



Responding to Crisis:

# CODEC's Efforts in the 2024 Eastern Bangladesh Flash Flood

February 2025



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, Bangladesh experienced severe flash floods that caused widespread damage, particularly in areas like Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, and Cumilla. These floods affected over 5.8 million people, causing significant damage to agriculture, fisheries, and livestock, while displacing hundreds of thousands of families. In the wake of this disaster, CODEC, a prominent disaster response organization, stepped in to provide critical support to the affected communities, collaborating with partners such as PKSF, WFP, Stromme Foundation, UNICEF, OXFAM, and ERIKS. CODEC's response to the devastating floods was comprehensive, addressing both immediate relief needs and long-term recovery efforts. The organization's approach focused on key areas, including health and nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection, and social behavior change (SBC).

In terms of health and nutrition, in response to the 2024 floods in Bangladesh, CODEC took a proactive approach, with a strong focus on maternal and child healthcare, especially for those suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Nutritional supplements were distributed to flood-affected populations to combat the effects of malnutrition, which was a significant concern, particularly for children, due to the disruption of food systems and limited access to healthcare services. Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) also became urgent priorities. Efforts were made to disinfect over 1,000 tubewells and rehabilitate sanitation facilities to ensure access to safe water. With the contamination of water sources being a major issue in flood-prone areas, these interventions were crucial in preventing the spread of waterborne diseases. In addition, hygiene awareness sessions were held to teach communities how to reduce health risks, empowering them to take control of their own well-being during the crisis. The education sector was severely impacted by the flood, with thousands of children unable to attend school. To address this, educational kits were distributed to 80,574 students, enabling them to continue their studies amidst the devastation. This initiative helped minimize the long-term impact of the disaster on children's futures. Additionally, the emotional and psychological needs of children were prioritized. Mobile Child-Friendly Spaces were set up to provide therapeutic and recreational activities, helping children cope with the trauma caused by displacement and loss.

Social and Behavior Change (SBC) programs were another essential aspect of the response, aimed at raising awareness about disaster risks, hygiene practices, and emergency preparedness. These initiatives played a key role in empowering communities to better manage the ongoing crisis and prepare for future emergencies, reinforcing resilience within vulnerable populations.

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Alongside these efforts, funding partners contributed to the relief operations. OXFAM worked on restoring essential services like food distribution, WASH services, and cash assistance, while also focusing on gender equality and disability inclusion. ERIKS provided immediate relief through cash grants, food distribution, and clean water access, helping vulnerable groups regain stability. Various emergency interventions were also implemented. With the support of the Stromme Foundation, saline packets and water purification tablets were distributed to 55,000 direct beneficiaries, ensuring hydration and access to safe drinking water. Additionally, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), high-energy biscuits were given to 45,902 families, along with cash-for-work programs aimed at rebuilding livelihoods. In total, over 200,000 individuals benefited directly or indirectly from these combined efforts.

In addition to emergency relief, CODEC's response also focused on long-term recovery. The organization distributed vegetable seeds to 30,000 households to help them restore their livelihoods and recover economically. Cash assistance was also provided to affected households, enabling them to cover immediate expenses while they worked to rebuild their lives. These actions played a critical role in helping affected communities regain economic stability and reduce reliance on external aid.

To sum up, CODEC's efforts showcase a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to disaster relief. Through partnerships with organizations like PKSF, Stromme Foundation, WFP, UNICEF, OXFAM, and ERIKS, CODEC was able to address both immediate and long-term needs, including food, water, healthcare, education, and livelihood recovery. The organization's efforts have not only helped to alleviate the suffering of flood-affected communities but also contributed to building resilience, ensuring that these communities are better prepared to face future crises. CODEC's experience reinforces the importance of preparedness, community involvement, and holistic disaster response strategies in fostering sustainable recovery and long-term resilience.

