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## Information bulletin Bangladesh: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Information Bulletin N° 1</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 17 August 2017
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 12 August 2017	<b>Point of contact:</b> Mr. Nazmul Azam Khan, Director, Disaster Response, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
<b>Operation start date:</b> 14 August 2017	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> TBC
<b>Host National Society:</b> Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) – over 400 Red Cross Youth, volunteers and staff have been mobilized.	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 3,917,184	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> TBC
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners presence in country:</b> American Red Cross, British Red Cross, German Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies and INGOs.	

**This bulletin is issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has requested International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to launch disaster relief emergency fund (DREF). BDRCS also accepts direct local and international assistance to provide support to the affected population.**

## The situation

Bangladesh is experiencing floods for the fourth<sup>1</sup> time this year. As late monsoon rains kept falling and overflowing the rivers in the country and the upstream hilly regions of neighbouring countries, Bangladesh is currently facing a disaster affecting the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Meghna river basins. The northern, northeastern, eastern, and central part of the country are experiencing flooding since 12 August and around 4 million people are reportedly to be affected.

According to the data received, 56 people have died in different districts such as Dinajpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Chapainawabganj and Moulvibazar. Many are missing and feared to be dead. Almost 309,542 hectares of crops are damaged. Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) reported that 90 river stations are being monitored. 30 rivers are above danger levels. Water level of Jamuna has increased to a record 20.78 meters; where in the massive flood of 1988 the water level of the Jamuna river raised to 20.62. As a result, 24 districts of the country are flooded and many roads, railways, and embankments are destroyed. More than 1,400 shelters have been formed across the entire country, while the army has been deployed to reinforce weakened river embankments and to work hand in hand with search and rescue operations.



BDRCS volunteer helping an elderly during a relief distribution on 14 August 2017, in Kurigram district.

(Photo: Ahmed Shawon, Kurigram, BDRCS)

<sup>1</sup> The Northeastern Haor (wetland) area was flooded twice - once in April and again in June 2017; the north and central Jamuna- Ganges basin was flooded in July 2017

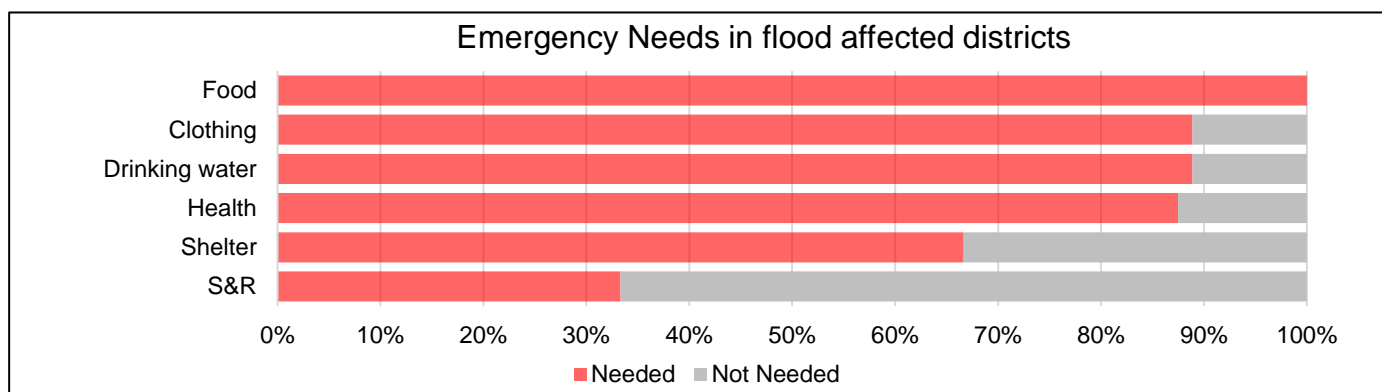
The central region of the country is feared to soon be affected by the flood as the water is flowing down into it. About 100 meters of a dam in Manikganj was washed away on Monday. The lower part of Dhaka is also predicted to be flooded soon if the situation worsens. It is feared that the floods could also affect more districts. More than 1,000 educational institutions in Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Tangail, Sunamganj and Sylhet have been closed due to being flooded or are used as shelters for the affected people.

The Government of Bangladesh has allocated 6,913 tons of rice and cash of 24,525,000 Bangladeshi Taka (BDT). As of 15 August 2017, 3,589 MT rice and BDT 15,307,000 have been distributed among the flood affected population. People in the flood-affected districts are still in extreme need of relief, food, shelter and clean drinking water.

