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HCTT Rapid Impact Assessment: Cyclone Komen in South Bangladesh

Produced by the Needs Assessment Working Group, 19 August 2015

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Data were collected by: Concern World Wide, CARE, Oxfam, Concern Universal Bangladesh, World Food Program, Early Recovery /UNDP, Muslim Aid
Data processing, analysis, visualization and report writing for this Needs Assessment were produced by the Food Security Cluster (FAO/WFP).

Acknowledgement

First of all, we would like to thank Md. Reaz Ahmed, Additional Secretary, DG, DDM and Md. Eftekharul Islam, Director (Relief), DDM, MODMR for their leadership role and support.

The NAWG team would like to thank the local authorities (Upazila and Union Chairman, UNO, PIO, DRRO) of Khulna, Sathkira, Patuakhali, Cox’s Bazaar, Bandarban, Barguna, Noakhali, Feni, Chittagong and Jessore for supporting the Rapid Impact Assessment.

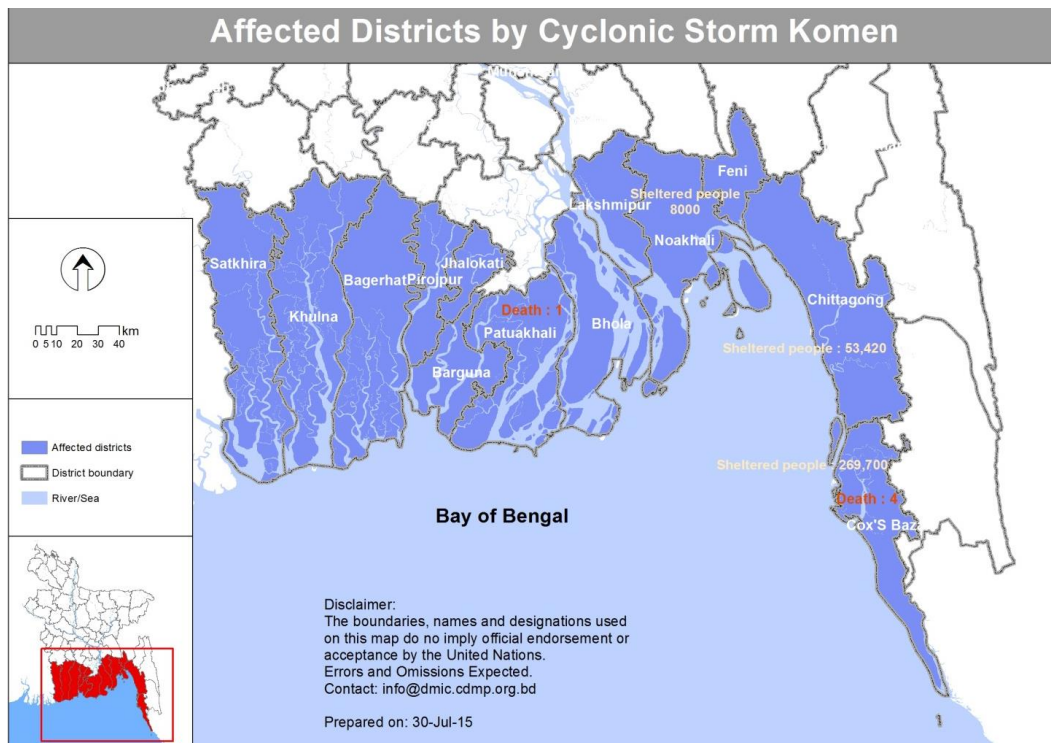
We would like to thank all the organisations and agencies for supporting the data collection in the rapid impact assessment: Concern World Wide, CARE, Oxfam, Concern Universal Bangladesh, World Food Program, Early Recovery /UNDP, Muslim Aid and the FSC for processing the data, their analysis, maps and report writing.

We would like to thank the conscientious effort of each of the Data Collectors, without whose continuous effort the rapid impact assessment would have not been possible.

Background

Following the first spell of heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding during late June and early July, a depression occurred in the North Bay of Bengal and finally turned to a Cyclonic Storm “Komen” during the last week of July. Komen made landfall at the crossing Chittagong coast near Sandwip at 09:00 pm on 30 July 2015. The low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Cox’s Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalokathi, Pirozpur, Barguna, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, and their offshore islands and chars reported to be affected.

Figure 1: Affected Districts (source: DMIC, 31st July 2015)



Due to the impact of the cyclonic storm “Komen”, heavy to very heavy rainfall was active all over the country and many areas of the southeastern Bangladesh were inundated which includes most of the areas affected by the first spell of flooding. Consequently the lives and livelihoods of the people of those areas further worsened. “Komen” made landfall when the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) was discussing and preparing for implementation of the Joint Response Plan on the first spell of flooding. At this backdrop, during the 03 August meeting, the HCTT decided to identify the newly affected areas/communities and collect loss and damage data through a rapid assessment. A Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG) was formed and discussed the methodology of the rapid assessment.

Objectives

The objectives of this rapid assessment are three-fold:

- To identify the newly affected areas/communities
- To assess the loss and damage; and
- To identify the number of affected households (HHs) including the extent of overlap (both geographical and HHs) by the successive events

Methodology

The NAWG met on 4 August 2015 as directed by the HCTT during the meeting held on 3 August. The NAWG led by DDM, decided to implement a rapid assessment based on the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) forms. The list of agency wise districts and upazila is in Annex 1.

An assessment questionnaire was developed by the NAWG members. The questionnaire was supplemented by a manual. Representatives from organizations in the focus districts sourced the information from union-level government D forms and SOS forms where available, and interview with UNO, DRRO PIO, UP Chairman and I/NGO partner were also conducted for verification. The data were collected at union level.

The data fields of the questionnaire are in Annex 2.

Assessment chronology

During the meeting the NAWG member organizations agreed on a data collection plan.

Major Activity	Start Date	End Date
Area wise responsibility distribution	4-Aug	5-Aug
data collection	5-Aug	10-Aug
Data entry	10-Aug	12-Aug
Data processing		14-Aug
First draft of the findings		17 Aug
Joint Analysis meeting		18 Aug
Finalization of the finding		18 Aug
Dissemination of the findings and report sharing widely		19-Aug

Summary of findings

1. A total of 2.6 million people are affected
2. Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and Noakhali districts are the three worst affected districts in terms of absolute number of population affected
3. For population requiring assistance, Sathkira, Chittagong and Noakhali districts are the worst affected
4. **A total of 218,665 HHs are in need of emergency assistance**
5. **The main needs are: Emergency shelter, shelter repair, road reconstruction, emergency sanitation and food assistance** (as mentioned by the local authorities)
6. 87% of the HHs in need urged for immediate food assistance followed by 6% for emergency shelter and 5% for house repair.
7. The geographical areas targeted in the Joint Response Plan for June floods have been affected again by Komen and associated flooding at the end of July and early August. Damage to embankments and infrastructure caused by the June floods has meant that the effects of Komen and associated flooding were disproportionately severe
8. The need for emergency food assistance is high in Noakhali, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sathkira and Bandarban districts in descending order.

Table 1: Number of affected people per districts

District	Upazila	Union	Population	Affected Population	Affected HHs	% Affected	HHs requiring external assistance
Bandarban	3	15	220,100	55,400	11,080	25%	5,263
Barguna	2	2	42,000	4,400	880	10%	
Chittagong	3	43	17,298,295	645,184	129,037	4%	26,492
Cox's Bazar	7	70	6,595,096	1,117,232	223,446	17%	104,045
Feni	3	11	1,240,384	53,460	10,692	4%	69
Jessore	4	30	845,661	131,140	26,228	16%	6,316
Khula	4	6	80,408	23,242	4,648	29%	2,082
Noakhali	9	101	2,633,472	424,800	84,960	16%	40,727
Patuakhali	1	2	9,634	2,200	440	23%	240
Sathkira	3	26	680,871	167,956	33,591	25%	33,431
GRAND TOTAL	39	306	29,645,921	2,625,014	525,002	9%	218,665

Figure 2: Type of assistance requested

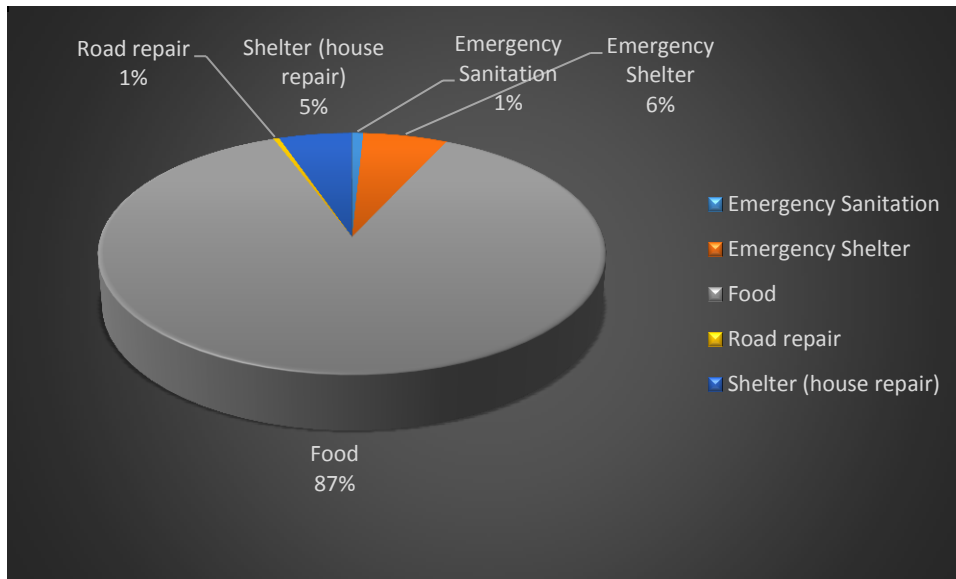
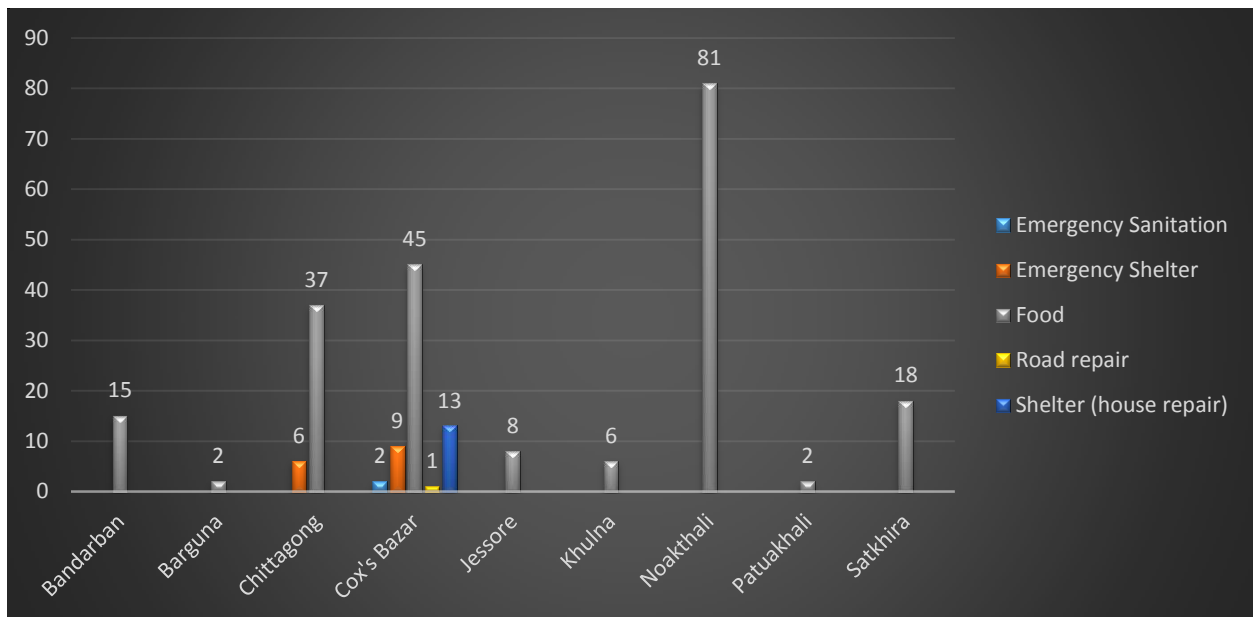


Figure 3: Assistance requested by district



In all the districts, food assistance is the first priority, according to the local authorities. The second priority is shelter but only in two districts (Chittagong and Cox's Bazaar). This can be explained by the successive events in these two districts.

Aggravating factors and future challenges

The disproportional impact of this cyclonic storm is due to (WB 2011, Paul 2009, IPC 2013):

- High population density
- Poverty: at least 45 million people in Bangladesh, almost one third of the population, live below the poverty line. Of these, 26 million people (18% of the population) live in extreme poverty (i.e. below the lower poverty line) (Poverty Maps of Bangladesh, WB, WFP, BBS, 2010)

A series of small and medium scale disasters affecting continuously the same areas (floods in June, heavy rainfall in July, cyclone Komen end of July) exacerbated by the following rainfalls.

65% of households in the southern region are functionally landless¹ (BBS 2010 Southern Delta Plan 2013). The key findings of the IPC Acute Analysis in the coastal belt were (IPC 2013):

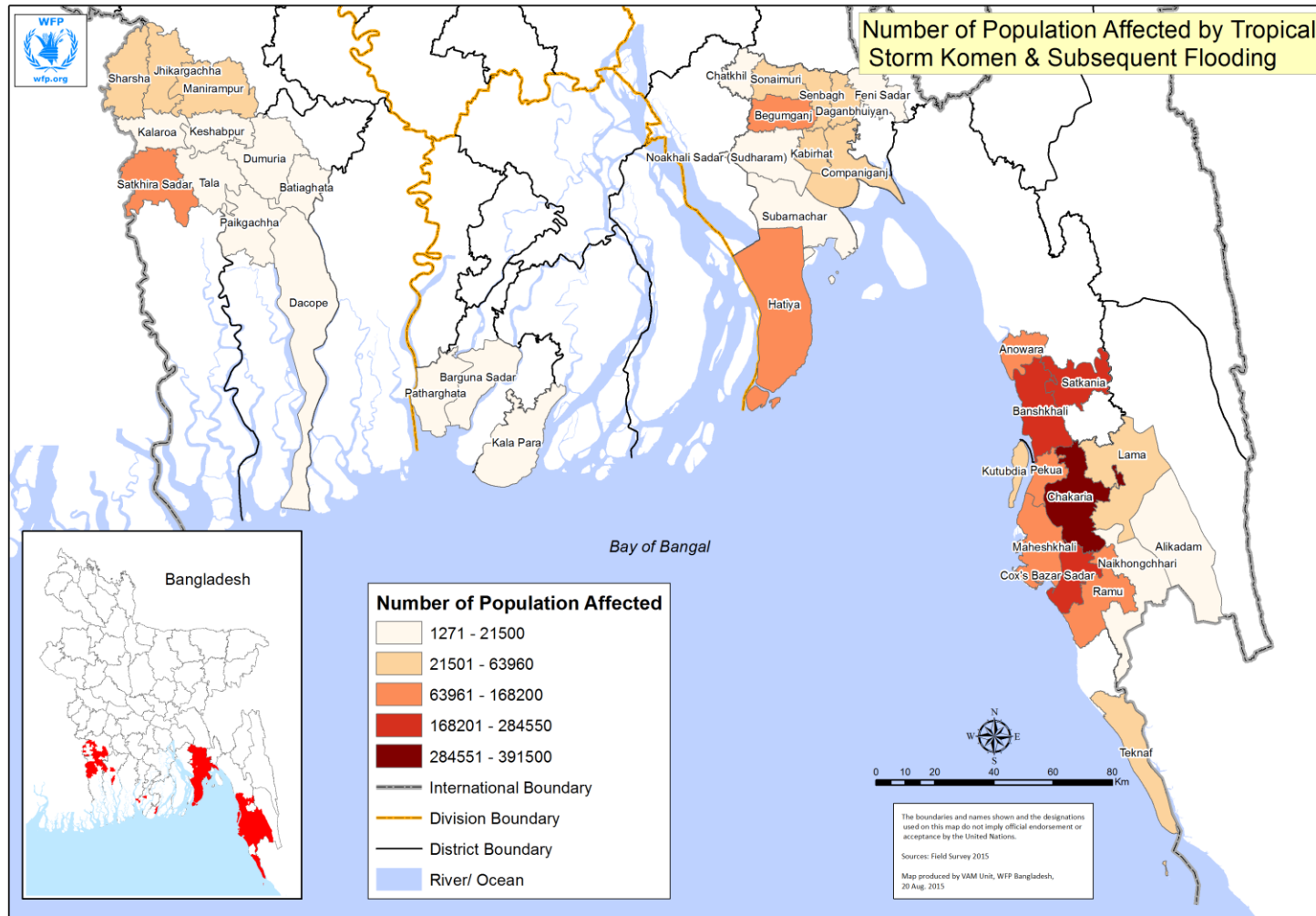
- For almost every district, dietary diversity of women and food consumption of households is very poor.
- Prevalence of chronic energy deficiency among women is very high and nutritional status of children is very poor.

The coastal region has an annual lean season in September and October, before the harvest period. This period is characterised by reduction in number of meals, out-migration of male labour and increased prevalence of malnutrition.

