



**PROJECT TITLE: COMPREHENSIVE HUMANITARIAN
RESPONSE TO THE FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY IN COX'S
BAZAR, BANGLADESH**

PROJECT PERIOD: 18 JULY 2026- 17 AUGUST 2026

REPORTING: COMPLETION REPORT

IMPLEMENTED BY: COMMUNITY INITIATIVE SOCIETY (CIS)

**SUPPORTED BY: ASIA PACIFIC ALLIANCE FOR DISASTER
MANAGEMENT (A-PAD)**

BACKGROUND:

In July 2026, Cox's Bazar and several other districts in southeastern Bangladesh were severely affected by heavy monsoon rainfall, flash floods, waterlogging and landslides. The disaster caused significant disruption to housing, livelihoods, transportation, access to safe water, sanitation and essential health services. The United Nations reported that approximately 1.28 million people were affected across seven districts, with around 436,000 people estimated to require humanitarian assistance as of 22 July 2026. Housing and essential services were also extensively damaged. Cox's Bazar is highly exposed to multiple hazards, including flash floods, cyclones, landslides, excessive rainfall and waterlogging. Its geographical characteristics, coastal exposure and concentration of vulnerable communities increase the potential humanitarian consequences of extreme weather events.

The 2026 monsoon emergency affected several districts of southeastern Bangladesh. Government and humanitarian assessments identified widespread damage to homes, roads, water points, sanitation facilities, agricultural land and livelihoods. As of mid-July, government reporting indicated that 57 upazilas, 334 unions and nine municipalities had been inundated across seven affected districts, including Cox's Bazar. The humanitarian situation was further complicated by damaged infrastructure and restricted access to affected communities. Humanitarian agencies identified urgent needs related to food, shelter, health, WASH and livelihood recovery. Against this backdrop, CIS and A-PAD mobilized an emergency response to support vulnerable households in Cox's Bazar.



SITUATION ANALYSIS:

In August, the region experienced significant flooding, compounding the challenges faced by communities already recovering from a previous flash flood earlier in the month. According to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), approximately 540,538 individuals have been relocated to around 3,403 shelter centers through the collaborative efforts of the Army, Navy, Fire Service, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations



(NGOs). The flooding has led to the isolation of numerous households, with some individuals seeking refuge in open areas. Unfortunately, the safety and security of women and girls within these households are particularly at risk. The Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) has reported that 162,823 water points and 295,689 latrines have been damaged as a result of the flooding. Additionally, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has indicated that 34 million livestock have been affected, while the Ministry of Agriculture has noted that 339,000 hectares of cropland have sustained damage.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

In response to the emergency, Community Initiative Society (CIS), with financial support from the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD), implemented an emergency humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar to address the immediate needs of highly vulnerable flood-affected households.

The intervention focused on three critical areas:

1. **Emergency food assistance** for vulnerable flood-affected families;
2. **Emergency shelter assistance** through distribution of essential materials for repairing damaged houses; and
3. **Emergency health and medical assistance** through a health camp, essential medicines, oral saline and water-purification support.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Provide emergency food assistance to highly vulnerable flood-affected households.
- Support families whose houses were damaged by flooding and associated hazards.
- Improve access to basic healthcare and essential medicines.
- Reduce the risk of waterborne and flood-related illnesses.
- Provide oral saline and water-purification support to affected communities.
- Strengthen community-level humanitarian response through locally led assistance.
- Support early recovery and restoration of minimum household living conditions.



PROJECT GOAL:

To provide timely and appropriate emergency humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities affected by flash floods in Cox's Bazar and contribute to their immediate protection, health and recovery.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

- Rescue to the flood affected community and rehabilitate to the shelter;
- Distributed food pack 150 families so that they can fulfill their nutrition;
- Distributed 100 hygiene kits to the women and girls;
- Conducted public health camps with medicines to improve the health conditions to the flood affected community.
- About 2,480 people got primary health care and medicine



EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Under the emergency response programme supported by the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD), Community Initiative Society (CIS) provided emergency food assistance to 150 vulnerable families affected by the flash floods in Cox's Bazar. The intervention was undertaken in response to the immediate food-security needs created by flooding, which disrupted household livelihoods, food stocks, cooking facilities and access to local markets. Beneficiary



households were identified through a needs and vulnerability-based approach, with priority given to families directly affected by floodwater and those with limited capacity to meet their immediate food requirements. CIS coordinated the distribution process with local authorities, community representatives and field-level stakeholders to facilitate transparent beneficiary selection and smooth delivery of assistance.

A total of 150 emergency food packages were distributed to the selected households. The food assistance was intended to provide immediate household food support during the critical emergency period and reduce the economic pressure on affected families. The distribution also contributed to maintaining minimum household food consumption while affected communities were recovering from flood-related losses.

The intervention was implemented with appropriate field monitoring and documentation to ensure that assistance reached the intended beneficiaries. Feedback from the response process indicated that the food support was particularly important for households whose income-generating activities and normal food-purchasing capacity had been disrupted by the disaster. Overall, the emergency food distribution contributed to



improved immediate food security for 150 flood-affected families and formed an important component of the broader CIS and A-PAD humanitarian response, alongside emergency shelter and health assistance.



