

## Project No. 54

### RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES FOR CYCLONE SIDR AND CYCLONE AILA-AFFECTED PEOPLE

#### Principle:

The most vulnerable cyclone-affected communities meet their basic needs and live in safe and secure conditions.

#### Objectives of the Project:

- To enable the target households to meet the needs such as food, non-food, water, sanitation, shelter and protection;
- To help the people to recover/diversify their livelihoods; and
- To enhance their skills so as to take disaster risk reduction measures.

#### Background:

After the hit of the super cyclone Sidr on 15th November 2007, Caritas Bangladesh immediately responded to the emergency needs of affected families (62,675) with food and non-food items, cash for works (emergency cleaning and repairing for 321,820 mandays), professional/livelihood support works (7,500 families), house and latrine repairing (2,800 families), school repairing (56) by June 2007. During the reporting period Caritas completed the construction of 7,300 low cost houses, additional professional support program for 3000 families and started implementation of 'SOMRIDDHI', Sidr-Affected Community-Led Action for Livelihood Restoration and Disaster Risk Reduction project, Community Led construction of 13 new cyclone shelters and repair of 76 existing cyclone shelters.

Another cyclone named Aila hit the southwestern coast of the country (most of the people were also affected by the cyclone Sidr in 2007) on 25 May 2009. It washed away several thousands houses, as wind-driven tidal surge inundated the vast tracts of land. So far 190 persons were reported dead and many still missing. The roads and embankments were damaged seriously. Caritas immediately distributed emergency food, water and hygiene kits and undertook relief and rehabilitation activities for the cyclone Aila-affected people.

In the last three consecutive years i.e. 2005, 2006 and 2007 floods and *monga* (famine) affected Rangpur district. During the years the floods destroyed the standing *Aman* (a variety of paddy) and damaged houses and other livelihood options. The floods and *monga*-affected people had no savings/means/ability to recover their losses by themselves. Had they not been helped by some development agencies including Caritas, they would have sold their homesteads for survival.

Caritas implemented cash for works, professional support and construction of low cost houses for the floods and *monga*-affected families through the financial support of Caritas Internationalis. Besides, Caritas materialized a good number of structural support projects for reducing possibilities of future disasters with the support of Trocaire, Ireland.

**Staff Strength :** Total-36 (Male-34, Female-2)

#### Donors:

Caritas Andorrana, Caritas Australia & AusAid, Caritas Austria, Missio, Austria, Caritas Belgium, CCOOP -Canada, Charita Ceska Republika, CAFOD & DEC, Secours Catholique - Caritas France, Caritas Germany - German Government and ECHO, Caritas Zentralstelle, Andheri Hilfe, Aktion Mission Leprahilfe Schiefbahn, Caritas India, Caritas Indonesia, Trocaire, Caritas Italiana - FONDAZIONE CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI VERONA and REGIONE FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA, Caritas Japan, Fr. Romel Cruz - MSP, Caritas Korea, One Body One Spirit Movement, CORDAID and Dutch Government,

Caritas Aotearoa, Saint Mary's Academy, Caritas Manila, Caritas Scotland, Caritas Spain and Council of Majadahonda, Caritas Sweden, Caritas Switzerland and Swiss Solidarity, Caritas Taiwan, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) - O'Neil Fund, Mercy Corps and OFDA and Caritas Antilles extended financial assistance to this project.

### Expenditure:

Foreign Partner's Contribution : Tk. 341,481,850

### Beneficiaries (No.):

Direct: Male-13,295 ; Female- 8,864 ; Total- 22,159

Indirect: Male 205,000 Female 205,000 Total 210,000

### Target and Achievements:

Target and Achievements (in Tabular form) - as per the following format

Sl.	Particulars	Achi: as on June 2008	Target for 08-09	Achi: for 08-09	% of Achi:	Cumm as on June 09
<b>A Rapid Response:</b>						
1	Water Distribution	0	4,200	4,200	100	4,200
2	Food Distribution:	365,929	1,700	1,700	100	367,629
3	Child Friendly Spaces (CFS)	0	6	6	100	6
4	Warm Cloth Distribution for Cold Wave	145,542	0	0	0	145,542
5	Hygiene Kit Distribution	0	5,000	5,000	100	5,000
6	Medicine Distribution (Malaria)	307,490	0	0	0	307,490
7	NFI Distribution	65,950	0	0	0	65,950
<b>B. Early Recovery:</b>						
1	House Repairing/Reconstruction	3,740	0	0	0	3,740
2	Cash for Works	4,127,626	20,273	20,356	100	4,147,982
3	Professional/Livelihood Support	116,994	3,375	3,382	102	120,376
4	School Repairing/Reconstruction	56	0	0	0	56
5	Structural Disaster Mitigation Projects	94	106	106	100	200
6	Education Support Program	56	0	0	0	56
<b>C. Rehabilitation</b>						
1	Low Cost Houses with Latrine	384,605	7,425	7,425	200	392,030
2	Water Sealed Latrines	5,842	0	0	0	5,842
3	Hyphening Promotion	15,648	12,300	12,300	100	27,948
4	Drinking Water Tube Wells	2,019	0	0	0	2,019
<b>D. Long-term Preparedness</b>						
1	Construction of Cyclone shelters	224	13	0	0	224
2	Construction of Flood shelters	78	0	0	0	78
3	Repair of Cyclone shelters	0	76	30	39	30
4	CBDRM projects (Unions)	104	0	0	0	104

