

LCG Sub-group on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER)
Cyclone ‘SIDR’ (November 2007)
Minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 22, 2007

Dr. Mohammad Ayub Miah, Secretary-in-Charge, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and Chair, DER sub-group, chaired the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex A.

MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

Damage and needs assessment update by GoB, UN and other humanitarian agencies

The Chair welcomed all in the meeting and expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the donors and development partners for their kind relief assistance for the cyclone affected people. He mentioned that the diplomats and the development partners got first hand information by visiting the affected areas. He informed that the development partners are doing their own assessments and thanked them for providing suggestions to the government in regards to relief interventions. He recognized that the donors and international agencies are appreciating the GoB efforts for relief and rehabilitation programmes. The Chair focused on the main agenda of the meeting which are:

- a. Presentation of the Government’s relief and rehabilitation activities.
- b. Sharing of UN Rapid Initial field assessment
- c. Coordination of relief intervention efforts
- d. Frequency of the DER meetings

The Chair made a brief presentation on the overview of loss and damages of the Cyclone Sidr. As he said this is a very preliminary assessment of the situation based on the information received from the District Administration, Control Room. The final assessment report will be available some days later.

Highlights of the GoB presentation:

- Four districts including Barguna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali and Pirojpur are identified as the worst affected districts.
- The death toll reported till 22 November 2,928 and missing is 1,651 (+).
- Total districts affected 30, upazillas affected 200. Families affected 1.3 million and people affected 5.4 million.
- Standing crops damaged fully 62,076 hectares and partially damaged 512, 693 hectares.
- There is substantial damage at the Sundarbans and the total loss estimated is about USD 2.86 million.
- Total loss at Roads and Highways estimated at is USD 2.6 million.
- Water Development Board, infrastructure loss i.e embankments, sluice gates, and riverbank protection structure estimated at USD 27.0 million.
- Current food stock of the country is 574 thousand MT of Rice, 162,000 MT wheat. The situation is better compared to 619,000 MT last year. However, there was no flood or cyclone last year. Government is currently importing a total of 266,839 MT of rice

including 1.2 million MT through private channel. In this regard, the Chair informed that India has lifted their ban on importing parboiled rice up to 50,000 MT from there.

- The Chair also briefed on the different donors commitment including UN OCHA, UNDP, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, USAID, Japan government, ECHO, China, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan Libya, Canada (CIDA), Sweden and Islamic Relief
- Government has categorized needs/priorities into 3 levels: short, medium and long.
- Immediate/short term needs up to one month includes search and rescue, which is almost completed; restoration of emergency services such as road transportation and telecommunications and power services; supply of food, baby food, drinking water, WPT etc. Power supply has been restored at almost all the affected districts excepting for a few.
- Medium term needs 2 to 4 months include mainly house building assistance; continued food support, repairing damaged roads, culverts etc.
- Long term needs are rehabilitation of Sundarban construction and reconstruction of embankments, coastal a forestation, rebuilding and construction of cyclone shelters etc.
- GoB has so far allocated 6,520 MT GR rice, Tk.14,428,000 GR cash, Tk.14,625,000 House Building etc. In addition, they have allocated tents, blankets, CI sheets etc.
- GoB food stock position is sufficient for the time being. However, the government is apprehending a shortfall of food grain to meet requirements of the lean period of March-April 2008 This shortfall of food grain should be made available at the stock. This is a preliminary assessment. The actual need of food grain will be known to the government when more in-depth assessments will be conducted.
- GoB will implement VGF programes for 4 months (December-March) covering 2.59 million families. Each family will get 15 kg rice. The total amount required for VGF is 150,000 MT of food grains. The Government would identify the actual victims for distributing VGF cards to them.
- The Government of Bangladesh would appreciate if any development partners come forward with food support.
- On behalf of the Government, MoFDM is coordinating all relief and rehabilitation activities.
- GoB has opened a Relief Receiving Cell at Zia International Airport to receive goods. A Coordinationa Cell has been opened at the Ministry to facilitate international assistance. The coposition of the Cell is as follows: Mr. Md Shafiqul Islam, Joint Secretary-Convenor, Mr. K.H. Masud Siddiqui, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau-Member, Mr. Pranab Charabarty, Director General, FPMU- Member, Ms Mohsena Ferdausi, Joint Secretary, Member and Dr Aslam Alam, NPME, CDMP- Member.
- Deputy Commissioners at the district level, UNOs at the Upazila level and Chairman, UP at the Union level are, as Chair of the local level Disaster Management Committees, entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate all response and recovery efforts.
- Adequate measures have been undertaken for immediate transportation to affected districts directly from the airport.

