



**World Food Programme Bangladesh**  
**Weekly Flood Update 09**  
**25 August-1 September 2005**

**Summary of the present situation:**

The monsoon flood in Bangladesh has not been alarming and remains within local coping capacity. The Government and relief agencies continue to be vigilant, keeping a close watch on the current threatening situation and maintaining contact with key disaster players at the field and at central level.

**General:**

- As per the Bangladesh Meteorological Department on 31 August, the monsoon is less active over Bangladesh and moderate elsewhere over North Bay. A monsoon low has formed. The day temperature may rise and the rainfall activity may increase as well.
- The FFWC daily bulletin of 1 September reported that the major rivers (Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma) have registered a fall at upstream points whereas the rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins have registered rise and fall. Seven, out of 86 monitoring points, are flowing at a risky level compared to three points last week.
- The flood situation in the central districts of Bangladesh, i.e. Rajbari, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Chandpur is likely to deteriorate further. The inundation situation in some low-lying areas in parts of central region is likely to deteriorate slightly.
- Heavy rainfall and onrush of upstream water have caused considerable sufferings to the people of Northern Bangladesh. In Kurigram district, it is reported that almost 30 thousand hector Aman field got submerged and about 25 thousand households waterlogged. Some 265 families have been rescued to safer higher place. In Gaibandha district, transplanted aman seedlings on about 700 hectares of land and several hundred households in the low-lying areas have gone under floodwater. The technical authorities together with the local people are using sandbags to prevent intrusion of water through the vulnerable points of the Town-protection embankment.
- WFP Cox's Bazaar office in the extreme southeast of the country on 25 August reported that flooding situation has deteriorated further in parts of Cox's Bazaar coastal district due to heavy rainfall and high-rise of seawater. It has been reported by the local community that the seawater level rose to 6-7 feet higher compared to normal water level. A large number of shrimp culture project, standing crops, embankment, houses and educational institutes went under water. However, there has been no report of loss of life and livestock.

**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 Government of Bangladesh has planned to implement vulnerable group-feeding (VGF) programme for three months from September 20, seeking to stabilize the price rise of staple food. The VGF programme will distribute 150,000 MT rice to cover 45 lakh people, which is 12.5% higher than that was in 2004. Each of 4,500 Unions in the country will receive an allocation of 1,000 families.

- The government has also planned to implement Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice from mid-September to end-October among the needy people at subsidized rate. 300,000 MT of rice will be channelled through the OMS programme throughout the country.
- The district administration has distributed 13 MT rice and US\$ 304 (Taka 20,000/-) among 133 affected families affected due to the collapse of the embankment along the Rupsha river in Dumuria Sub-district of Khulna district in the Southern Region.
- The district administration has distributed 100 MT of rice, 100 bundle tin and US\$1520 (Tk.100,000) in Banskali Sub-district, 15 MT of rice in Anwara Sub-district and 20 MT of rice in Sandwip island under Chittagong district among the flood affected population.

**Agencies Preparedness Measures/Actions taken:**

- The UN-Inter-agency NGO Pre-qualification core team has briefed 7 enlisted Audit Firms for second round of Organizational Capacity Assessment to identify suitably qualified NGOs for emergency response activities.

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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.