



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR / CHIEF REPORTER

UN Extends Support to 14,000 Aila Affected Families

Dhaka, 26 August 2010: The United Nations (UN) System has extended its support to 14,000 cyclone Aila affected families still living on embankments in Bangladesh. Drawing assistance from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the UN agencies will work to distribute food, assist with shelter and implement basic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and nutrition interventions.

The initiative is aimed at reducing the vulnerability of people during monsoon season and help them to improve their temporary dwellings to complement the Government's on-going response efforts to cyclone Aila affected families in Dacope and Koyra Upazilas and Shyamnagar and Ashashuni Upazilas, under Khulna and Satkhira districts respectively.

A recent Joint UN Multi-Sector Assessment found that around 14,000 Aila affected families were still living on the embankments in these two districts.

Following the assessment, a review meeting on the current Aila situation was held at the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and chaired by the Minister, Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque MP. In response to the Minister's call to supplement the Government initiatives, the UN System (WFP, UNDP and UNICEF) in collaboration with DFID pledged to support the Aila victims immediately. The Joint UN Response to Cyclone Aila has a proposed budget of USD 4.6 million (approximately 32.2 crore taka).

WFP will assist 14,000 households with a monthly family food ration consisting of 30kg rice, 5kg of pulses and 3kg of vegetable oil. Households with pregnant and lactating women and children (under 2 years of age) will be provided with an additional allocation of micronutrient fortified blended food to guarantee an adequate diet during this critical period of development. A total of about 3,000mt of food is planned for distribution for a period of 5 months.

While UNDP will distribute shelter packages to those 14,000 families, which includes plastic sheets, ropes, nails, hammers, knives, umbrellas and bamboo. This shelter package is now being distributed in partnership with Bangladesh Scouts.

UNICEF will support those 14,000 vulnerable displaced households with basic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and nutrition interventions. It will equip families with knowledge, skills and hygiene kits to enhance community capacity for proper operation and maintenance of the facilities. Under the nutrition intervention, UNICEF will distribute multiple micronutrient supplements (iron/folate) targeting 10,000 children aged 6 to 23 months and 10,000 pregnant and lactating women to reduce acute malnutrition.

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