

SIDR Cyclone Bangladesh 2007



UN SIT REP #15

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

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 17 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 8.9 million people in 31 districts have been affected by the storm. Latest official reports indicate 3,347 killed, 55,282 injured, and 871 unaccounted for. Material damage is severe, with 563,877 homes completely destroyed and another 955,065 partially. Damage to public buildings is also widespread, with 4,231 educational institutions totally damaged and 12,723 partially.
3. Government relief operations have been ongoing since the cyclone made landfall. Up to 13 December, the Government had allocated 1,721 million BDT from the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund, in addition to 17,240 tons of rice, 43,000 food bags, 16,904 tents, 66,700 blankets, and 13,000 bundles of CI sheets.

Food

4. A total of around 26,000 MT of food has been distributed to people affected by the cyclone: 17,240 MT by the Government of Bangladesh, and around 9,000 MT by other agencies. About 85 percent of this amount has been distributed to the districts of Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, and Barisal.

5. The Food Cluster is continuing to coordinate assessment missions. WFP, FAO and ILO have met to share objectives, field coverage and data collection instruments, to ensure complementary information is gathered regarding food security, nutrition and livelihoods.
6. FAO, as lead of the LCG working group on agriculture, has shared an analysis of potential rice import needs, estimating a gap of 0.6-0.8 million tons that needs to be filled by June 2008.
7. The prices of essential commodities are still reported high.

WASH

8. Water scarcity has been addressed except for small pockets. However water quality is an ongoing concern as people return to using pond water, sometimes where treated water is available. Work in areas with tube wells has progressed well and is nearly completed after considerable DPHE activity. Out of 12,984 water points damaged by Sidr, 10,603 had been repaired as of 12 December. Out of 5,982 contaminated ponds, 2,888 had been disinfected.
9. The pace at which sanitation work is being undertaken is slow. Much work is being undertaken spontaneously by populations who are finding their own means to repair their old toilets. However, “permanent” sanitation takes more time. A workshop on sanitation and hygiene promotion will be held in the next couple of weeks to bring together major organizations to ensure common standards.
10. Good progress has been made to quantify the level of outstanding WASH relief and recovery. However more work needs to be done before an agreed view can be formed from the WASH cluster as to whether there are sufficient resources to collectively meet relief and early recovery needs.
11. Some district and division level WASH coordination meetings are occurring. DPHE supports the idea that a major WASH NGO in each of the 5 most affected districts supports their lead in coordination and these NGOs have been identified.

Shelter

12. The Shelter Coordination Group (SCG) continues to receive data from the partners on their plans and operations for distribution of NFI and shelter materials. 19 agencies/NGOs are planning to distribute NFIs to some 322,000 households across 8 districts; of these 117,000 households (36%) have already received their lot. Seven agencies/NGOs plan to distribute shelter materials to 95,000 households in 7 districts.
13. At the SCG Coordination meeting of 12 December, it was agreed that shelter assistance had to be re-oriented to prepare households for the upcoming winter and then rainy season. Affected people should be provided with durable construction

materials, such as CGI sheets, tarpaulins, etc, as soon as possible. The gap for shelter needs is in the range of 250,000 households. More funding is needed.

14. A workshop on building cyclone-resistant shelter was conducted in Barisal on 15 December; some 50 people attended the one-day workshop.

Early Recovery

15. The Early Recovery Cluster has accepted the report of TWG on Needs Assessment and endorsed the TWG to proceed with Environmental Rapid Assessment as well as the Early Recovery Needs Assessment. Both assessments will be fielded with the leadership of the Government and participated by cluster member agencies from 14 to 20 December. The Cluster Coordinator has met the Secretary of the Ministry to outline the strategic direction of the Cluster to help address the immediate needs while longer-term recovery is in the planning stage.
16. UN HABITAT has been assisting the connection between Early Recovery Cluster and Shelter Cluster. Meanwhile the Cluster also facilitates an ongoing discussion between actors on the ground with UNOSAT to explore the use of remote sensing to strengthen the environmental assessments.

