




Emergency Preparedness and Response


As Bangladesh is prone to multiple emergencies throughout the year, the Government of Bangladesh has recognized the need for emergency preparedness and developing in-country disaster management capacity.

The WFP Bangladesh EPR unit aims to strengthen the capacity of national institutions, partners, and WFP staff by ensuring they have the adequate skills, knowledge, and resources to respond and coordinate with relevant stakeholders during an emergency, save lives, protect livelihoods, and prepare to recover from disasters.

NATIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION

At the national level, in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), WFP has taken up a joint initiative to strengthen national capacity for emergency preparedness and response. This initiative includes the establishment of a Humanitarian Staging Area

Successfully coordinated emergency preparedness and response for Cyclone Sitrang (October 2022) 

 MoDMR approved EPR concept note for capacity strengthening at the national level

(HSA) to provide capacity for strategic prepositioning and receipt of emergency assistance; capacity strengthening of district disaster management information centers; conducting simulation exercises (SimEx) for Government and humanitarian agencies; introducing an Emergency Humanitarian Supply Chain Management (EHSCM) course at universities; and conducting orientation trainings on the revised Standing Order on Disasters (SODs) to enhance the knowledge and response capacities of local Disaster Management Committees (DMCs).

LOCAL LEVEL COORDINATION

At the local level, WFP is working with partners to ensure coordinated resilience building and response delivery. Since 2021, WFP has been working with retailers and cooperating partners in Cox's Bazar to ensure operational preparedness at e-voucher outlets for any small to medium-scale emergency in the camps. This includes providing fire safety trainings and drills at the e-voucher outlets, ensuring retailers have prepositioned contingency stock of rice, lentils and oils and key emergency non-food items at the outlets for emergency response. WFP has also been providing hazard-specific awareness and preparedness messages to vulnerable communities through

Communications with Communities (CwC) volunteers since April 2022. The unit also offers EPR workshops and exercises to clusters and sectors upon request.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- In October 2022, WFP activated cyclone advanced preparedness actions for Cyclone Sitrang and successfully coordinated with government, WFP-led cluster and sectors for operational preparedness. This includes the timely prepositioning of fortified biscuits for rapid response across Khulna, Bhasan Char and Cox's Bazar.
- WFP ensured retailers had sufficient EPR stocks (for 12 days) of rice, lentils, and oil across all e-voucher outlets in the camps in Cox's Bazar.

Conducted 16 EPR simulation exercises, trainings and workshops in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar



Conducted 21 EPR planning meetings with 12 retailers and 6 cooperating partners in Cox's Bazar

- In 2021, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) approved the concept note for EPR Capacity Strengthening at national level.
- WFP conducted fire safety training for cooperating partners at e-voucher outlets in Cox's Bazar in collaboration with Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense.
- In 2022, WFP conducted 21 EPR planning meetings with 12 Retailers and 6 GFA cooperating partners in Cox's Bazar to provide strategic guidance on how to set up an EPR plan and develop an advanced planning mindset.
- WFP has been developing and sharing hazard awareness and preparedness messages for vulnerable communities through the CwC mechanism in Cox's Bazar.
- In March 2022, WFP conducted an EPR training and table-top simulation exercise on multi-hazards for Food Security Sector partners and CwC cooperating partners in Cox's Bazar.
- With WFP's guidance, all retailers in Cox's Bazar have been prepositioning a 15-day rolling stock of rice, lentils and oil in addition to key emergency non-food items.

WFP PLANS

- Conduct 2 EPR SimExes on flash flood and cyclone scenario in late November and early December respectively.
- Conduct an EPR SimEx for Bhasan Char with key external stakeholders in 2023.
- Confirm site location and commence construction process of Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) with MoDMR.
- Reactivate and co-chair the Local Consultative Group on Disaster Emergency Response (LCG-DER) with MoDMR, a central forum for the government and its partners to take strategic decisions and share ideas and information on disaster management.
- Develop and organize trainings for DMCs on revised Standing Order on Disasters (SODs) in 2023.

Funding requirement:

US \$ 4.5 million (including budget for establishing Humanitarian Staging Area)



Photo (page 1): House completely inundated in the 2022 floods in northeastern Bangladesh (WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud).