

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BANGLADESH

5 November 2003

Appeal no. 01.53/2003; Appeal target: CHF 3,233,438

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: June - October 2003

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 54.3% (against the original appeal budget of CHF 3,233,438; over 100% against the reduced operational budget of CHF 2,196,694)

Outstanding needs: N/A

Related Emergency Appeals: N/A

Programme Summary: The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continues to deliver effective support to vulnerable people in the country. The national society has revised its plan of actions and budget to reflect operational realities, and is looking for continued support in the area of promoting humanitarian values and HIV/AIDS awareness programmes. This year the Health Programme continued to be under-funded with only the Mother and Child Health Centre (MCH) programme receiving financial support. Other components of the programme cannot be implemented as planned due to a lack of donor support.

Operational developments

The political climate in Bangladesh has remained calm during this reporting period. Noticeably fewer *Hartals* (strikes) have meant less disruption to the country's economy.

Although Bangladesh this year has had a very long wet monsoon season, no major emergency relief appeal had to be launched, The BDRCS did respond to many smaller manageable relief interventions which are reported later in this update.

The government of Bangladesh hosted the 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Dhaka during October. Over 600 international Commonwealth delegates participated.

The OIC (*Organization on Islamic Conference*) is being held in Malaysia on October 16-17. As our previous update mentioned, Bangladesh is a candidate for secretary general of the OIC.

Increased tension is brewing in the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) tribal areas of Bangladesh. The three CHT districts have a population of 1.2 million people. This situation will be carefully monitored over the coming months.



On 23 September, the government announced its intention to grant permanent resident status to 26,000 families of Bengali settlers living in cluster villages in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Between late July and the end of September, several earthquakes and tremors measuring from 4.2 to 5.7 on the Richter scale trailed by series of aftershocks have occurred in Chittagong and adjacent hill districts. More than 50 people have been injured.

On 8 July, a tragic ferryboat disaster on the Mehgna River resulted in death of more than 800 people. Immediately after the disaster and throughout the rescue operation the BDRCS Community Based Disaster Preparedness Squad members, Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers and the tracing department worked around the clock for many days assisting the local authorities, fire brigade, river police and the navy in their efforts to save lives and recover the bodies.

Federation/BDRCS acted promptly in early September when internal fighting broke out in the CHT Khagrachari District. Federation/BDRCS went into immediate action distributing family kits, high protein biscuits and dates to 300 tribal families who had their houses burnt to the ground during these tribal clashes. BDRCS/Federation was the only humanitarian organization to be allowed into this secured area to distribute emergency relief.

BDRCS has recently established a joint Japanese Red Cross (JRC) youth friendship project for 2004. At the end of September, a group from JRC Youth Department came for a week-long visit to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Although the monsoon season has come to an end, Bangladesh entered its annual cyclone season in October which will last until the end of November.

Health and Care

The main health concern in Bangladesh continues to be the high infant and maternal mortality rates. Killer number one for infants is acute respiratory infection while many mothers die of complications in child birth. Approximately 90 percent of pregnant mothers still deliver at home under unhygienic conditions with untrained personnel. An emerging major health issue is the rising incidence of HIV positive cases. While UNAIDS describes Bangladesh as a country with relatively low HIV prevalence, it is regarded as having high vulnerability due to low condom use and only 20 percent of blood being screened nationally.

BDRCS expertise on reproductive and adolescent health issues is gained through EC/UNFPA supported maternity hospitals in Sylhet and Dhaka. The national society has a tremendous opportunity to use the existing mother and child health centers network to conduct a country-wide HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness campaign. The society plans to train its health service providers in HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis-B awareness and prevention. All other organisations currently involved in HIV/AIDS prevention are only working in Dhaka. The BDRCS with 60 Mother and Child Health centres based outside the capital has great potential to penetrate remote and hard-to-reach rural areas with their campaign.

Overall Goal: The health status and life chances of vulnerable people in Bangladesh are improved.

Programme Objective: Increased capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent to contribute effectively to the reduction of health vulnerability in Bangladesh.

Project: HIV/AIDS

Objective: The Bangladesh Red Crescent's contribution to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and its capacity to promote and provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh are increased.

Expected results for this objective are:

- increasing the community awareness of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) from lessons learned by RCY participation in health mobilization campaigns;
- adoption of an HIV/AIDS 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) curriculum consistent with governmental policy;
- establishing a dedicated *Hotline* (telephone and mailbox) service for confidential counseling;
- promoting behavioral change, prevention and care by an extensive network of peer counselors from target groups contributing to reduction in stigmatization and discrimination;

- establishing South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (*SARNHA*) membership and active engagement with UNAIDS regional initiatives.

Progress/Achievements

- The BDRCS focal person on HIV/AIDS and a junior assistant director of BDRCS youth department attended the 3rd SARNHA meeting and project planning process training in Islamabad. The training was facilitated by South East Asia regional OD delegate.
- BDRCS HIV/AIDS coordination cell prepared and submitted the project proposal to the Federation and other donor organizations in August 2003.
- Networking established with PLWHA (People living with HIV/AIDS).

As outlined in Programme Update 1, the achievements in the first half of 2003 included staging a rally in May to highlight the HIV/AIDS anti-stigma campaign; including HIV/AIDS information in all life skill, first aid and other training programmes; organizing the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS at five BCRCS blood centres and the development of a HIV/AIDS strategic plan for the National Society.

