



**World Food Programme Bangladesh
Weekly Flood Update 08
18 August-24 August 2005**

Summary of the present situation:

The monsoon flood is still regionally localised. The Government and relief agencies are responding to isolated localised incidents of flooding and are keeping close contact with key disaster players at the field and central level.

General:

- According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department on 23 August, the monsoon is fairly active over Bangladesh and moderate elsewhere over North Bay. As forecasted, the rainfall activity may decrease in the next 72 hours.
- The FFWC daily bulletin of 23 August reported that the water level of the major rivers (Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Meghna) registered rise and fall; Ganges-Padma observed rise at upstream points, and most of the rivers in the South Eastern Hill basins registered a sharp rise. Out of 86 monitoring points, three are flowing at a risky level.
- The inundation situation in some low-lying areas in parts of central region (Narayanganj) is likely to continue.
- Flooding in coastal districts due to heavy downpour and tidal surge is threatening. Low-lying areas are waterlogged due to inadequate drainage facilities and cultivated lands are submerged under saline water.
- WFP Cox's Bazaar office on 22 August reported that tidal surge, high tides and onrush of high waves have caused severe damage to nearly 400 homesteads, local shrimp hatcheries, and embankments in parts of Cox's Bazaar coastal district in the extreme southeast of the country. 500 hundred acres of standing crops went under seawater. A few hundred people have been moved to the nearest cyclone shelters and to other safer places. Flash floods have also been reported at Chokoria and Moheshkhali sub-districts affecting a good number of households. However, there has been no report of loss of life and livestock. The local people consider this rise of seawater as alarming as they have not experienced such a rise of seawater in the last 30 years. Local district authority is waiting for an initial report from the affected areas prior to undertaking an assessment of the situation for relief operation, if any.

The GoB Action:

- The District/Upazila (sub-district) Disaster Management Committees are maintaining close watch over the situation as well as prioritising and coordinating any Government responses.
- The District Disaster Management Committees in the central and northeastern part of Bangladesh (i.e Munshiganj, Jamalpur, Netrokona, Sunamganj) have held flood preparedness meetings in August to review the current situation.

Agencies Preparedness Measures/Actions taken:

- DER mapping exercise to identify the DER Information Focal Points in districts has been completed. An information flow chart has been prepared showing the process

how the ground level information provided by the Focal Points will be included into the overall disaster information management system of the Government.

- DER orientation has started on the new Rapid Initial Report (RIR) and Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) forms. Three orientation sessions on RIR and RENA have been completed with 86 participants from various agencies in the government, UN and NGOs. More sessions have been planned to cover all the DER Information Focal Points.
- The second phase of sifting for Joint UN- NGO pre-qualification exercise was completed on 23 August. A total of 110 NGOs have been short-listed. A multi-sector team of Auditors will audit the short-listed NGOs to assess their capacities in terms of their suitability to channel resources to respond to an emergency.

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