The heavy rainfall observed may lead to a waterlogging, especially in the Southeastern, which is now an annual occurrence, where some areas are reported to be under water for 6 – 8 months of the year.

¹ average household has less than 0.5 acres of land

Areas affected by the floods and the cyclone Komen



Response provided²

Government Response:

For the cyclone Komen only (i.e. from end of July to 18th August 2015)

	GR Rice MT	GR Cash BDT
Khulna	100	200,000
Sathkira	75	150,000
Patuakhali	100	200,000
Cox's Bazar	700	2,500,000
Barguna	75	150,000
Jessore		
Noakhali	450	1,200,000
Feni	375	950,000
Chittagong	450	1,000,000
Bandarban	425	1,050,000
Laxmipur	125	350,000
Bagerhat	100	200,000
Bhola	175	550,000
Pirojpur	100	150,000
Cumillah	500	1,200,000
Total	3,750	9,850,000

Health Cluster Activities

- Health Cluster lead is monitoring the situation with DHGS National Health Crisis Management Centre and Control Room.
- 1179 Medical Teams are working in the south-east part of coastal belt to manage the health problems in terms of flash floods, landslides and cyclonic storm “KOMEN”.
- WHO and other health cluster partners are providing emergency drugs and medical supplies in the affected district health facilities.

DGHS and WHO are going to organize jointly a health cluster consultative workshop at Chittagong on 17-18 August in order to finalize ‘Chittagong Division Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan’ based on local level risks analysis with involvement of local level health cluster partners.

² As of 18th August 2015

Immediate response after the cyclone (only in Cox's Bazaar district)

Who	# of people	What
WFP	167,250	Food aid
Coast Trust	4,500	Food aid
Word Vision International	665	Food aid

Joint Response Plan

- WFP and IFRC have started to implement their response with inception meetings and beneficiary selection. WFP will target 7,000 households in Bandarban and Cox's Bazaar district and will give 9,000 BDT. IFRC will work in the three districts, targeting 3,000 HHs and will give 3,000 BDT and one tarpaulin.
- Save the Children International (SCI) provided Unconditional Cash Grant of 3,000 BDT to 1,025 HHs (5,125 people)
- 2 consortia are ready to intervene for immediate assistance (9,000 BDT/HH) in the three affected districts by the floods, as defined in the Joint Response Plan, waiting for donors' decision.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Most information that relates to vulnerable groups and key protection concerns needs to be drawn from pre-disaster sources and knowledge of the social dynamics of the affected area. Ethnic minority groups and the Dalits are socially and economically marginalized making them vulnerable to natural shocks (Solidarites 2013). They are routinely discriminated when accessing post-disaster assistance (INTRAC 2010). How these underlying concerns interface with the impact of a disaster event may exacerbate protection issues.

An assessment was undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh in the official camps, and information was collected from UNHCR (official camps), IOM, ACF and MSF (unofficial settlements). The information collected indicated that the impact was very minimal. However, no disaggregated information was available on the large numbers of Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs).

No specific information was collected on vulnerabilities and protection issues.

Information gaps and limitation:

- It was not possible to differentiate the impacts of the flash floods end of June, the heavy rainfall mid-July, the cyclone Komen end of July and also the local events such as the waterlogging in Sathkira district.
- Due to the time constraints and relief response on going for some organisations, it was only possible to collect information at union level in districts where development partners have a presence. GoB forms were not all available at central level.
- The NAWG selected only the most affected areas (severely and moderately affected). The number of affected people does not include the figures in areas less affected.
- Definitions of some of the terms used in the government D-Form to describe the degree to which people are affected could be clarified to ensure consistent understanding.

- The D form template does not include the majority of the information being collected for this assessment; therefore interviews with local officials were relied upon for the majority of information.
- Union-level D forms have not been produced in the majority of unions.
- Where union-level D forms were available, the sum of the unions' affected populations and the total upazila affected population on the Upazila D form vary significantly in a number of upazilas, suggesting that the figures that were given are not necessarily accurate.
- The limited information about response to date may indicate that this is presenting an incomplete picture.
- No specific information on gender, elderly, people with disability and other vulnerable groups were collected
- Furthermore, the "population requiring external assistance" question was ambiguous in some areas, and interpreted in different ways by different officials. Data collectors tried to capture how officials came to this figure, but reported that they suspected that this figure was not always reliable.

