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For immediate release

Press Release

UK GIVES \$5 M (TK 35 CRORE) IN RESPONSE TO CYCLONE SIDR

The UK's Department for International Development has announced a contribution of US\$5 million equivalent Taka 35 crore for immediate cyclone relief efforts, to help deal with the impact of Cyclone Sidr. The money is being channelled through the UN, and will help provide food, water, medical treatment, and housing repairs to affected people. A needs assessment is currently being carried out in the most affected districts.

DFID's Country Representative in Bangladesh, Chris Austin, said: "*Cyclone Sidr has clearly had a devastating effect on people, property and crops. But the casualties and damage would have been much worse without the excellent early warning system and contingency measures taken by the authorities - the Govt of Bangladesh is to be congratulated for its preparations, and for its prompt efforts to bring relief to the affected people. The UK is glad to be supporting this response.*"

Notes to Editors

- 1) This year the UK has so far provided US\$14.5m (Taka 101.3 crore) towards disaster relief in Bangladesh to help deal with the immediate effects of severe floods in August, to support early recovery efforts, and to help with cyclone relief.
- 2) Over the past three years, the UK has provided US\$12 million to the Government of Bangladesh's Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, through the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP). These funds, (along with others including UNDP and EC) have contributed to improved disaster risk reduction, including by improving the Early Warning Systems and providing funds for Community Risks Reduction Activities such as Cyclone Shelters.

For more information

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