

BANGLADESH: FLOODS

9 November 2000

appeal no. 20/2000

situation report no. 7

period covered: 20 October - 8 November 2000

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), supported by the Federation, is at the forefront of initiatives to assist the most vulnerable victims of floods and river erosion. To date, the BDRCS has distributed 1,044 MT of food, of which 660 MT were allocated to the six worst affected western districts which were inundated in September by surges of water gushing from West Bengal in India. Between 26 October and 2 November, an inter-agency assessment of needs was carried out and confirms that relief will continue to be indispensable for the survival of hundreds of thousands of families who have lost their homes and their livelihoods. Major needs are food and non-food relief items, medicines, health care and water and sanitation.

The context

In addition to early monsoonal flooding and subsequent river erosion caused by water draining from north-east India, Nepal and Bhutan into the Bay of Bengal, severe flooding in the western districts of Bangladesh has increased the number of those affected to more than four million. Flooding in the western districts, the most recent phase of the disaster, occurred on 22 September as massive inflows of water from West Bengal in India surged into the region, presenting the people of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) with their most formidable challenge this year. There is no end in sight to the misery of the more than three million affected by the flooding in nine western districts as the water is draining away at a slow pace and over one million people are not yet able to return to the sites of their former homes.

Latest events

The latest available figures show that in the six worst hit western districts: Satkhira, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur the affected population is 2,467,138, the number of houses which are completely destroyed stands at 500,074 and 231,385 houses are damaged. 385,398 acres of crops have been damaged. Ten villages in four unions in Assasuni and Debhata Upazilas were inundated on 4 November following breaches in the Sonai and Ichhamoti river embankments in Satkhira, forcing the evacuation of around 2,000 families. In general, water levels are receding but at a very slow pace, largely as a result of man-made obstructions in the few natural drainage passages of the region. In many areas, families have been able to return to what is left of their homes but in other cases this will not be possible for weeks or even months.

Between 26 and 29 October, Bangladesh was hit by a deep depression which created heavy storms causing serious cyclonic type damage to the coastal region, and moderate to light damage in the northern part of the country. On 28 October, winds of over 100 kph were recorded and some 250 mm of rain fell in the worst-affected areas, raising water levels in the flooded western districts by 30 cm. In these districts, the impact was severe with hundreds of thousands of families losing the temporary shelters in which they were taking refuge following the surge of flood waters from West Bengal. Furthermore, tidal surges of between two and four feet forced water up estuaries and caused flooding. The islands of Sandwip and Hatiya in the Bay of Bengal were inundated yet again by these surges with the main town of Sandwip flooded with four feet of water. Other damage included uprooted trees, major damage to standing crops, widespread power disruptions and, perhaps most significantly, huge losses of housing. The delegation confirmed from the field that in Satkhira District much of the roadside temporary shelter, the dwelling places of more than 200,000 people displaced from their homes by the flooding, had been blown away.

Inter-agency post-floods needs assessment report •

On the initiative of the World Food Programme (WFP), a team was dispatched to the western districts from 26 October to 2 November to assess the situation and needs of the flooded area. The team was composed of representatives from WFP, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, DFID, EC, FAO, UNCHS, World Bank, ADB, the Netherlands Embassy, CARE and the Federation, represented by the relief delegate and the relief programme officer.

The Federation delegation was able to assist the assessment team in accomplishing its mission as a result of extensive pre and post floods experience gained by the delegation in the area. The work of the BDRCS was singled out as having been the most timely and effective. Additionally, the team had several opportunities to see BDRCS relief distributions and was impressed with the organisation, commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers. Statistics gathered during the assessment mission may be summarised as follows:

Summary of Estimated Flood Damage								
District/Upazilla	Union		Population		Affected houses			Affected crops in Acres
	Total	Affected	Total	Affected	Full	Part	Total	
Satkhira								
Assasuni	11.00	2.00	250,000	28,636	5,650	2,980	8,630	10,443
Debhata	5.00	2.00	113,000	41,305	5,650	3,850	9,500	8,838
Kolaroa	12.00	12.00	209,583	171,000	24,334	9,202	33,536	25,441
Kolaroa Pourashava			22,417	14,000	1,603	610.00	2,213	1,643
Satkhira	14.00	12.00	390,000	266,132	22,449	18,211	40,660	28,950
Satkhira Pourashava			112,570	90,326	6,294	10,292	16,586	4,030
Tala	12.00	4.00	285,000	32,725	1,380	1,560	2,940	6,455
Total	54.00	32.00	1,382,570	644,124	67,360	46,705	114,065	85,800
Jessore								
Chowgacha	11.00	11.00	209,000	34,000	1,058	2,252	3,310	14,172
Jikargacha	12.00	12.00	272,000	175,398	18,612	24,650	43,262	31,900
Keshabpur	9.00	2.00	230,000	13,500	565.00	300.00	865.00	3,318
Monirampur	17.00	3.00	375,000	34,455	1,612	2,902	4,514	9,270
Sarsha	11.00	11.00	309,510	300,997	193,177	19,949	213,126	58,068
Total:	60.00	39.00	1,395,510	558,350	215,024	50,053	265,077	116,728
Jhenaidah								
Kotchandpur	5.00	5.00	83,537	41,678	8,939	18,193	27,132	4,543
Kotchandpur Pourashava			23,615	8,615	1,602	3,007	4,609	353.00
Moheshpur	12.00	12.00	306,667	236,841	100,000	27,800	127,800	56,231
Moheshpur Pourashava			24,737	14,845	6,000	1,200	7,200	1,632
Total:	17.00	17.00	438,556	301,979	116,541	50,200	166,741	62,759
Kushtia								
Bheramara	6.00	6.00	126,338	9,182	150.00	2,500	2,650	1,828
Daulatpur	14.00	14.00	360,706	116,500	255.00	10,800	11,055	4,409
Kumarkhali	11.00	8.00	309,000	32,000	45.00	4,145	4,190	617.00
Kustia	14.00	8.00	424,000	22,700	300.00	1,500	1,800	12,646
Mirpur	12.00	12.00	271,915	78,000	2,015	4,480	6,495	3,930
Total:	57.00	48.00	1,491,959	258,382	2,765	23,425	26,190	23,430
Chuadanga								
Alamdanga	13.00	2.00	286,000	24,000	190.00	270.00	460.00	2,730
Chuadanga *	8.00	5.00	261,000	106,155	6,134	9,254	15,388	3,807
Damurhuda *	8.00	8.00	331,696	219,500	50,140	31,823	81,963	32,573
Jibannagar *	5.00	5.00	159,411	135,548	33,420	7,950	41,370	23,267
Total :	34.00	20.00	1,038,107	485,203	89,884	49,297	139,181	62,377
Meherpur								
Gangni	9.00	9.00	229,138	64,375	1,917	2,861	4,778	9,500

Meherpur Pourashava			26,712	8,870	603.00	1,137	1,740	455.00
Mujibnagar	4.00	4.00	75,455	62,980	2,560	4,580	7,140	10,762
Total :	18.00	18.00	491,917	219,100	8,500	11,705	20,205	34,304
Grand Total :	240.00	174.00	6,238,619	2,467,138	500,074	231,385	731,459	385,398

Population Requiring Support for Rehabilitation and Recovery							
District/Upazilla	Population		Affected households	Affected houses			Affected crops in Acres
	Total	Affected		Full	Part	Total	
Jessore							
Chowgacha	209,000	34,000	7,138.00	1,058	2,252	3,310	14,172
Keshabpur	230,000	13,500	2,700.00	565.00	300.00	865.00	3,318
Monirampur	375,000	34,455	8,885.00	1,612	2,902	4,514	9,270
Total:	814,000.00	81,955.00	18,723.00	4,260.00	7,331.00	11,591.00	26,760.00
Jhenaidah							
Kotchandpur	83,537	41,678	8,335.00	8,939	18,193	27,132	4,543
Kotchandpur Pourashava	23,615	8,615	1,723.00	1,602	3,007	4,609	353.00
Total:	107,152.00	50,293.00	10,058.00	10,541.00	21,200.00	31,741.00	4,896.00
Kushtia							
Bheramara	126,338	9,182	1,800.00	150.00	2,500	2,650	1,828
Daulatpur	360,706	116,500	25,200.00	255.00	10,800	11,055	4,409
Kumarkhali	309,000	32,000	4,190.00	45.00	4,145	4,190	617.00
Kustia	424,000	22,700	4,540.00	300.00	1,500	1,800	12,646
Mirpur	271,915	78,000	5,690.00	2,015	4,480	6,495	3,930
Total:	1,491,959	258,382	41,420.00	2,765	23,425	26,190	23,430
Chuadanga							
Alamdanga	286,000	24,000	4,500.00	190.00	270.00	460.00	2,730
Chuadanga *	261,000	106,155	20,649.00	6,134	9,254	15,388	3,807
Damurhuda *	331,696	219,500	42,924.00	50,140	31,823	81,963	32,573
Jibannagar *	159,411	135,548	28,618.00	33,420	7,950	41,370	23,267
Total :	1,038,107	485,203	96,691.00	89,884	49,297	139,181	62,377
Meherpur							
Gangni	229,138	64,375	12,875.00	1,917	2,861	4,778	9,500
Meherpur	160,612	82,875	16,575.00	3,420	3,127	6,547	13,587
Meherpur Pourashava	26,712	8,870	1,754.00	603.00	1,137	1,740	455.00
Mujibnagar	75,455	62,980	12,596.00	2,560	4,580	7,140	10,762
Total :	491,917	219,100	43,800.00	8,500	11,705	20,205	34,304
Grand Total :	3,943,135.00	1,094,933.00	210,692.00	115,950.00	112,958.00	228,908.00	151,767.00

