

UNITED NATIONS



জাতিসংঘ

জাতিসংঘ আবাসিক সমন্বয়কারীর কার্যালয় - বাংলাদেশ  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN BANGLADESH

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Attn: News Editor / Chief Reporter

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### **UN Expresses Condolences and Supports Government's Cyclone Relief Work**

**Dhaka** - The United Nations system in Bangladesh expresses its deepest condolences to the people and Government of Bangladesh for the loss of life and the devastation wrought by Cyclone Sidr. "Our sympathy goes out to those families who have lost loved ones. We stand by the victims and we support the Government's good efforts to alleviate their sufferings and rebuild their livelihoods" said Renata Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator.

Food, water purification tablets, jerry cans and other non-food items are being distributed by UN agencies in coordination with central and local authorities humanitarian relief work. The UN system had pre-positioned relief items and damage assessment teams at its sub-office in Jessore, which enabled the first relief packages of food to be distributed among victims on Friday, the day after the cyclone hit. As initial, immediate assistance, the UN is distributing 208 metric tons of high-energy biscuits (to feed 850,000 persons), and providing 240,000 water purification tablets, medicines and medical equipment, and other essential goods. As the scope of damage becomes known, more UN assistance will be offered. A team from UN-OCHA arrived today to assist.

Commenting on the situation, Renata Dessallien said, "the Government's preparatory efforts and use of early warning systems played a significant role in minimising the loss of life. Given the force of the cyclone, much assistance will be required to help the survivors in the worst affected districts to recover from the devastation."

**ENDS**

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