



**World Food Programme Bangladesh
Weekly Flood Update 10
1-8 September 2005**

Summary of the present situation:

The monsoon flood in Bangladesh has been localized and not alarming. The overall flood situation is improving although some areas are experiencing overflow of water from the upstream, flash floods, rising level of river water, heavy rainfall, riverbank erosion and water logging. Media reporting on water-borne diseases in flood-affected areas is rising and are being verified by the concerned organisations. The Government and relief agencies are maintaining close contact with key disaster players at the field and at central level.

General:

- As per the long range forecast of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, it is likely that the average rainfall in September will be 10-15% higher than normal and there is likelihood of one to two monsoon low during the month. It has further indicated that at the end of this month there is a probability of normal flooding in some areas of Brahmaputra and Ganges basins. As per Bangladesh Met Office daily bulletin of 7 September the monsoon is less active over Bangladesh and weak to moderate elsewhere over North Bay. The day temperature may increase slightly.
- The FFWC daily bulletin on 8 September reported that the major rivers (Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma) have continued to fall at all points whereas the rivers in the Meghna and South Eastern Hill basins have registered rise and fall. Out of 86 monitoring points, three are flowing at a risky level. The Executive Engineer of FFWC in the media said that though there is fresh inundation of some areas, the possibility of major flooding this year is over.
- Fresh floods have been reported in Northern part of Bangladesh due to heavy rainfall and onrush of upstream water. Severe riverbank erosion has been reported rendering almost 325 families homeless in Kurigram district and about 150 households in Gaibandha district. In Sirajganj district, floods and riverbank erosion have turned serious and it is reported that about 5,000 hectares transplanted Aman seedlings have been submerged and about 100,000 families waterlogged. Shariakandi Upazila (Sub-district) Health Complex in Bogra district has reported that around 633 persons were affected by diarrhoea for drinking unsafe water.

The GoB/NGOs Action:

- The District/Upazila (sub-district) Disaster Management Committees are maintaining close watch over the situation prioritising Government responses, if any.
- The government has allocated about 263 MT rice for some 870 families affected by riverbank erosion in Sirajganj, Khulna, Faridpur and Kushtia districts in addition to over Taka 500,000 (US\$ 7,600.00)
- A local NGO based in Khulna of South-Western region has planned to distribute one week's food package to 48 affected families.

Agencies Preparedness Measures/Actions taken:

- WFP has revisited its flood Contingency Plan and has incorporated the plans envisaged by the six field based WFP offices in the country.

- The Disaster and Emergency Response (DER) sub group of the LCG in its monthly meeting on 7 September reviewed the current situation of monsoon flood, which suggests that the overall flood situation for most part remains within local coping capacity. It has recommended to closely observe the situation till end of September 2005.

Meher Nigar Bhuiyan
Disaster Preparedness and Response Section

Bangladesh Flood Update of WFP is based on information received and gathered from various sources. Information received through international channels is verified in country. During the monsoon period and in other times of a threatening emergency situation WFP publish a weekly update, otherwise the frequency is reduced to a monthly issue for better information sharing, advance preparedness and to support improved coordination of response measures.