

BANGLADESH: CYCLONE

2nd June 1997

*appeal no. 11/97
situation report no. 1
period covered:*

The greatest need of those affected by Cyclone Bravo One is for assistance with the reconstruction of their homes. The BDRCS has now presented a detailed budget for its reconstruction programme that will provide support for rebuilding cyclone resistant homes to 6,000 families over the next four months, plus emergency food for 35,000 for a ten day period.

The context

Cyclone "One Bravo" hit the south-eastern coast of Bangladesh on 19 May 1997. Although it struck during daylight and at low tide, enabling most people to react and reach safety, nevertheless 111 people died, an estimated 10,000 were injured and one million people were left homeless. Over 250,000 homes were totally destroyed, together with much of the family food stocks they contained.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and its Cyclone Preparedness Programme teams gave immediate assistance. Food was distributed to 35,000 people, as was plastic sheeting and tarpaulins for emergency shelters. The BDRCS is now supplying corrugated iron to help the homeless start reconstruction and is proposing to carry out a pilot project of constructing 3,000 reinforced homes for the most vulnerable .

Latest events

With the end of the emergency phase the Government of Bangladesh has appealed for assistance with reconstruction of the damaged areas. Reconstruction should be in traditional building style but with enhanced features to make the homes more wind-proof.

There is a fear of a major diarrhoea outbreak in the storm battered area which could get out of control where people have been drinking polluted water and have eaten rotten food prior to relief supplies arriving.

Many of the 254 missing fishing boats have now returned but some are still missing causing concern for the safety of the crews.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The BRCS has decided to assist the most vulnerable of the cyclone victims by undertaking reconstruction of 3,000 homes and the enhancement of a further 3,000 traditionally built homes that have already been constructed. It will also provide an emergency 10-day supply of food for those people left without means after the emergency phase. This programme is projected to run for a period of 16 weeks.

It will target the following homeless groups:

- The most vulnerable, who are the elderly without any supporting family
- Families with no support and where the head of family is handicapped or suffering from a chronic disease
- Those who conform to the first two categories but who have lost only the roof of their home.

Outstanding needs

As announced in the preliminary appeal, the BDRCS has now prepared a detailed budget summary for its projected relief operation. The need to give first priority to re-housing, indicated in the appeal has been confirmed.

The outstanding needs are for cash -- for the local purchase of food for 35,000 people for a 10 day period and for the purchase, again on the local markets, of construction materials - wood, cement, corrugated iron and fastenings, for huts 10 feet wide and 12 feet long.

ITEM	COST (CHF)
Food supplies	80,399.00
First Aid materials	11,437.00
Housing package	2,088,859.00
Roofing package	375,995.00
Food transport	5,628.00
Building materials, (transport/distribution)	171,724.00
Storage	3,714.00
Personnel costs	85,000.00
General administration	29,000.00
	2,851,756.00
BDRCS capacity building - 5%	142,588.00
BDRCS cost recovery - 7.6%	216,734.00
Secretariat support - 3%	85,553.00
TOTAL	3,296,631.00

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The government is co-ordinating the activities of all organisations responding to this disaster. Other organisations who are involved with reconstruction and emergency feeding programmes are co-ordinating their activities with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to ensure that there is no duplication of work.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

This short (four month) programme to construct 3,000 homes and re-roof a further 3,000 will benefit up to 42,000 people in the cyclone damaged area. The new structures will be built to resist further cyclones and so give much better protection to the inhabitants of the coastal area which is the most disaster prone and vulnerable in the whole of Bangladesh.

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