# INTRODUCTION

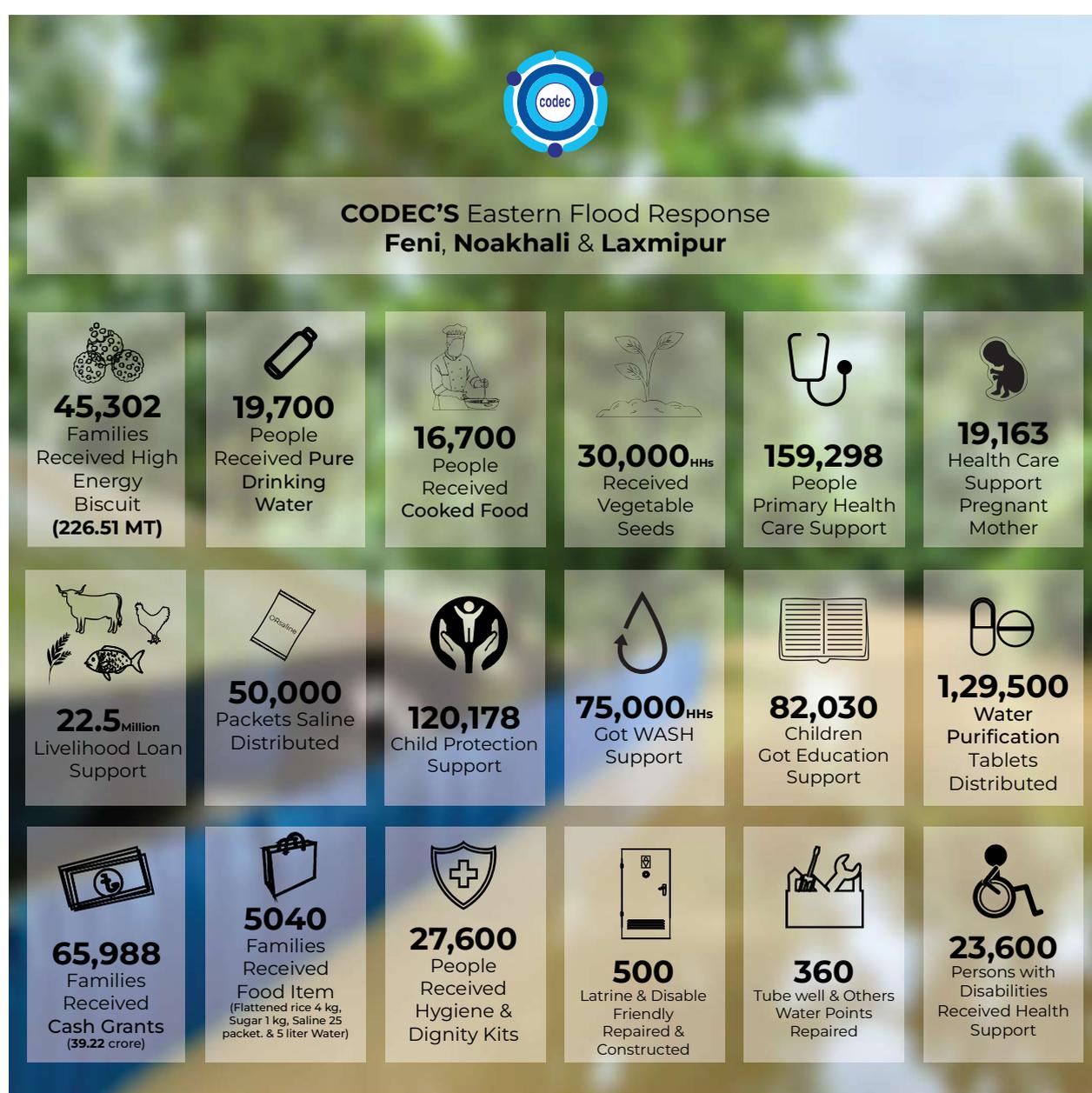
Bangladesh, an agrarian country where agriculture is a vital source of income for the majority of its rural population, has recently witnessed unprecedented flash floods that have devastated large swathes of land in several districts. The coastal and riverine areas, particularly Feni, Noakhali, and Lakshmipur, have been severely impacted, with over 5.8 million people affected by the floods. (ICCG, August 2024). These regions, where agriculture forms the economic backbone, have been submerged by floodwaters that began in August 2024, devastating farmlands, homes, and vital infrastructure. As a result, more than 1 million people are cut off from essential services, with flooded roads and communication breakdowns hindering relief efforts. (ICCG, August 2024). Over 500,000 people have been displaced, facing not only the loss of their homes but also their primary means of livelihood (OXFAM, September 2024). The damage to agriculture in these areas is nothing short of catastrophic. An estimated 339,382 hectares of crops have been destroyed, including vital rice fields and fruit orchards. (ICCG, August 2024). This destruction has wiped out months of hard work for local farmers, many of whom are now facing the bleak reality of food insecurity. In addition to the loss of crops, the region's fisheries sector, a major source of income for local communities, has suffered losses totaling an estimated USD 135 million (ICCG, August 2024). Livestock has also been severely impacted, with initial reports from the Department of Livestock indicating losses of approximately USD 34 million (Brac, September 2024). The destruction of rural roads, local markets, and agricultural infrastructure has compounded the crisis, severely limiting farmers' ability to access markets, obtain necessary supplies, or seek assistance. Key agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and farming equipment have been destroyed or washed away, further exacerbating the challenges for recovery. Immediate and comprehensive recovery efforts are crucial to help these communities rebuild their agricultural base and restore food security.

CODEC has implemented various projects for the coastal and riverine communities of Bangladesh since 1985. Environment, Climate Emergency, Biodiversity and Disaster Management is one of the thematic areas among the eight thematic areas of CODEC program. CODEC also promotes alternative fuel usage to reduce forest fuelwood dependency by providing improved cooking stoves (ICS) and retained heat cookers, supporting people through diversified livelihood options for NRM and conservation. Moreover, CODEC regularly trains Disaster Management Committee leaders on DRR.

At present, CODEC is working in 05 Divisions, 21 Districts, 112 Upazilas & 1020 Unions of Bangladesh with multifarious projects in a holistic approach. The organization mounted major successful responses to cyclones of 1991 cyclone, Sidr (2007), Aila (2009), Mahasen (2013) small-scale Amphan (2020), and Cyclone Remal (2024).

CODEC is committed to responding to any large-scale disaster. To address any emergencies timely & successfully, CODEC has a separate disaster management plan with a risk mitigation policy. CODEC has also an Emergency Contingency Plan to guide us properly. Roles and responsibilities during the impending emergency of Staff members are described properly. During Disasters, cyclones, or any risks at the head office or project level, the CODEC team follows the guidelines of policies and procedures to address the risks and challenges.

### At a Glance CODEC's 2024 Flood Response & Rehabilitation



## Collaborative Emergency Response by CODEC During Eastern Flood

The collaborative emergency response efforts in Bangladesh have been essential in addressing the immediate needs of communities affected by the severe flood in August, 2024. CODEC with various organizations including PKSF, Stromme Foundation, WFP, UNICEF, ERIKS, OXFAM and other partners, have mobilized resources and expertise to support the most vulnerable populations. These efforts focus on providing health care, nutrition, clean water, sanitation, food security, and livelihoods support to help communities recover and rebuild. By working together, we have been able to deliver critical assistance and lay the foundation for long-term resilience in the flood-affected regions of Noakhali, Feni, Lakshmipur, and Cumilla districts.

