

Alert

Bangladesh

Floods in Northern and Central Bangladesh

Geneva, 2nd August 2016

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

As of 30th July 2016, 14 people have died and over 340,000 households in 16 districts have been severely affected by the continuing heavy rains during the last few days which has caused floods in Northern - Central parts of Bangladesh. The continuing downpour and rising waters have now exacerbated an already bad situation.

As of 1st August 2016¹, the rivers Dharla, Ghagot, Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Gur, Atrai, Dhaleswari, Lakhya, Kaliganga, Dhaleswari, Padma and Titasare have been all flowing above the danger level by 62 cm on average and in some places as high as 137 cm.

According to Flood Forecasting & Warning Centre and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWBD), rising water level in several major rivers will keep exacerbating the flood situation in the next 24 - 48 hours particularly in the low lying areas adjacent to Rajbari, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Sariatpur districts as well as Dhaka city.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

Thousands of affected households have been evacuated and they are now living in temporary shelters which are located on embankments. These embankments are under the danger of being flooded or marooned. The affected populations urged government to provide food and potable drinking water on an emergency basis. While the state and district authorities have responded, this has however been insufficient. Floodwaters are at the moment flowing to 45 cm above the danger level at Teesta point and around 2,122 hectares of land have been flooded. People have been living without food and proper shelter for the past few days. The emergency responses from governmental and non- governmental organizations are limited to meet the needs of the great number of affected communities in different districts.

3. National and international response

The government has committed about 700,000 USD to assist the affected populations. 13,000 tons of rice and 13,000 packets of dry food have been released. So far there has been no reported response from International Organizations.

¹ source: reliefweb

4. ACT Alliance response

RDRS Bangladesh distributed 350 bags of dry commodities (3 kg of flattened rice, 1 kg molasses, 2 boxes of matches and 1 box of candles) to each household in Kurigram and Nilphamari districts. The Interchurch Cooperative for Development Cooperation (ICCO) partners have rescued 68 households at Kamarjani union.

5. Planned activities

Emergency response and humanitarian aid assistance like WASH, food, non-food items and shelters are needed. The Forum is now expecting a Rapid Assessment to be completed by the Department of Disaster Management of Ministry of Disaster and Relief, along with NGOs, to assess damages and requirements. The Forum therefore decided to respond immediately to this emergency through the ACT RRF mechanism.

6. Constraints

The coordination in assisting the affected communities between the government and national and international NGOs will be a challenge in the present context as none of the organization is able to ascertain the amount of resources they will be able to generate and respond. Selection of locations and families who can be assisted can lead to duplication of efforts. Coordinated and complementary humanitarian assistance will be needed from the Local Government to make appropriate allocations, to meet needs of communities by different NGOs.

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