

Tropical storm case study on Bangladesh

Location:

- Gathered intensity in Bay of Bengal and struck SE coast of Bangladesh on 19th May 1997.

Effects

- 111 people died, 700 injured.
- 500,000 made homeless.
- Wells contaminated by sea water.
- Disease was common.
- Communication links between Maheshkhali Island and the mainland were severely disrupted.
- 608 schools damaged.
- Fishermen lost their incomes as boats and nets were broken.
- 30,000 hectares of land were damaged.
- 2000 cows died.
- Electricity supplies failed in most areas.
- Roads, bridges & cyclone shelters were destroyed.
- Fish ponds were contaminated.
- Flood embankments were damaged leading to increased risk of flooding.
- Many low lying islands in Bay of Bengal destroyed.
- Soil erosion in the foothills of Himalayas.

What did Government do?

-Quick international aid response, CARE (World's largest private international relief & development agency)

- Low tide
- Protection schemes

After many storms the Bangladeshi government had become experts at lessening the death tolls. With the help of International Aid materials for building shelter, food, water, clothing, washing resources were distributed to where they were needed.

→Schemes

- Earth embankments have been constructed but are not high enough or strong enough.
- In some areas cyclone shelters have been built, made of concrete and constructed above floodwater levels but in many areas the flimsy housing is completely destroyed.
- Education programmes have been implemented so people know how to react and deal with a storm.
- Tree Planting schemes to absorb the storm surge.