### **Project: Contingency partnership to respond emergencies in Chattogram Division (CPRE Project) supported by UNICEF**

Funding Partner	UNICEF
Location	Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur & Cumilla districts
Budget	6,21,30,162 BDT
Total Targeted People	5,50,000
Duration	September 2024 – March 2025

The UNICEF Contingency Partnership to Respond to Emergencies (CPRE) project plays a crucial role in providing essential support to communities affected by emergencies, particularly natural disasters like floods. It operates across multiple sectors to ensure the well-being of vulnerable populations, especially pregnant women, children, and marginalized groups, who are at heightened risk during emergencies. The project's comprehensive approach aims to address immediate humanitarian needs, while also laying the foundation for long-term recovery and resilience. CPRE provides assistance in several key areas:

**Health:** The CPRE project provided crucial support for flood-affected populations, with a particular focus on pregnant women and children. In close collaboration with government health facilities, the project ensured access to quality healthcare services, including maternal and child healthcare, in hard-to-reach areas. This was achieved through the assessment and renovation of 143 health facilities across Noakhali and Feni districts, ensuring they were ready to provide ANC, delivery, and PNC services. Additionally, midwives were recruited for five health facilities, and community-based outreach activities, such as courtyard sessions and household visits, were conducted to raise awareness and encourage the use of these services. These efforts aimed to ensure that the most vulnerable groups received timely medical attention and support during and after the floods.

**Nutrition:** The CPRE project’s nutrition-focused interventions were essential in addressing the immediate and long-term nutritional needs of flood-affected populations in Bangladesh, particularly pregnant women, children, and adolescents. Following the floods, the project quickly screened children for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), provided nutritional supplements like SQ-LNS, and offered referral and cash support to 250 SAM children to encourage enrollment in health facilities. Caregiver counseling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and deworming campaigns further supported health and nutrition. These efforts not only provided immediate relief but also ensured sustainable nutritional support, helping mitigate the long-term impact of malnutrition in flood-affected areas.

### **Lifesaving Care for Wajiha: Overcoming Malnutrition After the Floods**

Wajiha Binte Humaira, an eight-month-old girl, was identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) on November 10, 2024, with a MUAC of 10.2 cm and weight of 5.5 kg. Referred to Chhagalnaiya Upazila Health Complex, she received therapeutic foods (F-75, F-100) and medication. Despite setbacks like vomiting and diarrhea, her health improved. After 16 days, her MUAC increased to 11.7 cm, and weight to 5.9 kg, leading to her discharge. Her caregivers received counseling, and UNICEF-CODEC provided 4,000 BDT for continued recovery. This intervention, part of the CODEC-UNICEF project, addressed immediate needs and empowered caregivers for long-term health. Wajiha’s recovery highlights the importance of timely, coordinated response efforts in addressing malnutrition during crises.



*Note: A community nutrition volunteer conducting a MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) test on Wajiha Binte Humaira to identify Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) during a routine screening in Chhagalnaiya, Feni District. This simple but vital screening tool helped initiate timely intervention for her recovery.*

**WASH:** The WASH component of CPRE project has made significant progress in improving the health and sanitation conditions of flood-affected communities. Disinfection and rehabilitation of water points were carried out to ensure access to safe drinking water. For example, over 1,000 tubewells were disinfected in high-demand areas, including the rehabilitation of shared water points in vulnerable households. Additionally, the construction of flood-resilient and accessible latrines for the most vulnerable, including the hardcore poor and families with disabilities, has been prioritized. These latrines not only address sanitation needs but also contribute to the overall flood resilience of the communities. Hygiene awareness sessions, including the importance of proper handwashing, menstrual health management, and safe water practices, were conducted across all districts. These sessions helped raise awareness and provided essential health knowledge to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases. CODEC's interventions, such as the disinfection of tubewells for families like Ayesha Begum and Hazera Begum, exemplify the critical role these efforts play in improving community health and hygiene during and after floods.

### "Ayesha Begum's Family: Overcoming Waterborne Diseases Through CODEC's Intervention"

Ayesha Begum, aged 28, lives with her husband Nizam Uddin (37) and their two children in Fazr Ali Munshi Bari, North Sundalpur, Noakhali District. Their life, though simple, was disrupted when a devastating flood struck in August 2024, raising water levels by 36 cm and submerging their locality. Following the flood, the family started using unsafe water, leading to illnesses like diarrhea, which further strained their finances.

CODEC responded by disinfecting their tubewell, ensuring access to safe drinking water. This timely intervention restored the family's health, with everyone, including Ayesha, recovering quickly. The family expressed deep gratitude to CODEC for their role in improving their health and quality of life through clean water.



*Ayesha Begum and her family now able to access safe drinking water, leading to a full recovery and improved well-being*

## "Hazera Begum's Family: A New Beginning with Safe Water"

Hazera Begum, 30, lives with her husband Delwar Hossain (40) and their four children in Chokidar Bari, North Sharifpur, Noakhali. The family faced significant distress after the August 2024 floods, which submerged their area by 40 cm. After the flood, they resorted to using unsafe water from a neighbor's tubewell, leading to their daughter Afroza falling severely ill with waterborne diseases.

CODEC took swift action by disinfecting the neighbor's tubewell, ensuring that Hazera's family had access to clean and safe water. The intervention had an immediate positive effect on Afroza's health, and the whole family experienced relief. Hazera's family expressed heartfelt thanks to CODEC for improving their living conditions and providing the health security they immediately needed.

