



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Belgium provide emergency livelihoods support to flood-affected farming and fishing households in Bangladesh

In mid-June, heavy monsoon rains and water flowing downstream from northeast India triggered devastating flash floods in Bangladesh, affecting millions of people and resulting in a humanitarian crisis. Homes were swept away and farmlands inundated, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of predominantly rural communities in nine northeastern districts, who were still recovering from the previous wave of flash floods in late May. The climate-induced disaster damaged 254 251 ha of cropland, 163 973 ha of pasture areas and 106 000 fishponds. More than 1.2 million farming, fishing and livestock keeping households lost 457 000 tonnes of agricultural production, 1 549 930 heads of livestock, 8 708 070 poultry, and 17 000 tonnes of fish, among other resources and assets.

The sudden loss of livelihoods and sources of food, significantly exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, and left more than 2.2 million people in need of food security assistance. Nearly 93 percent of the affected communities were forced to adopt at least one negative coping mechanism, and 76 percent of pregnant and lactating women are not able to meet their minimum nutritional needs, posing serious risks on their health and the health of their newborns.

Recovering the productive assets and restoring the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, fishers and livestock keepers to enable them to feed themselves and their communities is a frontline humanitarian response. Such interventions will enable the affected communities to quickly improve their food security and avoid reliance on food assistance.

Through SFERA, the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium contributed USD 500 000 to FAO to mitigate the adverse impacts of the flash floods on the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable farming and fishing households. With Belgium's generous support, FAO will provide 11 200 flood-affected farming and fishing households (56 000 people) with time-critical production inputs. The planned emergency assistance packages will enable the affected communities to restore their livelihoods, and increase crop and aquaculture production. The Central Emergency Response Fund will complement this project by funding interventions to support the livestock sector.



Restoring the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and fishers will enable them to improve their incomes, and increase the availability of and access to food for affected communities.

REQUIRED CITATION

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Contact

Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | Rome, Italy

www.fao.org/emergencies

Food and Agriculture Organization
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