

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh: Cyclone Sidr

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD003
GLIDE TC-2007-000208-BGD
16 November 2007

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 3,989,305 (USD 3.5m or EUR 2.4m) in cash, kind, or services to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to assist 47,000 families (or 235,000 beneficiaries) for 9 months.

CHF 250,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 9 months, and will therefore be completed by July 2008; a Final Report will be made available by October 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

Summary: Cyclone Sidr hit the south-western region of Bangladesh on 15 November at 6.45 p.m. local time, and while the storm has weakened, it has left an extensive trail of destruction in its wake. Cyclone-related deaths have exceeded 500 and continue to rise, while the number of those injured is still unavailable. Widespread flooding as a result of heavy rains and the storm surge has caused hundreds of thousands to seek temporary shelter on higher ground. Extensive damage to land and property occurred in the coastal districts, destroying crops, drowning livestock, and damaging homes (particularly mud-thatched houses). An estimated 150 trawlers have failed to return to shore.

Based on the latest information from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), the immediate needs that are urgently required include food and non-food items, emergency shelter, basic health care, clean water and the provision of basic relief items. Subject to further detailed assessments, it is expected that the longer-term needs will include psycho-social support, shelter rehabilitation, restoration of water and sanitation facilities as well as livelihoods provision and support.

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#)
[here to link to a map of the affected area; or](#)
[here to view contact details>](#)



Damage from the cyclone in Bangladesh.
(photo courtesy of Reuters)

The situation

Cyclone Sidr hit the south-western region of Bangladesh on 15 November at 6.45 p.m. local time at the speed of 220-240 km/hr. The storm also reached parts of the capital Dhaka with winds of 140-160 km/hr.

While the storm has weakened, it has left an extensive trail of destruction in its wake, including the disruption of electricity in affected regions as well as the capital Dhaka. This loss of power supply and telecommunication lines such as telephones and the Internet has greatly hindered information gathering on the situation, and has not yet been restored in these communities at the time of writing.

Current information from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society lists the districts of Bagerhat, Borguna, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Satkhira, Barisal and Bhola as the most affected, including the sub-districts of Shwarankhola, Morelganj, Sadar, Patharghata, Kalapara, Galachipa, Monpura and Charfasson.

To date, cyclone-related deaths have exceeded 500 people but the numbers are expected to rise as a result of flooding caused by the storm surge and heavy rains. The number of those injured is still unavailable. Extensive damage to land and property has been caused in the coastal districts in the area, including crops, livestock and homes, especially mud-thatched houses. Traffic is also extensively disrupted due to fallen trees and debris, and an estimated 150 trawlers have failed to return to shore. Air travel was suspended until the morning of 16 November and remains under close government monitoring of the disaster situation. Up to 67 people have been reported stranded with little food and no electricity. Weather conditions have exacerbated rescue operations due to high sea levels.

Local news indicate that the district administration has opened more than 200 shelters and that the relief ministry has allocated 1,000 blankets, 450 tents and cash relief of BDT 50,000 (CHF 834) for those affected in Patuakhali district.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation and its Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners are providing support to the BDRCS to strengthen its emergency response/preparedness capacities in Bangladesh, and are collaborating with governmental, UN and other humanitarian agencies in this emergency response operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 250,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide immediate support to the BDRCS in this operation. Prior to the cyclone making landfall, nearly 40,000 cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) trained volunteers were involved in disseminating alerts and implementing the evacuation of those likely to be affected. Currently, seven assessment teams comprising BDRCS and Federation members, and a further six medical teams are ready.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation country delegation continue to closely monitor the situation. An estimated 30,000 staff and volunteers, including medical teams and first-aid providers have already been mobilized, and continue to be on standby for ongoing needs.

Apart from evacuating thousands of people to safer areas including cyclone preparedness shelters, staff and volunteers have been involved in search and rescue operations since the disaster struck the night before. Four teams comprising BDRCS and Federation members have been deployed to assess the situation with rescue and mobile medical teams on full alert. As many as 42,000 water purification tablets and jerry cans have been sent together with the assessment teams for distribution.

An emergency meeting of the BDRCS and the Federation was held to facilitate and coordinate response to the situation. Both offices have been on high alert over the past 48 hours and will be fully operational throughout the coming weekend. Funding arrangements are ongoing to facilitate operations while international and domestic news media are being provided updated information regularly.

