

Information bulletin



Bangladesh: Cyclone AILA

Information bulletin n° 2
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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation for the time being. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will, however, accept assistance to provide support to the affected population.

The Cyclone AILA struck the south-western coast of Bangladesh on 25 May 2009, and according to information from the food and disaster management ministry, left up to 100 dead and thousands marooned in the coastal areas comprising six districts. The government and the navy, together with local administrations and non-governmental organizations, are assisting in the initial relief operation. Within hours of the cyclone making landfall, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) distributed cash, to its respective units to purchase dry food for emergency relief. BDRCS, in joint effort with the International Federation have mobilized assessment teams and further emergency response.

[<click here to view the map of the affected areas, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The Situation

The storm that ripped through the south-western coast of Bangladesh on 25 May and according to information from the food and disaster management ministry, left up to 100 dead and thousands marooned in the coastal areas comprising six districts. Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have since been advised to lower their respective warning signals.

Initial local media reports indicate that heavy rains coupled with gales flattened huge tracts of standing crops and washed away numerous fisheries. The rains also caused extensive damage to embankments in the coastal districts. According to the food and disaster management ministry, more than 800 people have been wounded and at least 58,450 domestic animals killed. River embankments broke and road networks, water systems as well as communications are hampered. The affected areas have been without electricity for over 24 hours. The national newspaper has reported that there is a scarcity of food, drinking water and medicines for those in cyclone shelters. Meanwhile, fears of an outbreak of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases are growing. UN World Health Organization has reported a total of 686 medical teams (doctors, health assistants) working in the districts of Satkhira, Kulna, Bagerhat, Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguan, Pirojpur and Patuakhali providing emergency medical care, mostly first aid.

The government has deployed military, navy and the Bangladesh Rifles to help local administration and non-government organizations in rescue and relief operations. Up to five navy ships have been working to bring people stranded in offshore islands to safety. Some 278 water treatment units from the army are in operation to deal with the shortage of safe drinking water. The government administration will distribute rice among the victims through vulnerable group feeding (VGF) cards. The government has an adequate stock of rice at every district, and up to 2,500 tonnes of rice and CHF 205,000 (Tk 1.23 crore) in cash have been sent to local administrations for distribution to supplement their existing resources. The government will not seek assistance from the international community as long as it can tackle the situation independently.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Within the first 24 hours of the disaster, the BDRCS distributed cash totaling BDT 30,000 (approximately CHF480) to each of its branches in Barguna, Bhola, Bagerhat and Patuakhali, BDT 20,000 to Chittagong,

Cox's Bazar, Laxmipur, Fenj and Noakhali, while BDT 50,000 (approximately CHF 800) will be sent to Satkhira, for the purchase of dry foods for emergency distribution. Furthermore, 2,000 water purification tablets and 5,000 oral rehydration solutions will be sent with each team. BDRCS also successfully raised BDT 40,000 (approximately CHF 640) and used it to provide cooked food to 3,700 people.

The International Federation is coordinating with BDRCS and the cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) in regular meetings, and teams have been mobilized to assist BDRCS in assessments and other forms of emergency response. The International Federation's country office is also in contact with the South Asia regional office and the Asia Pacific Zone office for further support if needed. In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also coordinating with BDRCS and has mobilized a tracing team to support the National Society in tracing activities. Regular coordination meeting between the International Federation, BDRCS, CPP and partner national societies are ongoing.

At time of reporting, a total of six teams consisting of BDRCS and International Federation staff were formed to assess the damage at the six affected districts of Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira, as well as one tracing team to support the missing family members are in the field and are sending reports of their assessments, complementing the reports from the BDRCS CPP and district unit offices. Preliminary information from the assessment teams matches government figures to date. Based on ongoing assessment reports, a decision has been taken to allocate the following non-food items by the BDRCS and the International Federation:

