

ACTIVITY REPORT

Anticipatory Action on Jamuna Basin Flood

1. Introduction

Anticipatory Action in Bangladesh represents a transformative approach to disaster management, particularly in the context of the country's frequent and severe flooding events. Recognizing the country's vulnerability to natural hazards, particularly monsoon floods, anticipatory actions aim to mitigate the humanitarian impacts by leveraging early warning systems and scientific forecasting. The Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with humanitarian organizations, has developed a robust framework for anticipatory action that leverages advanced forecasting techniques and early warning systems. This proactive approach enables timely interventions that can significantly reduce the severity of disasters in affected communities.

This activity report outlines the implementation of the Anticipatory Action initiative in the Jamuna River Basin, aimed at mitigating the impacts of flooding on vulnerable communities. The program focuses on proactive measures to ensure readiness at regional, district, and Upazila levels, enhancing the capacity to respond effectively to flood risks. The targeted areas are 5 districts i.e. Gaibandha, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, and Bogura, 16 Upazila of those districts, and 41 Unions of those Upazilas.



Figure 1: Bangladesh coordinate anticipatory action for monsoon river flooding

2. Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of the Anticipatory Action initiative in the Jamuna Basin is to reduce the humanitarian impact of flooding on vulnerable populations by implementing timely and effective preparedness measures. This initiative aims to enhance community resilience and ensure that essential services are available when disasters strike. Specific objectives include:

- Ensuring the operational readiness of regional, district, and Upazila-level resources to respond to flood risks.
- Enhancing community awareness through mass communication campaigns focused on early warning and hygiene practices.
- Facilitating the distribution of essential water supplies, including jerry cans and water purification tablets (WPT), to affected populations.

- Monitoring and reporting on the readiness activities through field visits by DPHE staff at various administrative levels.
- Coordinating the logistical support for transporting water to Char Islands and remote plain lands using trucks and boats.

3. Activity Overview:

The activities of the anticipatory actions are:

- Readiness of the regional, district, and Upazila level store
- Readiness of the MWTP
- Field visit by DPHE Districts level staff to monitor the Upazila level readiness activities
- Mass communication on early warning and hygiene behavior campaigns
- Operational and maintenance of MWTP
- Carrying water for Char Island and Remote plain land by trucks and boats
- Joint distribution of Jerry can and WPT by DPHE staff supervised volunteers
- Upazilla level DPHE staff/supervisor for managing volunteers
- Field visit by DPHE circle and district-level staff to monitor and report all the activities

4. Target Action

The anticipatory action targeted five districts: Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, and Bogura. Within these districts, interventions were planned across 16 Upazilas and 41 Unions. The goal of the action was to deploy 10 mobile water treatment units to these areas, providing each household with two jerry cans and a 10-day supply of water purification tablets. The target goal was achieved by the activities of the anticipatory action.

5. Description of Activities

The Anticipatory Action initiative in the Jamuna River Basin encompasses a series of strategic activities aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities:

Readiness of Regional, District, and Upazila Level Stores: Ensuring adequate stockpiles of essential supplies and equipment across administrative tiers, minor repairs, cleaning and freeing up spaces, abolishing expired and damaged materials



Figure 2: Preparedness of Store Divisions

Readiness of the Mobile Water Treatment Plant (MWTP): Ensuring operational readiness and maintenance of MWTP to provide safe drinking water during flood emergencies, minor repairs, and trail runs, ensuring the readiness of driver and operator. Ten MWTPs were ensured in safe water supply.



Figure 3: Preparing of Mobile Water Treatment Plant

Field Visits by DPHE Districts Level Staff: Monitoring and supervising preparedness activities at Upazila levels to ensure effective response mechanisms.



Figure 4: Field visit of DPHE officials

Mass Communication Campaigns: Educating communities through targeted campaigns on early warning systems and promoting hygienic practices to prevent waterborne diseases, advertisement through Leaflets, classroom and moshjid announcements, and announcements through mics in vehicles.



