

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh: Cyclone Sidr

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD003
GLIDE TC-2007-000208-BGD
Operations update n° 2
21 November 2007

Period covered by this Ops Update: 19 to 20
November, 2007

Appeal target (current): CHF 3,989,305 (USD 3.5m
or EUR 2.4m)

Appeal coverage: Based on unconfirmed pledges and indications of support, funds available for this appeal have reached CHF 7.19 million (unofficial figure); however, based on the emerging information and the evolving operation, the needs are still great and a full revised appeal is expected by the end of this week. The donor response update will be made available shortly; [<click here for contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 17 November 2007 for CHF 3,989,305 (USD 3.5m or EUR 2.4m) to assist 235,000 beneficiaries for 9 months.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 250,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.



A totally-destroyed house in Gopalganj district

Summary: The latest estimates (dated 20 Nov. 2007) from the Disaster Management Information Centre (DMIC), Bangladesh Ministry of Food and Disaster Management indicate the death toll from Cyclone Sidr has risen to 2,837 with some 18,558 injured while 2,176 people are reported missing. After analyzing initial assessments, the Federation's Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) has reported that while damage caused by Cyclone Sidr is very widespread and without a consistent pattern, the devastation is not as severe as was originally feared. This is in line with the findings and analysis of other actors. DMIC figures also show that the disaster affected a total of 5,488,216 people from 1,322,824 families and completely destroyed 458,429 houses in 30 districts in the southwest of Bangladesh. The cyclone also reportedly caused the contamination of drinking water sources, killed 352,363 head of livestock, wiped out 153,330 acres of crops, and caused extensive damage to other infrastructures, including educational institutes, roads and bridges, as well as electricity and telecommunication transmission lines/facilities. Internet connectivity was also disrupted across the country, including the capital Dhaka. The power supply situation is expected to return to normal by the end of the month. The destruction included about one quarter of the Sundarbans, a world heritage site consisting of the world's biggest single unit of over four lakh (100,000) hectares of mangrove forest. The disaster is the worst in the impoverished country of 140 million since the 1991 when a cyclone and storm surge killed around 140,000 people. It is important to recognise the role that early warning and preparedness measures played in reducing the death toll.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the International Federation are working very closely with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), and various other international and local agencies/organizations,

to coordinate and undertake relief efforts. A major operation is underway to provide the most urgent immediate needs in the form of medical, food, potable water and shelter relief including household and hygiene items, to millions of the most-affected people who have lost all means of self-support and are fully reliant on relief assistance for survival. However, relief efforts have been hampered by logistical constraints, with very difficult access to the affected areas. This is making the situation particularly desperate for many affected people, many of whom have had nothing to eat or drink since the cyclone struck and may soon resort to drinking from contaminated water sources, giving rise to serious concerns of major diarrhoea outbreaks unless help comes very soon. Already a number of acute diarrhoea cases have been reported in one district.

So far, the BDRCS has mobilised 8 medical teams (with a further ten teams due to go to the field on 22 November) and sent 6.4 million Taka (CHF116, 360) to its branches in 18 of the affected districts to buy dry food for distribution to the affected people. Efforts are focused on six of the most affected branches - Barguna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Pathuakali, Jalokhati and Barishal. Three of the districts (Barguna, Pathuakali, Barishal) have received family kits (consisting of cooking saucepans with lid, plastic mug, plastic glasses, aluminium plates, spoons, aluminium bucket, soap, candles, match boxes and plastic weave bag), and distribution is ongoing among 700 families in each district. A total of 42,000 water purification tablets were distributed to the affected people in these three districts as well as Bhola, by the four Red Cross assessment teams deployed to the field to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the disaster situation. The assessment will give a clearer and more exact picture of the extent of the disaster and the relief needs, allowing the BDRCS and the Federation to develop a Plan of Action and a full Emergency Appeal to raise the required resources to provide the needed relief and assistance.

