

Operations update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD002
GLIDE FF-2007-000080-BGD
Operations update n° 15
30 January 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update:
1 September 2008 to 31 December 2008

Revised Appeal budget: CHF 5.095 million (USD 4.85 million or EUR 3.12 million)

Appeal coverage: 94.8%; Outstanding needs:
CHF 261,142 (USD 274,309 or EUR 426,703).

[<click here for the Emergency Appeal>](#)
[<click here for the interim financial report>](#)

Appeal history:

- An Emergency Appeal launched on 3 July 2007 for CHF 842,257 (USD 684,762 or EUR 510,459) for six months to assist 133,255 beneficiaries.
- Emergency Appeal revised on 16 August 2007 to focus on the floods. The budget was increased to CHF 7,113,119 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980) for eight months to assist 1,200,000 beneficiaries due to the deteriorating situation.
- Emergency Appeal budget revised on June 2008 for CHF 5,095,836 (USD 4,851,236 EUR 3,118,852).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated on 20 June 2007: CHF 250,000.



The ongoing relief distribution during the 2008 water logging, which have affected 20,000 families. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Summary:

The 2007 floods operation was extended for the second time for a period of three months from September 2008 to 31 December 2008. Most of the activities, such as the distribution of food and non-food items, were completed within or before 31 December 2008, except for the distribution of housing materials.

Regarding the reconstruction of houses, the International Federation supplier has completed the delivery of corrugated galvanized iron sheet (CGI) and roof ridges on 24 December 2008. An inspection agent has taken the post delivery sample for quality inspection and the result is expected by the first week of January 2009. Due to political and in-country situation, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has requested the distribution to be carried forward to January 2009 following the National Parliamentary election on 29 December 2008 and Upazilla (sub-district local government) election on 22 January 2009. This has been done to avoid misuse of humanitarian aid for personal interest or other benefits.

At present, the 31,850 pieces of blankets and 6,000 tarpaulin sheets from Zone logistic unit have arrived at the port of Chittagong and are waiting for custom clearance before they can be transferred to a privately owned warehouse in Dhaka. Goods such as saris and lungies (clothes for women and men) have already been stored in the Dhaka warehouse as buffer stock.

Due to the lack of funds, the funds allocated for the three water and sanitation activities were diverted to provide food and non-food items to the beneficiaries. A separate proposal to assist the affected families was also submitted to ECHO but was turned down. Thus, the assistance by BDRCS/International Federation was therefore limited to distribution of food and non-food items only.

On 25 December 2008, the newly purchased Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep and one unit of Toyota Hiace, procured under this programme, were handed over to BDRCS.

[For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal at http://www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

The situation

In October 2008, the Government of Bangladesh urged the national and international agencies in the country to assist more than 20,000 families who were affected and displaced during the 2008 water logging in the two most affected districts of Jessore and Satkhira. The affected people have lost all their crops, assets and livelihoods. This situation is anticipated to continue for a further four to six months before they are able return to their dwellings.

The International Federation relief delegate as well as disaster management (response) and information/communications officers, together with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) officers conducted the assessment at places where the beneficiaries were camped for the past three months. They found that the displaced people are living on vacant lands and along roadsides in very simple makeshift houses covered with old plastic sheets, thick paper boards, leaves and old clothes or rags with extremely poor water and sanitation facilities. Many of their inundated houses constructed from mud and straws either are showing signs of deterioration or have already collapsed.



Displaced families living in temporary shade during the water logging in Jessore and Satkhira. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Due to this new situation, the BDRCS sent a proposal to the International Federation country office. Acting on the request made by BDRCS, the three water and sanitation activities were cancelled and it was jointly agreed to assist 2,000 families in Jessore and 1,000 families in Satkhira with a one-round distribution of a standard food package and non-food items as saris (2), lungies (2), plastic sheets (2) and blankets (2) for each family.

With the new proposal in hand, the plan of action had to be revised. The revised plan of action includes the following:

- With no changes in the targeted number of families, the housing material support changed from the initially planned of ten districts to 31 and ultimately to 33 districts. The delivery of the housing materials into the warehouse is still on going.
- The International Federation country office has suspended the working advance request from BDRCS due to unsettled and pending bills amounting to BDT 456,800 (CHF 7,489). This amount was drawn for the distribution of blankets in February

2008. Since then it has been withheld by 22 BDRCS units due to political and outstanding bills and vouchers. The International Federation is continuing to urge the BDRCS national headquarters to communicate with all the concerned units to submit and settle the outstanding amount before the end of December 2008.

- The housing materials for support were delivered to the BDRCS warehouse with the exception of pliers, which are expected to arrive within the last week of December 2008. BDRCS has requested for moving the distribution dates to late January 2009.
- With the help of the finance department, the International Federation country office will book provision for the pending expenses of the housing materials distribution, transportation and monitoring cost as BDRCS had made an official written request to International Federation to commence distribution by end of January 2009.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation Bangladesh country office prepared and submitted the ECHO single form proposal in October 2008 to request for ad hoc emergency funding to assist victims of the water logging in Jessore and Satkhira districts. The proposal consisted of distribution of food and non-food items, shelter materials, support and maintenance, restoration of livelihood, water and sanitation activities, and health intervention. Unfortunately, the proposal was turned down.