Population Requiring Continued Relief Assistance							
District/Upazilla	Population		Affected households	Affected houses			Affected crops in Acres
	Total	Affected		Full	Part	Total	
Satkhira							
Assasuni	250,000	28,636	5,702.00	5,650	2,980	8,630	10,443
Debhata	113,000	41,305	9,280.00	5,650	3,850	9,500	8,838
Kolaroa	209,583	171,000	36,843.00	24,334	9,202	33,536	25,441
Kolaroa Pourashava	22,417	14,000	3,157.00	1,603	610.00	2,213	1,643
Satkhira	390,000	266,132	48,721.00	22,449	18,211	40,660	28,950
Satkhira Pourashava	112,570	90,326	25,347.00	6,294	10,292	16,586	4,030
Tala	285,000	32,725	9,050.00	1,380	1,560	2,940	6,455
Total	1,382,570	644,124	138,100.00	67,360	46,705	114,065	85,800

Jikargacha	272,000	175,398	76,026.00	18,612	24,650	43,262	31,900
Sarsha	309,510	300,997	34,930.00	193,177	19,949	213,126	58,068
Total:	581,510.00	476,395.00	110,956.00	20,224.00	27,552.00	47,776.00	89,968.00
Jhenaidah							
Moheshpur	306,667	236,841	40,507.00	100,000	27,800	127,800	56,231
Moheshpur Pourashava	24,737	14,845	3,710.00	6,000	1,200	7,200	1,632
Total:	331,404.00	251,686.00	44,217.00	106,000.00	29,000.00	135,000.00	57,863.00
Grand Total :	2,295,484.00	1,372,205.00	293,273.00	193,584.00	103,257.00	296,841.00	233,631.00

Source: Inter-Agency post-flood needs assessment mission report (draft).

The recommendations of the assessment mission are as follows:

Additional relief assistance should be provided urgently to avoid a serious humanitarian problem and the very real possibility of large numbers of deaths, especially amongst small children. Some 1.4 million people in 8 Upazilas: Assassuni, Debhata, Kalaroa including the pourashava, Satkhira including the pourashava and Tala in Satkhira District, Sharsha and Jhikargacha in Jessore District and Moheshpur including the pourashava in Jhenaidah District require immediate relief. The most urgent needs are for food, blankets, polythene, and clothing for adults and children.

Provision of outreach health services should continue, as should the provision of fresh water. In some situations, fuel may need to be provided. Additional supplies of antibiotics and safe birthing supplies are urgently required by health centres.

Urgent repairs to existing sanitation facilities in flood shelters are required. Where possible, additional latrines should be constructed in shelters which continue to house displaced people.

Regular monitoring of the rate of drainage of water should be maintained, using both remote sensing (satellite) techniques and spot checks via a float plane and field visits, to ensure that the continued provision of relief assistance does not discourage people from returning to their home areas as soon as possible. If water has not drained away by mid January, planting of the Boro crop may not be possible - in that case relief food aid may have to be provided through to the next Aman harvest (November 2001).

A risk analysis should be carried out, taking into account all the relevant factors to determine the likelihood of recurrence of such unusual floods and so assess the cost-effectiveness of proposals to prevent or mitigate the effects of another such flood. The risk analysis should indicate the probability of a similar event occurring within 5, 10, 20, 30 or 50 years.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

As of 8 November, a total of 1,044 MT of food purchased by the Federation had been sent to units for distribution:

District/Unitwise allocation and distribution of relief materials.

