



SITUATION REPORT CYCLONE AILA

OVERALL SITUATION

Official Government of West Bengal figures report that the number of population affected on 29 May was 5.4 million in 18 districts. Official figures put the human death toll at 115 and livestock death/ loss at 147. Government efforts are continuing and several NGOs are conducting assessments.

DAMAGE DETAILS

Damage details in West Bengal as of 29 May 2009: (GoWB Report)

SN	District	No. of Blocks affected	No. of ward/ municipality affected	No. of villages affected	Population affected	No. of human lives lost	No. of cattle/ livestock lost	Cropped area affected (in ha)	Estimated damage of crops	No. of houses damaged	
										F	P
1	Cooch Behar	15	6	1,453	295,356	1		26,786		5,353	13,046
2	Jalpaiguri			133	16,500			75		710	1,223
3	Darjeeling	8	4	350	60,115	25	24			964	1,951
4	Uttar Dinajpur			1,430	321,120			43,370		14,339	20,144
5	Dakshin Dinajpur	8	2	305	21,702					1,518	2,966
6	Malda			3,501	270,000	1				15,000	35,000
7	Murshidabad	4		130	18,675	3				3,020	4,512
8	Nadia	17	1		308,250	4				5,390	8,877
9	North 24 Parganas	13	3	1,123	266,490	22				14,168	30,510
10	South 24 Paraganas	7		1,625	899,157	32	89			90,548	97,880
11	Kolkatta					5					
12	Howrah	14			80,820	9				11,910	24,643
13	Hooghly	18		810	600,028	5		9,206		19,648	45,385
14	Bardhaman	10	5		200,000	4				7,447	24,670
15	Birbhum	10			200,000	2				850	1,300
16	Bankura	14	2	5,187	97,500	1	1	410	15,000,000	10,752	13,632
17	Paschim Medinipur	29	7	6,310	628,545		6			37,537	79,348
18	Purba Medinipur	25	5	2,964	1,058,534	1	27	9,223	330,100,000	26,356	57,183
	TOTAL	192	35	25,321	5,342,882	115	147	89,070	345,100,000	265,510	462,278



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Relief efforts in West Bengal as of 29 May 2009 (GoWB Report):

SN	District	No. of persons rescued	No. of Relief Camps	No. of persons in Relief Camps	No. of Medical Camps	No. of Gruel Kitchens
1	Cooch Behar					
2	Jalpaiguri					
3	Darjeeling	2,122	40	2,554		3
4	Uttar Dinajpur					
5	Dakshin Dinajpur					
6	Malda					
7	Murshidabad					
8	Nadia					
9	North 24 Parganas	77,950	203	77,950		
10	South 24 Paraganas	53,200	265	55,000	65	
11	Kolkatta					
12	Howrah					
13	Hooghly					
14	Bardhaman					
15	Birbhum					
16	Bankura					
17	Paschim Medinipur					
18	Purba Medinipur	7,531	22	1,139	8	
	TOTAL	140,803	530	136,633	73	3

UN & NGO response

UN agencies are involved in relief efforts (please see previous Sit Reps on Cyclone Aila for details). Additionally, there are several NGOs that are planning their response in the affected districts:

Save the Children, India

Save the Children (SC) plans to provide immediate relief to 42 villages in Sandeshkhali blocks 1 and 2 in South 24 Parganas. Immediate priority sectors including water, food and shelter. Planned activities include:

- rehabilitating accessible tube-wells and disinfecting other sources of water (ponds, wells)
- providing household jerry cans and water purification tablets
- supplementary feeding, especially targeting children and pregnant and nursing mothers
- basic shelter support
- provision of oral rehydration salts
- establishing safe-spaces for children

Save the Children is also considering supporting families with dry clothes, dry food, hygiene kits, household utensils and education materials. In addition, SC is keen on the possibility of providing medical support and conducting additional sanitation interventions.

Longer term plans include support to children under Save the Children's Child Domestic Work and Trafficking project in SK1 and SK2 blocks, through reviving the bridge courses and vocational training centres and providing education materials and clothes. Save the Children is also considering providing immediate support to communities in Pathorpratima, in South 24 Parganas.



Lutheran World Service India

In South 24 Parganas, LWSI is planning to provide:

- ✚ Staple food packet consisting of Rice, Lentil and cooking Oil
- ✚ HDPE Polythene sheets for temporary shelter
- ✚ Water purification tablets.
- ✚ Bleaching Powder and Lime dust for sanitation
- ✚ 300 Polythene sheets are already distributed at Harbhangi village of Uttarmukamberia Gram Panchayat

MEDIA REPORTS

Declare national calamity, Buddha urges PM West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh requesting him to declare the devastation caused by cyclone Aila a national calamity and provide immediate relief of Rs 1,000 crore for rehabilitation. He also requested the Prime Minister to send a Central team that could, along with a state team, assess the damage caused by the cyclone. "The primary assessment indicates that 51 lakh people have been affected in several districts and loss of human life has already crossed 100. The numbers of fully and partly damaged houses have already reached 2.49 lakh and 2.75 lakh, respectively... The total amount of relief and restoration expenditure to tackle this severe damage may exceed Rs 1,500 crore... a team of Central officials may be sent by you to visit the affected areas along with state Government officials to assess the situation," the Chief Minister wrote in his letter on Thursday. Meanwhile, the death toll in the cyclone has reached 115 in the state with over 5,30,000 people affected. The state has already sanctioned Rs 47 crore to provide succour to the affected people. Though the state had been battered by floods several times in the past few years, this is the first time it has asked the Centre to declare a national calamity. For example, in the 2007-08 floods, 348 people died and about 10 lakh houses were damaged. The total loss ran to hundreds of crores of rupees, but the state still chose not to request the Centre to declare it a national calamity. On May 26, a day after the cyclone had pounded the state, the Prime Minister called Bhattacharjee and asked him whether he wanted any Central assistance. The Chief Minister told him that he would do that if the need arose. (Indian Express)

Package soon for cyclone-hit: Railway Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced that the Central government would come out with a relief package for those hit by Cyclone Aila in West Bengal. After meeting Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, she chief said the package was being worked out and would be announced shortly. Ms. Banerjee requested Mr. Mukherjee to dispatch relief materials to the affected regions as people were facing shortages of food, water and basic commodities. The Finance Minister was set to fly to West Bengal in the evening and see the damage to life and property himself before deciding on the quantum and nature of relief. He is also likely to visit his Lok Sabha constituency, Jangipur. Attending office at Rail Bhavan for the first time after taking oath on May 22 and assuming charge on May 26 in Kolkata, Ms. Banerjee termed the cyclone a disaster. She said the Army was dropping relief materials but wanted the Centre also to compensate those who had lost property. (The Hindu)

SOURCES & CONTACT DETAILS

Sources:

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
- UNDP Orissa office
- Assessment findings

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