Impact

Increased capacity of BDRCS health (HIV/Aids focal person) and youth department with new PPP skills will improve future project planning of the national society.

Constraints

The financial situation has remained unchanged with regards to donor/regional support for HIV/AIDS planned activities. No progress has been achieved during the reporting period, except PPP training in Islamabad. This has meant activities outlined in the expected results such as the Training of Trainers and establishing a counseling hotline have not occurred.

Project: Vaccine Preventable and Vector born diseases

As the National Immunization Campaign was completed at the end of May, no further activities have been undertaken during the reporting period

Project: Community Based First Aid and First Aid

Objective: Road safety and access to first aid on highways have increased.

Expected results for this objective are:

- a functioning first aid services monitoring and co-ordination cell established at BDRCS national headquarters;
- establishing 12 first aid posts at 'black spots' along strategic highways;
- an increased number of RCY and other volunteers trained in first aid.

Progress/Achievements

First Aid training for schools and colleges under 20 Red Crescent Units is underway.

- First Aid services at different spots of Dhaka city are being implemented by Red Crescent Youth volunteers through the ambulance service.
- Linkage with Government Organisations and NGOs with regards to First Aid networking has been established.
- First Aid training programme has been planned and integrated into the activities of by the BDRCS youth department. This has included utilizing the Youth and Volunteers Department in organizing volunteers to staff mobile first aid teams at 12 traffic 'black spots' around Dhaka city.

Impact

The number of Red Crescent Youth community volunteer's trainees has been further increased by 500 newly trained volunteers.

- People in the community are more aware of the importance of First Aid knowledge and skills that could be used in daily life.
- A total of 30 injuries and accidents are being managed properly.

Constraints

Insufficient funding and lack of donor support has continued to hamper the implementation of planned activities, reducing them to a bare minimum. This has meant activities such as the establishment of a first aid services monitoring and co-ordination cell at BDRCS national headquarters and the establishment of 12 first aid posts at 'black spots' along strategic highways did not occur.

Project: Mother and Child Health care – (MCH)

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society initiated its own vaccination programme for Mother and Child Health Care (MCH) health providers. The German Red Cross provided initial funds to support this initiative. A total of 53 health providers of the South Eastern Community Health Project (SECHP) were invited to Dhaka for two-day training and the vaccination programme.



Hepatitis B vaccination of BDRCS MCH Health care workers

Objective: Bangladesh Red Crescent is able to deliver effective support to targeted vulnerable communities in which morbidity and mortality among mothers and children are reduced.

Expected results for this objective are:

- establishing an additional 10 renovated and equipped facilities to deliver essential MCH services and reproductive health training and advice (including STDs and HIV/AIDS);
- increasing the skill-based training for health care providers to improve quality of care;
- expanding programmes on immunization (EPI) campaigns organized and promoted in collaboration with the government and the national coverage rate increased to more than 85 per cent.

Progress/Achievement:

As outlined in Programme Update 1, 10 Mother and Child Health Care centres have been renovated and are functional. Further achievements in this reporting period were;

- Midwifery training on skill development of community health service providers, as well as refresher training was successfully completed.
- Reproductive Health Initiative for the Youth of Asia (RHIYA) project was designed based around two maternity hospitals for development of adolescent reproductive health.
- Usage of safe water and sanitary latrines has increase at community level.

Impact

- Community midwives and health volunteers have received further training and developed their skills. 40 percent of community people from the areas targeted under this programme have been made aware of family health care.
- Community participation in the health programme has increased.
- The overall infant and maternal morbidity in the MCH catchments area has reduced from 57 percent to 41 percent over the last 5 years, with the BDRCS having a significant input to that reduction.
- The national immunization coverage rate will be measured by a Government survey yet to be carried out. The result of this survey will be outlined in the subsequent Programme Update/Final Report.

Project: Promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation

Objective: The recruitment and retention of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors to be improved.

Expected results for this objective are:

- increased public awareness of the importance of regular blood donations from eligible blood donors as means of obtaining the safest blood supply possible;
- community education programmes to help boost the recruitment of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors by 20 per cent;
- co-ordinate efforts with health authorities and leading hospitals to further advocate for voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation as the basis for the safest blood supply;
- establishing a training programme for donor recruitment activities.

Progress/achievements

The blood project has been carried out in a limited way by BDRCS Youth and through the 5 BDRCS regional blood banks.

Constraints

During the reporting period, the BDRCS health department continues to face the same constraints as reported in the Programme Update no.1.

Disaster Management

The overall disaster management activities during the reporting period moved at a slow pace due to preparation of Appeal 2004, as well as unanticipated delay of budget revision of several programmes. In addition, the following small emergency flood relief operations were carried out in various parts of the country:

- Chittagong Hill Tracts, Khagrachari district. Distribution of 300 family kits to the most affected people who lost their homes due to fires as direct consequence of violence between settlers and tribal people.
- Distribution of 2,000 family kits to the most affected families during flash flooding in the greater Dhaka area.
- Distribution of 360 tonnes of rice to 17,500 families in 20 flood-affected districts in the north, north-west, north-east and central parts of Bangladesh.



BDRCS volunteers distributing family kits to disaster victims.

As reported earlier, the Disaster Management Strategy group was formed, in order to formulate a comprehensive Disaster Management Plan as a part of the BDRCS 5-year Development Plan.

Three meetings of the Disaster Management Strategy group were held to further discuss and finalize the key strategies for the Disaster Management plan. They also finalized the Terms of Reference for the Disaster Management Delegate, as well as the Terms of Reference for the lessons learned workshop for Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), including the appointment of a local consultant. The Disaster Management delegate arrived in Bangladesh first week of October.

