

World Food Programme Bangladesh
Monsoon Flood Sitrep 03
21 July 2005

Summary of the present situation:

The overall flood situation in the country is not alarming and is localised and regional in nature. Acute shortage of safe drinking water and cases of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases have been reported. River erosion has also been reported at Sirajganj and Manikganj. The Government and other humanitarian agencies are closely monitoring the situation and keeping close contact with key disaster players in relation to local coping capacity.

General:

The FFWC daily river situation bulletin of 21 July reported that the Brahmaputra-Jamuna observed rise at all points except at Noonkhawa and Chimari. The Ganges-Padma observed further rise at all points. Most of the rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins registered rise. Out of 86 monitoring points, 45 points observed rise, 25 points recorded fall, 1 point remained steady and 11 points are flowing above the danger level.

Due to excessive rainfall more low-lying areas in the districts of Kurigram, Nilphamari, Sylhet and Gaibandha are likely to inundate, whereas the flood situation in Sunamganj and Netrokona are likely to improve. The inundation situation of low-lying areas in and around Dhaka, Narayanganj and Munshiganj are likely to continue.

As indicated by the Bangladesh Met Office, it is likely that the average rainfall in July will be 15-25% higher than normal. It is further indicated that in the second half of July there is a probability of normal flooding in some areas of Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna basins.

The GoB Preparedness:

The tentative food grain allocation to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) in the 2005 – 2006 budget is:

Gratuitous Relief:	64,000 MT
VGF	150,000 MT
VGD	100,000 MT
Test Relief	150,000 MT
Food-for-Work	225,000 MT

The GR and VGF allocation may be enhanced in case of increased need arises as experienced in the past. WFP field office reports that the District Disaster Management Committee had their meetings in most of the districts in the northern region and is closely monitoring the situation.

The meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee chaired by the Minister for the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Committee held on 20 July asked all concerned to be alert and take combined measures when needed to reduce the sufferings of the people affected by flood.

WFP CO and Field Based Offices:

WFP RO, Rangpur: No alarming situation reported till last report received on 19 July. However, Government has sanctioned contingency cash of Tk.50,000, Tk. 50,000 for housing and 50 MT rice as TR for emergency distribution among the flood affected people in Kurigram, Rangpur districts; 50 MT of rice for all four upazilla of Lalmonirhat district and 100,000 cash, 50 MT rice as TR for Serajganj district.

WFP RO, Chittagong : No unusual flooding reported, but low lying cultivable lands were submerged due to torrential rain in some areas.

WFP RO, Jessore: No reports of severe flooding received.

WFP Dhaka: Normal seasonal flooding reported in Netrokona district and in haor areas. The main concern expressed is the threat from flash floods caused by heavy rainfall in the neighbouring Assam Province.

Proposed Actions:

WFP Country Office is monitoring the situation closely and is in daily contact with FFWC, DER members and WFP field-based offices. No specific response is required at this stage, though various preparatory measures are being taken such as identification of qualified staff for rapid assessment missions, NGO mapping to identify NGO Focal Points in districts and preparing emergency preparedness action plans for CO and ROs.

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