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## Urban Flooding of Greater Dhaka in a Changing Climate: Building Local Resilience to Disaster Risk (Directions in Development)

*By Susmita Dasgupta, Asif Zaman, Subhendu Roy, Mainul Huq, Sarwar Jahan, Ainun Nishat*



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Intense rainfall floods Dhaka, Bangladesh, one of the world's fastest-growing megacities, year in and year out, and those in the city's slums and shanties are usually the most affected. Low-lying flood plains, rivers, and canals that once drained water are gradually filling up as a result of indiscriminate urbanization and now magnify rather than help solve the problem. The climate outlook for South Asia in the 21st century is heavier and more erratic rainfall during the monsoon season, according to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Meteorological Organization. Thus, climate change may further aggravate Dhaka's flood vulnerability.

As such, Dhaka needs to better manage its flood drainage infrastructure and strengthen the city's climate disaster resilience and adaptive capacity. But climate-smart policies require local planners to better understand the likely damage from current flooding, potential damage from climate-related risks, and measures that can be taken to cope with current and future flooding and adaptation costs. *Urban Flooding of Greater Dhaka in a Changing Climate: Building Local Resilience to Disaster Risk* assesses Dhaka's preparedness for urban flood emergencies, estimates probable damage from extreme rainfall events by 2050 with or without climate change, develops structural adaptation measures to cope with current and future flooding, evaluates the reduction in economic damage resulting from implementing these measures, and estimates their cost.

The analysis in this book will help Bangladesh's policy makers take targeted steps to mitigate urban flooding in Dhaka and improve the city's resilience in the face of climate change and variability. Equipped with a host of investment options designed to address current flooding and further climate-proof urban infrastructure, local decision makers will be able to develop realistic, yet effective, strategies that prioritize interventions and sequence activities.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

'The topic of this book is right on target and quite timely, particularly in the context of the frequent flooding that Dhaka has been facing. The authors' data-intensive multidisciplinary analysis of the megacity's urban flooding problem with and without climate change, deep insights into the flood-damage risks it already faces, and practical policy recommendations that local decision makers can act on are most welcome. This book will make a real difference.' --Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific

'This book meticulously synthesizes hydrological modeling and socioeconomic analysis a rare practice to offer a deeper understanding of how to tackle the multifaceted problem of urban flooding. It will be useful for practitioners and academics alike, not only in Dhaka, but also in other megacities of the region now facing similar challenges.' --Professor M. Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, Institute of Water Modelling

'This is the most comprehensive technical analysis of Dhaka's urban flooding problem yet. The authors' down-to-earth recommendations need to be taken seriously. As someone who handles the megacity's flooding and waterlogging issues at the highest level of responsibility, I feel this book is a must-read for government officials and practitioners working to achieve our dream of a flood-free Dhaka.' --Taqsem A. Khan, Managing Director, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA)

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