



# BANGLADESH

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**actionaid**

Bangladesh sits on the edge of the Bay of Bengal, surrounded by the country of India. It is a crowded country with a large population for its size. The Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers flow down from the Himalaya Mountains and dominate the landscape. It is extremely flat which makes it prone to monsoon flooding and cyclones. The rich soil created by so much water is ideal for growing food, and two thirds of people work in farming. Rising sea levels caused by climate change are a real worry for Bangladesh because it is a very low-lying country.

Capital **Dhaka** Area **143,998 sq km**

Official language **Bangla (also known as Bengali), English**

Climate **Tropical. Varies from a mild winter, hot, humid summer and warm, rainy monsoon season.**

Population **166,280,712 (July 2014 est.)**

Population distribution **28.4% of Bangladesh's population live in urban areas (2011)**

Money **1 Taka = 100 Poisha**

Life expectancy **69 years (men), 73 years (women)**



## THE BIG ISSUES



### Poverty

**43.3%** of people live in poverty.



### Education

Only **51%** of children in primary school complete a full five years.



### Emergencies

Cyclone Sidr caused one of the country's worst natural disasters in 2007, killing **10,000 people**.



### Women's Rights

**65%** of girls are married before their 18th birthday.



### Land & Food

**23%** of the population are at risk of hunger (37 million people).

## ActionAid in Bangladesh

ActionAid started work in Bangladesh in 1983. Last year we helped over 130,000 people in poverty, especially women and girls, to claim their rights and prepare for natural disasters. For more information visit: <http://po.st/AABangladesh>