

**Network for Information, Response And Preparedness Activities on
Disaster (NIRAPAD)
Bangladesh Norwester/Tornado 2004
SitRep#02: Issued: April 15, 2004
(www.nirapad.org)**

Tornado Kills 51 at Mymensingh and Netrokona

Injured 1200, 37 villages destroyed

SITUATION SUMMARY:

A devastating tornado swept over the 3 Upazilas of North-Central Bangladesh has torn the habitat yesterday evening. According to reliable sources, least 51 persons were killed and over one thousand injured as the furious tornado swept over Haluaghat of Mymensingh and Sadar & Purbadhala of Netrokona districts.

After the devastation at least 37 dead bodies rescued in Netrokona Sadar and Purbadhala and 14 from Haluaght. As per locals and Non-government sources, the figure of dead would be at least 72. However assessment of dead was ongoing.

According to the sources a total 37 village were demolished and 3-4 thousands of semi pucca, pucca houses and educational institutions were destroyed by the rapid onset furious disaster. The tornado damaged entire standing crops, uprooted trees and electric poles and causing serious disruption in power supply. Tornado dismantled the CI sheets like as paper.

Extent of Damage at a glance:

Particulars	Haluaghat of Mymensingh	Netrokona Sadar	Purbadhala	Total
Affected Union	Gazirvita	Mougati, Rouha and Medni	Purbadhala, Agia, Hogla, Gagra Jaria and Dhalamulgaon	10
# of affected villages	6	20	11	37
# of Household affected				3000-4000
# of people died	25	40	07	72
# of people injured	600	600		1200
#of houses damaged				98%
# of Cattle died				1000

(The table has been prepared based on information received from CARE Mymensingh, People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI), Sabalamby Unnayan Sangstha (SUS), and World Vision Bangladesh.)

SITUATION IN DETAILS:

CARE Mymensingh, based on their field findings, reported that last evening at about 7:30pm a severe tornado hit in parts of three upazilas of Netrokona and Mymensingh district. The tornado lasted for five minutes and caused serious devastation (lives, cattle & property) to approximately 22 villages in four unions of three upazilas. The unions are Mougati and Medni of Netrokona Sadar upazila, Rouha of Purbadhala upazila, Gazirvita of Haluaghat upazila.

Assessment of dead was ongoing but as per UNO and local people 37 persons already been died only in the villages of Netrokona Sadar and Purbadhala. In Haluaghat there are 14 reported dead during the tornado. One RMP crewmember of CARE, Banesa Begum also died in Haluaghat. Approximately 3000 to 4000 families are affected by the tornado. More than 98% of houses in these areas are destroyed by the tornado. Most of the trees are either broken or uprooted. Most of the cattle were killed and as per local people the total would be more than 1000. This is an initial approximation. There are several hundreds (or may be several thousands) wounded who are taken to different hospitals near by like in Netrokona town. Many injured persons were brought to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and last night, there was miking in Mymensingh town to appeal for donation of blood. In this situation, our staff discussed with the UNO, PIO, local people regarding the immediate needs of the affected area and they told that the prime need is to arrange shelter and treatment of the injured persons. Also, drinking water and food is very important too. It is noted that road communication is still okay. As per UNO some relief activities will be started soon by the Govt. resources and he appealed to voluntary organizations for help. Three ministers, Deputy Minister for Health, State Minister for Home and another minister have already arrived in the affected area.

According to the **World Vision Bangladesh**, tornado hit five village namely Gazirvita, Boalmara, Sominapara of Gazirvita union and Kalinikanda of Haluaghat. UDMC members were doing rescue operation along with local community people at last night. Many injured people got admission in to Haluaghat and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Quoting Haluaghat UNO and a local elite of Haluaghat the daily Janakantha (a Bengali newspaper) said everything except a mosque, ruined by the destructive disaster at Boalmara Bazar.

According to a local NGO **Sabalambay Unnayan Sangstha (SUS)**, Tornado swept over Netrokona Sadar and Purbadhala at around 8 PM leaving 47 people dead and injuring over 6 hundreds. Most of the assets of 20 villages under Medni, Mougati and Rouha unions of Netrokona Sadar and 11 villages under Purbadhala, Agia, Hogla, Gagra, Jaria and Dhalamulgaon unions of Purbadhala upazila of Netrokona were affected badly by the 10-15 minutes disaster. Most of the people of these areas have been seriously injured and admitted to nearby different hospitals. Among the villages, Kanchanpur and Hatkhola were affected severely. Affected other villages are Uluati, Madhabpur, Kunia, Amali, Chuchua, Mogati, Tenga and Dudhkura. The injured were admitted to Netrokona Sadar Hospital and Mymensingh Sadar Hospital.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

- CARE Mymensingh has conducted primary damage and needs assessment in Netrokona and also sent a team to Haluaghat for the same.
- World Vision has already sent a medical team to Haluaghat. They have a plan to send a team from National office to see affected area after getting detailed report from their local office.
- A team from ActionAid Bangladesh will go to Netrokona this afternoon for launching a response mechanism (immediate and long term).
- Bangladesh Red Crescent local unit are currently doing an assessment this morning. Federation and BDRCS HQ sent a relief assessment team to the area from Dhaka this morning. Anticipating sending Family kits for distribution once we have a full picture.
- According to SUS, a local NGO, a medical team has been engaged for providing medical support to the victims and six teams for rescuing the injured people. They are providing chira, molasses and water as emergency relief.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

NIRAPAD urges the concerned Government, humanitarian organizations and the able people to respond promptly based on a quick assessment to the victims maintaining coordination.

Immediate Need:

- Materials for temporary shelters
- Supply of emergency food considering children and lactating mothers
- Supply of Drinking water to the Shelters
- ORS
- Treatment facilities (Doctor with First aid materials and Medicine)

Long term need:

- Agriculture recovery programs to ensure farmers have adequate seed, fertilizer and power when the growing season starts.
- Housing rehabilitation support

[This report will also be available in www.nirapad.org](http://www.nirapad.org)