

### 3.0 Introduction

In late November, tropical storm Sidr caused widespread damage to the southern areas of Bangladesh. According to an official report from MoFDM (Ministry for Food and Disaster Management) the number of deaths is estimated to be around 4000 with 8.4 million people (1.9 million families) affected. Casualties and damages of houses, livestock, crops, educational institutions, roads and embankments have been reported from 1867 unions of 200 upazilas of 30 districts. Most deaths and damages have been attributed to the storm surge.

Oxfam has responded in the four most severely affected districts: Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Barguna and Pirojpur assisting 30,000 HH. The main components of the response are around water, sanitation, hygiene promotion and emergency shelter.

The working budget in the first week was GBP 750,000 with a working figure of 12,000 households and a plan to scale-up to the 30,000 (the figure in the concept note) as funding came in over the following six weeks. This constraint affected the way that the response was planned: the dilemma of wider coverage and a smaller package versus less coverage and more intense support. The team chose the first option for the immediate response. By the time the real time evaluation took place, the funding had increased significantly to about three million GBP.

The real time evaluation took place in January 2008 with a team of three people, two from Oxfam GB (regional and HD) and one representative from Oxfam International.

### 4.0 Methodology

The RTE process followed the model developed within Oxfam over the last 18 months but using the newly developed OI guidelines. The team used six key benchmarks that have been developed over previous RTEs to judge the response against, and the critical enablers and barriers. Other sections of this document include the broad conclusions reached, and recommendations and key learning points.

The team visited three districts (Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Parthargartha), had discussions with Utteran, Rupantar, Sangkalpa Trust and BRAC, talked to OGB staff, partner staff and visited 11 communities where approximately 180 men and 170 women were interviewed separately. The team also spoke to one district official and representatives from SCF (US), Muslim Aid and DFID. Unfortunately we were not able to meet the OGB partner ADMD and the Novib partner SDS.

### 5.0 Findings

#### 5.1 Benchmark 1

*Relative to other actors our speed of response will be excellent. OGB has well-established offices at country level, and preparedness measures were in place.*

##### 5.1.1. Timeliness

The initial response was very timely. Both Uttaran and Rupantar had begun planning before the cyclone landfall and contacted Oxfam on the 16<sup>th</sup> for assistance. Verbal agreements were given and OGB quickly gave the go-ahead for the release of contingency stocks for Rupantar, Utteran and ADMD to distribute. BRAC were told by Novib to use 50%<sup>5</sup> of their floods response rehabilitation programme funding for the cyclone response and they distributed food packages almost immediately (within the first week). The water trucking, pond cleaning and water purification were also timely. There was a rapid mobilisation of the community through cash for work groups<sup>6</sup> and clean-ups began within a surprisingly short time. Despite the

<sup>5</sup> 450,000 Euros

<sup>6</sup> Actually more in the form of casual labour