UN Coordination Support:

Ms. Renata Dessalien, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) thanked the Government of Bangladesh for taking the diplomats to the affected areas. She emphasized on the need for coordination among different stakeholders. She said that the Government has effective coordination measures and donors need to feed into the system to boost up Government

strength. She mentioned that though the Government has not yet made any international appeal, they welcome assistance from the development partners. The highest need of the government is food aid though other assistance is also needed.

UNRC also talked about the Cluster approach and that it would now be extremely effective in terms of coordinated relief and rehabilitation activities. Donors should coordinate among themselves more effectively to feed into the government's larger national planning strategy. The challenge is to coordinate ourselves. Information management is equally important to know who is doing what, where to avoid duplication of efforts. She also said if any agencies name is not included in the cluster groups they can send their names to UNRC office for inclusion, doors are open for all. In the cross-sectoral cluster approach, certain agencies are responsible for taking the leads according to the international agreement as noted below. . She mentioned that the cluster approach has not been formalized but these groups are very active.

Clusters	Lead Agencies
Food	WFP in the lead
Water and Sanitation	UNICEF
Health	WHO
Early Recovery & Shelter	UNDP
Logistics	WFP
Education	UNICEF
Protection	UNICEF

It was emphasized in the meeting that all non-governmental and UN efforts must be coordinated at the field level with relevant governmental authorities.

Sharing of UN Rapid Initial Assessment Report findings:

Mr. John McHarris, Senior Programme Adviser, WFP who led the UN Assessment Mission to the cyclone hit areas made a brief presentation on the UN Rapid Initial assessment report/findings.

The UN assessment team representing UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and WHO in smaller teams visited severely-affected Upazillas in Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Jhalokhati, Barisal, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Bhola districts. The teams carried out their assessment between 17 and 20 November 2007. The assessment provided an initial understanding of damages and needs to support an effective and timely humanitarian response for cyclone victims. The team reported that approximately 4.7 million people were affected. 2.6 million people most of them the poorest of the poor, are in need of immediate life sustaining and livelihoods saving relief assistance. Food, shelter, cash represent the three highest priority need areas for assistance. Sanitation and drinking water facility is also badly needed. Medicines and medical supplies are needed in some areas, but there was general consensus that these needs are relatively lower. The period for immediate relief assistance should be a minimum of 2-3 months, extended relief might be necessary for some of the worst affected areas; however recovery and rehabilitation efforts should start soon.

The main recommendations are:

- Immediate life sustaining relief food assistance should be provided for 2.6 million people in the 9 worst affected districts assessed.
- Shelter assistance is urgently needed.
- Sanitation assistance is needed for many of the worst affected districts.
- Immediate drinking water supplies are needed for an estimated 1.2 million people.
- Medical facilities are in need of quick repair and the restoration of electricity, in support of medical services is particularly important.
- The reconstruction or repair of roads, embankments and culverts is a high priority.
- Sufficient human and material resources must be dedicated to the coordination of relief operations.
- Risk analysis and risk mitigation should be a mandatory element of any new construction or replacement programme design.
- Contingency planning and capacity building is required at the field level to strengthen early warning, evacuation etc.
- Community Disaster Learning Centers should be established.
- Follow up in-depth assessments are required, for a more accurate understanding of needs and programming options.

Donor response/commitments:

Japan: Emergency relief goods worth of 0.32 million. Emergency grant of 3.7 million USD through i. WFP 1.5 million, ii. UNICEF 1.1 million, iii. WHO USD 1.1 million. They have also transferred USD 14 million to ERD for long term coastal structure recovery and rehabilitation programme.

India: Immediate relief assistance worth USD 1 million comprising -

- 20,000 ready-to-eat comprehensive meals (*including milk sachets, heating medium & small cookers*)
- 10,000 blankets
- 400 tents
- 2,400 kgs of medicines & medical equipment for about 3,000 people

The First Secretary, Indian High Commission informed that the relief consignment arriving in three planeloads during November 22-24, 2007. She mentioned about the waiver of ban on export of rice from India for 50,000 tons of rice to Bangladesh. Provision of more assistance is under consideration.

It may be noted that the Government of India's assistance to flood recovery includes emergency relief worth of USD 22 million 40,000 MT rice, over 10,000 MT wheat and 1000 MT milk powder.

