls in collecting water and managing sanitation.

Moreover, the project adopts gender-sensitive approaches to address cultural norms and barriers that may hinder women's and girls' participation in decision-making processes related to water and sanitation. By actively promoting inclusivity and amplifying the voices and

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. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

⁷ 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](#).

needs of diverse groups, the project contributes to a more equitable environment. Ultimately, these efforts align with broader goals of gender equality and social justice.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

The UNICEF WASH interventions placed priority on women and girls with disabilities during the selection process for households that were to benefit from water point repairs, new constructions, and latrine maintenance. The project's central focus was to meet the essential needs of PWD by ensuring accessibility and inclusion throughout its design and implementation. To achieve this, the project created physically accessible water and sanitation facilities, incorporating features like handrails in stairs and designated spaces for different users. The project also addressed temporary disability issues, such as pregnancy and the of needs elderly individuals. To mitigate specific risks faced by PWD, especially women and girls with disabilities, the project conducted training sessions for staff and community members on disability rights and sensitivity. The project established support networks for people with disabilities and engaged directly with women and girls with disabilities to understand their unique challenges and preferences, ensuring their voices were heard and their needs adequately addressed throughout the project lifecycle.

f. Protection:

In the UNICEF WASH flood response project, protection was a key concern during the design of programmatic interventions. The project prioritized the safety and well-being of all affected individuals, including those at risk. This commitment was woven into every stage of project implementation through the integration of safeguarding measures and risk mitigation strategies. UNICEF conducted comprehensive risk assessments to identify vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and marginalized ethnic communities and established safe spaces and confidential reporting mechanisms to address protection concerns promptly. Staff and community members were trained on safeguarding principles, human rights, and gender equality, fostering a culture of accountability and respect. The integrated protection outcomes included: reduced instances of gender-based violence; increased access to justice for survivors; enhanced safety and security in water and sanitation facilities and improved coordination with local authorities and support services to respond effectively to protection concerns. Overall, the project aimed to create a protective environment where all individuals could access essential WASH services without fear of harm or discrimination.

g. Education:

In the project design, education plays a crucial role in promoting hygiene practices. The project prioritized integrating hygiene education to emphasize the importance of practices such as handwashing, sanitation, and disease prevention. Through interactive sessions, visual communication materials, and experiential learning, the project engaged community members in understanding the scientific basis behind hygiene habits and their impact on health. Furthermore, the project involved teachers, religious leaders, and adolescent girls in capacity-building workshops to effectively deliver hygiene education. Recognizing the diversity of learners, tailor materials to different age groups and learning styles were designed, thereby fostering comprehension and retention. By embedding hygiene education within the project, the project aimed to cultivate a culture of health consciousness, empowering women, and girls to become advocates for hygiene practices within their communities.

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
No	Choose an item.	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.

The project focused on restoring and provision of services such as clean water, safe sanitation and hygiene promotion which had no scope for use of Cash and Voucher Assistance. UNICEF is working with partners to advocate for a wider use of CVA in future response interventions.

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
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
Contribution acknowledgment by WASH sector of UNICEF (UN Facebook)	https://t.co/hYp7s6hKuZ https://t.co/hYp7s6hKuZ
[Insert]	[Insert]
[Insert]	[Insert]

3.4 Project Report 23-RR-WFP-045

1. Project Information

Agency:	WFP	Country:	Bangladesh
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Food Assistance	CERF project code:	23-RR-WFP-045
Project title:	Emergency Food Assistance to the Affected Most Vulnerable People - Chattogram Division Flash Floods and Monsoon Rain		
Start date:	28/09/2023	End date:	27/03/2024
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 9,642,762
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 403,378
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 1,500,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 183,097
	Government Partners		US\$ 0
	International NGOs		US\$ 0
National NGOs		US\$ 183,097	
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ 0	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

In August 2023, intense monsoon rains triggered flash floods and landslides across the Chattogram division, affecting 1.3 million people. The region's challenges in terms of food availability and price hikes were exacerbated by physical and political barriers hindering humanitarian access to the worst-affected areas in the CHT. Notably, CHT exhibits one of the highest rates of extreme poverty, food insecurity, and chronic malnutrition (IPC level 3) in Bangladesh.

