



**World Food Programme Bangladesh  
Flood Update #17  
19 Oct-1 Nov 2005**

**Summary of the present situation:**

The overall flood situation in the northern region is improving although the water is receding very slowly. Rains during the period October 17 to 20, along with water from upstream, further inundated some of the northern districts. Pocket areas are facing hardships in terms of scarcity of food, pure drinking water, and inadequate sanitation conditions. Outbreaks of diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases have also been reported. A recent multi-agency assessment has been undertaken, via the DER (Disaster Emergency and Response Group) mechanism, and a report detailing needs and recommendations is forthcoming.

**General:**

- As per the Bangladesh Met Office (daily bulletin 31 October), a trough of low lies over the North Bay. The Met Office further indicated that rain and thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at few places over two regions of the country. The day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
- The daily bulletin of the Bangladesh Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) on 31 October indicated that all the rivers are flowing below their respective danger level and the major rivers are in receding trend. Out of the 67 monitoring points reporting 50 have fallen, 15 have risen, 2 have remained steady.
- WFP Dhaka Regional Office reported a slight rise of major rivers around Dhaka but most are still flowing below the risky level. Continuous rainfall for 4 days (17-20 October) inundated some of the low-lying areas in the central part of the country. WFP Jessore Regional Office also reported that due to incessant rainfall vast tracts of Aman paddy and Rabi seasonal crops have been inundated.
- A tornado hit in one of the districts in the Southern region on October 20 affecting 500 people and 50 wounding. The Deputy Commissioner of the district already distributed Tk.8,000 to the affected people and requested the concerned authority for 50 MT of rice and Tk.1,00000 for the affected people.
- Both the in-country rain and water from upstream have worsened the overall flood situation in some of the districts in the northern region. A number of developments and indicators give cause for concern. Food shortages have been reported, diarrhoea cases and diarrhoea related deaths have risen, and the unemployed population are seeking jobs in urban areas. A total of 240,000 hectares of Aman paddy and vegetable fields have been damaged partially or totally. A significant number of fishponds have also been reportedly washed away.

**The GoB Action:**

- Government is responding with various forms of assistance including food, cash for house repairs and medical support. A summary of the assistance given to the Northern districts is shown in the following table:

District	Gratuitous Relief -rice allocation	Gratuitous Relief cash allocation	Housing reconstruction	Corrugated Iron Sheet
Rangpur	250 MT	1,00000	50,000	-
Naogaon	640 MT	2,20,000	6,00000	-
Joypurhat	400 MT	2,00000	11,0000	600 bundles
Gaibandha	250 MT	1,00000	50,000	-
Nilphamari	150 MT	50,000	-	-
Bogra	160 MT	-	-	-
Rajshahi	100 MT	-	-	-

- In the Southern districts of Faridpur, Khulna and Kushtia; the GoB has recently distributed 500 MT of rice and Tk.11,11,000 to the flood and river eroded people.

#### **NGO Action:**

- In addition to the other NGO assistance reported last week, Oxfam is responding to 2000 tribal families in flood affected Naogaon district with assistance package comprising both food and non-food items.
- CARE-Bangladesh has given food assistance to 3500 families in three Upazilas in the flood affected Gaibandha district.

#### **Agencies Preparedness Measures/Actions taken:**

- As agreed in the last DER special meeting on 20 October, three multi-agency teams went to three severely affected districts (Naogaon, Gaibandha and Joypurhat) to review the current flood situation and complete the Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) to ascertain future mid term and long term needs of the flood affected populations. A report detailing needs and recommendations is forthcoming.

***Meher Nigar Bhuiyan***

***Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) 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.