Netherlands: The Dutch Ambassador appreciated the Government's damage and needs presentation and the UN assessment findings. The Ambassador informed that they have allocated 5 million Euros: 2 million euros through international NGOs including Red Cross and 3 million Euros through WFP. The Ambassador also informed that they are reallocating money to projects to meet the needs of the people.

Italy: The representative informed that Italy has committed 400,000 Euros through WFP to meet food needs in addition to 53,000 MT wheat. An additional sum of 100,000 Euros will be channeled to Red Cross and their NGOs partnering with Italian NGOs.

USAID: The representative informed that they have deployed a five-person disaster assistance response team to assist with relief and recovery efforts in conjunction with the USAID Mission and US Embassy in Dhaka. The team is working alongside local authorities to conduct field assessments that will identify additional needs and areas where USAID might be of assistance. They have also committed USD 1,000,000 to IFRC for water and sanitation programs and to provide shelter materials to those in needs. They have also committed USD 70,000 for CARE Bangladesh and USD 30,000 for Save the Children, US respectively for emergency relief activities.

ECHO: The representative informed that ECHO has pledged 1.5 million euros to four international partner NGOs which may be raised to 5 million euros to meet vital needs for water, food, shelter and household items such as soap, cooking utensils and jerry cans. ECHO is also considering additional funds to more than 15 million Euros.

CIDA: The representative informed that Canada has committed USD 3 million to respond to cyclone SIDR. They have immediately contributed USD 250,000 to an appeal launched by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to meet the basic needs of the communities affected. They are communicating with other partners including multilaterals to determine how else they can best alleviate the severe impact of this storm.

UNICEF: They are currently procuring 60,000 family kits, 100,000 jerry cans, 92 MT of baby food, 100,000 blankets, 60,000 family kits containing essential needs, 60,000 clothing items for children, 50,000 plastic sheets, tube wells and essential medicines. Adequate supply of WPT with the local DPHE facilities and ORS, IV fluids and other relevant medicines are available at local Civil Surgeon mechanism to meet immediate needs. Funds have been placed through DPHE to clean and disinfect the affected tube wells.

Care Bangladesh: They informed that they have done the initial assessment and identified food, shelter, pure drinking water are the major needs of the affected people. A team of 'Care Emergency Responder' with preparation to provide ready food and NFI to 5,000 families has moved to Khulna. 18 MT of BP-5 biscuits pre-positioned in Chittagong. 3 Water Treatment Plants are moving towards Barisal and Khulna respectively. 15 de-watering equipment are moving towards Khulna and Barisal. 5 medical teams are stand-by to move on need basis to the affected areas. Further response activities depend on the extent of cyclone damage. CARE is exploring fund availability from various sources.

SCF USA: The representative informed that 3000 volunteers are working at the affected areas to help the affected people. They have also distributed high energy biscuits of WFP. They have also provided water treatment plants, blankets and other emergency relief materials to the affected people. They are maintaining close contact with the local government authorities regarding their relief efforts. They have also provided 18 MT of emergency medicines. Each treatment plants provided by USAID can purify 10,000 liters of water a day.

Bangladesh Red Crescent: 40,000 CPP volunteers an auxiliary force to the Government in the fields helped in warning, evacuation, search and rescue etc. They are also providing dry foods, family kits, blankets, plastic sheets, and medicines. They have engaged 8 medical teams and will engage 12 more.

Caritas: It has distributed immediate food to 5000 families. They have a plan to distribute more food and non-food items to the affected people.

BRAC: It has allocated Tk.420 million from its own resources, of which Tk.70 million for immediate emergency relief assistance and some Tk. 35 million for rehabilitation activities. It is covering 7.5 million people in 1.5 million families in 10 affected districts. The assistance package includes primarily food.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair. The date for the next meeting is Tuesday, 27 November at the Conference Room of MoFDM at 11 am. However, only the following members will be invited to the meeting: UN agencies, donor countries, relevant ministries. Each organization is requested to send one representative only.

