

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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 FLOODS

Preliminary Appeal
no: 21/2002
7 August, 2002

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 178 countries.

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IN BRIEF

THIS PRELIMINARY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,076,000 (USD 1,393,555 or EUR 1,422,852) IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES TO ASSIST 150,000 BENEFICIARIES OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS

This evolving flood situation is clearly regional in nature; the Federation's response strategy and support to the respective national societies is, however, specifically designed to respond in each affected country by launching separate appeals as needs evolve. Due to the nature of the disaster, the authorities and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and Federation will continue their assessments and modify the response according to the evolving needs. In case of any major developments the International Federation is prepared to revise this appeal in co-ordination with the BDRCS. The overall relief response in Bangladesh, India and Nepal are co-ordinated by the Federation's Asia & Pacific Department (the Secretariat) and its South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD), with the technical support of the Federation's Disaster Management and Co-ordination (DMC) Division.

Situation

This year's monsoon season in south Asia arrived very early, and, as in year's past, Bangladesh is particularly facing the brunt of the impact from the onrush of water from neighboring states in India, a situation which is compounded by high tides in the Bay of Bengal. Over 30 of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been affected by the flash floods and river bank erosion brought on by exceptionally heavy torrential rains and the rush of water from India.

Although the disaster situation has been gradually developing over the last four weeks, it has rapidly deteriorated during the last week, with 3.5 million of people affected in the northern, northeastern, eastern, central and southeastern districts of Bangladesh. Many of the affected people have been living in extreme conditions in temporary shelters located on river embankments, chars (small islands



created by river erosions) spars of land, roadways, rooftops, or any high ground available. The sanitary situation in these temporary shelters is of particular concern.



Displaced people finding temporary shelters on river embankments, rooftops or any high ground areas

below the poverty line, scarcity of food among the low income and unemployed is increased suffering throughout the affected districts. Safe drinking water is in critically limited supply in most places as the ongoing flood situation continues to further damage tube-wells and contaminate other water sources. Outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, and dengue fever have been reported. With the widespread damage to crops, the prices of basic food commodities has increased, with a disproportionately high impact on the poor and vulnerable groups.

.Although the upstream portions of swollen rivers are now receding, it may take several weeks before the affected families return to their homes. At the same time the rivers downstream are rising. The continued erosion of river banks is posing a serious threats to the vulnerable population in low lying areas in the central and eastern districts. As a result, even more people are likely to be affected.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Bangladesh, the situation is expected to remain critical over the coming days and weeks in the country's central areas, especially in the vast slum areas of the capital and surrounding districts.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation will provide emergency relief assistance to six of the most affected districts of: Gaibhanda and Bogra in the north-central area, Jamalpur in the north-east, Sirajganj in the central, and Shariatpur and Noakhali in the south-east of Bangladesh. The following table summarizes the most recent information generated from assessments undertaken by the district government representatives (District Relief and Rehabilitation Office - DRRO):

District *	Total families affected	Total individuals affected	Total houses damaged/ destroyed	Total crops damaged/ destroyed (acres)	Total educational facilities damaged/ destroyed	Total roads damaged/ destroyed (km)	Total bridges damaged/ destroyed	Total embankments (km) damaged or destroyed
Gaibhanda	219'930	966'038	36'743	172'017	268	1'113	16	3'675
Bogra	40'137	192'961	20'423	35'880	170	100	63	60
Sirajganj	67'713	298'320	41'300	Not available	184	128	7	17
Jamalput	144'114	737'190	33'500	34'659	11	1'462		
Noakhali	108'277	429'725	10'312	74'307	472	2'643		
Shariatpur	2'306	13'405	4'747	146	Not available	Not available	2 (major bridges)	Not available
TOTAL	582'477	2'637'639	147'025	317'009	1'105	5'446	86	3'752

According to official figures from 2000, the total population of six districts was 10.1 million people. Information from the Shariatpur district is not completed as the assessment of damage is ongoing.

