

Format for Information Note of IR-EMOP Project Document

TO: Calum Gardner, Chief, RMBB **DATE:** 8th September 2014
FROM: Christa Rader, Country **PAGE 1 OF 5**
Director, Bangladesh
CC: Kenro Oshidari, Regional Director, OMB
David Kaatrud/Stefano Porretti, Director of Emergencies, OME
Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION BANGLADESH EMOP 200769 - FOOD ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD- AFFECTED PEOPLE IN NORTHERN BANGLADESH PROJECT DOCUMENT

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

NATURE OF EMERGENCY:

Location:

1. Brahmaputra river basin, north-western Bangladesh. (Districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Jamalpur)

Cause: River and monsoon flooding

2. Above-normal monsoon rainfall was experienced in the north-eastern Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya, and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the period from 13th to 26th August 2014. This fed an abnormally large volume of water into the Brahmaputra, Meghna and Ganges rivers, which has since been working its way downstream through a vast river network in Bangladesh en route to the Bay of Bengal.
3. In the meantime, northern Bangladesh also experienced similar above-normal rainfall during the same period. This exacerbated the already dramatic upward trend in river levels in northern Bangladesh - especially along the Brahmaputra river basin, in the north-west of the country - causing rivers to burst their banks at multiple locations and flooding surrounding areas. This has temporarily displaced thousands of households onto higher ground, as well as causing widespread and severe damage to property and livelihoods. (*Draft Joint Needs Assessment, "Flooding in North-Western Bangladesh", Humanitarian Coordination Task Team, August 31st 2014*).
4. Encouragingly, rainfall levels have declined significantly in the north-eastern Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya, and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, as well as further downstream in Bangladesh, since 27th August. As a result, river levels in northern Bangladesh are now on a downward trend. With

no further above-normal rainfall forecast for the next 7 days - either upstream in India, or downstream in Bangladesh - it is likely that rivers in Bangladesh will return to normal levels and that the floodwater that has accumulated at many locations in the north-west since mid-August 2014 will recede.

5. Nevertheless, some parts of north-western Bangladesh remain inundated. In such areas, households are stranded on higher ground and in shelters and are unable to meet their food and nutritional needs. Meanwhile in those areas where the floodwater has now receded and where households are returning home, many are discovering that their food stocks, properties and/or livelihoods have been destroyed. (*Draft Joint Needs Assessment, "Flooding in North-Western Bangladesh", Humanitarian Coordination Task Team, August 31st 2014*).

Effects: Loss of property; disruption of livelihoods; displacement; food insecurity.

6. In response to reports of severe river flooding in many densely-populated parts of northern Bangladesh, the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) on 19 August 2014 activated a Phase 1 Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) collecting union-level (lowest administrative and local government level) Government compiled data from nine districts of northern Bangladesh 1) Lalmonirhat; 2) Nilphamari; 3) Kurigram; 4) Rangpur; 5) Gaibandha; 6) Bogra; 7) Sirajgonj; 8) Jamalpur and; 9) Sherpur. Data collection for the JNA was carried out in a coordinated manner by a number of humanitarian agencies - including the World Food Programme (WFP) - during the period 25-28 August 2014, and draft findings were circulated among HCTT and cluster members on 31 August 2014.
7. Acknowledging that the impact of the flooding has varied significantly from location to location and that the situation remains very dynamic, the Draft JNA has nonetheless been able to report the following major findings: There has been widespread damage to property, with 71,092 houses believed to have been destroyed and/or damaged. All major livelihoods appear to have been affected, including agriculture (mainly rice), livestock rearing and fishing. Thousands of households have been temporarily displaced onto higher ground and some of them have been able to take refuge in shelters such as schools and community centres. And there has been severe and moderate damage to food stocks in a number of locations, which is likely to have immediate and severe implications on food security. (*Draft Joint Needs Assessment, "Flooding in North-Western Bangladesh", Humanitarian Coordination Task Team, August 31st 2014*).

Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food aid:

8. The Draft JNA reports that, in the nine districts surveyed, around a third of the population overall - equivalent to an estimated 1,868,000 people - have been affected by the river and monsoon flooding. The most severely affected districts are Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Jamalpur. However, the nature and extent of the damage varies significantly across and within

districts.

9. Focussing on the most badly affected sub-districts and unions in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Jamalpur (where WFP already has a strong operational presence), WFP has been distributing since 24 August micronutrient fortified biscuits to poor people who are stranded and without means to provide for their own food needs or to prepare food (3.75kg/household). As of 6th September 2014, WFP was able to provide biscuits to 106,000 persons living in 21,000 households who are still stranded on higher ground or just returned to their homes.
10. Additionally, WFP will provide unconditional cash transfers to 7,400 ultra-poor displaced households (equivalent to 37,000 persons) who are still stranded or have been able to return to their homes. Cash-based assistance will be strictly limited to those areas where markets are confirmed to be functioning. It will be provided through a nominated woman member of the households as it is women who take care of the daily needs, especially preparing meals. It is assumed that in a given area 80 percent of those who received biscuits will require cash transfers as well.
11. A Rapid Market Assessment has been initiated by the Food Security Cluster and will be carried out between 7-11 September under WFP's leadership in the Technical Working Group. As the data of the Draft JNA indicates there are very few areas where markets were not functioning in the end of August; most markets were partially or fully functioning. Once the 4W matrix is completed, the gaps will be known and the FSC will determine which areas will be covered by which organizations. In this context, WFP will evaluate whether it needs to provide further assistance to affected households and for how many months.
12. As per decision of the FSC a Phase 3 Food Security Assessment will be conducted at a later stage when water will have receded.

