

Supporting Flood Forecast-based Action and Learning in Bangladesh (SUFAL)

Bangladesh is one of the most flood-prone countries in the world. According to ADB (2016), around 25 to 30 percent of the land area is inundated during a normal monsoon period incurring losses equivalent to 1.5% of GDP or \$2.2 billion on average per year. In such a situation, acting early can save lives and valuable resources for the communities. In Bangladesh, acting before a crisis is not a new idea, whereas, relief efforts are more evident than acting early, especially for floods. Using forecasts to act early can help limit losses and negative coping mechanisms taken by communities during floods. However, this practice is not yet integrated into humanitarian framework or government programming.

'Supporting Flood Forecast-based Action and Learning in Bangladesh' (SUFAL) project focuses on reducing the vulnerability of flood-prone populations in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna basin by strengthening impact-based forecasting and early warning to trigger early actions and funding prior to flood events. The aim is to reduce the impact of floods on communities, improve effectiveness of emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts, and reduce the humanitarian burden.

Project Snapshot

Funded by: European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Implemented by: CARE Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide and Islamic Relief Bangladesh

Technical Support by: Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

Implementation Period: August 2019 – January 2021

Components of Forecast Based Early Action

Forecast

- Actionable forecasts that are localized, timely and accurate
- Forecasts can trigger early warning and early action
- Impact-based forecasting will project the magnitude of likely impacts

Early Action

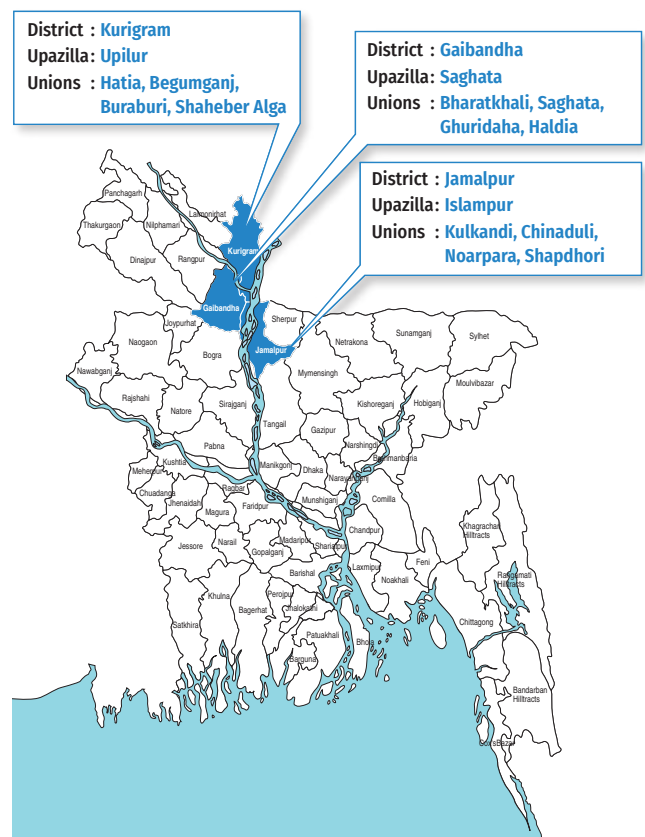
- Triggers will set off protocols for taking early actions on floods
- Roles and responsibilities of DM-related institutions clearly defined
- Pre-defined early actions for communities will enable speedy implementation

Financing

- Financing triggered by forecasts
- Sourced from national, international and private mechanisms
- Supports pre-defined early actions for community

What is FbA?

Forecast based early action (FbA) entails prioritizing pre-determined actions based on forecasts and triggers and taking action in advance of an anticipated event. Roles and responsibilities of disaster management institutions and community are also clearly defined considering the nature and scale of the predicted flood. To date, early actions based on forecasts have ranged from bolstering organizational capacities and programme activity to delivering food and non-food relief, stockpiling medicines, providing cash transfers and scaling up social protection mechanisms.



SUFAL Result-wise Output

Enhance impact-based flood forecasting and early warning to trigger early actions

Strengthen institutional capacity to respond to floods through forecast based early actions

Create demand and evidence for FbA financing mechanism established at national and local level