In response, WFP immediately initiated its interventions after the Government's response. It WFP distributed 35.25 mt of fortified biscuits in two rounds to 70,500 people (14,100 households) and provided unconditional cash support to 25,400 people (5,080 households) in the severely affected regions of CHT.

Through the CERF grant:

- WFP and its partners provided emergency food and cash assistance to **101,890 individuals (20,378 households)** across nine sub-districts of Bandarban, Rangamati, and Chattogram districts.
- Among the total beneficiaries, **86,495 individuals (17,299 households)** received BDT 5,500 each in cash transfers facilitated through mobile financial service provider, bKash (86,256 people or 17,253 households), cash-in-hand distribution (14,230 people or 2,846 households), and a trial of PlugPAY (1,395 people or 279 households). Within this group, **20,250 people**

(4,050 households) lacking alternate income restoration options and facing extreme need received an additional one-off cash transfer of BDT 5,500 each.

- Furthermore, 15,395 people (3,079 households) received both food and cash assistance. Each household received a food basket comprising 50 kg of rice, 4 kg of lentils, and 4 litres of oil, along with BDT 1,800 cash (US\$ around 17) through various modalities.
- In total, BDT 122,846,200 (US\$ 1,132,327) was transferred, and 178.582 metric ton (mt) food was distributed through various modalities and rounds.

These interventions provided financial flexibility to affected households for purchasing food and essentials. Additionally, nutrition awareness messages were provided to 20,378 households and their family members through the distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including leaflets, banners, and mobile calls/messages, covering basic information on food and nutrition.

3. Changes and Amendments

Originally, WFP aimed to assist 101,291 individuals (20,258 households) with the CERF grant. However, due to fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate, there was a surplus, allowing WFP to provide support to an additional 600 individuals (120 households) with the same package of food assistance.

Additionally, certain budget line items required readjustment within a 15 percent deviation threshold. This reallocation was communicated to the CERF secretariat through the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and was approved.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Other affected people	31,393	30,767	19,756	19,375	101,291	31,579	30,949	19,872	19,490	101,890
Total	31,393	30,767	19,756	19,375	101,291	31,579	30,949	19,872	19,490	101,890
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	571	440	383	279	1,673	574	443	385	281	1,683

* 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

The response indirectly benefited approximately 81,512 family members of assisted households. While cash, food entitlements, and nutrition messages were directed to household participants, their effects rippled through to other household members.

Furthermore, active participation from local-level coordination, cooperating partners, and disaster management committees bolstered their capacity during the implementation process.

Moreover, WFP extended technical support to over 100 youth volunteers for tasks such as data collection and distribution using mobile devices such as tablet computers and mobile point-of-sale (MPOS)⁸ machine, which is expected to yield positive impacts for future responses.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	Populations affected by the flash flood and monsoon rain in south-western districts (i.e., Chittagong Hill Tracts, Chattogram) of Bangladesh are able to meet basic food, nutrition and other essential needs following the floods.			
Output 1	Flash Flood and Monsson rain-affected people/HHs received food and cash assistance following the flood			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	FN.1a Number of people receiving in-kind food assistance (15,395 people (3,079 HHs. Female: 7,769 Male: 7,616))	15,395	15,395	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports from Mobile Payment Operators (MPOs), SCOPE data, and Mobile Operational Data Acquisition (MoDA)⁹ data. - Distribution reports from cooperating partners - Physical verification and distribution monitoring reports - Reports from post-distribution monitoring. - Remote monitoring conducted via mobile calls to project participants.
Indicator 1.2	FN. 1b Quantity of food assistance distributed in MT ((153.960 MT of rice, 12.317 MT of lentils and 12.317 MT of oil))	178.582	178.582	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports from Mobile Payment Operators (MPOs), SCOPE data, and MoDA data. - Distribution reports from cooperating partners. - Physical verification and distribution monitoring reports - Reports from post-distribution monitoring. - Remote monitoring conducted via mobile calls to project participants.

