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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Bangladesh: Tropical Storm

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBD011
GLIDE n° ST-2012-000176-BGD
18 October 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 292,693 has been allocated on 17 October 2012 from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 25,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

A fast moving tropical storm hit some remote islands in three different coastal districts in Bangladesh at 22hr00 on 10 October 2012. Due to the speed which this tropical storm formed, it was not being tracked by any meteorological agencies. The affected districts are Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) local district units reports at least 31 people were killed and 100 injured in the cyclonic storm that swept seven upazilas (sub-districts) of Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong districts. Over 46 fishermen are missing along with 20 trawlers in Meghna river.



NDRT conducting assessment in one of the affected areas in Mogadia Union of Mirershorai Upazila in Chittagong. **Photo:** BDRCS's NDRT members.

BDRCS quickly responded to the disaster and the volunteers from the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) took part on the search and rescue. BDRCS's district units started to coordinate with the local administration and distributed dry food.

Displaced people in the affected districts of Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong are residing on road sides, raised ground, schools and colleges and therefore are in need of shelter, basic food and non-food items (NFIs). Livelihood dependent on agriculture is at risk due to damage of standing crops and loss of livestock caused by wind associated with tidal surge.

BDRCS district unit of Noakhali distributed some dry food to affected families. Considering the immediate need on the ground, distribution of NFI package (emergency shelter materials, water jerry cans, dry food) has been initially started for 3,000 families of the three districts from the disaster preparedness stock. NFIs were dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness stock with provision of replenishment through the DREF mechanism.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by February 2013. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by May 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

A heavy tropical storm hit some remote islands of three different coastal district of Bangladesh at 2200 hours of 10 October 2012. The affected districts are Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) local district units reports at least 31 people were killed and 184 injured in the tropical storm that swept seven upazilas (sub-districts) of Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong districts. Over 46 fishermen are missing along with 20 trawlers in Meghna River.

BDRCS quickly responded to the disaster and the volunteers from the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) took part on the search and rescue. BDRCS's district units started to coordinate with the local administration and distributed dry food (pressed rice and molasses).



Uprooted trees causing hundreds of house damage in Hatiya Upazila of Noakhali district. **Photo:** BDRCS.

According to the district administration and BDRCS's district unit office information:

- In Noakhali: At least 16 people killed and 15,140 houses damaged at Hatiya, Subarnachar, and Companiganj upazilas.
- In Bhola: At least 11 people were killed and 12,070 houses damaged at Monpura and Charfasson upazilas.
- In Chittagong: At least 4 people were killed at Sandwip and Mirsharai upazilas. In Laxmipur, 50 fisherman and 20 trawlers are missing in Ramgati upazila.

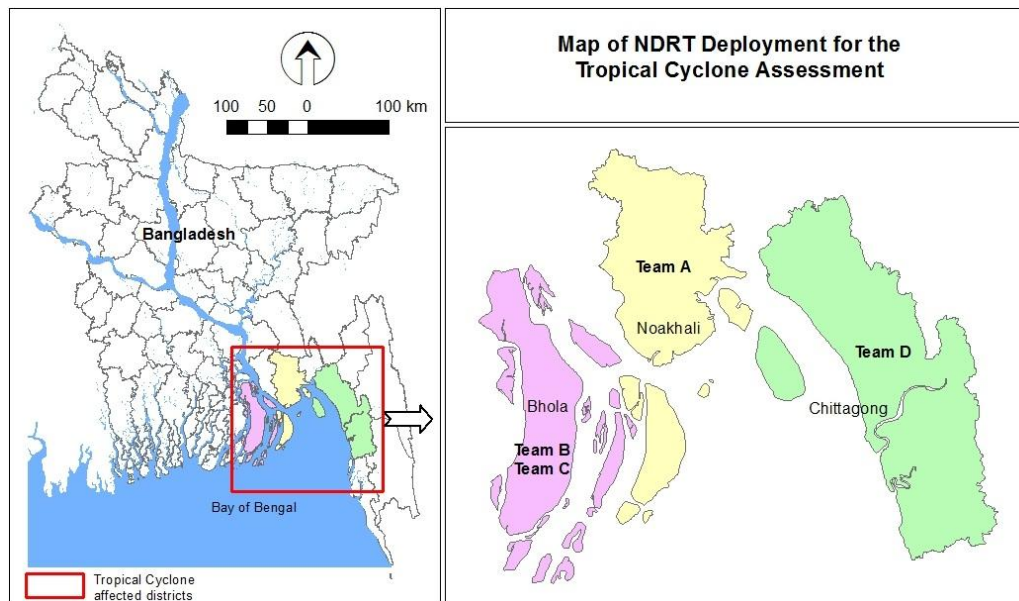
On 11 October 2012, Bangladesh Meteorological Department issued warning message advising to keep hoisted local cautionary signal no. THREE (R). The coast crossing Monsoon depression of Chittagong coast near Hatiya – Sandwip has completed crossing the coast at 0900 of 11 October 2012.