WFP IR EMOP:

Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:

13. Significant information gaps will remain with regards to the extent and nature of humanitarian needs until the 4W matrix, the Rapid Market Assessment and ultimately the Phase 3 Food Security Assessment will have been completed. Nevertheless, it is clear both from the Phase 1 Draft JNA and the direct observations of WFP sub-office staff who are based in the north-west that there is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance to be provided, especially food.
14. Those families who have been displaced by flood waters onto higher ground and hence have neither adequate food stocks nor the means to prepare it, require sealed/ready-to-use food, such as fortified biscuits. This is necessary for stabilizing their nutritional status until they are able to return to their

homes.

15. Meanwhile, the poorest of those families who are still stranded or have been able to return home and set up cooking facilities and other ultra-poor families nonetheless require assistance for at least a further month in order to stabilize their food consumption. In accordance with the standards as agreed by the Food Security Cluster (FSC) in the “Contingency Plan for Flooding, Bangladesh” (August 2014), this assistance will be unconditional by nature, so as to enable the households to focus on repairing any damage to their property and start re-establishing their livelihoods. Cash is the preferred transfer modality, based on previous experience from Bangladesh which has demonstrated that markets bounce back very quickly in affected areas once the floodwaters have receded. (*“Contingency Plan for Flooding, Bangladesh”, Food Security Cluster, August 2014*). The upcoming Rapid Market Assessment is in fact very likely to confirm this for the current situation.

Duration of assistance (maximum three months):

16. Two (2) months, from August 24th to October 23rd 2014.

Number of beneficiaries and location:

17. Fortified biscuits will be provided to 106,000 persons belonging to 21,000 households who have been stranded on higher ground in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Jamalpur districts.
18. Unconditional cash transfers will be provided to 7,400 ultra-poor households (equivalent to 37,000 persons; 80 percent of them being the biscuit receiving households) in a yet to be determined flood affected area who are returning to their homes once the floodwaters have receded and where it is confirmed that markets have recovered and needs are not being adequately provided for either by Government or other humanitarian agencies. The cash transfers will be provided to a nominated woman member of the household.
19. The total number of beneficiaries will be 113,000 belonging to 23,000 households (note: 21,000 plus 2,000 households).

Food basket composition and ration levels:

20. Households who are receiving fortified biscuits are being provided with a one-off ration of 3.75 kilograms per household, which is sufficient to meet their basic calorie and micronutrient needs for a 3-day period.
21. Households who are receiving unconditional cash transfers are being provided with a one-off grant of BDT 3,000, which is sufficient to bridge their food and nutritional gaps for a one month period.
22. Food and cash transfer levels are in accordance with the standards as agreed by the Food Security Cluster (FSC) in the “Contingency Plan for Flooding,

Bangladesh” (August 2014).

Total food aid requirements (mt):

23. WFP requires 80mt of micronutrient fortified biscuits.
24. WFP requires USD 288,125 of cash transfers (excluding associated costs).

Mode of implementation:

25. To date, WFP has been working in close collaboration with local administration and government at the district, sub-district and union level in all affected areas. WFP will build on this existing collaboration for the remainder of the operation.
26. WFP is also working with a number of cooperating partners who – as local non-governmental organizations – already have a deep field presence and strong relationships with local government and communities in affected areas. The cash transfers will be implemented using mobile phone service operators with disbursement mechanisms already in place in the area.
27. WFP will continue to work through the Food Security Cluster mechanism – of which it is co-chair (along with FAO) – to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts between humanitarian actors and also to ensure that no humanitarian needs are overlooked.

PART 2: EMOP BUDGET

Cost Components			USD
Food Tool	MT	Rate/mt	
<i>Mixed and Blended Food</i>	80	1168	93,440
Total Food Transfers	80		93,440
External Transport			0
LTSH			2,982
ODOC Food			2,840
<i>Describe ODOC costs here.</i>			Cost for FLA, Q&Q, superintendence and premix
Total Food DOC			99,262
Cash and Voucher Tool		% of Trfs	
Total Cash and Vouchers Transfers			288,125
C&V Related costs			30,000
<i>Describe C&V Related costs here.</i>			Cost for FLA & Meeting/Workshop
Total C&V DOC			318,125
Capacity Development & Augmentation Tool			
<i>Describe CD&A costs here.</i>			
Total CD&A DOC			\$
Total Direct Operating Costs (DOC)			\$417,387
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			49,903
<i>Describe DSC costs here.</i>			Staff cost, recurring, capital equipment and travel
Total WFP direct project costs			467,290
Indirect Support Costs (ISC)		7%	32,710
TOTAL WFP COSTS			500,000

Please ensure formulas are updated by selecting the entire table and pressing F9.

PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL

1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBB: Calum Gardner, Date: --/--/----

2) EMOP is approved

Country Director, Bangladesh: Christa Räder, Date: --/--/----

or

Regional Director, OMB: Kenro Oshidari, Date: --/--/----

or

Director of Emergencies: David Kaatrud/Stefano Porretti, Date: --/--/----

Annex 1 – Budget Summary

Cost Components			USD
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<i>Mixed and Blended Food</i>	80	1168	93,440
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TOTAL WFP COSTS			500,000