

# FINAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **BANGLADESH: FLOODS 1999**

19 December  
2001

*Appeal No. 24/1999*

*Launched on: 23 September 1999 for six months for CHF 2,019,000*

*Beneficiaries: 523,200*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 100,000*

*Final Report*

### "At a glance"

*Appeal coverage: 97.7%*

*The Disaster/Situation: The appeal attracted strong support and enabled the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Federation to provide vital relief supplies to vulnerable people in the wake of the floods. Extensive distribution of rice, dal and blankets was carried out effectively in several districts.*

### **The context:**

In contrast to the dramatic nature of the 1998 floods, the 1999 flooding was less spectacular. It was a rather slow, unfolding disaster which, started in July and gradually worsened over a two and a half month period. The first heavy rains in July affected hilly areas, followed by the inundation of areas not normally considered as flood prone. The force and turbulence of the river water caused massive erosion, and in the first two weeks of September, 21 new districts were severely affected from a mixture of water levels and high tides in the Bay of Bengal, which have obstructed the natural flow of rivers to the sea.

The Federation responded initially to the disaster by providing immediate relief assistance to particularly vulnerable groups. However, hundreds of thousands more did not receive any relief supplies after the first round of flooding.

Bangladesh was hit by a flood in mid-1999 with the early arrival of a strong monsoon. Torrential rains from 20 June caused flash floods in nine districts in the Chittagong region and spread to 41 of the country's 64 districts in July, affecting about 3.5 million people. Extensive damage was reported to standing crops, seed beds, thatched houses, roads, bridges and other infra-structure.

The heavy onrush of floodwater created breaches on several embankments, the most serious of which occurred along the Etbarpu



section of the Gumti Embankment at Burichang Thana in Comilla District on 12 and 15 July. Ten of the 12 Thanas (sub-districts) of Comilla district were affected, of which Burichang, Devidwar and Chandina Thanas were worst hit. Other districts affected by large-scale river erosion included Mymensingh, Faridpur, Pabna, Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

Floodwaters had receded from all parts of the country by mid-October but the relief and rehabilitation activities continued well after. The government decided to bring 300,000 more families under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme to cover the flood victims. Under the VGF programme, about 1.5 million people of 2.8 million families received food relief during August to November, the traditional lean period in the country. The government had distributed 4,611 metric tonnes (MT) of rice, 3,825 MT of wheat and a substantial amount of non-food items as relief among the 1999 flood victims.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation Delegation closely monitored the flood and river erosion situations and made their own assessment of needs of the most vulnerable. The BDRCS conducted a relief operation in the three worst affected thanas of Comilla from 11 July to 21 August when 130 MT rice and 26 MT dal (lentils) was distributed among 13,000 vulnerable families.

**A Plan of Action (PoA) for further relief and rehabilitation was prepared and an Appeal was launched from Geneva on 23 September seeking CHF 2,019,000 to assist 523,200 beneficiaries for six months.**

## *Objectives*

The relief component consisted of 1,300 MT of rice, 260 MT of dal, 10,000 blankets and emergency medical items. To mitigate the suffering of the destitute, the construction of 750 low-cost houses was included in the PoA. Allocations were made from national headquarters while units prepared lists of beneficiaries.

The following table shows the allocation of relief materials to the 64 district and four metropolitan city units :

### Unit allocation of Rice, Dal and Blankets

SI. No	District/city	1st phase		2nd phase		3rd phase		Total		PCs
		allocation (kg)	allocation (kg)	allocation (kg)	allocation (kg)	allocation (kg)	allocation (kg)	allocation (kg)	allocation (kg)	
		Rice	Dal	Rice	Dal	Rice	Dal	Rice	Dal	400
1	Panchagar				0			0	0	400
2	Nilphamari				0			0	0	300
3	Lalmonirhat	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	12 000	2 400	32 000	6 400	300
4	Rangpur			20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	32 000	6 400	300
5	Kurigram	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	42 000	8 400	300
6	Gaibandha	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	42 000	8 400	300
7	Thakurgaon				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	300
8	Dinajpur				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	300
9	Joypurhat				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	200
10	Naogoan				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	200
11	Chapai-Nawabganj			20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	32 000	6 400	200
12	Rajshahi zila			20 000	4 000		0	20 000	4 000	300
13	Natore				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	200
14	Bogra	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	42 000	8 400	200
15	Sirajganj	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	42 000	8 400	200
16	Pabna	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	42 000	8 400	200
17	Kustia				0		0	0	0	200
18	Meherpur				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	
19	Chuadanga				0		0	0	0	
20	Jhenaidah				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	
21	Magura				0		0	0	0	300
22	Jessore				0		0	0	0	200
23	Narail				0		0	0	0	
24	Satkhira			10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	200
25	Bagerhat				0		0	0	0	
26	Pirojpur				0		0	0	0	
27	Barisal				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	200
28	Bhola				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	
29	Barguna			10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	
30	Jhalokhati									
31	Patuakhali									