**Impacts:**

- The living condition of the 7,425 cyclone and flood-affected families has improved. It has ensured sphere standard for 5+ family members.
- Each of the constructed houses has a six feet corridor (veranda) providing a space to be used as a sitting room or for storing assets or for keeping domestic animals.
- The cyclone and flood-affected 7,425 families now live in their original living places. Caritas has constructed all the houses in their homesteads or donated land.
- All the families use sanitary latrine. Caritas has provided a set of water sealed latrine and technical support for installation. These facilities helped them to be free from water-borne diseases.
- The poor families are now protected from the adverse affect of rain, cold, and heat.
- In all 106 structural support work such as construction of cyclone shelter, roads, flood and cyclone shelters and installation of tube-wells and latrines have been developed for protection of the local people from future disasters.

**Conclusion:**

Immediately after the super cyclone Sidr had devastated on 15 November 2007, Caritas Bangladesh rushed there to salvage the affected families. Caritas conducted an evaluation on the project under EA 37/2007 and the report was duly circulated to all member organisations through Caritas Internationalis.

Caritas has also started implementation of repairing the existing cyclone shelters (76) and construction of new cyclone shelters (13) and SOMRIDHI project supported by USAID for providing livelihood support for 10,000 cyclone Sidr-affected families. The concerned stakeholders hope that the initiative would certainly benefit the afflicted people at the aspired level.

### **Kawsar Possesses a Safe House**

Like other coastal areas the village of South Sorenga in Raypur union under Anowara *upazila* (sub-district), Chittagong district was affected by the super cyclone Sidr. Kawsar Akter (30) and her husband Idrish Miah live there with their two children. For a long time they had a dilapidated thatched house. Idrish is the only earning member of his family. He catches fish in the sea and earns on an average Tk.150/- per day. Their existence is near subsistence.

During the Sidr the family went to a neighbor's house to take shelter. Their house was fully destroyed. They were not alone to be hit by the calamity. Cyclone Sidr ruined more than thirty-six thousand houses and damaged two lakhs partially. After losing everything people were living in temporary shelters arranged by different agencies. In the meantime they came to know that Caritas Chittagong Regional Office had started rehabilitation work through a Shelter Construction Project for the Sidr affected people. The project personnel conducted a survey. They made a list of the helpless poor families, who had no ability to re-build their own houses. Considering the miserable condition, the survey team selected Kawsar Akter as a beneficiary. Some days later she possessed a beautiful two roomed house with an open veranda. Timber instead of ordinary wood has been used for building the frame of the house. To protect the house from probable cyclone in future there was a provision for constructing the roof with CI sheet and 12 RCC pillars. There was a Pit latrine. It was fenced with bamboo.

Now they live in a comparatively safe house. With utmost gratitude Kawsar Aktar said, "Caritas constructed my house with good materials and ensured our family's safety. I will never forget the well-being done to me by this organization. I pray for those friends who has sacrificed their wealth in order to make us lead a comfortable life."

## Child Friendly Space (CFS) in the Aila Affected Area

### **Background and Objective:**

Child Friendly Space (CFS) in the Aila affected area is a three-month long project which is being implemented with the support of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark. The project started on 7 June 2009 and will be completed on 7 September 2009. The reporting period covers only three weeks. The objective of the project is to provide humanitarian assistance to the cyclone Aila victims children. Immediate intervention was necessary to protect the children from the unfavorable situation created owing to the result of the catastrophe. CFS is a mechanism through which essential services to children, i.e. nutritious food, school uniform, recreation, psychological and educational supports are provided to ensure their protection and growth. The facilities have made a joyful learning environment for the selected children of very poor backgrounds.

### **Major outcomes during the reporting period:**

- Six centers are being selected as Child Friendly Space (CFS) in three unions (Padmapukur 2 + Gabura 3 + Munshiganj 1) of Shyamnagar *upazila* under Satkhira district.
- Twelve facilitators and six cooks under the supervision of a project in-charge look after 368 children.
- A very congenial atmosphere prevails in the centers where the children are being nurtured following the well-defined guidelines.

### **Conclusion :**

Child Friendly Space (CFS) in the Aila affected areas is a new initiative of Caritas Bangladesh. Through this project Caritas has been able to provide immediate services to the kids fallen victims to Aila. The centers are regarded a second home by the children who enjoy the elementary amenities that fulfill their needs for a stipulated period. The parents and guardians are very happy to observe their children spending the days in a joyful environment. It is hoped that the distressful memory of Aila will not haunt them affecting their mental life in future.