

Bangladesh Flood (1998) [LEDC]

Bangladesh is located in South Asia. On three sides it is surrounded by India and on the fourth is the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh has a population of 156 million people, a population density of 1099 square kilometers and a GDP per capita of only \$1900.

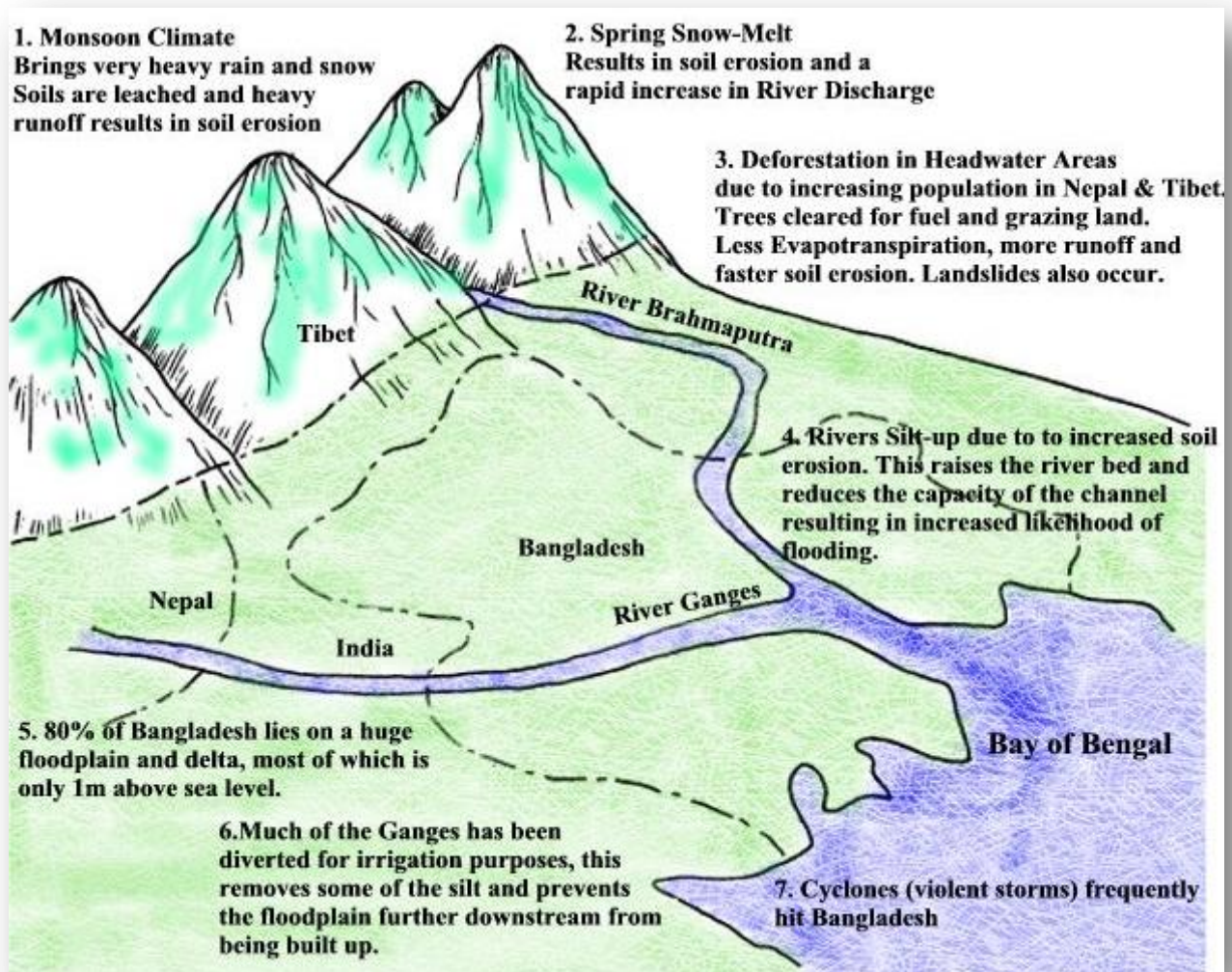


Because of various human and physical factors, Bangladesh regularly suffers from floods. Some Human Factors like Deforestation reduces the interception and increases the surface the area which creates space for water to stay in. Urbanisation also reduces the ability of water to penetrate inside the soil and increases the surface run-off. Population growth increases the population density, and demands more resources too. Growth of unofficial settlements on floodplains kills many people and builds on risk. Dams in India are causing sedimentation of rivers, or reducing of cross-section. A Bangladesh has poor economy they poorly maintained flood defences. They also have poor transport and poor communication links, which don't cause floods but prevents the population from being warned and evacuated. Lack of weather warnings, again don't cause, but reduces warning times and give residents less chance to escape. Global warming is causing more snow to melt in the Himalayas nearby, it is causing sea levels to rise and it is increasing the frequency and magnitude of cyclones.

There are also Physical Factors including 3 major rivers flow through Bangladesh, the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna which can flood any time. The south of the country is very low lying and is basically one big floodplain. 70% of Bangladesh is less than 1 metre above sea level. Snow melts in Himalayas during spring and summer increases river discharge. Bangladesh experiences the monsoon season (tropical rains) every year from June to September, which raises the water levels of rivers around. 10% of Bangladesh is covered in lakes and rivers.

Bangladesh Flood (1998) [LEDC]

BELOW IS A DIAGRAM SHOWING CAUSES OF FLOODS IN BANGLADESH:



THE WORST FLOOD BANGLADESH EVER HAD WAS IN 1998, Some of its **EFFECTS** are in that flood more than 57% of Bangladesh's land surface was flooded, which killed more than 1,300 people. Over 7 million homes were destroyed, which made 25 million people homeless. The flood contaminated water created, water borne diseases like typhoid. There was total shortage of clean water and food - many rice paddies flooded like over 2 million tonnes of rice was lost. 500,000 cattle and poultry was lost in that flood some were killed and other were not found. Roads and bridges were totally damaged. The Total Damage costs were estimated to be about \$1 billion.

In 1989 the government of Bangladesh began working with a number of international agencies to produce the national Flood Action Plan (FAP). The plan contained 26 proposals that were hoped would reduce the problem of flooding in the future.

THERE IS SHORT -TERM MANAGEMENT LIKE: Rescue Operations were going on, boats were used to rescue victims stranded on buildings and patches of dry land. Emergency water and food supplies was provided and distributed. Food was also supplied to surviving animals. Aid received from many other foreign countries. Tents and blankets were provided for homeless people, while basic repairing to houses and sewage systems were done.

Bangladesh Flood (1998) [LEDC]

THERE IS LONG –TERM MANAGEMENT LIKE: The rates of deforestation were reduced in the Himalayan foothills; also the building of seven large dams was planned- costing up to \$40 million and construction up to 40 years. 5000 flood shelters were built across and levees (embankments) of 350km were also built. Flood water storage areas were created also there was development of flood warning schemes.

PEOPLE STILL LIVE NEAR FLOOD PRONE AREAS LIKE BANGLADESH

Because they have recharging of groundwater stores, and Alluvium is deposited on floodplains which is good for farming and can earn good out of that occupation. Water is added to rice paddies which is good for rice, and farming is consistent there. Deposition from increased river discharge can make new land and Pollutants can be washed off the land. People also get a resource like water which is unlimited, for their various uses...