



BANGLADESH: CYCLONE SIDR

DREF Bulletin
No. MDRBD003
16 November 2007
Glide no. [TC-2007-000208-](#)
[BGD](#)

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 DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below, reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 250,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to urgent needs ahead of the results and recommendations of ongoing assessments. The Federation secretariat is working together with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to address the situation, and to possibly launch a preliminary appeal in the near future. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Background and current situation

Cyclone Sidr hit the south western region of Bangladesh at 6:45 pm local time, moving at 220-250 kilometres per hour, with the storm reaching Dhaka in the early hours of the morning. While the cyclone has weakened since this morning, it has left a trail of destruction in its wake. Many houses and farmlands have been destroyed, and electricity supply has been disrupted in the affected regions, including Dhaka, since midnight. At the time of writing, the electricity supply has not yet been restored.

The government authorities deployed more than 40,000 personnel, including police, troops, coastguards and health workers on the shoreline to warn and evacuate the people before the onset of the disaster. An estimated ten million people live in the affected areas.

By 9.00 am local time, the Bangladesh meteorological office requested that Mongla seaport reduce the danger level from ten to three. In the meantime, some information was received from the affected districts. As of 11 a.m., there has been extensive damage to crops, livestock and houses. Many mud thatched houses were destroyed, an estimated 218 lives were lost, and the number of injured is still unavailable. Disruption of telecommunication systems have hampered communication, making it more difficult to get in touch with the affected areas.

Dhaka airport and flights nationwide were cancelled from Thursday, 15 November till this morning. In view of the emergency, government officials will remain in the country to monitor the situation.

Currently, the district administration has opened 210 shelters while the relief ministry allocated 1,000 blankets and 450 tents.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The BDRCS and the Federation country delegation are closely monitoring the situation. Since 14 November, the BDRCS and its branches mobilized an estimated 30,000 staff and volunteers, including medical teams and first aid providers, who engaged in the dissemination of early warning and emergency evacuations to the vulnerable population along the coast. Thousands of families have been evacuated by BDRCS volunteers to concrete buildings

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such as schools and mosques as well as cyclone preparedness shelters. Following the cyclone, the local Red Crescent units in the affected areas acted promptly to assist the government in search and rescue operations after the disaster struck on the night of 15 November.

Early today, four teams comprising members from the BDRCS and the Federation have been deployed for a rapid assessment of damage. Rescue teams and additional medical mobile teams are also on standby to take appropriate action when needed. In addition, cash arrangements have been made to facilitate the operation, and regular information is provided to international and local news agencies.

The Federation delegation is in contact with various in-country donors and actors for coordination purposes. The delegation is also in contact with the in-country partner national societies and has been sharing information consistently. The Swiss Red Cross and the European Commission of Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) have offered possible assistance.

Needs

This DREF bulletin will meet the food and emergency medical needs of 32,000 affected families in eight cyclone-affected districts, currently the most vulnerable in the aftermath of the disaster. The prevailing situation shows that it is essential to maintain a degree of flexibility in targeting beneficiaries, which may result in the possible launch of an emergency appeal.

1. Food items

The cyclone has devastated large areas of crops and destroyed essential food supplies for a large number of vulnerable families living below the poverty line (Per initial assessments, food was named the top priority by most of the affected people). As a first step to emergency food needs, a distribution of dry food for two days is planned, consisting six kg of chira (puffed rice) and two kg of gur (molasses) among 32,000 most affected vulnerable families.

2. Emergency medical teams

Four medical teams will be deployed for two weeks initially to provide emergency medical assistance to the affected population.

Plan of action against the DREF allocation

- Identification of the most vulnerable beneficiaries, using the BDRCS Disaster Relief Manual, with special emphasis on gender and disability.
- Local procurement of 192,000 kg of chira (puffed rice) and 64,000 kg of gur (molasses) for distribution among 40,000 families in eight districts.
- Dispatch and transportation of food rations from BDRCS headquarters to the final destinations using the BDRCS fleet and other options.
- Dispatch of four emergency medical teams, to be deployed to the most affected districts.
- Assistance to the BDRCS for strengthening its management of distribution structures, especially at branch level.
- Distribution of dry food rations to pre-determined beneficiaries by trained BDRCS volunteers.
- Regular detailed reporting on the distribution.
- Continuous monitoring and technical advice from BDRCS headquarters and the Federation.
- Assistance to the BDRCS in strengthening its human and material resource capacities in the affected branches and at national headquarters as necessary, for the operation.

DREF Budget

	Total CHF
Dry foods ration etc.	195,667
Emergency medical team for two weeks	5,422
Relief goods; transport and distribution expenses	23,526
Assessment, information/communication and general expenses	9,120
Programme support (PSR 6.5%)	16,249
Grand total	250,000

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 undertakes activities that are aligned with its 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.

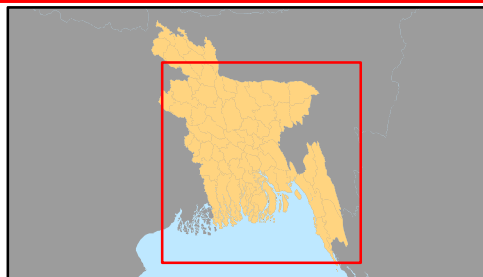
Contact information

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- CYCLONE-4
- CYCLONE-3
- TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- Track of Sidr
- Capitals

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources
 ESRI, Devinfo
 GIST, GRUMP
 Federation, University of Hawai'i