Sd/

(Dr. Mohammad Ayub Miah)
Secretary in-Charge
Ministry of Food and Disaster Management

Annex: Participants list

Sl.	Agency	Names
1	Renata Dessallien	UNRC
2	Ad Spikers	FAO
3	Masayuki Imone	Japan Ambassador
4	Beaten Tusscher	Netherlands Ambassador
5	Britt Hailstrom	Sweden Ambassador
6	K. Nandini	First Secretary, Indian High Commission
7	Tapan Kumar Brahma	BRAC
8	A Maleque Mia	BEDB
9	Ms. Shahnaz Zakaria	USAID
10	Carey Gordon	USAID
11	Ian Rector	CDMP
12	Ciro Fiorillo	NFPCSP-FAO
13	Arifur Rahman Siddiqui	Embassy of Denmark
14	Akemi Yoshida	First Secretary, Embassy of Japan
15	Kunio Noda	JBIC
16	Suman Das Gupta	JBIC
17	Shantana Halder	CDMP
18	Md. Mafizul Islam	RHD
19	Dewan Naquib Ahsan	DPHE
20	John McHarris	WFP
21	Md. Munirul Haque	ERD
22	Jullian Neale	DFID
23	T. I. M. N. Khan	ILO
24	Nurul Amin Bagmer	Islamic Relief
25	Malama Meleisea	UNESCO
26	Arnest A Sarker	CCDB
27	K H Masud Siddiqui	DG, DMB
28	Douglas Broderick	WFP
29	Dr. Duanguadee Sungkhobol	WHO
30	Olivier Brouant	ECHO
31	Abdul Awal	ECHO
32	Md. Zulfiquir Ali Khan	UNICEF
33	Manoj Basnyat	UNDP
34	Peter Duncan Jones	AUSAID
35	Emily Rogers	HAP
36	Minica Blagescu	HAP
37	Arne Haug	Norwegian Embassy
38	Oliver Wakelin	Concern Worldwide
39	M A Wahed	Concern World wide

40	Charles Sudipta Sarkar	Christian Aid
41	Tanja Haque	Christian Aid
42	Dr. Aslam Alam	CDMP
43	Mohsena Ferdousi	MoFDM
44	Md. Sakhawat Hossain	
45	A N Shamsuddin Azad Chowdhury	LGD
46	Gazi Mizanur Rahman	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications
47	A T M Monirul Alam	BTTB
48	Kentaro Yokota	JICA
49	Kazi Eliza Islam	Save the Children, UK
50	Pintoo Gomes	Caritas Bangladesh
51	Kazi Intiaz Hossain	MoFA
52	Mohammad Wahid Hossain	MoPEMR
53	Joseph Gurtem	Swiss Embassy
54	Md. Akram Uddin Siddique	EC delegation
55	Dr. K Akram	WHO
56	Isode Rausch	German Embassy
57	Md. Nazrul Islam Khan	MoEd
58	M. Shafiul Alam	Bangladesh Red Crescent
59	Scott Cunliffe	UNDP
60	Rita Missal	UNDP
61	Shaheen Mahmud	AUSAID
62	Jean Rommiciann	French Embassy
63	Sajedul Hasan	Care Bangladesh
64	Stav Zotalis	Care Bangladesh
65	Jock Baker	Care International
66	Marc Bellemans	FAO
67	Rune Brandrup	UNRC's office
68	Magnus Lungren	UNRC's office
69	Nasmeen Ahmed	ICDDR,B
70	Markus Werne	UN OCHA
71	Dan Caspersz	UN OCHA
72	Ryan Belasso	World Vision Bangladesh
73	A S Mahmud	SC-USA
74	Nazmul Haque	IOM
75	Md. Aslam	SCF-US
76	Mohammed Golam Quddus	MoHFW
77	Suman Das	Oxfam
78	Nicholas Downie	Save the Children-UK
79	David Wightwick	Save the Children, UK
80	Capozza Manfredo	IT, MOFA
81	S. Duhaim	High Commission of Canada
82	Luigi Neia	Embassy of Italy
83	Rehana Khan	Embassy of Sweden

84	Ola Hallgren	Embassy of Sweden
85	Nobuko Kayashima	JICA
86	Meher Nigar Bhuiyan	WFP
87	Rehana Banoo	WFP
88	Md. Mahbur Rahman	BWDB
89	Sultan Ahmed	CEGIS
90	Malik Kabir	WFP
91	Dr. M Bazlur Rahman	IIRD
92	Tanya Axisa	DFID
93	BO Sundstrom	DFID
94	M Abul Quasem	IMF
95	Farria Naeem	World Bank
96	Hilary Syme	CIDA
97	Dr. Bushra Alam	DFID
98	Tawhid Alam	UNFPA
99	Orla Murphy	Oxfam
100	Md. Shafiqul Islam	MoFDM

Minutes recorded and circulated by: DER Secretariat