

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: DHAKA FIRE

6 February 2006

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 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 02/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

A devastating fire swept through a densely populated slum area of the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, on Wednesday, 1 February. The fire department estimates that the blaze, which started as a kitchen fire, swept through 1,500 thatch dwellings in the Mohammedpur area. No deaths were reported but 28 people suffered injuries.

A total of 1,500 families have had their homes destroyed. Some 500 families are sheltering in a community centre while the remainder are staying with relatives and friends.

Government agencies have distributed emergency materials



Mohammedpur area affected by the fire

including 1,000 blankets and 22 tonnes of rice. Corrugated iron sheets will be distributed to the affected people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A four-member joint Bangladesh Red Crescent and Federation assessment team was deployed on 2 February. Based on the team's assessment, a distribution to the 500 families sheltering in the community centre was conducted on 4 February.



Distribution centre for the family kits

Each family received a family kit which provides basic necessities aimed at helping those who have lost all their possessions. Each family kit consists of the following items (considering local and traditional customs of cooking and clothing):

- two aluminium cooking saucepans
- plastic mugs and cups
- two sets of aluminium plates and spoons
- one 12-litre plastic bucket
- two bars of soap
- six candles and 12 matchboxes
- one sari (women's clothing)
- one lungi (men's clothing)
- one 5.5 x 3.7 metre piece of plastic sheeting

In addition to the distribution of the family kits, 1,000 blankets were distributed to 500 affected families living outside the shelter (two pieces each). The total beneficiaries of the distribution were 1,000 families.

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