32	Gopalganj			20 000	4 000	15 000	3 000	35 000	7 000	300
33	Madaripur			10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	
34	Shariatpur			10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	
35	Faridpur				0		0	0	0	300
36	Rajbari			10 000	2 000		0	10 000	2 000	
37	Manikganj			10 000	2 000		0	10 000	2 000	
38	Dhaka zila				0		0	0	0	
39	Gazipur			10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	200
40	Narsingdi			10 000	2 000	12 000	2 400	22 000	4 400	200
41	Narayanganj			10 000	2 000	12 000	2 400	22 000	4 400	200
42	Munshiganj			20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	32 000	6 400	200
43	Tangail	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	12 000	2 400	32 000	6 400	200
44	Jamalpur	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	12 000	2 400	32 000	6 400	
45	Sherpur				0		0	0	0	
46	Mymensingh				0		0	0	0	
47	Netrokona				0		0	0	0	200
48	Kishoreganj			10 000	2 000	12 000	2 400	22 000	4 400	200
49	Sunamganj	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000		0	20 000	4 000	300
50	Sylhet				0		0	0	0	300
51	Moulavibazar				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	300
52	Hobiganj				0	12 000	2 400	12 000	2 400	200
53	Brahmman Baria				0		0	0	0	
54	Comilla	130 000	26 000	60 000	12 000	30 000	6 000	220 000	44 000	
55	Chandpur	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	12 000	2 400	42 000	8 400	200
56	Laxmipur	10 000	2 000		0	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	
57	Noakhali				0		0	0	0	200
58	Feni				0		0	0	0	
59	Chittagong zila	10 000	2 000		0		0	10 000	2 000	
60	Chittagong city				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	
61	Cox's Bazar	10 000	2 000		0	10 000	2 000	20 000	4 000	
62	Rajshahi City				0		0	0	0	200
63	Khagrachari	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000		0	20 000	4 000	200
64	Bandarban	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000		0	20 000	4 000	200
65	Rangamati	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000		0	20 000	4 000	200
66	Khulna city				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	
67	Khulna zila				0	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	200
68	Dhaka City	10 000	2 000	10 000	2 000	15 000	3 000	35 000	7 000	200
<b>Grand Total</b>		300,000	60,000	460,000	92,000	452,000	90,400	1'212'000	242,400	10,000



## ***Achievements***

Purchase orders were issued on 14 and 23 December 1999 to a local supplier selected through open tender by the Delegation, with approval of the Secretariat in Geneva, for 500 MT of rice, 100 MT of dal and 20,000 blankets. Consignments of the rice and dal started arriving at the BDRCS warehouse in Dhaka on 27 December, while the first blankets were due on 3 January 2000. The BDRCS started the despatch of relief items from 28 December from its headquarters to selected districts.

The Federation Delegation hired trucks to transport some of these materials as BDRCS-owned trucks had insufficient capacity to lift all the relief materials.

The second phase for food and non-food of distribution started on 28 November and was complete except in four districts where some technical problems persisted. The third phase, for non-food items (blankets). Some second phase food distribution continued in early 2000.

The distribution details up to 31 December, 1999 are as follows:

Rice: 960 MT  
Dal: 192 MT  
No. of beneficiary families: 48,000 or more than 240,000 people.

The distribution of relief materials was constantly monitored by the Delegation and the BDRCS.

Close liaison was maintained with the central government authorities and disaster co-ordinating agencies such as the Disaster Management Bureau, the Water Development Board, the Flood Warning Centre and the Ministry of Relief. Interaction continued with the UNDP, the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), and the Disaster Forum.

News items on relief distribution, some with photographs, appeared in various national and local dailies during the reporting period. National television covered a few such occasions where the BDRCS Chairman and the Delegation Head of Delegation were present.

## ***Constraints***

As a matter of policy, relief materials were distributed through the Unit Executive Committee. A few of the units did not have active Executive Committees because of court injunctions. Relief distributions to four such units have been complicated or made impossible. At the end, the relief was distributed through the unit officer or officials from headquarters.