The international response to this disaster and this appeal has been swift, but additional assistance is needed as the full extent of the disaster becomes clearer and a full Emergency Appeal is launched (expected by the end of this week). There has been a good response from donors to date but obviously the coverage level will decrease as the Appeal is revised at the end of the week.

To date we have received support from the following: the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the United States (OFDA) has pledged USD 1 million via the American Red Cross for shelter and water & sanitation and the American Red Cross has pledged a further USD 200,000; the Netherlands Government via Netherlands Red Cross has pledged EUR 1 million; AusAid through the Australian Red Cross has pledged AUD 1 million to support relief efforts, including basic health care and emergency sanitation, and Australian Red Cross has pledged a further AUD 150,000; the Canadian Government through Canadian Red Cross has pledged CAD 250,000; the Norwegian Red Cross has pledged NOK 200,000; Danish Red Cross has pledged CHF 500,000; Swedish Red Cross has pledged CHF 181,900; Finnish Red Cross has pledged EUR 75,000; Japanese Red Cross has pledged USD 175,000; British Red Cross has pledged GBP 30,000; German Red Cross has pledged EUR 220,000; Irish Red Cross has pledged EUR 20,000; Icelandic Red Cross has pledged CHF 57,900; and Qatar Red Crescent has pledged USD 27,397. The Swiss Red Cross has made a local contribution of CHF 427,768 towards procurement of relief items and is coordinating with BDRCS and the country team regarding support to distributions in five districts. There are also contributions in the pipeline from OPEC (USD 500,000), the Italian Government and Italian Red Cross (EUR 100,000), and the Government of Estonia (EUR 31,955), with a possible in kind contribution being negotiated with the Iranian Red Crescent. We would like to thank all those who have responded so quickly and generously to this preliminary appeal. A formal contributions list will be updated in the coming days.

The situation

Cyclone Sidr hit the south-western part of Bangladesh on 15 November at 6.45 p.m. local time with winds of up to 220-240 km/hr which whipped up a five-metre tidal surge, leaving an extensive trail of destruction in its wake. [Click here for the map of the affected area](#) Latest estimates (dated 20 Nov. 2007) from the Disaster Management Information Centre (DMIC), Ministry of Food and Disaster Management indicate the death toll in the Cyclone SIDR disaster has risen to 2,837, with 18,558 injured while 2,176 people are listed as missing. Earlier reports of a higher death toll are now considered unlikely by the teams on the ground. Widespread flooding as a result of heavy rains and the storm caused hundreds of thousands to seek temporary shelter on higher ground, while an estimated 150 trawlers manned by members of the local communities failed to return to shore.



Tin-shed house destroyed in Gopalganj district

DMIC figures further show that the disaster affected a total of 5,488,216 people from 1,322,824 families and completely destroyed 458,429 houses (mostly tin-shed and thatched houses) in 30 districts in the southwest of Bangladesh. The affected areas include 200 upazillas (sub-districts) and 1,700 unions (the smallest administrative unit).

The cyclone also caused the contamination of drinking water sources, killed 352,363 head of livestock, wiped out completely 153,330 acres of crops, and caused extensive damage to other infrastructures, including educational institutes, roads and bridges, as well as electricity and telecommunication facilities. The destruction included about one quarter of the Sundarbans, a world heritage site consisting of the

world's biggest single unit (over four lakh hectares) of mangrove forest. A huge number of trees were uprooted.

More lives would have been lost if not for the early warning system and network of cyclone relief shelters, built under a joint programme by the BDRCS, the GoB and other agencies on cyclone prevention. The early danger alert signal from the Government meteorological department allowed for the evacuation of many communities in the predicted path of the cyclone to cyclone shelters – upwards of three million people were evacuated. Most of the evacuees were people living in the coastal zone and chars (islands). In many areas, the evacuation efforts were directed and led by trained BRDCS branch staff and community Cyclone Prevention Programme (CPP) volunteers, the majority of whom were youth and included many women.

