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Information bulletin

Bangladesh: Cox's Bazaar Flood

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° FL-2019-000079-BGD	Date of issue: 9 July 2019
Date of disaster: 3 July 2019	Point of contact: Sanjeev Kafley, Head of Sub-Office, Cox's Bazaar
Operation start date: 5 July 2019	Expected timeframe: 1 month
Category of disaster: Yellow	
Host National Society: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society	
Number of people affected: 8,090	Number of people to be assisted: 8,090
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

The situation

Heavy monsoon rains have been affecting the divisions of Barishal and Chattogram in southern Bangladesh over the last week. The World Meteorological Organization has forecasted that rainfall will be the highest for the country in 2019 (733 mm) in July with an average rainfall of 22 days for the entire month. This is supported by observations made by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), which indicate a steady increase in rainfall from 18 mm on 30 June 2019 and peaking at 172.10 mm on 3 July 2019. Between 6 to 8 July 2019, rainfall levels have been sitting between 36.40 mm and 47.40 mm.

Since 2 July 2019, the heavy rains have been impacting settlements in Cox's Bazar, where more than 900,000 displaced people from Rakhine state, Myanmar reside. The camps are at risk of landslide, flood, fire, windstorm and other health hazards, mostly in the monsoon season. Several small landslides have occurred, and the incessant rain has impacted road access in some camps. No lives have been lost but approximately 413 shelters have been destroyed and 1,205 shelters have been partially damaged.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has activated seven National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) to undertake assessments in camps covered by the ongoing EA operation as well as those covered under their Cyclone Preparedness Program. Initial assessments of camps covered under the existing operation (camp 11, 12, 13, 14 and 19) have found that approximately 413 shelters have been destroyed and 1,205 shelters have been partially damaged. To date, no damages have been reported in three of the camps (5, 17 and 18)



Flood waters impact retaining wall and sandbags. (Photo: BDRCS)

covered by the ongoing operation. However, assessments are ongoing in the camps and camp focal have been sent to camps 5, 17 and 18 to check if there have been any damages.



Red Crescent volunteer is assessing damaged house in one of the camps. (Photo: BDRCS)

Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) trained volunteers and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) staff, including the Camp Focal Person (CFP) have been working in heavy rain, to undertake damage and needs assessments in five camps and to help families in urgent need in seven camps. Approximately 300 households have been assisted to date. BDRCS have supported rescue efforts of people from shelters destroyed by small landslides occurring in the camps. Around 13 households have been relocated, due to substantial shelter damage, or as a precautionary measure and emergency supplies are being distributed to help rebuild, repair and strengthen damaged shelters.

In total BDRCS has distributed:

- 600 pcs tarpaulins in camps 11, 12 and 14.
- 600 kg of ropes in camps 11, 12 and 14.
- 110 sleeping mattresses have been distributed in camp 11 and 10 pieces in camp 14.
- More than 1,000 pieces of bamboo across the camps.

For those camps not covered under the operation, BDRCS is liaising closely with site management agencies to address their needs. If needs are not being met effectively by existing partnerships within these camps, BDRCS is discussing with IFRC about how best to meet these needs. Currently health and hygiene needs are being addressed by activities being implemented under the ongoing operation. However, more information will be obtained from detailed needs assessments in the coming days to determine whether additional needs required in the affected areas.

PNS, IFRC and BDRCS are meeting regularly using the existing coordination mechanisms for the ongoing operation. IFRC is attending weekly Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) meetings with other stakeholders including IOM, UNHCR and WFP. The EPWG have a monsoon contingency plan in place and this has been activated in view of the impact of the heavy rains. Information is being shared amongst the working group members about the impacts of the monsoon on camps as well as existing resourcing to respond to the evolving situation. IFRC and PNS are also attending Host Community Working Group meetings to coordinate with other stakeholders to ensure that these communities are monitored closely for impacts. Technical focal points in WASH and Shelter are regularly attending Cluster Meetings where issues arising from the current monsoon are also being discussed.



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Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Bangladesh Red Crescent Society:

- Feroz Salah Uddin, secretary general; phone: +880 181 145 8500; email: secretarygeneral@bdracs.org
- Belal Hossain, director, disaster risk management and disaster response, phone: +880 171 190 8467; email: belal.hossain@bdracs.org
- Syed Ali Nasim, head of the operation; phone: +8801819 667768; email: nasim.kzaman@bdracs.org

In the IFRC Bangladesh Country Office

- Azmat Ulla, head of country office; phone: +880 171 152 1615; email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org
- Sanjeev Kafley, head of sub-office; phone: +880 179 458 1877; email: sanjeev.kafley@ifrc.org
- Maria A. Larios, accountability coordinator; mobile: +880 185 103 2766; email: maria.larios@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Mohammed Omer Mukhier, deputy regional director; email: mohammedomer.mukhier@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, head of disaster and crises unit; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Ruth Lane, operations coordinator; mobile: +60 11 6228 5876; email: ruth.lane@ifrc.org
- Riku Assamaki, logistics coordinator; mobile +60 12 298 9752; email riku.assamaki@ifrc.org
- Rosemarie North, communications manager; email: rosemarie.north@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Nelson Castano, manager operations coordination, nelson.castano@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Alice Ho, resource mobilization in emergencies coordinator; email: alice.ho@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Fadzli Saari, acting PMER manager; email: fadzli.saari@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.