



Scouts provide assistance to cyclone survivors

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Since Cyclone Sidr struck the south-east coast of Bangladesh on 15 November 2007, local Scouts have been working feverishly to respond to the urgent needs of the affected communities, where over 3,000 people have been killed and hundreds of others are still missing.

Day and night, Scouts have focused their efforts towards delivering food, drinking water, water purification powder, clothing, cooking utensils and other relief materials that were sent by the local government and international agencies such as Action Aid Bangladesh, UNDP Dhaka and DFID (UK Government).

Working together with different local and international agencies, Bangladesh Scouts have already distributed thousands of packets of water purification powder; 10,800 tarpaulins; 25000 Kg flattened rice (Chira) and 5000 kg Molasses (Gur) to the communities most in need.

The previous Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee Chairman Mr Eric Khoo and Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed also joined the efforts to distribute emergency and relief materials to the survivors.



The timing of such unfortunate events, happens to coincide with the International Centenary Community Development Camp (COMDECA), which has been organised by the Bangladesh Scouts for the 7-14 December 2007. The COMDECA will involve 2,000 people including Senior Scouts, Rovers, Scout Leaders and non-Scout students who will work on the reconstruction of houses, school structures, youth clubs, roads, and water facilities, distribute utensils and mosquito nets, school equipments and books, and take part in different environmental campaigns. A series of songs, games and other types of performances are also organised to assist with relieving some of the trauma of the cyclone survivors.

United Nations reported that in nine of the worst-affected districts, approximately 4.7 million people were affected and a

further 2.6 million people, most of whom are the poorest of the poor, are in need of immediate life and livelihood saving assistance. The period for immediate relief assistance should be a minimum of 2-3 months, but extended relief might be necessary for some of the worst affected areas, however recovery and rehabilitation efforts should start soon after.