2017 South Asian floods

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| **2017 South Asian floods** | |
| **Date** | July–September 2017 |
| **Location** | [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh) [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh) [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal) [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal) [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) |
| **Cause** | [Monsoon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsoon) |
| **Deaths** | Around 1,300 |

Widespread [monsoon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsoon) flooding occurred in the [South Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia) countries of [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh), [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal) and [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) from July through September 2017. By 30 August, more than 41 million people were known to be affected by the floods,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods" \l "cite_note-1) a figure that increased by 10% over the following three days, topping 45 million by 2 September. According to [UNICEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNICEF), that figure includes 16 million children.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods" \l "cite_note-16_million_children-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-3)

About 2,000 people, on average, have died due to flooding in South Asia each year during the previous two decades, according to [*The New York Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times)' reading of the [Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_for_Research_on_the_Epidemiology_of_Disasters) (EM-DAT) disaster database.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-4)

Background and context[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2017_South_Asian_floods&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Background and context)]

[Monsoons hit South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsoon_of_South_Asia) every year between June and September, but the 2017 monsoon season has been far worse than average,[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods" \l "cite_note-5) bringing flooding, and associated landslides, of a scale unseen in recent years. Experts have called these the worst South Asian floods in decades, with long-term food supplies in question due to ruined farmland.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Voanews_hunger-6) As of 2 September, 1,288 people have been confirmed killed, and more than 45 million affected.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-16_million_children-2) The estimated number of people affected increased from 24 million to 41 million during the last week of August 2017.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Gettleman_NYT-8)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-9)

The [International Centre for Climate Change and Development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Centre_for_Climate_Change_and_Development) (ICCCD) and others have asserted that these floods have been exacerbated by [climate change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-10)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-11)

Countries affected[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2017_South_Asian_floods&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Countries affected)]

**Bangladesh**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2017_South_Asian_floods&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Bangladesh)]

As of 1 September, flooding that the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Federation_of_Red_Cross_and_Red_Crescent_Societies) called the worst in four decades covered approximately one-third of Bangladesh, primarily in the northern, north-eastern, and central parts of the country. At the height of the storms on 11 August, a week of regular monsoon rain fell in the span of a few hours.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-CNN_Bangladesh-12) More rain and flooding was expected, including in [Dhaka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhaka), the country's capital. Over six million have been affected, according to UNICEF, with estimates ranging as high as 8.5 million.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-CNN_Bangladesh-12)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-UNICEF_Bangladesh-13) Property losses included nearly 700,000 damaged or destroyed homes, 4,680,000 hectares (11,600,000 acres) of farmland inundated, and thousands of miles of damaged roads.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-16_million_children-2)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Gettleman_NYT-8)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-UNICEF_Bangladesh-13) The sheer amount of destroyed farmland, coming during the regular time of [rice cultivation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rice_cultivation), has sparked fears of a food crisis in the country.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-14)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-CNN_Bangladesh-12)

Around 140 deaths from the floods were reported.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-CNN_Bangladesh-12) Over fifty thousand people have been [displaced](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Displaced_people), adding to nearly thirty thousand refugees fleeing the [2016–17 Northern Rakhine State clashes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016%E2%80%9317_Northern_Rakhine_State_clashes).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-CNN_Bangladesh-12)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-15)

**India**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2017_South_Asian_floods&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: India)]

*See also:*[*2017 Northeast India floods*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Northeast_India_floods)*,*[*2017 Gujarat flood*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Gujarat_flood)*,*[*2017 West Bengal floods*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_West_Bengal_floods)*,*[*2017 Bihar flood*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Bihar_flood)*, and*[*2017 Mumbai flood*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Mumbai_flood)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:2017_Gujarat_Flood_Rescue_by_Indian_Air_Force_10.jpg)