DISTRIBUTING SHELTER MATERIALS

In response to the urgent need for shelter following recent disasters, tarpaulin was identified and distributed as a vital emergency shelter material. Many households in the affected areas faced significant damage, including compromised roofs, walls, and other crucial elements of their homes that left them exposed to the elements. The choice of tarpaulin as a temporary solution is primarily due to its versatility and rapid deployability, allowing for quick installation while families await more durable reconstruction efforts.

Additionally, bamboo emerged as a practical choice for emergency shelter construction. This material is not only abundantly available in the local environment but is also well-understood by communities in Bangladesh, making it a culturally appropriate option. However, it's important to note that while bamboo has many advantages, structures made from it must be constructed with careful attention to detail. Proper treatment of the bamboo, strategic bracing, and adherence to safe construction practices are essential to enhance the durability of these shelters. This is particularly critical in regions prone to heavy rainfall and strong wind events, which can otherwise compromise the integrity of bamboo structures.



To support the affected communities more effectively, CIS took proactive measures by distributing 100 sets of shelter materials to families who had lost their homes. These sets included not just bamboo and tarpaulin, but also binding materials, which are crucial for ensuring that the individual components could be securely connected. Without these binding materials, even the best-quality bamboo and tarpaulin would offer limited protection, as families would struggle to assemble and stabilize their shelter adequately. In the broader context, the Cox's Bazar Shelter sector recognizes the widespread reliance on bamboo and tarpaulin for emergency shelters while advocating for the adoption of more durable and hazard-resilient shelter solutions. This dual approach aims to balance immediate needs with long-term sustainability, ensuring that communities are better prepared for future challenges.



ORGANIZING PUBLIC HEALTH CAMP

Community Initiative Society (CIS), in collaboration with A-PAD Bangladesh, organized a public health camp with free medical consultation and essential medicine support for flash flood-affected communities in Cox's Bazar. The intervention was designed to provide accessible primary healthcare to vulnerable families who were experiencing difficulties accessing regular health services following the flood.

The health camp focused on early identification of common post-flood health conditions, provision of basic medical advice and treatment, and distribution of essential medicines free of cost to eligible patients. Particular attention was given to children, women, older people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable community members. Following medical consultation, essential medicines were provided free of cost to eligible patients according to the medical team's assessment and prescription. This component was particularly important for economically vulnerable flood-affected families who might otherwise have difficulty purchasing medicines. The medical team provided beneficiaries with instructions regarding appropriate dosage, frequency, duration and precautions for taking prescribed medicines. Medicine distribution was conducted under the supervision of designated health personnel to promote safe and appropriate use. CIS supported 2,480 patients during the health camp at the flash flood affected communities. After the health camp CIS team showed demonstration about the preparation of clean water by the water purification tablets.



SUPPORT FROM THE PARTNERS:

As the flood situation deteriorated, the Community Initiative Support (CIS) promptly mobilized a specialized team to assist the communities most adversely affected in Noakhali and Cumilla. In a significant endeavor to combat hunger and provide necessary relief, CIS successfully supported 250 families through the distribution of essential dry food supplies. The organization's partner entities, Seven One Limited and FR3, played a crucial role in the implementation of emergency food assistance by identifying vulnerable households, organizing distribution points, informing beneficiaries about distribution schedules, and facilitating orderly distribution processes. These partners also contributed to community-level monitoring to ensure that food assistance reached the intended recipients and that no vulnerable households were overlooked in the response efforts.

Local volunteers were instrumental in enhancing the partner-supported response. They assisted with various tasks, including communication, beneficiary identification, crowd management, distribution support, mobilization of health camps, and the collection of community feedback. The involvement of volunteers fostered improved communication between response teams and affected households. In multiple locations, volunteers provided essential information regarding access routes, local flood conditions, the identification of vulnerable households, and emerging needs in the community.





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The intervention achieved the following major results:

EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY

Affected households received essential food assistance during the immediate flood emergency.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Households with damaged shelters received tarpaulin, bamboo, binding materials, and other essential materials to undertake immediate repairs.

HEALTH SUPPORT

Flood-affected individuals received basic health screening, medical consultation, and essential medicines.

VULNERABILITY IDENTIFICATION

Community-level engagement enabled the response team to identify households and individuals requiring additional support or referral.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Local leaders and volunteers actively participated in beneficiary identification, mobilization, distribution, and monitoring.

STRENGTHENED COORDINATION

The response strengthened cooperation among CIS, A-PAD, community representatives, health personnel, volunteers, and other stakeholders.

CONCLUSION:

The flash flood response undertaken by the Community Initiative Society (CIS) in partnership with A-PAD Bangladesh delivered timely humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities impacted by flooding in Cox's Bazar. This intervention encompassed a range of services, including emergency food assistance, distribution of shelter materials, health screenings, medical consultations, distribution of essential

medicines, community engagement, and effective coordination. These efforts effectively addressed the immediate needs of affected households.

Furthermore, the response underscored the significance of robust community networks and coordinated humanitarian efforts during instances of sudden-onset disasters. While immediate emergency requirements were fulfilled, ongoing attention is necessary for household recovery, livelihood restoration, health protection, access to safe water and sanitation, shelter rehabilitation, and disaster preparedness. CIS and A-PAD remain steadfast in their commitment to enhancing community resilience and supporting locally-led disaster preparedness and response mechanisms in vulnerable regions of Bangladesh.

