

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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 جمعيات الصليب الأحمر والقمر الأحمر

BANGLADESH: TORNADO

22 April 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 03/2004) is being issued ;

- based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 42,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the DREF update.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent National Society A.F.M. Obaidur Rahman, Secretary General, email bdrcs@bangla.net, phone +88 02 933 7314.
- Federation Delegation in Bangladesh, Tony Maryon, Head of Delegation email ifrcbdo3@ifrc.org, phone +88 02 831 5401-02, Mobile +88 0171 521 615, fax +88 02 934 1631.
- In Geneva: Ewa Eriksson, Regional Officer Asia-Pacific Department, email ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org, phone +41 22 730 4252, fax +41 22 733 0395.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Northern areas of Bangladesh have been lashed by further storms following the lethal twin tornadoes which claimed at least 76 lives and injured more than 3000 people on April 14. Strong winds and rain have continued this week with reports of up to 17 further deaths. Most deaths have been caused by flying debris and collapsing houses.

As outlined in earlier Information Bulletins, the 14 April tornadoes mainly affected the northern districts of Mymensingh and Netrakona, destroying houses, standing crops and uprooting trees. Many people have been left without shelter. Since April 19 fresh tornadoes and storms have struck sub-districts in Mymensingh, and Gazipur.



Tornado affected village in Mymensingh district

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Local Bangladesh Red Crescent units along with community

based disaster preparedness (CBDP) squad volunteers were deployed immediately to affected areas. Red Crescent volunteers provided first aid and assisted in moving the vulnerable population to safer areas.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent /Federation relief assessment team was immediately dispatched to the affected areas of Netrakona and Mymensingh. The Gazipur and Comilla Red Crescent units have sent damage assessment reports to the national headquarters. The following emergency relief goods have been allocated for distribution as recommended by the assessment team and the assessment report of the respective Red Crescent units:

District	Netrakona	Mymensingh (Haluaghat)	Gazipur	Comilla
Relief goods	Family kits: 1000 BP5: 1000kg	Family kits: 550 BP5: 550kg Soybean oil: 550kg	Family kits: 200 BP5: 200kg	Family kits: 250 BP5: 600kg

Only families that had their dwellings completely destroyed were included in the beneficiary list. Bangladesh Red Crescent relief goods were sent to the affected areas of Netrakona and Mymensingh on 17 April and distribution commenced the next day and was completed on 20 April. The relief goods arrived in Gazipur on 19 April and distribution was completed by 20 April. Relief goods for Comilla were despatched on 20 April and distribution was expected to be completed the following day.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent requires CHF 42,000 to replenish buffer stocks of the 2,000 family kits distributed and to cover minor transport and administrative costs. With the monsoon season fast approaching here is an urgent need to get the stock of family kits back to full capacity.

This Bangladesh Red Crescent response aims to meet the immediate food and non-food needs of 2,000 displaced families (10,000 beneficiaries) currently living in tents and makeshift shelters.

Each beneficiary family is receiving 1kg of BP5 biscuits and one family kit comprising: two aluminium cooking saucepans; one plastic mug and two glasses; two aluminium plates and spoons; one plastic bucket (12 litre); two bars of soap; six candles and 12 matchboxes; one saree for women and one lungi for men; and one piece of plastic sheeting (18 x 12 ft).



Red Crescent volunteers assisting the injured

Government/NGO action

The government has to date allocated 500 metric tonnes of rice, 1,000 tins of biscuits, 800 sarees and lungis, 2,000 bundles of corrugated iron sheeting as house building assistance, and a cash grant of Taka 1,250,000 (CHF 27,000) for distribution among the affected communities. It has also established several medical camps providing emergency health care to the affected population. Some non-governmental organisations (Action Aid, World Vision, Concern, Oxfam, Caritas, Gonoshastho Kendra and CARE) were assisting medical teams and first aid teams, and providing further emergency food and rehabilitation assistance.

Coordination

The Bangladesh Red Crescent has been effectively coordinating with the relevant authorities/actors in this disaster response operation. Together with the Federation, it regularly participates in the disaster emergency response group coordination meetings co-chaired by World Food Programme and government representatives (Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief).

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)