**Flood situation at a glance:**

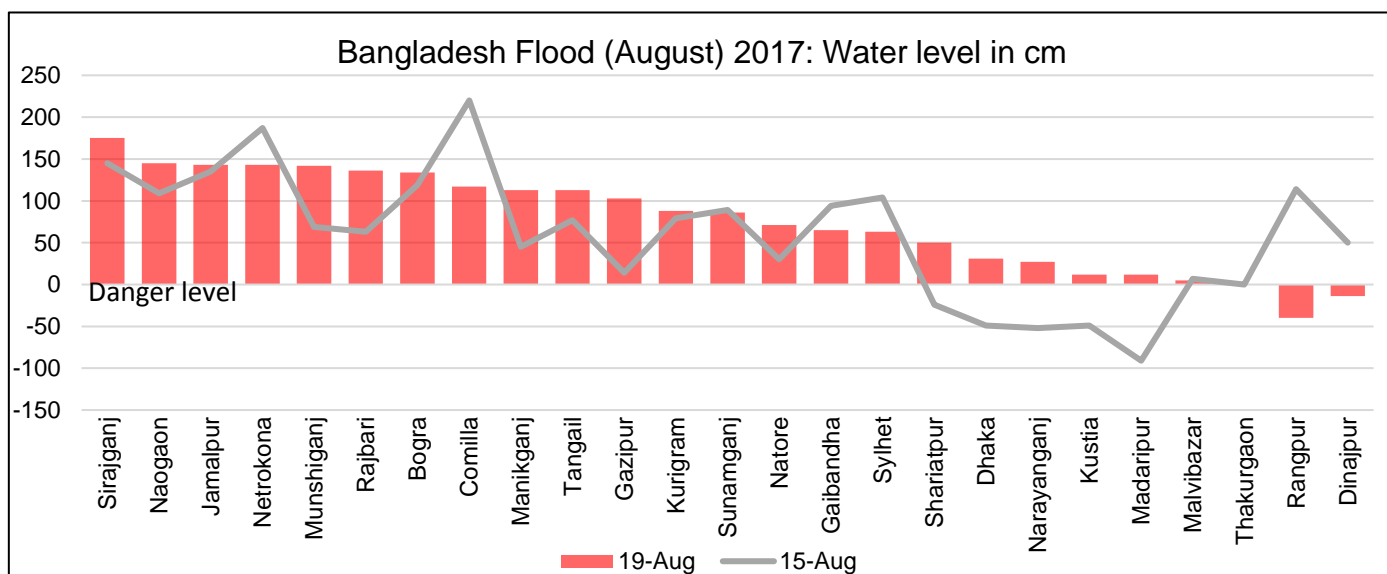
No of affected districts	: 24
No of affected sub-district	: 106
No of affected unions	: 672
No of affected municipality	: 34
No of death	: 56
No of affected families	: 832,348
No of Affected Population	: 3,917,184
No of house damaged	: 531,517
No of shelter opened	: 1,392
No of people in shelter	: 282,479
No of crops damaged (Hectare)	: 309,542

The following graph visualizes findings from BDRCS web based need assessment from respective BDRCS district branches. The top priority needs are cooked/dry food, drinking water, clothing, healthcare and shelter.



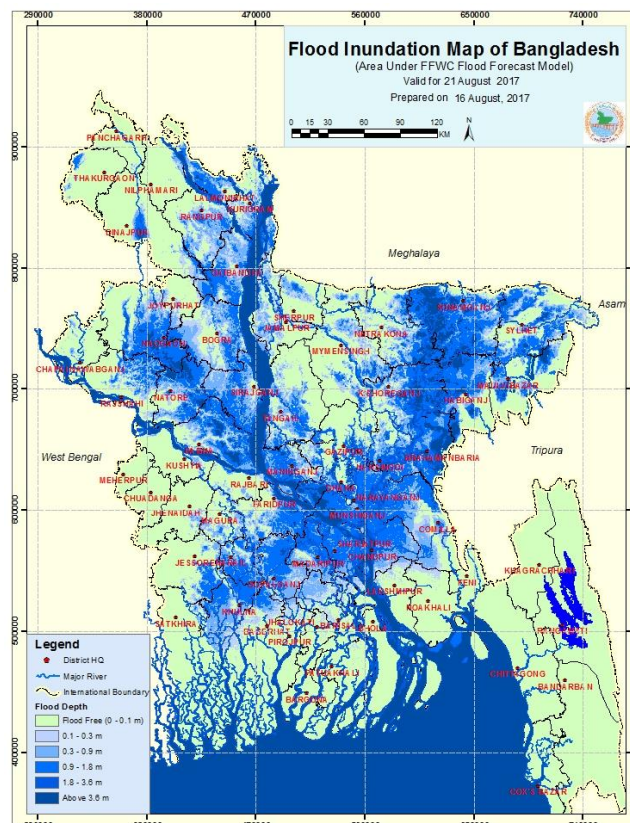
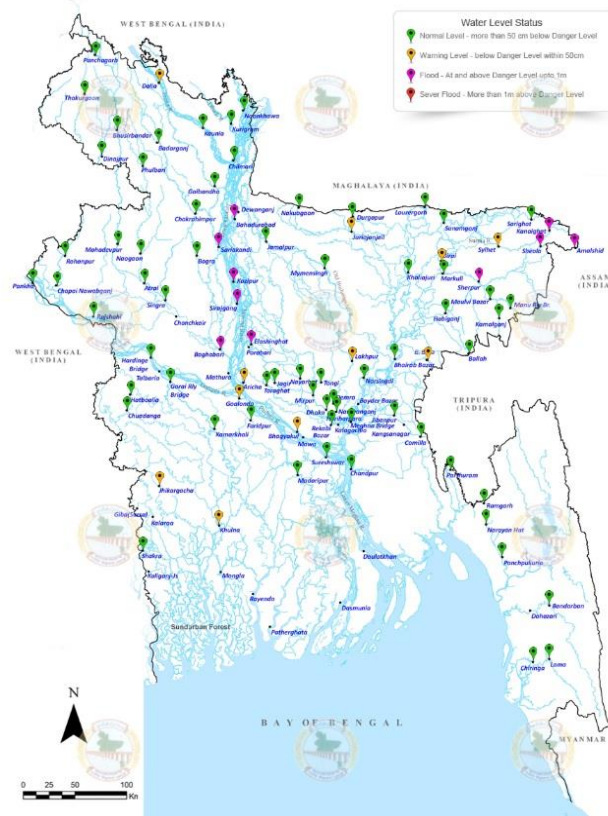
**Weather and Flood forecasting**

The Bangladesh meteorological department's latest bulletin warns that heavy rainfall is expected to continue, increasing the risk of landslides in hilly areas of Sylhet and Chittagong. As per the forecast, the flood situation could be the worst in the last four decades. The Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) has responded by opening all 44 sluice gates on the Dalia barrage in an attempt to control the flow. On August 13, a protection dyke in Dinajpur was washed away following 48-hours of incessant rain, leading the government to deploy military support to the affected district to protect the embankment.



### Flood inundation map (120 hours forecast)

The following maps visualizes the 120 hours forecast for the floods.



## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is closely monitoring the overall flood situation. Local branch offices of BDRCS are collecting information through local Red Crescent volunteers and secondary sources (Government officials and local government representatives).

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) opened an emergency control room to monitor and collect the information on the ongoing floods and has already alerted its national disaster response team (NDRT) members and national disaster WATSAN response team (NDWRT) members and more than 30 NDRTs and NDWRTs are on stand-by. BDRCS is planning to deploy them to the flood affected area soon.
- Red Crescent Youth (RCY) with the support of their unit (branch) offices, executive committees and local administration, started distributing cooked and dry foods. To provide safe drinking water in Sirajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur, Bogra, Kurigram, Gainbanda districts water purification plants were deployed by BDRCS. Safe drinking water was distributed among the marooned people in Bogra, Sirajganj, Kurigram and Tangail districts.
- RCY volunteers are assisting Government medical teams in one of the worst affected districts, Dinajpur.
- The BDRCS has requested International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to launch disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to help the affected people in flood-affected districts. Food items, jerrycans, oral rehydration salt (ORS), tarpaulin, water purification tablet (WPT) and hygiene kit can be distributed under the DREF.
- BDRCS allocated BDT 2,000,000 for dry/cooked food, 2,000 pieces of tarpaulin sheet, 40,000 packets of ORS, 14,000 pieces of WPT, 6,000 units of jerrycans in the flood-affected districts.
- In Dinajpur, the Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers are distributing cooked meals among the flood-affected people since the beginning. In Kurigram, another badly affected district, the RCY volunteers are helping the affected population to take shelter in safer places.
- For the first time, BDRCS has used their web based online damage assessment form and system to collect the information directly from the field. BDRCS staff and volunteers from the affected districts have been sending the damage and need information through the BDRCS web platform.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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**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**.

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