

# 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:TORNADO

18 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.02/2004 is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will need CHF 39,000 to replenish its buffer stocks of family kits and modest funds for transport and distribution costs.

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### The Situation

As reported in Information Bulletin No.1 the twin tornadoes with severe destructive winds of over 120 km per hour struck over 20 villages in the northern districts of Mymensingh and Netrakona in the evening of 14 April, killing at least 76 people and injuring over 3000. The twister, coinciding with the celebration of the Bengali New Years Day, destroyed thousand of houses, 20 percent of standing crops and uprooted thousand of trees. As the tornado forced through the villages, people, rickshaws, dwellings, household items such as storage pots were carried away. The modest housing in the villages has been flattened with corrugated tin roofs crumpling like tinfoil. Most villagers are now left with out shelter and are traumatised by the events. While strong winds are not unusual for this time of year, the tornado has wreaked more damage than previous years.



*Tornado affected village in Netrakona District*

Hospitals are inundated by victims seeking treatment for injuries with some beds holding up to three or four patients while many more were treated in the corridors, curled up on the mats. Most injuries presenting at the hospital are a result of the storm hurling people into the air while others were hit by flying debris. People from the nearby villages and the local authorities took part in the immediate rescue operation.

### Government/NGOs action

After the disaster the government allocated 200 MT of rice, 2000 bundles of corrugated iron sheeting and a cash grant of Taka 500,000 (CHF 11,000) for distribution among the affected people. The government also established several medical camps providing emergency health care to the affected population. Some NGOs (Action Aid, World Vision, CARE and Caritas) were assisting with medical teams and first aid teams and were also conducting damage assessment for providing further rehabilitation assistance.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The local Red Cross unit along with community-based disaster preparedness squad volunteers rush to the affected areas on receiving news of the disaster. The volunteers provided first aid and assisted in shifting affected people to safer places. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)/Federation relief assessment team was immediately dispatched to the tornado-affected areas and returned to Dhaka yesterday and the assessment team recommended the following:



RC volunteers helping a tornado victim

<i>Netrakona</i>		<i>Haluaghat</i>	
<b>Family Kits</b>	1000	<b>Family Kits</b>	550
<b>BP-5 Biscuits</b>	1000 kg	<b>BP-5 Biscuits</b>	550 kg
		<b>Soybean Oil</b>	550 kg

A beneficiary list of the families that had their dwellings completely destroyed is being prepared by the local Red Cross unit. Three BDRCS relief trucks left Dhaka yesterday for the affected areas, reaching same day. Distribution will take place today and will be completed in two days.



Trucks leaving national headquarters for tornado-affected areas.

### Needs

BDRCS requires CHF 39,000 to replenish its buffer stocks of 2,000 family kits at the earliest and modest funds required to meet transport and distribution costs, as the country remains in the cyclone season with the monsoon season fast approaching. It is essential that BDRCS buffer stocks are replenished prior to the monsoon season.

**2000 family kits x CHF19 = CHF 38,000**  
**Transport & distribution = CHF 1,000**

**Total = CHF 39,000 plus PSR**

### Media

Wide local and international media coverage, and on BBC World News on 18 April'2004. Press release to local media on Red Crescent action went out to local media yesterday. BDRCS/Federation activities were reported in English and Bengali newspapers and on TV news.

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*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the [Federation's Annual Appeal](#).*