Fishing boats and trawlers on the northeast bay were advised to return or take shelter as a precaution. Major rivers in the region started swelling when the cyclone and accompanying tidal surge hit, with water levels increasing by 50cm on average, immediately nearing the danger level. Tidal waves from the Meghna entered the Charmadraj, breaking the protection embankment.

Many water sources, particularly those nearer the coast have been contaminated by salt water and it will be a major challenge to treat them. Dead human bodies and animal carcasses were also found in a number of other water ponds, causing survivors to avoid them. In many places, they are walking long distances to find clean drinking water. However, this task becomes more and more challenging without any form of relief assistance.

The six worst-hit districts are Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barisal and Jalokhati. With many roads impassable, and with communications and utility services yet to be restored fully, communication with and access to the affected areas remain limited and difficult. Aid workers and rescuers continue to face challenges in reaching a number of affected areas, including a number of more remote chars. The affected people are desperately in need of immediate relief in terms of food, potable water, clothing and shelter. Although many of them are being housed in shelter houses, a large majority remain without a roof over their heads. Many of them have had nothing to eat or drink since the cyclone struck and may soon resort to drinking from contaminated water sources, giving rise to serious concerns of a major diarrhoea outbreak unless help comes very soon. Already a number of deaths from acute diarrhoea have been reported. A national daily newspaper reports of an enormous looming health crisis in the coming days if help does not come very soon.

Information on the real situation on the ground has been difficult to confirm due to access constraints and is likely to change as more up-to-date information becomes available. Information on casualties has been particularly difficult to confirm for the numerous affected remote chars. The information below, compiled by the Disaster Management Information Centre of the Bangladesh Ministry of Food and Disaster Management on 20 November, shows the extent of the devastation caused by Cyclone Sidr:

Affected districts	30
Affected upazillas (Sub-districts)	200
Affected unions	1,700
Affected households (families)	1,322,824
Affected population	5,488,216
Reported deaths	2,837

People injured	18,558
People lost (missing)	2,176
Houses damaged (Fully)	458,429
Houses damaged (Partially)	665,124
Crops damaged (Fully)	153,330 ha
Crops damaged (Partially)	1,266,353 ha
Livestock deaths	352,363
Roads damaged (Fully)	538 km
Roads damaged (Partially)	87,948 km
Educational institutions (Fully)	1,780
Educational institutions (Partially)	5,537
Embankment damaged	315 km
Damaged trees	1,684,076

The GoB and many international humanitarian organizations, including the UN and Red Cross, have been active in responding to the disaster. The GoB is deploying naval ships, aircraft and helicopters to deliver mostly food relief items to the affected people. The Health Services Directorate has deployed over 700 teams in the field, equipped with oral saline and other medicines. Four divisional supervisory teams have been set up for health activities. A large number of organizations are committing funds and other resources to provide relief to the affected people. However, the urgent need to get immediate assistance to the affected people remains.

Coordination and partnerships

The BDRCS and the Federation, along with various other international agencies and organizations such as the UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, USAID and DFID, are members of the Disaster Emergency Response (DER) Group under the auspices of the Bangladesh Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM). The DER Group has been meeting regularly to share information and coordinate relief efforts. As part of the effort to avoid duplication, members of the group regularly share their emergency response plans for the disaster, which include details of the targeted districts and beneficiaries as well as the kind of relief to be provided.

The Federation has also met with the UN Resident Representative and OCHA's Regional Office Representative to share information and discuss possible joint cluster activities. Following the invitation of the UN Resident Representative, the Federation also participated in the meeting of the UN agencies. A key coordination meeting of the humanitarian actors will take place in Dhaka on 22 November to consolidate information to date and agree coordination measures.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

CHF 250,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide immediate support to the BDRCS in this operation.