Table 1: Summary of affected people and damages from the tropical cyclone

SI	District Name	Affected Upazila	Affected families	Affected People	Damaged Houses	Death	Govt. Allocation	
							GR Rice (T)	GR Cash (BDT)
1	Noakhali	Hatiya	3,500	20,500	3,500	9	140	610,000
		Companiganj	7,292	25,000	7,272	4	95	340,000
		Subarnachar	6,981	63,900	4,368	3	50	80,000
2	Bhola	Monpura	8,355	41,775	9,870	9	156	1,550,000
		Charfasson	2,200	11,000	2,200	2	53	400,000
3	Chittagong	Sandwip	1,500	7,500		3	40	100,000
		Mirsharai	590	2,950		1	10	80,000
Total			30,418	172,675	27,210	31	544	3,160,000.00

Source: Government district offices and BDRCS's district branches, as of 15 October 2012.

According to Disaster Management Information Centre (DMIC), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) that the local administration on Noakhali allocated a cash of BDT 1,050,000 and 285 MT of rice as relief for the cyclone affected people. The district government authorities are conducting on ground assessment and providing search and rescue operation to identify the missing people.



BDRCS has deployed National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) in the affected districts for rapid assessment and to support the district unit office for ongoing relief distribution. For more information on the [Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief](#)

Coordination and partnerships

BDRCS affected district (Noakhali, Chittagong and Bhola) units have established coordination and initially collected secondary information about the possible damage and immediate needs from the local administration. Based on the available information from Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) meeting of which BDRCS is a key member, BDRCS units have requested for assistance from the national headquarters. Coordination between ECHO and IFRC has been established in terms of possibility of exploring support for humanitarian assistance to the flood affected vulnerable population. Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement responses, discussions were held between BDRCS and partner national societies to explore possible support for assistance. BDRCS national headquarters has been communicating with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) to monitor the weather situation. In addition, BDRCS has been gathering situation updates from different agencies including the Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD), Disaster Forum. Since BDRCS/IFRC are active members of the Local Consultative Group-Disaster Emergency (DER) group, information and operation updates will be shared with other humanitarian agencies and the national government in order to avoid any overlapping of distribution. BDRCS/IFRC is also coordinating with NGOs of their plan to respond the needs.

Humanitarian Country Task Team (HCTT) jointly managed by UNOCHA and MoDMR, has requested IFRC to conduct the assessment in a manner for possible coordinated response. Hence BDRCS rapid assessment findings will be presented by HCTT for use by humanitarian clusters.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers of Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) are on the ground carrying out search and rescue operation.

BDRCS response department conducted a rapid assessment through its branch offices in Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong districts. BDRCS local units are coordinating with local government authorities on assessing damages and needs. BDRCS deployed ten National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) in three disaster affected districts of Noakhali, Chittagong and Bhola.



Relief distribution process in Noakhali which ensure beneficiaries are identified and recorded. **Photo:** BDRCS's NDRT member/Shuvashis.