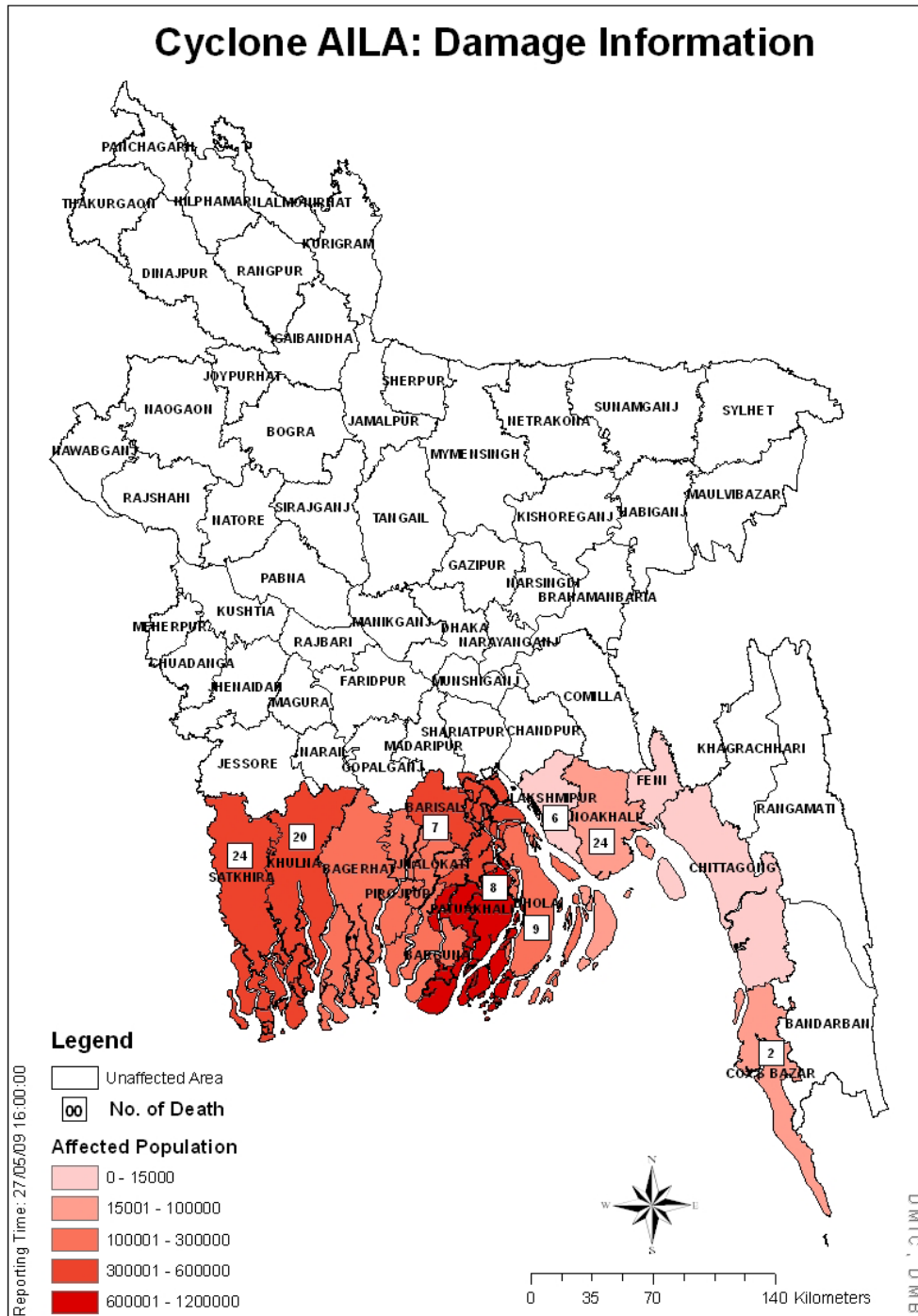
Table 1: Allocation of non-food items to the affected families

Item	Allocation per family	Total	NHQ Stock	Barisal warehouse
Blanket	2	16,000	900	15100
Saree	2	16,000	6,500	9,500
Lunge	2	16,000	4,300	11,700
Plastic sheet	1	8,000	0	8,000
Jerry can	1	8,000	0	8,000
Hygiene parcels	1	8,000	0	8,000
Oral rehydration salts	10	80,000	0	80000
Water purification tablets	20	160,000	160,000	0
Clothing	2	16,000	16,000	0
Tent				800

Table 2: Tentative plan prepared by the BDRCS and the International Federation to reach the affected families

Cyclone AILA Operation 2009							
Sl.	Affected district	No. affected population	No. of affected families	10% of total affected families	No. of families to be provided with NFI	Cash for NFI and food per unit by BDRCS (BDT)	Tents' allocation per unit
1	Barisal	309,215	55,722	5572	1,000	30,000	100
2	Bhola	150,000	30,000	3,000	1,000	30,000	100
3	Pirojpur	300,000	60,000	6,000	1,000	30,000	100
4	Patuakhali	1,150,153	268,114	26,811	1,000	30,000	100
5	Barguna	350,000	81,300	8,130	1,000	30,000	100
6	Khulna	334,610	66,922	6,692	1,000	30,000	100
7	Bagerhat	230,022	53,315	5,332	1,000	30,000	100
8	Satkhira	175,000	35,000	3,500	1,000	50,000	100
9	Chittagong	12,500	2,712	271		20,000	

10	Cox'sBazar		5,974	597		20,000	
11	Laxmipur	7,206	1,390	139		20,000	
12	Feni	6,800	1,700	170		20,000	
13	Noakhali	120,00	2,400	240		20,000	
Total		3,037,506	664,549	66,455	8,000	360,000	800



Source: The Disaster Management Information Centre is the information hub of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management for risk reduction, hazard early warnings and emergency response and recovery activities

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Bangladesh:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Mr. M. Shafiul Alam, Secretary General, email: bdrcs@bangla.net, phone: +88.02.935.2226.
- In Bangladesh: International Federation country office, Mr. Udaya Regmi, Head of country office, email: udaya.regmi@ifrc.org, phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631.

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



Bangladesh: Tropical Cyclone Aila