BDRCS and International Federation have managed to procure food and non-food items to assist 2,000 families in Jessore and 1,000 families in Satkhira from their own resources and by diverting some funds from the water and sanitation activities.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Overall objective: The urgent needs (health and care, water and sanitation, food and non-food items, clothing, household items, etc.) of 197,670 unassisted families (988,350 people) are been met, the outbreak of communicable diseases is prevented and early recovery needs are supported, while BDRCS capacity is enhanced.

Objective 1: 182,970 severely affected and unassisted families (914,850 people) receive additional emergency food rations and essential non-food items.

The assessment conducted by BDRCS/International Federation officials resulted in a joint agreement that immediate assistance is vital to restore some sort of stability to the affected people living in the water logged areas. Due to the lack of availability of funding, BDRCS had suggested the cancellation of the three water and sanitation activities and divert the funds towards procuring food, saries, lungies, blankets and plastic sheets. Furthermore, it will not be possible to implement the water and sanitation project due to time constraint and lack of readiness of the units.

It has been determined that 2,000 of the worst affected families from Jessore and 1,000 from Satkhira will be registered after being verified by the respective units' Red Cross Youth volunteers. The distribution of the non-food items took place in first week of December 2008, simultaneously in the two districts, followed by food distribution in the second week.

The intervention and distribution were closely coordinated by the International Federation country office relief delegate and field monitoring officer with the BDRCS unit secretaries and unit level officers. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude for quick response from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, especially when there was little interest from other agencies during this distressing situation. It was also a great relief for the families to receive the relief assistance just before the religious festival of Eid ul Azha. A total amount of 60,00 kg of rice, 6,000 litres of oil, 15,000 kg of lentils, and 3,000 kg of salt were purchased and distributed, along with 6,000 saries and lungies each from the existing stock, and 6,000 blankets and plastic sheets each of which were taken on loan from the Cyclone Sidr operation.

Objective 2: Basic health care services (including preventive and promotive health) are provided to 50,220 families (251,100 people) of the most severely affected population for two and half months.

The proposed plan for construction of 1,500 individual latrines, 50 community latrines and 500 tube wells was cancelled due to various reasons. Due to administrative issues, BDRCS was unable to furnish the specific location/site for the water and sanitation intervention. In addition, the activities were

reallocated from ten districts to 29 districts. Thus, these funds were diverted to provide assistance to the affected people of the floods created by water logging (see Objective 1).

Due to shortage of time, it was not possible to convert the purchased Toyota Hiace into an ambulance. Considering they had just recently purchased an ambulance from their own resources, BDRCS agreed to receive the Toyota Hiace in the form of a micro-bus. However, if the need for an ambulance arises in the future, they will discuss it with the International Federation country office.

Objective 3: 14,700 families severely affected by the floods will receive the necessary construction materials for damaged houses and/or livelihoods support, through in-kind goods.

As mentioned earlier, the final approval for the plan for housing materials support for 31 districts was delayed and ultimately after the revision, the BDRCS governance decided to increase the number of districts to cover 33 districts.

The tendering and procurement process for the housing construction materials took time, as the pre-samples had to be sent for laboratory tests for post-delivery inspection in order to ensure the quality as per International Federation standard. The BDRCS request to carry on with the distribution of housing materials in January 2009 was taken to avoid the misuse of humanitarian assistance for personal interest due to the elections. The other reason is the backlog of working advances, which needs to be cleared out as part of the annual closing.

The 52,500 pieces of corrugated galvanized iron sheets (CGI) and 7,000 CGI roof ridges have been delivered and are being stored in the BDRCS warehouse.

Objective 4: The enhancement of capacity of BDRCS to respond effectively to disasters.

The renovation of the BDRCS national headquarters relief office is still ongoing and was completed by the 31 December 2008. They have been supported with a photocopier machine, new air conditioners and two new office tables. This is part of the capacity building, considering their good cooperation and coordination in implementing the flood programme.

Most of the proposed renovation works and procurement of office equipment by the unit offices have been cancelled due to the suspension of the working advance. The International Federation has advised the BDRCS to take their own initiative to furnish with office equipment or make minor renovation work with the budgeted amount of BDT 40,000 (CHF 656) and to submit the invoice upon completion. Only a few branches have responded and have been reimbursed accordingly.

From the 2007 flood operation, a Toyota Hiace micro-bus and one Mitsubishi Pajero were procured and handed over to the BDRCS national headquarters. Additionally, a laptop and a digital camera have been purchased from the ECHO funding as part of the agreement stated in the single form proposal have been handed over to the BDRCS.

The BDRCS relief manual which was to be completed by December 2008 could not be done due to other operational priorities from the BDRCS side.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

The information/communications officer conducted a field assessment of the water logging situation in Jessore and Satkhira districts in late October 2008, where information and recommendations were generated from micro group discussions while at the same time, educating the beneficiaries on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and public health and hygiene. In addition, a story has been written following the assessment. This story has been shared with the BDRCS national headquarters, International Federation, South Asia regional office, Asia Pacific Zone office and the Secretariat in Geneva.