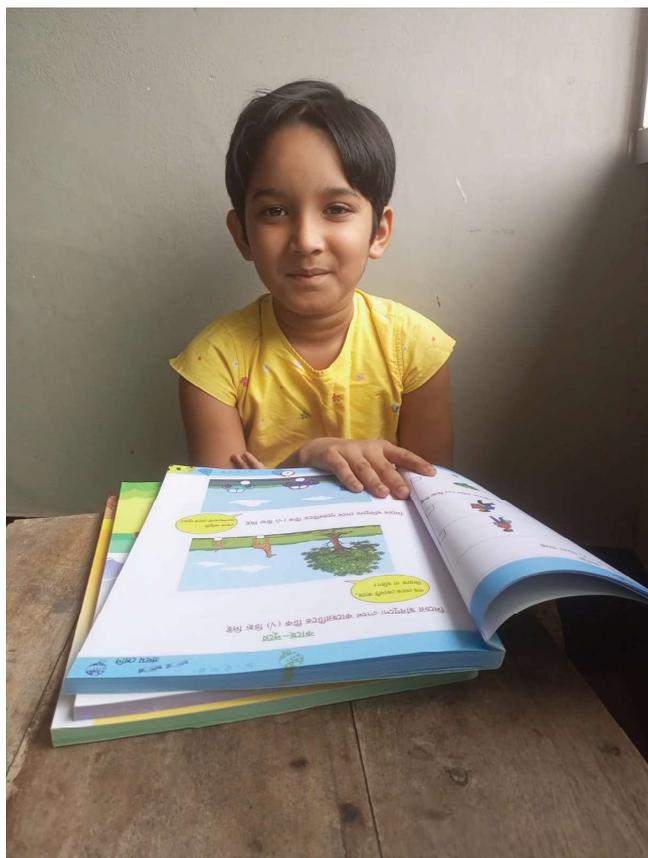


*Hazera Begum gain access to safe water through CODEC's intervention, which help to restore her daughter Afroza's health*

**Education:** In the aftermath of the devastating floods in southern Chittagong, the CPRE project played a vital role in supporting children's education in the flood-affected districts of Feni, Noakhali, and Cumilla. The project focused on providing essential resources for educational continuity, including 800 Education in Emergency (EiE) kits and 200 learning packs, benefiting 80,574 students across 463 primary schools, including 324 children with disabilities. In addition, 50 secondary schools received essential repairs to create safe and functional learning environments for students. These efforts ensured that children could continue their education despite the devastating impact of the floods, while also addressing the immediate need for educational materials and safe spaces for learning.

## Restoring Hope: The Impact of Learning Materials on Fahriba's Education

One notable example is in Fulgazi Upazila, Feni district, where teacher Farhana Akter and her daughter, Fahriba Binte Kabir, benefited from the learning materials. Fahriba's mother shared how the flood had destroyed all educational materials, severely impacting her daughter's learning. After receiving the learning pack, Fahriba was eager to read the books, particularly enjoying a Bangla storybook. The learning pack not only reignited her interest in reading but also helped improve her reading habits, providing a renewed sense of hope and motivation.



*Picture:  
Fahriba enjoying her new storybook  
from the learning pack.*

**Child Protection:** The Child Protection component under the CPRE project has played a critical role in providing mental health and psychosocial support to flood-affected children and adolescents. By establishing mobile Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and distributing recreational kits, the project created safe environments for children to recover from the trauma caused by the floods. Through these mobile CFS centers, children were able to engage in therapeutic and recreational activities that supported their emotional well-being and helped them regain a sense of normalcy. Additionally, non-violent discipline and positive parenting practices were promoted through outreach to 25,000 parents and caregivers. These interventions helped mitigate the impact of the disaster on children's psychosocial development, providing much-needed emotional recovery while fostering community resilience. The success of these initiatives highlights the importance of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in disaster response, particularly for vulnerable children and adolescents.



*Tabassum, a child participant, shared the transformative effect of the intervention:*

*“All of my toys and books were destroyed in the flood. But now, coming here to play makes me happy. I am happy again”.*

**Social and Behavior Change (SBC):** Social Behavior Change (SBC) plays a crucial role in addressing the impacts of the recent floods by enhancing community awareness and fostering positive behavior change, particularly in disaster preparedness and response. Following the floods, SBC efforts have focused on raising awareness about the risks of flooding, improving knowledge on emergency response measures, and promoting health, nutrition, and hygiene practices. Engaging communities, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities, has been key to ensuring that life-saving messages reach those most at risk. Through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and community awareness sessions, SBC has helped identify local needs and gaps in preparedness, enabling targeted interventions that strengthen resilience and improve coping mechanisms in the face of future disasters. By emphasizing the importance of preparedness and coordination, SBC aims to reduce vulnerability and enhance community resilience, ultimately mitigating the effects of floods and other emergencies.



Photo:  
Community awareness session.



Photo:  
HPV Campaign



Photo:  
Community engagement session at  
Ramgati, Laxmipur



Photo:  
Community engagement session at  
Ramgati, Laxmipur



Photo:  
Community engagement session at  
Kabirhat, Noakhali



Photo:  
Rapport Building & Facilitation Skill  
Enhancement for SBC Upazila Facilitators

## OXFAM's Response to Eastern Flood 2024 in Bangladesh:

In response to the devastating impacts of natural disasters in Bangladesh, OXFAM has supported the implemented two major humanitarian initiatives through CODEC: the Bangladesh Flash Flood 2024 (BFF) Project and the Bangladesh Flood Response 2024 (BFR) Project. Both projects aim to address the immediate needs of affected communities while fostering long-term resilience through comprehensive support across sectors including water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), food security, livelihoods, and protection. Below is an in-depth look at each project.

### Bangladesh Flash Flood 2024 (BFF Project)

#### Objective:

The primary goal of the BFF Project was to assist communities severely impacted by flash floods, ensuring that their basic rights were upheld and supporting the recovery of all members of the community, including women, men, girls, and boys. The project specifically aimed to restore essential services and improve the living conditions of those affected by the disaster.

