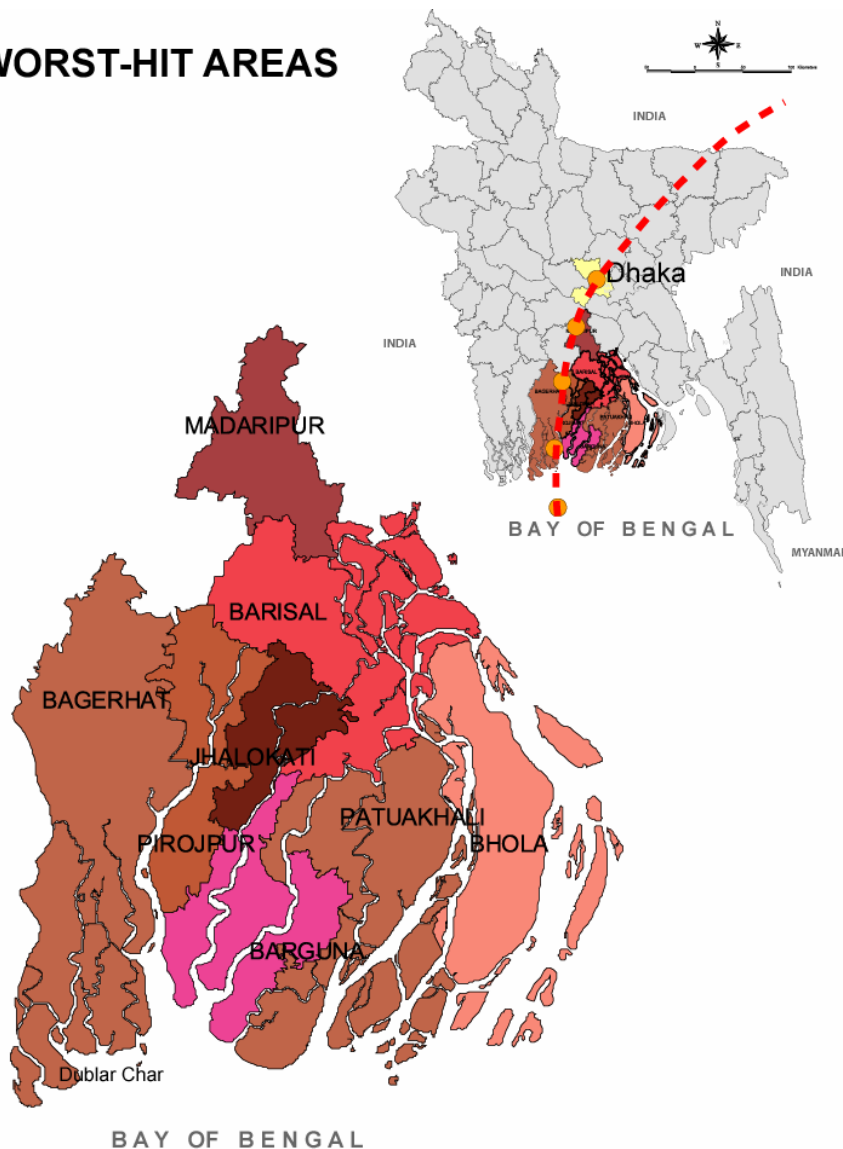


BANGLADESH IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN AFFECTED BY CYCLONE SIDR, 19 NOVEMBER 2007

WORST-HIT AREAS



UNICEF IS SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION, EDUCATION, NUTRITION AND CHILD PROTECTION

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh on the evening of 15 November. The cyclone hit offshore islands at approximately 1830 hours and made landfall across the southern coast from Cox's Bazaar to Satkhira districts at 2030 hours local time. Windspeeds reached up to 240 km per hour affecting 15 districts with 6 others partly affected. The accompanying tidal wave was as high as 12-14 feet on Sandweep Island. The five worst-affected districts are Patuakhali, Barguna, Bagerhat, Barisal and Pirojpur. More than 3,000 deaths have been confirmed to date and a large number of people are missing on the islands and coastal areas. Electricity systems have failed throughout the country, cutting off channels of communication, including mobile phone networks in the worst-affected areas. The infrastructural damage to houses, public buildings, schools and roads, is extensive. From the onset of crisis, the government has expressed the need for support from the international community to safeguard essential drugs, dry food and safe drinking water for the affected population.

