

EAST PAKISTAN FLOODS—July - September 1970

... from unusually severe Monsoon rains strike all but two districts. 10 million people affected—one million homeless. Related effects: houses destroyed 80,286, damaged 244,151, crop losses—100,000 metric tons of rice. Persons killed unknown.

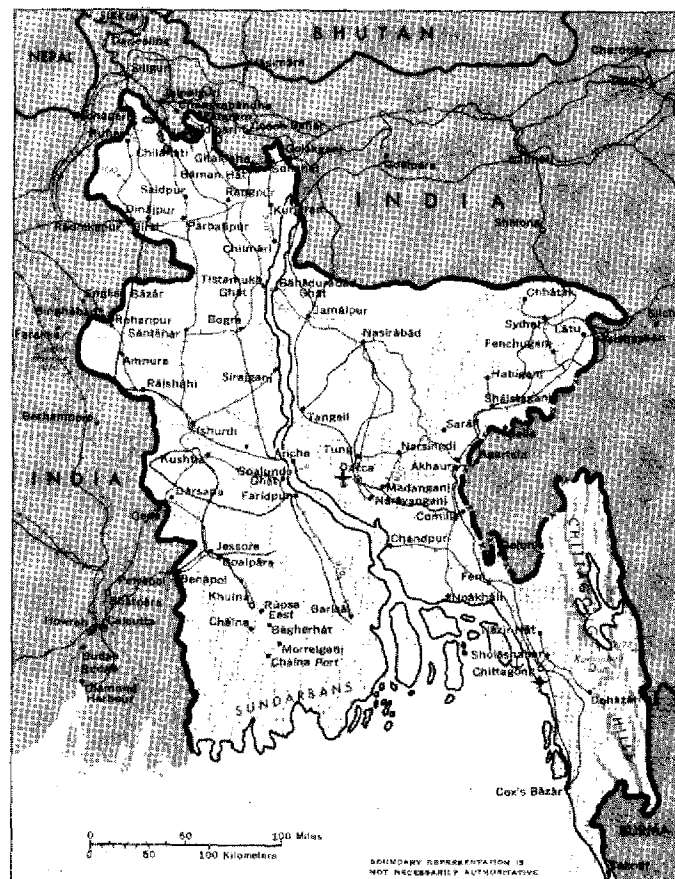
Value of US Assistance\$7,232,760

DETAILS:

With the sudden rise of water level in the principal rivers of East Pakistan from monsoon rains, all but two districts, Khulna and Patuakhali were reported in the grip of severe floods. By the end of July flooding was more serious and widespread than had been the case for years. Some reported them to be the worst since 1954. Hardest hit districts were Pabna, Bogra, Tangail, Rangpur, Faridpur, parts of Mymensingh, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong hill tracts and Dacca, including the municipal area.

The Government of Pakistan said that 15,000 square miles had been inundated and that approximately 304,000 houses had been destroyed or damaged. Crop damage was not as severe as early reports first indicated, but roads suffered heavy damage. Although the flood struck at a time least damaging to crops, it had a severe impact on the population. Some ten million people were affected—people whose purchasing power was traditionally nil, who depended on external assistance for their food, clothing, housing and other needs. Timely action taken by local officers in shifting and evacuating people to safer zones reduced the loss of human life and livestock. There were no reports on the number of people who were killed in this disaster.

On August 15, the Government of Pakistan announced postponement of national elections (scheduled for October 15) until December because of the severity of the flooding.



ACTION TAKEN BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF EAST PAKISTAN AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

On August 3, President Yahya Khan established a special President's Flood Relief Fund and appealed to the people for contributions. The President's Fund was used primarily for local purchase of cloth, clothing, house-building materials and for operating relief camps.

The Government of Pakistan and East Pakistan arranged for free distribution of 200,000 metric tons of wheat from government stocks at a reported cost of 55 million rupees (approximately \$11.6 million).

In addition, the GOP provided 2.78 million rupees (\$585,000) in relief funds for distribution to flood victims and authorized agricultural loans in cash and seed.

