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.

**1971**

On the 26th March, leaders proclaim East Pakistan independent and call the nation Bangladesh.

**1974**

Severe flooding destroys the grain crop leading to 28,000 deaths. A state of emergency is declared.

**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 fled to Bangladesh in recent weeks due to persecution in Myanmar.
Conflict in Somalia

Somalia’s history is chequered with conflict which has had huge humanitarian consequences: because of long term conflict, civilians have been caught in the cross-fire. As a result, over 1 million Somali people are internally displaced and without access to resources to meet basic needs.

Additionally, Somalia currently faces a food crisis after only overcoming a famine in 2011. A combination of drought due to two seasons of failed rains, rising prices of food and water, as well as conflict has led to a situation where an estimated 6.3 million people are in urgent need of food assistance. This includes 363,000 children who are acutely malnourished.

Nutrition is vital to living a healthy life and malnourishment has far reaching consequences. These include weakened immune systems, a higher risk of disease, growth problems in children and impacts on education. Malnourishment is also a driver and a consequence of poverty and inequalities in societies.

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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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!

WRITTEN BY: Lauren Wright - Active Citizenship, Concern Worldwide