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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Bangladesh: Flash Floods and Landslides

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBD010
GLIDE n° FL-2012-000106-BGD
4 July 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 241,041 has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC's) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 25,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to replenish the DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Monsoon rains starting 25 June 2012 in southeast and northeast Bangladesh resulted in flash floods and landslides causing at least 110 deaths. Damages have been most severe in the southeast Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, and Bandarban districts and in northeast Sylhet district. Landslides, house collapses, drowning and lightning following torrential rains on 27 June caused further damages and loss of lives in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Bandarban and Sylhet.



BDRCS volunteers in search and rescue operation in Chittagong mud slide on 27 June 2012. **Photo:** BDRCS.

BDRCS has been conducting search and rescue operations, giving first aid, and distributing food and clean water to the affected population. BDRCS has also been supporting 3,000 people with cooked and dry food for five days in seven districts – Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Bandarban, Feni, Sylhet, Hobiganj and Sunamganj. The DREF operation will cover the distribution of small cash grants, emergency shelter items (i.e. tarpaulins), health activities, water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

This operation is expected to be implemented over a three-month period, and will therefore be completed by 30 September 2012. The final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 December 2012).

The situation

Thousands of people remain stranded in low-lying areas and many communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are still unreachable due to the landslides. Many areas are cut off from the rest of the country as roads and railway tracks are unusable due to the floods and landslides. The affected population have taken shelter mostly in schools, colleges and by the road sides. People of these areas are still leaving their homesteads for safer shelter. According to Reuters, authorities have moved about 300 families from their shanty homes on slopes and have told others to leave quickly.

Flights resumed at the international airport in Chittagong on 27 June after being closed since the flooding began. The rail authorities have restarted passenger traffic in and out of the Chittagong region after restoring one of the tracks on the broken rail bridge in the Bhatiari area. Authorities said that rail freight traffic will remain suspended in the region until the line is repaired, which will take another 15 days. It may take several days or even weeks, before all of the debris is cleared and streets are fully reopened. Telecommunication and utility disruptions will probably continue in hard-hit areas for at least several days until crews are able to repair the lines.

Damage situation 28 June 2012	
Affected districts	13
Affected upazilas	58
Affected unions	181
People affected	416,000
No. of death	110
Houses fully destroyed	29,800
Crops damaged in acre	58,000
No. of IDP shelters	602
No. of IDP in shelters	290,000
<i>Sources: Government district office and Red Crescent field information</i>	

Coordination and Partnerships

BDRCS' national headquarters has been communicating with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department to monitor the weather situation. In addition, BDRCS has been gathering situation updates from different agencies including UNDP and the network for information, response and preparedness activities on disaster (NIRAPAD). Since BDRCS/IFRC are active members of the Humanitarian Country Task Team (HCTT) Disaster Emergency Response (DER) group, information and operation updates will be shared with other humanitarian agencies and the national government in order to avoid any overlapping of distribution. Information exchange also took place between BDRCS and ECHO, Action Aid and Oxfam. BDRCS has good contacts with the local administration that enables the national society to effectively target the most affected areas and people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are on the ground undertaking search and rescue operations focusing on those trapped in the landslides, and giving first aid, food and clean water to the affected population. Additionally, the local branches mobilized their own resources to meet the immediate needs of displaced people in terms of food and water.

From the onset of the emergency, the BDRCS Branch offices have been sending their updates and reports in prescribed formats which have helped in taking relevant decisions. BDRCS, with support from IFRC, has been strategizing and defining the challenges of the monsoon season that has arrived earlier than expected. BDRCS and IFRC jointly deployed five initial assessment teams on 30 June, in five geographical clusters:

- a. Cox's Bazar and Bandarban
- b. Chittagong and Feni,
- c. Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Habiganj
- d. Lalmonirahat, Kurigram and Gaibandha
- e. Sirajganj, Jamalpur and Bogra

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners located in Bangladesh have provided support to BDRCS regarding the assessments conducted to date and further preparatory actions in case of the need for a large scale humanitarian response. Depending on the assessment results, an Emergency Appeal may be launched in the coming week.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: Displaced people in the affected districts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Bandarban, Feni, Sylhet, Hobiganj and Shunomganj are residing on road sides, schools and colleges and therefore are in need shelter, food, clean water and medical care. The risk of certain water-borne diseases is high. Livelihoods dependent on agriculture may be at risk due to flood damage to the rice-paddy fields and loss of livestock.

