

**SIDR Cyclone Bangladesh 2007**

UN SIT REP #12

This situations report is compiled from information provided by the Coordination Clusters, from Government Sitreps, and other sources.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 03 December 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 8.6 million people in 31 districts have been affected by the storm. Latest official reports indicate 3,292 killed, 52,808 injured, and 871 unaccounted for. Material damage is severe, with 563,877 homes completely destroyed and another 939,675 partially. Damage to public building also widespread, with 2,400 educational institutions totally damaged and some 12,399 partially.
3. Government relief operations have been ongoing since the cyclone made landfall. Up to 1 December, the Government had allocated 507 million BDT from the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund, in addition to 16,890 tons of rice, 27,000 food bags, and 16,454 tents.

**Food**

4. So far, 18 agencies (Government, UN agencies and international and local NGOs) have distributed more than 25,000 MT of food.
5. IFRC has reported one case of communities relocating to a road side in anticipation of receiving food assistance. So far no other specific concerns have been raised regarding unreached areas.
6. A comprehensive matrix has been formulated to capture information on food distributions (commodity, amount, number of beneficiaries) down to the union level. All agencies are encouraged to report in detail on their activities and information will be channeled to the Government's Disaster Management Information Centre.
7. The FAO assessment mission will start on 4 December. In close coordination, WFP is launching its Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment between 2-22 December. Helen Keller International's nutrition assessment in early 2008 will complement and help provide a more complete picture.

**WASH**

8. The water availability crisis in many areas perceived in the first days/week after the cyclone is mostly past. The Key WASH priorities are: ensure last pockets with poor water availability are attended to; distribution of hygiene items; and sanitation in communities living in temporary situations.
9. The national WASH cluster will meet once a week and efforts will be made to identify/support sub national coordination mechanisms. Smaller working sub groups will be formed. The cluster support to the longer term government recovery plan will be developed. The cluster aims at providing an independent and supportive overall monitoring and programme quality overview for all agencies. Translation support to key documents will be given so these can be used by all agencies. Key e-mail hubs will be identified and used for rapid information transfer between national, division and district levels.

**Health**

10. 690 government medical teams (consisting of medical doctors and paramedics) are working in the affected areas. High Prevalence of Typhoid/fever and skin diseases detected in comparison of Diarrhoea and ARI/Pneumonia cases in the 9 worst-affected districts, most are reported from Bagerhat district. It is apprehended that water borne

disease as well as ARI/Pneumonia cases may increase due to lack of food, safe drinking water & poor sanitation and inadequate shelter & shortage of warm cloths especially for children.

11. Disease reporting system should be strengthened and a system should be established to analyze the situation and daily reporting to the proper authority by health partners to predict the existing and Facilitate early warning system for potential disease outbreaks. Health education & psychosocial support along with other health interventions prioritizing high risk population should be carried out. Some of the affected islands (Chars) should be more frequently visited by the government & NGO health workers. A Crash program for measles & other Vaccine preventable diseases should be implemented. A district wise plan of action should be prepared for rapid containment in case of outbreaks.
12. A UN DER Health Cluster Meeting at the district level was held in Barisal, Jhalokathi & Bagerhat districts to improve coordination between Government health sector, UN, NGOs and other stakeholders.

### **Logistics**

13. Two members of the Logistics Cluster, Logistics response team, visited Burisal Sunday and organized a Logistics Cluster coordination meeting for Monday December 3rd at 18 hours in the UNICEF office.
14. A sub-group meeting on customs will meet tomorrow to look more closely at the issues around importation of relief goods.

### **Shelter**

15. Information received to date indicates that plans are being made by 6 agencies for a General NFI distribution to 138,079 households in 13 districts of Barisal, Dhaka, and Khulna Divisions, and Shelter repairs and materials to 39,125 households in the same district. The content of NFI kits and the types of materials to be provided for reconstruction and rehabilitation will be determined during the next few days Technical Working Group specifically formed to ensure correctness and standardisation of any materials related to the construction or rehabilitation of the family shelters. Fourth Coordination meeting was held today; fourteen agencies attended.

### **Early Recovery Cluster**

16. The Director of the Disaster Management Bureau co-chaired an Early Recovery Assessment Working Group on 2 December. Key recommendations included the formation of an inter-cluster thematic group on livelihood assessment, the creation of a clearing house mechanism for needs assessment coordination and information sharing and the development of interagency joint analysis following the completion of assessments.

### **Donor contributions**

17. Relief assistance from international donors now totals USD 233.5 million. 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 150 million, potentially above USD 200 million, pending co-financing arrangements.
18. The top-five donors are: Saudi Arabia (USD 102.7 million), United States (USD 19.5 million), Japan (USD 18.0 million), UN (USD 15.4 million, incl. CERF), United Kingdom (USD 14 million), Kuwait(USD 10 million).
19. A number of governments are giving in-kind assistance. military is providing sizeable airlift capabilities and collaborating with the Bangladesh Air Force in distribution of food and other relief items out of . has delivered relief goods via air and set up a 30-bed hospital in Matbaria. India, Italy, Japan, and Saudi Arabia have also contributed in-kind humanitarian assistance.

### **Coordination**

20. Cluster leads and information managers will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Among the agenda items is the use of the Who, What Where templates, the need for further joint assessments and how to best support the Government response plan. At the same day, the World Bank has called a meeting to discuss assessments and further cooperation, with a special focus on recovery.
21. The Government has 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, se below)

**For more information, please contact:**

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**LCG Disaster Emergency Response – Cyclone Updates**

[http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/cyclone\\_updates.php](http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/cyclone_updates.php)

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