

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: RESPONSE TO BENGKULU EARTHQUAKE IN INDONESIA

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation¹

In the evening of 12 September 2007, the Bangladeshi government issued a tsunami warning for the first time in the country, following a massive earthquake that hit the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

District commissioner office sources said they received an emergency message from the ministry of relief and disaster management about the possible tsunami, as well as the directive to take necessary actions.

The water level at Cox's Bazar shore rose to an estimated 2.5 feet, sparking panic among tourists and residents of the resort town. Following the tsunami warning, Patuakhali district administration imposed a red alert at Kuakata sea beach as well as coastal Kalapara and Galachipa districts for an indefinite period. Officials shifted all inhabitants to safer places.

Fishing boats and trawlers sailed to the sea yesterday morning when it became calm after three days of rough weather. Many of them were remained at sea as the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and administration officials could not communicate the warning to them.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 12 September, it was reported by the tsunami information bulletin that, under the influence of the earthquake that struck the southern part of Sumatra, Indonesia, a tsunami was likely to be generated in the Indian Ocean. The coast of Bangladesh may experience tsunami wave by midnight.

Having received information from the metrological department, the cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) sprang into action to alert all CPP field stations. This was initially done through mobile and land phones. Simultaneously, the government of Bangladesh issued an evacuation order and circulated it using radio, television and other media. CPP volunteers disseminated the warnings in the community with microphones, megaphones and beating drums. Furthermore, announcements were also made from mosques to alert people.

¹ Much of the situation information is sourced from <http://www.bangladeshnews.com.bd>

Bangladesh: Tsunami alert; Information Bulletin no. 01

Upon receiving the warning, people rushed out of the buildings, with some in a panic. BDRCS volunteers were on hand to calm the people down and evacuate them to the cyclone shelters. Almost 75 per cent of 42,675 BDRCS volunteers participated in assisting the evacuation. To date, the latest information states that 1,528 cyclone shelters are currently used by an estimated one and a half million people for shelter (please refer to annex attached for breakdown in numbers by area). Many others took shelter in schools and mosques.

In Chittagong, the authorities and voluntary organizations took up precautionary measures and started evacuating people from the coastal areas. Earthquake preparedness programme (EPRP) volunteers under the community based disaster management programme worked together with the CPP unit to evacuate the affected people. The district administration and Red Crescent volunteers spread along the Cox's Bazar beach and asked tourists to leave the beach immediately. Using megaphones, they announced that a tsunami might hit the coastal belt at around midnight. District officers of the coastal districts were instructed to start evacuation and take necessary measures.

The CPP director was in close contact with the line agencies of the government to assist in monitoring the situation. The BDRCS and Federation provided the necessary support and advice for the evacuation, which continued until the warning was lifted.

How we work

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: Mr. M. Shafiul Alam (Secretary General), email: bdracs@bangla.net, phone: +88.02.935.2226.
- Country Delegation in Bangladesh: Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (Head of Delegation), email: selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org, phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631.
- South Asia Regional Delegation in India: Mr. Al Panico (Head of Regional Delegation), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Asia Pacific Zone in Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur Disaster Management Unit (DMU) – Mr. Latifur Rahman (disaster management delegate), email: latifur.rahman@ifrc.org; tel + 60 3 2161 0892, fax: +603 2161 1210.
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Mr. Hiroto Oyama (Regional Officer), email: hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org, phone: +41.22.730.4273, fax: +41.22.733.0395.

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

Annex A

**People taking shelter after dissemination of tsunami warning and information
at
CPP command area on 12-07-07**

No.	Name of Stations	Quantity of cyclone shelters	Number of people who took shelter
1	Cox's Bazar Zone Office	54	115,000
2	Teknaf	37	60,000
3	Chokoria	128	120,000
4	Moiscal	86	110,000
5	Kutubdia	90	100,000
6	Chittagong Zone Office	0	0
7	Mirsarai	20	1,500
8	Patiya	5	12,000
9	Anowara	55	30,000
10	Banskhali	117	120,000
11	Sandwip	86	40,000
12	Sitakunda	58	150,000
13	Noakhali Zone Office	0	0
14	Hatiya	98	82,000
15	Sonagazi	57	2,200
16	Subarno Char	69	50,000
17	Companigonj	33	20,000
18	Ramgati	78	130,000
19	Bhola Zone Office	30	40,000
20	Tajumuddin	12	24,000
21	Daulatkhan	30	35,000
22	Charfession	123	50,000
23	Monpura	27	29,700
24	Borhanuddin	36	50,000
25	Lalmohon	45	4,000
26	Barisal Zone Office	0	0
27	Sarankhola	3	5,000
28	Dasmina	19	9,380
29	Motbaria	2	6,000
30	Galachipa ¹	0	0
31	Barguna Zone Office	15	3,000
32	Patharghata	21	12,000
33	Amtali	32	50,000
34	Kalapara	62	9,000
	Total	1,528	1,505,780

¹ Information from field is still pending.