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## **Bangladesh: Cyclone Sidr OCHA Situation Report No. 4**

This situation report is based on information received from the Bangladesh Disaster Management Information Centre, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office Bangladesh, the Disaster Emergency Response Group (DER), UN Agencies, UN OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and media sources.

### **I. Situation in Bangladesh**

1. Cyclone Sidr (Category IV) hit Bangladesh on the evening of 15 November. The cyclone struck offshore islands at 1830 hours and made landfall across the southern coast from Cox's Bazaar in the east toward the Satkhira districts in the west at 2030 hours local time, with wind speeds of up to 240 kilometres per hour. The storm caused extensive damage to the southern districts as it moved north across central Bangladesh. The full scale of this disaster will become evident as access improves in the coming days.

2. More than 3.1 million people in 28 southern districts are now known to have been directly affected by the cyclonic storms. As of 19 November, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) official reports indicated an increasing death toll of 2,408 people, with a further 1,063 missing and 1,491 injured. These figures are expected to increase significantly as more information becomes available from needs assessments, which are currently ongoing. The GoB estimates that over 273,000 homes were destroyed and a further 650,000 houses were partially damaged. An estimated 761,361 acres of crops were damaged. Extensive damage to roads and public buildings is also evident, including 75 educational institutions destroyed and another 4,231 partially damaged. The worst affected areas include Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Gopalganj, Jhalkhati, Khulna, Mandaripur, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Satkhira and Shariatpur districts.

3. A series of assessments are currently underway and more detailed information on the scale of the needs is expected to be made available in the coming days. The Disaster Emergency and Response (DER) group coordinated the pre-positioning of UN agencies and NGOs in affected areas in advance of the cyclone, allowing initial assessment data to be made available in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

4. On the basis of early assessment data, priority needs include food, clean water supply, diarrhoea treatment and shelter assistance. The longer term perspective requires rehabilitation of livelihoods, infrastructure, health and educational services and increased shelter capacity.

### **II. National Response in Bangladesh**

5. To date, the Chief Adviser has allocated 100 million taka for relief and house construction in eleven districts. The Deputy Commissioners are procuring and collecting sufficient amount of dry food to respond to the current situation. The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) has allocated 4,000 metric tonnes of rice, 5,000 tents, 17,000 blankets and 30 million taka as gratuitous relief grants, to date. A special fund was established allocating 350 million taka for housing construction grants. 13,000 bundles of corrugated iron sheets are ready for immediate distribution. . 732 medical teams are working in the affected areas. The Bangladesh Armed Forces Division deployed several aircrafts and a number of helicopters. Six Bangladesh Navy ships are conducting rescue, evacuation, relief and reconnaissance operations in the worst storm affected areas. While more roads are opened, the military continues to bring relief items to the affected people by planes, boats and helicopters.

6. The Government of Bangladesh held the Disaster and Emergency Response group (DER) meetings on 15 November and 18 November. The next DER meeting will be held on 22 November.

7. The Government of Bangladesh's early warning and preparedness systems were activated prior to the cyclone making landfall, which greatly reduced the humanitarian impact of this disaster. Preparedness measures included the evacuation of approximately 3.2 million people. Alarms were raised and relief and rescue items were stockpiled.

### **III. International Response in Bangladesh**

8. The United Nations, IFRC, and NGOs, including Save the Children, World Vision International, CARE, Caritas, OXFAM, Islamic Relief, ACT, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Muslim Aid, and Plan, continue to provide support to the Government of Bangladesh through extensive emergency response mechanisms, including mobilizing in-country staff and pre-positioned relief stocks across southern Bangladesh.

9. The United Nations is distributing 208 tonnes of high-energy biscuits to assist an estimated 850,000 cyclone affected people. 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 were destroyed by the storms. Partners are currently distributing dry food (flattened rice and molasses) to 70,000 affected families.

10. The UN deployed an assessment team on 17 November. The team is currently carrying out assessments in conjunction with district disaster management authorities in the worst-affected districts. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is working with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) to carry out assessments in ten districts. The Federation also deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination (FACT) team on 19 November.

11. The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator released an initial allocation of USD 9 million from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) for projects in the following clusters: Agriculture, Child Protection, Food, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Shelter and Non-Food Items. A second round of allocations is subject to completed needs assessments in the coming days.

12. On 16 November, IFRC launched a preliminary emergency appeal for US\$ 3.5 million to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to assist 235,000 beneficiaries for a period of 9 months.

13. The European Union made an official pledge for USD 2.2 million and the Government of Australia has pledged USD 2.7 million for emergency response activities for the Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh. The humanitarian system would welcome information from Member States regarding intentions to fund the emergency response.

14. This situation report, together with further information regarding on-going emergencies, is also available on the Reliefweb: <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

**MAP:** Bangladesh: Tropical Cyclone SIDR - Situation Map

**For detailed information please contact:**

OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok)

Mr. Markus Werne

Tel. + 66 81 917 8940

Email: [Werne@un.org](mailto:Werne@un.org)

Regional Disaster Response Adviser - Asia-Pacific

Ms. Eliane Provó Kluit

Tel. +66819129854

Email : [provokluit@un.org](mailto:provokluit@un.org)

Desk Officers:

(NY) Ms. Kendra Clegg

Tel. +1 646 348 0346

Email: [clegg@un.org](mailto:clegg@un.org)

(GVA) Mr. Jean Verheyden

Tel: + 41 79 - 509 8116

Email: [verheyden@un.org](mailto:verheyden@un.org)

Press contact:

(NY) Ms. Stephanie Bunker

Tel. + 1 917 367 5126

(GVA) Ms. Elizabeth Byrs

Tel. + 41 22 917 2653

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