



FlutNetz (FloodSafe)



Improving access to care for medical emergencies in flood disasters in Bangladesh

February 2023



BASELINE SURVEY (Epidemiological analysis and selection of a study area for the intervention studies)

Recent floods in Bangladesh have seen increased prevalence of non-infectious events, even deaths mostly by drowning and snakebites. Providing emergency care during flood becomes most challenging due to lack of accessibility, inadequate healthcare equipment, and trained personnel. In this context, a baseline survey was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of community people regarding emergency responses to drowning, snakebite, dog bite, electrocution and lightning during floods, and to evaluate health facility readiness. Through the survey and subsequent interventions, Bangladesh Government agencies and NGOs are collaborating with German partners under the "FlutNetz" project to improve emergency paramedical and medical care during floods in the country.



Survey Information

- 2103** Households surveyed
- 72** Health facilities surveyed
- 26** In-depth interviews (IDI) with health care providers
- 18** Key-informant interviews (KII) with national & local level stakeholders
- 7** Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with community people & volunteers
- 5** IDIs with traditional healers
- 4** Participatory rapid appraisals (PRA) with community people
- 4** Consensus meeting with community leaders

Methodology



Study area

Two flood-prone upazilas (Islampur and Dewanganj) of Jamalpur district



Study design

Mixed method (Quantitative and Qualitative)



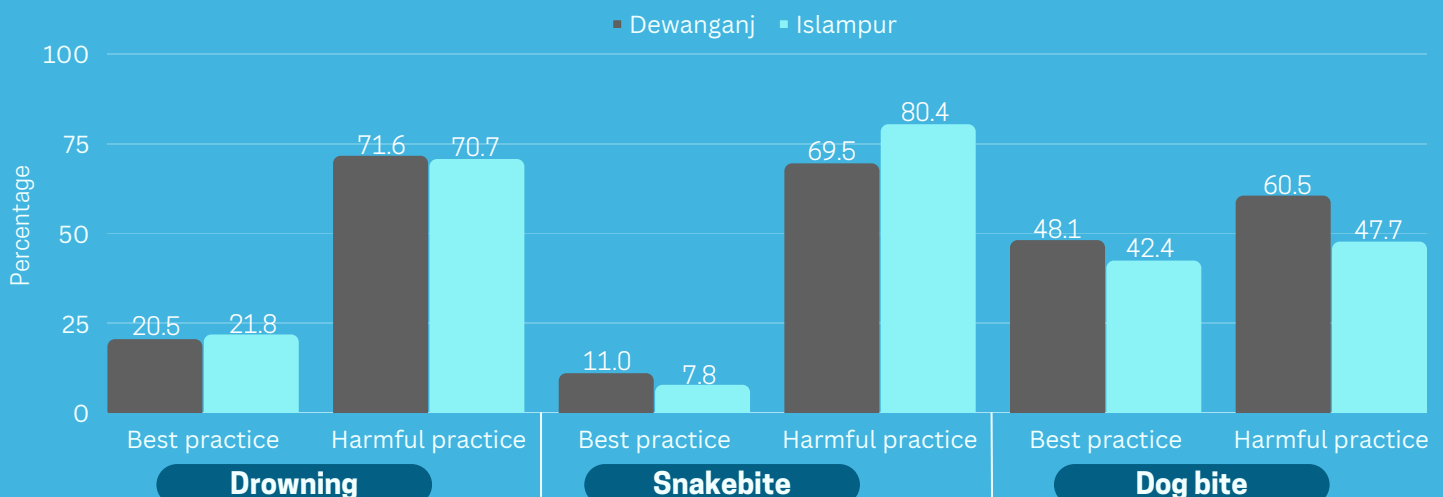
Period of data collection

August to October 2022

Key Findings

» A significant proportion of community people (above 60%) still adopt harmful practices in different events according to the community belief

» Only 18% to 20% of the respondents opined that the victims should be transferred to the nearest health facility after the incident



Key Findings



Drowning

- » About 28% of the community people thought that a drowning victim should be kept spinning over the head after rescuing



Snakebite

- » About 30% of the community people preferred going to traditional healers after the snakebite incident while nearly 32% voted for tying the limb with rope/elastic/clothes



Dog bite

- » Knowledge of washing the bite area with soap water for 15 minutes was very low among community people (only 4% to 6%)
- » 1/4th of the respondents know about taking the anti-rabies vaccine



Electrocution

- » 40% of the community people was aware of using non-conducting object to detach the electrocuted victim



Lightning

- » 19.5% in Islampur and 32.1% in Dewanganj reported having no knowledge about immediate response measures after lightning



Health facility assessment

- » Nearly 50% of the HCPs was trained on cases management (e.g., drowning, snakebite, dog bite, electrocution, and lightning) only in UHC level
- » Logistics and medicines supply were found inadequate against the demand

Key challenges



- » Customary belief of the community
- » Lack of awareness regarding emergency response & care of health-related events during flood among community people
- » Inadequate trained personnel
- » Insufficient logistics and medicines supply at local health facilities

Recommendations



According to the survey, harmful practices are still prevalent in the community regarding health-related events. Possible solutions for improving community knowledge and practice towards emergency response and care are as follows-

- » Skilled health care providers
- » Adequate supply of medicines
- » Awareness programmes

Based on the findings, knowledge level of community people, and proportion of skilled manpower (lower in Dewanganj than in Islampur), Dewanganj upazila would be chosen as the intervention area, while Islampur will act as the control area.

FlutNetz Project Partners



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Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main,
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Centre for Injury Prevention and Research,
Bangladesh (CIPRB)

For more : info@ciprb.org