

### School children urging educational kit

As we know that the recent flood has resulted so many losses and damages in human lives and livelihood but the loss of education sector is uncountable due to flood and river erosion. According to the Govt. report-thousands of students of the affected areas have lost their books, school uniforms and other essential educational items. Report confirms that about 972 schools are fully or partially damaged by flood and river erosion (Sources: DMIC). Among them the most vulnerable are those whose schools are eroded in course of river erosion (around 27 schools have been eroded and the number of students of those schools are 6290 in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Sirajganj and Tangail) and the community are on move.



The present scenario of the schools which are eroded and which are totally damaged by the flood urgently need the support to have a shade and place to sit. At present in most of the affected primary schools has started the preparatory class for the Primary School Final Examination (PSE) in open air. Other classes are either suspended or just for very limited hours. Many students (at least 30%) are in the

verge of drop out from the schools or joining the labour market to support their family as schools are not working in full sewing and they have no other option to engage in childhood activities. There are evidence of drop out and involve of child labour. Day by day children are engaged and going far away in search of fodder and fuel.



In the affected areas fodder crisis has been emerged and it is being taking from outside by large business boat. The price has been increased 25% more than the actual price. People of the affected areas were engaged in rearing livestock for selling the upcoming festival like Eid-ul-Azha but due to fodder crisis and people who can't pay in cash or in kind ( corrugated iron sheet, trees etc.) or in high interest are compelled to collect the fodder from long distance and children are being forced to collect fodder.



There are schools where hardly children are coming. The numbers of children are reducing day by day except for class V. Recently a team from Disaster Forum visited the affected schools and community at Chowhali upazila in Siraganj, to get the actual condition of school going children. In one school we found the numbers of students attending classes are as follow:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Number of students attendance</b>
Class I	Only 5 out of 52
Class II	Only 4 out of 53
Class III	Only 11 out of 47
Class IV	Only 5 out of 33
Class V	Only 16 out of 18

At this point of time perhaps the children needs basic education materials not for all listed and stored 57 items. They may only need 11/12 items. If not, only three basic items ( Plastic sheet to keep them dry from the rain and a shade from the sun, Mats to sit, water pot to drink and toilet pot) should be provided.

Now it's time for taking quick action for the best interest of the children.