

**WASH situation AT A GLANCE
SUPER CYCLONE 'SIDR':
BANGLADESH 09 DECEMBER 2007,**

WASH Situation in BARISAL, BHOLA, JHALOKATI, PATUAKHALI, PIROJPUR, BAGERHAT, KHULNA Districts: (Since 6-9th December 2007)

WASH Situation Highlights:

- The rate of tube well repair by DPHE and others now mean water supply concerns really only remain in those areas that are normally water scare areas, (along with underserved char areas). Temporary water supply arrangements are operating in the vast majority of these water scare areas, though there may still be isolated pockets with limited water availability.
- Sanitation is being recognized as an increasing concern now that water supply issues are mostly dealt with. Sanitation remains a problem across the whole affected area, so unlike water supply issues which are localized to water scare areas, this presents a greater challenge in terms of scale and geographical spread.
- Coordination amongst WASH organizations is improving at district and Upazlia levels now that WASH specific meetings are being held to complement Gov coordination mechanisms through UNO and DC etc.

WASH Interventions:

- Demand from Water treatment units is decreasing in some locations as people return to pond use. Some water treatment units are/will need decommissioning/relocating.
- DPHE report as of 4/12/07 affected water points 12,184 , Repaired 9,182. Work on tube well repair likely to be complete in coming 2 weeks or so at current rate progress.
- DPHE report; as of 4/12/07, ponds damaged 5982, ponds cleaned 1450 . However these figures do not include ponds cleaned by NGOs and many hundreds have been reported as cleaned to date. Pond cleaning may continued for another few weeks before situation back to pre cyclone levels. Pond cleaning and restoration of PSF (Pond Sand Filters) is most crucial in areas of water scarcity and will enable temporary water supply from trucks and treatment units to be phased out.
- Some sanitation work has been agreed for displaced populations, though some of these people have now moved back home.
- Work on latrine repair already undertaken by many people by their own initiatives. Additional efforts by NGOs has now started. NGOs efforts are thought to be in range of a few hundred latrines constructed. DPHE has not reported any works on latrine construction.

Challenges and Priority Action:

- By the middle of this week (for the WASH meeting on Wed 12th) a picture will be available of the collective resources of the WASH cluster actors and how well this matches the total needs that have resulted from the cyclone.
- Considerable agency assessment has been undertaken in the last few weeks, though little has been made available collectively. Cross cluster reassessment and monitoring capacity is limited to members of the UNICEF WASH team, though arrangements should be in hand to expand this capacity through hire of external consultants. For the time being the focus of assessment and monitoring must be focused on Bagharhat as this is the area with the highest number of diarrhea cases (noting that there are multiple causes of diarrhea, e.g. food quality, water etc). The WASH cluster as whole urgently needs to discuss and agree what/if collective reassessment is required.
- Sanitation is now the biggest concern and is being recognized as such. However action has lagged behind the focus on water.
- This is reflected in the lack of mention of sanitation in the reported government statistics. DPHE are now starting to generate this information and Upazila level information should be available in the coming few days.
- Only after considerable effort in phoning around NGOs to get information about their programmes, is the picture finally being put together to understand where there may be gaps. While some organizations are engaged in and/or planning sanitation and hygiene promotion work, capacity is likely to be below that which is needed. Also given DPHE and NGO lack of

involvement and focus on this work, the need to identify more capacity to undertake sanitation/hygiene promotion is apparent.

- Given the above, there may well be variance in approach and standards in sanitation work. A technical working group needs to be formed from major organizations that will work on sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- WASH coordination at district level is now starting to emerge with DPHE at the centre of catalyzing efforts. However this does need to be supported actively by NGOs in order to be more inclusive and enable the collective capacity to be mobilized in the most effective way. Furthermore communication linkages between this level and Barisal and Dhaka need to be improved so current data and analysis can be readily shared.
- WASH cluster maps have now been produced for water scare areas and the intention is to direct WASH NFIs (water containers, hygiene items) distributions to focus on these as a first priority as public health risks are likely to be greatest in these areas. Similarly agencies should focus pond cleaning efforts and restoration of PSFs in water scare areas to enable complex, expensive and non sustainable water treatment units and trucking to be phased out in the coming weeks.
- The scale of the sanitation problem can crudely be linked to level of housing destruction. Where houses have been destroyed latrine superstructure is destroyed and to a much lesser extent sub structure (slabs and pit linings) damaged. The two challenges are how to link latrine repair to those efforts on rebuilding houses and focusing on the most needy groups. An analysis of those affected by cyclone SIDR who were considered as hard core poor (before the cyclone) will assist in providing a map of where work on sanitation facilities could be focused.
- Schools sanitation and water supply appears not to be addressed in any systematic way. The extent of DPHE responsibilities needs to be better understood and for NGO built/run schools, the matter of who and how this is undertaken needs to be discussed.