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Information bulletin

Bangladesh: Monsoon Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° FL-2019-000079-BGD	Date of issue: 16 July 2019
Date of disaster: 7 July 2019	Point of contact (name and title): Surendra Kumar Regmi, Programme Coordinator, IFRC Bangladesh Country Office
Operation start date: 7 July 2019	Expected timeframe: -
Category of disaster: Yellow	
Host National Society: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)	
Number of people affected: 300,000 people (approx.)	Number of people to be assisted:
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

The situation

Heavy monsoon rain and water from upstream has triggered flooding in low lying areas of north and north-eastern region of Bangladesh. Six days of heavy rain and onrush of upstream waters have flooded low-lying areas of Sunamganj, Sylhet, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar¹, Rangamti, Bandarban, Feni, Netrakona, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Chandpur, Barishal, Bogura, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail and Manikganj districts. Additionally, there are high risks of landslides in Chittagong hill tract districts along with Cox's Bazaar due to heavy rainfall.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department and India Meteorological Department, there is a chance of medium to heavy rainfall and in some places very heavy rainfall in the north, north-eastern and south-eastern parts of Bangladesh along with adjoining Sikkim, Northern West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya states of India in the next 24 to 48 hours. In addition, it is forecasted that medium to heavy rainfall may occur in the north-west region and adjoining Bihar, West Bengal and Nepal.



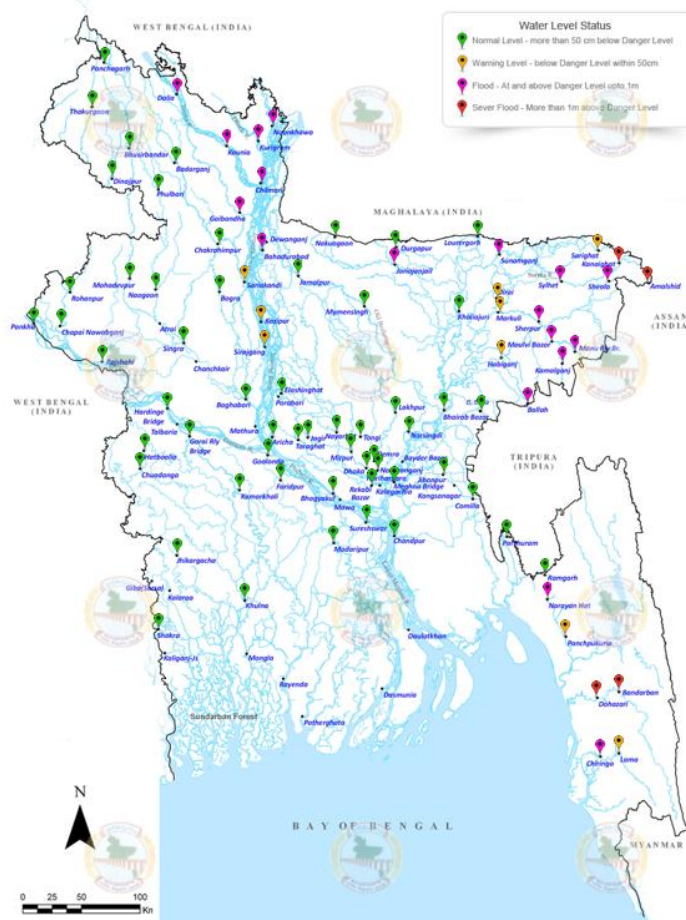
Worsening flood causing riverbank erosion in Netrakona district.
(Photo: BDRCS)

All major rivers' water level may continue rising in the next 72 hours, while the Jamuna River at Sariakandi and Kazipur may reach the danger level in the next 24 hours. The major rivers in Chattogram, Sylhet and Rangpur divisions including the Surma, Kushiyara, Kangsha, Feni, Haldha, Matamuhuri, Sangu and Dharala may rise rapidly in the next 24 hours.

