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**OCHA Situation Report No. 2
Bangladesh – Floods
15 July 2004**

1. An inter-ministerial meeting was held yesterday with relevant line ministries and the participation of UNDP, UNICEF and WFP. At the meeting, it was underlined that the Government has the flood-related situation under control and has not requested international assistance.
2. A report circulated shows that the total number of Districts affected is 25, and affected families 885,709. Cabinet Division reported that they are in constant touch with district administrations and their information is that water is going down in most places. The situation does not yet call for the opening of government flood shelters.
3. Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) and Bangladesh Met Office (BMD) forecast that flood situation will be improving in the next few days. Water level in Meghna basin has gone down already. In Brahmaputra basin the pace of water level rise has slowed down. In Ganges basin water is rising slowly. BMD shared a comparison of precipitation of 1988, 1998, 2002 and 2004, which shows that compared to 1988 and 1998 (which were the worst flooding years in recent times) rainfall has been much less till July this year.
4. The Ministry of Agriculture reported that they have instructed their field officials to do the needs assessment as soon as the water goes down, since the seed beds have been badly affected.
5. The issue of media coverage of the floods was also raised. The representative of Information Ministry will attend to this and representatives present of UNDP, UNICEF and WFP were asked to communicate with their Headquarters to clarify the current status of the ground situation.

6. 6. WFP-led Disaster and Emergency Response (DER) Sub-Group also met yesterday. It was pointed out that flood waters in India would be rolling down to Bangladesh, meaning that the flood situation in Bangladesh might get worse again in one or two weeks time. DER secretariat therefore agreed to draw up scenarios/projections and present them at the next meeting on Wednesday 21 July.
7. 7. This situation report is based on information provided by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office in Dhaka. This situation report, together with further information on ongoing emergencies, is also available on the OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

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