Assessment teams will visit the affected areas to identify the needs, visit the local administration, and collect updated government statistics and information about current and future government interventions. Selection of beneficiaries will be done from among those living in temporary shelters or makeshift houses from the most affected locations in the Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Chittagong, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Kurigram, Jamalpur and Gaibandha districts. Lists of people supported by the government and other agencies will be obtained to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure that the beneficiaries to be covered under the DREF are excluded from this assistance. Criteria for selection of beneficiary families will be based on the following: House was completely destroyed; lost an earning member of the family; and those with unaccompanied children, elderly, or a person with a disability. The Units will be carrying out door to door assessment and registering the deserving beneficiaries.

The proposed operation

The proposed operation is based on available information from the government and initial assessments carried out by the BDRCS branch offices, as well as the capacity of the national society.

BDRCS, with technical assistance from the IFRC delegation, have had an established and successful cash grant distribution system in place for recovery and resilience projects for the past five years. This includes cash grant distributions for livelihood recovery under a flood appeal which ended last month amounting to a total of CHF 240,000. Standard procedures for cash grants are in place (i.e. registration of beneficiaries, opening of bank accounts by beneficiary households, maintenance of beneficiary ID cards to receive the cash, and maintaining masterroll). However, this system will have to be adapted slightly as the amounts in the DREF operation are too small to request the opening of bank accounts.

Relief distributions (basic food items)

Outcome: The immediate basic food and essential household needs of 5,000 flood-affected families are met within three months in eight districts of Bangladesh (Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sylhet, Sunomganj, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur).

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: The target population received a single cash grant of CHF 25 (BDT 2,000) per family for food and household needs.

Activities planned:

- Door-to-door assessments.
- Beneficiary registration and validation.
- Distribution of a single cash grant for food and immediate needs.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: The emergency shelter needs for 5,000 flood-affected families are provided within three months in eight districts of Bangladesh (Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sylhet, Sunomganj, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur).

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: The target families received emergency shelter materials (one tarpaulin per family) to meet their immediate shelter needs.*

Activities planned:

- Door-to-door assessments.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Distribution of tarpaulins by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.
- Procurement and replenishment of tarpaulins dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC disaster preparedness.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by BDRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

**Only tarpaulins will be provided as other materials (i.e. rope and bamboo) are locally available to fix a makeshift shelter with tarpaulins. Besides, people who already have a basic place for shelter use tarpaulins as a ground sheet.*

Water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Water-related diseases are reduced for 5,000 flood-affected families within three months in eight districts of Bangladesh (Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sylhet, Sunomganj, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur).

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: Target families have improved access to safe drinking water through water provision, storage and treatment. Also, the target families received hygiene education to better protect them against water-related diseases.

Activities planned:

- Distribution of water ration (a minimum of 20 litres per person), and/or water purification tablets (WPT), jerrycans.
- Distribution oral rehydration salts (ORS).
- Print and dissemination of information education and communication (IEC) materials on personal and family hygiene activities, including instructions for WPT and ORS.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by BDRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

Health in Emergency

Outcome: The immediate health risk of 5,000 flood-affected families is reduced through mobile primary health care services for two to three weeks in eight districts of Bangladesh (Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sylhet, Sunomganj, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur).

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: The target families have access to mobile curative health care.

Activities planned:

- Deployment of mobile medical team with essential medicines.
- Provide primary health care to people living on temporary places/makeshift camps.
- Raise health care awareness in affected communities.
- Reference to other medical authorities.
- Develop skills of local volunteers in health related concerns.
- Coordination with local health authorities, especially in terms of epidemic outbreaks.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.

Logistics

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items needed, and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation. Tarpaulins are being supplied by pre-positioned stock from the BDRCS and will be replenished by the Asia Pacific Zone Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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DREF OPERATION