Goal

Vulnerability to the impact of disasters and community dependence on external support are reduced.

Programme Objective

Programme Objective: Increased capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent to provide support to individuals and communities seeking to withstand the impact of disaster and to become more self-reliant.

Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation – MRRO (Long term humanitarian assistance operation)

Objective: The BDRCS Disaster Management programme will be implemented in the context of five coordinated projects. BDRCS distribution of food rations and essential non-food relief items to refugee families from Myanmar is maintained for one year.

Expected results for the next two years are as follows:

- nutritional sufficiency for 21,000 refugees (particularly women and children);
- practical experience of operating in a cross-cultural, multinational and multi-agency environment acquired by BDRCS staff and volunteers;
- an appropriate exit strategy identified and agreed with UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP) and the government.

Progress/achievements

The national society continued to distribute a daily food ration provided by World Food Programme, equivalent to 2,100 calories per person and non-food items on a weekly basis, bi-weekly and monthly. The food items include rice, dal, cooking oil, salt, sugar and baby food and non-food items included soap, rice husk, spices and kerosene. 21,000 beneficiaries receive food assistance during this reporting period.

The UNHCR and the government of Bangladesh continued to work closely with Myanmar authorities in order to expedite the repatriation process by simplifying procedures for the beneficiaries willing to be repatriated. The process is ongoing.

Project: DP planning

Objective: BDRCS organizational capacity to conceive, plan, launch and manage effective disaster preparedness and response initiatives and to provide practical support to families disaggregated by disaster is increased.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- increased BDRCS capacity to manage and co-ordinate the activities of an extensive network of trained and skilled DP staff and volunteers;
- revised disaster management policies, plans and operational manuals incorporating *SPHERE* standards and a coherent gender perspective;
- extended and regular BDRCS networking with national and regional agencies engaged with disaster management;
- a successfully completed and phased out Community Based Disaster Preparedness project and proposals for community based initiatives related to river erosion developed;
- contingency plans for BDRCS supplementary intervention in the event of urban and technological disasters (fires, earthquakes, aircraft and rail crashes, toxic spillage, etc.) drawn up and commensurate resources identified;
- adequate and well managed national stocks of relief items related to the immediate emergency needs of vulnerable families, enabling rapid and appropriate response to a variety of potential disaster scenarios;
- the national society's tracing network is expanded and improved by the establishment of data base linkages between relatives and Bangladeshi citizens stranded abroad and between foreign nationals detained in Bangladesh and their families overseas.

Progress/achievements

The BDRCS is preparing a Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan with the objective of creating a long-term integrated Disaster Management strategy with a sustainable funding plan leading to self-reliance. Taking into account the extensive disaster preparedness experience of the National Society, a series of Lessons Learned Workshops were held in the second half of 2003 in order to consider the best practices and the sustainable elements of the ongoing Disaster Preparedness programmes. The Plan will be incorporated in the Society's 4-year Development Plan and will also be considered during the preparation of the Federation's 4-year Plan (2005-2008).

The National Society during the reporting period has also kept buffer stocks of relief items for rapid response for the emergency needs of vulnerable families. These have been utilized in several smaller emergency relief operations that have been conducted.

The tracing department is helping the foreign nationals detained in Bangladesh prisons to establish contact with their relatives at home. However the establishment of a database for the Bangladeshi citizens stranded abroad and for the detained foreign nationals in Bangladesh has not yet been achieved.

Constraints

Insufficient funding and lack of donor support has continued to hamper the implementation of planned activities, reducing services to a bare minimum.

Project: Community based DP/self-reliance

Objective: The capability of local volunteers to prevent and mitigate disaster in vulnerable communities is increased.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- developed and consolidated organizational capacity for effective disaster preparedness and response interventions among 3,500 volunteers in a total of 35 BDRCS branches and 105 associated vulnerable communities;
- the range and scope of local coping mechanisms available to communities vulnerable to disaster is increased;
- locally managed, well maintained safe refuges (cyclone shelters) available for 40,000 vulnerable families in 113 communities located within nine coastal districts.

Progress/achievements

Community Based Disaster Preparedness

At National Headquarters Level

On 28 June, following the review workshop, the CBDP program organized a coordination meeting attended by 24 Unit Liaison Officers (ULOs) and Field Officers from 11 units and four Shelter Management and Maintenance (SMM) zones. The key topics discussed were: Disaster contingency plan (DCP) for seasonal flood, phase out strategy, CBDP guidelines, achievements and problems encountered at unit as well as community level.

Two 3-day training courses on water and sanitation issues (*skill development, demonstration on installation process for slab latrines, maintenance of tube wells, water and sanitation, including arsenic test*) were conducted in Dhaka, in which a total of 71 participants (*10 Unit Level Officers, 11 Squad Members and 50 Community volunteers*) from 11 Districts attended the courses. Following the training, participants were provided with arsenic test kits to be used for identification of safe drinking water from tube wells in their respective communities. The purpose of the training was to raise awareness on personal hygiene and sanitation at community level and more particularly to impart to them adequate knowledge on arsenic contamination in tube well water, so that they can play a positive role in raising awareness against this silent disaster and how to avail safe water.



