

BANGLADESH: 2004 FLOOD INFORMATION UPDATE
(As of 15 August 2004)

1. The general flood situation continues to improve slowly despite some rises in river levels at a few monitoring stations. Some rivers surrounding Dhaka are still flowing above the danger levels as the floodwaters in the capital region are slowly being drained away.
2. Preliminary estimates suggest that floods have adversely affected 34 million people, many of whom have been rendered homeless. Homes were damaged or washed away, assets were destroyed and cattle and small livestock were lost. Government estimates that 716 lives have been lost and about 1.7 million people, including children, have taken refuge in shelters set up in schools and other public buildings. Acute respiratory infections, diarrhea, dysentery, and typhoid have affected many of the flood-affected people.
3. The flood will seriously affect the economy due to damaged infrastructure, reducing growth and upsetting the macroeconomic balances. The original GDP growth projection for FY2005 was 6%. With the flood, GDP growth for FY2005 is estimated to decline to 4.8% from 5.5% in FY2004, mainly due to the negative impact on production in both the agriculture and industry sectors. In industry, small-scale manufacturing including export-oriented knitwear, has been particularly affected.
4. The United Nations (UN) System and some bilateral donors have provided initial relief assistance. The UN Flash Appeal announced on 12 August 2004 in Dhaka, Geneva and New York seeks contributions of \$210 million for emergency relief and immediate recovery needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people affected by the floods.
5. While appreciating ADB's expeditious responses and assistance during the 1988, 1998, and 2000 floods, the Government of Bangladesh has requested ADB to join the Government for an assessment of the extent of flood damage and to prepare the ground for ADB's rehabilitation response. Management has approved staff request that ADB, together with other development partners, will join the Government for a comprehensive damage and rehabilitation requirement assessment in September after the floodwater has receded. Subject to the assessment, ADB's proposed emergency assistance for flood damage rehabilitation will be processed in 2004 for Board consideration in early 2005.