The Federation's FACT is now complete, with ten members: team leader, deputy team leader, three health, two relief, one water and sanitation, one shelter and one recovery expert. Members of the FACT come from the BDRCS, the Federation's regional office for South Asia in Delhi, the Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit in Kuala Lumpur, the Federation Secretariat in Geneva, and the British, German and Japanese Red Cross Societies.

The FACT is working in full coordination with and reports to the Federation's country delegation and the BDRCS. It has also established contact with the ICRC in relation to restoring family links. The BDRCS has linked FACT with the GoB, and the team together with the country delegation have met with the UN Resident Coordinator and UN agencies to reach an agreement on clusters activation. FACT is now liaising with other humanitarian actors, including donors, to share information on activities and plans.

Four aerial assessments of the affected areas have taken place already. This was done in two teams during two days. The main conclusions of this aerial assessment revealed that:

- Damage caused by Cyclone Sidr is very widespread and without a consistent pattern. However, the devastation is not as severe as has been perceived in general, in line with the findings and analysis of some other actors.
- The most urgent need is the supply of potable water. Traditionally communities used generally open sources (ponds). These ponds are contaminated with saline water. It will take some time before this water loses its salinity.
- More long-term needs include clothing, shelter and recuperation of livelihood activities. Psychosocial support is also considered important.
- Health needs are being covered by the medical teams deployed by the Government of Bangladesh and the teams from the BDRCS and other actors. Medical supplies might be needed.
- There is a need for a Logistics ERU, and the deployment has been agreed. The deployment of other ERUs might be considered over the next two days.

The Logistics ERU has been mobilised from the British Red Cross. The four-member team was briefed today and will be leaving for Bangladesh this evening (21 November). The ERU is expected to play a pivotal role in assisting the operation and BDRCS with local procurement of relief items and transport in-country to distribution points as well as the reception and customs clearing of incoming relief goods from abroad.

In terms of human resource needs, there will be a need for more expatriate and national expertise due to the scale of the operation. The actual needs will be determined by the end of the week when the FACT has completed its initial mission and the full emergency appeal is drafted. A head of operations is the most immediate need for the moment. For national recruitment, since 18 November, advertisements have already been placed in the local newspapers for a medical officer, a disaster management officer and a water and sanitation expert.

The need for Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members is also being discussed, and these people should be mobilised in the next two days.

Progress of proposed relief operation

Overall operational objective: To provide immediate and subsequently short-term recovery support to some 47,000 of the most vulnerable cyclone affected households (235,000 people) in Bangladesh. This will be done through the provision of basic health care including psychosocial support, health and hygiene promotion, safe water and sanitation facilities. Emergency shelter (tarpaulin including building and construction tools, materials and safer house promotion), basic instant dry food, non-food supplies (family kits including hygiene items, water containers, etc.), fishing nets, seeds and saplings are also included during the post emergency and at the early recovery stage.

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

The BDRCS and Federation have so far focused on general distribution of relief items and procurement of relief stocks. Since Operations Update 1 (issued on 18 November), three new districts (Noakhali, Shariatpur and Munshigonj) have been added to the target list following further assessments by the BDRCS. Funds were sent to all the BDRCS branches in the targeted districts to purchase dry relief food rations and also to cover distribution and other expenses. Family kits, plastic sheets, sarees/lungis and blankets from pre-positioned stocks have been despatched to the Barguna, Patuakhali and Barisai branches as planned. These are being distributed to the affected population. For the rest of the districts, preparations are currently underway to despatch the relief items to them. The following table details the relief distribution plan of the BDRCS:

District BDRCS Branches	Funds to purchase dry food (BDT)	Family kit	Plastic sheet	Saree & lungi	Blankets	Medical teams
Barguna	500,000	700	350	700	700	2
Bagerhat	500,000	700	350	700	700	1
Pirojpur	500,000	700	350	700	700	1

