



Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers in Shantinagor, Chattogram distributing safe drinking water to the inundated households. Photo: BDRCS RCY, Chattogram.

BANGLADESH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (BDRCS)

Flash Flood and Landslide in Chattogram Region

Situation Report 1 | 7 August 2023

Current Situation:

Heavy rain triggered flash flood in the hilly district of Bandarban on 6 August 2023 afternoon as the Matamuhuri river flowed up to 13.79 meters which was 199 cm above its danger mark at Lama sub-district. on 7 August 2023 the water level of river Sangu rose to 17.63 meters which is 283 cm above the danger mark according to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

The FFWC in its daily bulletin issued on 7 August 2023 morning indicated that there is a chance of heavy to very heavy rainfall in the South-eastern hill basin & adjacent upstream parts of Bangladesh in next 24-48 hours. For this reason, all the major rivers (Muhuri, Feni, Halda, Karnafuli, Sangu, Matamuhuri) in the South-eastern region of the country may rise. In the next 24 hours, the rivers (Muhuri, Sangu & Matamuhuri) in the Chattogram, Feni, Bandarban & Cox's Bazar districts may flow above their respective danger levels deteriorating the flood situation in the low-lying areas. According to the bulletin, Bandarban's Lama recorded 227 mm of rainfall in the preceding 24 hours, which is the highest amount recorded in the current year. The hill basin also drains water from upstream areas in neighbouring India and Myanmar, where India's Mizoram recorded 71 per cent excess rainfall and Tripura 35 per cent in the 24 hours until 8:00 am on 6 August 2023.

Chattogram has experienced 322 mm of precipitation in the past 24 hours, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD). BMD also issued a severe to extremely severe rainfall warning for six districts, including the capital Dhaka. It also issued a landslide alert for the Chattogram division because of potential heavy rain.

Incessant rains over the past four days have led to a severe flood situation in Bandarban town, leaving nearly 30,000 people marooned. The most affected areas include Balaghata, Fajr Ali Para, Chairman Para, Police Lines area, Chaigya Mahajan Para, Horticulture area, Lalmiya Char area, Hafezghona, Armypara, Kashem Para, Stadium, and Keching Para. These areas have been submerged for two days.

Due to on-going spell of rainfall, landslides occurred and damaged households in Islampur of Sadar, Kashempara, Lemujhiri, Balaghata, Kalaghata, Bonrupapara and Hafezghona of Bandarban. Landslides in different upazilas (sub-districts) have damaged at least 718 homesteads and left six people injured. On the other hand, Bandarban Keranihat Chattogram highway, Bandarban-Rangamati road, Lama Sualok road, Roangchari- Ruma and Thanchi interconnecting roads are also damaged due to landslides. Low-lying areas as Hafez Ghona, Bus Station, Army Para and Islampur areas went under 5-7 feet of water, causing suffering for local people. Residents of vulnerable areas in all the upazilas in Bandarban are advised to seek shelter through miking by the local administration as heavy rains are likely to cause further landslides. The fire service is carrying out drives in various areas with the assistance of the local administration. In fear of loss of life, families who live near the riverbank and foothills have been shifted to shelter centre facilities. Meanwhile 193 temporary shelters have been opened and 43 medical teams are ready to deal with the situation. The local administration has allocated 20 tons of rice and cash support for the flash flood victims.



Bangladesh Water level Map by FFWC (7 August 2023). Courtesy: FFWC

According to the BMD, Cox's Bazar is expected to receive rainfall > 345 mm over the next five days, which could potentially trigger landslides in high-risk areas. Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) has also forecasted medium to heavy rainfall for this week in Cox's Bazar. Based on the 5-day rainfall forecast by RIMES suggests that most of the sub-districts of Cox's Bazar may experience more volume of accumulated precipitation amounting to 88mm-106mm rain during 7- 8 August which may slightly improve from 9 August 2023. The areas which are highly susceptible to landslide are Cox's Bazar municipality, part of Hnila (Nayapara Registered Camp and adjacent areas) and Baharchhara unions of Teknaf sub-district, Marine drive/Jaliapalong adjacent areas, Balukhali areas of Ukhiya sub-district and part of Khuniapalong of Ramu sub-district. Besides, few camps are also given with landslide alert which are camp 4, 8W, 9, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 20-Ext and 21.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Actions:

- BDRCS has already made allocation from its contingency stock for 100 tarpaulins, 1000 sleeping mats, 300 buckets, and 200 jerrycans to be distributed for the affected population in Bandarban district.
- Based on current situation, BDRCS decided to utilize the Emergency Response Fund of the Swedish Red Cross estimated BDT 200,000 for the local purchase of dry food and other essential goods to be distributed to the affected individuals who are currently living shelters in Bandarban.

- BDRCS has also allocated BDT 200,000 from the Emergency Response Fund to the Swedish Red Cross for the purpose of purchasing dry food and other necessities for the displaced population in Chattogram.
- More than 200 BDRCS volunteers are closely working with the local government for disseminating Early Warning Messages (EWM) and for safe evacuation in the high-risk prone landslide areas in Bandarban and Chattogram districts.
- BDRCS Chattogram Red Crescent unit (branch) reached 50 families with 10 litre safe-drinking water.
- BDRCS Chattogram Red Crescent unit opened Emergency Control Room.

BDRCS actions in Cox's Bazar:

BDRCS and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) team in Cox's Bazar continuously tracking the camp level incidents through Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) camp focal/supervisors, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) officers and Camp officers of BDRCS in coordination with respective Site Management Support Agencies (SMSAs). BDRCS/IFRC is continuously coordination with the camp and host community actors including the GoB counterparts, UN, I/NGOs for extending required supports.

- BDRCS shelter team distributed emergency shelter items (including rope, tarpaulin, bamboo etc.) among the 153 families based on assessment conducted by SMSA in camp 11 and 12.
- Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) team deployed 19 staffs and 101 CBHFA volunteers in camp 2E, 6, 8E, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19 along with host communities of Cox's Bazar. A total of 549 people were reached with basic First Aid, Psychological First Aid, and referral support.
- A total of 1,853 camp volunteers including 1,363 male and 490 female trained on disaster preparedness and first aid have been deployed by respective SMSA to support relocation of 43 families within their camps. These volunteers are also collecting damage information and conducting awareness raising across the 33 camps.
- Protection Gender Inclusion (PGI) team deployed 10 volunteers who supported the referral of 18 HHs to the Protection Emergency Response Team (PERU) in camp 14 and camp 19 to ensure necessary support which includes protection services and others lifesaving supports.
- Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) team deployed 26 community volunteers to collect community feedback and provide information on extreme weather events that is causing landslides, flash flood etc. through Household (HH) visit, help desk support, and radio listening program at camp 11,12,13,14,15,18 and 19.

IFRC, PNSs and Other Partners:

- The IFRC and IFRC's in-country memberships (Partner National Societies or PNSs) are closely monitoring the current situation and extending necessary support to BDRCS team at Dhaka and Cox's Bazar levels.
- IFRC already updated in the GO platform¹ (IFRC GO - BGD: Other - 2023-08 - Heavy rainfall in Bangladesh)
- The IFRC is collaborating with BDRCS Disaster Response team at Dhaka level to ensure effective coordination with relevant departments, branches, and relevant stakeholders and BDRCS Population Movement Operation (PMO) in Cox's Bazar.
- The IFRC are also coordinating with relevant clusters, sectors and working groups.

Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Actions:

- 193 temporary shelters have been opened and 43 medical teams are ready to deal with the situation.

¹ IFRC GO is a Red Cross Red Crescent platform to connect information on emergency needs with the right response.

- The local administration has allocated 20 tons of rice and cash support for the flood victims.

Media News:

Bangla

<https://www.jagonews24.com/country/news/874736>

<https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/chittagong/bandarban>

English

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/321814/rainfall-triggers-landslide-concerns-across>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/321836/torrential-rain-causes-flood-in-bandarban-over>

For Further Information:

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BDRCS actions in Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Bandarban and Khagrachari districts.
Photos: BDRCS and Camp Volunteers (for Cox's Bazar)