Phase III Shelter, WASH, and Early Recovery Detailed Assessment

Bangladesh – Tropical Storm Mahasen

Early Recovery Cluster Factsheet

10 June 2013

THE PHASE III DETAILED ASSESSMENT IS A JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH AND THE SHELTER, WASH, AND EARLY RECOVERY CLUSTERS, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE REACH INITIATIVE

INTRODUCTION

Cyclone Mahasen made landfall on May 16, 2013 in the Barisal division of southern Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh initiated the evacuation of more than 1 million people living in the storm's path to the cyclone shelters. After landfall, the cyclone quickly weakened and was downgraded to a tropical storm before dissipating over northern Bangladesh.[1]

The Government of Bangladesh reported 17 casualties as a result of the cyclone with 463,303 people affected. The Government also reported 23,539 totally destroyed and 109,687 partially damaged shelters.[2]

Based on the initial reports of the government and humanitarian agencies on the ground, it was determined that the districts of Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali were the most affected by the storm.

METHODOLOGY

The sampling methodology included two sampling methods: (1) purposive sampling of most affected Districts, Upazilas and Unions, and (2) random sampling among households within each Ward.

Based on the findings of the JNA Phase 1 and affected numbers from the Disaster Management Information Center (DMIC), the top 3 most affected Districts, the top 4 most affected Upazilas within each of those Districts and the top 3 most affected Unions within each of those Upazilas were selected. Within each Union, an average of 9 Wards was assessed and the households within each Ward were randomly selected. Random selection of households within each Ward was accomplished in the field following the following steps:

1. acquiring the total number of households per Ward (both affected and non-affected) from the Union Chairman
2. dividing the total number of households in the Ward by the number of households sampled per Ward (usually 14), effectively providing the interval at which the enumerator must sample the households (i.e. the number of houses to skip)
3. beginning at a central point in the Ward (e.g. school, central water point, mosque)
4. dropping a pencil on the ground to define the direction in which the enumerator will walk
5. skipping the number of houses defined by the interval until reaching the target number of households (usually 14)

Table 1: Sampled Locations

District	Upazila	Union	No. HHs[3]	Sample Size
Barguna	Barguna Sadar	Naltona	4828	125
		M. Baliatali	7093	125
		Dhalua	6082	125
	Betagi	Betagi	3787	125
		Bibichini	3991	125
		Sarishamuri	3582	125
	Patharghata	Patharghata	7242	125
		Kanthaltali	5137	125
		Kalmegha	6939	125
	Amtali	Nishanbaria	3226	125
		Sonakata	2921	125
		Barabagi	4321	125
Bhola	Bhola Sadar	Rajapur	8910	125
		Kachia	3131	125
		Dhania	6456	125
	Char Fasson	Char Kukri Mukr	1727	125
		Mujib Nagar	1993	125
		Char Madras	7045	125
	Lalmohan	Lord Hardinze	5577	125
		Dhali Gaurnagar	8692	125
		Paschim Char Umed	7711	125
	Manpura	Hazirhat	5535	125
		Manpura	4479	125
		Uttar Sakuchia	3795	125
Patuakali	Patuakhali Sadar	Boro Bighai	4473	125
		Chhoto Bighai	4220	125
		Itbaria	4492	125
	Galachipa	Char Kajal	5376	125
		Char Biswas	4188	125
		Galachipa Sadar	4259	125
	Kala Para	Nilganj	7282	125
		Mitiganj	2844	125
		Lalua	5313	125
	Rangabali	Boro Bisdia	5669	125
		Rangabali Sadar	6830	125
		Chalitabunia	1646	125

Table 1 shows the sampled locations and their corresponding sample sizes. The target sample size for each target administrative level was: (1) District: 1500; (2) Upazila: 375; (3) Union: 125; (4) Ward: 14.

[1] UNOCHA Flash update for Cyclone Mahasen, OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 17 May 2013: http://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/un-ocha-flash-update-7-cyclone-mahasen-bangladesh-and-myanmar .

[2] DMIC Sitrep, 20/5/2013.

