



NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

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The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



Topics

Climate Change and disaster reduction

Some districts were severe affected in Pakistan.

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At least 20 people were killed and hundreds of houses destroyed or badly damaged after heavy monsoon rains on 16 August triggered flash floods in the Mardan and Swabi districts of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Teams from UN agencies and the provincial government have been assessing the damage on the ground. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said, in a situation report on 17 August that "the numbers of affected people remain undetermined". "According to various sources, there are reports of 27 deaths, nine people missing, an estimated 400-450 houses destroyed, along with massive losses to crops and livestock. The administration of Swabi District has reported 70,000-80,000 people have been affected in the region," the report said.



Houses were severe damaged and some people stayed many days isolated.

Rizwan Baig, emergency programme manager for the UK-based Muslim Aid organization, which OCHA said was the first to arrive in the affected area, told IRIN: "1,000 houses have been completely wiped out." Baig said survivors were living under "open skies", while attempts were being made to provide tents to those most in need. "It was houses made from mud that were worst affected as water flowed through villages," he said.

NWFP Chief Minister Amir Haider Hoti has visited the area and told the media that he had requested more detailed information on the damage. Adnan Khan, a spokesperson for the Emergency Rescue Unit (ERU) of the provincial government, said: "Two trucks of relief goods have been sent to the area." However, some local people complain they have received insufficient help.

Muhammad Hussain, from an affected village in Swabi District, said: "People are without food or clean water. Some are still trapped in flooded areas." With damage to roads and some bridges swept away, travel is perilous, aid workers say.

The torrents flowing down hillsides also affected standing crops and, according to Muslim Aid, “450 heads of livestock, including cattle and smaller animals were killed.” OCHA warned this would mean a possible loss of livelihoods, given that people depend on their animals for both domestic and commercial needs.

“The food items we stored in our houses, including wheat to provide flour for the next four to five months, have also been swept away. We don’t know how we will manage now,” said Hussain. “Currently people who have lost everything need clothes, food and medicines.” The suffering of people hit by the floods may not yet be over. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, director-general of the Meteorological Office in Islamabad said that: “More rains are expected over the next day or two in northern parts of the country.”

Source: www.irinnews.org

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Thousands suffered rains in Bangladesh.

Thousands suffered rains in Bangladesh



Rains were a severe problem to these people who had to manage in order to develop common activities.

Heavy monsoon rains, which arrived much later than normal this year, have stranded hundreds of thousands in south-eastern Bangladesh and threatened livelihoods, say local officials.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), there are nine places where river levels are 3-125cm above the danger level. If current rainfall persists - as the FFWC thinks it will - by the end of August over 30 percent of the country could be inundated, the forecast warns.

The FFWC blames the flooding on unusually heavy rainfall combined with drift water flooding in from the Assam and Meghalaya regions of India. Kurigram, Rajbari, Sirajganj and Rangpur districts in Rajshahi Division, and Rajbari in Dhaka Division are the worst affected. Bangladesh has six divisions.

In Kurigram District, over 200,000 people in seven sub-districts were left stranded by floodwaters, with over 30,000 hectares of crops inundated and presumed lost. “It’s been 10 days since we were stranded by the flood and there is no sign that the water will recede soon. It seems that no one is concerned about our plight,” Lalchad Khan, a 65-year-old resident of Ulipur sub-district in Kurigram, complained.

But according to government officials, relief efforts are under way. “We have already opened up a flood relief centre in the district. To provide emergency relief support, we have requested the government for 50 metric tonnes of rice and five million taka (US\$74,000),” said Mohammad Asaduzzaman, district commissioner of Kurigram. In addition, 2,200 Vulnerable Groups Feeding (VGF) cards were being provided to each of Kurigram District’s 72 unions (sub-locations).

Each family provided with the card receives 20kg of rice. VGF cards are issued by the government in times of crisis to ensure food delivery to those most severely affected. More than 30 villages in Sirajganj District were inundated and thousands of people made homeless by the flooding. Many were forced to seek shelter on flood embankments. A seven-year old boy drowned in the district’s Natuapara union, according to local media.