The East Pakistan Branch of the Pakistan Red Cross Society had 107 relief squads working throughout the flooded area supplementing the efforts of the authorities and notably providing milk, clothing and medicaments to 150,000 destitute people.

The Government of Pakistan and East Pakistan sought outside assistance in the form of food grains, roofing material, medical supplies, nylon twine, cement, boats and motors.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT:

USAID personnel visited the flooded areas to determine the magnitude of the disaster and assess requirements. On August 7, the American Ambassador donated to the President's Fund 100,000 U.S.-owned P.L. 480, Section 104-D, Pakistan rupees (value \$21,000). In response to requests from the Government of Pakistan and the World Food Program, the USG also made the following grants of P.L. 480 Food for Peace commodities.

Title II—Bilateral

41,000 metric tons of wheat; 1,000 of vegetable oil,
value plus ocean freight \$5,612,000

Title II—World Food Program

10,800 metric tons of wheat, value plus ocean
freight 1,538,000

Total USG Assistance \$7,171,000

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U. S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR:

American National Red Cross

Baby food valued at \$33,600; cash \$5,000—total ... \$ 38,600

Church World Service

Cash donation through the World Council of
Churches 2,000

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association

In response to a request for medical supplies, the U. S. Consul General and USAID met on September 2 with representatives of the following pharmaceutical firms at which time they reviewed the list of drugs requested by the Government of Pakistan: Cyanamid, Lilly, Wyeth, Parke-Davis, Pfizer, Albert, Carter-Wallace, Merck-Sharp-Dohme, Searle, Smith-Kleine-French, Warner Lambert.

On September 10, it was reported that the Pharmaceutical Association to which the above firms belonged had donated and shipped to the Pakistan Association drugs valued at 21,160

Total Assistance, US Private Sector \$ 61,760

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Government of Mauritius—2,000 pounds sterling .. \$ 4,800

It was reported that Russia was planning to donate 100 boat engines and that Canada had offered an interest free loan for the purchase of 420,000 sheets of corrugated iron.

World Council of Churches

Cash donations to West and East Pakistan Christian Councils \$ 10,000

World Food Program

After evaluating a Government of Pakistan request for \$12 million worth of foodgrains and nonfat dry milk, FAO/WFP approved emergency assistance of 10,000 metric tons of wheat and 468 metric tons of dry milk. The USG contributed all of the wheat, the value of which is reported under "Assistance Provided by the USG". The milk powder was to come from the European Common Market. DRC estimated value of the milk to be \$ 330,000

League of Red Cross Societies (LICROSS)

LICROSS made an international appeal to member societies to contribute money and supplies for the flood victims. Twenty-one sister societies responded with contributions valued at more than \$700,000. From cash gifts, the League purchased quantities of powdered milk in Singapore, Hong Kong and the Netherlands for shipment to East Pakistan, and also a variety of urgently needed medicaments.

Red Cross societies who contributed to or reported their assistance through LICROSS were:

Australia —cash	\$ 2,210
Austria —supplies	2,910
Belgium —supplies	7,060
Canada Red Cross —cash \$ 8,310	
Government—cash 39,160.....	47,470
People's Republic of China Red Cross —cash	201,980
Denmark —cash	2,680
France —supplies	1,220
India —supplies	200
Japan Red Cross —supplies \$ 2,010	
Government—supplies 156,580.....	158,590
Jordan —cash	280
Korea (Republic) —cash	100
Kuwait —cash	5,790
Lebanon —cash	50
Netherlands —cash and supplies	4,510
New Zealand —cash	1,100
Norway —cash	1,400
Poland —supplies	1,250
Sweden Red Cross —cash \$ 38,550	
Government—cash 193,190.....	231,740
Switzerland Red Cross	
supplies \$ 14,190	
Government—supplies 4,070.....	18,260
Turkey —supplies	49,670
United Kingdom —cash	2,390

Total assistance reported through LICROSS \$ 740,860
 Total Assistance from Other Nations and International Organizations \$1,085,660