

November 19, 2007
No. XXX

CANADA SUPPORTS RESPONSE EFFORTS FOLLOWING CYCLONE SIDR IN BANGLADESH

The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, today announced that Canada is providing up to \$3M to respond to tropical cyclone Sidr.

“On behalf of all Canadians, I wish to offer our sympathies and support at this difficult time to communities in Bangladesh affected by tropical cyclone Sidr,” said Minister Bernier. “We commend authorities on significant efforts under way to provide relief to the communities in need. Canada is offering immediate assistance to help the people of Bangladesh.”

“The Government of Canada has set aside \$3M million to respond to the devastation caused by cyclone Sidr,” said Minister Oda. “Of this amount, we immediately contributed \$250,000 to an appeal launched last Friday by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to meet the basic needs of the people affected by this natural disaster. We are communicating with other reputable partners on the ground to determine how else Canada can best help the people facing the consequences of this severe storm.”

Core contributions already provided by Canada to international humanitarian agencies enable these partners to respond rapidly to the urgent needs in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Bangladesh is an important development partner for Canada. Our bilateral program is investing over \$59 million this year to address the challenges of sustainable development and poverty alleviation through support for social development, governance and the private sector.

Canadians in the region can contact Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada in Ottawa at sos@international.gc.ca or make a collect call to 613-996-8885.

Canadians interested in providing assistance are encouraged to donate cash, not goods, to experienced humanitarian organizations involved in the response. For more information on how Canadians can help, please visit <http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/library/howcanadians-en.aspx>.