Figure 5: Awareness campaign through mics in autorickshaw, boat and truck



Figure 6: Awareness campaign through leaflet distribution, classroom and moshjid announcements

Operational and Maintenance Costs of MWTP: Allocating resources for sustained operation and upkeep of MWTP facilities, cost of fuel, and services.



Figure 7: O & M of mobile water treatment plant during anticipatory action

Transportation of Water: Facilitating the transport of water to Char Islands and remote plains via trucks and boats to meet urgent water needs.



Figure 8: Transportation of water by trucks and boats

Joint Distribution of Jerry Cans and Water Purification Tablets (WPT): Coordinated distribution efforts led by DPHE staff and supervised volunteers to ensure 2 jerrycans and 50 WPT per household.

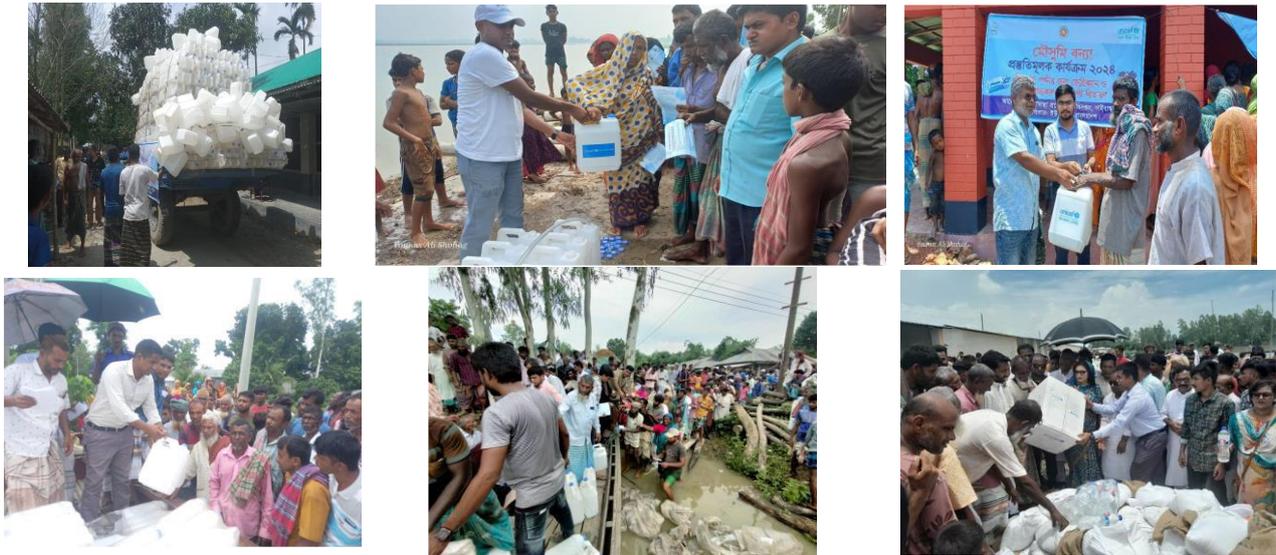


Figure 9: Distribution of Jerry Cans and Water Purification Tablets

Additional Distribution of Hygiene Kit and Bucket with Tap:



Figure 10: Distribution of bucket with tap for drinking water storage



Figure 11: Distribution of Hygiene kit

Upazila Level DPHE Staff Supervision: Overseeing volunteer management and coordination efforts at the Upazila level to optimize response activities.

Monitoring and Reporting: Conduct regular field visits by DPHE circle and district-level staff to monitor activities and provide comprehensive reports on implementation progress.



Figure 12: Monitoring and Field observation by DPHE Engineers and UNICEF officers

These activities collectively strengthen community resilience and enhance preparedness to mitigate the humanitarian impact of flooding in vulnerable areas.

6. Challenges faced:

Accessibility and Transportation Barriers: Reaching distribution points and affected communities is difficult due to flooding, erosion, fragmented terrains, and a lack of transportation facilities. This makes it challenging to deliver supplies, deploy water treatment plants, and access remote areas.

Insufficient Resources and Logistical Constraints: The available WASH supplies, mobile water treatment plants, and financial support are inadequate to meet the rising needs during floods. Limited funding and logistical support slow down critical interventions, often relying on international aid.

