



World Food Programme Bangladesh
Weekly Flood Update 05
29 July-3 August 2005

Summary of the present situation:

The overall flood situation in Bangladesh remains both normal for this time of the year and within local coping capacity. Localised flood conditions are improving in most places. The Government and relief agencies remain vigilant, keeping a close watch on the situation and maintaining contact with key disaster players at the field and central levels.

General:

- Rainfall and river level patterns over the next two weeks will be critical in determining the impact of this year's floods.
- Bangladesh's Meteorological Department reports that the monsoon is less active than normal over Bangladesh and moderate elsewhere over the northern parts of the Bay of Bengal.
- The FFWC daily bulletin of 2 August reported that the water level of the major rivers (Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma) continued to fall at all points and the rivers in the south-eastern hill basins registered a rise. Of the 86 monitoring points countrywide, only 2 points are flowing above the danger level compared to 8 points last week.
- The low-lying areas in most central districts (Dhaka, Munshiganj) are still inundated as surrounding floodwaters settle in these low areas.
- River erosion in central parts of Dhaka, North Bengal and South Eastern parts of Bangladesh is forcing affected people to leave their houses.
- In the current season, communities in the 'haor' areas have been able to harvest fully, whereas repeated flash floods in 2004 severely affected the livelihoods of people living in these areas.
- Heavy rainfall caused severe damage to homesteads in parts of Cox's Bazar district in the extreme southwest of the country. As there is no embankment in coastal area, the inhabitants are exposed to the onrush of high waves and tidal surges. There has been no report of loss of life and livestock. Likelihood of further erosion and high tidal surge in Cox's Bazar may cause damage to local shrimp hatcheries. According to the district authority the situation is considered not alarming.

The GoB Action:

- The District/Upazila (sub-district) Disaster Management Committees are coordinating through meetings and reports among the related organisations to maintain a close watch over the situation as well as in prioritising a Government response as and when the need arises.

Proposed Actions/Measures taken:

- Due to river bank collapse, 50 persons of Kazipur Upazila of Serajganj district have been evacuated to the nearest temporary flood shelter.
- The district administration has distributed Tk.40,000 and 20 MT rice in Ullapara Upazila of Serajganj district among the river eroded people.
- The district administration has distributed 25 MT rice to flood affected people in Digir Char and Charbhadrashan Upazilas of Faridpur district due to the collapse of the embankment along the Padma river.

- NDP, a local NGO based in Serajganj district, has procured and pre-positioned boats for emergency rescue/evacuation operation.
- DER orientation of Assessment Team members about new rapid initial report has started on 28 July 2005. Three more briefing sessions have been organised and will be completed in August.

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