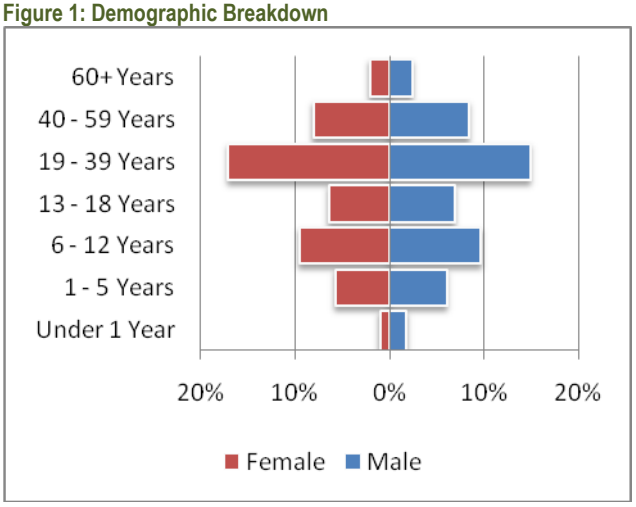
[3] Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 2011 Population Census.

Assessment Results

Demographic Characteristics

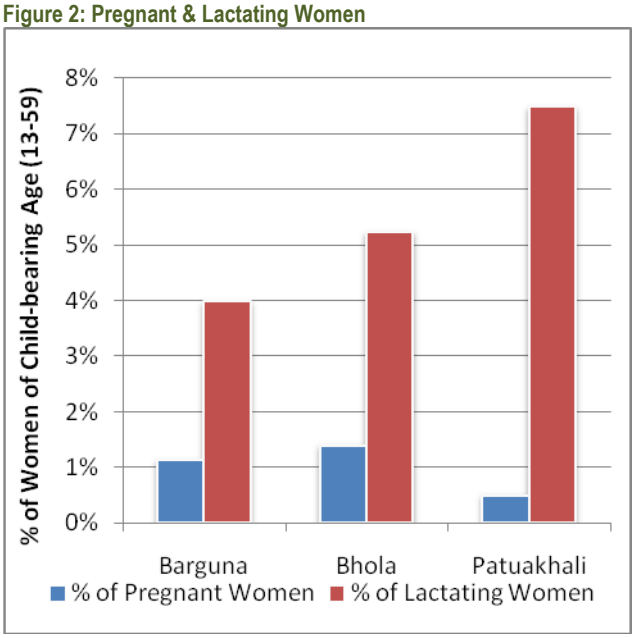
A total number of 4,615 households were assessed for this assessment. The proportion of male to female household members was nearly 50%. The largest age cohort was 19-39 years old, with slightly more females within this cohort than males. **Figure 1** illustrates the demographic breakdown of assessed households.

Figure 1: Demographic Breakdown



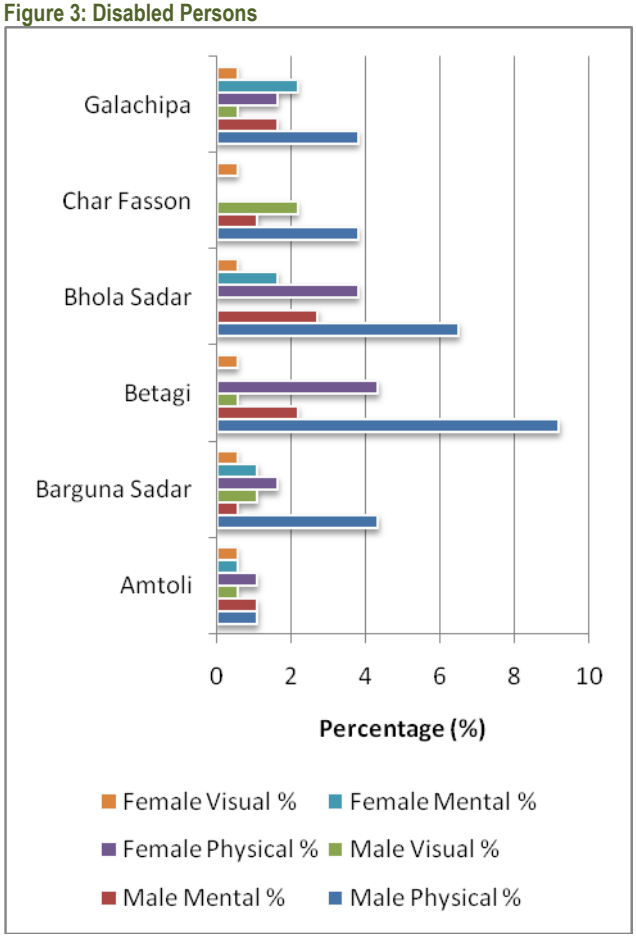
The largest minority group across all assessed areas was Hindu, with the largest concentrations in the Upazilas of Betagi, Manpura and Patharghata. Numbers for all other minority groups were minimal.