Dry run rehearsal – the most effective way of increasing DP awareness among village communities

At Branch Level

Disaster Preparedness conferences were held in two branches (Patuakhali and Feni) during this reporting period. About 100 participants including the district administrator, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO), local elites, NGO representatives, journalists, life members, and squad and community volunteers took part. The main objective of the conferences was to widen dissemination of the programme at district level and ensure coordination and cooperation within various partners, and also dissemination of RC/RC principles of the Movement and misuse of emblem.

During the reporting period, two district branches (Lalmोनirhat and Moulovibazar) created Disaster Emergency Funds (DEF) collecting an amount of Taka 50,000 each (approx. CHF 1,200), which is one of the pre-requisites for CBDP units to face post disaster situations. Accordingly, an amount of Taka 50,000 has been provided to those branches as a matching grant.

In July, an additional two districts (Netrakona, Feni) finalized their unit Disaster Contingency Plan (DCP). National Society Community Based Disaster Preparedness Units are characterized by their own Disaster Contingency Plans as it ensures disaster preparedness and disaster response measures and assigned responsibilities to Unit Liaison Officers, Squad members, Red Crescent Youth and stakeholders.

In Rangpur, under Red Crescent Youth activities, Basic and Community Based First Aid training was organized for Red Crescent Youth in 10 schools with 500 students participating. In addition, teachers training for RCY College and schools were also organized with the participation of 10 teachers.

At Community Level

Dry Run Rehearsals were organized in the 11 communities of 6 Districts (Pirojpur, Feni, Rangpur, Moulovibazar, Netrakona and Tangail) with the active cooperation of local people, volunteers, Squad and Red Crescent Youth volunteers. About 3,000 people in each community were able to witness these events.

Skill development trainings of community volunteers for construction of slab latrines were held in Netrakona and Patuakhali during the reporting period. Regular maintenance work on tube wells continued.

Disaster preparedness training was held for 11 members of each of the four Shelter Maintenance Committees (SMC). In addition to the training, four evacuation drills and video shows were held with an average audience of approximately 500.

Extra activities by NHQ and Units

As a part of the phase out activity in five district branches, a joint programme review has been undertaken in Lalmonirhat, Netrokona, Tangail, Lakshimpur and Pirojpur. A checklist has been prepared and used in conducting a joint review. Respective Unit Secretaries, Unit Liaison Officers, CBDP NHQ officers and Federation representatives are included in the joint review team. To date the team has reviewed four out of five branches.

Impact

Coordination meetings have ensured implementation of activities within the time frame at unit as well as community level and to explore solution to problems encountered by Unit Liaison Officers at district level. Details of the Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme and history and principles of RC/RC Movement have been widely disseminated/coordinated with other Disaster Preparedness partners/stakeholders. The Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF) has been created to ensure an effective disaster response by all BDRCS units. The preparation of Functional DCP is ongoing, which will facilitate a disaster response in the wake of disaster.

At community level, dry run rehearsals have raised awareness among the targeted people in regard to disaster response. Procurement of slab latrines and subsequent use by beneficiaries has reduced health hazards. Providing Disaster Preparedness equipment has generated enthusiasm among Community Volunteers. Training on Arsenic Contamination has made the trainees aware of their responsibilities in their respective communities and helped boost the supply of safe drinking water.

In Shelter Management and Maintenance zones, evacuation drills and video shows have contributed to emphasize further assigned responsibilities of Shelter Maintenance Committee members during pre and post disaster situations. Community Based First Aid training at the shelter sites resulted in 22 new First Aide trainees who are now capable of rendering First Aid service to their own people in their respective communities.

Constraints

Incessant rain in latter part of June, caused flood (though not severe) which hampered the pace of implementation of activities at community level. Budget revision also resulted in late reimbursement of funds to units. In phased out units community level activities are not being monitored as they are no longer receiving any transport costs.

Project: Early warning and disaster information systems (Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP))

Objective: Bangladesh Red Crescent's organizational capacity for assisting vulnerable coastal communities to prepare for and withstand the impact of cyclones is sustained and reinforced.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- a strengthened and well maintained early warning system ensuring effective response in the event of cyclone(s);
- increased technical skills among an expanded complement of community volunteers further reducing the vulnerability of coastal communities to the impact of cyclones;
- a broadened local funding base (including an increased government grant) for BDRCS cyclone preparedness initiatives potentially benefiting over one million people living in coastal communities.

At National Headquarters Level

Cyclone Preparedness Programme NHQ organized a management training/workshop for CPP Officers. A total of 30 Field Officers participated. This was the first workshop of its kind organized in three years. The lesson learned is that there should be no large gaps between management training in future.

Training:

40 Union based volunteers refresher trainings were organized by the Training of Trainer's (ToT) trained volunteers, in 29 different Upazilas¹. A total of 4,692 volunteers attended these courses. The purposes of these trainings were the dissemination of RC/RC movement's principles, cyclone warning signals, rescue and evacuation. A total of 28 union-based volunteer seminars were conducted in 14 Upazilas with 3,648 community volunteers participating.

Awareness raising activities:

Mass awareness raising activities for fishermen were held in 23 Upazilas. A total of 520 fishermen participated.

With the active support of CPP volunteers, awareness raising training activities were also held in 95 schools and colleges under 19 Upazilas. A total of 19,000 students participated.

Impact

Cyclone Preparedness Programme volunteer's refresher training and seminars have further increased the efficiency of the volunteers enabling them to face any eventualities for saving lives and property of the 11 million people who live in the coastal community. Awareness training on cyclone preparedness was organized among the fishermen and school students to develop and strengthen their disaster preparedness and response capacity in the event of cyclonic disaster.