Patuakhali	500,000	700	350	700	700	2
Jalokathi	500,000	700	350	700	700	
Barisal	500,000	700	350	700	700	
Khulna	300,000	500	250	500	500	1
Bhola	300,000	500	250	500	500	
Madaripur	300,000	500	250	500	500	
Gopalganj	300,000	500	250	500	500	1
Satkhira	300,000	500	250	500	500	
Laxmipur	300,000	500	250	500	500	
Chandpur	150,000	400	200	400	400	
Faridpur	150,000	400	200	400	400	
Narayanganj	150,000	400	200	400	400	
Noakhali	500,000	700	350	700	700	
Shariatpur	500,000	700	350	700	700	
Munshigonj	150,000	400	200	400	400	
TOTAL	6,400,000	10,200	5,100	10,2008	10,200	8

(Note: 1 CHF = 55.25 BDT)

Local BDRCS branches are also using their own resources for the relief operation. They are also receiving donations of funds and goods from the local community and help out with the distribution of relief items from the local authorities. As an example, the BDRCS's Bagerhat branch has already provided support to 426 families with chira/puffed rice (2 Kg per family) and molasses (225gm per family) with their own resources.

Due to the urgency of the operation, 20,000 food packs, each consisting of 20 kg rice, 5 kg dhall, 2 litres cooking oil, 1 kg salt 1c of saree and 1 pc of lungi, have been diverted from the flood operation, and are currently enroute for distribution to those most in need.



BDRCS relief leaving for the coast of Bagerhat, carrying rice and molasses (Devendra Tak/Federation)

Pre-positioned stocks of 30,000 blankets, 25,000 tarpaulins and 8,000 jerry cans (10 litres capacity) have also been released from the warehouses in Kuala Lumpur, and are expected to arrive in Dhaka very shortly. Two vehicles are being deployed from the Federation's fleet in Dubai.

The Federation has established a mobilization table detailing the relief items requested by the BDRCS and the Federation to support on-going cyclone relief operations in Bangladesh. This mobilisation table is available on the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). The priority relief items identified for international In Kind Donations (IKD) are summarised below:

Item	Quantity	Status
Blankets (medium thermal)	1st priority: immediate shipment of 30,000 by air. 2nd priority: 150,000 by sea or land, to arrive week 49. Total 200,000 pieces	In-kind donation accepted: 30,000 to be sent immediately ex KL RLU stock. Donors requested for replenishment and additional in-kind donation.
Tarpaulins (4 x 6m)	1st priority: immediate shipment of 20,000 by air. 2nd priority: 80,000 by sea or	In-kind donation accepted: 25,000 to be sent immediately (from KL RLU stock).

	land, to arrive week 49. Total 100,000 pieces.	Donors requested for replenishment and additional in-kind donation.
Jerry cans (10litre collapsible).	1st priority: immediate shipment of 20,000 by air. 2nd priority: 80,000 by sea or land, to arrive week 49. Total 100,000 pieces.	In-kind donation accepted: 8,000 to be sent immediately (from KL RLU stock). Donors requested for replenishment and additional in-kind donation.
Family Kit (includes cooking saucepans with lid / plastic mug / plastic glasses / aluminium plates / spoons / aluminium bucket / soap / candles / match boxes / plastic weave bag).	100,000 kits.	Local procurement.
Sarees / Lungi.	200,000 sarees / 200,000 lungi.	Local procurement.
Food Basket (includes 20kg rice / 2 litres cooking oil / 5 kg dal / 1 kg salt).	50,000 parcels	Local procurement.
Ground sheeting (local Bangladesh specifications).	100,000 pieces	Local procurement.

All in-kind donations should be within the Appeal and according to Red Cross and Red Crescent specifications. Specifications are detailed on the Emergency Items Catalogue: www.icrc.org/emergency-items/

Health, water and sanitation

Eight BDRCS mobile medical teams have been deployed to the six most-affected districts (see Distribution Plan above). Each team is composed of a doctor, a paramedic and two volunteers. The teams are on the average treating 160 patients per day, and distributing water purification tablets and oral rehydration salt packets, as required. A further ten mobile teams are ready to deploy to the field on 22 November.