The IFRC Disaster Management team is working with the National Society for collecting and disseminating information. IFRC is in communication with traditional partners, including ECHO, for possible support. BDRCS and the IFRC have reviewed the stocks of NFIs available for dispatch to the affected areas. Teams are in standby for deployment in the field for in depth assessment.

Response with NFIs (emergency shelter materials, water jerry cans) and dry food have been initially started for 3,000 families of the three districts. NFIs were dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness stock with provision of replenishment through the DREF mechanism.

The German Red Cross (GRC) has presence in Hatiya, Noakhali. GRC is in collaboration with IFRC has been conducting assessment on the ground to support BDRCS on humanitarian response. GRC local staff has been mobilized to work together with BDRCS Noakhali unit for immediate assistance to be given for most affected people. GRC country office indicates to support IFRC for replenishment of NFIs mobilized from BDRCS/IFRC joint Disaster Preparedness stock.

Table 2: Immediate response completed by BDRCS

Items	Allocation of families			Total families
	Noakhali	Bhola	Chittagong	
Tarpaulin, 1 pc/family	1,500	1,000	500	3,000
Water jerry can, 2 pc/family	1,500	1,000	500	3,000
Dry food	1,500	1,000	500	3,000

BDRCS district units have distributed dry food for 3,000 families in Bhola, Chittagong and Noakhali districts by 16 October 2012. The selection of beneficiaries was done together with the NDRT and coordination with local government.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: Selection of beneficiaries will be done from among those living in temporary shelters or makeshift houses from the most affected locations in the Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong districts. List of people supported by the government and other agencies will be obtained to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure that the beneficiaries to be covered under the DREF are excluded from this assistance. Criteria for selection of beneficiary families will be based on the following: House was completely destroyed; lost an earning member of the family; and those with unaccompanied children, elderly, or a person with a disability. The units will be carrying out door to door assessment and registering the deserving beneficiaries.

Displaced people in the affected districts of Noakhali (Hatiya islands, Nijhumdwip, Companiganj, Subarnachar), Bhola (Charkukrimukri, Dhalchar, Charpatila, Monpura) and Chittagong (Mirsharai and Sandwip) are residing on road sides, public places like schools and colleges and therefore are in need of shelter, basic food and NFIs. Based on the first impression from the assessment team the need of shelter was prominent as the affected households are living under the open sky and have had to withstand rain quite often.

Livelihood dependent on agriculture is at risk due to damage of standing crops and loss of livestock caused by wind. People are in need of basic food items as the ready to harvest crops have been damaged as well as they have little scope to work to earn money or food.

People of the affected area are more dependent on hand pumps and tube wells but the accessibility has been disrupted due to uprooted trees and infrastructure. This has caused difficulties for the people as they are required to travel long distance for collecting water. Hence facilities for delivering and storing clean drinking water are needed. The surface water bodies were disrupted due to the uprooted trees and infrastructure, but no contamination was observed as the storm was not coupled with tidal surge. Hence, household water treatment has not been considered as a priority need in the operation.

As of 15 October 2012 only the Bangladesh government and BDRCS have provided relief items in the affected areas. Save The Children is planning for emergency shelter materials and NFIs for around 500 to 1000 families. Beyond this, approximately 50 per cent of the emergency shelter, basic food and NFIs needs for about 30,418 families will be met by other in-country agencies and organizations.

Though the damage to the life and property is high, it has limited impact on the health condition of the affected populations. Cases of injuries were being referred to the district or sub-district level hospitals for treatment. Presently no water borne diseases and other related problems were recorded.

Assessment teams are in the affected islands to identify the detailed needs and to feed information for better planning.

The proposed operation

The proposed operation is based on available information from the government and initial assessments carried out by the BDRCS unit offices, as well as BDRCS's capacity.