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: bdrcs@bangla.net, phone: +88.02.935.2226.
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- South Asia regional delegation in Delhi: Mr. Al Panico (head of regional office), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur: Disaster management unit: Ms. Amy Gaver, (head of disaster management unit), email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org; phone: +603.9207,5724 mobile; +6012 220 1174; Daniel Bolanos (disaster response delegate), mobile: +6012 283 7305; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org

**[<Updated donor response report attached below:
click here to return to the title page>](#)**

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBD002 - Bangladesh - Floods, Landslides, Tornado

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/6-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/6-2008/12
Appeal	MDRBD002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	5,095,836					5,095,836
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross	150,535					150,535
Australian Red Cross	15,076					15,076
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)	368,862					368,862
Bangladesh - Private Donors	16,006					16,006
British Red Cross	475,307					475,307
Canadian Red Cross	86,130					86,130
Danish Red Cross	102,835					102,835
ECHO	816,615					816,615
Finnish Red Cross	279,600					279,600
German Red Cross	131,710					131,710
Hong Kong Red Cross	165,496					165,496
Intel Foundation	55,900					55,900
Irish Government	328,800					328,800
Japanese Red Cross	314,786					314,786
Korea Republic Red Cross	50,000					50,000
Liechtenstein Red Cross	18,433					18,433
Monaco Red Cross	16,500					16,500
Netherlands Red Cross	514,654					514,654
New York Office (from Kraft Foods)	13,125					13,125
New York Office (from Western Union Foundation)	35,001					35,001
Norwegian Red Cross	98					98
On Line donations	17,516					17,516
Singapore Red Cross	4,221					4,221
Singapore Red Cross (from Singapore Government)	23,921					23,921
Swedish Red Cross	109,140					109,140
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	179,400					179,400
Swiss Red Cross	105,850					105,850
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	12,282					12,282
United States - Private Donors	1,328					1,328
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	2,000					2,000
C1. Cash contributions	4,411,124					4,411,124
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
OPEC Fund For Int-l Development	263,685					263,685
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	263,685					263,685
Inkind Goods & Transport						
Norwegian Red Cross	1,709					1,709
Swiss Red Cross	91,000					91,000
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport	92,709					92,709
Inkind Personnel						
Netherlands Red Cross	17,747					17,747
C4. Inkind Personnel	17,747					17,747
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	4,785,265					4,785,265
D. Total Funding = B +C	4,785,265					4,785,265

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Appeal Coverage	94%					94%
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II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	4,785,265					4,785,265
E. Expenditure	-4,492,826					-4,492,826
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	292,439					292,439

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		5,095,836					5,095,836	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	833,333	870,234				870,234	-36,901	
Construction Materials		18,744				18,744	-18,744	
Clothing & textiles	715,770	832,317				832,317	-116,547	
Food	1,206,123	1,255,488				1,255,488	-49,365	
Seeds, Plants	127,119	127,682				127,682	-563	
Water & Sanitation	434,831	99,670				99,670	335,161	
Medical & First Aid	8,475	7,482				7,482	992	
Other Supplies & Services	475,202	135,933				135,933	339,269	
Total Supplies	3,800,851	3,347,548				3,347,548	453,303	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	138,983	134,498				134,498	4,485	
Computers & Telecom	22,458	13,929				13,929	8,529	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	2,034	3,966				3,966	-1,932	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	163,475	152,394				152,394	11,082	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	29,904	48,061				48,061	-18,157	
Distribution & Monitoring	50,390	82,225				82,225	-31,835	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	109,154	23,498				23,498	85,657	
Total Transport & Storage	189,448	153,784				153,784	35,664	
Personnel								
International Staff	257,400	227,133				227,133	30,267	
Regionally Deployed Staff	1,650	1,650				1,650	0	
National Staff	51,250	64,779				64,779	-13,529	
National Society Staff	68,679	29,696				29,696	38,983	
Consultants	3,150	3,150				3,150	0	
Total Personnel	382,129	326,408				326,408	55,722	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	32,772	14,129				14,129	18,643	
Total Workshops & Training	32,772	14,129				14,129	18,643	
General Expenditure								
Travel	29,831	18,603				18,603	11,228	
Information & Public Relation	25,593	12,236				12,236	13,357	
Office Costs	51,525	28,187				28,187	23,338	
Communications	23,729	17,665				17,665	6,064	
Financial Charges	59,322	107,054				107,054	-47,732	
Other General Expenses	5,932	-793				-793	6,725	
Total General Expenditure	195,932	182,952				182,952	12,980	
Programme Support								
Program Support	331,229	289,807				289,807	41,422	
Total Programme Support	331,229	289,807				289,807	41,422	
Services								
Services & Recoveries		25,805				25,805	-25,805	
Total Services		25,805				25,805	-25,805	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,095,836	4,492,826				4,492,826	603,010	
VARIANCE (C - D)		603,010				603,010		