

From Homeless to Housed: A Success Story

On July 26 to August 2, 2021 a monsoon flood hit Cox's Bazar district where 1 million Host Community people and 880,000 Rohingya refugees were affected. Due to weeklong heavy rain and upsurge, around 410,000 people from 76,500 families have become waterlogged because they were living in seashore. Teknaf was the most affected area where 28 people died from landslides and drowning. Heavy rains and floods caused extensive damage to homes.



Fig: Distressed Condition of HHs and WASH Facilities due to Flood

According to the Rapid WASH Need Assessment Report, only in Ward-2, 3 & 5 of Hnila Union, 1259 HHs were damaged. At least 188 people were homeless when the roof was blown off in strong winds. Most of the floors of the HHs are made of clay and it has become unusable. WASH infrastructures (water, sanitation) were severely damaged. As a result, many people were forced to leave their homes and take refuge in high places. Since there is no cyclone shelter nearby, most people sent their family members to the homes of distant relatives. Moreover, due to the floods, a large amount of garbage has been scattered from the

surrounding areas. Open defecation among the flood affected population was a common scenario.



Fig: Children were found doing open defecation

In this flood, like others, the couple Shamsunnahar & Kamal became homeless with two daughters and one son. For the first two days, they took shelter on the roof of their house, but then he took refuge in a distant relative's house. After about twenty days, when the water receded, they came back and found everything in the house in a state of disrepair. Shamsunnar said, "I and my husband were working day and night in the farms of the neighbors to feed our children. Though we were living in misery, this flood has brought us under the open sky."



Fig: During Joint Need Rapid WASH Assessment

Rashida and Sahabuddin were also in the same situation. Losing the only shelter, they also lost their way. Shahabuddin narrated, "The Emergency Flood Project implemented by NGO Forum is a blessing for us. Under the four-month's project, the organization has provided new houses to 10 homeless families like us, along with WASH facilities like bathroom and toilet and provided life-saving NFI Kit to control post-flood outbreaks."



Fig: Constructed 10 new HHs to support 57 homeless people

According to Rashida, "If NGO Forum had not constructed the house immediately, I don't know, we might still be under the open sky."

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