

Super Cyclone SIDR 2007

1. Introduction

On November 15, 2007 the super cyclone SIDR roared across the south western coast of Bangladesh with driving rain and high waves affected total 30 districts. Heavy rains accompanying cyclone and the tidal waves due to wind effects, called storm surge reached maximum heights of about 20 feet in certain areas, which causing extensive physical destruction, casualties, damages of crops, livestock and flooding low lying lands. The cyclone's attained winds up to 220 km per hour causing further destruction to buildings and uprooting trees that in turn destroyed housing and other infrastructures.

Government has classified four districts as 'worst' affected – Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur and eight districts as 'badly' affected – Khulna, Madaripur, Sariatpur, Barisal, Bhola, Satkhira, Jhalakathi and Gopalganj of the total 30 affected districts.

Total damage has been estimated to 1.7 billion US dollars (MoFDM, 2008).

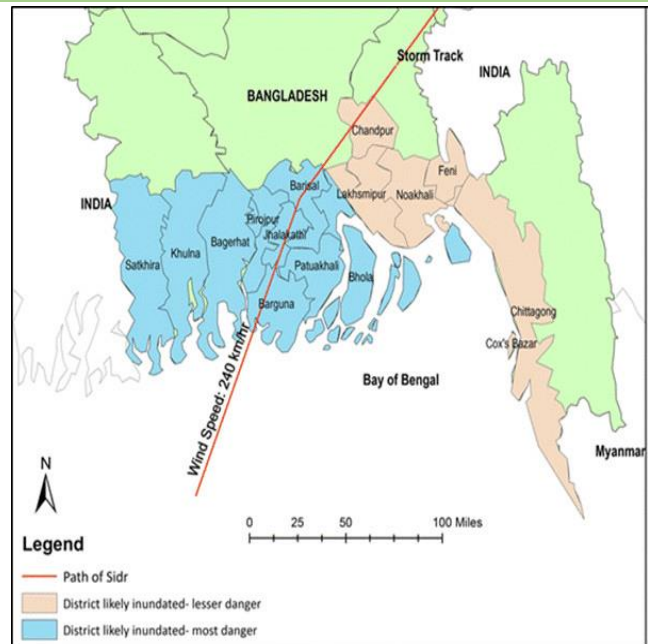


Figure 1: Path of cyclone Sidr and affected districts in coastal Bangladesh (Source: Haque & Jahan, 2016)

Formed:	November 11, 2007
Dissipated:	November 16, 2007
Highest winds:	<i>3-minute sustained:</i> 215 km/h (130 mph) <i>1-minute sustained:</i> 260 km/h (160 mph)
Lowest pressure:	944 hPa (mbar); 27.88 inHg
Fatalities:	3,447–15,000 total
Damage:	\$1.7 billion (2007 USD)
Areas affected:	Andaman Islands, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Northeast India

2. Effects

More than 8.9 million people in 1,950 unions of 200 upazilas under 30 districts were affected by Cyclone Sidr. Official reports indicated an increasing death toll over 3,406 people, with 1,001 missing and 55,282 injured. Total damage is estimated to Bangladesh Taka (BDT) 115.6 billion (US\$ 1.7 billion). Table 1 presents an overall summary of the damage and losses broken down by sectors.

Table 1: Overall Summary of Damage and Losses due to cyclone SIDR (Source: GoB, 2008)

Sector	Sub-Sector	Disaster Effects (BDT Million)		
		Damage	Losses	Total
Infrastructure		71,064	2,130	73,194
	Housing	57,915	-	57,915
	Transport	8,006	1,725	9,731
	Electricity	576	359	935
	Water and Sanitation	157	46	203
	Urban and Municipal	1,696	-	1,696
	Water Resource Control	4,918	-	4,918
Social Sectors		4,482	1,453	5,934
	Health and Nutrition	169	1,038	1,206
	Education	4,313	415	4,728
Productive Sectors		1,734	32,083	33,817
	Agriculture	1,472	28,725	30,197
	Industry	262	2,035	2,297
	Commerce	-	1258	1258
	Tourism	-	65	65
Cross-Cutting Issues		420	0	420
	Environment	420	-	420
Total		79,904	35,665	115,569

3. Emergency Response

Immediate Response from International Organizations

Both the international and national aid communities responded quickly to the crisis. The International Federation of the Red Cross and World Vision, for instance, launched relief operations in the most affected districts. They distributed plastic sheet, blankets and cash, as well as family packages that included rice, lentils and oil. The World Food Program as of December 3, 2007 distributed High Energy Biscuits and rice through NGO partners to 249,187 families in the affected districts. UNDP, UNICEF, OXFAM, SCF Alliance, World Vision, Care Bangladesh, Islamic Relief, Caritas, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide and Action Aid Bangladesh also distributed relief packages.

Immediate Response from National Organizations

Several national organizations also launched relief operations. BRAC, for instance, distributed more than 80,000 food packets to families in 11 districts. Total 13 medical teams also treated more than 7,800 patients. BRAC, and ADRA and other national NGOs delivered food and non-food

relief items to the affected families. Grameen Bank, BRAC and ASA waived loan payments for members who have been affected by the cyclone.

Donor Commitments

Although no formal international appeal was made by the Government, foreign assistance was welcomed. The international community was quick to respond and committed approximately **US\$ 263** million as of 22 January 2008. By far the biggest contribution was from the kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a pledge of \$102.76 million. Table 2 shows summarized information on donor commitments.

Table 2: Summarized information on donor commitment (Source: MoFDM, 2008)

Donor Commitment (USD millions)			
Saudi Arabia	\$102.76	Sweden	\$2.67
USA	\$19.5	Spain	\$1.08
Japan	\$18	China	\$1.05
The UN	\$15.4	India	\$1
The UK	\$14	Turkey	\$1
Kuwait	\$10	Libya	\$1
EC	\$9.08	Switzerland	\$1
Netherlands	\$7.74	Denmark	\$0.97
Canada	\$3.40	Korea	\$0.50
Australia	\$2.75	New Zealand	\$0.38
Belgium	\$2	Sri Lanka	\$0.025
Italy	\$ 1.52	Thailand	\$0.015
Germany	\$1.73	Pakistan	Relief supplies

References

- GoB, 2008. *Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh: Damage, Loss, and Needs Assessment for Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction*, Dhaka, Bangladesh: Government of Bangladesh.
- Haque, A. & Jahan, S., 2016. Regional Impact of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh: A Multi-Sector Analysis. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Science*, Volume 7, pp. 312-327.
- MoFDM, 2008. *Super Cyclone SIDR 2007: Impacts and Strategies for Interventions*, Dhaka, Bangladesh: Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh.