

SIDR Cyclone Bangladesh 2007



UN SIT REP #11

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29 November 2007

Situation

1. A super cyclonic storm (category 4) moved north through the Bay of Bengal and hit southern Bangladesh on 15 November with wind speed reaching 220 km/h. It continued northward causing extensive damage, especially to the country's southwestern districts.
2. More than 8.4 million people in 31 districts have been affected by the storm. Latest official reports indicate 3,268 killed, 39,773 injured, and 880 unaccounted for. Material damage is severe, with 563,877 homes completely destroyed and another 885,280 partially. Damage to public building also widespread, with 2,287 educational institutions totally damaged and some 12,343 partially.
3. As the storm hit right before harvest time, it severely affected agricultural lands. Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) estimates damages from GIS analysis at about 17,500 sq km and production loss about 2,640,000 MT.
4. Government relief operations have been ongoing since the cyclone made landfall. Up to 29 November, the Bangladesh Air Force had distributed 1277 tons of relief items across the affected area. The Government had allocated 507 million BDT from the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund, in addition to 10,890 tons of rice, 27,000 food bags, and 16,454 tents.

Food

5. Many food cluster members are already implementing food aid assistance. Others are in the early stages of planning food security assessments. FAO is planning a livelihoods assessment in affected areas between 3-22 December, concentrating on the impact to fisheries, forestry, agriculture and livestock. Save the Children and Oxfam are carrying out initial livelihoods assessments.

WASH

6. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) is well underway with the repair of public water sources, which should be completed within 2-3 weeks at the current rate of progress. Many ponds (traditional water sources) require clearing and many have been damaged by saline inundation. The repair and provision of latrines, accompanied by strong hygiene promotion, remains a priority. There are widespread reports that latrine superstructure and covering pits have been damaged by debris.
7. 3.5 million water purification tablets (WPTs) have been provided by DPHE, sufficient for 125,000 people for 2 weeks. Distribution of a further 1.5 million tablets is now planned. A large number of water treatment plants are now in place, with the potential to provide safe water for up to 960,000 people. The US military has offered the use of specialised Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purification units.
8. 500,000 water containers are currently in the pipeline, including 200,000 from the IFRC, 100,000 from UNICEF and approx 200,000 from other WASH partners. This quantity will be sufficient for 2.5 million families and is expected to meet initial demand.
9. There are reports of limited water borne disease outbreaks. The WASH cluster is working in close consultation with the Ministry of Health at the national level and in key districts.

Health

10. WHO has provided local authorities with medicines (value US\$77,000) and sterilisation supplies (value US\$10,000). Two emergency health kits containing medicines and supplies have been provided to meet the basic needs of 20,000 people for three months. WHO is mobilizing supplies to ensure safe water in affected hospitals and peripheral health units.

11. As of 28 November six national public health experts will be dedicated to collecting information on diseases, assessing damage to health facilities and planning response operations in 9 affected districts (Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalokathi, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur and Shatkhira).
12. Mapping of activities in the health cluster is currently underway to identify gaps and avoid duplication.

Logistics

13. A number of organizations have completed assessments and operational plans are currently in development. Most organizations will use local partners to deliver and distribute their relief items. Two of the members of the Logistics response Team, will assess situation in the field and hold a Logistics Cluster meeting in Barisal. Details will be posted on the Cyclone Sidr webpage (see below)
14. Transport prices are reported to have increased by as much as 25%, a table for price comparison will be elaborated. It is anticipated that warehousing and some final transport might be difficult, especially by boat. Dhaka airport is not currently facing congestion problems, but may face problems if organizations transport large quantities of cargo by plane.
15. DFID intends to purchase a number of boats that would be available for use by the entire humanitarian community. WFP will make available any spare warehousing capacity to all humanitarian actors. The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, is considering making available 12 Mobile Storage Units from Indonesia.

Shelter

16. The Emergency Shelter cluster is currently gathering information on needs and actual or planned coverage by the agencies to provide as soon as possible a map showing Who is doing What and Where.
17. A representative of the Government of Bangladesh's Disaster Management Bureau has been identified and has been invited to co-chair shelter cluster meetings. Linkages are being established with related clusters including WASH and Early Recovery.

Early Recovery Cluster

18. It is expected that initial results of assessments currently underway will be available early next week. Comprehensive assessments will commence early December. A

working group has been established to develop a framework for early recovery that will support the Government and community's recovery efforts.

Donor contributions

19. The top-five donors are: Saudi Arabia (USD 102,7 million), United Nations (USD 15.4 million, including CERF), United States (USD 14.5 million), United Kingdom (USD 14 million), Kuwait (USD 10 million).
20. Relief assistance from international donors now totals USD 213.1 million. In addition, the World Bank has pledged funding of up to USD 250 million, and the Asian Development Bank is formulating a relief and reconstruction proposal worth USD 225 million.
21. Other donors include Islamic Relief (USD 8.2 million), Muslim Aid (USD 516,000), OPEC Fund for International Development (USD 500,000), and Caritas Spain (USD 288,000).
22. A number of governments are giving in-kind assistance. Pakistan has delivered relief goods via air and set up a 30-bed hospital in Matbaria. United States has used helicopters to deliver water purification equipment and other relief items. India, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia have also contributed in-kind humanitarian assistance.

Coordination

23. At the 27 November meeting of the LCG sub-group on Disaster Emergency Response (DER), the Government presented their response coordination system and relief priorities. The most important form of assistance is food grain, with a total requirement of 1 million tons through spring 2008. The Government asked the donor community to contribute 500,000 tons from external sources.
24. The Government requested information on relief distribution shared with the Relief Operations Coordination Centre in Barisal to avoid duplication and gaps. Local level government authorities should also be kept informed (more information on the Sidr Cyclone webpage, see below)
25. The coordination cluster continue to progress. The "Who, What and Where (WWW)" tool is expected to be ready from all clusters early next week. Soon we should see consolidated cluster assessments and gap analysis as well.

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LCG Disaster Emergency Response – Cyclone Updates

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

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BANGLADESH - Cyclone Sidr Agencies involved in Emergency Operations