Funding Partner	OXFAM
Location	Kobirhat, Noakhali
Budget	4,854,000 BDT
Total Targeted People	27,677 individuals
Duration	September 2024 – October 2024

#### Key Activities:

To address the immediate needs of those affected, the BFF Project implemented a range of vital interventions:

- \* Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): The project repaired 100 toilets and tube wells to ensure access to clean water and sanitation. Hygiene kits were also distributed to improve hygiene standards and reduce the spread of diseases.
- \* Emergency Relief: 3,000 families received bottled purified water (12L per family) to meet their immediate water needs. Additionally, 4,500 families benefited from emergency food assistance, which included flattened rice, sugar, food saline, and water.
- \* Cash Assistance: 2,700 families received 6,000 BDT in cash assistance to help them purchase essential items and support their recovery efforts.

The BFF Project was focused on meeting the urgent needs of flood-affected communities, with a clear emphasis on water access, food security, and basic hygiene to prevent the spread of disease.

## Bangladesh Flood Response 2024 (BFR Project)

### Objective:

The BFR Project addresses the broader and ongoing needs of flood-affected communities, with a particular focus on food security, livelihoods, WASH, and protection. The project emphasizes gender equality, disability inclusion, and accountability to affected populations, ensuring that the interventions are inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of the community.

Donor	OXFAM
Location	Noakhali (Noakhali Sadar)
Budget	1,49,21,160 BDT
Total Targeted People	18,954 individuals
Duration	October 2024 – August 2025

### Key Activities:

- \* **Food Security and Livelihoods:** The project provided various forms of support to enhance food security and livelihoods for flood-affected households. This included the distribution of vegetable seeds, cash grants, and food rations to meet immediate food needs. Livelihood support was also offered to help individuals restore their income sources, and winter clothing was distributed to protect vulnerable families during the colder months.
- \* **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** The project focused on improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Latrines, bathing cubicles, and tube wells were constructed, providing families with safer, more reliable access to water and sanitation. Hygiene kits were also distributed to promote proper hygiene practices and reduce the risk of waterborne diseases.
- \* **Gender Equality and Protection:** The BFR Project incorporated gender-sensitive approaches, ensuring that women, girls, and other marginalized groups had equal access to resources and support. Leadership training was provided to empower women and build their capacity to lead within their communities. A community volunteer brigade was established to assist with ongoing relief efforts and ensure that protection measures were in place, particularly for vulnerable groups.

- \* **Cross-Cutting Issues:** Throughout the project, cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, disability inclusion, and accountability were embedded into all activities. This approach ensured that the needs of all affected individuals were considered, and that the interventions were tailored to be inclusive and responsive to the specific challenges faced by women, girls, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

Both the BFF Project and BFR Project aimed to restore normalcy and enhance the resilience of affected communities. By providing essential services like clean water, sanitation, food, and cash support, OXFAM worked to address both immediate needs and longer-term recovery. Additionally, the emphasis on gender equality, disability inclusion, and community-driven approaches ensured that the response was holistic and equitable. These projects not only focused on meeting basic needs but also on empowering communities to rebuild their livelihoods and safeguard their future resilience in the face of future disasters.

### **CODEC-PKSF Emergency Flood Response**

In response to the devastating flood impacted communities in the Noakhali and Lakshmipur regions, the CODEC-PKSF Emergency Flood Response sought to address both immediate health needs and long-term livelihood restoration for the affected populace.

Objective: The primary aim of the CODEC-PKSF Emergency Flood Response was to provide essential support to flood-affected communities. This included offering primary healthcare, providing livestock vaccination support, and distributing emergency loans to help restart livelihood activities for families whose incomes were severely disrupted by the flood.

Donor	PKSF
Location	Noakhali, Lakshmipur
Health Camp Services	2,409 individuals
Total Beneficiaries	3,784 individuals
Loan allocation for livelihood support	22.5 million BDT
Duration	September' 2024

## **Key Activities and Interventions:**

### **1. Primary and Emergency Healthcare Services:**

In response to the immediate health needs of flood-affected populations, the CODEC-PKSF project established 24 health camps across the two districts. These camps provided primary healthcare services to individuals suffering from flood-related illnesses and injuries, as well as ongoing health concerns exacerbated by the disaster. Healthcare professionals delivered treatments, medical consultations, and basic health services to ensure that the affected communities received timely support. The healthcare camps also provided critical emergency care, addressing injuries and diseases caused by the floodwaters and sanitation issues.

### **2. Livestock Vaccination and Health Support:**

Recognizing the importance of livestock for the livelihoods of many families, the project implemented vaccination camps for livestock. These camps focused on vaccinating animals against diseases that are common in the aftermath of floods, ensuring the health of livestock and, by extension, the livelihoods of farmers who depend on their animals for income and sustenance. In addition, deworming tablets were distributed to livestock, further supporting their recovery and reducing the risk of disease transmission in the aftermath of the floods.

### **3. Livelihood Support Through Soft Loans:**

One of the core components of the response was to provide financial assistance to support the recovery of income-generating activities (IGAs). A total of 22.5 million BDT was allocated in the form of soft loans to affected families. These loans were designed to help restart or sustain livelihoods that were disrupted by the flooding, such as small businesses, agriculture, and other self-employment activities. By providing access to these loans, the project enabled families to regain their financial independence, reestablish their businesses, and support their economic recovery.

The CODEC-PKSF Emergency Flood Response aimed to address both immediate health and long-term economic recovery. The key goal was not only to provide short-term relief but also to lay the foundation for long-term resilience. The combined focus on health services, livestock support, and livelihood recovery ensured that the response was holistic and sustainable.

