

# DREF final report

## Bangladesh: Tropical Storm

**DREF operation n° MDRBD011**  
**GLIDE n° ST-2012-000176-BGD**  
**20 May 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

**Summary:** CHF 292,693 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 October 2012 to support Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to deliver assistance to 25,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

A heavy tropical storm hit some remote islands of three different coastal districts of Bangladesh at 2200 hours of 10 October 2012. The affected districts are Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong. BDRCS quickly responded to the disaster and volunteers from the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) took part on the search and rescue. BDRCS's district units immediately coordinated with the local administration to distribute dry food (pressed rice and molasses).



Young volunteers helping in relief distribution. **Photo:** BDRCS.

BDRCS is responded to the disaster based on the needs assessment in the following ways:

- Rapid assessment was conducted serving as the first situation report among the other humanitarian organizations to be utilized for the further assessments and response decision. A multisectoral review was completed instead of Joint Need Assessment (JNA) supported by the Assessment of Capacities Project (ACAPS) where BDRCS/IFRC actively participated. Coordination for the operation was strengthened.
- Distribution of dry food for 3,000 families from BDRCS own contribution.
- Distribution of tarpaulin for 5,000 families, water jerry can for 4,000 families and cash for food for 5,000 families from DREF contribution.
- Based on the operational plan, each family supposed to receive two pieces of water jerry cans, however due to the limited availability in BDRCS's disaster preparedness (DP) stock, the initial 4,000 families were only provided with one water jerry can along with other items. Upon review supported by ACAPS prior to the water jerry cans being delivered from IFRC zone logistic unit, the WatSan needs of the affected communities had already been met. BDRCS/IFRC will retain the remaining water jerry cans in its DP stock for future use.

- Introduction of cash grant for the second time in the country by BDRCS during emergency to offer quick and efficient response means. BDRCS also drafted a standard operating procedure (SOP) for cash in emergency programme to serve as basic guide for BDRCS to improve their skills towards more cash based interventions in future.

This operation was completed in February 2013, stretching over four months, in which included distribution of relief goods as well as replenishment of the joint DP stocks and cash grant initiatives.

Of the total allocated DREF, CHF 242,430 has been spent. The balance of CHF 50,263 will be returned to DREF. This final report is issued with the final financial report.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO). Details of all donors can be found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

## The situation

As of 22 October 2012, Disaster Management Information Cell (DMIC) of Bangladesh Government reported:

- Approximate 25,875 households have been affected by the storm in Noakali, Bhola and Chittagong districts. Out of these, 8,015 households are “fully affected” and 17,860 households are “partially affected”.
- A total of 36 deaths, 183 injured and 72 missing.
- A total of 24,380 shelters have been damaged, out of which 8,050 shelters are fully damaged and 16,330 are partially damaged.

The high number of destroyed and damaged houses indicated that shelters were been severely affected. It was unlikely that the households affected has adequate the financial resources to purchase materials to rebuild their houses. This is particularly the case in Monpura and Charfassion. Therefore, shelter needs was a priority. In storm affected places, farming and fishing are the two main livelihoods though crops are not inundated; approximately 36,959 acres of productive lands are damaged. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE, Date 19/10/12), the storm didn't significantly impact the rice culture; the impact has been on the vegetable crop.

The fishing sector was affected more than the agriculture sector with losses of assets: boats, nets and some fish farming ponds. At least 22 out of the 36 deaths were fishermen. The cyclone occurred five weeks before the harvesting period.

The affected areas are mainly composed of remote islands, making accessibility challenging. This is a major factor in response mapping.

Within three days of assessment, reports were circulated among IFRC, Oxfam, Muslim Aid, and Save the Children in addition to the official situation report from the DMIC. To have a common analysis and shared understanding of the situation, a small group composed of IFRC, Muslim Aid, UNDP, Oxfam, Islamic Relief, Solidarities International, Concern Worldwide, WFP, FAO were formed with the support of ACAPS. They have met three times and reviewed information updates.

Protection/Gender Based Violence (GBV) potentially was an issue for women and children especially in remote islands. This is particularly true considering the modality of cash distributions which have been seen to make recipients vulnerable in some cases. BDRCS has advised cash grant recipients, particularly women and children, to take necessary precaution.

The Government of Bangladesh quickly responded with food distribution for 12,560 households providing 30kg of rice for each family. Government has also continued Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme with a package of 30kg rice per households per month for 12,503 households for three months. Government has also provided cash of BDT 25, 000/ family that lost a primary bread-winner due to the storm and started a shelter grant scheme with a package of corrugated galvanised iron (CGI) sheet and BDT 500 for 5,000 families. Save the Children, Oxfam, Muslim aid and Islamic Relief has also responded in distributing non-food items (NFIs) for the affected people.