Figure 2: Pregnant & Lactating Women



Among all women of child-bearing age (13-59), households in Patuakhali reported having the most numbers of lactating women at nearly 8% of all women of child-bearing age. Unsurprisingly, households in Pautakhali also reported having the least number of pregnant women among the assessed Districts, at 0.5%. **Figure 2** shows the percentages of pregnant and lactating women within each District. There are nearly equal numbers of pregnant women in Barguna and Bhola, with slightly more lactating women in Bhola.

Figure 3: Disabled Persons



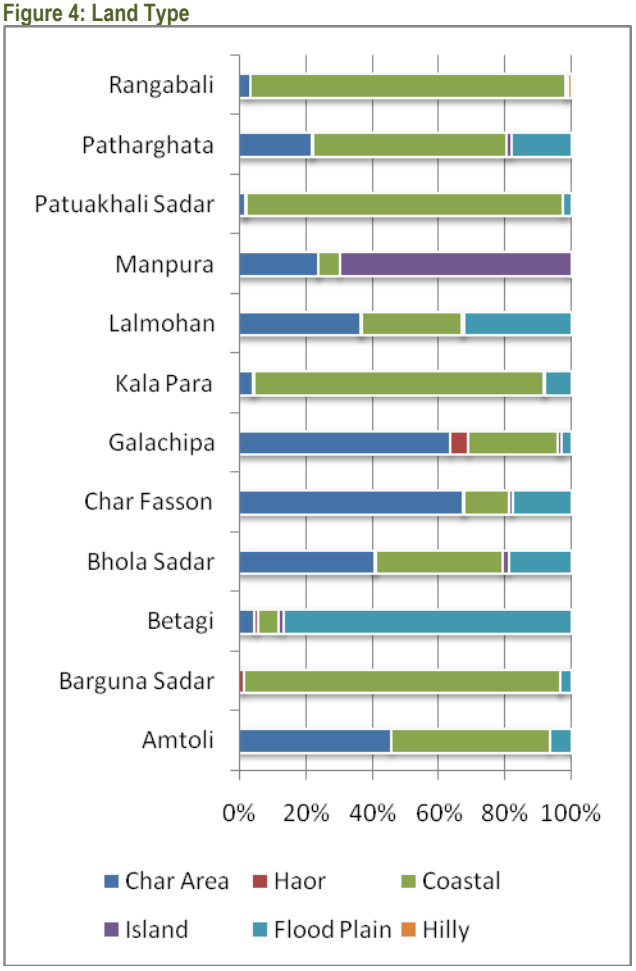
Across all Upazilas, the incidence of disability was much more common among men than women, with 66% of all reported disabilities being among men. As can be seen in **Figure 3**, Bhola Sadar and Betagi have high incidences of male physical disability at 6.5% and 9%, respectively. This was also the most common disability type reported across all Upazilas. Women with physical disabilities also had higher than average reported numbers in Bhola Sadar and Betagi Upazilas.

Socio-Economic Context

96% of assessed households live in rural areas. This can be generalized to all affected Upazilas and Districts (i.e. the most affected households live in rural areas). A very large number of households have lived in their current location for more than 15 years (77%) with another 15% having lived in their current location for 5-15 years. This

