



**World Food Programme Bangladesh
Weekly Flood Update #13
23 - 29 September 2005**

Summary of the present situation:

The monsoon flood in Bangladesh has been regionally localised and within local coping capacity. The overall flood situation is improving although some areas are experiencing heavy rains, flash floods, rising levels of river water and riverbank erosion.

General:

- According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department on 28 September, the monsoon is less active over Bangladesh and moderate over the North Bay. Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty winds are likely to occur over limited regions of the country. The day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.
- According to the Bangladesh Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) daily bulletin on 27 September, major rivers (Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma) registered a rise at all points, while the rivers in the Meghna and South Eastern Hill were falling. Out of 86 monitoring points, 26 observed a rise and 52 recorded a fall.
- The overall flood situation in Moulvibazar district at the North Eastern part of Bangladesh has improved with water level of the major rivers falling, although some unions are still under water due to erosion of embankments. Vast tracts of Aman fields went under water. The flood-affected people have taken shelter in the nearest highlands. The situation is expected to improve within 24 hours.
- WFP Dhaka Regional office reported a slight rise in major rivers but still flowing below the risky level. Jessore Regional office reported downward river water level. Rangpur Regional Office reported a normal flood situation with rivers flowing below the risky level.
- The water from tidal surge caused by a depression on September 20 has inundated vast areas in the districts of Noakhali and Feni in the South Eastern part of Bangladesh. An estimated 600,000 people are affected. A large number of shrimp culture projects; fishponds and transplanted Aman plants were damaged. A good number of poultry and goats were washed away. Ten fishermen were suspected to have drowned while fishing. The affected people have taken shelter in the outer cross dam.
- Riverbank erosion in the central and eastern parts of Bangladesh has become serious and affecting the daily life of a large number of people. Agricultural land has been eroded and people have been forced to leave their houses. The families affected have taken shelter on the embankments.

The GoB Action:

- The District/Upazila (sub-district) Disaster Management Committees are maintaining a close watch over the situation as well as prioritising and coordinating Government responses at the local level.
- The Government has distributed 408.794 MT of rice and Taka 1,011,000 (US\$ 15,000) among the flood victims in Rajbari, Faridpur, Khulna and Kushtia districts.

Agencies Preparedness Measures/Actions taken:

- The orientation sessions on the Rapid Initial Report (RIR) and Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) forms are ongoing in different locations around the country. It is expected to be completed during the first week of October 2005. These orientations are designed to familiarize participants from various agencies with the data collection instruments and procedures used for RIR and RENA assessments.

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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.