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UN to launch international appeal for relief, recovery and rehabilitation of flood affected people

Dhaka: The Government of Bangladesh has welcomed international assistance for the tens of million of people affected by severe flooding in the country. In response, the United Nations, in consultation with the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, will embark on preparations for an international appeal, which will be launched within the coming weeks.

The United Nations agencies in Bangladesh, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, have activated the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT). Meanwhile, the Disaster Emergency Response group (made up of 41 UN agencies, NGOs, and donors) is undertaking an assessment of the flooding. The Government is also doing an assessment of the extent of the damage. Both assessments are nearing completion and will be used to develop the international appeal for funding to meet the relief, recovery and longer-term rehabilitation needs of the estimated 26 to 30 million people affected by severe the flooding.

The flooding, which began earlier this month, has already caused extensive damage to basic infrastructures (e.g. roads and bridges, railways, embankments), farmland, property and livelihoods in an estimated 35 districts of Bangladesh. People have been marooned or displaced seeking shelter in public buildings, road embankments, roadways, rooftops and available high ground areas.

The Government has been providing relief, food and medical supplies to affected people. However, the situation is deteriorating, therefore to support the Government's relief and recovery efforts the UN will launch the international appeal to bolster existing capacities.

As part of the immediate UN response, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), have provided emergency supplies including food, medical supplies, non-food items, and support to improve water and sanitation.

The UN's office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) dispatched a team currently in Dhaka to support the needs assessment, look at UN contingency planning, and coordinate the ongoing UN response.

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