The allocation list had to be revised for a few districts due to practical reasons which at times caused delay in despatch and distribution of relief goods.

The housing programme had to be implemented under the process of tendering. It also included, which is time consuming. As the construction of 380 houses under the floods 1998 operation went on during and beyond 1999, construction of the 750 houses under the floods 1999 programme has not yet proceeded.

## ***Conclusion***

Except for the instant relief to the flood victims, most of the 1999 flood relief operation was initiated at the end of the year, which is the leanest seasonal period. The relief was therefore been very helpful to the poverty

stricken flood victims, who would otherwise fall back on traditional money lenders. Efforts were made to ensure that distribution of blankets took place before or at least during the peak winter season.

The experience of the BDRCS/Delegation from the massive flood relief operations of 1998 greatly helped in the management of the 1999 operations. It is expected that the experience accumulated in the housing operations of 1998 will equally be helpful in implementation of the 1999 housing programme. There is a small balance of CHF 99,000 from the operation, which will be repaid into the Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) that was utilised in the aftermath of the floods.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

*This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.*

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**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Interim report	
Annual report	
Final report	X

**Appeal No & title: 24/1999 - Bangladesh floods**

Period: years 1999, 2000 and 2001 up to 18/12

Project(s): PBD505

Currency: CHF

**I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	2,019,000				
less Cash brought forward					
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>2,019,000</b>				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
American Red Cross (DNUS)	37,463				37,463
British Red Cross (DNGB)	-3,924				-3,924
British Red Cross (DNGB)	3,878				3,878
British Red Cross (DNGB)	3,924				3,924
British Red Cross (DNGB)	53,655				53,655
British Red Cross (DNGB)	60,463				60,463
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	20,954				20,954
Danish Govt.via Danish Red Cross	105,241				105,241
ECHO-BANGLADESH FLOODS/F	401,468				401,468
ECHO-BANGLADESH FLOODS/F	330,305				330,305
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	53,959				53,959
German Red Cross (DNDE)	327,840				327,840
German Red Cross (DNDE)	49,283				49,283
Hong Kong RC/GVT (DGNHK)	105,862				105,862
Hong Kong Red Cross (DNHK)	4,872				4,872
Hong Kong Red Cross (DNHK)	-4,872				-4,872
Hong Kong Red Cross (DNHK)	4,872				4,872
Icelandic Red Cross (DNIS)	4,484				4,484
Icelandic Red Cross (DNIS)	4,181				4,181
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	99,252				99,252
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross	135,000				135,000
DREF	100,000				100,000
Korea Republic				73,634	73,634
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,898,160</b>			<b>73,634</b>	<b>1,971,794</b>
<b>Coverage</b>	<b>94.0%</b>			<b>3.6%</b>	<b>97.7%</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

Opening balance	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	1,898,160
CASH EXPENDITURE	-1,798,484
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<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>99,676</b>

## Appeal No & title: 24/1999 - Bangladesh floods

Period: years 1999, 2000 and 2001 up to 18/12

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### III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	469,000	409,277			409,277	59,723
Clothing & Textiles	100,000	127,000			127,000	-27,000
Food/Seeds	949,000	913,696			913,696	35,304
Water						
Medical & First Aid	4,000	3,781			3,781	219
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,522,000</b>	<b>1,453,754</b>			<b>1,453,754</b>	<b>68,246</b>
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.		3,219			3,219	-3,219
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures						
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>3,219</b>			<b>3,219</b>	<b>-3,219</b>
<u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u>	120,000	103,935			103,935	16,065
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>103,935</b>			<b>103,935</b>	<b>16,065</b>
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	20,000	46,681		73,634	120,315	-100,315
Personnel (local staff)	72,000	71,033			71,033	967
Training						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>117,714</b>		<b>73,634</b>	<b>191,348</b>	<b>-99,348</b>
<u>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		7,337			7,337	-7,337
Travel & related expenses	20,000	8,881			8,881	11,119
Information expenses	2,000	3,450			3,450	-1,450
Administrative expenses	7,000	71,772			71,772	-64,772
External workshops & Seminars	203,000					203,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>91,440</b>			<b>91,440</b>	<b>140,560</b>
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	53,000	28,422			28,422	24,578
<u>OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS</u>						
Transfer to National Societies						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>2,019,000</b>	<b>1,798,484</b>		<b>73,634</b>	<b>1,872,118</b>	<b>146,882</b>

**Consumption rate:** Expenditures versus income 95%  
Expenditures versus budget 93%