

SIDR Cyclone Bangladesh 2007



UN SIT REP # 2

Dhaka, Bangladesh 18th of November 2007

Situation

A super cyclonic storm (category 4) moved north through the Bay of Bengal and hit southern Bangladesh at 7:30 pm on Thursday with wind speed reaching 220 km/h. It continued northward causing extensive damage, especially to the country's southwestern districts. Tidal surge of 10-15 feet above normal has been reported. As the storm moved into central Bangladesh it was downgraded to a Category II tropical storm and currently weather is calm.

2027 deaths have been reported. Official reports from the 18th November indicate 1451 injured and 454 unaccounted for. More than 27 million have been affected in 25 districts, the 12 hardest hit districts being Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Barisal, Jhalkhati, Bhola, Mandaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Khulna and Satkhira. As communication is disrupted and some areas are still inaccessible, the number of reported fatalities is likely to increase. Many structures have been damaged or destroyed, damages to crops and trees are extensive, and many roads are damaged or blocked by debris. The cyclone caused severe reduction in power production, resulting in a near countrywide blackout through much of the weekend, with further disruptions to telecommunications and water supply. Electricity returned from Saturday morning onwards, and communication is being restored. All major cities have electricity now.

Government of Bangladesh Response

The Chief Adviser has allocated 100 million taka for relief and house construction in 11 districts. Deputy Commissioners are procuring and collecting sufficient amount of dry food to face the current situation. So far, MoFDM has allocated 4,000 metric tons of rice, 5,000 tents, 17,000 blankets and 30 million taka as gratuitous relief grants. A special fund is allocating 350 million taka for house building grants. 13,000 bundles of CI sheets are ready for immediate distribution. AFD deployed several aircrafts including MI-17, N32, a number of helicopters (Bell-206, Bell-212, etc). Six ships from Bangladesh Navy are doing rescue, evacuation, relief and reconnaissance operations in the worst affected areas. Several central control rooms of different government agencies at national, district and upazila levels have been active round the clock since the first cyclone warning. 732 medical teams are working in the affected areas.

As the cyclone hit Thursday evening, the Government called a meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Response group. A large number of UN agencies, NGOs and some donors participated. The Government emphasized that the humanitarian community should coordinate closely with central and local Bangladesh authorities. A new meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Response group was convened for Sunday. Many donors pledged support to the Bangladesh Government. Next meeting will be on Thursday at 12:00 noon.

