

Impact of the “Sidr” and Humanitarian Needs

The very severe cyclonic storm “Sidr” landed on the coastal areas of Bangladesh on November 15, 2007. It crossed the country until the following day, leaving significant loss of human life and enormous damage to buildings as well as infrastructures. The death toll from this cyclone reached 4,234 people, while more than 8,923,259 people were affected and 1,522,077 buildings were damaged. Distribution of emergency items such as food, water, blankets, shelters and so on, became the first priority immediately after the event. These were delivered by the national army, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, UN organizations and International NGOs. The national government intensified its aid effort on the coastal areas and identified the 6 worst hit zones as priority regions for humanitarian efforts (Patuakhali, Barguna, Bagerhat, Jhalokhathi, Khulna, Pirojipur). (Source: Disaster Management Bureau(DMB) Sit-Rep No.18)

Response by the Japan Platform

Facing the calamity in Bangladesh, on November 19 the **Japan Platform (JPF)** decided to commence emergency humanitarian relief for those affected. This decision was made by the JPF committee board based on the letter of request for mobilization of a relief program, which was submitted by two member NGOs, the Humanitarian Medical Assistance (HuMA), and the Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society (JAFS).

Following approval of the request, the **JPF** “Bangladesh Cyclone Sidr Program” began on November 25 with the start of a project implemented by JAFS, and lasted until the end of the KnK (*Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi*, or Children without Borders) project on June 14, 2008. During the period of 202 days, JPF funded 10 projects of 6 NGOs including a JPF monitoring/evaluation project. The budget for these projects totaled 73,593,963 yen.

Initial Response Phase

From November 25, JAFS started the distribution of food such as rice and flour, as well as non-food items like blankets, winter jackets, saltwater and water purification tablets, etc. They also conducted an initial assessment for humanitarian needs. This was followed by other needs assessments done by KnK, Engineers without Borders Japan (EWBJ) and the Japan Agency for Development and Emergency (JADE) on December 3, 19 and 21 respectively. Apart from these activities, on December 7 the JPF secretariat sent one staff to Dhaka to gather information regarding aid coordination and the humanitarian situation in affected areas. This information enabled the **JPF** to design an effective framework for the program.

Emergency Response Phase

Based on previous assessments, 5 emergency response projects were implemented by 5 NGOs, which individually chose project sites in devastated areas along the coastline. These projects included the distribution of emergency Non-food items (blankets), social psychological care, repair of damaged buildings, construction of breakwater banks, income generation support, and technology transfer of civil engineering for disaster prevention. Projects in this phase were characterized by their implementation methods, with 4 out of 5 of them including some sort of reconstruction component.

Activities and Achievements



EWBJ

- Edited and created manuals for civil engineering for disaster prevention (Published 9,000 of which 5,000 are written in Bengali, and distributed 1,010. The rest of them will be used for training and workshops in latter projects.)
- Held 4 Workshops for the manual creation. (220 people participated, including local engineers.)



JADE

- Distributed emergency items (5,000 blankets) for the affected, especially for socially vulnerable people.

JAFS



- Distributed emergency food and Non-food items for about 24,000 people in the first response phase.
- Constructing breakwater and aquaculture ponds in order to support the income generation of affected fishermen.

KnK

- Opened children centers in 5 villages, offered social psychological care for affected youth, distributed education materials, repaired children centers, and conducted vocational training.
- 650 youth regularly participated activities at children centers, while 80 youth (of which 40 are female) acquired sawing, weaving and crafting skills.



SVA (Shanti Volunteer Association)

- Repaired 18 damaged community centers (so called "Gonokendra").
- Distributed of education materials for 1,000 students.



Invested resources (including Support from private sectors)

Budget \$681,425 for 10 projects.

Networks

- Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
 - Support for fund raising (call for donation)
- The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 - Mediation to Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japanese Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka
- Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Japanese Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka
- Japan External Trade Organization
 - Information Sharing with the Japanese Business Society in Dhaka

Services

- The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ
 - Offering Bank Accounts for Donation
- Japan Airlines
 - Free Airplane Tickets for NGO Staff
- MITSUBISHI ESTATE CO., LTD.
 - Offering Rooms for Meetings
- NYK Group
 - Proposal for Shipping Support of Relief Goods
- SOFTBANK MOBILE Corp.
 - Free Lease of Mobiles
(Including Basic Fee and Call Charge)

NUMBERS at a glance



Program Duration

-November 25, 2007 to June 10, 2008 (**202days**)

Number of Projects and Number of Implementation NGOs

- 10 Projects**
- 6 NGOs** (including the JPF secretariat)

Total Budget

-73,593,963yen (equivalent to **\$681,425** (1¥ = \$108 as of June14, 2008))
of which 52% was contributions from private sector.*
The remaining 48% was ODA of the Japanese government.

Total Number of Beneficiaries

-**67,486** (Total sum of all projects)

Total Amount of Monetary Donations

-47,161,067 yen (equivalent to **\$436,677**)
(1¥ = \$108 as of June14, 2008)

Total Number of Supporters

- **81** (36 Private companies, 40 Individuals, 5 Others)

* " private sector" here means private companies and individuals.