Helicopter deployed by Indian Air Force for rescue in flooded regions of Gujarat

Flooding in India has been primarily confined to the northern portion of the country, including [Assam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam), [West Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bengal), [Bihar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bihar), Rajasthan and [Uttar Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uttar_Pradesh).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-16) In the latter two, over 500 and over a hundred have died (respectively).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-17)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-18) By mid-August, flooding had affected over 31 million people, and damaged or destroyed over 800,000 houses.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-16_million_children-2) Over 85% of [Kaziranga National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaziranga_National_Park" \o "Kaziranga National Park) was flooded.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Worst_flood_in_29_years_-_Times_of_India-19) Government officials were criticized for not placing more preventative measures before these floods hit. In [Bihar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bihar), for example, Reuters reported that there was anger at the number of embankments and roads which were designed with few to no provisions for water drainage.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-20) In [Gujarat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat) state, the floods and rains were reported to have caused 224 deaths in June and July months.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-:12-21)

[Mumbai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumbai) faces severe problems each year during the monsoon season because of its loose building restrictions and large homeless population,[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Al_Jazeera_building_collapse-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Guardian_building_collapse-23) but this year's season saw the city receive more rainfall and worse flooding than the [Maharashtra floods of 2005](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharashtra_floods_of_2005).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Gettleman_NYT-8) One hospital was flooded, and the city's public transportation was forced to shut down.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-24) The weather also caused a century-old multi-story building to collapse, killing at least 33.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-25)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Al_Jazeera_building_collapse-22) On 29 August 2017, Mumbai was again witness to floods due to a confluence of torrential rains and high tide, resulting in 298 mm of rainfall in a period of 9 hours.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-26) 5 people are reported to have lost their lives in Mumbai due to the deluge which saw the highest rainfall in a single day in August since 1997.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-27)

For the third consecutive year, [monsoon season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsoon_season) has been marked by flooding in the northwest and northeast regions, while [drought in India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drought_in_India) worsens along the southern [peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peninsula). According to an [Indo-Asian News Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Asian_News_Service) release issued in September, these "rainfall extremes have increased threefold over the last few years and now extend over all of central India -- from Gujarat to Odisha."[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-28)[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-29)

**Nepal**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2017_South_Asian_floods&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Nepal)]

As of 24 August 143 people have been killed in Nepal; 1.7 million have been affected by them, and around 461,000 have been forced out of their residences.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-30)[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-31) Over 34,000 homes were flooded, destroying 1,000. Parts of the [Mahendra Highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahendra_Highway" \o "Mahendra Highway), the most important east-west connection in the country, were washed away, and agricultural experts predicted that the country's [rice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rice) production would be adversely affected.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Kathmandu_57_lives-32) The runway of [Biratnagar Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biratnagar_Airport" \o "Biratnagar Airport) was flooded and the airport was forced to close on 15 August.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-33)

Experts stated that the flooding was the worst seen by Nepal in several years; about one-third of the country was flooded, much of it in the poorest areas of the country.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Gettleman_NYT-8)[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-Al_Jazeera_23_August_2017-34)

**Pakistan**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2017_South_Asian_floods&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Pakistan)]

*See also:*[*2017 Karachi floods*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Karachi_floods)

Monsoon rains caused [urban flooding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flood#Urban_flooding) in Karachi and Rawalpindi, the largest city in Pakistan. At least 23 people, including seven children, died after Karachi received up to 130 millimetres (5.1 in) of rainfall on 31 August. Most of the victims died from being electrocuted, with others being killed by partial building collapses or drowning. Two more died in [Kashmore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmore_District" \o "Kashmore District) and [Jamshoro districts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamshoro_district" \o "Jamshoro district) of [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh).[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-35)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_South_Asian_floods#cite_note-36)

The flooding followed a little more than a week after 41 millimetres (1.6 in) of rain fell on Karachi on 21–22 August. There, 19 people died in rain-related incidents—including electrocution, falling billboards, and roof collapse, according to the [Edhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edhi_Foundation" \o "Edhi Foundation) and [Chhipa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chhipa_Welfare_Association" \o "Chhipa Welfare Association) rescue services.