## **CODEC-ERIKS Emergency Flood Response**

**Project: Humanitarian Assistance for Flood Affected Communities, Bangladesh**

**Objective:** The project aimed to provide immediate relief to flood-affected populations in Noakhali and Lakshmipur during the month of September 2024, with two main objectives: distributing multi-purpose cash grants and delivering food, clean water, and water purification tablets.

Funding Partner	ERIKS
Budget	BDT 3,000,000
Duration	September 2024
Location	Noakhali, Lakshmipur

### **Key Activities and Interventions:**

- \* 5,000 families received one meal each to meet their immediate food needs.
- \* 400 individuals were provided with 6,000 BDT cash assistance via Bkash (mobile banking) to help them cover essential expenses like food, medicine, and other critical needs.

The project began with an online orientation for field staff, ensuring effective implementation. Field staff conducted assessments in Noakhali and Lakshmipur, identifying high-priority households for aid distribution. Regular monitoring ensured transparency and effectiveness, with feedback mechanisms in place for beneficiaries to report issues. Although logistical challenges in remote areas caused some delays, issues were addressed promptly. Special attention was given to children, women, and vulnerable groups, ensuring equal access to aid. A participatory approach, incorporating feedback from beneficiaries, helped improve aid delivery. Coordination with local authorities was key in identifying vulnerable groups and facilitating aid distribution, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. The project adhered to humanitarian standards like Sphere and HAP, ensuring the aid was ethical and accountable, though some logistical issues in remote areas impacted full compliance. The project faced difficulties in delivering aid to isolated communities due to damaged infrastructure.

Below are the case studies of individuals who directly benefited from the emergency assistance provided through the CODEC-ERIKS flood response-

### **The Case of Fatema, Tanzina, and Nusrat**

Fatema, who lives in a house still submerged ankle-deep in water, shares her experience: “My house is still ankle-high underwater. You have to wade through the water to get to the house. We had to return from the cyclone shelter because they stopped hosting evacuees once schools reopened.” Fatema and her friends, Tanzina and Nusrat, received food at the shelter, which helped them for the day. Fatema explains, “Now, my family depends on relatives to get food and water.”



*Photo: Fatema (Left), Tanzina (Centre) and Nusrat (Right)*

### **The Case of Sumaiya**

Sumaiya recalls the difficulties her family faced with accessing clean drinking water: “The water purification tablets provided were very helpful.” Although the family struggled initially, especially with understanding how to use the tablets, Sumaiya's mother noted that receiving the tablets helped alleviate some of their concerns. Despite the water having an unusual taste due to the chlorine, a field staff member from CODEC demonstrated how to aerate the water by transferring it between containers to reduce the taste and odor. Sumaiya's family was grateful for the support, which eased their daily challenges.



*Photo: Sumaiya (Centre) Pictured with Mother (Second from Right) and the rest of her Family*

The project was successful in meeting its objectives, providing critical relief to affected populations. Its dual-modality approach combining cash grants and in-kind support proved efficient, and its focus on local capacity building ensured sustainability.

### **CODEC-STROMME Foundation Emergency Flood Response**

**Objective:** With the support of Stromme Foundation, CODEC distributed Saline and water purification tablets to provide immediate response to flood affected communities.

Funding Partner	Stromme Foundation
Total Households	10,000
Total Indirect Beneficiary	45,000
Duration	September 2024
Location	Noakhali, Lakshmipur

Recognizing the urgent need for immediate relief, With the generous support of the Stromme Foundation, CODEC implemented a response plan to address the critical health, nutrition, and sanitation needs of the affected populations. This intervention was particularly crucial in mitigating the risks of waterborne diseases and malnutrition, which often escalate in the aftermath of natural disasters.

As part of the immediate relief efforts, CODEC distributed 45,000 food saline packets to 10,000 households across the flood-affected regions. These saline packets, which are vital for combating dehydration and restoring electrolyte balance, directly benefited 45,000 individuals. The distribution was carefully targeted to ensure that the most vulnerable families, including those with children, pregnant women, and the elderly, received the support they needed during this critical time.

In addition to the food saline packets, CODEC also prioritized access to safe drinking water, a major concern in flood-affected areas where water sources are often contaminated. To address this, each of the 10,000 households received 10 water purification tablets, totaling 100,000 tablets. These tablets were instrumental in ensuring that families could purify their drinking water, significantly reducing the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and dysentery. The impact of this intervention extended beyond the immediate recipients, reaching an estimated 450,000 indirect beneficiaries who also benefited from improved water quality and sanitation practices within their communities.

These interventions were vital in addressing the immediate health and sanitation needs of the affected populations.

### **CODEC-WFP Emergency Flood Response**

Funding Partner	WFP
Total Households	65,900
Total Indirect Beneficiary	206,559
Duration	August 2024- Present
Location	Noakhali

With the support of the World Food Programme (WFP), CODEC has provided significant assistance to flood-affected families in Noakhali. A total of 45,902 families received 5 kg of High Energy Biscuits, amounting to 229.51 metric tons, to address nutritional needs. In addition, 27,000 families were provided emergency cash assistance of 6,000 BDT each through the mobile financial service provider, bKash, totaling 16.2 million BDT.

Looking ahead, an additional 19,000 families are set to receive 6,000 BDT each, totaling 11.4 million BDT. Furthermore, in five upazilas of Noakhali district, 6,900 families continue to benefit from cash-for-work programs, where participants are provided with the opportunity to work for 20 days at a daily rate of 500 BDT.



