



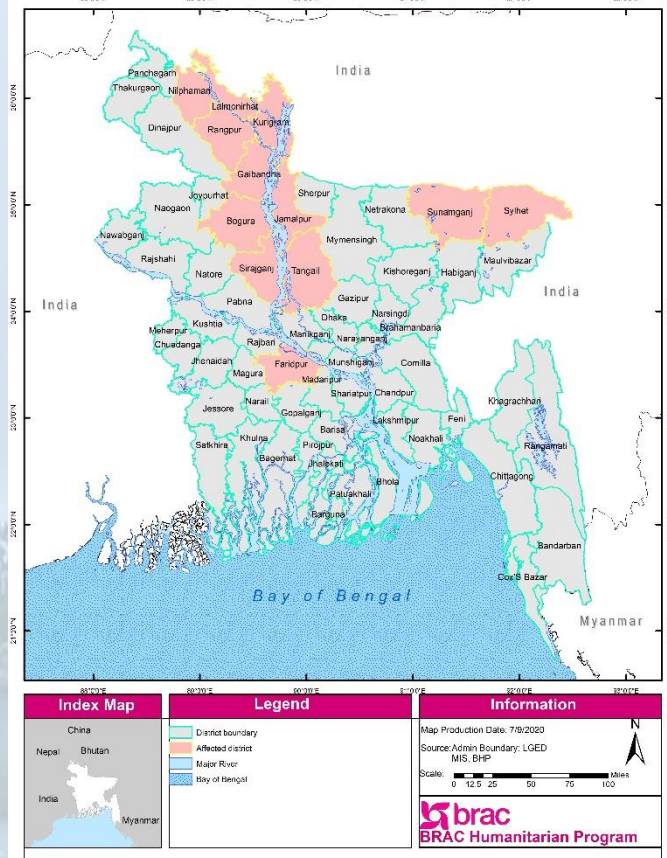
Bangladesh Monsoon Flood 2020 Situation Update #01 July 09, 2020

BRAC Humanitarian Programme

Situation overview

- The torrential monsoon rain and onrush of water from the upstream since last week of June 2020 have caused flooding in 12 northern and northeastern districts of Bangladesh. The low-lying areas in Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogura, Sirajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Sunamganj and Sylhet districts reported flooding due to the swelling of major rivers like Teesta, Dharla, Dudhkumar, Padma and Brahmaputra.
- Estimation shows that over 1.5 million of people are directly affected in these districts by the flood and almost 25,000 households still remain inundated. Many of the displaced population took temporary shelter at embankments and elevated roads not being able to maintain safe distancing during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the country.
- Many of the affected population were facing shortage of food and safe drinking water, and encountered difficulties in maintaining hygiene. This has exposed them to water-borne diseases since most of the tube wells and latrines in the affected areas are submerged under water.
- Road communications in most of the affected district have been disrupted as a result of the badly damaged pucca and earthen roads.
- Fodder and space crisis is forcing farmers to sell their cattle to meat traders before the Eid festival at a very low prices. These farmers have already been forced to use up their rainy-day funds due to the COVID-19 lockdowns.
- The flood water is receding in several districts and the displaced population have started to return to their homes. However, the threat of severe erosion has struck fear among people in the flood hit-areas. The erosion of Jamuna River has become more devastating in Sirajganj and Bogura district leaving scores of people homeless and hundreds of acres of cropland under threat of severe erosion.

Flood affected districts





Forecast for second spell flood

BRAC Monitoring and Preparedness

- The Bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of Bangladesh Water Board issued on July 09, 2020, indicates that there is a possibility of heavy to extreme torrential rainfall in the north and north-eastern part of Bangladesh, and the adjacent West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya provinces at the foothill of Himalayan in India in the next 72 hours. As a result, the water level of the major rivers in the north and north-eastern part of country may increase rapidly.
- The water level of Jamuna and Brahmaputra is in stable condition now, which may start to increase in the next 24 hours.
- The water level of the upstream river systems of Meghna is receding now, which may increase in the next 24 hours.
- A larger number districts in North and North eastern Bangladesh may experience a second spell of flood in the next week.
- BRAC is monitoring the flood situation through information collection from its District and Sub-district level Disaster Management teams. BRAC is also regularly collecting and reviewing the flood forecast information from the FFWC. Based on the ground updates until now, the affected flood households are suffering and managing the situation with their very limited resources as well as the government's support of dry food, rice, baby food, cash grant, drinking water and fodder to the flood affected population.
- BRAC is undertaking all necessary preparation to respond to the anticipated flood and possible impacts to support the most vulnerable population, in case needs arise during the flood season (months of July and August).
- BRAC is also coordinating with local administration and local government institution to update the situation.

Government response

- The Government of Bangladesh through the Department of Disaster Management has taken necessary preparation and has urgently allocated BDT 2.4 million to provide dry food and baby food, and another BDT 2.4 million for distribution of fodder among flood affected population in the 12 districts.