Health

17. As of 14 December, a total of 32,489 cases of post-cyclone disease had been reported. Fever/typhoid is the most common disease, with 12,353 cases reported in 9 districts. Bagerhat district has highest number of reported cases of diarrhea, skin diseases, eye infections, pneumonia and fever/typhoid. The trends of diarrhoea and pneumonia cases are declining and static.
18. Public health interventions continue through the cluster approach. Four health cluster sub-groups already held their meeting and finalization of ToRs are underway.
19. Priorities for future weeks include assessing needs and strengthen timely collection of cases and deaths reports. A health assessment methodology is being finalized along with logistic and financial arrangements to get the current status of health services and needs in 9 districts.

Logistics

20. Contact lists for transport companies and warehouses can be found on the following web site: <http://www.logcluster.org/> along with information on Customs.
21. Logistics Cluster coordination is now led by the WFP Logistics Officer in country. Details below.

Donor contributions

22. Relief assistance from international donors now totals USD 241.7 million. The World Bank has pledged funding of up to USD 325 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.
23. The top-five donors are: Saudi Arabia (USD 102.7 million), United States (USD 19.5 million), Japan (USD 18.0 million), UN System (USD 17.4 million), United Kingdom (USD 14 million).
24. A number of governments have been giving in-kind assistance. United States provided airlift capabilities, Pakistan has delivered relief goods via air and set up a 30-bed hospital in Matbaria. India, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have also contributed in-kind humanitarian assistance

Coordination and Outlook

25. As the immediate relief phase is concluding, giving way for the early recovery and residual relief phase, a number of changes in coordination and activities are starting to take place. Coordination clusters are incorporating an increasing number of early recovery elements into their work, and clusters that have dealt with immediate relief work will start to downsize.
26. There is a need to realign Coordination clusters with the GoB Action Plan, as line Ministries start to take over responsibilities from MoFDM. To facilitate this transition, it has been decided to hold weekly meetings between cluster leads, the GOB coordination cell, and key representatives from line Ministries.
27. The World Bank, which will play a more central role in coming months as focus shifts to recovery, has announced that a joint needs assessment mission will take place in January 2008.
28. Inter-cluster efforts are ongoing to consolidate the many needs assessments underway or forthcoming.
29. As before, the Government requests that information on relief distribution be shared with the Relief Operations Coordination Cell in Barisal to avoid duplication and gaps. Please note that the Cell has been shifted to a new location, at the Barisal Stadium. New telephone and fax numbers below.
30. The Eid and Christmas holidays will mean a reduction in activity, so it is important that actors take measures to ensure that information flows and collaborative structures have enough momentum to be resurrected after the holiday period.

For more information, please contact:
Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

Mr. Magnus Lundgren
(+880) 2 811 8600 (ext. 2412)
magnus.lundgren@undp.org

Mr. Pablo Ruiz
(+880) 1713142934
pablo.ruiz@undp.org

Mr. Rune Brandrup
(+880) 2 811 8600 (ext. 2513 - 208)
rune.brandrup@undp.org

Cluster	Lead/convenor	Telephone	Email
Early Recovery (UNDP)	Tarik Islam	+88 01713043617 02 8118600	tarik.islam@undp.org
Food (WFP)	John McHarris	88 01711596032 02 8119069 x2253	john.mcharris@wfp.org
Health (WHO)	Duangvadee Sungkhobol	+880 1711549198 02 8614653 x27221	sungkhobold@searo.who.int
Logistics (WFP)	El-Fatih Bakhiet	02 8116344-8 x2118	el-fatih.bakhiet@wfp.org
Emergency Shelter (IFRC)	Bernard Laliberte	+880 1731676905	scg.coord@gmail.com
WASH (UNICEF)	Paul Edwards	+880 171301628	pedwards@unicef.org

LCG Disaster Emergency Response – Cyclone Updates
http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/cyclone_updates.php

Relief Operation Coordination Centre in Barisal
Tel: 0431-2176250; Fax: 0431-2176249

