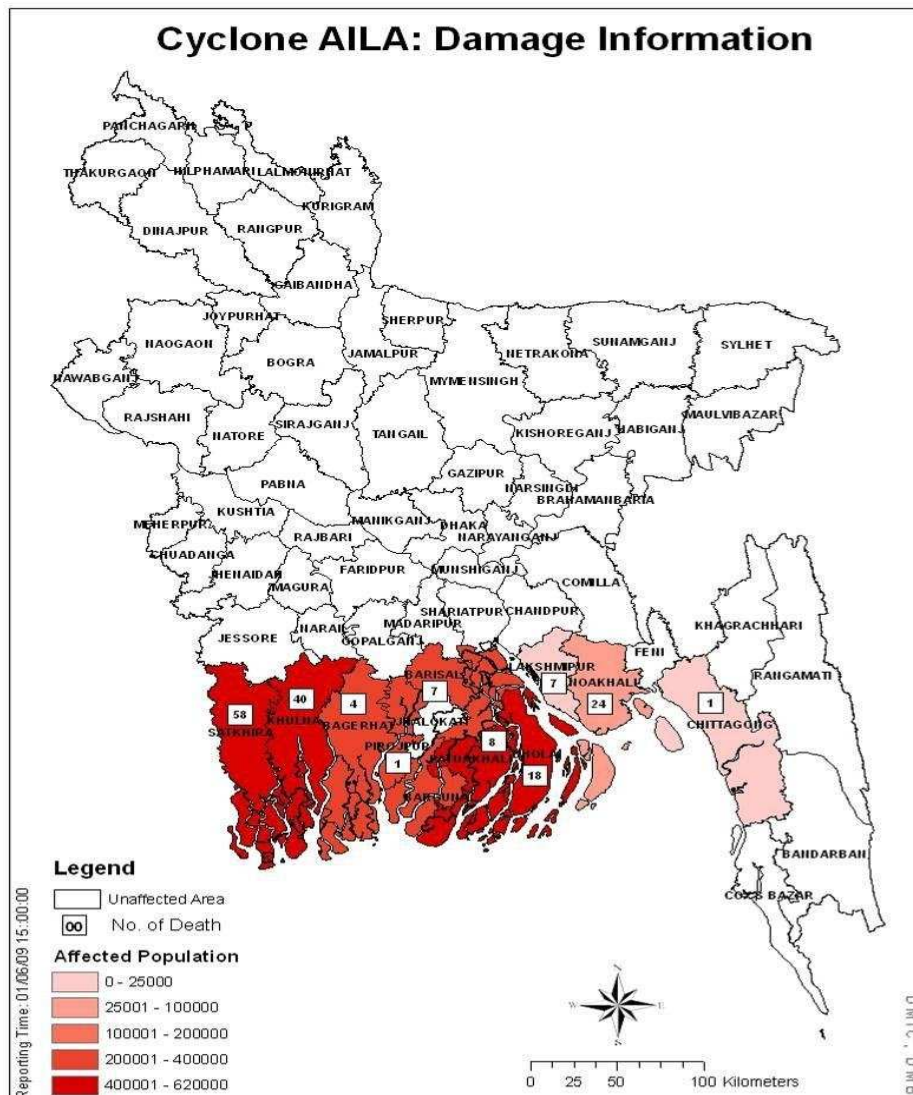


BRAC RESPONDS TO CYCLONE AILA

Cyclone Aila, with tidal waves caused by winds of up to 100 kilometers per hour, affected the lives of more than 4.8 million people in Bangladesh. More than 600,000 home were destroyed, 180 people were killed and more that 7,000 were injured because of the cyclone. Flooding caused by the cyclone has destroyed 318,140 acres of crops in the area and rendered virtually all of the water from local sources undrinkable because of increased salinity.

The map below details the locations and severity of damage caused by Cyclone Aila





BRAC has extensive experience in providing relief for natural disasters. It has provided emergency aid and rehabilitation in Bangladesh since its inception and carried out large-scale relief and rehabilitation activities there for cyclone and flood victims in 1987, 1988, 1991, 1998, 2000, 2004 and 2007. When Cyclone Aila hit, BRAC took immediate action and allocated 10,000,000 BDT (\$150,000 USD) from its sources for

As of June 04, 2009, BRAC had reached out to the victims of Cyclone Aila by distributing dry food and water packages to over 34,000 families; distributing pure water to 35,000 families; and clearing 6 community ponds of saline water. Additionally, BRAC has distributed 115,000 Oral Rehydration Salt (ORT) sachets to combat dehydration resulting from diarrhea (the number one killer of children under 5). BRAC has also provided refuge to over 11,000 people in its cyclone shelters.

Relative to the scale of damage, those efforts are ONLY THE BEGINNING.

- Local authorities have requested BRAC drain another 15 ponds
- Thousands of families are still without safe drinking water.
- The scarcity of drinking water is aggravated by intense heat. Many have been so desperate with thirst that they resorted to drinking floodwater. As a result, diarrhea and dysentery are increasingly prevalent.
- Millions are homeless and in need of shelter
- Many areas in the coastal belt are completely inundated with chest high water and only able-bodied, healthy persons are being able to come to dry land to collect a pitcher of water.

BRAC will also contend with the longer-term Implications of the damage caused.

- Significant Economic implications. Families lost their livelihoods and all their assets.
- Homes and communities will gradually have to be rebuilt.
- Crops will have to be resuscitated and made viable again.

Your support will help BRAC provide for all those who lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods to the devastating cyclone.



“Having experienced Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Ike, I feel these people's pain so acutely. Somehow they are finding the strength to keep going. But they need to tell us their story. They stop us. They want someone to know....perhaps care. “

- Susan Davis, *President and CEO of BRAC USA*



BRAC:

BRAC was founded by Dr. F.H. Abed in Bangladesh in 1972. The development organization now operates in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uganda, Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. BRAC's holistic approach to poverty alleviation and community development spans microfinance, health, education, and social justice. These programs and interventions benefit over 110 million people in Asia and Africa.

In the course of three decades of steady work, BRAC has emerged as one of the largest non-profits in the world, currently employing more than 125,000 people globally. It is also the first international development organization initiated and led by people from the developing world with solidarity and support from the developed world. Learn more at www.brac.net.

BRAC USA:

BRAC USA, an independent nonprofit organization, was registered as a charity in New York State on October 23, 2006 and received IRS 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status on July 12, 2007. Extending the scope and reach of BRAC's holistic development model requires tremendous resources. BRAC USA supports this mission through initiatives in public education, resource mobilization, and grant making. Learn more at www.bracusa.org. You may also contact the office by phone, 212-808-5615, to learn more about BRAC's Cyclone Aila relief efforts