



## Joint Bangladesh UN-DMT Situation Report Monsoon Floods 5th September 2004

### General Situation

1. Relief and rehabilitation efforts continue against a background of political unrest. Donor and NGO agencies are preparing field data collection to inform post-flood needs of poor people in each sector to inform the relief and rehabilitation programmes. UN agencies are reiterating their appeals to donors to meet the Flash Appeal targets to finance the multi-sectoral efforts to meet rehabilitation and recovery needs over the next six months.

### Flood Forecast and Assessment

2. Monsoon rains are again swelling many rivers but the flood situation continues to improve across most areas. The Brahmaputra-Jamuna stations continued to register falls at upstream points, while the Ganges-Padma continues to rise but is still below danger level. 2 points remained above their danger level as of 31<sup>st</sup> August. Monsoon rains have been heavy in some parts of the country, adding to localized drainage problems. Government of China reports of serious outflows from a damaged dam on the upstream Brahmaputra have alerted the Indian and Bangladeshi authorities to potential downstream rises, although subsequent reports have failed to clarify rate of leakage.

3. Replenishment of seed stocks remains a priority in many areas, as available growing time for the November *Aman* harvest shortens. Meanwhile, thousands of water sources are still contaminated by floodwater and official statistics show that disease remains a major issue. While the number of reported new cases of diarrhoea is decreasing after a peak during 1st week of August, World Health Organisation note from previous events that seasonal endemicity suggests another possible peak after complete recession of flood water from the affected districts during 2nd or 3rd week of September.

### Response

4. The government's efforts continue, including infrastructure repair and seed distribution. Ministry of Food and Disaster Management is organizing a national workshop on 7-9<sup>th</sup> September to review the floods of 2004 and identify mitigation processes to combat future flood episodes. The Government is planning to request multi-million dollar financing for its post-flood rehabilitation programmes from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank during a joint agency mission later this month. The Economic Relations Division has brought together estimates for support to flood rehabilitation from a variety of Ministries. According to ERD sources, the communications ministry (responsible for roads and highways), the water resources ministry and the local government division have sought the highest allocations.



5. Assessment team partners of the Disaster Emergency Response (DER) Secretariat are to begin data collection from flood-affected districts for the next multi-sector assessment. Convening agencies will be responsible for coordinating data collection in eight areas. Reports from the field will highlight short, medium and longer term needs of poor people in each sector resulting from the floods to enable agencies to plan, budget, and implement their relief and rehabilitation programmes.

6. UN agencies and their partners continue relief and rehabilitation activities in flood-affected areas. UN Resident Coordinator Jorgen Lissner has made a repeated appeal to donors to pledge money to the UN Flash Appeal, warning that the country's worst floods in years are in danger of being overshadowed by the recent grenade attack and political upheaval in Bangladesh and the Darfur crisis in Sudan. A third of the 210 million dollars targeted has been raised so far, but further efforts will be needed to tackle what he termed the "quiet disaster" now that news media has moved on from the flood-affected areas.