



Turning Forecasts into Early Action

Heavy Rainfall, Landslides & Flash Floods

Bangladesh | July 2026

Scaling up Multi-Hazard Anticipatory Action in Hilly Regions of Bangladesh (SURAKKHA)

Situation Overview

Persistent monsoon conditions associated with a well-marked low-pressure system and an active southwest monsoon brought prolonged heavy to very heavy rainfall across Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, and the Chattogram Hill Tracts between 6 and 12 July 2026. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) recorded 1,477.1 mm of cumulative rainfall at MMO Patenga, while Chattogram received 412 mm of rainfall within 24 hours—the highest recorded in 43 years. Peak rainfall on 8 July reached 314 mm in Bandarban and 287 mm in Rangamati, significantly increasing landslide and flash flood risks.

During the second trigger activation, on 21 July 2026 (21:00 BST), a Special Warning Bulletin forecast 150–300 mm of rainfall over Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, and Chattogram. Lama and Naikhongchhari Upazilas were classified as Medium Landslide Risk areas. However, actual rainfall reached only 51 mm, and no landslides occurred, demonstrating the effectiveness of forecast-based preparedness despite lower-than-forecast rainfall.

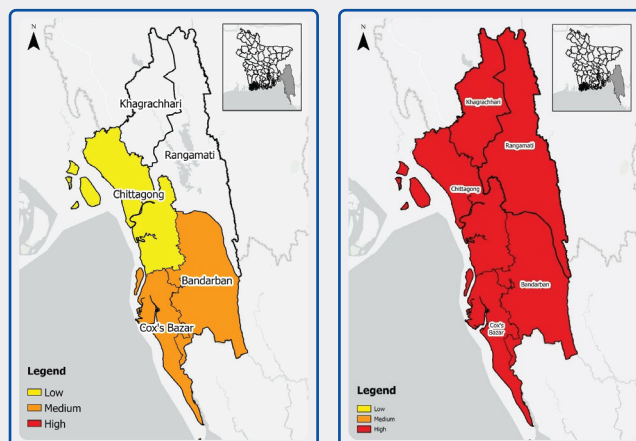


Forecast-Based Trigger Activation

Leveraging a 4–5-day forecast lead time during the first activation and a 2-day lead time during the second activation, cumulative rainfall forecasts from BMD, together with landslide susceptibility and exposure analyses, met the readiness and activation thresholds under the draft National Early Action Protocol (NEAP). In close coordination with BMD, RIMES, local authorities, and implementing partners, the ECHO-funded SURAKKHA Project activated anticipatory actions ahead of forecast impacts to reduce disaster risk and protect vulnerable communities.

📍 High-Risk Areas (1st Trigger Activation)

- | Chattogram City Corporation (Wards 7, 8, 9 and 14)
- | Banshkhali Upazila
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- | Naikhongchhari Upazila
- | Lama Upazila
- | Bandarban Sadar Upazila
- | Rangamati District
- | Khagrachhari District (under continued monitoring)



Source: BMD Special Bulletin maps issued on 7 July, 8 July, and 21 July.

📍 Medium Risk (2nd Trigger Activation)

- | Lama Upazila
- | Naikhongchhari Upazila

Operational Highlights



708,750

People received Voice-based early warning messages



146,000+

People reached through multi-channel early warning



415

Community volunteers mobilized



300

High-Risk households received unconditional Anticipatory Cash Assistance



1,347

supported to evacuate safely



24

Project-supported safe shelters prepared

Coordination

The anticipatory action window was operationalized through close collaboration among the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group (AATWG), Save the Children, RIMES, implementing partners, Disaster Management Committees (DMCs), Fire Service & Civil Defence, local administration, and other Anticipatory Action key stakeholders.



Key Operational Challenges

- Flooded roads, landslides, damaged bridges, and disrupted river transport restricted humanitarian access to remote communities.
- Intermittent electricity outages and mobile network disruptions affected communication, operational coordination, field monitoring, and real-time reporting.
- Despite timely early warnings, some households remained reluctant to use designated shelters due to concerns over privacy, WASH facilities, accessibility, and safeguarding household assets and livestock.
- Difficult terrain, continued rainfall, and unstable hill slopes required extended monitoring and delayed humanitarian access to hard-to-reach communities.
- Forecast rainfall during the second trigger activation was significantly higher than observed rainfall, highlighting the uncertainty of localized hazard forecasting.

Lessons Learned



Forecast-based activation with a 4–5-day lead time enabled timely early warning dissemination, evacuation support, and anticipatory cash assistance ahead of peak impacts.



Strong collaboration among BMD, RIMES, government authorities, Disaster Management Committees, Save the Children, YPSA, and ASHIKA strengthened coordinated decision-making and the timely implementation of anticipatory actions.



Localized and inclusive early warning dissemination through community volunteers, trusted local networks, and ethnic-language messaging enhanced community preparedness and supported timely voluntary evacuation.



Anticipatory cash assistance enabled vulnerable households to meet immediate needs, protect essential assets and livelihoods, and make informed evacuation decisions ahead of the disaster.



Clear communication of forecast uncertainty is essential to maintain community trust while ensuring forecast-based activation continues to prioritize risk over certainty.

Conclusion

The July 2026 trigger activations demonstrated how timely forecasts, strong partnerships, and locally led anticipatory action transformed risk information into early action—helping vulnerable communities prepare before disaster impacts, protecting lives and livelihoods, and strengthening resilience to multi-hazard risks across Bangladesh's hill districts.



This infographic summarizes the SURAKKHA Project's multi-hazard anticipatory action activations during the July 2026 heavy rainfall, landslide, Flood and flash flood events. Figures reflect consolidated operational achievements reported by Save the Children and implementing partners.

Photo Credit : ASHIKA

For More Information

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