



NDYS in Action, Newsletter

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The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

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Salta, Argentina



Topics

Climate Change and disaster reduction

People in Bangladesh suffered a lot the cyclone Aila.

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Thousands of Cyclone Aila survivors hit by the May 2009 storm in southwestern Bangladesh have been hit again - this time by flooding and swollen rivers after embankments were breached by high tides.

Repair work on the life-saving embankments or polders - comprised of sandbags and bamboo - had only just been completed.

Over 45,000 people are marooned in the two adjacent sub-districts of Dacope (Khulna District) and Shyamnagar (Satkhira District), areas which were also among the worst hit by Aila.



Some simulation exercises were practiced.

From 27 to 31 March, 28 villages were inundated in the area when parts of the embankments protecting them were washed away.

Southwestern Bangladesh is a low-lying deltaic flood plain, crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers and channels, and is vulnerable to cyclones and high tides. People depend on a 7,500km-long network of flood embankments for survival. Cyclone Aila washed away 1,700km of this network, rendering hundreds of thousands of residents even more vulnerable than usual.

In Dacope repair work on the embankments was completed on 26 March. Days later, the repaired segments were washed away and 13 villages in Kamarkhali Union flooded. Almost 20,000 people inhabit these villages, local officials say.

According to Panchanan Roy, a primary school teacher from Dacope, many residents are now being driven to leave their villages permanently. "It's been almost a year and our situation is not improving at all," he said. "These new floods have broken our backs. We have few other choices. It's impossible to continue living this way any more."

He also accused the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) - the government agency responsible for maintaining the embankments - of failing to carry out the necessary repairs during the winter dry season, which runs from mid-November to mid-January.

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"We repaired the dykes and our villages emerged from the water. A week later, we are homeless again," Prabir Shaha, a resident of Padmapukur, said. Most of the villagers have since moved to nearby villages for shelter.

According to Nanigopal Mondal, a member of parliament from the area, the situation in and around Dacope has hardly improved since Cyclone Aila struck. "I am feeling helpless and do not rightly know how to help my constituents," he said. Meanwhile, the BWDB Khulna-2 office said large-scale repair work would probably not be undertaken before next winter.

Cyclone Aila struck the coast of Bangladesh on 25 May 2009, killing 190 people. According to the country's Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), over 3.9 million people were affected and more than 600,000 houses destroyed. Cyclone Sidr struck the same general area in November 2007, killing some 3,500 people and making at least one million homeless.

Source: www.irinnews.org

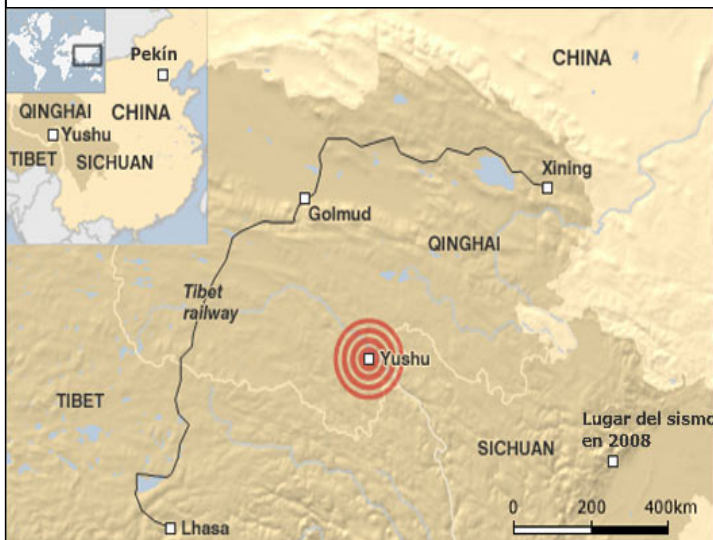
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Earthquake hit China badly.

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Almost 600 people died and other thousands resulted injured cause the 6,9 degrees earthquake (Richter scale) occurred in Qinghai city said the Official news agency Xinhua.

Authorities assume there must be a lot of victims under the ----- . According to Chinese press the number of victims would be more than 10,000. The quake started when people where still at home and many of the buildings near teh epicentre resulted fallen and 25 more tremors were registered after.

This city is one of the poorest in the country and also remote, and has no near airport. In Jiegu which is the more affected town, where 30,000 people live there, there is no light and water neither. A Hospital resulted severe damaged and other victims resulted trapped in a school.

The real trouble now is lack of specialized machines and humanitarian help. According to experts in the topic this region is prompt to earthquakes. We must remember that in 2008 a devastating earthquake killed more than 87,000 people and 5 million affected people lost their homes.

Source: www.irinnews.org



Comments: Only bad news this time, the earthquake in China was so hurting for me because I saw panic and Haiti memories came to me. We can only act during the earthquake, sadly we cannot pretend everything to stay fine and safe after an earthquake.

Hope all this people (from Bangladesh and China) can be very strong and get over this, may all our best wishes be with them.



"Communication saves lives!"

■ For more information please contact ■

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