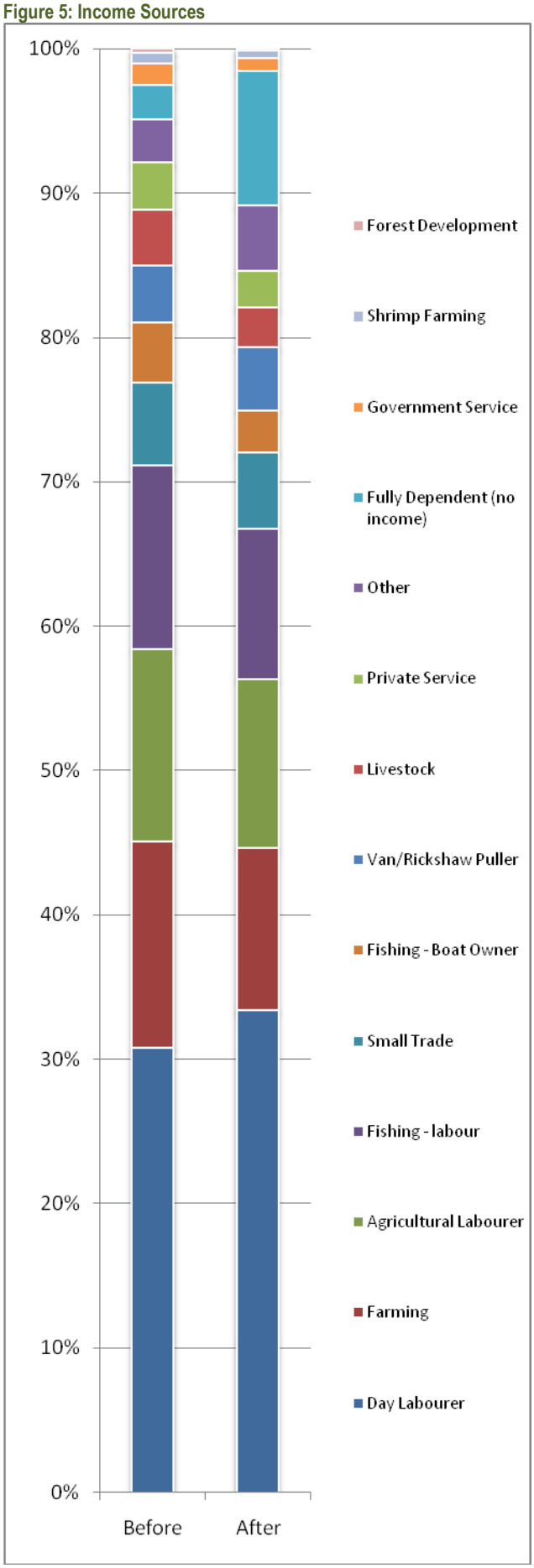
has a direct influence on the types and establishment of livelihoods as well as the types of shelters constructed. The assumption would be that shelters and livelihoods would be better established and more able to withstand repeated storms. The next section will cover these issues.

Figure 4: Land Type



The majority of households live in Char (islands of silt within rivers) and coastal areas – 75%. These areas are cyclone and flood-prone and are among the poorest in the region. **Figure 4** illustrates that the only notable outliers among this trend are Manpura and Betagi Upazilas. Manpura is an island, thus is categorized as an island land type, while Betagi sits on a wide flood plain.

Figure 5: Income Sources

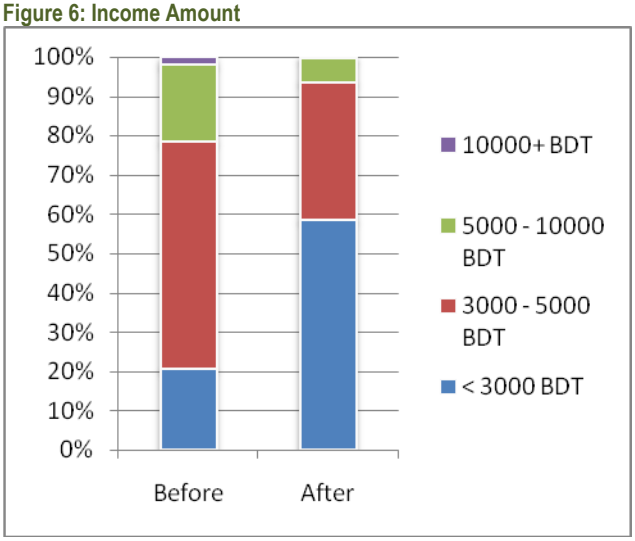


KEY FIGURES

Income

Very little change in the source of income/livelihood occurred in the assessed areas after the tropical storm Mahasen compared to before (Figure 5). However, the category of households reporting earning less than BDT 3,000 increased from 20% before storm to 60% after storm. This was not directly linked to the storm but to lean season in May and June. Lean season is characterized by rough sea preventing fishermen from going out for deep sea fishing and a period of limited farming activity between the Boro rice harvest in early May and the next crop plantation in June. The most common income source remained day labor, followed by farming, agricultural labor and fishing.

