

# 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 TORNADO

Date : 08 March 2006

**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 183 countries.**

### In brief

This Bulletin (no. 02/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Bangladesh: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Mr. A.S.M. Akram, acting secretary general, email: [bdrcs@bangla.net](mailto:bdrcs@bangla.net), phone +88 02 9337314
- Federation Delegation In Bangladesh: contact Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai, head of delegation, email: [Selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org](mailto:Selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org), phone + 88 0171621615, fax: +88 02 9341631
- South Asia regional delegation in New Delhi: Mr. Bob Mckerrow, head of regional delegation, email : [bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org](mailto:bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org), Phone +91 11 24111125
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva: Mr. Jagan Chapagain, regional officer Asia Pacific department, email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org), phone +41 22 730 4316, fax: + 41 22 7330395 and Mr. Hiroto Oyama, Regional Officer, Asia Pacific Department, email: [hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org](mailto:hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org), Phone: + 41 22 .730 42 73; fax: + 41 22 7330395

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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The Situation

As reported in Information Bulletin 01, a devastating two minute long twin tornado swept over two south-western districts of Bangladesh, Bagerhat and Khulna, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March at 20:45 local time (14:45 GMT). The tornado that struck Sharankhola *upazila* (sub-district) in Bagerhat caused the deaths, injuries and damage to property.

This particular tornado affected more than 1000 families, killed four people, and injured over 500 people, of which 17 were severely injured. According to Sharankhola local authorities these people were rushed to the orthopedic hospital in a nearby district town of Bagerhat. Many others were given first aid by doctors in the village.

According to the media, the second tornado hit Bittibirala and Chandgarh villages in the Dumuria subdistrict of Khulna district at around 19:00 local time on the same day, 4<sup>th</sup> of March. It injured 12 people, damaged at least 50 houses and caused extensive damage to crops and trees.



In Bagerhat district, according to the joint Federation/Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) assessment team, most deaths and injuries were caused by flying debris and collapsed houses in the villages. Around 1000 houses were damaged, many completely destroyed. Hundreds of trees were uprooted and crops were destroyed. Damage was increased due to strong wind, rainfall and hailstones. No paddy crops have been damaged as the last harvest was finalized, however lentils crops worth 10m Bangladeshi Taka (CHF 192,000) have been damaged due to heavy rainfall and hailstone, according to local agriculturists.

Most people who have lost their houses have stayed in the affected area and are trying to renovate/repair their home houses with local resources (bamboo, wood, thatch materials etc.) Some of the partially damaged houses are already repaired. Most of the affected population's income sources are fishing, collecting wood from the forest, daily labourer, farming etc.

According to the BDRCS/IFRC assessment team the information regarding number of affected families/damage in Bagerhat district is showed below. (The information regarding Khulna district is based on local media information):

Summary of Damage

Events	Bagerhat, Sharonkhola	Khulna*	Total
<b>Death</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Injured</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>549</b>
<b>Name of Affected Unions</b>	<b>Dhansagar, Rayenda, Khontakata</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Affected villages</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Affected families</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1070</b>
<b>Full damage houses</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Partially damaged houses</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>670</b>

\* All information regarding Khulna district is based on local media information.

### Government/NGOs action

After the disaster the government immediately distributed 35,000 kg of rice among 600 affected families. Additionally, there were allocated 30 bundle (one bundle is seven sheets) of corrugated iron sheets to be distributed among the victims who completely lost their houses.

The BDRCS/IFRC assessment team did not find any other organization working in the affected areas at the time of their visit.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As an immediate response, the local Red Crescent unit in Bagerhat distributed 1,400 kg of rice from their local disaster emergency fund. This was distributed among 200 families in the local areas (known as "unions") of Dhansagar, Rayenda and Khontakata) on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

The BDRCS/Federation relief assessment team was sent early morning on the 6 March for a needs assessment in the most affected area, Sharankhola *upazilla* in Bagerhat. They returned to Dhaka yesterday. Based on the assessment teams report and recommendations, the BDRCS decided to additionally assist 350 families, whom have completely lost their houses, living in the three most affected areas in Sharankhola *upazilla*, Bagerhat. Distribution will take place on the 9 March and 350 "family kits" (containing basic household supplies) and 350 blankets will be distributed. These non-food relief items will provide for the basic requirement of the affected population.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Federation delegation are closely monitoring the situation.



[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)