Needs

Immediate Needs

According to the initial assessments the primary needs of the affected population are as follows:

- **Food:** flash floods and river erosions occur suddenly and can be over in a matter of hours, but they leave a trail of devastation that seriously impact their victims in the short and longer terms. Even scarce food stocks that the most deprived population living below the poverty line might have had before the floods have been swept away. Food was accordingly specified as the top priority by most of the flood affected population interviewed by the assessment teams or District's Branches staff and volunteers. WFP representatives are also participating in the multi-sectoral Disaster Emergency Group (DER) assessment teams currently in the field.
- **Family Kits:** as flash floods arrive suddenly, usually washing away all property and belongings of the most vulnerable population, the distribution of family kits provides critical emergency assistance and vital psychological support to the most affected families.
- **Water purification tablets:** the flash floods contaminated a number of water sources and the provision of water purification tablets is of critical importance in order to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases in the affected districts.
- **Medical service:** in the initial stage of the operation several mobile medical teams will be organized in the affected districts to provide emergency medical services for one month in order to prevent possible outbreaks of waterborne diseases among the affected population.

Capacity of the National Society w

The BDRCS has 68 branches throughout the country with a membership of more than 350,000 people and 34,000 well-trained Community Based Disaster Preparedness volunteers in flood prone areas and 5,863 community volunteers in cyclone prone areas. The BDRCS has extensive experience in responding to flood emergencies and has developed its operational capacity through a number of extensive disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years. Its leadership, officers, and volunteers have wide-ranging operational experience in disaster relief which has been demonstrated in previous successful emergency operations and can rely on technical support from the Federation Delegation in Bangladesh as well as other Federation resources.

Capacity of the Federation w

The Federation delegation in Bangladesh is presently composed of four delegates (a head of delegation, an organisational development delegate, a finance/admin delegate, and a sub-regional reporting delegate) who have all been engaged in monitoring and responding to the situation. Two bilateral delegates (health and disaster preparedness) from the German Red Cross (GRC) have assisted in monitoring the situation in the field. Experienced local staff add considerably to the capacity of the Federation in Bangladesh. The delegation will be strengthened with two relief delegates.

Co-ordination w

The BDRCS, the Federation, and the GRC representative regularly participate in the Disaster Emergency Response (DER) group coordination meetings co-chaired by WFP and government representatives (Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief). A main priority of this group, beyond mounting and effective response and delivering timely assistance to the intended beneficiaries, is to avoid duplication of effort. Given the scale of the flooding in some areas and the continued threat posed by ongoing rain in eastern India and the Himalayas, the DER group met on 29 July and decided to activate a DER "Control Cell" (at the WFP office, linked to Disaster Management Bureau -DMB) and to form and dispatch six separate assessment teams to the northwest, northeast and south of the country (along the major rivers). The BDRCS, as a full member of the DER group, is actively participating in these assessment teams.

In terms of Federation coordination, the relief operations in Bangladesh, India and Nepal are co-ordinated by the Federation's Asia & Pacific Department (Secretariat) and its South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD), with the technical support of the Federation's DMC Division.

The Response so far

- ***Government action (with the UN, international organizations, and NGOs)***

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MDMR) approved the delivery of assistance and relief in the form of 630 metric tones of rice, small housing loans (1,000 BDT or approximately CHF 25) and clothing for destitute families of 15 flood affected eroded districts. Government authorities have also assigned army troops to provide assistance in eastern Bangladesh. Limited scale relief operations are being carried out throughout the country by various relief organizations, providing mainly emergency food relief to most vulnerable population in the most affected districts.

- ***Red Cross and Red Crescent Action***

CHF 170,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the immediate procurement of relief supplies (the DREF is funded primarily by the British, Australian, Japanese, New Zealand, and Swedish Red Cross, and the governments of Denmark, Britain, and the United States). The Disaster Emergency Group Flood Assessment teams are still in the field. Six teams are presently visiting the north, northeastern, eastern and central districts of Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the Federation head of delegation and the BDRCS Chairman have returned from their assessment mission carried out in the central, eastern, south eastern, and northern parts of Bangladesh. Based on their findings there is an urgent need for food, non-food and medical assistance in the six most affected districts of Gaibhanda, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Shariatpur and Noakhali.

