

## Bangladesh to get new landslide warning system

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Food and Agriculture  
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Bangladesh is going to get a landslide warning system developed by the FAO in collaboration with the Cox's Bazar District Administration, International Union for Conservation of Nature.

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance is financing the project, said a release on Wednesday.

An estimated one people live in the areas at high risk of landslides in Cox's Bazar, including Rohingya refugees and host communities.

Currently, landslide warnings can only be made a couple of hours before an event allowing a very limited time to respond. But the new system will make it possible for people who live in danger areas to be notified up to five days in advance by email and mobile phone SMS messages.

High resolution satellite imageries were analysed to identify 890 of the most vulnerable sites in the region. Teams then collected field data from these sites and worked with local government officials and community leaders to develop the system.

FAO representative in Bangladesh Robert D Simpson, said, 'FAO is working with the government to enhance community resilience to disasters and this new landslide early warning system, which is a significant improvement based on modern technology, will help to save lives.'

FAO will work with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to scale up the early warning system across the country.

FAO's Bayes Ahmed, an internationally recognised landslide expert, worked on the project, said, 'This system gives landslide warnings based on predicted rainfall data, analysing landslide-prone areas and rainfall thresholds, and detailed landslide inventory. Residents and officials then receive alerts via email or phone.'

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