¹ For camp settlements in Cox's Bazar separate information bulletin (IB) issued and IB2 is accessible [here](#).

The flood situation is worsening, and hundreds of families have already been stranded in many areas, according to Disaster Management and Relief Ministry sources. Approximately 300,000 people² are affected across different districts. It is reported that two people have been killed in a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall in Kaptai upazila of Rangamati. Embankments at 628 points are weakened. Communications and livelihoods of the flood affected communities are disrupted. Schools in some of the affected areas have been declared closed due to inundation. Rangamati Roads and Highways Department has restricted heavy vehicles on Rangamati-Khagrachhari road after a portion of it caved in this morning, following heavy downpour.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) had an inter-ministerial coordination meeting on 12 July 2019. In the meeting it was shared that 17,500 tons of rice, 59,000 packets of dry food, and BDT 20.9 million (approx. CHF 254,878) cash have been sent to the affected districts. GoB also mentioned that 500 tents and medical teams will be deployed within the next few days. GoB has opened a control room number for flood response which is 1090, people can call this number to get the latest information on flood situation.



This map shows in 23 points the flood water is at and above danger level (purple colour) and in 4 points its severe flood (red colour). (Source: FFWC/ 13 July 2019)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

While coordinating closely with the government at national and district levels, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) together with Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners is closely monitoring the situation. BDRCS has attended an inter-ministerial coordination meeting called by the government on 12 July 2019. BDRCS also organized a RCRC coordination meeting on 13 July 2019 at its National Headquarters (NHQ) in Dhaka where IFRC, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and in-country Partner National Societies (American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Cross) joined. 200 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers and 20 staff are already engaged and continuously monitoring and supporting the situation in different districts. BDRCS has set up a central hotline number in its NHQ which is open daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm. BDRCS has also allocated hygiene parcel boxes for the following districts: Netrokona (500 boxes), Bandarban (500 boxes), Chattagram (400 boxes), Sunamganj (400 boxes), Rangamati



Red Crescent NDRT team assessing the flood situation in Netrokona district. (Photo: BDRCS)

² Monsoon Flood 2019 Updates, Needs Assessment Working Group-Bangladesh, Version: 01, Date: 13 July 2019.

(400 boxes), Cox's Bazaar (300 boxes), Khagrachari (200 boxes) and Chattogram City (200 boxes). BDRCS currently has eight water purification units on standby at seven strategic locations to be deployed. BDRCS has also decided to make available of its disaster preparedness stock at the NHQ and Chattogram warehouses.

The RCY volunteers in Chattogram, Bandarban, Rangamati, Cox's Bazaar districts are raising awareness among the local communities especially those who are residing at the landslide prone areas and supporting local authorities on evacuation of affected people in Rangamati, Bandarban and Chottagram. Thirty RCY volunteers have been working since 7 July 2019 supporting the awareness programme, evacuation, providing first aid and supporting local administration in distributing foods to the affected people who have been evacuated. The RCY volunteers also supporting the fire service and civil department in repairing the main road that connects Rangamati with Chattogram and the rest of the country. RCY teams from six upazillas (sub-district) are working with their upazillas' administration.



Red Crescent volunteers are providing first aid support to affected people in Rangamati district. (Photo: BDRCS)

BDRCS NHQ has opened an Emergency Control Room (phone: +880 29 355 995) and advised all its staff to be on high alert for possible deployment. National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members are also put on high alert and stand by. All the flood affected units are requested to coordinate with the local authorities and provide necessary support by deploying Unit Disaster Response Team (UDRT), Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) members and volunteers as and when necessary. BDRCS Khagrachari unit (branch) has opened emergency call hotline numbers for search & rescue support and first aid.

IFRC Bangladesh country office in Dhaka is in close coordination with BDRCS, its IFRC sub-office in Cox's Bazaar, in country Movement partners and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur. If required, upon the request of the BDRCS, IFRC may request for DREF allocation.



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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.