

Climate Change Impact Stories: Bangladesh



Background

Bangladesh is in Southern Asia. The population is 155 million. Most of the country is very low, with a large coastline and *floodplains* (an area which floods next to a river). Bangladesh has one of the highest population *densities* (how many people live in one area) in the world. Two thirds of the people live in *rural* (countryside) areas, and over 60 percent of people depend *agriculture* (farming) to survive. The capital is Dhaka (with 4 million people).

Half of the population do not have enough money for their daily needs, and over a third suffer from *malnutrition* (not being healthy due to a poor diet) and hunger.

Bangladesh is very *vulnerable* (at risk) to tropical cyclones and floods. There has been a lot of bad weather in recent years, and rising sea levels and river *erosion* (rock material being worn away) are a big risk.

The Climate in Bangladesh:

Bangladesh has a *tropical monsoon* climate.

There are three seasons:

- Dry winter (October to March)
- Hot, humid summer (March to June)
- Hot, humid, rainy season (*monsoon* - June to October)

It has one of the wettest climates in the world, and 80 percent of the rain happens during the monsoon.



What people are saying about climate change in Bangladesh

Generally people report that winters have become drier and monsoons are stronger but *less predictable* (not knowing when it will happen) and it is becoming more *humid*. Records show the temperature has risen (between 0.5 – 1 degrees Centigrade).

Heat waves are lasting longer in this region. There are less cold and more warm nights, and thick fogs. It seems the amount of rainfall in a year is increasing, but with less rain before the monsoon and much more in late monsoon (October). This causes more floods, which have affected 68 million people over the last eight years. There is also increased *risk* (danger) from cyclones.

Since the year 2000 there has been over 70 major disasters, killing 9,000 people and causing damage of more than \$5 billion.

Sources:

WWW.oxfam.org.uk