⁸ MPOS, or mobile point-of-sale, is a smartphone, tablet or dedicated wireless device that performs the functions of a cash register or electronic POS terminal wirelessly.

⁹ Mobile Operational Data Acquisition (MoDA) is WFP's corporate data collection platform.

Indicator 1.3	Cash.2a Number of people receiving sector-specific unconditional cash transfers (20,258 HHs. Female: 51,149, Male: 50,142)	101,291	101,890	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disbursement report from the financial service provider (bKash). - Report on cash transfer execution to individual participants via bKash. - Post-distribution monitoring report. - Remote monitoring conducted through mobile calls to project participants.
Indicator 1.4	Cash.3b Total value of sector-specific unconditional cash transfers distributed in USD (BDT122,301,700)	1,127,205	USD 1,121,883.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial service provider (bKash) disbursement report - Individual participant cash transfer execution report via bKash. - Post-distribution monitoring report. - Remote monitoring of project participants via mobile calls.
Indicator 1.5	FS.3 Average reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) (Average value reduced by 2)	2	7.63	Post Distribution Monitoring Report.
Indicator 1.6	FS.5a Percentage of households with an acceptable food consumption score	50%	77%	Post Distribution Monitoring Report.

Explanation of output and indicators variance:

Indicator 1.3: Initially, the plan was to support 20,258 households (101,291) with food and cash assistance. However, during the implementation phase, it became evident that there would be a surplus amount remaining due to exchange gain. Consequently, WFP decided to increase the number of households supported by adding an additional 120 households.

Indicator 1.5: The achieved average reduced coping strategies of 7.63 significantly surpass the planned value of 2, indicating a much higher severity in coping mechanisms than anticipated. This suggests other underlying vulnerabilities within the community and requires further analysis to understand the specific factors contributing to this outcome.

Indicator 1.6: The percentage of households with an acceptable food consumption score was planned to be 50 percent, but the achieved result was higher at 77 percent. This indicates successful project interventions such as emergency food and cash assistance, behaviour change communication, resulting in improved food security and dietary practices among the targeted households.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Select the implementing partners and sign field-level agreements	WFP
Activity 1.2	Inform the financial service provider (FSP) about the cash transfers	WFP
Activity 1.3	Procurement of rice, lentils, and oil	WFP
Activity 1.4	Select sub-districts and unions in consultation with the local administrations, Hill district councils, traditional leaders and UN	WFP and implementing partners