*Photo:*

*WFP Country Director Dom Scalpelli's visit to Noakhali highlighted the positive impact of WFP's support in helping communities recover from last year's devastating floods. With NGO CODEC implementing essential cash-for-work programs, local communities have been mobilized to rebuild and restore their livelihoods.*



*Photo:*

*Providing essential nutrition to flood-affected families with high-energy biscuits*

## Key Statistics:

- \* High Energy Biscuits: 5 kg per family, benefiting 45,902 households (206,559 indirect beneficiaries)
- \* Emergency Cash Assistance: 6,000 BDT per household, benefiting 27,000 households (121,500 indirect beneficiaries)
- \* Cash-for-Work Program: Ongoing for 6,900 families across five upazilas.

## CODEC's Own Initiatives

### Project: CODEC- Emergency Flood Response

**Objective:** Provide cash support and food support to flood affected people in Feni, Noakhali and Lakshmipur.

Duration	August – September 2024	
Target People	Food Support	Total Households:10,589 Total Indirect Beneficiary: 10,589
	Cash Support	Total Households: 493 Total Indirect Beneficiary: 2219
	Seed Supply	Total Households: 30,000 Total Indirect Beneficiary: 30,000

CODEC played a pivotal role in providing immediate relief to flood-affected communities. The organization supported 30,000 households with flood-resilient vegetable seeds, valued at 1,800,000 BDT, helping families recover and rebuild their livelihoods. Additionally, CODEC provided cash assistance of 1,000 BDT per person to a total of 493 households in Feni.

In terms of food security, CODEC ensured that 10,589 households received one cooked meal, offering critical nourishment during the flood recovery period. These efforts represent CODEC's sole commitment to alleviating the challenges faced by affected communities, providing essential support for both immediate survival and long-term resilience.



*Photo:  
Supporting flood-affected families with essential  
food, cash, and resources*

**In the aftermath of the 2024 floods, the collaborative efforts of CODEC and its supporting organizations have shifted from immediate relief to crucial post-relief recovery work.**

Initially, the focus was on providing urgent support, including food, clean water, emergency healthcare, and hygiene kits, to those affected by the floods. However, as the immediate needs have been addressed, the focus has now transitioned to post-recovery activities that are vital for the long-term well-being and resilience of the affected communities.

The post-recovery efforts are significantly important as the long-term impacts of flooding—such as damaged infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and health risks—begin to manifest. Projects like CODEC’s flood response are providing essential services like health camps, nutrition support for children, and livestock vaccination, helping communities rebuild and regain stability. Moreover, support for livelihoods through cash grants, vegetable seed distribution, and income-generating loans is essential in restoring the economic fabric of these communities.

As CODEC with other partners continue their work, the emphasis is on creating sustainable solutions that will not only help the flood-affected people recover but also prepare them for future crises. The post-relief phase is critical in addressing the more complex and long-term needs of the communities, ensuring that they are able to recover and thrive despite the challenges posed by the flood's aftermath. These efforts are a vital step in strengthening resilience, ensuring that these communities are not only rebuilding but also becoming more prepared to face future challenges.

### **CODEC's Human Resource Deployment in 2024 Flood-Affected Areas**

Across the affected districts of Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Feni, and Cumilla, CODEC deployed a robust team of staff members to provide essential services to flood-impacted communities. The human resource team was strategically placed across various offices, including branch offices, zonal offices, and project offices, to ensure timely and effective delivery of emergency relief efforts.

The diverse range of staff, from project teams to microfinance (MF) branch office teams, played a crucial role in supporting flood-affected individuals, providing emergency healthcare, livestock support, and financial assistance. Their collective effort helped CODEC reach thousands of individuals in urgent need of aid, and their hard work on the ground is a testament to the organization's commitment to community recovery.

Noakhali Dis- trict  Total Office- 19  Total Human Resource - 136	Noakhali Sadar: 05 Offices (3 Branch Office, 01 Zonal Office and 1 Project office)
	Human Resource: 33 (23 MF and 10 are projects Staff)
	Begumganj: 03 Offices (2 MF Branch Office and 1 Project office)
	Human Resource: 29 (14 MF and 15 are projects Staff)
	Senbag: 02 MF Branch Offices
	Human Resource: 14 MF Staff
	Companiganj: 01 MF Branch Office
	Human Resource: 07 MF Staff
	Kabirhat: 02 Offices (1 MF Branch Office and 1 Project office)
	Human Resource: 13 (07 MF and 06 are projects Staff)
	Human Resource: 07 MF Staff
	Chatkhali: 01 MF Branch Office
	Human Resource: 07 MF Staff
	Subarnachar: 04 MF Branch Office
Human Resource: 26 MF Staff	
Feni District  Total Office- 02 Total Human Resource - 35	Feni Sadar: 01 Project Office
	Human Resource: 30 projects Staff
	Dagonbhuiyan: 01 MF Branch Office
	Human Resource: 05 MF Staff
Cumilla District  Total Office-01 Total Human Resource - 06	Burichang: 01 Project Office
	Human Resource: 06 Project Staff

Lakshmipur District  Total Office- 18 Total Human Resource- 129	Lakshmipur Sadar: 05 Offices (04 MF Branch Offices and 01 Zonal Office)
	Human Resource: 35 MF Staff
	Ramgati: 03 MF Branch Office
	Human Resource: 20 MF Staff
	Kamalnagar: 04 Offices (3 MF Branch Office and 1 Project office)
	Human Resource: 33 (21 MF and 12 are projects Staff)
	Ramgonj: 01 MF Branch Office
	Human Resource: 06 MF Staff
	Raipur: 05 MF Branch Office
	Human Resource: 35 MF Staff

