

World Vision, Bangladesh

Emergency Flood Relief Response In Satkhira District

Final Report

November 2000

1. Executive Summary

In September 2000, floodwater from West Bengal in India severely affected nine southwestern (Bangladesh-Indian border areas) districts in Bangladesh. The worst affected district was Satkhira, which was inundated by up to 8 feet of water. The flash flooding and onrush of waters caused serious damage to houses, crops, homesteads, and eroded lands and villages. Thousands of people have lost their homes, possessions and belongings. World Vision, Bangladesh received US\$ 200,000 from USAID, Dhaka Mission Office and assisted 25,552 of the flood affected families in the month of October 2000. Main relief items were Rice, Lentils, Salt & Oil. These relief items were directly distributed by World Vision staff members and trained volunteers. Affected people received relief in due time and it reduced their suffering. The Honorable Minister for MDMR inaugurated our relief distribution. Local Government Officials were also involved with our activities. Coordination was done with other agencies to avoid duplication. A Detailed report follows:

Project Goal: To reduce the immediate suffering and struggle of the people/families affected and displaced by flood and river erosion.

Objective: To provide emergency food supplies to an approximate 23,000 in the mentioned district.

Operational area: Satkhira (S) & Debhata Upazila

2. Upazila wise Relief Distribution Status:

<u>SL. #</u>	<u>Upazila</u>	<u># of Family</u>
1.	Satkhira (S)	20,552
2.	Debhata	5000

3. Implementation strategy

According to our proposal the relief team was coordinated by the ADP Coordinator along with staff members from respective ADP and projects in the affected area. We selected staff who have disaster Management training including WV's existing volunteers. Procurement was done locally to accelerate the distribution. We utilized local transport and established a temporary warehouse at Satkhira District with adequate safety and security. WV National Office staff members made supportive visits to the affected area especially Zonal Coordinator and the newly placed Disaster Management Coordinator.

4. Staff deployment

40 World Vision staff and 150 trained volunteers were involved in the flood relief operation. The ADP Coordinator maintained functional linkages with concerned Zonal & Disaster Management Coordinator and directly supervised these activities.

5. Family selection:

Our staff members along with local volunteers made house to house surveys to select appropriate beneficiaries. We involved 40 of WV staff and 150 volunteers. Our senior staff members verified the beneficiary selection and made correction where it was needed. Special emphasis was placed on the most affected families. We also involved volunteers from the local community to ensure that we identified real affected and poverty-stricken families. Local people gave us adequate cooperation in this regard.

6. Procurement

Procurement was done locally and followed World Vision financial policy. We purchased quality food items and a guaranteed standard weight was verified by our staff members. Our senior staff members checked and found that beneficiaries received the expected quantity of food items.

7. Warehousing

We established a temporary Warehouse at Satkhira (S) Upazila ensuring optimum security. We did need not to pay any amount of money for warehousing.

8. Transportation

We hired local trucks, rickshaws, and boats and use local day labor to carry relief goods. Our staff members were continuously present in all phases of distribution.

9. Distribution

We distributed the relief goods among 25,552 flood-affected families of Satkhira district. It may noted here that our initial plan was to distribute food items among at 23000 families but we distributed more than the target since we procured the relief goods from the local market and our staff members are working in the same area. In addition our staff used local transport and utilized minimum administrative costs.

We had contact with a number of politicians including the Honorable Minister for MDMR, Deputy Commissioner, Upazila Nirbahi Officer and locally elected representatives. We got significant collaboration from local administrations which helped the running of a smooth operation. Most of the Officials appreciated our timely distribution.

Our distribution was completed during the peak period of the flood. Our observation is that emergency relief items were need based and disbursed in a timely manner. During the distribution we maintained a master rule to keep track of the beneficiaries. The below mentioned items were in the package as seven days ration for each family:

- Rice 15 kg
- Salt 02 kg
- Lentil 04 kg
- Oil 02 litter

10. Expenditure

US\$ 200,000 expended (Detailed financial report attached)

11. Monitoring & reporting

A group of senior staff member visited the affected area and advised the flood response team as required. The National Office received daily progress reports from the field. All the reports were monitored by our Central Disaster Management Team (CDMT). The Executive Director, Zonal & Disaster Management Coordinator visited Satkhira (S) and Debhata Upazila.

12. Reaction

12.1. Affected families

The family head that received our relief items passed very positive comments. During visit of our National Office staff member they interviewed a lot of affected people. The affected families appreciated our efforts as they received relief good items in timely manner. They said that WV selected genuinely affected and the poorest families who have no other alternative to provide food. Local people assisted our team members during distribution as they were satisfied with our beneficiary selection and quantity of food.

12.2. Local Administration

Deputy Commissioner, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, PIO local Chairman, member and others concerned officials were very impressed with our distribution effort. They were satisfied as we maintained coordination and distributed items in a timely manner. Please note that our distribution was executed in peak period of flooding when people could not get food from other sources. According to beneficiaries we significantly reduced the food crisis in Satkhira and Debhata Upazila.

12.3. Minister for MDMR

The State Minister of Disaster Management and Relief, Mr. Talukdar Abdul Khalegque inaugurated the World Vision distribution at Satkhira (S) Upazila. In his inaugural speech he said, " We highly appreciate World Vision relief initiative for the humanity during various disaster since its inception after Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971", (According to media coverage)

12.4. The Media

Most of the local and national newspapers were impressed by our distribution especially family selection, involvement of local community and dedication of WV staff members.

12.5. WV Field Staff

Most of the World Vision staff members were pleased to partake in the flood relief operation at Satkhira. They thought our distribution was timely and beneficiary selection was done appropriately. Most of the team leaders of the distribution team observed active participation of the team members. Their active participation made the distribution effective.

12.6. WV National Office

Central Disaster Management Team (CDMT) observed systematic distribution and funding of USAID was timely and adequate. Similar allocation will encourage WV staff members in future.

13. Recommendation (s)

- USAID needs to continue similar support in Bangladesh
- Rehabilitation work especially low cost housing & agriculture will be required for Satkhira (S).
- A more detailed system of relief assessment and distribution needs to be developed by World Vision, this process is underway.