

**Bangladesh Nazarene Mission**  
**CDC REPORT**  
**April-June, 2009**

**Introduction:**

Natural calamities like floods, cyclones, and tornadoes severely hamper the growth of children. Floods and cyclones are very common in different parts of Bangladesh. During natural disasters people in the rural parts of the country have very few work opportunities and they lose their food security, which creates problems for children and women. This negatively impacts particularly the children, who suffer from the consequences of natural disasters for a long time.

Recently, torrential rains during the cyclone Aila resulted in the flooding of at least 179 villages. More than 400,000 people were reportedly isolated by severe water surges in the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Numerous villages were either completely submerged in floodwaters or destroyed. Dozens of people are reportedly missing throughout the country. A flood wave of 3 m (10 ft) impacted the southwestern regions of Bangladesh, submerging numerous villages. Several rivers broke through embankments, causing widespread inland flooding. In one region alone, more than 50,000 people were left homeless.

Children's educational opportunities were affected by the cyclone. In the six hardest hit districts – Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Bhola and Patukhali – a total of 354 schools are reported fully damaged and 2,534 are partially damaged.

Our 8 CDCs in Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat and Haldabunia, and Joymoni were affected by the Cyclone Aila. Many children of the CDCs have lost their houses; books, materials and furniture have been washed away. Some CDCs are being used as temporary shelters. Children are also suffering from the psychological effects of the disaster, having experienced the devastation, loss of family members and sudden displacement.



House affected by the cyclone

In order to pursue the development of the disadvantaged children of Bangladesh, BNM started Child Development Centers. BNM runs 25 CDCs in different areas (apart from various other child development projects). Out of these, funds raised by the Argabrights support the following CDCs:

Church Area	Number of centers	Present Number of Children
Narail	1	120
Joymoni	1	125
Biral	1	135
Birgonj (Banglagor, Bosbhanga)	2	150
Haldabunia	1	100
Total	6	595

**Case Study: (a story of an Aila affected CDC child)**



**Name: Al-Amin Molla, ID-260-317970**

Al-Amin Molla, son of Jahangir Molla and Beuti Begum, attends the CDC. He reads in class four. His father is a fisherman. There are five members in their family. They live in a house made of straw. Al-Amin's father earns only a small amount of money. Because fishing is seasonal work, he is jobless the rest of the year. So Jahangir is unable to bear the educational and other expenses of his children.

When Jahangir heard about the CDC, he took his son Al-Amin and enrolled him in the Center. Al-Amin likes to go to school. He attends regularly and also participates in the other activities of the CDC program.

In the month of May suddenly the cyclone "Aila" partly destroyed Al-Amin's house. Their house is still surrounded by water.



Water is still around their house

This is a very difficult time for Al-Amin's family. His father does not have enough money to repair the house. He can't go fishing, because this is not the season for fishing. Al-Amin receives one meal in the CDC, but most of the other family members are starving. Please pray for Al-Amin and his family, so that they can safely come through this situation.

**Case Study:**



Name of the Child: Laxmi Rani Roy

Laxmi and her sister are twins. They are students of Birol CDC. Their parents have four girls and are still hoping for a son. Their father's name is Horipodo Roy and their mother is Arotti Rani. Laxmi's father is a rickshaw (tri-cycle) puller. He never dreamed that all of his children would have the opportunity to attend school and get an education. Since he only has girls he thinks they are worthless and a big burden for him.



Laxmi's Family

Laxmi's father is the only earning member of the family. But he cannot earn enough money by pulling the rickshaw, so they are very poor. Laxmi's father is not able to bear the educational expenses of all his children. One day the local Nazarene pastor went to visit one of his church members' home. Laxmi's father was in the house at that time. The pastor talked with the church members and also wanted to know about Laxmi's father's family. After hearing his tale, the pastor told him about the CDC and the activities of the center.

A few days later Laxmi's father took the twins to the center and requested to register them in the CDC. Laxmi and her sister are very happy to be enrolled in the CDC. This the first time they can go to school. Every day they learn new things; they learn rhymes, songs, games and many other things. Besides, they have got to know Jesus. Their parents also are very happy because they have the opportunity to send their twins to school.

Upon the invitation of the pastor Laxmi's family has also started to come to the church on Sunday. We trust that one day Jesus will perform a miracle in Laxmi's family and they will accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

**Case Study:**



Name: Chadni Khatun, ID: 260-317937

Chadni is a CDC student and she studies in Class Two. Chadni is the oldest child of her parents. She has one younger brother and one sister. Her father's name is Samsul Hawlader. He is a day laborer and the only earning member of the family. Due to their poverty Chadni could not attend any school before. That's why she is studying only in class two. In May the cyclone "Aila" attacked the South and Chadni's house was totally destroyed. First they lived under the open sky; now they are staying in the broken house. They don't have any other place to stay. They have little access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Chadni's father does not have enough money to repair the house.

Though all this happened in Chadni's life, she did not give up hope and didn't stop coming to the CDC. She is coming to the center regularly and asking for prayer for her family.

Besides these problems, all other CDCs are running well. In the Birol CDC the students had a wonderful time with Brittany Argabright and Lindsey Zurlinden. The children learnt action songs; they heard Bible stories and saw pictures from the "Bible story cloth". They played new games with them.



## Brittany and Lindsey with Birol CDC Children

Brittany and Lindsey also visited CDCs in Ghoraghat and Thakhurgaon. They taught the CDC children songs and shared Bible stories using the “Bible story cloths.” Besides that they also gave training to the pastors and teachers about the “Bible story cloths.” They also visit the Bosbhangra CDC and talked with local people, the church pastor and the children.



Bosbhangra CDC

### **Conclusion:**

These are the stories of the CDC children. Many children and their families are suffering from the effects of cyclone “Aila”. The most amazing thing however is that the children do not give up hope. They are giving mental support to their families, because they know that God will help them. Please pray for the cyclone affected children.