

Bangladesh and the United Kingdom differ greatly, both geographically and economically, but how do these differences affect the impact of flooding in both of these places? In Bangladesh, 2012, 360,000 homes were destroyed by flooding, but in the UK, 2015, only 19,000 homes were lost.

What accounts for this difference?

Geographical differences include sea level. Half of Bangladesh is less than six metres above sea level, whilst the UK is on average much higher up. This has an impact on the effects of flooding because rivers and the sea only have to rise by a smaller amount in Bangladesh to endanger homes and livestock. Bangladesh is also at risk from tropical cyclones that funnel up the Bay of Bengal. These cyclones bring yet more rain, and the UK isn't at all facing a problem from cyclones. (temperate climate vs. tropical

[Give figures 500mm of rain vs 2000mm+] monsoon climate)

Bangladesh has a greater concentration of people, meaning that many people are willing to build their homes on flood plains, aware of the fact that their homes will be destroyed during the monsoon season. Flood defences are much more sophisticated in the UK because the country is more economically developed than Bangladesh. This means that if it does rain a lot, or if sea levels rise quickly, the homes that ^{might} ~~would~~ be destroyed are protected.

or have no choice!

Plus insurance pays for repairs - UK

Flood warnings in the UK are much more developed, and more people own a device that is connected to the internet, meaning that they are warned if a flood could occur. As a result of a prior warning, people can take their possessions and flee their homes before it is too late. This is not the case in Bangladesh, where most people are extremely poor and can't afford a television or a phone.