

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 لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BANGLADESH: MONSOON FLOODING

28 June 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 Bulletin no. 1/2004 is being issued based on the information available at this time. A joint Federation and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) field assessment is underway, and assistance through an emergency appeal may be considered as needs require and situation evolves.

The Federation emphasizes that support is needed for the Bangladesh 2004 Annual Appeal (no. 01.56/2004) disaster preparedness programme.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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

Rainfall in Bangladesh over the past two weeks has been severe, and if the rain continues at the same level of intensity it is anticipated that severe flooding in many parts of the country could occur in the coming weeks. According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) bulletin issued on 27 June, 2004, the monsoon is active in the Meghna basin in north the eastern part of the country, and as a result flash floods have affected a large area of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Brahmanbaria and Comilla districts. The main Dhaka-Sylhet road and railway communications were blocked or disrupted as the roads and railway



tracks were submerged in knee-deep water at Bahubal and Habiganj.

Local media are reporting that flooded rivers inundated hundreds of villages and marooned hundreds of thousands of people, washed away houses, damaged standing crops, and caused cracks in several flood protection embankments. Two persons died in the Moulvibazar district. The Brahmaputra-Jamuna River is causing serious erosion, and the Ganges-Padma and other rivers are also rising.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is in constant contact with its district units affected by the flash floods. A two-member Federation team (delegation) and the BDRCS relief department left Dhaka on 27 June to conduct a rapid needs assessment of the flood-affected areas in the three affected districts. On the basis of the assessment report, the distribution of emergency buffer stocks and family kits is anticipated. The BDRCS and the Federation can manage the situation locally at this stage, but the situation will be closely monitored and requests for assistance will be made as the situation evolves or requires.