BDRCS supported through IFRC, distributed NFIs (emergency shelter materials, water jerry cans) and dry food to 3,000 families in three districts in the initial stage. NFIs were dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness stock with provision of replenishment through the DREF mechanism. BDRCS initiated

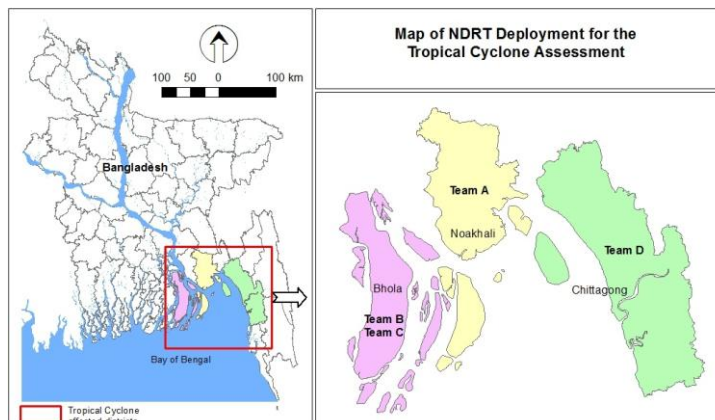
cash distribution for food to 5,000 families through the DREF support. These 5,000 includes the 3,000 households that received NFIs in the initial stage. Each 5,000 household has received BDT 2,000 cash. All these 5,000 families received tarpaulin as well for emergency shelter support.

In complimenting emergency shelter component, Oxfam has supported some 2,000 households in terms of WatSan in Naokhali district. However based on the multisectoral review supported by the Assessment of Capacities Project (ACAPS) carried out on 5 November 2012, there were no significant issues to be addressed for WatSan component within the affected communities.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers of Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) carried 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 coordinated with local government authorities on assessing damages and needs. BDRCS deployed ten National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members in three disaster affected districts of Noakhali, Chittagong and Bhola. Based on the information IFRC produced situation reports and shared with HCTT and other organizations.

The IFRC Disaster Management team has continued their support to BDRCS for collecting and disseminating information, operation planning and monitoring. IFRC has maintained communication with traditional partners, including ECHO, for possible support.



NDRT deployment in day one has helped BDRCS to respond quickly and conducts first 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. BDRCS has distributed cash for food for 5,000 families through the DREF support. These 5,000 includes all the 3,000 households that received NFIs in the initial stage.

The German Red Cross (GRC) has presence in Hatiya, Noakhali. GRC in collaboration with IFRC has conducted assessment on the ground to support BDRCS on humanitarian response. GRC local staff was 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.

## Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<b>Outcome:</b> 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).
<b>Outputs and activities planned:</b> 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.
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door-to-door assessments.</li> <li>• Beneficiary registration and validation.</li> <li>• Distribution of a single cash grant for food and immediate needs.</li> <li>• Distribution of water jerry cans by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.</li> <li>• Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.</li> </ul>

**Impact:**

With BDRCS local units offered dry food items from local market to the 3,000 affected families at the onset of the disaster, this has demonstrated the National Society's efficiency and reliability in responding to the immediate needs of the affected populations. The procurement and distribution of dry food items was supported by BDRCS and the operation was completed on 18 October 2012. This immediate response provided relief especially to families with young children and minimised potential health risk related to hunger.

BDRCS, through the IFRC DREF support, provided 5,000 families in the district of Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong with cash grant for self-procuring of food items. The distribution of cash grant started since 13 November 2012 and completed on the second week of December 2012. BDRCS has maintained the standard process and documentation, i.e. distribution of beneficiary cards (with date, time and venue of distribution). Beneficiaries were notified in advance of the distribution points in each affected community where they could receive food items. The cash grant provided flexibility for the families to manage their food supplies depending on their needs and preference.

The lack of banking services or cash transfer system in these remote areas posed a safety risk for BDRCS staff as they had to travel to these places with large amount of cash. Through this experience, BDRCS is currently exploring with mobile banking services which could be beneficial for future operation as it will address any risk related to cash grant. Furthermore, BDRCS district units were unfamiliar with the cash transfer process, resulting in lengthy process in distribution. This concern, however, was addressed with the support of NDRT and IFRC field monitoring officers to assist the district units to better manage the distribution of cash grant as per the standard operating process.

BDRCS deployed NDRT members in affected districts of Bhola, Chittagong and Noakhali on 11 October 2012 to assist BDRCS district units in conducting assessments, identifying and selecting beneficiaries. This team worked closely with district units to facilitate beneficiary registration, finalization and to map a distribution plan. Red Crescent Youth (RYC) volunteers engaged in selection and registration of beneficiaries. RYC volunteers were guided through an orientation on survey forms, vulnerability criteria for selection of appropriate beneficiaries, and participation of affected populations in beneficiary selection process. Affected geographical locations were identified in coordination with local administration, local government institutions and targeted communities.

In addition, IFRC also deployed field monitoring officers to support the district units in maintain proper processes and documentation for cash disbursement. An American Red Cross cash transfer delegate was involved with the whole cash transfer process starting from beneficiary selection to distribution and documentation. With the delegate assistance, BDRCS drafted SOP for cash transfer mechanism in emergencies to be used as guide to improve towards cash based interventions.