	agencies involved in the CERF-funded response (including disaster management committees) and inform the Food Security Cluster (FSC) and Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG) for greater coordination.	
Activity 1.5	Conduct orientation sessions for cooperating partners on project expectations in this emergency	WFP
Activity 1.6	Inform the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and brief local administrations about this CERF-funded project	WFP
Activity 1.7	Mobilize and sensitize communities about the project and selection criteria	WFP and its implementing partners
Activity 1.8	Beneficiary selection, verification, and registration	WFP and its implementing partners
Activity 1.9	Opening of bKash accounts (for those that do not have their own accounts) and provision of financial literacy	WFP and its implementing partners
Activity 1.10	Transport food to partners' warehouses for distribution	WFP
Activity 1.11	Introduce the complaint feedback mechanism (using WFP's toll-free number)	WFP
Activity 1.12	Provide a nutrition education package for the intended beneficiaries on food and nutrition with messaging through various media & IEC materials i.e. leaflets, banners and mobile calls and messages	WFP
Activity 1.13	Select distribution centres in discussion with beneficiaries and local government to be used for CERF-funded distributions (e.g., food and cash distribution by WFP)	WFP and its implementing partners
Activity 1.14	Food distribution to the project participants using MoDA	WFP and its implementing partners
Activity 1.15	Cash transfer (BDT 5,500/HH) to project participants using the bKash platform.	WFP
Activity 1.16	Cash distribution (BDT 5,500/HH) to project participants (cash-in-hand) using MoDA, for those who don't have access to mobile bank a/c	WFP
Activity 1.17	Conduct physical visits to the households and remote monitoring and verification of correct receipt of food and cash	WFP and its implementing partners
Activity 1.18	Monitoring of the whole activity remotely and physically	WFP
Activity 1.19	Coordinate with government (including local governments and administrations), Traditional leaders in CHT, other UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO and UNRC office) international and national non-governmental organizations and coordination platforms (e.g., Food Security Cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Logistic Cluster, HCTT, etc.)	WFP As a co-lead of the Food Security Cluster (FSC), WFP had the added advantage of coordinating the response on the ground with NGOs/INGOs and local administrations.
Activity 1.20	Localization by ensuring participation of the community (through the hotline number to receive their feedback), local partners and district administrations in the planning, coordination, and implementation of the response.	WFP
Activity 1.21	Report to the donor	WFP

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 areas¹⁰ 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 addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)¹¹:

Accountability to the affected populations was ensured throughout the project design, implementation, and monitoring phases through the following measures:

- **Consultation:** Community consultation was integral in determining beneficiary selection criteria and entitlements. Opinions from the community were given top priority, leading to adjustments in implementation. For example, adequate cash-out agents were stationed in remote areas and at doorsteps, prioritizing PLW, PWD, and elderly people.
- **Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism:** A hotline number was extensively promoted to ensure beneficiaries across targeted areas felt secure in reaching WFP Dhaka directly. Throughout the project duration, all calls and queries concerning the intervention were promptly addressed, and necessary actions were taken accordingly.
- **Selection of Distribution Points and Cash-Out Agents:** Distribution points and cash-out agents were carefully selected considering security, protection, and convenience factors for targeted women beneficiaries.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

A community feedback mechanism was established by WFP through the introduction of a toll-free hotline at project locations. This initiative aimed to provide beneficiaries, as well as other community members, with a safer and more secure channel to voice their concerns. The hotline number was extensively promoted through various mediums, including being printed on informational materials and QR cards distributed to selected beneficiaries. Festoons displaying the hotline number were strategically placed in key locations such as Union Parishad offices and marketplaces. Additionally, beneficiaries were briefed on how to anonymously lodge complaints via the hotline during consultation meetings.

Throughout the project duration, a total of 763 phone calls were received from beneficiaries and the community. The majority of these calls pertained to distribution schedules, programme inquiries, and issues with mobile bank accounts. All calls received (100%) were handled with utmost priority and resolved promptly.

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

¹⁰ 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. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

¹¹ 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](#).

Beneficiaries were encouraged to utilize the toll-free hotline numbers to report any issues, including instances of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). They were reassured regarding the safety and confidentiality of their reports. A comprehensive orientation session on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was conducted for staff members of cooperating partners. Emphasis was placed on WFP's zero-tolerance policy regarding such incidents. Additionally, Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) was thoroughly discussed, with a focus on protection and gender perspectives.

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

Cash transfers were prioritized to be allocated to women heads or senior women within households whenever feasible. The project adhered to WFP's Gender Policy, ensuring that Cooperating Partners upheld WFP's standards for gender mainstreaming and implemented gender-targeted interventions. Furthermore, efforts were made to ensure that all staff members understood and were equipped to implement gender transformative programmes, in line with WFP's gender equality commitments. Additionally, the project emphasized the six core principles of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee concerning Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) to consistently remind Cooperating Partners of WFP's gender mainstreaming standards.

e. People with disabilities (PWD):

WFP prioritized meeting the essential needs of over 1600 PWD, ensuring their accessibility and inclusion. Transportation assistance was provided for carrying food, while doorstep cash-out agents were available, reducing mobility barriers. Advocacy efforts sought to integrate PWD into social safety net programmes through engagement with local authorities and key government officials.

