

World Food Programme Bangladesh
Monsoon Flood Sitrep 2
18 July 2005

The overall flood situation in the country is not alarming although rising level of water due to heavy and very heavy rainfall has caused considerable suffering of the people in regular waterlogged areas. The flood situation in the Northern Districts and the central part worsened as major rivers marked a rise in water level with erosion at some places. Most of the low-lying areas in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj are inundated because of torrential rainfall. The cases of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases have been reported.

As per the FFWC daily bulletin of 17 July, the water levels in 5 out of 86 monitoring stations are flowing above their respective danger level. In the Brahmaputra Basin all the rivers are flowing below their respective danger level excepting for Dharla at Kurigram, the Karotoa at Chakrahpur, the Balu at Demra and the Lakhya at Narayanganj. The Ganges-Padma recorded further fall. In the Meghna basin all the rivers are flowing below their respective danger level except the Kangsha at Jariajanjail.

The GoB Preparedness:

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) has alerted all relevant Govt. agencies and officials at local operational levels to take necessary measures as guided by the Standing Orders on Disasters. Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is closely monitoring and organising to ensure measures to protect the embankments at vulnerable points.

It has been reported in The Financial Express on 16 July that the government will start open market sales (OMS) of rice, vulnerable group feeding (VGF) and test relief (TR) programmes from September this year. Food grains will be handed over to the vulnerable poor groups and the test relief have been specially designed to support the distressed, which will create off-season employment for them.

A meeting of the 'Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Coordination Committee' chaired by the Minister for the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management has been scheduled on 20 July 2005 to discuss the preparedness measures and the actions to be taken in the event of possible floods in the country.

WFP CO and Field Based Offices:

WFP RO, Rangpur: No alarming situation reported till last report received on 14 July

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 flooding received.

WFP Dhaka: No reports of alarming flood situation received. (WFP contingency planning/emergency preparedness team are currently visiting the region and will be there till 20 July).

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.

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