

**Final Report:  
Bangladesh Relief Effort  
Created By: Erin Lind**

**Office Partners:**

Associated Student Body  
Chapel Programs  
Communiversity  
Focus International  
India/Bangladesh Team  
International Student Services  
Multi-Ethnic Programs  
Residence Life

**Faculty/Staff Partners:**

Jen Meyer  
Jen Fleckenstein  
Brad Thayer  
Bryan Taylor  
Jordy Dickey  
Melanie Wolf

**Student Partners:**

Moses  
Hannah Brownell  
Summer Maunakea  
Jillie Ryan  
Danielle Stevens  
Jenna Schuette  
Aimee Day  
Danica Northend  
John Ellis  
Russel Anwar

**External Partners:**

Charity: Water  
America's Christian Credit Union  
Anwar Family (Hosts)  
World Vision  
Barisal Baptist Church (Bangladesh)

**Events:**

Life Lines  
Dance for the Nations  
Penny Battle  
International Chapel Kickoff

Chapel Kickoff  
APASO Luau  
Smoothies on the Walk  
Hemp Bracelet Sales

**Global Relief's Mission:** to engage and equip the Azusa Pacific University community to partner with relief efforts in response to humanitarian needs in the US and around the world.

**What Happened:** On Thursday, November 15, 2007 category 4 tropical cyclone Sidr hit the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Reports indicated that more than 8 million people had been affected, over 3,000 people had died, 3 million homes were destroyed, and an entire years harvest for a large percentage of families in the region had been completely devastated (Charitywater.org, 2/24/08).

**Our Response:** A semester-long awareness and fundraising campaign to educate the APU community and fund the construction of homes for those who were affected. The funds were to be used to build homes and provide sustainability for affected families through a partnership with World Vision Bangladesh and David Anwar (whose son, Russell Anwar, attends APU). The Global Relief also wished to partner with a Focus International team that would be in Bangladesh over the summer to provide man-power for the construction aspect of the campaign while also allowing for relationships to be built within the community to be served.

**Amount Raised:** \$6,370

**Estimated Cost Per Home:** \$650

**We Built:** 10 Homes

**Summary of APU's Relief Effort:**

**At APU:**

**Life Lines:** A passive programming event that took place in Seven Palms for three days during Social Justice Week. The event invited the APU community to join in solidarity with Global Relief (a program of the Office of World Missions) and the APU campus for opportunities to pray and fast for the victims of Cyclone Sidr and the nation of Bangladesh.

**Penny Battle:** The Adams and Engstrom Residence Halls raised over \$630.00 in spare change in a two week period. The residents participated in a competition against the other wings within their residence hall to earn the most points by dropping pennies in their own bucket and silver change in their competitors' buckets.

**Dance for the Nations:** A dance competition and dance hosted by Communiversity with all proceeds benefiting the Bangladesh Relief Effort.

**Smoothies on the Walk:** Two APU students, Summer Maunakea and Jillie Ryan, had a deep conviction to raise money to help families affected by the Cyclone. On two separate occasions these two blended fresh-fruit smoothies out on Cougar Walk and would just chat with students about the relief effort.

**Hemp Bracelets:** Summer Manuakea and Jillie Ryan also took their passion to help with the relief effort and handmade hemp bracelets as a way to educate and raise money for the relief effort. These two went from dorm room to dorm room talking to students about the relief effort. These young ladies raised well over \$600 in about a month.

**APASO Luau:** An event hosted by APASO with proceeds from a portion of the evening benefitting the Bangladesh Relief Effort.

**In Country:**

Chiraphone Khamphouvong- Director of the Office of World Missions and Erin Lind- Graduate Assistant went to Bangladesh for 10 days to meet with David Anwar, the World Vision staff, and the India/Bangladesh team (10 undergraduate students from Azusa Pacific University).

Upon our arrival we spent 3 days in Dhaka, Bangladesh establishing relationships with David Anwar, prominent World Vision staff, and ministering to a tired India/Bangladesh Team. From Dhaka, we drove down to Barisal, Bangladesh to begin the construction of 10 homes. In Barisal we were connected with 4 college students from the Barisal Baptist Church who worked very closely with the APU team in the village.

The village of Gouripur, the village we were building homes in, is approximately 40 kilometers from where Cyclone Sidr made landfall. Though the storm did not completely devastate the village, 7 months after the storm no governmental assistance had reached the village and several families were living in either makeshift homes or structurally unsafe homes.