Specific risks, particularly for women and girls with disabilities, were addressed through targeted support and awareness campaigns. Protection and safety were paramount, with measures such as accessible distribution points and gender-sensitive approaches implemented to foster supportive environments. The project aimed to enhance the overall well-being and inclusion of PWD by considering their unique needs and promoting their rights and dignity within the community.

f. Protection:

Protection of all project participants and at-risk individuals was prioritized throughout the project implementation. Anonymity was ensured for anyone contacting WFP through the toll-free hotline, fostering a safe space for reporting concerns. Transparent transfer processes minimized the risk of fraud, upholding accountability, and participant rights. WFP's zero-tolerance policy against fraud, abuse, and exploitation was strictly enforced, with partner staff briefed and relevant clauses included in agreements. Integrated protection outcomes included enhanced reporting mechanisms, prevention of financial exploitation, strengthened accountability, and institutionalization of protection standards within partner organizations. By mainstreaming protection measures, the project aimed to create a secure environment, mitigate risks, and promote the well-being of all participants, aligning with WFP's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable populations.

g. Education:

While education was not a central focus of the project intervention, the dissemination of Social Behavior Change Communications (SBCC) through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials played a crucial role. WFP distributed key nutrition awareness messages to 20,378 households and their members in five languages: Bengali, Chakma, Marma, Tripura, and Mro. These messages covered topics such as food, nutrition, and awareness of entitlements. Although it's too early to assess significant changes, participants acknowledged the usefulness of basic nutrition awareness in improving their knowledge during discussions.

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	101,890

o, 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.

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

h assistance was allocated based on field observations regarding market functionality. In areas where markets were operational, unconditional cash assistance was provided. Additionally, beneficiaries received sensitization sessions on nutrition messages, empowering them to utilize the assistance effectively to ensure food security. This approach aimed to maximize the benefits of the assistance, allowing beneficiaries to allocate additional funds for other essential needs.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	CVA	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Sector-specific unconditional cash transfer		101,890	US\$ 1,121,883.11	Food Security	Unrestricted

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
Contribution acknowledgement (9 October 2023)	https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=707660338058560&set=a.622956019862326
Response overview (19 October 2023)	https://www.facebook.com/WFPinBangladesh/videos/301068196123939/
Contribution acknowledgement with beneficiary photos (29 December 2023)	https://www.facebook.com/WFPinBangladesh/posts/pfbid0f5BnNGWA67g2Z9EadxLgF3GixTofei12RTkWtd6cCj59VhTQdTBFQvH91Bxd3suNI
Photo story (Facebook) (17 March 2024)	https://www.facebook.com/WFPinBangladesh/posts/pfbid02CQNnNJJN1Pf1Bng6SPaVdQPEtBkeu1rqyNmckvxjrw3fKQdPK25Ek7Fny8awecvPI
Photo story (X/Twitter) (25 March 2024)	https://x.com/WFP_Bangladesh/status/1772152567856034209?s=20

ANNEX: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

CERF Project Code	Cluster/Sector	Agency	Partner Type	Total CERF Funds Transferred to Partner US\$
23-RR-FAO-031	Agriculture	FAO	GOV	\$0
23-RR-FPA-039	Gender-Based Violence	UNFPA	NNGO	\$186,840
23-RR-FPA-039	Sexual and Reproductive Health	UNFPA	NNGO	\$145,080
23-RR-FPA-039	Sexual and Reproductive Health	UNFPA	NNGO	\$129,153
23-RR-CEF-050	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$1,180,466
23-RR-CEF-050	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	NNGO	\$69,066
23-RR-WFP-045	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$74,612
23-RR-WFP-045	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$57,458
23-RR-WFP-045	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$39,906
23-RR-WFP-045	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$11,120