UN Response

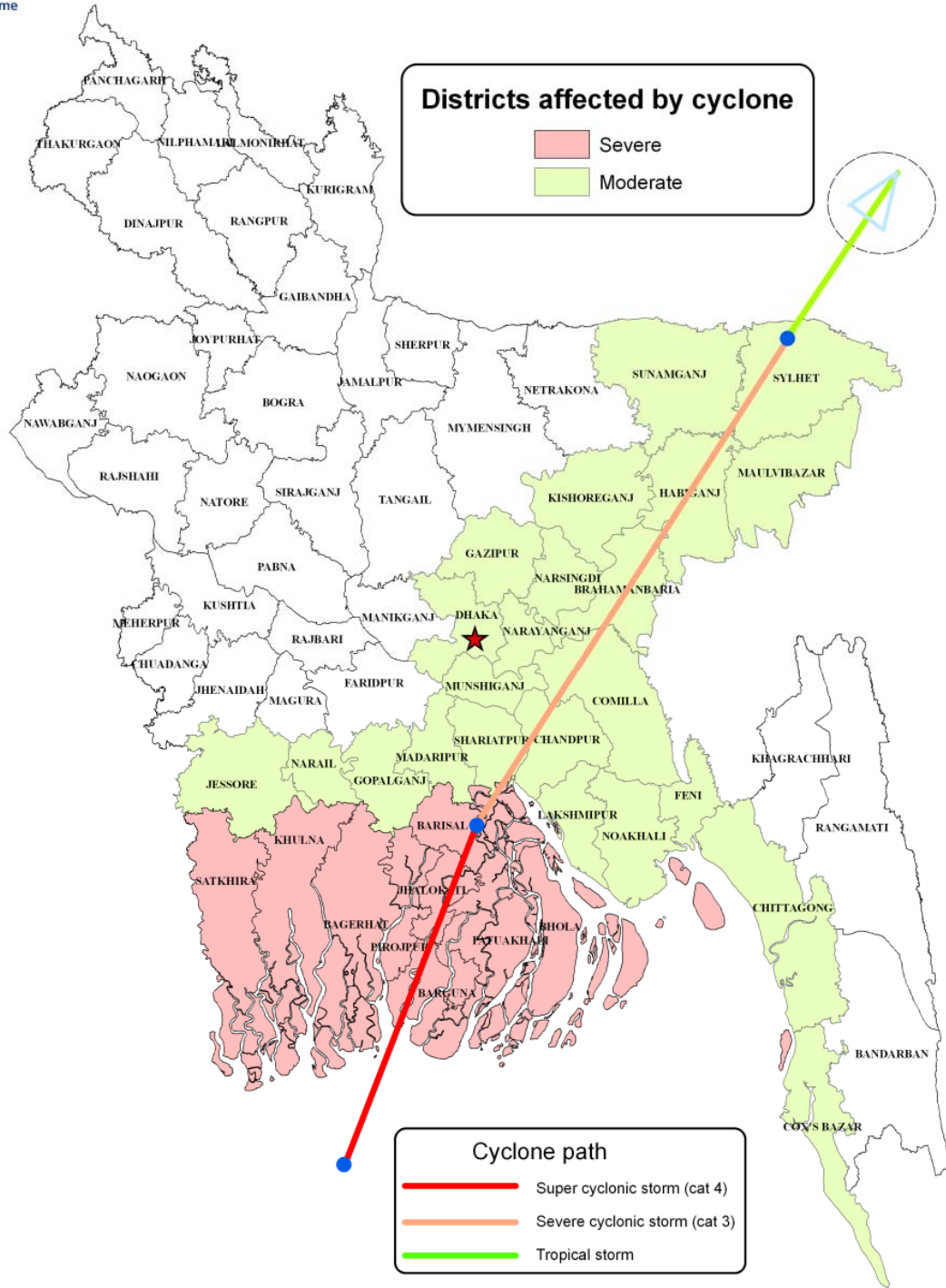
Ahead of the storm, UN provided support to Government preparedness efforts by prepositioning relief items together with relief and assessment teams across southern Bangladesh. A team of 12 experts has left Dhaka to assist with assessment in affected areas. The UN is distributing 208 tons of high-energy biscuits to help 850,000 cyclone victims. 240,000 packets of water purifying powder are reaching 48,000 families. Shelter materials (thick polyesters) will also be distributed to 18,000 households whose houses have been destroyed. Partners will start distribution of dry food (flattened rice and molasses) to 70,000 affected families from Sunday. Medical officers have been made available to assist Government response, including 4 for coordinating central response. 50,000 USD has been made available for water and supplies and transportation. More relief will be made available following initial determination of needs.

The UN Disaster Management Team met on Friday to coordinate response and assessment, and to take early stock of the situation. A mission from UN OCHA Regional Office has arrived in the country to assist with the CERF funding process. Some donors have announced their support to UN relief programmes. UN Heads of Agencies are visiting the worst affected districts Monday to gain first hand knowledge of the suffering of the cyclone victims.

Conclusion

The situation is still evolving, and damages are being assessed. Needs are great, and swift action is required. More precise data on damages and need will be available in the coming days. At the moment it seems more assistance is needed for non-food items, food aid, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter and disease surveillance. The longer term perspective calls for rehabilitation of livelihood, infrastructure, health and educational services, and increased shelter capacity.

Cyclone SIDR:2007



The names, boundaries and information on the map does not imply official UN endorsement

Source: Cyclone data, position etc: Tropical Storm Risk Tracker
web address: <http://tsr.mssl.ucl.ac.uk/>
Date: 16.11.2007