

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh: Flash Flood

DREF operation n° MDRBD009
FL-2011-000093-BGD
27 July 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (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 262,770 (USD 320,870 or EUR 223,470) has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) deliver immediate assistance to some 25,000 beneficiaries affected by floods. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Over the past few days a considerable number of districts in Bangladesh have reportedly flooded, with Cox's Bazar district badly affected. Seasonal floods were compounded by factors such as heavier rainfall; increase of tidal water level due to depression in the Bay of Bengal and overflow of water from areas upstream (the hills of India and Myanmar). Around 300,000 people in Cox's Bazar district are reported to be marooned as the flood situation deteriorated. Many people have moved to cyclone shelters and school buildings while some have sought refuge on the main roads with their families and livestock as rainwater has now entered into their houses. To date, the area has suffered a loss of ten lives due to this year's floods.



Flood-affected houses in Cox's Bazar. Photo: UNHCR

The flood has added misery to all people, especially those living under the poverty line. The situation has paralysed the lives of many people since most of them have had to suspend livelihood activities. Daily wage earners and labourers, such as rickshaw/van pullers and agri-labourers, have not been able to work. Women, children and the elderly are major victims of waterborne disease. Household items, including cooking facilities, utensils and food stocks, are damaged adding to the misery of women already struggling to feed their families. The villages most affected by the flood are those constrained by dire poverty and seasonal unemployment. It is unlikely they will be able to rebuild their houses and return to whatever little normalcy they know without external assistance. Their living conditions will worsen even as the flood water starts to recede as this will lead to possible waterborne diseases and incidence of locally constructed mud houses collapsing.

The Government of Bangladesh responded swiftly to the situation. The government has released BDT 300,000 (CHF 3,246) cash for immediate relief for dry and cooked food to those who have taken refuge in evacuation centres and 66 tonnes of rice for the affected people.

The BDRCS Cox's Bazar unit deployed 50 Red Crescent volunteers to evacuate people to safer places, such as schools and other public buildings. BDRCS and IFRC had a discussion with United Nations High

Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) who has a big refugee programme in that area. In addition to some other non-food items that will be distributed among the most affected families, UNHCR has contributed to BDRCS 2,000 plastic sheets and 1,500 jerry cans for this relief response.

Whilst the government responded swiftly, the response will undoubtedly be inadequate in terms of covering the total number of affected people. The proposed intervention will be immediate support to 1,000 families with cash grants (BDT 500 (CHF 5.41)) and emergency food ration, which consists of the following:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Rice	5 kg
Dhal	3 kg
Oil	2 litre
Salt	1 kg
Sugar	1 kg
Shuji	0.5 kg

In addition, 3,000 families will be supplied with tarpaulins and 8,500 jerry-cans will be provided in coordination with other donations. A total of 5,000 families will receive a hygiene parcel (two pieces body soap and two pieces laundry soap), as well as receiving hygiene promotion leaflet and information. A one-time supplementary standard food ration pack (rice 20 kg, dhal 5 kg, oil 2 litre, and salt 1 kg) will also be provided to those 5000 families.

The distribution of emergency food, cash grant and non-food items for the affected families is planned to be completed by 4 August 2011 and the one-time standard food ration support will be completed by 30 August 2011. This operation is expected to be implemented over four months which includes the replenishment of non-food items, and will therefore be completed by 24 November 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 24 February 2012).

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

The situation

A considerable number of districts in Bangladesh have reportedly flooded during the past few days with Cox's Bazar district being badly affected. Seasonal floods were compounded by factors such as heavier rainfall, and increase of tidal water level due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal and overflow of water from areas upstream (the hills of India and Myanmar). Around 300,000 people in Cox's Bazar district are reported to be marooned as the flood situation deteriorated. The seawater has overflowed the coastal embankment and has now entered neighbouring villages. Low-lying areas of more than 50 Union Parisads of the district are now inundated. There is cause to worry as the Matamuhuri, Bakkhali and Eidgaon rivers are now also flowing well above the danger mark. As of 21 July, the meteorological office recorded 156 mm of rainfall in the district.

Many people have moved to cyclone shelters and school buildings, while some have sought refuge on the main roads along with families and livestock as rainwater has now entered into their houses. Due to the lack of proper drainage system, there are now pools of stagnant water in low-lying areas outside Cox's Bazar town. The most affected areas are Ramu, Chakaria, Teknaf, Pekoa and Ukhia, where a number of houses have suffered significant damage. To date, the area has suffered a loss of ten lives due to this year's floods. This includes an eight-year-old girl, who died in the Kutupalong makeshift camp when a shelter (at the edge of the high ground) was destroyed by a landslide.