Constraints

The Cyclone Preparedness Programme has experienced severe financial constraints this year. Given a very low level of funding commitment by PNS (with the notably loyal exception of the Swedish Red Cross), mass awareness campaigns, rallies and trainings were limited in their extent and duration during this year. Most of these events were small-scale and conducted by CPP volunteers acting on their own initiative.

Project: Disaster mitigation/reduction (Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Programme (CHT-DP))

Objective: The resilience of communities vulnerable to disaster in remote villages of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region is increased.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows

- wider understanding of humanitarian values within targeted communities and local authorities, sustaining social harmony between members of formerly hostile ethnic groups;
- targeted communities organized and mobilized to prepare for and respond effectively to local disasters and linkages developed with local government institutions and NGOs;
- CBFA services and basic primary health care support (particularly for women and children) established in 12 vulnerable communities;
- increased access to safe drinking water supplies and improved sanitation facilities in targeted communities;
- community management and marketing skills facilitating locally sustainable livelihoods based on improved and extended traditional skills and farming systems.

Progress/Achievements

Health activities

The 60 health workers health workers have continued their regular awareness buildup activities through home-visits, providing necessary medicines in the programme areas of all three CHT Units. In some cases, they are providing advisory and referral services to seriously ill patients.

It is interesting to note that reports coming back from the health workers indicate that many people in the communities visited had little concept of what 'health' is, what constituted health hazards. This meant there was no knowledge of and culture of seeking health assistance. Some people did not even know the meaning of the word 'doctor' or his/her role. The visits by health workers have made many in the community aware of the

¹ Upazila – Administrative Unit (i.e. Municipality level)

concept of health and preventative measures. These visits have motivated local people to learn more about 5th health sector.

97 Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) volunteers continued to carry out their duties, reinforcing their reputation and trust within the respective communities. Community people are now seeking out Red Crescent TBA volunteers in the pre and post delivery, especially during the delivery time, on their own initiative.

Training Activities: (on Health sector, Dissemination on RC/RC Principles and Humanitarian Values, CBFA.)
Essential Service Package (ESP): refresher training sessions were held in the Khagrachari and Bandarban Units. A total of 56 participants (health workers) from three CHT units participated.

Dissemination on RC/RC Principles and Humanitarian Values: A Training of Trainers on dissemination refresher training was held in Rangamti on 10-12 July. A total of 21 dissemination workers participated. The aim of this training is to encourage the field workers of CHT Development Programme that has recognized the dissemination of the fundamental principles of the movement and the knowledge of the International humanitarian Law (IHL) as a vital role in this region by which the co-existence of different indigenous ethnic groups would be easier and more peaceful.

In August, several Community Based First Aid refresher trainings were held for the Disaster Preparedness Volunteers in 5 Upazilas.

Water and Sanitation activities:

During the reporting period most BDRCS-installed water sources have been kept in working order by the communities in three CHT districts (except 7 tube wells in two communities that could not be repaired). Some ring wells installed in 2001 are now not functioning and would need to be replaced. It is important to note some maintenance committees have been doing a very good job repairing tube/ring wells free of cost, even those not installed by BDRCS.

Formation of Village Development Committees (VDC):

During 2003 a total of 120 VDC have been formed although clear guidelines have not yet been finalized by national headquarters. Before finalizing the guidelines, the CHTDP² is planning to organize at least three workshops in 3 CHT Headquarters, inviting respective Community representatives, concerned local Karbaries, concerned elites, representatives of different ethnic groups and representative from local administration. This process must be completed and content agreed to by all parties before printing of the guidelines may occur. The main feature of this programme is to raise awareness in the community of self independence and to motivate local people to develop their respective areas and be self-sustainable. All respective activities will be taken as an initiative by the Unit through Para/Village development Committee.

Impact

The efforts of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to assist vulnerable people of the CHT Development Programmes are well recognized both among the tribal and non-tribal communities. Development activities in the field of health including TBA, Water and Sanitation, income generation and initiatives in the formation of Para Committee have had positive impacts in the communities helping to decrease vulnerability. People in the post-conflict region are now becoming more aware of the principles of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Constraints:

Delays in provision of funds by international donors and an overall lack of donor support have impeded the overall CHT programme. This has led to some delays in implementation of proposed activities during the past eight months and the suspension of others. Although the donor support to BDRCS programmes has been limited, the health/WATSAN and income generation activities continue.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Social harmony, humane treatment of victims of disaster and respect for the dignity of human life are increased.

² CHTDP – Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Program

Objective: Increased awareness, understanding and acknowledgment of the values that guide its action and respect for the Bangladesh Red Crescent as an independent, principled and impartial humanitarian organization.

Project: Promotion of RC/RC principles

Objective: Development of the Bangladesh Red Crescent's capacity for the promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and the values are actively disseminated in the context of all programmes.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- highly motivated and well informed BDRCS governors, staff and volunteers;
- more effective use of existing training tools and materials has led to increased public awareness and positive perceptions of the Bangladesh Red Crescent, its principles and its values;
- humanitarian values increasingly inform the policies and practices of governmental departments and other organizations;
- greater respect for the Red Crescent emblem and significantly reduced incidence of its misuse;
- BDRCS experience documented and lessons learned effectively shared with other national societies in the South Asia Region;
- engagement with '*Global Action to Reduce Discrimination and Violence*' and related regional initiatives has assisted integration of the fight against discrimination in all of the Bangladesh Red Crescent's existing programmes and community activities.