BDRCS, with technical assistance from the IFRC delegation, have had an established and successful cash grant distribution system in place for recovery and resilience projects for the past five years. This includes cash grant distributions for livelihood recovery under a flood appeal which ended early this year amounting to a total of CHF 240,000 as well as cash grant for emergency food distribution in north and south-east districts amounting to CHF 122,000. Standard procedures for cash grants are in place (i.e. registration of beneficiaries, opening of bank accounts by beneficiary households, maintenance of beneficiary ID cards to receive the cash, and maintaining masterroll). However, this system will have to be adapted slightly as the amounts in the DREF operations are too small to request the opening of bank accounts. The proposed allocation of beneficiaries from the DREF contribution is as follows:

Table 2: Allocation of targeted families under DREF Operation

Items	Targeted families in districts			Total families	Total items
	Noakhali	Bhola	Chittagong		
Tarpaulin, 1 pc/family	2,000	2,500	500	5,000	5,000
Water jerry can, 2 pc/family	2,000	2,500	500	5,000	10,000
Cash for food (BDT 2,000/family)	2,000	2,500	500	5,000	-

The DREF will support 5,000 families with emergency shelter (one tarpaulin per family), NFI (two jerry cans per family) and cash for food (BDT 2,000 equivalent to CHF 25 per family), the dry food (5 kg flatten rice, 1 kg molasses) that has been distributed for 3,000 families will be covered by BDRCS's own fund.

BDRCS had responded to the initial emergency needs of 3,000 families out of the 5,000 targeted families by providing one tarpaulin, one jerry can and some dry food per family. BDRCS will identify those families who have previously received assistance to add a second tarpaulin and jerry can as well as BDT 2,000 cash grant. While those families who have yet received any relief package (2,000 families out of the 5,000 targeted families) will be provided with two tarpaulins, two jerry cans and BDT 2,000 cash grant. BDRCS in accordance to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivery assistance to the affected populations has revised its support to increase the number of tarpaulin and jerry can distribution for each family from one to two.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate basic food and essential household needs of 5,000 tropical storm-affected families are met within four months in three districts of Bangladesh (Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong).

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: The target population received a single cash grant of CHF 25 (BDT 2,000) per family for food and two water jerry cans for water storage.

Activities planned:

- Door-to-door assessments.
- Beneficiary registration and validation.
- Distribution of a single cash grant for food and immediate needs.
- Distribution of water jerry cans by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: The emergency shelter needs for 5,000 flood-affected families are provided within four months in three districts of Bangladesh (Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong).

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: The target families received emergency shelter materials (one tarpaulin per family) to meet their immediate shelter needs.*

Activities planned:

- Door-to-door assessments.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Distribution of tarpaulins by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.
- Procurement and replenishment of tarpaulins dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC disaster preparedness.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by BDRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

**Only tarpaulins will be provided as other materials (i.e. rope and bamboo) are locally available to fix a makeshift shelter with tarpaulins. Besides, people who already have a basic place for shelter use tarpaulins as a ground sheet. There is longer term shelter solution in discussion by the HCTT and will be decided upon further detailed assessment.*

Logistics

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items needed, and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation. Tarpaulins are being supplied by pre-positioned stock from the BDRCS and will be replenished by the Asia Pacific Zone Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

1. DREF budget [below](#)
 2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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 Disaster 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

