



PRESS RELEASE

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GFC Awards Emergency Grants to Partners in Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, November 26, 2007 — The Global Fund for Children (GFC) recently awarded \$7,500 in emergency grants to two of its grantee partners in Bangladesh that are participating in recovery and renewal efforts in connection with the cyclone that devastated the southern part of the country.

Cyclone Sidr was one of the strongest cyclones to hit Bangladesh recently, and it affected at least half of the country's 64 districts. The Bangladeshi government estimates that more than 450,000 homes were damaged and more than 3,300 people were killed. In addition, more than 34,000 people were injured and nearly 1,200 were reported missing.

"We strongly support the quick response of our grantee partners in Bangladesh in helping children and youth recover from the cyclone," said Victoria Dunning, GFC's vice president of grantmaking. "Since they are on the ground, our grantee partners are best positioned to understand the community's needs, are the most committed to addressing them, and are often the most rapid and agile in their response."

Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha (Village Self-Reliance), which operates 48 boat schools, received an emergency grant of \$5,000. Phulki (Spark), which trains child leaders to raise awareness about sexual abuse, exploitation, and child trafficking, received an emergency grant of \$2,500. Both organizations are based in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, but they already have emergency teams working in the devastated areas.

"We are sending medical and food supplies to the cyclone victims in southern Bangladesh," said A. H. Mohammed Rezwan, founder of Shidhulai. "Considering the present need at the affected areas, we need grants to run the healthcare program, provide food, clothing, (and help in the) reconstruction of houses and schools."

Rafat Sultana, project manager of Phulki, said that Phulki will use the GFC grant to provide clean drinking water, food, and other supplies to children and women affected by the cyclone.

Since making its first grants, totaling \$3,100, in 1997, The Global Fund for Children has given 1,667 grants valued at more than \$9.3 million to 304 community-based organizations in 65 countries.