Progress/Achievements

A 3-day refresher training course on Red Crescent dissemination was conducted on 12-14 July for volunteers and workers from the CHT Development Programme. A total of 25 participants from different areas of three Hilly districts attended the course. The major events presented and discussed were: History and background of the RC/RC movement; Fundamental Principles of the Movement; Movement Emblem, components and Principles of International Humanitarian Law.

In the second half of July a week-long training of trainers course on First Aid was organized by the Youth and Volunteers department for the senior Youth members of various units. Several sessions were conducted by the departmental officers.

An annual plan on humanitarian values for 2004 was developed and incorporated into the Appeal 2004. The activities were identified in accordance with the guidelines of the global Federation's Humanitarian values program.

In September, a 3-day communication workshop, jointly organized by BDRCS and South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) was held in Rajendropur, near Dhaka. The workshop was facilitated jointly by the SARD Information Manager and BDRCS. A total of 32 participants attended the workshop.

Impact

The information department has continued to disseminate the principles and values of the movement among various categories of the staff and volunteers of the society. An appropriate plan was developed involving different stakeholders of BDRCS with focus on strengthening and extending the programme activities in the coming year. During the reporting period, through the implementation of activities a better line of communication with media has been established. Visibility of the Society's activities to the public has also been enhanced.

Constraints

BDRCS information, dissemination and humanitarian values continues to receive little or no donor support, seriously hampering the implementation of all planned activities. An additional impediment is the need to strengthen the management skills within the department, which, at times, creates further delays in the release of available funds.

Organizational Development (OD)

Goal: A principled, skilled and efficient National Society supportively linked to communities within which vulnerability is being progressively reduced.

Objective: The Bangladesh Red Crescent has moved towards becoming a well functioning National Society, with a national network of active Branches and volunteers carrying out activities in accordance with its mandate and principles and motivated to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Project: Leadership training

Objective: Reflecting the diversity of its membership base and the impartial inclusiveness of its mandate, governance of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has become more democratic and its integrity more transparent.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- The Movement's fundamental principles and values inform and reinforce all decisions of the national society's governing board and branch executive committees.
- Volunteer members of the national society's governing bodies, at all levels are well informed and highly motivated.

Progress/Achievements

The National Society organized a 'Constitution Review Workshop' on 20-21 June 2003 at BRAC Center at Rajendropur, Gazipur. The Chairman of the Constitution Review Committee, also the Member of the Managing Board, chaired the workshop. All members of the Managing Board attended including the Chairman of the Society. The Federation and ICRC facilitators made presentations on the Movement's approach to the Constitution and the Federation's 'Guidance for the National Society Statutes'. The recommendations of the workshop have been incorporated in the 7th draft of the Constitution resulting in the production of the 8th draft. At the end of July, the final draft was sent to the Joint Commission for approval.

Project: Programme management skills development

Objective: Bangladesh Red Crescent competencies in programme planning and management and the capacity of its branches to provide well managed and locally sustainable support to vulnerable communities are increased.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- Senior staff possessing significantly improved and expanded professional skills and regard systematic and routinely undertaken planning, monitoring and reporting as integral and indispensable management tools of all programmes.
- Well functioning, locally representative, inclusive and efficient branches serving skilled, committed and well organized local volunteer networks openly and effectively demonstrating the practical and social value of voluntary service.
- Organizational capacity increased for local fundraising and financial management.

Progress/achievements

As outlined in Programme Update 1, to enhance English language skills of the officers at the NHQ, the Planning and Development department engaged M/S Gateway Consultant Ltd, a reputed professional training institution for conducting the English Language Course. A total of 27 BDRCS officers successfully completed the two-and-a-half month course during the second half of 2003.

An initiative has been taken to develop the 2nd Five-year Development Plan of the Society. A half-day long workshop to initiate the process of the plan development was held on 8 June 2003 in the BDRCS Conference room. The workshop discussed the evaluation of the 1st Five-year Plan and suggested a Task Force take the initiative in the process of consultation with the various divisions and departments of the Society. Accordingly a Task Force was constituted.

The BDRCS training department conducted 10 training courses on Basic First Aid attended by 234 participants from different organizations during this reporting period. The department earned Tk. 168,775 (approx. CHF 4,000) through conducting these training sessions.

During the reporting period, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society with support from Federation delegation completed the appeal document for the international support for the year 2004.

The BDRCS organized a Gender Workshop from 9-11 September, 2003 with the support of SARD as their contribution for the capacity building of National Societies of the region. The workshop was facilitated by, Ms. Bala Shrestha from Nepal Red Cross Society.

The Planning and Development department translated the 2002 Annual Report of the Society from Bangla to English. An initiative has been taken to update and print the BDRCS brochure and a yearly magazine.

Special Package Programme launched for BDRCS Branch Development

As outlined in Programme Update 1, the Special Package Programme for Branch development was introduced during the second quarter. It is designed as a competitive programme between branches in order to get stakeholders to initiate branch activities on their own. All 68 branches of the Society would be included in the competition. Each branch would be teamed up with an officer from the branch or from the national headquarters.

The package programme is mainly based on a time-bound framework within which all prescribed activities are to be accomplished. An evaluation committee headed by the BDRCS Chairman including Board Members and Federation representatives will evaluate and measure the overall performance and select the best 10 Units, which will receive rewards for their accomplishments. An attractive package document has been circulated to all field Units. It is expected that the special package will guide the Branches to enhance their capacity to a great extent. Although the development package has been originally prepared in Bangla, the Society also produced an English translation in order to be able to share it with various donors thus attracting more support for the innovative development idea.

