1. Situation Overview

After severe monsoon flood occurred in July throughout the country, Bangladesh government along with several humanitarian organizations relentlessly working for providing relief and early recovery of the affected population. Meanwhile, several other districts in the northwestern part of Bangladesh have been under threat of severe flooding due to increasing waterflow in the Padma river (Ganges in Indian part) and its branches i.e., Mahananda, Gorai. This mainly happened because India opened its all 109 gates of Farakka barrage to pass flood water from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh province. The situation worsened due to heavy rainfall throughout the country for last three days and Padma river continued to swell in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Natore, Faridpur and Rajbari districts. Water flowing above danger level at several points like Hardinge, Kamarkhali and potentially threatening several other areas in the downstream of the river. Numerous villages in the river banks and low-lying chars in those districts are inundated which rendering thousands of families homeless.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), the water level may reach at its peak on 4th October and will continue falling afterwards. Padma river water level rose by 15cm while that of Mahananda by 24cm in the last 24 hours till Tuesday morning.

Apart from the immediately affected ones, there are increasingly vulnerable districts near estuary of Chandpur where Padma river confluences with Meghna.
2. Impacts and Needs at Different Districts:

**Chapainawabganj:** According to the reports from unit offices of BDRCS, Chapainawabganj is the first and most affected district until this reporting date. Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) reported water flow at 16cm above danger level in Padma while 25cm above danger level in Mahananda river in the area. 1 death reported in this district while nearly 50000 people are living homeless in several upazilas. Among the affected people, around 20000 managed to arrive at different shelters. Safe drinking water, food, medicine and food for livestock are the major needs for this district.

**Natore:** Water level at Padma river has been increasing rapidly which resulted approximately 3000 families stuck in stagnant water and hundreds of acres cropland inundated.

**Kushtia:** Padma river flowing over danger level in Doulatpur.
and Kumarkhali upazila. More than 15000 families are homeless and expecting food, drinking water and shelter related support.

**Rajbari:** Water level flowing 0.6m at Doulatdia and 1.12m at Pangsha point above danger level at in this district. River erosion increased alarmingly and nearly 3500 families may need food, drinking water and shelter support.

**Faridpur:** Water level increasing at different point and inhabitants of bank areas are passing days of anticipated severe flooding.

**Rajshahi:** Padma river water level increased 11cm in last few days in this district but still flowing below danger level. This provokes increased erosion in the banks and inundated few areas. Approximately 6000 families are in need of shelter, dry food and safe drinking water. Photo taken at Panchabati of Rajshahi *(source: Rajshahi unit, BDRCS)*.

3. **Humanitarian Actions:**

**Assistance from Government:**
- Kusthia District Council supported 2500 bag rice at 4 Unions of Daulatpur Upazila namely Ramkrishnopur, Flipchar, Moricha and Chilmari in Kushtia.
- Rajshahi district council expressed their position to support the affected communities first with available resources. If needed, they will ask for external support.

**Bangladesh Red Crescent Society’s (BDRCS) Action:**
BDRCS has organized a small group coordination meeting at its National Headquarters along with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) representatives on 1st October 2019. The main purpose was to get updates on current flood situation from respective branch offices through their Upazila and Union level disaster management committees. The following initiatives are undertaken as part of responding to the ongoing flood in the affected and potentially affected districts:

- Disaster Response department will regularly follow-up the preparedness measures from all concerned units. If any branch office urges for support, NHQ team will step-in to support.
- Concerned unit offices are advised to keep volunteers alert to mobilize if needed.
- IFRC through its ongoing flood response fund, can extend support through approximately 3000 food packages in the affected areas based on consequences. If situation deteriorates, IFRC may call for additional support linked to existing appeal.
- National Headquarters can support 6 branch through 12 Man-PACK water purifier kit with capacity of 700 liters if needed.
- Kushtia Unit supported food items at 150 HHs through utilizing 25% fund from its co-curriculum activities.
4. Contact Information

For further information please contact following persons at BDRCS National Headquarters:

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