



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

**Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News**

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## The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

**Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina**



**Topics**

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**  
New plan in Indonesia.

## New plan in Indonesia



This is a destroyed house and its owner who is still waiting for help.

Indonesia's West Sumatra province, recently hit by a deadly 7.9 magnitude earthquake, is likely to experience an even bigger quake, and buildings need to be constructed to withstand this, experts say.

The 30 September earthquake, which struck off West Sumatra's coast, hit the provincial capital of Padang, killing more than 1,100 people and leaving numerous collapsed and damaged buildings. As a result, 45 engineers from Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, funded by the intergovernmental Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction, undertook a three-week survey of 4,000 buildings in the quake zone.

"Essentially we were looking at factors that have basically either contributed to their failure from the ground shaking, or also the factors that have contributed to ... some structures not being impacted," said Matthew Hayne from Geoscience Australia and co-leader of the team. "Some recent studies indicate there is a big [likelihood] of having an 8.5 earthquake in the next decade ... Our building codes should consider this potential event," said Wayan Sengara from the Center for Disaster Mitigation at the Institute of Technology Bandung in Indonesia, and co-leader of the survey team.

The survey has identified the need for technical advice and education for home builders, while there are also several engineering recommendations, including the proper use of reinforcement and concrete. The results, which are being passed to Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency, are intended to help build safer buildings during the reconstruction phase.

"One of the driving factors behind the survey that we're doing here and the recommendations ... relate to the fact that there is a high probability that the future event, when it occurs, will be a tsunamigenic event as well as that earthquake," said Hayne.

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

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## Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**  
Survivors still look for shelter in Bangladesh.

# Survivors still look for shelter in Bangladesh

Two years after Cyclone Sidr hit the southern coastal districts of Bangladesh, many of the survivors are still homeless and at severe risk from further disasters, officials say.

Cyclone Sidr lashed the southern coastal regions of Bangladesh on 15 November 2007. Thirty districts were affected, with more than 3,400 deaths. Damage to property, livestock and crops was estimated at US\$1.7 billion, with half of that in the housing sector, according to the government.



After 2 years of Cyclone Sidr some people still live in emergency camps.

Despite aid efforts, victims still complain of a lack of assistance to rebuild their homes, while officials say more cyclone shelters are needed to protect communities from future storms. Meanwhile, crucial work to prevent flooding remains under-funded.

Because of the country's low-lying deltaic topography, the southern coastal areas are extremely vulnerable to floods, high tides and cyclonic storm surges. Extensive flood embankment networks provide this region with critical protection from these natural calamities, but Sidr damaged a large part, leaving the inhabitants of six coastal districts vulnerable to tidal waves and storm surges.

According to the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), which maintains these embankments, about 46 percent or 2,341km of the 5,107km of flood embankments protecting the southern regions were partially or completely destroyed by Sidr. Repair work to the embankments has yet to begin properly, with a lack of funding cited as the primary reason. About \$100 million is required, according to BWDB estimates.

"We have yet to receive the funds to start the repair works on the flood embankments. The process is going on and hopefully within a short time we will be able to start repairing the embankments," said Abdur Rab, BWDB's senior engineer in Barisal district.

Of the six coastal districts affected by Sidr, Barguna was worst hit. Most of its flood embankments were washed away and the people are faced with the daily predicament of tidal seawater inundating their land. "Every day, during the tides, brackish seawater gets into the croplands, fouling up the fertile topsoil," commented Abdul Mazid, BWDB's executive engineer in Barguna district.

"Soil salinity is increasing alarmingly. Almost 1,400ha of croplands in Barguna are regularly inundated by seawater," he said. "The entire southern coastal region is now vulnerable because of the damaged embankments."

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)



**Comments:** I think it is really important to reinforce buildings and also construct resistant new houses. It is very important to invest money on it, many lives can be saved and prevention status can increase.

It is a completely shame to hear that people are still living in tents, hope the new funds can solve their actual situation.



*"Communication saves lives!"*

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