

Save the Children

Cyclone Response - Emergency Situation Report # 5 (Nov. 20 – 10 PM)

The official death toll from Bangladesh's recent cyclone has surpassed 3,000 and both aid agencies and Government official predict the numbers will continue to rise (estimates currently run between 8 – 15,000). Thousands of people remain missing after Cyclone SIDR hit the coastal regions of the country last Thursday (Nov. 15). International news agencies have now flocked to the country to report the situation. The last cyclone to hit Bangladesh occurred in 1991 that killed over 130,000 people. According to most, improved communication, reliable early warning systems, disaster mitigation and preparedness programs and the Government of Bangladesh's aggressive evacuation efforts spared Bangladesh from a significant higher death toll.

Save the Children continues respond to Tropical Cyclone SIDR which landed in Bangladesh on Thursday, Nov.15. The death toll in has risen considerably in the **Barisal Division** with the latest tally showing more **1517**. Reports from Save the Children, partners and government authorities on the ground there are **2,461,479 affected persons, 57,247 injured and 1,848 missing**. The most affected areas the Barisal Division are the Districts of Patuakhali and Barguna (see maps). Additionally there are more than 386,269 damaged or destroyed houses, and an estimated 891,597 acres of cropland have been destroyed and extensive loss of livestock of all sizes. SC through partners is beginning to reach affected population in Kulna Division as well in the Bagerhat and Sharankhola Districts close to Sundarbans where over another 1,000 are reported dead and may homes and crops razed by the monster storm. Inter-institutional Governmental and Donor Coordinating have activated UN Cluster meetings and local and international NGOs are pooling resources to mitigate the situation.

Specific Save the Children steps taken to date to assess and respond to the emergency include (further details are found in the Tables below):

- ORS is being distributed by Save the Children as per GOB request to identified pockets of high risk communities where water contamination was severe and outbreaks of diarrhea could occur. ICDDRDB has donated 100,000 HALO tablets.
- UNICEF in partnership with Save the Children is setting up "*safe places*" for Child protection: The safe spaces will also be used as temporary learning centers, in which School-in-a-Box Kits will be provided. Three are already operational and hundreds more will be established.
- WFP has donated 175 MT High Energy Biscuits (HEB) which are being distributed to more than 175,000 beneficiaries.
- UNICEF has plans to donate additional special HEB biscuits for small children and pregnant and lactating mothers in the impact area.
- Non-Food Item (NFI) packs (12 items each pack, including plastic sheeting, water container, rope, soap, plastic sheeting, pots and pans) and blankets continue to be distributed in the Barisal Division particularly in Patuakhali and Barguna.
- The two Water Treatment Plants are operating in Bhelumia union in the Bhola Sadar Upazila and Nalchiti Sadar union of Jhalakhali and another two machines are currently scheduled to arrive later in the week. An additional plant has been donated by OFDA.
- Save the Children staffs continue conducting assessments and responding in affected Districts of the Barisal Division and most affected communities are being prioritized.
- AmeriCares has approved 4 MT of medical supplies for Bariasl with additional selected supplies for Friday, November 23.

Other highlights include:

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- The newly appointed Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance, Henrietta Fore, visited the impact area today by seaplane with U.S.A.I.D. Bangladesh Mission Director Denise Rollins, Charge d’Affaire Gita Pasi, Bangladesh’s Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and Save the Children – USA’s Country Director Kelland Stevenson. Administrator Fore also met with the Chief Advisor as well as other donors (DFID, CIDA, AusAID) and the UN to discuss efforts being taken to address the recovery. Finally, Administrator Fore also presented a cargo plane of relief supplies to the Government of Bangladesh to support the on-going relief efforts – these supplies will be distributed through CARE Bangladesh and Save the Children.
- Journalists and film crews from around the world continuing filing reports on the effects of the cyclone and progress on relief efforts.
- Assessments by a variety of organizations continued over the past 2 days though a complete picture of the disaster remains incomplete. Specific areas have now been identified as most badly affected (all are on or near the coast), though damage is widespread.

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