

Activity Report

on

UNICEF Supported DPHE Emergency Response for Soap & Sanitary Napkin Distribution in Feni and Noakhali Districts under Eastern Flood Response 2024

Introduction

In August 2024, a devastating flood swept through the eastern part of Bangladesh, causing widespread destruction and leaving communities in urgent need of support. In response to this crisis, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), in collaboration with UNICEF, launched an emergency response program to address the immediate needs of the affected population.

As part of this program, essential hygiene items, including soap and sanitary napkins, were distributed to vulnerable communities in Noakhali and Feni districts. This initiative aimed to mitigate health risks, promote hygiene practices, and support flood-affected individuals during this challenging time.

Program Coverage

The emergency response program was implemented in two districts—**Noakhali** and **Feni**—covering a total of 14 upazilas. The initiative mobilized significant resources, including volunteers and staff, to ensure timely and efficient distribution of hygiene items to the flood-affected communities.

Noakhali District

In Noakhali, the program covered eight upazilas: Noakhali Sadar, Begumganj, Sonaimuri, Companyganj, Kabirhat, Senbag, Chatkhil, and Subornochar. A total of 8,000 units of soap and sanitary napkins were distributed across these upazilas, utilizing 62 volunteer man-days and 183 staff man-days. Distribution activities were carried out over 118 trips/spots to ensure effective coverage.

Feni District

In Feni, the program extended to six upazilas: Feni Sadar, Sonagazi, Dagonvuyia, Chagolnaiya, Fulgazi, and Porshuram. Here, 12,000 units of soap and sanitary napkins were distributed with the help of 250 volunteer man-days and 216 staff man-days. A total of 121 trips/spots were used to reach the affected communities in this district.

Key Achievements

1. Resource Deployment:

- A combined total of **312 volunteer man-days** and **399 staff man-days** were utilized to ensure smooth operations.

2. Distribution Coverage:

- A total of **20,000 units** of soap and sanitary napkins were distributed to flood-affected individuals across 14 upazilas.

3. Transportation Logistics:

- **239 trips/spots** were used to deliver hygiene materials efficiently and ensure no community was left unsupported.

4. Community Engagement:

- Local volunteers actively engaged with community members to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining hygiene during emergencies.

Beneficiary Coverage

The emergency response program prioritized reaching the most vulnerable populations affected by the devastating floods. The distribution of soap and sanitary napkins was carefully planned to ensure maximum impact and equitable access to hygiene materials.

1. School and Madrasa Distribution:

A significant portion of the distributed items was provided to students in schools and madrasas across the affected upazilas. This initiative aimed to promote hygiene practices among young individuals, particularly in educational institutions, where the risk of disease transmission can be higher during emergencies.

2. Support for the Poorest Communities:

Alongside educational institutions, a large number of hygiene kits were distributed among the poorest sections of society. Special attention was given to marginalized and low-income families who faced heightened vulnerabilities due to the flood. By targeting these communities, the program ensured that essential hygiene materials reached those who needed them the most.

This dual approach of targeting both educational institutions and the most underprivileged communities ensured broad and impactful coverage, contributing to better hygiene and health outcomes during the emergency.

Challenges Faced

- Poor road conditions in several upazilas posed challenges to timely distribution. However, strategic planning and coordination between volunteers and local authorities helped overcome these obstacles.
- Limited availability of resources required prioritization of highly vulnerable areas to maximize impact.
- Efforts were made to educate communities about the importance of proper hygiene practices, especially in flood-affected areas, to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

Conclusion

The emergency response program successfully reached flood-affected communities in Noakhali and Feni, ensuring access to essential hygiene materials and promoting healthy practices during the crisis. The collaboration between DPHE, UNICEF, and local volunteers played a crucial role in the program's success.

Moving forward, continued efforts in monitoring, evaluation, and community engagement will be essential to assess the long-term impact of the program and enhance preparedness for future emergencies.



Soap and Sanitary Napkin Distribution at Schools in different Upazilas of Noakhali District



Soap and Sanitary Napkin Distribution at Schools in different Upazilas of Feni District

Annex 1

Sl No	Zilla	Upazila	Volunteer (Man Day)	Staff (ManDay)	Distributed Soap and Sanitary Napkin (Nos)	No of Trips/Spots
1	Noakhali	Nokahlai Sadar	0	30	1000	13
2		Begumganj	0	18	1000	11
3		Sonaimuri	0	24	1000	26
4		CompanyGanj	12	24	1000	4
5		Kabirhat	0	30	1000	10
6		Senbag	20	20	1000	15
7		Chatkhil	20	20	1000	12
8		Subornochar	0	17	1000	13
1	Feni	Feni Sadar	52	108	4000	65
2		Sonagazi	56	15	2000	9
3		Dagonvuyia	48	36	2000	15
4		Chagolnaiya	40	12	1500	19
5		Fulgazi	40	24	1500	16
6		Porshuram	24	21	1000	11
		Total	312	399	20000	239