The early warning and preparedness systems of the Government of Bangladesh were activated prior to the cyclone hitting landfall. One of the government's disaster preparedness measures included the evacuation of approximately 3.2 million people to safe places from along the coastline in 15 districts. The majority of these people have lost their homes and are now internally displaced. Approximately half of the affected population are children and an estimated 400,000 of them are under the age of five. As the weather will soon get cold, vulnerable children and women require urgent life-saving assistance to be able to survive.

A major immediate priority is ensuring access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities. Many of the affected people returning to their homes will find that their water points and household latrines have been damaged or destroyed. The cyclone has flooded many tubewells with saline water and this has also ruined surface water sources. With poor access to water supply and sanitation facilities, there is a great risk of outbreaks of waterborne diseases, such as cholera and dysentery. Children are most at risk from these diseases. Currently, a total of 732 medical teams are functioning in the affected districts.

Five joint assessment teams, including UNICEF, were launched on the 16th of November. Possible damage to cold chain equipment and deterioration in vaccine potency were reported due to the long power outages, but in about next 72 hours the damage status will be clearer. There is no complete information on damage to schools available yet. However, in 13 districts 2,110 public primary schools have been partially affected and 371 public primary schools have been severely damaged. In five districts in Barisal Division, one third of primary schools have been partially or severely damaged. All schools in the affected districts are currently closed and many schools are being used as shelters.

2. UNICEF'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE: ISSUES & ACTIONS

From the onset of the disaster, UNICEF's humanitarian response has been coordinated with the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) and with the Government of Bangladesh - the Disaster Management Bureau and the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management. The UNDMT immediately formed four joint UN Assessment teams comprised of WFP, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF. The teams were dispatched to four most affected districts and will provide preliminary assessments on a daily basis and a final complete assessment on the 20th of November. The needs are expected to be concentrated on non-food items, food aid, nutrition, water and sanitation and shelter.

UNICEF will support the national response in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) nutrition, education, child protection, education and the provision of non-food items. Although further work needs to be done to consolidate the UN response following the UN cluster approach, UNICEF is taking the lead in four cluster areas: WASH, Nutrition, Education, Protection -together with Save the Children- and emergency telecommunications. The cluster meetings in these four areas are being called in the next few days.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

A major immediate concern is to re-establish access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities. Many water points and households latrines have been damaged or destroyed, tubewells have been flooded with saline water and many surface water sources have been ruined, although some fresh water sources have been located. UNICEF is supporting the lead government agency, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in responding to the immediate needs. The pre-positioning of various supplies with DPHE, such as WPT, tube well spare parts, and jerry cans, has allowed an immediate response to take place. A total of 7.3 million WPT available in DPHE and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) are being mobilized for immediate distribution.

UNICEF is providing immediate support to the most critical needs by supplying jerry cans and cash assistance for transportation of water to the affected areas and for movement of tubewell (handpump) mechanics to repair damaged pumps. The DPHE is dispatching teams of engineers to repair damaged tubewells and to distribute spare parts to re-establish access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in the affected communities. Several mobile water treatment plants are being mobilised for immediate use wherever fresh surface water can be located. However, these supplies will not be sufficient and there is an immediate need to procure more, - in particular jerry cans, water tanks, and latrine rings and slabs.

UNICEF is taking the lead in coordinating the response in WASH with UN agencies and other implementing partners.

Urgent Action

- Immediate procurement of additional jerry cans and plastic water tanks for transportation and storage of water
- Procurement and distribution of soap and other hygiene material
- Procurement and distribution of rings/slabs for the construction of latrines
- Continued assessment of the damage to water and sanitation infrastructures and identification of surface water sources for mobile water treatment plants

HEALTH

Sufficient quantities of essential drugs are currently available at the Central Medical Store Department (CMSD) and District Reserve Stores to meet the increased needs in affected districts. In addition, both WHO and UNICEF have pre-positioned a sizeable quantity of essential drugs at CMSD. Distribution by the MOHFW is being expedited to the affected areas where the population is facing possible outbreaks of waterborne diseases. At the request of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, UNICEF will consider immediate support to facilitate distribution in the most-affected districts. Reports of possible damage to cold chain equipment and deterioration in vaccine potency due to prolonged power outages have been received. Although the magnitude and scale are not yet determined, UNICEF envisages that replenishment of vaccines and the restoration of cold chains may become immediate needs.

Urgent Action:

- Support to expedited distribution of essential drugs from CMSD and district stores to affected areas
- Continued assessment of damage to cold chains and vaccines storage, and the restoration of EPI capacity.

