

MAY 2009

CYCLONE AILA HITS WEST BENGAL

West Bengal has been devastated by a huge cyclone, named Aila.

BBC News reports cyclone Aila has killed more than 200 and at least 500,000 people have been left marooned and isolated.

Many people are now homeless, with their homes, crops, cattle and livestock washed away. Many are still in **need of aid** as they are without enough food, water and medicines. Hundreds of kilometres of roads and embankments have been washed away.



Doctors say they fear the outbreak of an epidemic of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and gastroenteritis in the cyclone-hit areas.



For our RTG team this has meant that they have been unable to reach many of the villages to carry out their day to day clinics. The village of Idrakpur, which is located on an island in the middle of the Ganges River, has been particularly hard struck.

Our doctors, nurse and health care workers are now involved in emergency work, attending to the most needy of the victims of this devastating cyclone. The clinics will not be able to return to normal until the emergency relief work is no longer needed and the roads to the villages have been restored.



Our team have taken these photos to show us some of the devastation. **Please dig deep and help us to help our RTG team in Mayapur**, where they are doing a fantastic job under extremely tough conditions.

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