The four joint BDRCS-Federation assessment teams have also each distributed 10,500 water purification tablets in the districts they have conducted assessments.

A water and sanitation specialist from the German Red Cross, a member of the FACT, is currently carrying out an assessment on water and sanitation needs in Bagerhat.

Emergency Shelter

The FACT assessment has highlighted the vital role that mitigation action has played by the communities to reduce the risk of destruction of houses during a disaster. The positioning of the houses in relation to embankments, planted trees, mangroves, and the elevated platforms ensured greater resistance and safety against the cyclone.

The communities in the affected areas show a clear and strong will to continue living on the land they have lived for a long time despite the risk of it disappearing due to river erosion. The affected area is actually an enormous delta of several rivers which changes its configuration constantly. This poses a high risk and complex challenges in terms of land tenure, but families here have coped with this problem by transporting their houses to other locations when the need arises. Under the circumstances, light solutions such as this seem a very good option.

The Federation shelter response will be in accordance with the decisions taken jointly with the other shelter actors. The use of local materials, designs and technology will surely be part of this response as

part of a durable and sustainable solution. Solutions used in previous operations in Bangladesh are being studied.

The cyclone shelters set up by the BDRCS and the GoB under a joint programme have saved many lives. The construction of additional cyclone shelters in areas far from the existing ones is being investigated, as well as ensuring plans to support and maintain existing shelter and communication networks.

A shelter team comprising three persons from the Federation Geneva Secretariat will be arriving in Dhaka at midnight on 21 November. Their role will be to advise and facilitate the discussion with the GoB and partners on shelter reconstruction and to support the country team in planning the shelter response. They are also ready in country if the emergency shelter cluster is activated and at that stage we would have to look at additional support to the shelter response.

Early recovery assessment and planning

Objective: To assess, plan and implement early recovery activities together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.

A specialist in recovery and livelihoods from the British Red Cross joined the FACT on 21 November and started assessments in these areas.

Cluster Sector System

Members of the Federation country delegation and FACT have met with the UN Resident Coordinator and the heads of the UN agencies present in the country on several occasions. Each organization evaluated the need for clusters and its capacity to take on the leading role. It was then decided that only the following clusters were relevant: Food (WFP), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (UNICEF), Emergency Shelter (IFRC), Early Recovery (UNDP). Three other clusters might be considered necessary at a later stage: Nutrition, Education and Emergency Telecommunications, all led by UNICEF. OCHA supported the decision to focus on a smaller number of relevant clusters. It was also agreed that the GoB has a good coordination mechanism in place, and the clusters will have to be flexible to fit in with and support the existing structure put in place by the GoB.

The Resident Coordinator will meet with the relevant representatives of the GoB in the next hours. They will decide on the most convenient time to activate the cluster approach and how to coordinate it with the existing governmental coordination mechanism. A decision on this is expected by Thursday, 22 November.

Logistics

The initial logistics response has been supported by the existing logistical resources of the Federation and the national society in the country. International logistics support is being coordinated by the Regional Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur in consultation with the Bangladesh Federation delegation and BDRCS. A Regional Logistics delegate from the KL RLU was deployed to Dhaka on Monday to provide additional logistics support and advice to the operation. Today, agreement was reached to deploy the British Red Cross Logistics ERU and the team is expected to start arriving in Dhaka within 48 hours. Non-food items from the Kuala Lumpur pre-positioned stock warehouse including tarpaulins, blankets and jerry cans will be mobilized and despatched within a few days.