## Challenges Faced During the 2024 Flood Response

The 2024 flood in Bangladesh posed numerous challenges to humanitarian organizations, affecting both the immediate relief efforts and long-term recovery. These challenges ranged from damaged infrastructure and logistical difficulties to gaps in protection and mental health support. The vast scale of the disaster placed significant strain on local systems and resources, making it difficult to provide timely and comprehensive aid to the affected communities. Below are the key challenges that were encountered during the response-

1. Flood-induced damage to roads and infrastructure made it difficult to access affected communities and deliver aid promptly.
2. The widespread flooding created logistical challenges in distributing essential supplies like food and medical aid across remote areas.
3. Collaboration with multiple organizations sometimes resulted in overlaps in aid distribution and gaps in services, affecting overall response efficiency.
4. Overwhelmed health systems and limited resources delayed critical health interventions, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
5. The psychological toll of the floods, especially on children and displaced individuals, created a significant need for mental health support, which was under-resourced.
6. The disaster increased risks of gender-based violence and exploitation, particularly for women and children, highlighting gaps in protection services.
7. The destruction of farmland, fisheries, and livestock created long-term challenges for livelihood recovery in agricultural communities.
8. Over half a million people were displaced, putting immense pressure on temporary shelter systems and hindering recovery efforts.
9. Local health and disaster management systems were overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster, limiting their capacity to provide effective support.

## Lessons Learned from the 2024 Flood Response

The 2024 floods in Bangladesh demonstrated several important lessons that will enhance future disaster responses, one of which is the '**Importance of Preparedness**' and the role of '**Early Warning Systems**.' In the absence of timely warnings, communities struggled to evacuate and prepare, exacerbating the severity of the disaster. If better preparedness measures, such as pre-positioned resources and clear evacuation plans, had been in place, the scale of the damage could have been reduced.

A crucial lesson emerging from the flood disaster was the need for improving **water management systems**, particularly through pond and river excavation. In areas where water movement was obstructed by blocked or poorly maintained waterways, flooding was more intense and widespread. **Excavating ponds and rivers** to allow for the free flow of water in large-scale systems can significantly reduce the risk of inundation during heavy rains or floods. This proactive measure would not only help in flood control but also enhance the resilience of communities by ensuring that water can flow freely and avoid stagnation, which contributes to flooding and waterlogging.

Additionally, **community engagement** and the involvement of local actors in the disaster response proved to be critical for effective aid distribution. By collaborating closely with local leaders, CODEC was able to tap into existing community networks, enabling them to reach the most vulnerable individuals swiftly and efficiently. Such collaboration can also be extended to initiatives like pond and river excavation, where local knowledge and manpower can be harnessed to manage water flow effectively, reducing flood risks.

A key lesson was the value of a **multi-sectoral approach** to disaster response. The flood's effects were widespread, impacting health, nutrition, water access, education, and protection. Addressing these areas simultaneously was essential to provide comprehensive support. Organizations like CODEC, in partnership with UNICEF, OXFAM, and others, were able to deliver integrated services that met the diverse needs of affected communities. This holistic approach not only helped with immediate relief but also set the foundation for long-term recovery. For instance, providing agricultural recovery tools and livelihood support ensured that communities could rebuild their income sources, reducing reliance on short-term food aid.

The integration of **mental health and psychosocial support** into the emergency response also emerged as a vital lesson. Survivors, especially children who were displaced or had lost loved ones, faced severe emotional and psychological challenges. Establishing child-friendly spaces and offering psychological first aid helped alleviate trauma. This reinforced the need to address the emotional well-being of disaster survivors as a key part of the recovery process.

Flexibility and adaptability in disaster planning were also emphasized throughout the response. As unforeseen challenges arose—such as damage to communication systems or logistical bottlenecks—the ability to adjust quickly was crucial for maintaining support. Cash assistance programs were particularly effective in overcoming logistical issues by allowing direct financial aid to households, bypassing the limitations of physical aid distribution in flooded areas.

Sustainable recovery of livelihoods also emerged as a critical factor for long-term resilience. By distributing vegetable seeds and providing loans for income-generating activities, CODEC enabled families to regain financial stability. Focusing on agricultural recovery and providing essential inputs for farmers helped communities rebuild their livelihoods, reducing dependence on external aid.

Pond and river excavation should be incorporated into disaster management plans as part of long-term resilience building. This effort, combined with early warning systems, local involvement, and multi-sectoral strategies, can help mitigate the immediate effects of floods while also creating sustainable conditions for recovery. The integration of waterway management strategies will play a significant role in reducing flood risks and ensuring smoother, more effective disaster response in the future. By incorporating waterway management, enhancing early warning systems, involving local communities, and ensuring long-term livelihood recovery, organizations like CODEC can better address the complex needs of flood-affected populations. This comprehensive, adaptable, and inclusive approach will help foster resilience and sustainable recovery for communities impacted by future disasters.

## Conclusion

CODEC has demonstrated a robust commitment to supporting flood-affected communities in Bangladesh through a multifaceted approach. From providing emergency food, cash, and livelihood assistance to enhancing health, nutrition, education, WASH, and child protection services, CODEC has addressed critical needs with efficiency and compassion.

In response to the Eastern flash flood, CODEC, in collaboration with partners like PKSF, Stromme Foundation, UNICEF, WFP, ERIKS, and OXFAM, implemented a comprehensive emergency response across affected regions. Efforts included food and cash support, health care services, and education recovery initiatives. Integrated WASH interventions ensured access to clean water and sanitation, while nutrition programs targeted vulnerable groups to combat undernutrition. Child protection activities emphasize mental health, safety, and community awareness. Through multi-sectoral approaches and community collaboration, CODEC's interventions not only addressed immediate needs but also fostered resilience, empowerment, and long-term recovery for affected populations, underscoring a commitment to sustainable development.

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