

SIDR Cyclone Bangladesh 2007



UN SIT REP # 6

Dhaka, Bangladesh 23rd 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 15 November with wind speed reaching 220 km/h. It continued northward causing extensive damage, especially to the country's southwestern districts.

More than 6.7 million people in 30 districts have been affected by the storm. Latest official reports indicate 3,033 killed, 34,511 injured and 1,828 unaccounted for. Material damage is severe, with 1.7 million acres of crops damaged, 363,000 homes completely destroyed and another 816,000 partially. Over 460,000 livestock are confirmed killed. Damage to public building also widespread, with 1,355 educational institutions totally damaged and some 6,500 partially.

The 12 hardest hit districts are Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Barisal, Jhalkhati, Bhola, Mandaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Khulna and Satkhira.

Government of Bangladesh Response

The Chief Adviser has allocated USD 7.1 million 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 7,640 metric tons of rice, 14,979 tents, 18,000 blankets, 13,000 bundles of CI sheets, and 27,000 food bags. A special fund has allocated 211 million taka for house building grants across 20 districts.

The military continued to bring relief items to the affected people by planes, boats and helicopters. So far, about 300 tons of relief goods have been distributed by the Air Force.

MoFDM has established a Cyclone Coordination Cell and requested information updates from donors and recipient, organisations on contributions and relief efforts.

The next meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Response group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 27 November, 11:00 am. Coordination clusters are being organised. More information on coordination clusters and focal points can be found on the DER website (address below).

The Government welcomes assistance from the international community, as before, through the Bangladesh government.

UN Response

WFP Rice delivery of 750 MT starts today for distribution in five worst affected districts. WFP continues air deliveries of second tranche of 120 MT HEB and will continue till 26 November. Over a period of three months, cyclone affected households will receive a monthly ration of 30 kg of rice, 3 kg of pulses, 2 liters of oil and 0.75 kg of HEBs. 92 MT UNICEF biscuit en route to affected district from Chittagong port. UNICEF will procure blended food for children in affected districts for three months.

Non-food assistance of 100,000 blankets, 60,000 children's clothes, 60,000 family kits (containing 14 essential items) and 60,000 plastic sheets are being procured for use in the affected areas by UNICEF.

UNICEF moved two mobile water treatment plants to affected districts that are currently operational, two more are on their way to other districts.

WHO have supplied emergency life-saving medicine and US\$ 74,000 to replenish buffer stock. Government of Japan support of 1 million for supporting health rehabilitation. WHO monitor the disease outbreak situation (Diarrhea, Dysentery, ARI, skin, eye, ear infections etc) in collaboration with government authorities.

Rapid assessment to identify separated, unaccompanied and distressed children undertaken with NGOs. Ten child friendly spaces have been made operational in three worst affected districts. Over 1900 recreational kits are made available of which 300 are already in use.

FAO give assistance to cyclone-affected farmers and fisherfolk. The Government of Belgium has approved US\$2 million towards FAO activities to assist around 47 000 households with seeds and other agricultural inputs, as well as fishing nets and supplies.

Funding

UN agencies have received USD 14.7 million in support from CERF for food aid, water and sanitation, nutrition health and agriculture. Today a Information Meeting on the humanitarian consequences of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh was held at UN offices in Geneva. Dr Debapriya Bahtacharya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh in Geneva was present and Ms. Renata Dessallien, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh participated via audio link.

Relief assistance now totals USD 176 million. The following donors have pledged or committed to make relief contributions: Saudi Arabia (USD 100 million), CERF (USD 14.7 million), Kuwait (USD 10 million), European Commission (USD 9.6 million), Netherlands (USD 7.2 million), United Kingdom (USD 5.2 million), Canada (USD 3.4 million), Norway (USD 3.35 million), Australia (USD 2.8 million), Sweden (USD 2.7 million), United States (USD 2.1 million), Belgium (USD 2 million), Germany (USD 1.76 million), Italy (USD 1.6 million), Spain (USD 1.1 million), China (USD 1 million), India (USD 1 million), Libya (USD 1 million), Denmark (USD 950,000), France (USD 735,000), , Ireland (USD 721,000), Republic of Korea (USD 500,000), New Zealand (USD 378,000), Switzerland (USD 160,000), Czech Republic (USD 80,645), Estonia (USD 46,045).

Other donors include Islamic Relief (USD 8.2 million), OPEC Fund for International Development (USD 500,000), and Caritas Spain (USD 288,000).

In addition, the World Bank has offered to make up to USD 250 million available, depending on financing needs and what other donors will contribute.

Conclusion

The Government of Bangladesh, the UN, and other actors are taking action to aid the cyclone's victims, but the humanitarian situation remains dire. UN assessment teams report that food, shelter and cash are aid priorities, and that relief assistance must continue for at least 2-3 months. Water and sanitation assistance also deemed critical. Early recovery and rehabilitation should include a long-term risk reducing perspective.

For more information, please contact:

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

Mr. Rune Brandrup

(+880) 2 811 8600 (ext. 2513 - 208)

rune.brandrup@undp.org

Mr. Magnus Lundgren

(+880) 2 811 8600 (ext. 2412)

magnus.lundgren@undp.org

LCG Disaster Emergency Response – Cyclone Updates

http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/cyclone_updates.php

Cyclone SIDR: Damage Information