Project Communication and Advocacy Development

Objective: Increased public knowledge and understanding of the humanitarian policies, priorities, standpoints and programmes of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and of the Movement.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- increased capacity and competence for the timely preparation, publication and effective propagation of accurate and relevant information;
- enhanced communication skills and more effective advocacy and networking with external organizations and programme stakeholders;
- a widely known, regularly updated and frequently accessed ('hit') website of the BDRCS.

Progress/achievements

A 45-day Basic Computer Course for BDRCS senior managers was initiated on 31 July at BDRCS NHQ and successfully completed in September. A total of 17 directors and departmental in-charges were the participants.

Publication of a monthly BDRCS Newsletter initiated in April has continued. The subsequent issues for the month of June-September have been successfully published and circulated to different stakeholders, including participating national societies, the secretariat, and others at regional and national level.

The webpage has been established but is not fully operational due to a shortage of trained and skilled staff/volunteers. Further donor support will be sought in the 2004 Appeal to get the site up and running.

Project: Financial resource development

Objective: The Bangladesh Red Crescent's capacity to generate, access, mobilize and manage financial resources is increased.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- comprehensive and well developed fundraising strategies and related plans;
- increased and improved financial management and reporting skills enabling rapid, accurate and responsible processing of financial accounts related to donated funds;
- clear and transparent accounting practices and procedures;
- a regularly reviewed and updated database of actual and potential local donors facilitating a substantial increase in locally generated funds for a more self-reliant national society.

Progress/achievements

The Fund Raising department of the Society developed a numbers of souvenir items for fund raising purposes. A committee was constituted with a Managing Board member as the Convener and the concerned officials as members. The committee has already procured 5,000 note books, 500 pieces key rings and 200 small First Aid kits. Other items are in the process of development.

In addition, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organized and held a 4-day Fund Raising Workshop on 23-26 June 2003 supported by the South Asia Regional Delegation. The purpose of the workshop was to train participants from Units and NHQ in order to achieve more effective approaches for resource mobilization of the Society. The workshop was conducted by three external facilitators from the Delhi based “South Asia Fund Raising Group” who have considerable experiences in supporting voluntary institutions in developing their resource mobilization efforts. Participants were very actively involved during the workshop with frequent small group discussions and case study exercises. The training contributed to further strengthening and improving the skills and knowledge for resource mobilization particularly at the Branch level of the Society.

Project: Volunteer management development

Objective: The capacity of Bangladesh Red Crescent to attract, recruit and retain volunteers from all age groups and classes of society has increased.

Expected results for the objectives are as follows:

- revised BDRCS volunteer and youth policies and related guidelines;
- well trained, highly motivated and actively organized volunteers;
- an increased (and more socially, ethnically, generational and gender diverse) volunteer base; greater sense of common purpose between staff and volunteers;
- a revitalized RCY having a significantly increased membership of highly motivated and well organized youth volunteers.
- Increased BDRCS participation in public awareness campaigns related to vulnerability reduction.
- Solidarity networks formed with other youth organizations and innovative, creative linkages established with families of vulnerable communities.

Progress/achievement

Funding for this programme for the past 2 years has been provided through the Federation’s Capacity Building Fund. The Youth and Volunteers development section of the Bangladesh Appeal 2002/3 is in full compliance with the Strategy 2010 in developing better volunteer management. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society with its network of volunteers is determined to focus its training activities on the capacity building of RC/RC youth and volunteers. To make these volunteers more efficient, BDRCS needs to develop its capacity to manage, motivate and improve the technical competence of its complement of more than 63,000 volunteers, through the provision of appropriate and effective training.

- *Revised BDRCS volunteer and youth policies and related guidelines*

A workshop to review and reorganize the present structure of RCY and Volunteer policy was held at NHQ on April 8-10. At total of 44 volunteers from 20 branches and HQ volunteers attended the workshop which yielded good results. All volunteers and senior leaders of the RCY movement showed their commitment and motivation towards the National Society and contributed much to upgrade and reframe the BDRCS Youth policy. A draft Youth policy will be formulated and submitted to the Managing Board of BDRCS for approval.

- *Well-trained, highly motivated and actively organized volunteers;*

Two separate training courses on Fundamental Principles, IHL and First Aid were organized on June 17 -21 at BDRCS national headquarters. One training targeted RCY members while the second targeted teachers of schools and colleges. Participants came from 20 different branches with a total of 24 in each training session. The course evaluation revealed a high satisfaction level among participants who said they were now more motivated to work for the movement. These 48 volunteers and teachers are now able to provide basic first aid assistance knowledge to their communities, and disseminate the fundamental principles of the movement, International Humanitarian Law, and the history of Red Cross / Red Crescent movement.

- *Dissemination in National RCY Camp*

As outlined in Programme Update 1, this occurred at the 11th National Red Crescent Youth Camp held in January.

- *Mobile First Aid Team at NHQ*

A mobile first aid team was formed and organized by the Youth and Volunteers Department. An objective of the project is to disseminate the movements' fundamental principle and ideas through rendering first aid services with the participation of the RCY volunteers of NHQ. 12 mobile first aid posts were organized, consisting of 6 members each. These posts provide services to the traveling population in strategically important places considered to be high risk areas for traffic accidents.