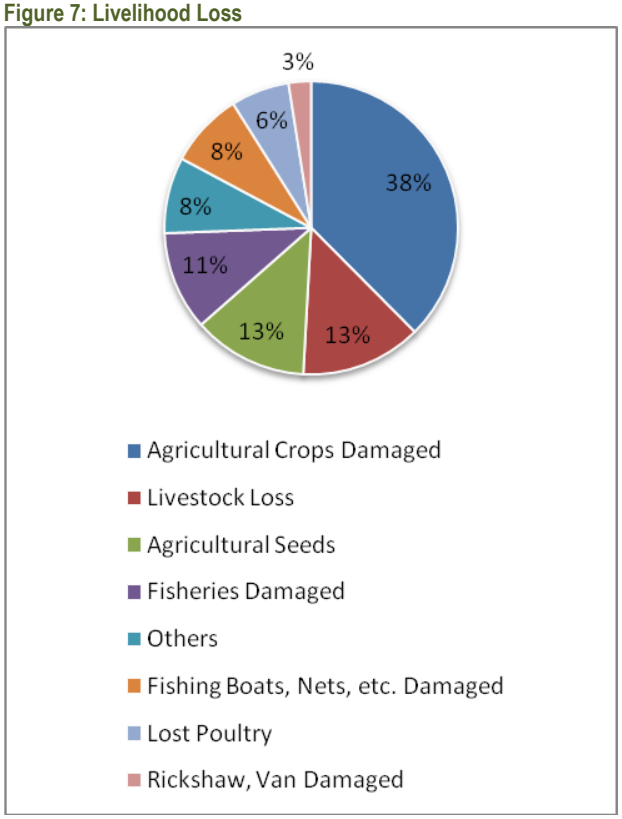
Figure 6: Income Amount



Livelihoods

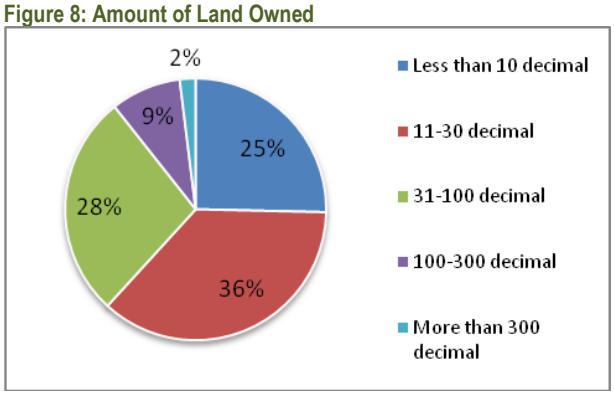
The most commonly reported damage to livelihoods was agricultural crop damage (ground nut, pulses, vegetables) due to flooding and waterlogging. It must be noted that Mahasen made landfall on 16th May, which was followed by high tide (full moon on 23 May) and followed by heavy rainfall on 28th, 29th and 30th May resulting in flooding and waterlogging in the area. Livestock loss, Aman seedling loss and fishery damages followed closely behind, as seen in **Figure 7**. This loss of livelihoods likely corresponds to the increase in households reporting less than BDT 3,000 monthly income in **Figure 6** above. This will be explored further in the final report.

Figure 7: Livelihood Loss



58% of households overall reported owning their own land. The most common amount of land among assessed households was 11-30 decimals (36%), followed by 31-100 decimals (28%) and less than 10 decimals (25%). The least common was over 100 decimals.

Figure 8: Amount of Land Owned

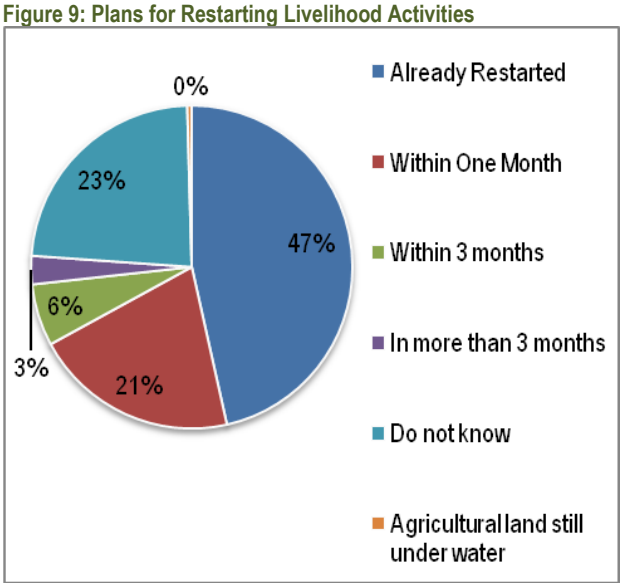


Households reported that the main constraints to them being able to restart their livelihood activities were debris on agricultural land (32%) and high pressure on the daily labor market (15%). These are interrelated, as the decrease in number of households being able to practice agriculture has likely resulted in an increase in people available for daily labor.