A detailed and up-to-date mobilization (Mob) table is available from today on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). The Federation will be working on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to the needs in the field and donors are urged to coordinate with the Kuala Lumpur Regional Logistics unit (KL RLU) regarding outstanding needs. Shipping instructions will be provided to donors from the KL RLU, with a Consignment Tracking Number which will be issued before shipping any goods to the operation. In-kind donations should be only those specified in the Mob table and according to Federation specifications.

The logistics field team and KL RLU will liaise and coordinate actions with (UNJLC and/or logistics cluster) and other key actors to ensure that the Federation logistics operation uses all information and resources to be as efficient and effective as possible. The current logistics support status is:

- A Regional Logistics Coordinator has been deployed from the KL Regional Logistics Unit to Bangladesh to support the start up of operations,
- A Procurement Delegate is in place in Bangladesh and the need for additional surge capacity for procurement is being evaluated,
- A four-person logistics ERU is being deployed tonight,
- National societies are requested to propose candidates for the Logistics Coordinator position for the on-going operation.

The mobilization information will be posted on the Federation's DMIS, and will be updated on a regular basis. To contribute logistics items to the appeal, please contact Robert McEwan, Email: Robert.McEwan@ifrc.org, cc: llir.Caushaj@ifrc.org, Phone: +41 22 730 4852 | Fax: +41 22 730 4906 | Mobile: +41 79 730 7535 to register your intention to send goods-in-kind as far in advance as possible and request a Commodity Tracking Number (CTN used to track goods) and Shipping Instructions (updated regularly).

Restoring Family Links – Programme with the ICRC

The ICRC has stepped up its support to the tracing activities of the BDRCS and its network of units in the affected areas. Two BDRCS/ICRC teams are currently working in the districts of Patuakhali and Barguna, moving to remote villages to assess the extent of Tracing and Restoring Family Links needs. The teams are also registering missing persons, responding to individual cases of family separations as well as training and activating local BDRCS volunteers in the data gathering and response. Reports now indicate that more than 2,000 persons remain missing. The ICRC is further increasing its support to the BDRCS, with two additional tracing experts as well as logistical and financial support.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Red Cross relief operation has received wide media coverage through several interviews with international media organisations, including the CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera and CBC and over one thousand media hits over the past week. There were also interviews with various national newspapers in Bangladesh. The communications team visited the affected areas and successfully established contact with the local media to discuss issues on relief distribution. In addition, web stories and photos have been posted on the Federation's website. Pictures taken by the BDRCS and Federation staff were shown on CNN.

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 International Federation's activities 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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