Overall Impact of OD

Implementation of planned activities during the reporting period enabled further enhancement of capabilities of concerned personnel at both headquarter and branch level, significantly reflected in their branch management activities as well as in dealing with the vulnerable population of their respective areas.

The majority of planned activities during the reporting period have been accomplished. In particular, the launch of the 'Unit Development Package' has helped generate great enthusiasm at Branch level, leading to completion of the prescribed tasks which were mostly cross-cutting issues relating to the appeal activities. Branch development will remain a top priority for the rest of the year.

Constraints

Lack of human resource inhibits the National Society's ability to properly monitor the impact of the programmes.

Federation Coordination

The BDRCS has continued to receive support from the movement's national societies and international donor agencies.

Goal: A well governed, efficiently managed, widely respected and supported national society with a clearly defined vision of its role in the country, its obligations to the vulnerable and its responsibilities within the RC/RC Movement.

Objective: The Bangladesh Red Crescent has developed comprehensive and coherent strategies, plans and programmes understood and supported by other members of the RC/RC Movement.

Project: CAS development and PNS co-ordination.

Expected results for this objective are:

- a comprehensive five-year development plan consistent with the principles established in Bangladesh Red Crescent's CAS;
 - increased long-term support for Bangladesh Red Crescent priority programmes by Movement partners (ICRC and PNS);
 - a new constitution of the Bangladesh Red Crescent agreed and approved by ICRC and the Federation;
- increased capacity to rapidly deploy appropriately trained and internationally experienced staff in support of the development programmes and emergency relief operations of sister national societies.

Progress/Achievements:

The delegation has had excellent support from its Geneva desk and the SARD regional delegation with focus on the smooth transition being maintained with the Federation's new change process.

With assistance from ICRC/SARD and the Bangladesh delegation the BDRCS submitted its final approval to the movement's joint Constitution review committee in Geneva. Since their meeting in early September no feedback has yet been received.

Support from the Swedish, German and British Red Cross has enabled BDRCS to start the process in developing a new Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP), Disaster Management strategy. A Federation delegate from German Red Cross arrived in October and will be facilitating this process for the next 5 months.

German Red Cross bilateral health delegate continues to support the BDRCS in its Federation Mother and Child Health care programme.

The Head of Delegation facilitated a Japanese Red Cross BTC in late September. Meetings were also held at the Japanese Red Cross HQ in relation to ongoing support to BDRCS.

International Representation

Goal: Knowledge and awareness of the Federation and its policies among government, UN, non-governmental and other international development agencies are increased.

Objective: Greater external understanding and appreciation of Federation strategies are reflected in increased international support for the Bangladesh Red Crescent's programmes.

Project: International institutions and organizations

Expected results of the objectives are:

- more focused and effective promotion of the Federation and its policies in the international arena;
- delegation advocacy networks among international organizations extended to include all diplomatic missions, UN agencies and international NGOs operating in Bangladesh;
- the international humanitarian prestige of the Federation is formally acknowledged by the Government of Bangladesh and reflected in a signed legal status agreement;
- greater consistency of approach and action by international players involved in relief operations in Bangladesh;
- the Bangladesh Red Crescent is regarded as a centre of humanitarian excellence in the South Asia Region and knowledge and appreciation of its programmes among the Federation's member societies is increased;
- strengthened relationships between BDRCS and WFP, UNHCR and other UN agencies.

Progress/Achievements

Major achievement during this reporting period was the granting of a full diplomatic status agreement with the Bangladesh government. The agreement was signed at the ministry of Foreign Affairs in August 2003. This brought to fruition many years of negotiation with the Government of Bangladesh. This agreement will greatly assist the Movement's humanitarian work in Bangladesh.

Regular visits are maintained with our major donor embassies and others. There is close contact with UNDP, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, EC, ECHO and government departments. Regular contact with the Swiss Red Cross Dhaka delegation and the ICRC regional delegation in Delhi has continued.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

APPEAL No. 01.53/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

07.11.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'233'439	TOTAL COVERAGE 54.3%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				289'080		
AMERICAN - RC		22'926	USD	31'168	07.05.03	COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT
AUSTRALIAN - RC		5'025	AUD	4'128	14.04.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - RC		73'000	GBP	158'337	03.04.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	44'480	14.07.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	44'190	19.09.03	DISASTER MGT DELEGATE, OPERATIONAL COSTS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		30'000	GBP	66'285	19.09.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	22'095	09.10.03	BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOPS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CONSULTANT
DANISH - GOVT		2'367'000	BDT	56'718	08.01.03	PROCUREMENT 6'500 BLANKETS, INCL. TRANSPORT/DISTRIBUTION, DIRECTLY TO DELEGATION
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100'000	NZD	79'600	17.07.03	SAFE DRINKING WATER, LATRINES, TBA
SWEDISH - GOVT		450'000	SEK	72'000	23.05.03	REPORTING DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT		900'000	SEK	144'000	23.05.03	CBDP
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'000	23.05.03	CHT
SWEDISH - GOVT		600'000	SEK	96'000	23.05.03	CPP
SWEDISH - GOVT		750'000	SEK	120'000	23.05.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	32'000	23.05.03	CPP
SWEDISH - RC		120'200	SEK	20'735	24.09.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT DELEGATE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		108'000	USD	145'908	25.07.03	PURCHASE OF 7000 FAMILY KITS
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				75'800	07.04.2003	BANGLADESH - PBD005
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'582'524	CHF	48.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			47'803		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			15'441		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			109'240		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				172'484	CHF	5.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	