Many households (47%) report that they have already restarted their livelihood. Still others report that they do not know when they will restart their liveihood activities (23%) or will restart within 1 month (21%). **Figure 9** illustrates

this. Households in Bhola Sadar and Patharghata report lower than average numbers of restarted livelihoods (16% and 18%, respectively). They also report "not knowing" what they will do at a higher rate than household in most other Upazilas.

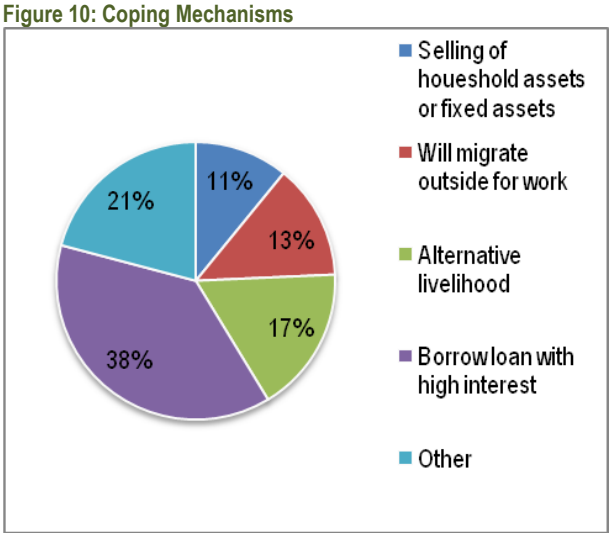
Figure 9: Plans for Restarting Livelihood Activities



Coping Mechanisms

The most commonly reported coping mechanism among assessed households was the borrowing of money at a high interest loan, from neighbours and relatives. The second most commonly reported strategy was the selling of household assets such as small livestock and poultry. These are considered harmful coping strategies and their use is highly concerning. High interest loans often lead to a perpetual inability to repay the loan and further debt, especially in an area often hit by storms. Selling of household assets leads to further lack of resilience, as households deplete productive assets. **Figure 10** illustrates the coping mechanims among assessed households.

Figure 10: Coping Mechanisms



Agencies and Organizations participating in the Phase 3 Shelter, WASH, Early Recovery Detailed Assessment:

ACF, ASHRAY Foundation, BDRCS, British Red Cross, Caritas, CCDB, Christian Aid, Hope'87 Bangladesh, IFRC, Impact Initiatives, Islamic Relief, Jago Nari, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Plan International Saint Bangladesh, SAP Bangladesh, Save the Children, Shushilan, TdH-Netherlands, UNICEF,UNDP, VOSD

This fact sheet provides a synopsis of the key issues and summary of the data that has been collected. It is not intended or able to provide detailed programmatic information in its current form. This is designed to make the fact sheet useful for a broader audience.

In addition, the database is available to interested parties, with confidential information removed where necessary. Further analysis can be conducted, if needed.

Background

REACH partners with the shelter cluster as part of a global agreement to facilitate the deployment of assessment teams following humanitarian emergencies with the objective of contributing to a more informed, relevant, and timely response by actors involved in the shelter sector. REACH tools include reports and fact sheets such as this one, as well as mapping data and the use of remote sensing to track developments in an emergency.

This fact sheet is the first product in a series of products as a result of the Shelter, WASH and Early Recovery Joint Needs Assessment, Phase 3 following Cyclone Mahasen in Bangladesh. Separate factsheets are developed for each sector. A fully integrated report will follow.

Generalizability

This assessment used a purposive sampling method to target most affected Districts, Upazilas and Unions. Households were then randomly sampled from within each Ward with a representative sample at the Upazila level. This allows for a statistically relevant analysis of affected households across all affected Upazilas, as 87% of the affected population lies within the assessed areas. The following generalizations can be made: (1) across the three assessed Districts; (2) across the twelve assessed Upazilas; (3) across all affected Districts; (4) across all affected Upazilas

Results are indicative at the Union level for those Unions that were assessed.

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