

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: MONSOON FLOODING**

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*This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### **The Situation**

Rainfall in Bangladesh, over the past two months, has been the heaviest in eight years. According to Bangladesh government officials, if the rain continues at the same level of intensity it could lead to severe flooding in many parts of the country in the coming weeks.

Although many parts of Bangladesh have been affected by this year's monsoon, according to the most recent reports from the field, the most affected districts are: Noakhali, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Netrokona, Kurigram, Rangpur, Ghaibanda, Sherpur, Mymensing, Jessore, Satkhira, Rajshahi, Barguna, Laximpur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali and Cox Bazar. At least 100,000 hectares of rice fields around the country have been inundated by the latest floods.

The local media is reporting that hundreds of thousands of people are marooned, and ten persons have drowned, out of which five were young children. According to information received from some members of the Disaster Emergency Group, of which Bangladesh Red Crescent (BRCS) and the International Federation are full members, damages caused by the rain so far are within the coping abilities of local communities. The overall situation is still not alarming and needs little or no intervention from outside the community at this point of time. Initial preparations for a potential major relief operation, however, are underway.

Rainfall in June was 24 times more than usual, breaking several flood protection embankments throughout the country. Over the last few days heavy downpours, and an onrush of water from the upper catchment area transformed the overall flood situation into a severe one. Rivers at all the points of Meghna and Brahmaputra basin continue to record elevating water levels. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecast predicts 10 to 20 percent more rain in July.

According to the 7 July, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) rainfall and river situation report, the Surma river at Sunamganj district is flowing 8.4 cm above the danger level. The Padma river also recorded increased levels at all points. In addition, the FFWC reported that out of 46 flood monitoring stations one point is



flowing above the danger level (Surma ), 36 points registered rising trends and 9 points displayed falling trends since Monday 8 July.

Floods frequently occur in Bangladesh when seasonal monsoon rains cause the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers and their tributaries to swell. This year's unusually active monsoon season in Bangladesh began at the end of April. Canals and low lying areas are already filled with water, and the soil is saturated and has lost its capacity to absorb any more water. Vast areas have already been submerged, partly due to the rain and partly by floodwater coming from Assam and Meghalaya states in India. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecast indicates that the heavy rainfall is likely to continue. In addition, floodwaters sweeping down the rivers from India (Assam, Bihar, West Bengal) would further increase the water levels in rivers, resulting in severe flooding by the middle of or end of this month

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has been in constant contact with its district units receiving information daily on new developments.

During the latter part of June, unusually heavy and persistent rains resulted in significant water logging in some northern districts of the country. The local inundation was limited in its geographic scope and did not give rise to any general need for emergency intervention. In response to a request for BRCS National Headquarters support, submitted by the BRCS Unit in Gaibandha district, a joint BRCS/Federation team was immediately dispatched to carry out a rapid appraisal and needs assessment. The assessment team concluded that there was a need to support local government initiatives addressing localized outbreaks of diarrhoea and other diseases generated by flood-induced contamination of drinking water supplies. Accordingly, a small part of the residual DREF allocation for Tropical Storms intervention (about CHF 1,500) was used to supply, equip and dispatch BRCS medical teams (each of which consisted of a doctor and a paramedic) to the affected district.

The BRCS has instructed its Community Based Disaster Preparedness Units to release the limited emergency relief funds currently available. In the meantime, the Rangpur and Noakhali units distributed a small quantity of relief items to flood victims.

The BRCS with support from the International Federation is closely monitoring the situation and also requested its Community Based disaster Preparedness Units to carry out needs assessment in the affected districts. Contacts have also been made with the local authorities for better coordination and information sharing.

## ***Needs***

At this stage there is no need for external assistance.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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

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