The BDRCS and the Federation delegation are maintaining close contacts with all BDRCS district branches in the flood affected districts. The BDRCS national headquarters sent out an alert to all district branches at the beginning of July, calling on them to maintain close contact with the headquarters regarding the prevailing flood situation. The Branches were instructed to alert members and volunteers to get ready for a possible relief operation and to inform the national headquarters of their contingency plans.

At the beginning of this year, the BDRCS, for the first time ever, through its disaster preparedness program supported by the department for International Development (DFID), was able to establish its own buffer stocks consisting of 5,000 family kits. This supply proved to be an invaluable asset in case of an emergency response to sudden onset disasters in this disaster prone country. To date, the BDRCS has distributed 2,100 family kits, 5 tons of chira (flattened rice), 1 ton of ghur, 757 cartons of high protein biscuits, 150 sarees and 350 relief packages to a total of 7,100 families affected by this year's monsoon season in 16 districts in the north, northeastern, southeastern, eastern and central parts of Bangladesh. The distributions were carried out by the BDRCS Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) squads and Red Cross Youth volunteers. The most recent distribution was organized on 1 August where a limited number of relief items consisted of: family kits (1,100 pieces), high protein biscuits (162 cartons) were distributed among the most vulnerable population in the severely affected districts of Bogra, Sirajgong, Jamalpur and Gaibhanda. As the limited local fundraising by affected the BDRCS units and immediate distribution of collected/procured relief materials is being carried out, it is difficult to provide exact figures of assisted beneficiaries as the numbers are increasing on a daily basis.

The BDRCS, the Federation and the GRC have also set up a Task Force in order to further strengthen the operational activities of BDRCS national headquarters during the monsoon season.

The Proposed Operation

This Preliminary Appeal will meet the urgent food, non-food and health needs of 30,000 displaced families or 150,000 beneficiaries currently living on the river embankments, spars, roadways and chars in the six districts of Gaibhanda, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Shariatpur and Noakhali for a period of four months. While the exact

number of affected and the numbers of houses damaged or destroyed remains unconfirmed, it is evident that a significant percentage of the most vulnerable population have been affected, and that materials provided by this appeal will cover only a fraction of the actual needs.

Long experience with flood assistance operations in Bangladesh shows that it is essential to maintain a degree of flexibility in the geographical targeting of relief. While it is possible to specify which districts are in need of assistance at the moment, it is still possible that other districts might be affected later on. Donors are therefore encouraged to allow the Federation and the BDRCS flexibility in directing assistance as the need arises. Due to the nature of the disaster the authorities and the BDRCS and the Federation will continue their assessments and modify the response according to the evolving needs. In case of any major developments the International Federation is prepared to revise this appeal in co-ordination with the BDRCS.

Objectives and activities planned to reach the objectives w

Overall operational objective: To meet the urgent needs of 30,000 unassisted and displaced families currently living on the river embankments, spars, roadways and chars through the provision of basic food items, family kits, medical services and clean water supply for the period of three months.

Relief: distribution of food and basic non-food items.

Expected result 1: 30,000 displaced and unassisted families have received the complimentary food ration within the next four weeks.



BDRCS volunteers distributing family kits using boats to reach the most affected population in Sirajganj district

Through this appeal, the BDRCS and the Federation intend to assist 30,000 most vulnerable displaced families (approximately 150,000 people) by distributing emergency food supplies of 600 tons of rice, 120 tons of dal and 30 tons of cooking oil for an initial period of one month. Each affected family would receive a food ration consisting of 20 kg of rice, 4 kg of dal, and 1 litre of cooking oil. It is also anticipated that 1,000 tons of food donated by WFP to the Federation and the BDRCS will be distributed in the second phase of the operation once the government has approved its release.

Activities planned:

- Identification of most vulnerable beneficiaries using the “*BDRCS Disaster Relief Manual*” with special emphasise on gender and disability issues.
- Local procurement of 600 tons of rice, 120 tons of dal and 30 tons of cooking oil.
- Despatch and transportation by the BDRCS to the final destination.
- Assist the BDRCS to improve its management of warehouses and distribution structures.
- Distribution by trained Community Based Disaster Preparedness volunteers to the predetermined beneficiaries.
- Detailed reporting of the distribution.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by the BDRCS national headquarters and the Federation.
- Assist the BDRCS to strengthen the human and material resource capacities in the six district branches and national headquarters.