In terms of Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP), the BDRCS, with Federation support, has made considerable progress in recent years. The Federation funded an 8-year programme (1997-2004) in 34 districts and around 142 cyclone shelters that benefited about 450,000 (150,000 flood and 300,000 cyclone) people directly and around 900,000 indirectly. Since 2005 the community level preparedness is focused on a) flood preparedness in 10 highly flood prone districts and b) earthquake preparedness in 4 high risk cities. In the 2004 flooding (similar to that of 2007), 20 of the 34 affected districts where CBDP programme was completed, communities took active participation in evacuation and immediate response.

CBDP programmes helped set up a "Community Disaster Assistance Fund (CDAF)", a revolving fund that collected about CHF 35,000. In addition, the branches managed their own "Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF)" totalling some CHF 60,000. Similar extensive CBDP programmes from the German & Japanese Red Cross have been operational since 1997.

In terms of cyclone preparedness, 112 Cyclone Shelter Management Committees/volunteers trained annually, with regular maintenance of equipment for communications and immediate response. This programme is funded annually by Federation secretariat, the Bangladesh Government and other partners. Currently, 34,000 volunteers are trained in community level preparedness and response in flood prone areas, while 40,000 total volunteers were trained in community level preparedness and response in cyclone prone coastal areas.

The needs

Immediate needs: based on the latest information from the field (interaction between affected population and BDRCS cyclone preparedness volunteers), the immediate needs are:

- Food;
- Emergency shelter;
- Basic health care including clean water;
- Provision of basic relief items.

Longer-term needs: subject to the results of detailed assessments being carried out, it is expected that the needs will include:

- Basic health care with psycho-social support to the affected population;
- Support to restore safe water and sanitation facilities, including hygiene promotion;
- Building tools and house construction materials including safer house promotion to support shelter rehabilitation;
- Livelihood provision (i.e. providing fishing net, seeds and saplings) at post-emergency and early recovery stages;
- Enhance the capacity of the BDRCS affected branches and volunteers.

The proposed operation

Immediate emergency response phase

Overall objective: To provide immediate and subsequently short-term recovery support to some 47,000 of the most vulnerable cyclone affected households (235,000 people) in Bangladesh. This will be done through the provision of basic health care including psycho-social support, health and hygiene promotion, safe water and sanitation facilities. Emergency shelter (tarpaulin including building and construction tools, materials and safer house promotion), basic instant dry food, non-food supplies (family kits including hygiene items, water containers, etc.), fishing nets, seeds and saplings are also included during the post emergency and at the early recovery stage.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Activities planned to reach the overall objective for 32,000 households:

- Door-to-door assessments.

- Beneficiary registration.
- Mobilize relief supplies from pre-positioned stocks.
- Additional local / regional procurement, transport, and emergency storage.
- Distribution of relief, with follow-up monitoring and coordination.

Health, and water and sanitation

Activities planned to reach the overall objective for 10,000 households:

- Psychological support programme (PSP) to the affected population.
- Provision of basic health care support through the BDRCS mobile clinics including prevention of communicable diseases.
- Mass health and hygiene promotion campaigns for displaced population and those living in emergency shelter.
- Door-to-door assessment and beneficiary registration.
- Procurement of cleaning tools and hand pumps/tube wells.
- Transportation, distribution, with follow-up monitoring and coordination.
- Transportation and distribution of NFI related to health and watsan linked to the health and hygiene promotion activities.

Emergency shelter

Activities planned to reach the overall objective for 5,000 households:

- Door-to-door assessment.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Local / regional procurement, transport, and emergency storage of building tools and construction materials
- Distribution with orientation on safer house building techniques
- Follow-up monitoring and coordination.

Early recovery assessment and planning

Objective: To assess, plan and implement early recovery activities together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.

Early recovery assessment activities will be included in relief assessments and progressively strengthened over the coming weeks. A key early response will be to seek feedback from affected communities on the appropriateness of relief items being provided to enable the Red Cross and other humanitarian actors to improve the quality of relief provision. Where feasible, the provision of food and non-food relief items will consider local production and market access. A market survey will be included in the early recovery assessment.

To meet the needs for short term immediate substitution for disrupted livelihoods– the Red Cross will consider supporting food-for-work and cash-for-work programs for the clearing of debris and rehabilitation of community infrastructure. Efforts to target the most vulnerable and involve them in early recovery work will be pursued in concert with psychosocial support activities.

