

THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH FACT SHEET



FAST FACTS



Bangladesh is a country nestled between India and Myanmar. It gained independence from India in 1947 as part of Pakistan, before becoming an independent nation in 1971. It is one of the world's most densely populated countries, with widespread poverty which is exacerbated by its vulnerability to extreme weather events.



Capital: Dhaka



Population: 164 million



Currency: Taka



Land area: 143,998 sq km



Borders: India, Myanmar



Language: Bengali



Religion: 86% Islamic, 12% Hindu



Life expectancy: 69 years (men),
70 years (women)



Climate: A tropical-monsoon climate
with rainy summers and dry winters.



The climate is one of the wettest in
the world!



Terrain: Mostly flat, and hilly in the
south-east



Natural resources: Land, timber, coal
and natural gas



National day: 26th March



Symbol: Shapla (or a water lily) and
the Royal Bengal Tiger



National anthem: Amar Sonar Bangla
(‘My golden Bengal’)




Landmarks: Jaintapur megaliths,
Sixty Dome Mosque, Baklai Falls




Wildlife: Royal Bengal tiger, king cobra,
salt-water crocodiles

BANGLADESH TIMELINE: CONFLICT AND DISASTERS


- 1947




BRITISH COLONIAL RULE OVER INDIA ENDS, WITH A **MUSLIM STATE** BEING FORMED WITH LAND EITHER SIDE OF INDIA. THESE TWO PARTS OF THE NEW STATE ARE CALLED 'EAST PAKISTAN' AND 'WEST PAKISTAN'. THEY ARE 1,500KM APART
- 1970




THE **AWAMI LEAGUE**, WHO HAVE BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR EAST PAKISTAN'S (TODAY BANGLADESH) INDEPENDENCE FROM WEST PAKISTAN FOR 21 YEARS, **WIN A HUGE ELECTION VICTORY**. WEST PAKISTAN REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE RESULT, AND RIOTS BEGIN




A CYCLONE HITS, AND **500,000 ARE KILLED**
- 1971




ON THE 26TH MARCH, LEADERS PROCLAIM EAST PAKISTAN **INDEPENDENT** AND CALL THE NATION **BANGLADESH**




10 MILLION BANGLADESHIS FLEE TO INDIA DUE TO **CONFLICT WITH PAKISTAN TROOPS**. PAKISTAN IS DEFEATED WITH INDIA'S ASSISTANCE
- 1974




SEVERE FLOODING DESTROYS THE GRAIN CROP LEADING TO **28,000 DEATHS**. A STATE OF EMERGENCY IS DECLARED




SHEIKH MUJIB BECOMES PRESIDENT BUT THE **POLITICAL SITUATION IS DETERIORATING**. HE IS **ASSASSINATED IN A MILITARY COUP**
- 1988




FLOODS COVER UP TO THREE-QUARTERS OF THE COUNTRY. **TENS OF MILLIONS** ARE MADE HOMELESS
- 1991




CYCLONIC **TIDAL WAVE** KILLS UP TO **138,000**
- 1998




TWO-THIRDS OF THE COUNTRY DEVASTATED BY THE **WORST FLOODS EVER**
- 2001




SEVEN KILLED IN BOMB BLAST AT A BENGALI NEW YEAR CONCERT IN DHAKA. SIXTEEN INDIAN AND THREE BANGLADESHI SOLDIERS KILLED IN THEIR **WORST BORDER CLASHES**
- 2004




WORST FLOODING IN SIX YEARS LEAVES NEARLY 800 PEOPLE DEAD, MILLIONS HOMELESS OR STRANDED, AND AN ESTIMATED **20M IN NEED OF FOOD AID**
- 2007



CYCLONE SIDR KILLS THOUSANDS
- 2013



A GARMENT FACTORY BUILDING COLLAPSES IN APRIL DUE TO **POOR HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS**. **1,135 PEOPLE DIE** IN THE DISASTER
- 2016



UNHCR SAYS THOUSANDS OF MYANMAR'S BENGALI-SPEAKING MUSLIM ROHINGYA MINORITY HAVE **FLED TO BANGLADESH** IN RECENT WEEKS DUE TO **PERSECUTION IN MYANMAR**

KEY WORDS

- **Colonial rule:** a country or area under political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country
- **Natural disaster:** A natural event such as a flood, drought or storm which causes widespread damage and loss of life
- **Military coup:** The sudden overthrowing of a government by a small group with some authority

FOOD FOR THOUGHT?

- How do you think natural disasters impact on people's access to food, water and education?
- How can we support those who live in areas prone to natural disasters?



The world must work together to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 13 in Bangladesh



GOAL 1 NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms, and provide protections for the poor and vulnerable

GOAL 13 CLIMATE ACTION



Strengthen resilience and adaptively to climate related events

NATURAL DISASTERS IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. This is the result of a combination of factors including its geographical location, low lying lands, reliance on the lands, high population and widespread poverty. The climate in Bangladesh is changing: its summers are hotter, rains irregular and often very heavy when they come which causes flooding and landslides.

These natural effects of climate change in Bangladesh come with human consequences. High levels of rainfall and a rise in temperatures lead to prevalence and outbreak of diseases such as malaria, dengue fever and cholera. Also, flooding and a change in predictable seasons impacts on agriculture and therefore food security for Bangladeshi's.

Additionally, natural disasters lead to displacement of peoples which can cause conflict for resources and tensions in areas where people move to.



WHAT IS CONCERN DOING?

Concern has been working to fight extreme poverty in Bangladesh since 1972.

One of the projects that we work on is with those living in poverty in large urban areas. In this, we undertake projects to improve livelihoods and assist people in accessing their rights. We also work with those who live on the streets so that they can access support in starting their own business, education and training.


We are also working with communities all over the country who live in regions which are prone to flooding, especially coastal communities, with the aim to improve their resilience to natural disasters by working to improve, to implement and to develop disaster risk reduction, as well as providing relief when they strike.



Want to Learn MORE?

Concern Worldwide's Active Citizenship Team run workshops for students during the academic year. If you are interested in exploring and critically examining global issues in the classroom please contact us on schools@concern.net

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READ



Find our latest updates at the Concern **blog!**

WATCH



Checkout **videos** of the projects that we are working on

ACT



Take action on SDG 13 and find out more about the **Stop Climate Chaos** campaign. Start your own campaign in your school or local community!

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