

## **ACT members continue Cyclone Sidr emergency response**

**SADAR UNION, MORELGONJ DISTRICT, BANGLADESH — “Since the cyclone struck our village, I have been working day and night to help the people in my village,” says Jahanra Aktar.**

As a member of the Sadar Union Council, Ms. Aktar arrived at the local fire station in Morelgonj to assist with an emergency distribution by ACT member, Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB). The work is well organized and she seems relaxed, even though there are many people hanging over the iron-gate in the hot sun, anxious to receive assistance to share with their families.

Over the past two weeks, Ms. Aktar has visited affected families and assessed the situation. She says that the greatest needs include clean water, new houses and blankets, adding that people in her district have lost their jobs in the agricultural sector and fishing industry.

“Many fish have fled to the sea, which means the people working in the [fish] ponds no longer have any jobs,” says Ms. Aktar.

As a single woman, Ms. Aktar lives with her parents. Like most people in the area, they were severely affected by the cyclone.

“Trees fell down on our home so now we are living without a roof,” adds Ms. Aktar. “I hope we will be able to build a new roof soon, because there are many mosquitoes at night and it is also getting colder.”

The family also lost a chicken and a cow after the animals drank contaminated water, caused by floods that followed the cyclone.

Ms. Aktar receives a monthly salary of 350 taka (around USD \$5.20) for her work at the Union Council. However, this is not enough to cover her family’s living expenses and they are financially dependent on her brother, who works as a bicycle mechanic. He too has had a hard time finding work after the cyclone.

“People don’t choose to repair bikes when they need to repair something as basic as their houses,” explains Ms. Aktar.

When the distribution in Sadar Union is over, Ms. Aktar also receives a relief package for her family, containing rice and some cash that is estimated to last for fifteen days. Close to 16,000 families have been assisted by CCDB’s emergency relief program.