Capacity building

Activities planned for affected BDRCS branches and volunteers

- Assessment and SWOT analysis.
- Human resource development including volunteer management.
- Early warning HF/ VHF radio equipment repair/ replaced including other necessary office equipment and supplies to re-strengthen functional and well prepared initiatives.
- Early warning operational vehicles with early warning dissemination provisions.
- Replenishment of pre-positioned stock.
- Contingency planning including risk mapping.

Capacity of the National Society

The BDRCS has 68 district/city branches throughout the country with a membership of more than 350,000 people. It also has 34,000 volunteers trained in community-based disaster preparedness or

management across the flood-prone area. Up to 40,000 volunteers are trained in cyclone preparedness (CPP) in cyclone-prone areas, one third of whom are women.

The BDRCS has extensive experience in responding to flood emergencies. Its leadership, officers and volunteers have wide-ranging operational experience in disaster relief. Its operational capacity has been developed through a number of extensive disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years and most recently, the floods which affected South Asia in July. The national society also has a number of health facilities. Technical support is obtained from the Federation delegation and other regional and international Federation resources. Owing to the recent largescale flood and relief operation, the capacity of BDRCS headquarters should be enhanced accordingly.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation delegation comprises a head of delegation, programme coordinator, disaster management delegate, health delegate and national staff which assist the BDRCS actively and continuously monitor the situation. Regional disaster response team (RDRT) members have been placed on alert and added resources have been mobilized from the Federation's regional office in Delhi. A Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) have been informed and are ready to be deployed as any further needs are identified. In addition, the South Asia regional delegation and Asia Pacific disaster management unit will provide assistance as required.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Much attention on the approaching cyclone has been focused in the media this past week. The BDRCS and the Federation have been contacted by various international and national media since then for updates on the disaster situation and Red Cross Red Crescent operations. Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During this operation, communication between the affected population and the Red Cross Red Crescent, as well as media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response.

The Red Cross Red Crescent maintains its high visibility through regular updates via the local newspapers, national and international electronic media and press releases. The BDRCS banners and posters will be displayed at all relief distribution sites, while volunteers will wear aprons with the Red Crescent emblem during distributions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Federation and BDRCS will receive reports periodically from the field and undertake field visits on a regular basis. This would help verify, identify and, where possible, resolve any problems. Regular and ad hoc reports will provide information on the progress and changes in the operation and situation, while helping with decision making.

The responsibility for day-to-day monitoring of the operation will lie with the BDRCS, primarily at the branch level, but supervised closely by the BDRCS national headquarters. Joint BDRCS national headquarters and Federation secretariat monitoring teams will visit the affected areas regularly. In addition, specific indicators of achievement will be identified to allow regular monitoring and evaluation of the overall effectiveness of BDRCS/Federation relief activities.

Preliminary Appeal budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: Mr. M. Shafiul Alam (secretary- general), email: bdracs@bangla.net, phone: +88.02.935.2226.
- Country delegation in Bangladesh: Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (head of delegation), email: selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org, phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631.
- South Asia regional representation in India: Mr. Al Panico (regional representative), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia: disaster management unit: Mr. Latifur Rahman (regional disaster management delegate), email: latifur.rahman@ifrc.org; phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 975 0144; regional logistics unit: Mr Jeremy Francis (regional logistics coordinator), jeremy.francis@ifrc.org, phone: +60 3 2628 2707, fax: +60 3 2168 8573
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific department, Ms. Christine South (Emergency operations coordinator), email: christine.south@ifrc.org, phone: +41.22.730.4529, fax: +41.22.733.0395

[<Preliminary emergency appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

PRELIMINARY APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Bangladesh: Cyclone Sidr

APPEAL NO. MDRBD003

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	800,000
Construction Materials	400,000
Clothing & Textiles	300,000
Food	300,000
Seeds & Plants	200,000
Water & Sanitation	500,000
Medical & First Aid	400,000
Teaching Materials	50,000
Utensils & Tools	200,000
Other Supplies & Services	50,000

Total Relief Needs 3,200,000

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	10,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	30,000
Distribution & Monitoring	50,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	100,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	50,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	30,000
National Staff	50,000
National Society Staff	50,000
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	50,000
Information & Public Relations	40,000
Administration costs	20,000
Communication Costs	50,000
Professional Fees	0
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	259,305
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Total Operational Needs 3,989,305