Numaric status of the disaster in Cox's Bazar	
Affected Upazila /sub districts	6
Number of people dead	10
Number of people affected	300,000
Number of families severely affected	30,000
Number of people displaced	150,000

The flood situation in Teknaf area is expected to get worse as an embankment has been damaged along the River Naf. The authorities are encouraging residents to move to higher/safer places. The Cox Bazar-Teknaf road is still impassable. All Teknaf bound vehicles including heavy trucks and public transport are using the Marine drive, which has stressed "the narrow link road" to Ukihya Upazila. The link road may also become impassable if not repaired and roadsides not enforced/strengthened immediately. The Cox's Bazar-Chittagong road is still under water in some places but the traffic is moving as army engineers are continuously repairing the damaged parts of the road.

The flood has added misery to all people, especially those living under the poverty line. The situation has paralysed the lives of many people since most of them have had to suspend livelihood activities. Daily wage earners and labourers, such as rickshaw/van pullers and agri-labourers, have not been able to work. Women, children and the elderly are major victims of waterborne disease. Household items, including cooking facilities, utensils and food stocks, are damaged adding to the misery of women already struggling to feed their families.

A significant section of the affected population who could not find shelter have now made home under the open skies as the flood water continues to maroon them. These people are in the process of constructing makeshift shelters on sites on the main road, which are not inundated yet. The villages most affected by the flood are those constrained by dire poverty and seasonal unemployment. It is unlikely they will be able to rebuild their houses and return to whatever little normalcy they know without external assistance. Their living conditions will worsen even as the flood water starts to recede as this will lead to possible waterborne diseases and incidence of locally constructed mud houses collapsing.

The Government of Bangladesh responded swiftly to the situation. The local government administration had called for an emergency meeting in Cox's Bazar district on 21 July. After that meeting, the government has released BDT 300,000 (CHF 3,246) cash for immediate relief for dry and cooked food to those who have taken refuge in evacuation centres and 66 tonnes of rice for the affected people. There are also reports that the local administration through army and Red Crescent volunteers is rescuing some people from 22 July who are still stranded.

The BDRCS Cox's Bazar unit deployed 50 Red Crescent volunteers to evacuate people to safer places, such as schools and other public buildings. BDRCS national headquarters, with support from IFRC, has sent a team to conduct a joint rapid assessment.

Whilst the government responded swiftly, the response will undoubtedly be inadequate in terms of covering the total number of affected people.



Flood water entering the villages and causing damage to houses



People have moved to safer places like cyclone shelters.

It should be highlighted that July has seen heavy rainfall in nearly all of Bangladesh with increased water levels in many of the rivers. As of 23 July, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of Bangladesh has reported that out of the 73 river water level measuring stations, 49 shows a rising trend and 24 shows a falling trend. In addition, five rivers are flowing over the danger level and there is the possibility of more rivers crossing the danger level in the next 48 hours. Together with this, many other factors have been deteriorating the flood condition in many districts of the country. The Assam state of India is flooded and the downstream effect is already showing in the northern rivers of Bangladesh affecting Gaibandha, Shirajganj, Rajbari and Faridpur districts. Depression on the Bay of Bengal has caused the increase of tidal water level of some coastal districts like Cox's Bazar, Chitagonag, Satkhira, Khulna, Bhola, Noakhali, Chandpur and Lakshmipur causing damage of embankment and inundation of low-lying areas.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination between ECHO and its partners and BDRCS has been established in terms of possibility of exploring support for humanitarian assistance to the flood affected vulnerable population. Discussions were held between BDRCS/IFRC and Cox's Bazar district administration in targeting geographic locations. In addition, BDRCS Cox's Bazar unit have been maintaining contact with the district administration for identifying remote locations/pockets which remain uncovered by government or other organizations for possible BDRCS intervention. Coordination has also been made with UNHCR and it was confirmed that UNHCR will contribute to BDRCS 2,000 plastic sheets and 1,500 jerry cans for some of the beneficiaries also supported by BDRCS in this operation. 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 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). The BDRCS local unit in Cox's Bazar is coordinating with other social organizations in maximizing the coverage of assistance. Since BDRCS/IFRC are active members of the Disaster Emergency Response (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.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

BDRCS and IFRC have been closely monitoring the situation. The BDRCS response department conducted an assessment on the situation through its branch office located in Cox's Bazar district. Cox's Bazar district unit volunteers took part on the rescue operation together with government agencies and have also distributed some clothes to affected families BDRCS local units are coordinating with local authorities in terms of exchanging information on the damage and needs of the affected population, and the response by the government. BDRCS/IFRC is in communication with traditional partners, including ECHO, for possible support. BDRCS and IFRC have reviewed the stocks of non-food items available for dispatch to the affected areas.



