UN World Food Programme
Bangladesh Country Office
Disaster Preparedness & Response Section

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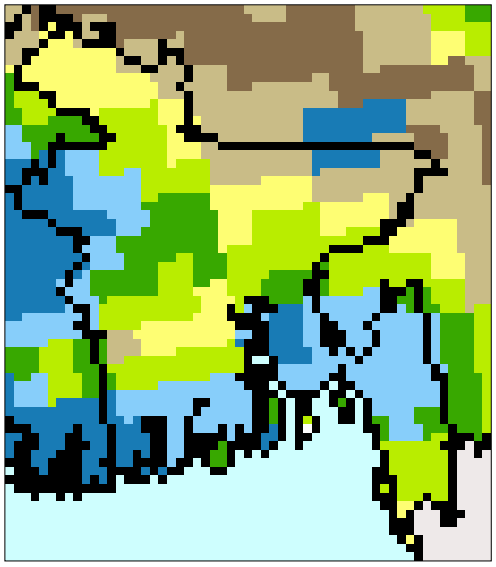
WFP Bangladesh Report on

E A R L Y W A R N I N G a n d M O N I T O R I N G

Issue 4 ***17 June 2006***

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rainfall was above average for much of the country during the period 1st June thru 10th June.
- During the more recent period of 11th June to 14th June; rains were particularly heavy in the Northeast of the country near Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Moulvibazar districts, as well as in the neighboring Indian border regions of Assam and Meghalay. The heavy monsoon rains have caused flash flooding and considerable damage.
- The rainfall forecast for the coming period (17th June thru 23rd June) shows that the heaviest rains are expected for the Northeast of the country, near the border districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Netrokona. Rainfall is also expected to be heavy across the border in the Indian region of Meghalay.



Dekadal Percent of Normal Rainfall (1-10 June 2006)

> 200 | 125-150 | 75 - 100 | <= 50
150-200 | 100-125 | 50 - 75 | No Data

RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION/ MONSOON SEASON

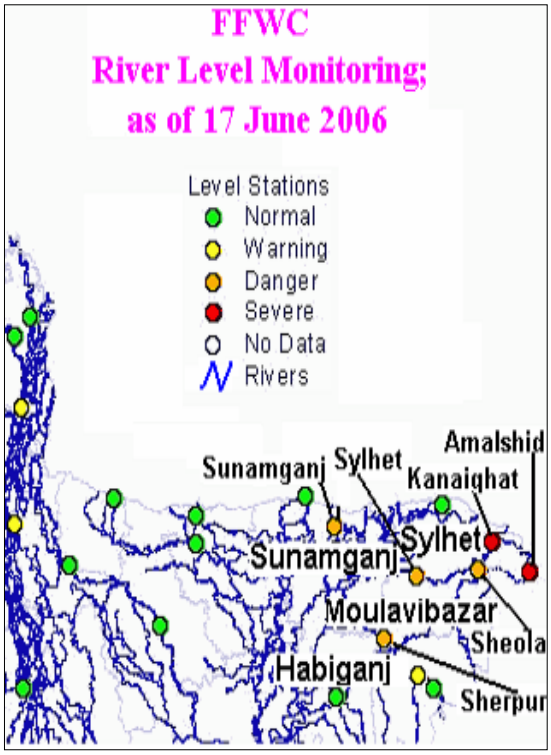
Rainfall during the 1st dekad (1-10 June) was above average for much of the country.

Regions receiving more than twice their nor mal rain included parts of Sunamganj, Chadpur, Nawabganj, and Rajshahi districts.

During the more recent period (11th – 14th June) particularly heavy rains fell in the Northeast of the country within the districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Moulvibazar. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), Sylhet station received highest rainfall of around 200 mms on the 12th of June.

The map featured in this section is taken from the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service website, where related and more detailed information is available: http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/imag eview.cfm?regionid=sasia.

FLOOD SITUATION MONITORING

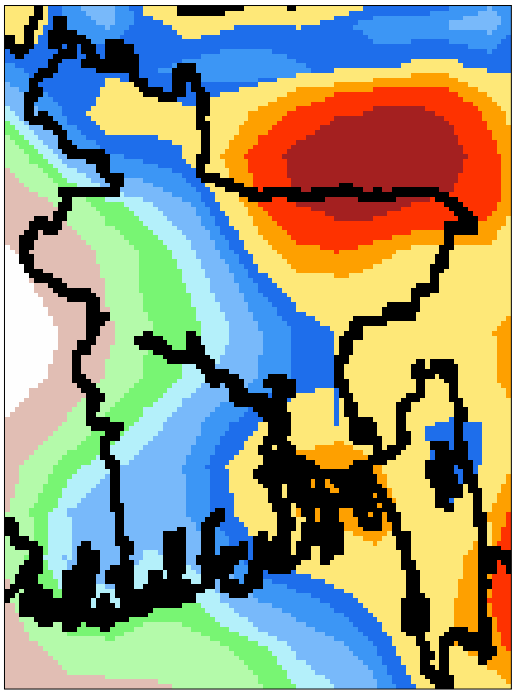


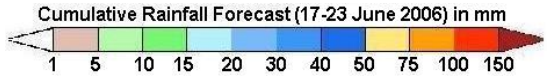
Based on the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) data as of 16th June, river levels were flowing at or above their danger levels f or six stations in the Northeast (see map on left).

The flood has damaged houses and local infrastructure according to a WFP Dhaka Regional Office report issued on the 15th June. Severe damage on the Surma and Kushiyara dykes was also noted. Four Upazil las within Sylhet district were particularly affected; these included Gowainghat, Kanaighat, Zakigonj, and Biswanath. Similarly, eight of Sunamgonj district's 10 Upazillas were also affected. Close monitoring during the coming period is warranted.

While the situation is one of concern, according to FFWC's latest update report (17th June), "the prevailing flood situation in the districts of Sylhet & Sunamganj is likely to improve further". Water levels had decreased slightly for five of the six stations highlighted on the map above, between the mornings of the 16th and 17th June. The same general pattern of falling river levels is expected for the period 17th June to 19th June, according to the FFWC forecast data. Additional information is available fro m the FFWC website at: http://www.ffwc.gov.bd

RAINFALL FORECAST





According to the forecast depicted on the map on the left, cumulative rainfall for the period 17th – 23rd June is expected to be 75 mm or less for mo st of the country.

The largest exception area is expected to be in the Northeast districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Netrokona where substantially more rainfall is expected. A large concentration of relatively heavy rain is expected just North of the Bang ladesh Indian border centered within India's Meghalay region. Given that this area often contributes to flash flooding downstream, close monitoring is warranted for the northern portion of Bangladesh's Meghna Basin.

The data used to generate the rainf all map originates from the US based NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Climate Prediction Center (CPC). More detailed information is available from the CPC website at: http://www.cpc.ncep.n oaa.gov

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