Expected result 2: 30,000 flood-affected families received family kits and emergency BDRCS buffer stock replenished over a period of four months.

Each family kit consists of: two aluminium cooking saucepans; one plastic mug and two glasses; two aluminium plates and spoons; one plastic bucket (12 lit.); two bars of soap; six candles and 12 matchboxes; one saree for women; one lungi for men; and one piece of plastic sheeting (18x12 ft.).

Activities planned:

- The beneficiary families supported by BDRCS with basic food items will also receive family kits.
- Local procurement of 30,000 family kits
- Storage by the BDRCS and transportation to the final destination.
- Distribution by trained Community Based Disaster Preparedness volunteers to the predetermined beneficiaries.
- Provide detailed reporting of the distribution.
- Assist the BDRCS and Federation to replenish buffer stocks used in initial relief efforts through local procurement of 5,000 family kits.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by the BDRCS and the Federation.
- Implement training as necessary for the operation.

Water and sanitation: Distribution of water purification tablets.

Expected result 3: 150,000 people in the six affected districts where water sources have been contaminated, have received water purification tablets within the four weeks of the beginning of the operation.

Activities planned:

- The beneficiary families supported by the BDRCS will also receive water purification tablets (i.e. 10 tablets per family per day).
- Local procurement of 20 million water purification tablets.
- Storage by the BDRCS and transportation to the final destination.
- Keep small quantity (2 mill) of water purification tablets stock at headquarters for the purpose of emergency interventions in the near future in other affected districts.

Health: Deployment of mobile medical teams.

Expected result 4: Within the first month of the operation basic medical services provided to the flood-affected population, preventing possible outbreaks of water borne diseases.

A total of 25,000 people, many of them also beneficiaries of the food and non-food programs, are expected to benefit from this program.

Activities planned:

- A total of six mobile medical teams would be deployed in each of targeted districts.
- Each team to be composed of a doctor, a paramedic, and a BDRCS volunteer and a female support staff.
- Procurement of most basic drugs for treatment of water borne and related diseases. BDRCS will purchase the medicines through WHO nominated pharmaceuticals.
- Assist the BDRCS to provide logistic, technical and administrative support by upgrading the basic office and communication equipment of its Relief Department.
- The medical service, focusing on waterborne diseases in the disaster areas, will be conducted in parallel with the food /non-food distributions.
- Implement training as necessary for the operation.

Monitoring and Evaluation w

The responsibility for day-to-day monitoring of the operation will be with BDRCS, primarily at the branch level but supervised closely by the BDRCS Relief Department from the national headquarters. The affected districts will be regularly visited by the joint BDRCS and Federation monitoring teams. In addition, the following specific activities and indicators will be used to monitor and evaluate the overall effectiveness of BDRCS and Federation flood relief activities:

- end-user monitoring through household level visits and interviews to be carried out by BDRCS volunteers;
- monitoring and final evaluation activities providing information on the effectiveness of the programs;

- clearly documented criteria as specified in the “*BDRCS Disaster Relief Field Manual*” regarding the selection of beneficiaries;
- distribution of relief items monitored to ensure that targeting criteria is respected;
- the situation in the field will be further evaluated through regular Federation Operations Updates.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

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All International Federation Assistance 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.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation web site.

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

Jean Ayoub
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Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX 1
<u>PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	,PPEAL No. 21/2002	
Bangladesh - Floods		
TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	
Food: cereals (750 mt of rice & lentils) and oil	450'000	
Medical & first aid	157'000	
Utensils & tools: 35,000 family kits	691'000	
Other relief supplies	50'000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		1'348'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Computers	5'000	
Office furniture & equipment	26'000	
Generators & lighting	5'000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management	140'000	
Technical support	42'000	
Professional services	46'000	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	125'000	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	112'000	
National staff	88'000	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Information expenses	18'000	
Administrative & general expenses	105'000	
External workshops & seminars	16'000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		728'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		2'076'000