

UNITED NATIONS



জাতিসংঘ

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN BANGLADESH

MEDIA RELEASE

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UN Secretary-General expresses his condolences to the Bangladeshi people and announces relief support

Dhaka - In the aftermath of Cyclone Sidr, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expresses "his profound condolences to the people and Government of Bangladesh for the many deaths and the destruction involved, and the full solidarity of the UN system at this time...."

The UN response to the destruction wrought by Cyclone Sidr began even before it hit the shores of Bangladesh. Assessment teams and relief items were propositioned in the UN joint sub-office in Jessore. Since then, support has been able to reach the most remote and hardest hit areas. Further UN assistance is on the way.

From New York on Monday 19 November 2007, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, approved 9 million USD in support of UN relief operations from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), with an additional announcement expected tomorrow. This package is in addition to what is already under implementation through the UN agencies and with contributions from bi-lateral donors.

Ms. Renata Dessallien, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh noted: "The UN's speedy approval of these funds reflects the urgency that the entire UN system feels to assist BD in its hour of need."

The UN will continue its relief operations in close coordination with the Government of Bangladesh as long as it takes. A UN assessment team currently in the cyclone affected districts is expected back in Dhaka on Wednesday.

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