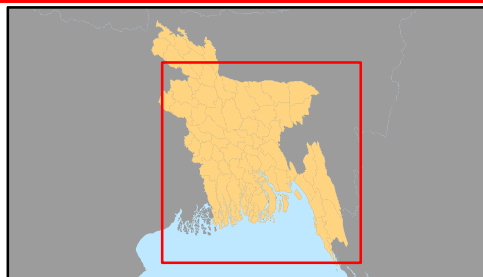
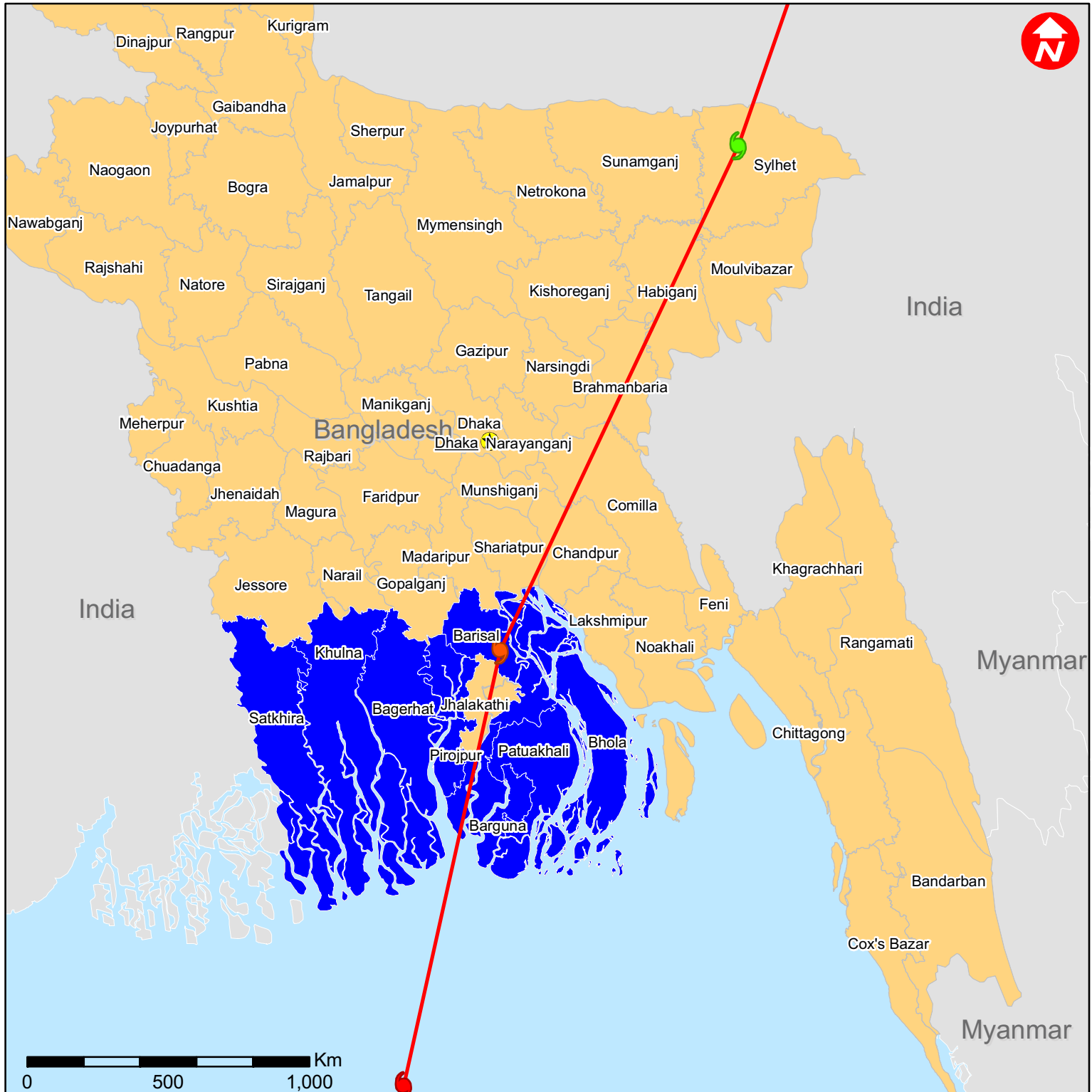
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 3,989,305

Available Resources 0**

Net Request 3,989,305



Bangladesh: Cyclonic storm Sidr



- CYCLONE-4
- CYCLONE-3
- TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- Track of Sidr
- Capitals
- Most affected districts

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources
 ESRI, Devinfo
 GIST, GRUMP
 Federation, University of Hawaii