Another 25,000 people in Kaunia sub-district of Rangpur District were marooned when the River Tista burst its banks and washed over the embankments. The sub-district executive officer of Kaunia, Mohammad Anwar Hossain, told IRIN relief goods had already been delivered by the ministry and would be distributed among union council chairmen.

Farmers are not the only ones affected: More than 50,000 quarry workers in Jaintyapur sub-district of Sylhet were left without the means to support their families after heavy rains flooded the area's quarries. Flooding is a recurring occurrence in low-lying Bangladesh, with monsoon flooding an annual occurrence. On average, every seventh year a severe flood hits the country, say experts.

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Families suffered a lot and shelters were full.

Families suffered a lot and shelters were full

Across West Africa residents are crossing streets in canoes, carrying babies overhead in suitcases and navigating waist-high water to find shelter. This rainy season as of 27 August at least 37 people are dead from flooding across West and parts of Central Africa, more than 20,000 displaced living in shelters or with relatives and some 3,600 families homeless, according to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) West and Central Africa office.

The figures change daily as heavy rains continue. Two children were reported drowned in Mauritania from 28 to 29 August flooding that affected some 3,500 families, according to local authorities.



This is the panorama for this village that was affected by floods.

Mohamed Diaby, 19, of Coronthie said: "We put my brother's nine-month-old twins in a suitcase to bring them to a safer area. That was something you saw all over the neighbourhood." He said people were in tears as sacks of rice lay saturated in some homes. A 50-kilogram sack of rice generally costs 160,000 Guinean francs (US\$32) – about half of some civil servants' monthly pay. Prices commonly rise during Ramadan, the Muslim month of dawn-to-dusk fasting, which much of the region's population is observing.

IFRC, which is working with governments and local volunteers to provide emergency aid to stricken families, said in a 28 August statement that the agency must urgently restock relief supplies to face needs in the region. Red Cross volunteers are distributing mosquito nets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, blankets, water purification tablets and soap. The Federation on 10 August launched an appeal to help 25,000 people in 16 West African countries better prepare for floods.

Emergency relief is just one part of the answer to the annual flood damage, said Youcef Ait-Chellouche, disaster response coordinator for IFRC West and Central Africa. As with every year, many of the flooded areas are wetlands zones, where people settled during decades of drought, but where – with the resumption of normal rainfall in the 1990s – the ground is again saturated.

In the Pikine department of the Senegalese capital Dakar – once a swamp – as years pass, entire homes have been abandoned to the water. “We have not used these areas for several years,” said one woman, pointing to three rooms under about 10cm of water. In the same courtyard, another woman sopped up water from her bedroom, where furniture is propped up on bricks.

“In some areas flooding can be mitigated and the impact reduced significantly,” IFRC’s Ait-Chellouche said. “But in other urban areas...construction has taken place in known flood areas. This kind of urban extension has to be considered in a development framework.” He said considerable investment by the government is needed to avoid flood disasters.

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Good panorama for Asia.

Good panorama for Asia



Cyclones and disasters caused several damages to buildings and injured many people in the past 4 years.

The good news for Asia as well as aid workers is that with 2009 being an El Niño year, the sub-continent could experience fewer and less intense cyclones, according to a climatologist with the Bangkok-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).

El Niño is the warming of sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. During an El Niño episode, the Walker circulation, a conceptual model of the air flow in the tropics over the Pacific and Indian Ocean, weakens. "This means fewer cyclones and the location of cyclones will also move from the west Pacific Ocean [where 40 percent of all global tropical storms form ever year] further southeast on the Pacific [away from any landmass], which will lead to fewer land-falling cyclones in the Southeast Asian region," said PVS Raju, a climatologist with ADPC.

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Seven to eight cyclones form over the west Pacific Ocean in a "normal year" and drop to about two or three in an El Niño year, studies have shown. El Niño will also have an impact on cyclones forming over the Indian Ocean region.

"They will be less intense," said Raju. Nargis and Sidr, two of the deadliest cyclones in recent times, were formed in that region, which records 25 percent of the annual global total of tropical storms.

Source: www.irinnews.org



Comments: I think this good news is a light at the end of the tunnel for the entire Asia, because now nature is playing for them, and for us. I see many new districts and regions which suffered disasters, so it is a sign that natural disasters are spreading their negative effects.



"Communication saves lives!"

■ For more information please contact ■

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