Bangladesh red Crescent Society volunteers helping affected people to take shelter in safer places. Photo: BDRCS local unit.

The fleet and national disaster response team (NDRT) are kept on standby for deployment to assist local units in case of response operation. Currently the BDRCS/IFRC response team is in the field to assess the situation on ground and to send first hand information.

The needs

Most of the affected population either took shelter in schools, colleges, cyclone shelters or trying to build makeshift shelters on the main roads. Some are still living with the flood.

According to the assessment, some 1,000 families in makeshift camps/shelters will first be targeted for provision of emergency food and some cash to either buy some utensils or materials. After the water recedes there will be need for more people whose mud houses would probably be damaged, crops destroyed and people unemployed. At that stage, some more families will be targeted for a one-month food supply, jerry-can for transporting and storing water from water source of public facilities, and tarpaulins for their temporary shelters. To reduce risk from waterborne diseases, hygiene promotion sessions and materials will also be provided.

The proposed operation

The proposed operation is based on available information from the government and initial assessments carried out by the BDRCS local unit, as well as based on the capacity of the national society. With support from IFRC's DREF allocation, immediate support can be given to 1,000 families. This includes cash grants (BDT 500 (CHF 5.41)) and emergency food ration which consists of the following:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Rice	5 kg
Dhal	3 kg
Oil	2 litre
Salt	1 kg
Sugar	1 kg
Shuji	0.5 kg

In addition, 3,000 families will be supplied with tarpaulins and 8,500 jerry cans will be provided. A total of 5,000 families will receive a hygiene parcel (two pieces body soap and two pieces laundry soap), and hygiene promotion leaflets. A one-time supplementary standard food ration pack (rice 20 kg, dhal 5 kg, oil 2 litre, salt 1 kg) will be distributed to the same 5,000 families in the next two to three weeks.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 1,000 families (5,000 people) will benefit from the provision of food to meet their immediate needs, as well as receive cash grants for emergency necessities.

5,000 families (25,000 people) who suffer from loss of crops will benefit from package of supplementary food, and 3,000 families (15,000 people) will receive tarpaulin to improve their temporary shelters.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: Families received cash grant, food and non-food items to better protect them from the flood impact.

Activities planned:

- Door-to-door assessments.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Procurement of emergency food through BDRCS for 1,000 families.
- Distribution of food and cash grant for 1,000 families.
- Procurement of other items (supplementary food and tarpaulin) according to IFRC standard procedures.
- Dispatch and transportation by BDRCS to the distribution sites.
- Storage and distribution of relief items, especially at unit level.
- Distribution by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.
- Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by the BDRCS national headquarters and IFRC.
- Conduct evaluation/ lesson learnt workshop.

Supported by IFRC, BDRCS will assist up to 5,000 severely affected families or 25,000 people with the distribution of food and non-food items as follows:

- Emergency food (rice 5 kg, dhal 3 kg, oil 2 litres, salt 1 kg, sugar 1 kg, shuji 0.5 kg) for 1,000 families.
- Cash grant of BDT 500 for 1,000 families.
- Non-food items – 3,000 sets of tarpaulin.
- Supplementary food (rice 20 kg, dhal 5 kg, oil 2 litres, salt 1 kg) for 5,000 families.

The above mentioned non-food items will be utilised from the existing joint BDRCS/IFRC disaster preparedness stock. Replenishment of non-food items will be done through standard IFRC procurement procedures.

The distribution of immediate food and cash grant for 1,000 families and non-food items is planned to be completed by 4 August 2011 and the one-time standard food ration support will be completed by 30 August 2011.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water related diseases of 5,000 families has been reduced through the provision of jerry cans, and hygiene promotion materials and dissemination activities.

Activities planned:

- Conduct information sessions on good hygiene behaviour and distribute information and education materials together with hygiene parcel (two pieces each of body soap and two pieces of laundry soap).
- Provide 8,500 jerry cans for affected people to collect water from public facilities (in addition to 1,500 jerry cans contributed by UNHCR and distributed by BDRCS).
- Monitor the use of hygiene items.