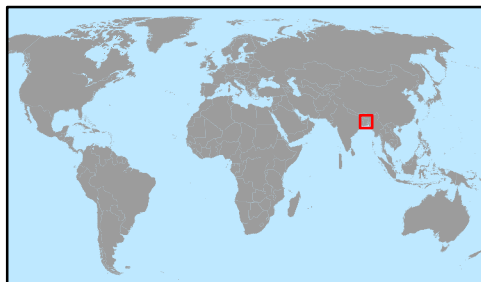
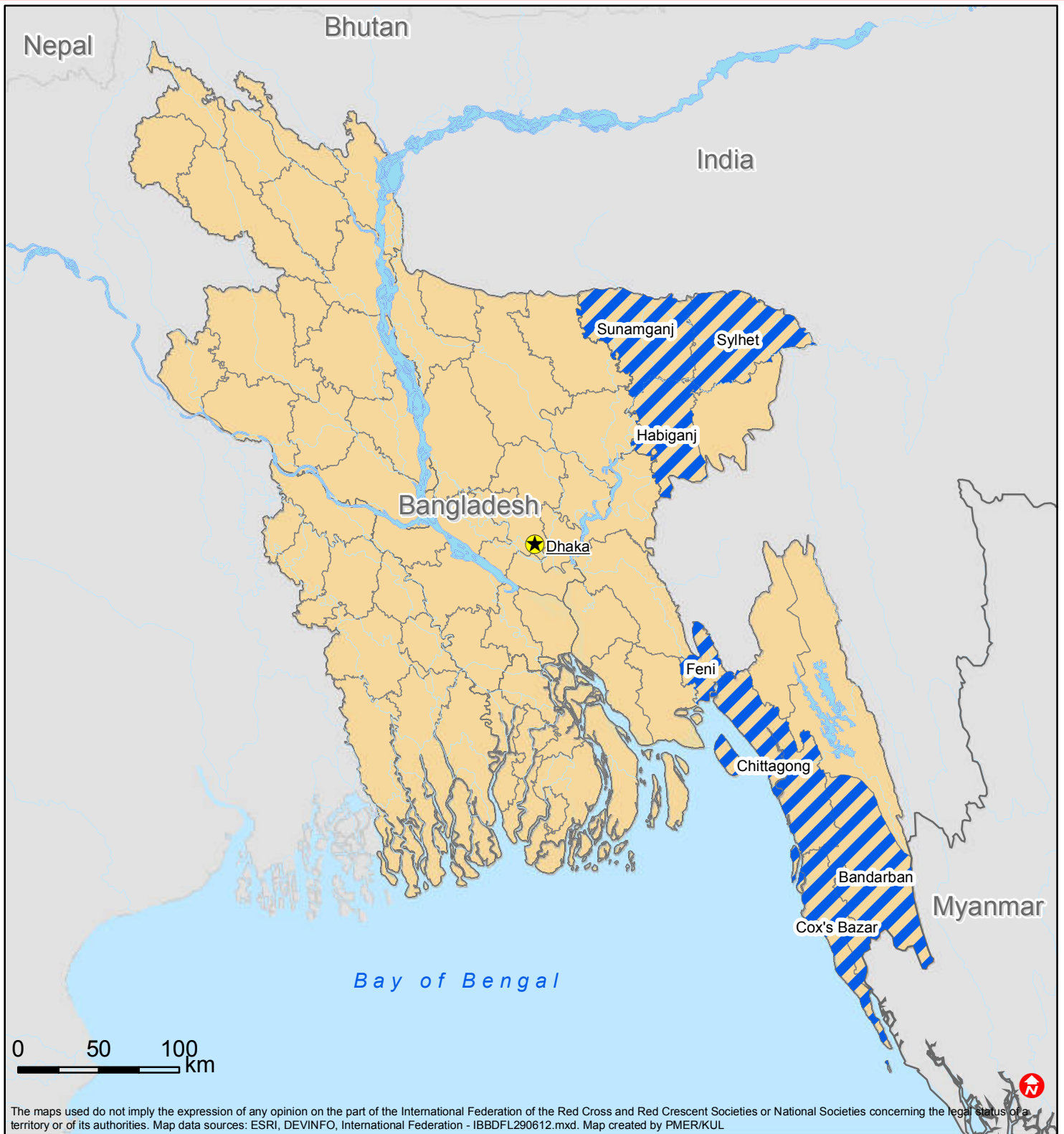
1/7/2012

MDRBD010 Floods and Landslides

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	75,949
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	2,215
Medical & First Aid	8,228
Cash Disbursements	126,583
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	212,975
Storage, Warehousing	380
Distribution & Monitoring	6,329
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,532
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	9,241
Travel	1,266
Office Costs	1,898
Communications	570
Financial Charges	380
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	4,114
Programme and Services Support Recovery	14,711
Total INDIRECT COSTS	14,711
TOTAL BUDGET	241,041



Bangladesh: Floods and landslides



 Affected districts