Coordination and Workforce Limitations: Coordinating among local authorities, volunteers, and external partners is challenging, impacting the synchronization of relief efforts. Additionally, there is a lack of skilled manpower and volunteers to manage emergency operations.

Water Contamination and Sanitation Issues: Floodwaters contaminate freshwater sources with harmful pathogens and waste, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. Flooding also damages sanitation infrastructure, mixing untreated waste with floodwater and leading to potential disease outbreaks.

Community Displacement and Shelter Challenges: Flooding forces many people into overcrowded temporary shelters, where water and sanitation facilities are often inadequate. Managing resources in these high-density settings is overwhelming due to limited availability.

Community Awareness and Cultural Barriers: Awareness of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices is low in some communities, especially in remote or rural areas. Traditional beliefs and resistance to adopting new practices hinder the effectiveness of interventions.

Financial and Maintenance Issues: There are difficulties in financing water and sanitation services and a lack of ongoing operations and maintenance for water infrastructure. There is a misconception that government bodies are solely responsible for repairs, which impacts service sustainability.

Emergency Preparedness and Volunteer Availability: There is a lack of preparedness programs, emergency payment systems, and skilled volunteers for immediate response during natural calamities, which affects the efficiency of emergency operations.

7. Recommendations:

Strengthen Early Warning Systems: Improve flood forecasting to allow earlier mobilization of resources and better preparedness.

Expand Resource Allocation: Increase stockpiles of WASH supplies and mobile water treatment units, especially for remote and severely affected areas.

Enhance Community-Based Approaches: Train local communities in WASH management, increase volunteers, and improve communication with DPHE to build resilience and capacity for emergencies.

Increase Financial and Logistical Support: Mobilize both international and local resources quickly, and pre-position emergency WASH supplies in strategic locations for rapid deployment.

Promote Sustainable Post-Flood Recovery: Prioritize rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure, involving local communities to ensure sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions.

Strengthen Coordination Among Agencies: Develop a centralized WASH coordination platform to enhance communication and avoid duplication of efforts among government bodies, NGOs, and international agencies.

Enhance Training and Awareness: Increase awareness programs on safe water and sanitation in flood-prone areas, and provide training for volunteers and DPHE personnel for effective emergency response.

8. Conclusion

The effective execution of the activities of the anticipatory action stands as a commendable achievement. The list of the 5 districts, 16 Upazilas, and 41 Unions that are covered are mentioned in [Figure 2](#).

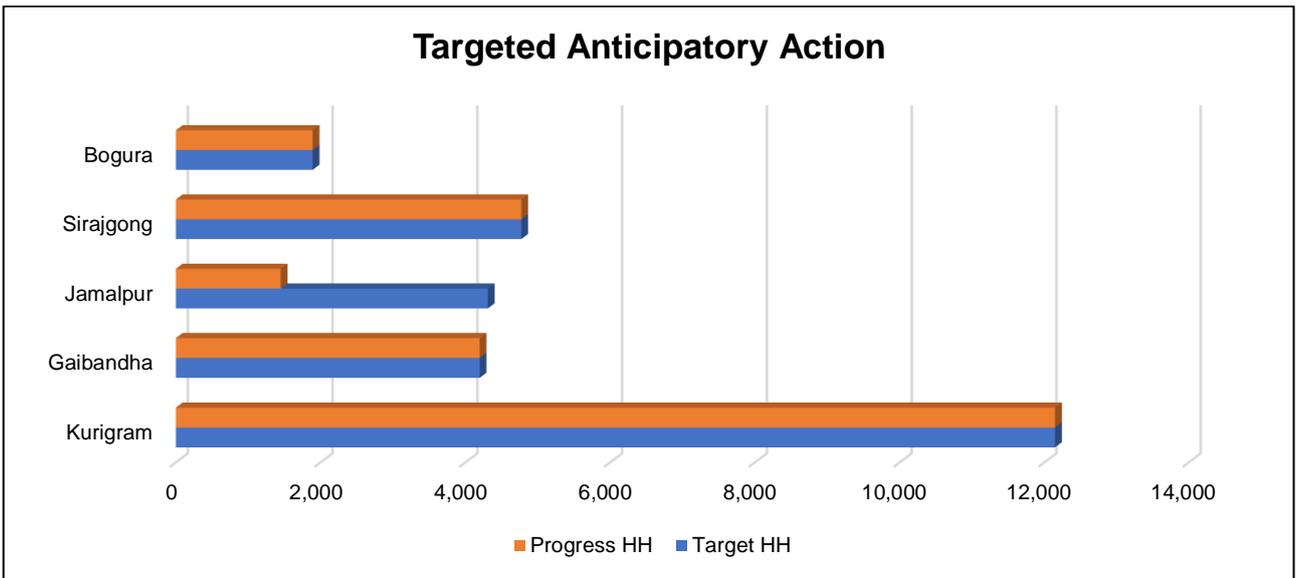
Figure 13: List of districts for anticipatory action