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 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF OPERATION

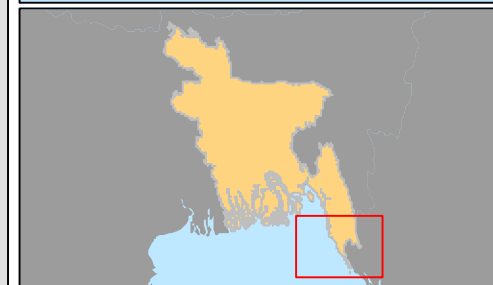
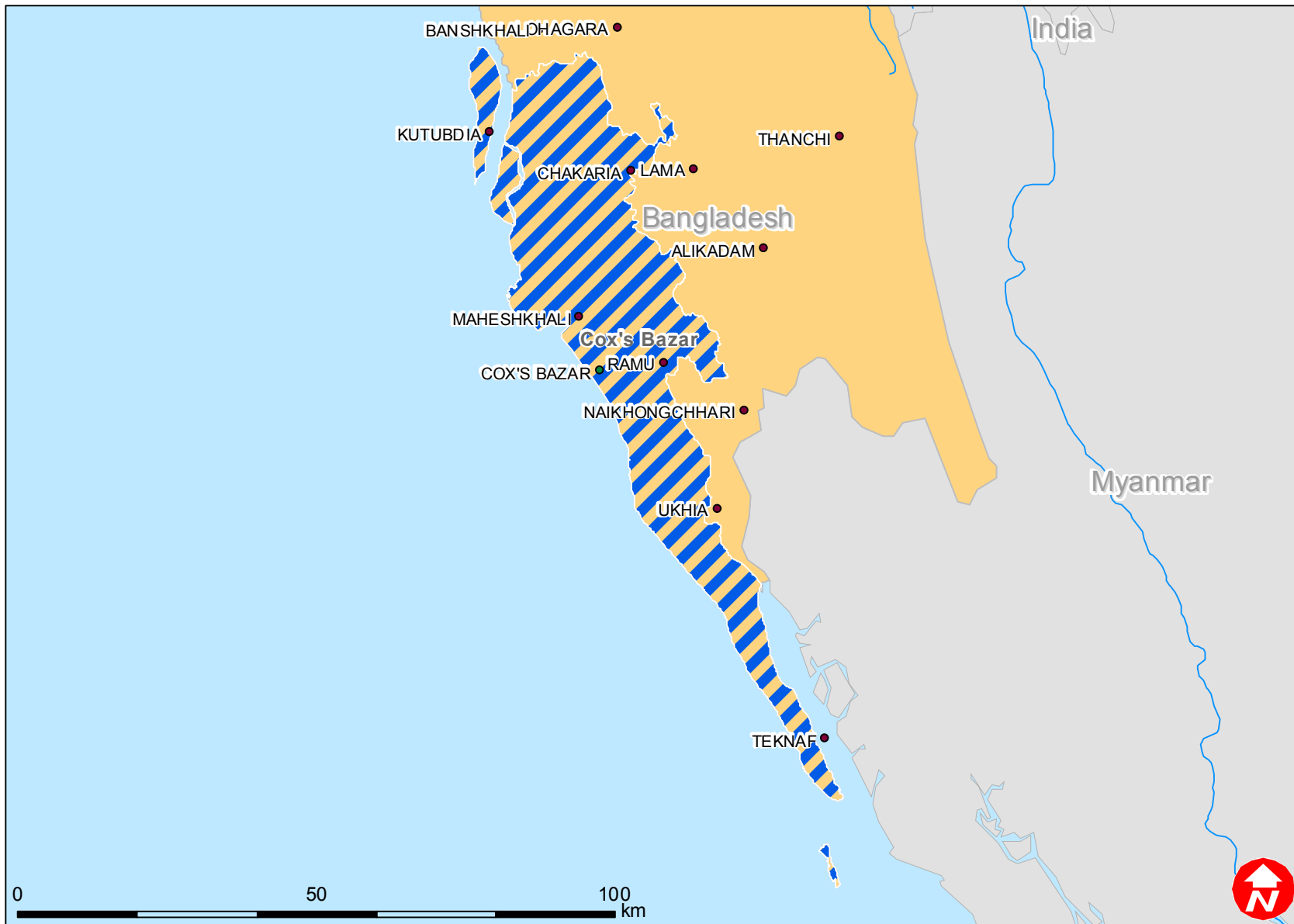
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MDRBD009 Bangladesh : Flash Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	51,923
Food	110,846
Ustensils & Tools	33,782
Other Supplies & Services	8,013
Cash Disbursements	6,410
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	210,974
Storage, Warehousing	641
Dsitribution & Monitoring	12,821
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,974
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	22,436
Volunteers	40
Total PERSONNEL	40
Workshops & Training	2,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,000
Travel	3,077
Information & Public Relations	2,051
Office Costs	3,590
Communications	1,282
Financial Charges	1,282
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	11,282
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	16,038
Total INDIRECT COSTS	16,038
TOTAL BUDGET	262,770



Bangladesh: Floods



 Affected district