Along with the dry food items, the 3,000 families also received one water jerry can each from BDRCS via its joint DP stock. An additional 1,000 families who did not receive the dry food items were also given one water jerry can each. The decision to distribute one water jerry can instead of the standard two per family was due to the restricted available water jerry cans in its DP stock. Procurement and replenishment for more water jerry cans were completed by IFRC zone logistic unit in Kuala Lumpur and arrived in Bangladesh in December 2012.

A multi-sectoral review was carried out on 5 November 2012 with the beneficiaries of water jerry cans during distribution in the affected areas and observed that access to safe drinking water sources and its storage system was in order. The review, supported by the Assessment of Capacities Project (ACAPS), showed no significant issues for WatSan component within the affected communities. Hence, BDRCS/IFRC will secure the remaining water jerry cans in its DP stock for future use. The provision of water jerry cans enable the affected families to store their water source to prevent from any contamination or water-borne diseases.

**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 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. People who already have a basic place for shelter use the tarpaulin as a ground sheet. There is longer term shelter solution in discussion by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and will be decided upon further detailed assessment.*

### Impact:

BDRCS supported the same number of beneficiaries in emergency shelter as those who received food and NFIs. The 5,000 beneficiaries who received cash grant and NFIs have also received emergency shelter materials. Each beneficiary family is to receive only one tarpaulin to be used as emergency shelter support<sup>1</sup>. The initial assessment showed that other materials like rope and bamboo were locally available which could be used with the tarpaulin to form an emergency shelter.



Affected people preparing their emergency shelter with tarpaulin provided by BDRCS. **Photo:** IFRC.

During the beneficiary selection and card distribution, travelling to and within the three districts by the volunteer teams was time- and energy-consuming due to the inadequate transport facilities. Furthermore, the delivery of tarpaulins was made difficult due to the need to use water transport facilities.

It was found that the tarpaulins distributed among the affected families were very useful as it provides them an immediate shade and protect them from open sky, rain and sun. The Government declared further assistance in the form of shelter cash grant and corrugated galvanised iron (CGI) sheet to provide a longer term solution for the shelter damage. The government commitment has materialized and implementation is on-going and it is expected to resolve the shelter concerns for at least 50 per cent of the affected people by mid June 2013. The longer term shelter needs are being considered by the HCTT and will be decided upon after further detailed assessment where the self-recovery status will also be taken into consideration.

### Logistics

IFRC worked on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field. 5,000 tarpaulins have been supplied by pre-positioned stock from BDRCS and have been replenished by IFRC zone logistic unit in Kuala Lumpur.

<sup>1</sup> Though in the proposed operation part of the DREF document it has mentioned two tarpaulins per family (as a typo) but the right number is one tarpaulin per family and it is rightly mentioned in the emergency shelter output part of the DREF document.

## Contact information

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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 (NGO's) 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.



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.**

**Disaster Response Financial Report**

MDRBD011 - Bangladesh - Tropical Storm

Timeframe: 17 Oct 12 to 17 Feb 13

Appeal Launch Date: 17 Oct 12

Final Report

**Selected Parameters**

Reporting Timeframe	2012/10-2013	Programme	MDRBD011
Budget Timeframe	2012/10-2013	Budget	APPROVED
		Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Funding**

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>A. Budget</b>		292,693				292,693	
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>Income</b>							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		292,693				292,693	
<b>C4. Other Income</b>		292,693				292,693	
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>		292,693				292,693	
<b>D. Total Funding = B +C</b>		292,693				292,693	

**II. Movement of Funds**

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>C. Income</b>		292,693				292,693	
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-242,430				-242,430	
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		50,263				50,263	

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MDRBD011 - Bangladesh - Tropical Storm

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Reporting Timeframe	2012/10-2013	Programme	MDRBD011
Budget Timeframe	2012/10-2013	Budget	APPROVED
		Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>			<b>292,693</b>			<b>292,693</b>		
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	76,220		60,961			60,961	15,259	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	49,390		24,900			24,900	24,490	
Cash Disbursement	121,951		116,389			116,389	5,562	
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Sup</b>	<b>247,561</b>		<b>202,250</b>			<b>202,250</b>	<b>45,311</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	732		74			74	658	
Distribution & Monitoring	12,195		16,887			16,887	-4,692	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7,317		291			291	7,026	
Logistics Services			4,985			4,985	-4,985	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>20,244</b>		<b>22,236</b>			<b>22,236</b>	<b>-1,993</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff			25			25	-25	
National Staff			110			110	-110	
<b>Total Personnel</b>			<b>135</b>			<b>135</b>	<b>-135</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	3,902		710			710	3,192	
Office Costs	1,585		2,205			2,205	-620	
Communications	1,220		43			43	1,177	
Financial Charges	317		55			55	262	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>7,024</b>		<b>3,013</b>			<b>3,013</b>	<b>4,011</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recov	17,864		14,796			14,796	3,068	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>17,864</b>		<b>14,796</b>			<b>14,796</b>	<b>3,068</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>292,693</b>		<b>242,430</b>			<b>242,430</b>	<b>50,263</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>50,263</b>			<b>50,263</b>		