SL	District	Upazila	Union	Target HH	Progress HH	Update Date
1	Kurigram (UP7, UN17)	Nageshwari	Narayanpur	486	486	8/7/2024
		Nageshwari	Ballabher Khas	412	412	8/7/2024
		Nageshwari	Kaliganj	449	449	8/7/2024
		Nageshwari	Noonkhawa	258	258	8/7/2024
		Kurigram Sadar	Jatrapur	1,305	1,305	8/7/2024
		Bhurungamari	Bangasonahat	511	511	8/7/2024
		Bhurungamari	Paiker Chhara	297	297	8/7/2024
		Kurigram Sadar	Bhogdanga	908	908	8/7/2024



		Chilmari	Ramna	741	741	8/7/2024
		Ulipur	Tabakpur	362	362	8/7/2024
		Ulipur	Begumganj	454	454	8/7/2024
		Char Rajibpur	Kodailkati	835	835	8/7/2024
		Char Rajibpur	Char Rajibpur	1,385	1,385	8/7/2024
		Chilmari	Thanahat	629	629	8/7/2024
		Raumari	Bandaber	903	903	8/7/2024
		Chilmari	Ashtamir Char	1,330	1,330	8/7/2024
		Raumari	Dantbhanga	881	881	8/7/2024
		Kurigram Total		17	12,146	12,146
2	Gaibandha (UP2, UN4)	Sundarganj	Haripur	2,033	2033	8/7/2024
		Fulchhari	Gazaria	926	926	8/7/2024
		Fulchhari	Fulchhari	745	745	8/7/2024
		Sundarganj	Kanchibari	493	493	8/7/2024
		Gaibandha Total		4	4,197	4,197
3	Jamalpur (UP2, UN3)	Dewanganj	Chikajani	1,426	1448	7/7/2024
		Islampur	Kulkandi	1,605		
		Islampur	Noarpara	1,279		
		Jamalpur Total		3	4,310	1448
4	Sirajganj (UP2, UN9)	Kazipur	Char Girish	481	481	9/7/2024
		Kazipur	Khas Rajbari	213	213	9/7/2024
		Kazipur	Mansur Nagar	335	335	9/7/2024
		Kazipur	Nishchintapur	765	765	9/7/2024
		Kazipur	Tekani	393	393	9/7/2024
		Sirajganj Sadat	Kalia Haripur	701	701	9/7/2024
		Sirajganj Sadar	Kaoakola	515	515	9/7/2024
		Sirajganj Sadar	Mechhra	642	642	9/7/2024
		Sirajganj Sadar	Saidabad	727	727	9/7/2024
		Sirajgong Total		9	4,772	4772
5	Bogura (UP3, UN8)	Sariakandi	Chandan Baisha	1,170	1,170	9/7/2024
		Sariakandi	Karnibari			
		Sariakandi	Sariakandi			
		Sonatola	pakulla	540	540	
		Sonatola	Madhupur			
		Sonatola	Tekani Chukainagar			
		Dhunat	Bhandarbari	180	180	
		Dhunat	Gosainbari			
		Bogura total		8	1,890	
Total		16	41	27,315	24,453	





The targeted households for anticipatory action and the progress observed underscore the success of this initiative.