Lessons learned from previous disasters:

- Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, and Chittagong districts were all affected by flash floods in June 2015 and June 2012, killing 22 and 122 and affecting around 1.8 and 1.3 million people respectively. Populations in hilly sub districts of Bandarban district were most severely affected (JNA, 2012). Food assistance was the 1st priority for both JNAs, followed by livelihood restoration and shelter repair. (JNA 2012 and JNA July 2015).
- Household incomes were significantly reduced, and water and sanitation facilities and houses damaged and destroyed. Food, shelter, WASH, health and livelihood support were reported as the priority needs. Lack of preparedness was reported as a concern, as communities were not prepared to cope with the floods (Clusters/Government, 08/2012).
- In the previous major floods (in 1988, 1998, 2004, 2007) approximately 70% death occurred due to drowning, 25% from snake bite and 5% others (National Health Crisis Management Centre & Control Room, Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh).

Recommendations

- Emergency Food assistance
- Cash grant for livelihood
- Health Replenish emergency buffer stock and renovate community clinics
- Emergency shelter and shelter repair
- Emergency sanitation and safe drinking water
- Road Rehabilitation of community roads and embankments through Cash for Work

Acronyms

Acronym	Expansion
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
DG	Director General
DRRO	District Relief and Rehabilitation Office
DHGS	Directorate General of Health Services
DMIC	Disaster Management Information Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FS	Food Security
FSC	Food Security Cluster
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HCTT	Humanitarian Coordination Task Team
HH	Household
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JNA	Joint Needs Assessment
MODMR	Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NAWG	Need Assessment Working Group
NFI	Shelter related Non Food Items
PIO	Project Implementation Officer
SCI	Save the Children International
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Health
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

Annex 1: List of Agencies per district and upazila

District	Upazila	Source
Khulna	Dacope	CW
	Paikgacha	
	Demuria	CUB
	Bataghata	
Jessore	Keshabpur	CUB
	Jhikargacha	
	Sharsa	
	Monirampur	
Satkhira	Tala	CW/CUB
	Kolaroa	Oxfam/CUB
	Sathkira Sadar	CUB/ Oxfam
Barguna	Patharghata	Oxfam
	Sadar	
Patuakhali	Kalapara	CW
Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar Sadar	WFP
	Chakaria	
	Ramu	
	Pekua	
	Moheskhali	
	Kutubdia	
	Teknaf	
Noakhali	Noakhali Sadar	ER/UNDP
	Sonaimuri	
	Subarna Char	
	Chatkhil	
	Begumganj	
	Hatiya	
Feni	Feni Sadar	ER/UNDP
	Fulgazi	
	Dagon Bhuiyan	
Chittagong	Banshkhali	MA
	Satkania	
	Anwara	
Bandarban	Lama	CUB
	Alikadam	
	Naikhongchhari	

Annex 2: Data field of the questionnaire

The data fields are as follows:

- 1. District :** Name of the district. Please check the spelling with BBS or LGED and put the GeoCode after the name if known
- 2. Upazila:** Please check the spelling with BBS or LGED and put the GeoCode after the name if known. Add upazila if you think necessary for the assessment.
- 3. Union:** Please check the spelling with BBS or LGED and put the GeoCode after the name if known. Add union if you think necessary for the assessment.
- 4. Population:** Union wise population according to the Population and Housing Census 2011 and multiply with the growth rate use and other updated population provided by the GoB.
- 5. Affected Population:** Information on affected population from SOS form or D-Form or by interviewing UNO office/PIO/UP Chairman/INGO. The reference date should be 3 August 2015. It has to be asked how many were affected on 3 August 2015.
- 6. Displace Population in shelter/ public places:** Information on displaced population from SOS form or D-Form or by interviewing UNO office/PIO/UP Chairman/INGO. The reference date should be 3 August 2015. It has to be asked how many people were in shelter/ embankments/ public places on 3 August 2015.
- 7. Population requiring External Assistance:** Information on Population requiring External Assistance from SOS form or D-Form or by interviewing UNO office/PIO/UP Chairman/INGO. The reference date should be 3 August 2015. It has to be asked how many people need external assistance due to the cyclonic storm “KOMEN” which struck on 3 August 2015.
- 8. Assistance type + ranking (Food, Safe drinking water, Hygiene kit, Emergency sanitation, Emergency Shelter, Medical/health):** Information on Assistance type + ranking by interviewing UNO office/PIO/UP Chairman/INGO. Please enter data by the first priority numbered as 1 and so on. Capture the ranking as mentioned by the interviewees and do not use your judgement.