

BANGLADESH SEASONAL FLOOD UPDATE

For the week of 10 – 14 July 2005

General Situation

Local Press:

There are increasing number of reports on Bangladesh TV and in the press. The Daily Star today reports, "Fresh areas flooding in four northern districts (Nilphamari, Gaibanda, Sirajganj and Sherpur with several thousands marooned".

Official Sources:

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM (DRR): No reports of flooding received. At this stage reports indicate that flooding is normal for this time of the year.

Flood Forecasting & Warning Centre (FFWC): (report received yesterday 13 July – no new reports today as yet). "Warning Message – Heavy to very heavy rainfall experienced over the Brahmaputra and the Ganges basins during the last 24 hours. The dense cloud coverage over the region shows the probability of the same intensity of rainfall in the next 2-3 days. As a result, low lying areas in and around Narayanganj may become inundated. Heavy rainfall also experienced over the Meghna Basin the prevailing flood situation in the districts of Sunamganj and Netrokona may be continued further "

District/Upazilla/Union Disaster Management Committees in the affected districts have begun to assess the situation since late June.

UN and NGOs:

Disaster & Emergency Response (DER) Group (Chaired by WFP): No reports of unusual flooding received. "Non-alarming situation" was reported in the DER meeting on 12 July 2005.

WFP CO and Field-Based Offices:

WFP RO, Rangpur: (report will be sent today)

WFP RO, Chittagong : No unusual flooding reported, but some low-lying cultivable lands were submerged due to torrential rain .

WFP RO, Jessore : No reports of flooding received.

WFP Dhaka: No reports of flooding received. (DPR contingency planning/emergency preparedness team will visit this region 17-20 July).

Proposed Actions:

WFP Country Office is monitoring the situation closely and is in daily contact with FFWC, DER members and WFP field-based offices. No specific response is required at this stage, though various preparatory measures are being taken such as identification of qualified staff for rapid assessment missions.