Sl. No.	Districts/ Units	Relief Materials (metric tonnes)				
		Rice	Lentils	Flattened rice	Molasses	Total
1	Satkhira	120.00	22.00	50.00	10.00	202.00
2	Chuadanga	75.00	12.00	15.00	3.00	105.00
3.00	Meherpur	65.00	10.00	15.00	3.00	93.00
4	Jessore	95.00	17.00	30.00	6.00	148.00
5.00	C. Nawabganj	40.00	8.00	20.00	4.00	72.00
6.00	Kushtia	35.00	7.00	10.00	2.00	54.00
7.00	Jhinaidah	40.00	6.00	10.00	2.00	58.00
8.00	Magura	10.00	2.00			12
9.00	Rajshahi Zila	20.00	4.00	5.00	1.00	30.00
10.00	Kurigram	20.00	4.00			24
11.00	Lalmonirhat	20.00	4.00			24
12.00	Nilphamari	20.00	4.00			24
13.00	Gaibandha	20.00	4.00			24
14.00	Bogra	20.00	4.00			24
15.00	Pabna	20.00	4.00			24
16.00	Sirajgonj	20.00	4.00			24
17.00	Tangail	20.00	4.00			24
18.00	Munshigonj	20.00	4.00			24
19.00	Chandpur	20.00	4.00			24
20.00	Shariatpur	20.00	4.00			24
21.00	CCMC Jessore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		720.00	132.00	160.00	32.00	1,044.00

Source: BDRCS Relief Control Room & Relief Department as of 8 November 2000

Of this nationwide total, 660 MT have been distributed in the six worst-hit western districts. A further order of 500 MT of rice and 100 MT of lentils has been placed with suppliers for further distribution to the most vulnerable in the western districts. A government godown (warehouse) in Jessore has been made available, free of charge, to hold these materials. This aid will go directly from the supplier to the Jessore godown and will start to be delivered on 13 November. All relief items for the western districts are being channelled through the Control, Coordination and Monitoring Centre at the local BDRCS unit in Jessore.

Fourteen medical teams continue to be deployed in the western districts as follows: three in both Satkhira and Jessore, two in Chapai-Nawabganj, Meherpur and Chuadanga, and one each in Jhinaidah and Kushtia. Each medical team consists of a doctor, a paramedic, a male Red Cross youth (RCY) volunteer and a female volunteer. Each team is equipped with basic medicines and also oversees the distribution of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and water purification tablets (WPT).

Outstanding needs

The appeal coverage currently stands at 46% and contributions are urgently needed in order to continue to provide vital food and non-food assistance to the most vulnerable of the flood-affected.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The BDRCS/Federation continues to liaise with governmental agencies, UN bodies, ECHO, other NGOs, diplomatic missions and the media. The National Society and the Federation also played a key role in the recent inter-agency assessment mission.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The situation in the western districts has stabilised but remains grave. Although water levels are receding, this is taking place very gradually. A significant demand for relief is likely to continue for months to come as many people cannot commence rehabilitation until the water has drained from the sites of their houses. Work and income will be very hard to come by for many, creating further hardship. As a result, continuing efforts will be needed by the BDRCS over future months if the National Society is to carry out its mandate to come to the aid of the most vulnerable.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

BANGLADESH - FLOODS 2000						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No.20 /2000					PLEDGES RECEIVED	
						11/09/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,796,936		TOTAL COVERAGE 46.0%
AUSTRIAN - RC		25,000	EUR	38,933	20.09.00	
BRITISH - RC		45,000	GBP	113,400	25.08.00	
BRITISH - RC		55,000	GBP	142,450	25.08.00	FOOD & OPERATIONAL NEEDS
CANADIAN - RC		20,000	CAD	23,068	15.09.00	
DANISH - RC		277,500	DKK	56,777	16.10.00	
FINNISH - RC		33,637	EUR	52,864	24.08.00	
FINNISH - RC		50,456	EUR	77,087	27.10.00	
GERMAN - PRIVATE/RC		400,000	DEM	312,440	23.10.00	
HONG KONG - PRIVATE		100,000	BDT	3,284	20.09.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	22.09.00	
IRANIAN - RC		50,000	USD	88,675	24.10.00	
JAPANESE - RC				162,000	24.08.00	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				20,000	25.08.00	
KUWAIT - RC		7,500	USD	13,301	01.11.00	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				50,000	02.10.00	
LUXEMBOURG - GOVT		5,000,000	LUF	189,340	10.10.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,250,000	SEK	233,875	18.08.00	FLOOD RELIEF OPERATION
SWISS - GOVT				100,000	11.10.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,681,789	CHF	44.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
IRANIAN - RC		37,169	USD	63,652	23.09.00	TENTS, BLANKETS, RICE, TEA, OIL, CLOTHES, SLIPPERS, SOAP
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				63,652	CHF	1.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PBD526						