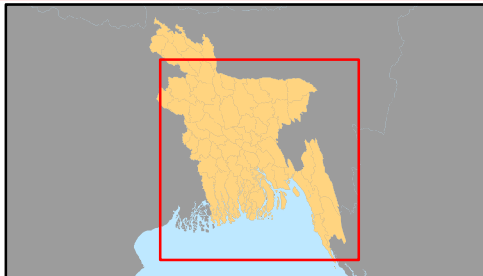
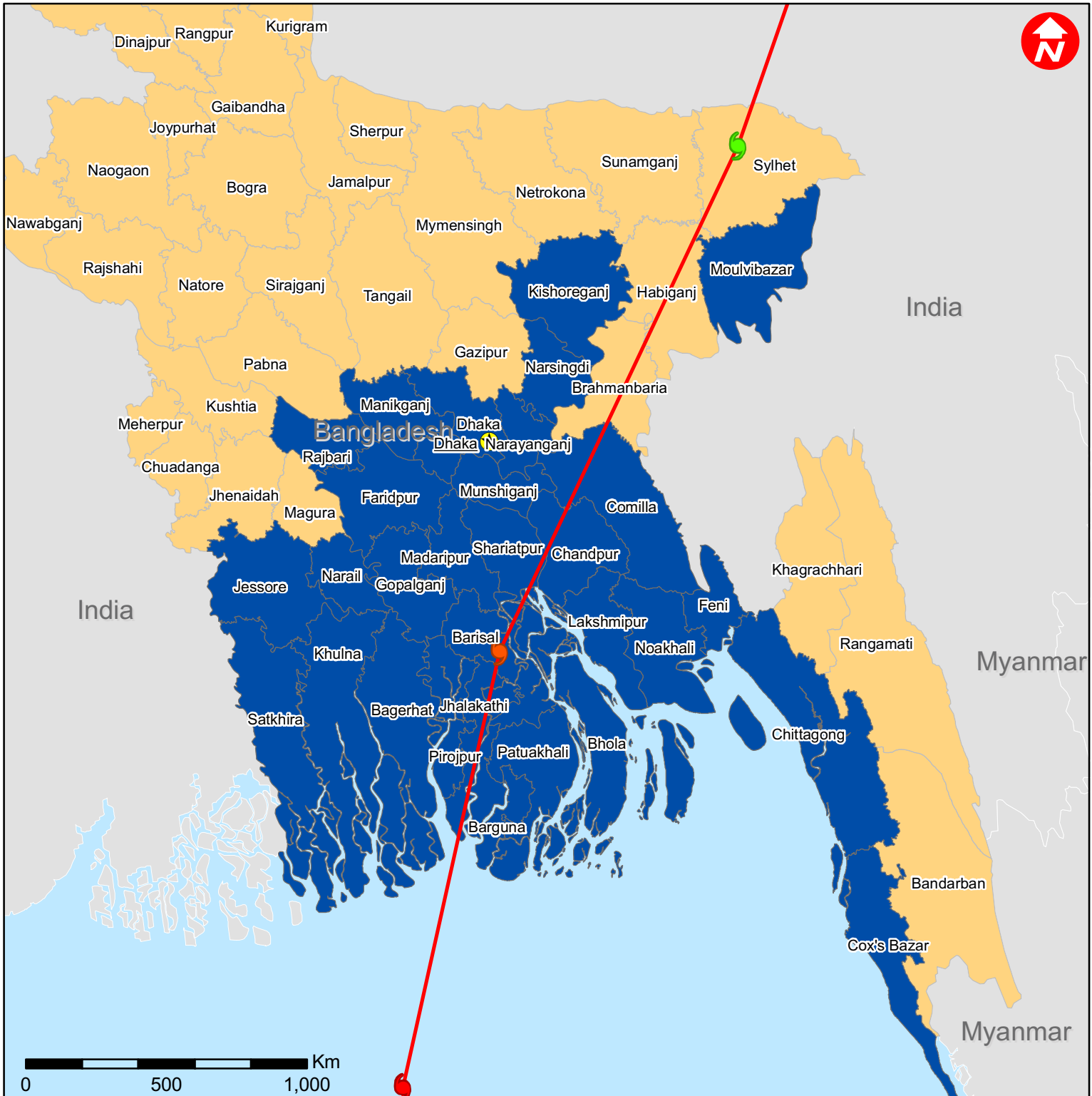
- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: M. Shafiul Alam (secretary- general), email: bdracs@bangla.net,

- phone: +88.02.935.2226.
- Country delegation in Bangladesh: Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (head of delegation), email: selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org, phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631.
 - South Asia regional representation in India: Al Panico (regional representative), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
 - Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia: Disaster Management Unit: Latifur Rahman (regional disaster management delegate), email: latifur.rahman@ifrc.org; phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 975 0144; regional logistics unit: Mr. Igor Dmitryuk (head of regional logistics unit), igor.dmitryuk@ifrc.org, phone: +60 3 2628 2707, fax: +60 3 2168 8573
 - In Geneva: Christine South (operations coordinator), email: christine.south@ifrc.org, phone: +41.22.730.4529, fax: +41.22.733.0395

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Bangladesh: Cyclonic storm Sidr



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

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 Hawaii
 Bang. Ministry of Food and Disaster Mgmt and relief control cell