The homes we provided were a standard 10 ft. x 15ft. home whose design is resistant to storms of this magnitude. The homes were made of a steel frame, woven bamboo walls, and tin roof. Once each home site was cleared of debris the actual construction of the home took about 2 ½ days from start to finish. As with almost any construction project, there were delays in actual construction due to delayed arrival of supplies and weather; however by the end of Chiraphone and Erin’s visit with the team 1 home was complete, 2 were due to be completed the next day, and the other 7 home sites were being prepped for construction.

The families that were chosen were definitely in need of assistance. The following is the information we received about each family who received a home:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Family Status</b>	<b>Family Composition</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Mrs. Rokeya Begum	Woman headed	Male: 1 Female: 2 Children under 5: 0	She is a widow and her house has been fully damaged by Sidr.
Md. Selim	Poor	Male: 2	He is poor and the only

		Female: 1 Children under 5: 0	earning member of his family. He can't work regularly due to illness. His house has been partially damaged by Sidr.
Heria Khatun	Disable	Male: 0 Female: 1 Children under 5: 0	She is disabled and alone. Her house has benn fully damaged by Sidr.
Lal Miah	Landless	Male: 2 Female: 3 Children under 5: 0	He is a day laborer. He is not able to rebuild his house which was damaged by Sidr.
Dipongkar Das	Poor	Male: 2 Female: 1 Children under 5: 1	He is a day laborer. He is not able to rebuild his house which was damaged by Sidr.
Shah Alam Howlader	Disabled	Male: 2 Female: 2 Children under 5: 1	He is a cancer patient. His one daughter is mute. His house has been fully damaged by Sidr.
Basher Sawdagor	Poor	Male: 1 Female: 2 Children under 5: 1	He is a day laborer. He is not able to rebuild his house which was damaged by Sidr.
Zoinal	Poor	Male: 3 Female: 2 Children under 5: 1	He is poor and the only earning member of his family. He can't work regularly due to illness. His house has been partially damaged by Sidr.
Mamotaj Begum	Widow	Male: 3 Female: 4 Children under 5: 0	She is a widow. Her house has been damaged by Sidr.
Lutfa Begum	Woman headed	Male: 0 Female: 2 Children under 5: 0	She is a widow and her house has been fully damaged by Sidr. She lives with her mother who is also a widow.

**Surveys:**

Surveys were sent out to all the offices and individuals involved in the Bangladesh Relief Effort. Here were some of the responses:

**What suggestions would you provide to Global Relief, in order for the program to maximize a relief effort such as this one?**

That we be unified as a campus on what relief efforts we are going to partner with. It would be great if all the campus relief efforts had to go through your office.

I think that my main advice for Global Relief would be starting fundraising sooner in the year. I felt that the Bangladesh Relief efforts seems almost last minute this previous year and would love to see what our student body could do with a social injustice having the education and tools for advocacy in the beginning of the year.

I'd suggest maybe holding an educational forum for students to hear more about the specific project you'll be working on this year. It may help create more excitement.

Show photos or a video of the people in the area this relief will be taking place. Statistics are great but photos and videos give the efforts that human aspect that touches the heart and makes it all real.

**What was your overall opinion about working in humanitarian focused missions work? Do you feel Global Relief's efforts were affective?**

It was a beautifully moving experience to partner with World Vision while in Bangladesh. God completely paved a way for our team to reach out and relationally pour into the locals. Global Relief's efforts were affective in the matter of raising funds to put a roof top over the heads of village men and women who had almost nothing to live off of.

I loved working with the people of Bangladesh. I feel like building relationships with people is the best kind of mission work. Building homes for people is great because it provides shelter during storms and heat waves, but building community with people frees the love within us, spreads like wildfire, and strengthens the spirit within us. Both are important missions but building a house takes days were as building community never stops.

I feel like our global relief efforts were successful in that we built all ten homes, but it will only be truly affective if we keep in relationship with the community there.

**What was your biggest frustration, if any, while working with Global Relief?**

While in Bangladesh it was heartbreaking for me to wrestle with the idea of how many homes we could have built for the village people if we had chose to stay back in the states and fundraise but never leave. I do however understand that they needed labor and the fact that we were willing to do labor for free allowed the houses to be built faster.... BUT there were also male heads of the household who were payed to build their own homes which I thought was simply beautiful.

**Thoughts:**

This process was fast-paced, spur of the moment, and as effective as possible with the nature of disaster relief.

It was a blessing to work alongside World Vision Bangladesh. They did an amazing job of laying the foundation for us to come an work alongside the Global Church and an entire village.

It was an amazing blessing to the team and to the relief effort to have the four college students from the local Bengali church join us. By the end of our time with them we were more like family than new friends.