

Food:

- Up to Wednesday, December 05, 2007 GoB has allocated approximately 16,890 MT of Rice (Gratuitous Relief), and distributed 27,000 food bags to cyclone victims.
- GoB continues to implement food assistance from the Kingdom of Saudia. As of the 6th December, over 161,500 relief packages of food have been allocated to SIDR affected areas.
- The Daily Star on the 7th of December reported that the GoB has reduced its rice import estimate for the current fiscal year. According to the article the GoB now estimates that 1.42 million MTs of rice are needed (as opposed to an earlier estimate of 3.1 million metric tons) to meet the domestic deficit due to flood and cyclone related crop damages.
- On 6th December 2007 a meeting was held between MoFDM and the Indian High Commission on organizing the import of 500,000 MT of rice that the Government of India already committed. The ministry requested to arrange the shipment to arrive within February 2008.
- BRAC continues to actively distribute food relief assistance in 4 cyclone affected districts (Barisal, Khulna, Patuakhali, and Faridpur). Since the onset of the disaster, approximately 184,700 families have been assisted. Most of these families received a food package consisting of 10 kgs. rice, 1 kg. Lentil, and 2 biscuit packets. BRACs total food distributions as of 7th December amount to 1510 MTs rice, 196 MTs lentils, 169 MTs flattened rice, 89 MTs potatoes, 42 MTs molasses, 31 MTs biscuits, and 20,012 litres of Milk.
- As of 5th December, WFP has assisted approximately 1.2 million cyclone victims, with 1157 MTs (mostly rice, and high energy biscuits).
- Luftfahrt ohne Grenzen (Aviation without Borders, a BRAC partner) loaded seven containers with 150 tonnes of high quality baby and children's food to send to Chittagong port, valued at about USD 800,000. The consignment is expected to arrive at Chittagong port around January 7, 2007. 107 tonnes out of 150 is children's prepared food. 1 million meal portions for babies and small children are capable of safeguarding the survival of 10,000 children for a period of 3 months. The consignment also includes biscuits and dried pastries.

- UNDP, through support from DFID, has distributed a dry food package consisting of 5kgs. flattened rice, and 1 kg. Molasses to approximately 70,000 families. The distribution involved 12 NGO partners, in 12 cyclone affected districts.
- WFP and Partners (twenty organizations in total) have begun a food security assessment of the cyclone affected population. The objectives of the assessment are to inform and refine ongoing relief operations, as well as to provide the information needed for planning a transition to early recovery programming. Field teams began collecting data on the 9th December, and will continue thru the 14th December. Training sessions were held over the weekend for approximately 40 assessors, at separate trainings in Dhaka, Jessore, and Barisal. The assessment covers 62 randomly selected unions in the 12 most affected districts. Three survey tools; a household, community, and market questionnaire are being utilized.
- WFP is finalising Field Level Agreements, with Six NGOs – Save the Children-USA (SCF-USA), CARE, Islamic Relief (IR), Proshika, World Vision and Shushilon – for its fourth round food distribution.
- A briefing meeting with NGOs was held on 5 December 2007 in the WFP Barisal Field Office. Representatives from all NGO implementing partners were present. Beneficiary selection took place between 6-9 December, and distributions are planned to start approximately 10-11th December.
- The prices of essential commodities are still high as reported by field monitors after monitoring a few local markets (haats) and interviewing rural people in Jhalkathi, Perojpur districts and adjacent areas.
- Logistics officers are coordinating with NGOs on food delivery and distribution plans, and assessing and establishing warehouse facilities in Barisal/Khulna/Bagerhat districts.