DREF OPERATION

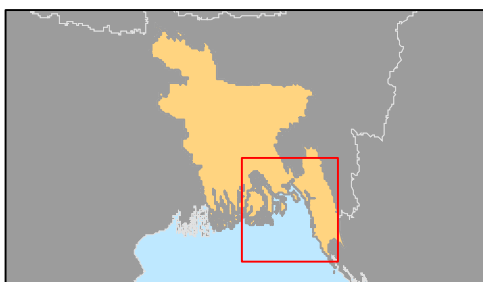
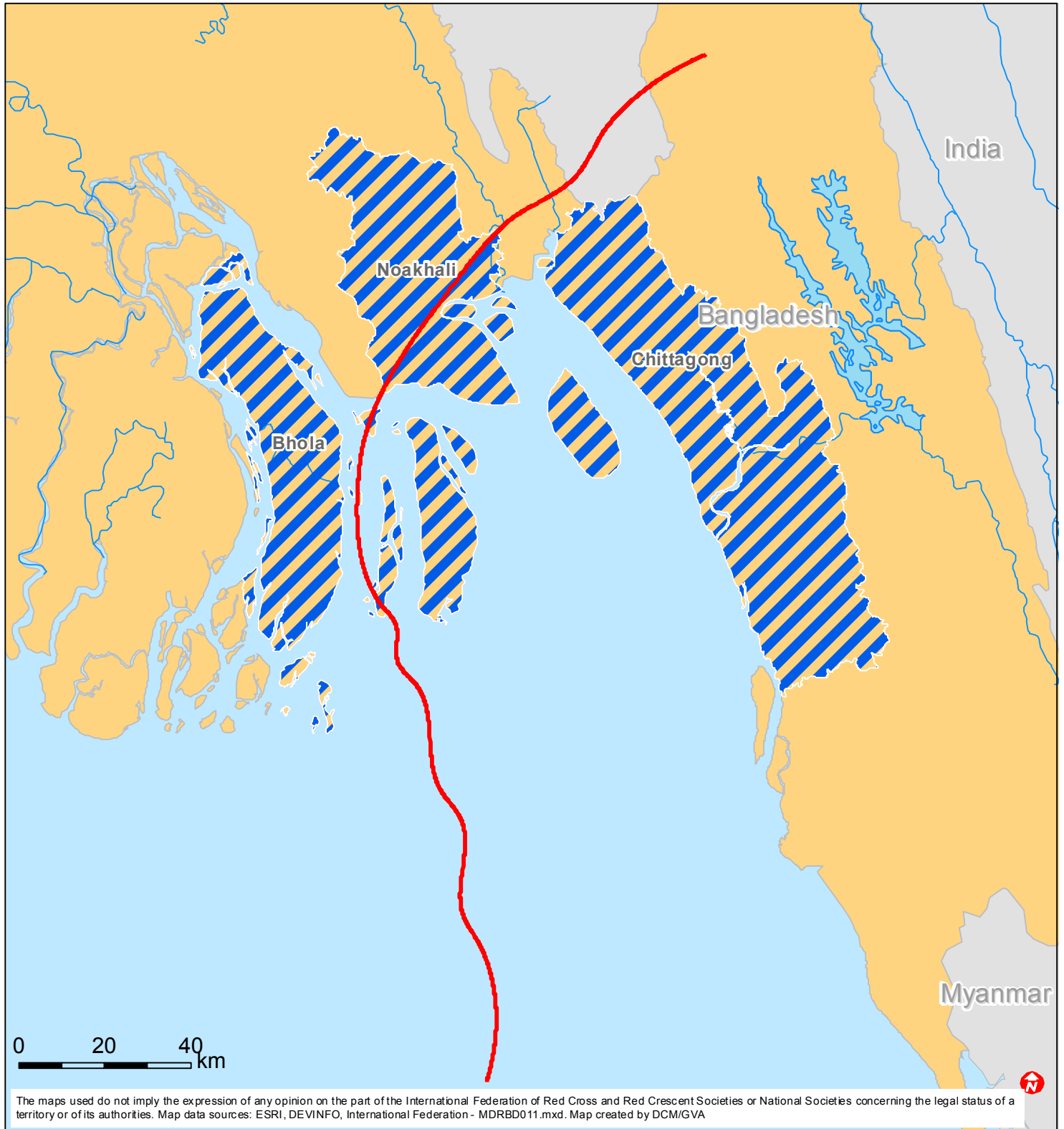
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MDRBD011 Bangladesh: Tropical Storm

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	76,220
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	49,390
Cash Disbursements	121,951
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	247,561
Storage, Warehousing	732
Distribution & Monitoring	12,195
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,317
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	20,244
Travel	3,902
Office Costs	1,585
Communications	1,220
Financial Charges	317
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,024
Programme and Services Support Recovery	17,864
Total INDIRECT COSTS	17,864
TOTAL BUDGET	292,693



Bangladesh: Tropical Storm



-  Track of the depression
-  Affected districts