Rainfall and River Situation:

- All major rivers in Bangladesh, except the Jamuna, are in a falling trend.
- Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecasts heavy rainfall in the South-Eastern, South-Middle parts of Bangladesh in next 24 hours.
- Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, Water Development Board of Bangladesh predicts that the flooding in Northern, North-Middle and North-Eastern parts of the country may decrease, while the flood situation in the middle part is likely to remain unchanged in the next 24 hours.

Public Health Situation:

- Flooding began on 9 July 2019 and affected, fully or partially, 28 districts - 74 Upazilas and 325 unions.
- 05 Upazilas health complexes and 204 community clinics across the country have been inundated or damaged.
- As 27 July 2019, Health Emergency Operations Centre of the DGHS recorded a total of 14,781 cases, of which 9,565 - infectious diseases and 5,216 were due to other causes.

- The death toll over the same period reached 114, of which 95 were from drowning, eight from snakebites, seven from lightning, one from acute respiratory infection (ARI) and three from other causes.
- Cases of diarrhoea are rising in the Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Netrokona and Lalmonirhat districts; similar situations are with the Acute Respiratory Infections in Cox’s Bazar, Lalmonirhat, Jamalpur and Sunamganj districts, and with skin diseases in Lalmonirhat district.

- Communicable disease outbreaks are likely when flooding levels recede.

**Health Cluster Response:**

- 2,451 Medical Teams of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) are working in the flood-affected areas.

- The Health Emergency Operations Centre and Control Room (Hot Line +88 01759 114488) of DGHS is closely monitoring the flood situation and following-up with Civil Surgeons of the affected areas.

- Health Cluster Working Group meets on a regular basis at the DGHS to jointly monitor disease trends and causes of morbidity-mortality, and to identify and coordinate appropriate solutions to support efforts of the MOHFA in addressing health problems in the disaster-affected communities.

- To strengthen preparedness and response activities at the sub-national level, the Health Cluster Co-Leads (DGHS and WHO) conducted workshops in the Chattogram Director (Health) Office on 22 July and Bandarban Civil Surgeon Office on 24 July. Two additional
workshops will be held at the Sylhet Director (Health) Office on 29 July and Sunamganj Civil Surgeon Office on 31 July 2019.

- Prepositioned Inter-Agency Emergency Health kits (IEHK Kits), supplied by WHO, were dispatched from the Central Medical Store and are being used to contain flood-related health problems. WHO is procuring additional emergency drugs, including 5,000 anti-snake venoms to supplement government health service efforts to flood affected communities.
- WHO Surveillance and Immunization Officers (SIMO) and Divisional Coordinators (DC) are providing support to District Civil Surgeon Offices in disease surveillance and coordination activities without hampering routine immunization activities.

**Gaps Identified:**
- Anti-snake venom and emergency drugs to manage disease outbreaks.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial health and Sexual and Reproductive Health issues are not included in the Reporting Format which is currently used by the Medical Teams operating in the flood-affected areas.

**Future Risks:**
- The main concern is that a shortage of safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities increases the probability of respiratory infections, communicable and water borne disease outbreaks.
- Disruption of primary health care services to affected population at the damaged Upazilas health complexes and community clinics.

**Public Health Challenges:**
- Intensification of health promotion to raise awareness of population on ways to minimize health-related risks during floods.
- Strengthen and expansion of the Mental Health and Psychosocial support and Sexual and Reproductive Health services to the flood-affected population.
- Replenishment of the buffer stock of emergency drugs utilized to address the current floods.
- Further strengthening capacities at local level for preparedness and response.