NUTRITION

UNICEF is working with WFP to coordinate the distribution of dry food and BP5 biscuits. 92 MT of BP-5 procured for pre-positioning will be arriving at Chittagong port on the 21st of November and will be available for immediate distribution to affected families. A distribution plan is being prepared for immediate delivery to the most affected and vulnerable families in five severely affected districts: Patuakhali, Barguna, Barisal, Bagerhat and Pirojpur. UNICEF will procure another 90 MT for pre-positioning. As Cluster leader for Nutrition, UNICEF has called a meeting with stakeholders for the 21st of November 2007.

Urgent Action:

- Immediate distribution of 92MT BP-5 through pre-qualified NGOs to children and pregnant and lactating women of 46,000 very vulnerable families in the five most affected districts following the distribution plan prepared jointly with WFP.
- Assessment of an additional need of BP-5 based on the result of a joint assessment. Additional BP-5 will be procured.

EDUCATION

To date, there is no complete overview available of the damage to schools. Currently all schools in the affected districts are closed and many schools are being used as shelters. In 13 districts 2,110 public primary schools were partially affected and 371 public primary schools were severely damaged. In severely affected districts, more than one third of schools were damaged.

UNICEF's response in education will be planned based on a more detailed assessment of the situation of schools and children in the affected areas. UNICEF will also take the lead in coordinating the education response with UN agencies and other implementing partners.

Urgent Action:

- Restore access to education for affected children in order to restore a sense of normalcy in their lives and minimize disruption.
- Provision of teaching materials and support for teachers as appropriate
- Creation of temporary safe learning spaces in places where structures are not safe to use or no longer available.

CHILD PROTECTION

Many children have been traumatized by this experience and suffering from severe emotional distress. Many of them have been displaced and separated from their families. Traditional support and care arrangements are no longer functioning and psychosocial support for these children will be crucial to their long-term well-being. Psycho-social support will be provided by trained NGO partners in shelter homes. They will organize recreational sessions and exercise vigilance to protect vulnerable children. UNICEF will collaborate closely with the Save the Children Alliance, particularly Save the Children USA, which has an extensive preparedness capacity in Barisal, - one of the most affected districts. Two NGO partners in Barisal and Patuakhali have 150 facilitators and volunteers ready to take immediate action for the protection of children.

Urgent Action:

- Provision of psychosocial support through the distribution of at least 1,500 pre-positioned recreational kits that are available with 20 NGO partners.
- Organize recreational sessions and counselling by 1,700 trained facilitators and volunteers of partner NGOs in the most affected communities.

NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES

The most vulnerable families are either living in shelters or in open places, as they have lost their homes and most or all of their belongings. These families will be identified for support with the family kits and plastic sheeting. UNICEF will procure these non-food items and arrange transportation in the affected districts.

Urgent Action:

- Procurement and distribution of family kits, including women's clothes, plates, spoons and mugs, jerry cans, soap, etc. One piece of plastic sheeting will be provided to each family in need of shelter support.
- Distribution by pre-qualified NGOs of family kits and plastic sheeting in close coordination with local government officials and other organizations to avoid overlapping and duplication.

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A UNICEF telecommunications assessment team will be moving to Barisal to install solar panels and an additional capacity for HF/VHF telecom equipment.

3. ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

UNICEF will support the Government's relief efforts in the areas of Health, Water and Sanitation, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection.

In the next few days, based on the results of the Rapid Assessment, the UN Country Team will submit a CERF application to support a portion of the multi-sector response. As part of the initial response, UNICEF regular resources for emergency preparedness are being used to meet the immediate needs in WES and Health. Temporary allocations from the regular programme will be used to cover additional needs in the areas of nutrition and non-food assistance to families, while more accurate information on the needs becomes available. These resources will need to be replenished with funds raised in the coming weeks.

The budget below is based on UNICEF's core commitments for children, taking into account the assistance provided by other UN agencies and international NGOs. This will be revised once the full extent of the damage and the assistance needed will be assessed.

SECTORS	BUDGET (US\$)
Health	200,000
Water and Sanitation	500,000
Nutrition	525,000
Education	200,000
Non-food items	780,000
Child Protection – Psycho-social care	150,000
TOTAL*	2,355,000

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Details on the Bangladesh emergency response programme can be obtained from:

Louis-Georges Arsenault UNICEF Representative Dhaka, Bangladesh Tel: (880-2) 9336701-10 Fax: (880-2) 9335641-2 Email: lgarsenault@unicef.org	Esther Vigneau UNICEF EMOPS Geneva, Switzerland Tel: + 41 22 909 5612 Fax: + 41 22 909 5902 E-mail: evigneau@unicef.org	Gary Stahl UNICEF PFO New York, USA Tel: + 1-212 326 7009 Fax: + 1-212 326 7165 Email : gstahl@unicef.org
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