

Alert

Bangladesh

Cyclone Roanu Response

Geneva, 24th May 2016

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

On Saturday 21st May 2016, Cyclonic Storm Roanu struck 15 coastal districts of Bangladesh. The death toll in 7 districts was 24 persons. High tidal surge breached embankments in some locations and submerged agricultural land and standing crops. High winds destroyed traditional low cost homes of poor and vulnerable families living inside and outside the embankments. Fully affected families were 29,168 and partially affected 110,684. 500,000 individuals were moved to cyclone shelters and schools for safety by government, Red Crescent and NGO staff and Volunteers. They have now returned back to their homes. Further heavy rainfall is expected that will aggravate the present situation.

2. Why is an ACT response needed

Most of the affected people belong to poor and marginalized sections of the population and they have lost most of their assets (in this case houses) and their livelihoods (crops). As people return to their villages, they will try to repair their houses, however with little or no resources in hand, they will not be able to do it quickly enough. The monsoon season is around the corner which calls for concrete support to repair damaged houses. Many people have been able to survive on their remaining grains that they were able to save due to the early warning they received. Most of the people were able to move into cyclone shelters and other shelters like government buildings, schools, hospitals, etc. These temporary places of refuge will become insufficient in the coming weeks, following which there will be limited options for people to find shelter. The agricultural damages are substantial and in the days to come, the financial security of the communities will be severely tested with fledging markets and defunct infrastructure. The badly affected population will face the challenge of rebuilding houses and ensuring food security.

The Food Security Cluster in a meeting decided on probable needs and allocation of food and non-food items. Needs assessments are being done by the Disaster Management Department along with international and national NGOs, to assess damages in different sectors and assess response for rehabilitation programmes.

3. National and international response

The Government initially allocated 3122 tons of rice and Taka 80,52,000/- (approx.. USD 102442) cash for the 15 districts. However this has been increased to 4048 tons of rice and a cash grant of Taka 1, 95,30,500/ (approx. USD 248478) for 18 districts which were the most severely affected. They have given a cash grant of Taka. 20,000/- (approx. USD 255) for each of 24 families where a person was killed by the cyclonic storm.

In addition, the Government Relief Ministry also distributed 11,063 bundles of CI Sheet and gave a cash grant of Taka. 3000/ (approx. USD 38) to each family) to assist rebuilding their homes.

4. ACT Alliance response

Among ACT Alliance member organizations in Bangladesh, Christian Aid is making an Initial Emergency Response in Kutubdia Island, in Cox's Bazaar district with an initial amount of 25,000 GBP.

No assistance has been given by other ACT members yet, except warning the communities in working locations to move to Cyclone Shelters and Schools that were strong enough to withstand the brunt of the Cyclonic Storm Roanu.

5. Planned activities

A Rapid Assessment is being done by the Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster and Relief, along with NGOs, to assess damages and requirements. It is expected that the Assessment will be completed by May 25 and we expect that the Report will be available the following day or day after.

Based on this Rapid Assessment Report, we will coordinate a separate appeal for a larger appeal of the total Bangladesh ACT Forum Members.

6. Constraints

There are no known political constraints; however we will have to depend on Joint Needs Assessments Reports generated by the Ministry of Disaster and Relief. There will be great need and challenge to coordinate NGO along with the Government allocations.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org).

For further information please contact:

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