

# Bangladesh Under Water

**The heaviest rains in living memory has resulted in the majority of Bangladesh being under water, with flooding leaving a trail of destruction across one of the world's poorest countries.** So far, 7 million homes have been damaged and at least 30 million people have been made homeless, while over 3,000 now are thought to have died in one of the worst ever disasters to hit the country.

## Bangladesh

Bangladesh is located at the mouth of two of the world's longest rivers, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. The land on which most of the country's population live is made up of silt, material deposited in the form of a delta and often less than a metre above the height of the rivers. The rivers swell during the monsoon season, because in just 4 months, Bangladesh can get as much rain as London gets in two years.

Floods occur in Bangladesh each and every year, but over the last 20 years, they seem to be getting worse. Most people in Bangladesh work on the land, and farmers have developed ways to use the floodwaters and the good quality soils that they bring to their advantage. Problems start to occur when the water level is far higher than normal, or flooding occurs with little or no warning. This year has seen lengthy heavy rains resulting in a water level which is now at a record high, with 80% of the country flooded.

## What Causes the Flooding?

Every year, the area has heavy monsoon rains. In the last few years, the rainfall has been heavier than expected.



Children carry food supplies back to their flooded village

To make the problem worse, trees have been cleared in the Himalayas and India to make way for farmland and housing due to an increase in population in the area. The loss of trees increases the amount of rainfall entering the rivers.

**Bangladesh is a low country, with 80% of the land less than 6m above sea level. Many rivers, carrying huge amounts of water converge within a small area. In Bangladesh the volume of water can be so great that it flows over the banks, quickly flooding large areas of land.**

## Effects of the flooding

The floodwaters have caused widespread devastation across Bangladesh. Over 3,000 people have been killed and 30million are now homeless. Houses, railways and roads have all been swept away and Dhaka airport is still under 3 feet of water. Most of this year's crops have been destroyed, few places have electricity and there is now no safe drinking water.

This situation has lead to the spread of diseases and illnesses such as dysentery and diarrhoea, many more people are expected to die. Aid is desperately needed for food supplies. the restoration of

Solutions?

The Country:

Secondary Effects:



Causes of Flooding - Natural

Causes of Flooding: Human

Primary Effects:

Solutions?

The Country:

Bangladesh is in \_\_\_\_\_.

It is classed as an \_\_\_\_\_

and has a large

\_\_\_\_\_.

Secondary Effects:

The floods spread  
\_\_\_\_\_ very quickly.

People became ill also because  
they didn't have much

\_\_\_\_\_ or clean

\_\_\_\_\_.



Causes of Flooding - Natural  
(Rainfall, height of land, rivers.):

Causes of Flooding - Human

\_\_\_\_\_ have been cut  
down in India and in the

\_\_\_\_\_, so  
more water reaches the rivers.

Land is now covered by

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Effects (deaths, homeless,  
damage etc...):

Key Words: water, Himalayas, LEDC, disease, population,  
food, trees, buildings, Asia