

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

6 September 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. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

*Appeal No. 21/2002; Launched on 7 August 2002 for CHF 2,076,000 for four months for 150,000 Beneficiaries.*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 170,000*

*Operations Update No. 2 ; Period covered: 16 August - 5 September ;*

### IN BRIEF

*Appeal coverage: 60.4%*

*Related Appeals: Bangladesh 2002 Annual Appeal, no. 01.26/2002*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 822,717*

*Summary: With the monsoon anticipated to last until mid/late September and with rains in India continuing unabatedly, it is unlikely that there will be an early end to this emergency. As river levels have started to fall, the impact of river erosion has become more evident in many Districts. This phenomenon will generate further displacement of people to marginal land. As anticipated in earlier reports, many families that have returned to their homes are facing rehabilitation needs (repairs, recovery of tube wells and sanitation facilities) and the threat of waterborne epidemics. With large areas still under water, embankments and fields destroyed, opportunities to earn income remain scarce and food is still in demand. The Initial response to the Preliminary Appeal has been encouraging. However, if the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is to succeed in its goal of providing appropriate aid to 150,000 of those worst-affected and rendered most vulnerable by flooding and river erosion, there is a need for further support by donors.*



*Beneficiaries of BDRCS emergency relief operation waiting in queue to receive medical assistance - 22 August 2002.*

### Operational Developments w

This year, the monsoon arrived early in Bangladesh. Since late June, persistent and exceptionally heavy rains augmented by torrential outpourings from India have given rise to flash floods and extensive river erosion affecting nearly half of the country's 64 Districts. The situation deteriorated rapidly as August approached, by which time around it impacted directly on the lives of around 3.5 million of people. The plight of victims of flooding generated by river erosion continues. Of the many thousands living in precarious and squalid temporary shelter along elevated road embankments, on spars and chars, few have received any help - either from the government or NGOs.

As forecast in earlier reports, the monsoon became less active throughout the country during the last two weeks of August. Only sporadic, light to moderate rainfall has

been recorded. The level of the *Brahmaputra/Jamuna* and *Ganges/Padma* rivers continued to register falls at all points. Most of the tributary rivers of the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins have also receded. Of 46 monitoring stations, only one point recorded a rising level, while 43 points recorded a fall during the last week of August. Currently, all the rivers are flowing below their respective danger levels. Although river levels have been falling, extensive water logging continues and river erosion along stretches of the three main river basins has increased in severity. Every day, the local media reports new incidents of river erosion involving the loss of homes and livelihoods in different areas.

Once a phenomenon largely confined to the city of Dhaka, outbreaks of dengue fever are now occurring in many areas of Bangladesh. Ministry of Health sources indicate that (to date) more than 60 people have died and over 4,000 been hospitalised.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action w**

The BDRCS and the Federation delegation have continued to maintain daily contact with all BDRCS District Branches in the flood affected districts, particularly those targeted under this Appeal.

At the BDRCS National Headquarters, an *ad hoc* multi-sectoral emergency flood co-ordination committee, comprising the BDRCS (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Relief, Health, Logistics, Transport and Finance Department staff), the Federation delegation and senior local staff of the German Red Cross delegation has met regularly on a twice weekly basis. Its meeting facilitate comprehensive and timely access to up-to-date information, the identification and resolution of problems and collective expedition of ongoing flood relief operations.

Between 23-26 August, a joint assessment team consisting of representatives from the BDRCS national headquarters, the Federation delegation and (variously) the BDRCS Branches concerned, visited flood affected areas in the Districts of Noakhali, Shariatpur and Chandpur. The team's main priority was to undertake supplementary assessments of local conditions, with a view to identifying potentially changing needs in the post-flood period. A detailed report of the team's findings was prepared and discussed by the emergency co-ordination committee. It is envisaged that the findings will have significant impact on the planning process for *Phase II* of the emergency operation, particularly with regards to the District locations, numbers of beneficiaries and kinds of relief assistance that will need to be provided.

Responding to requests for assistance received from the BDRCS District Branches in Feni and Chittagong, a second joint assessment team was despatched from Dhaka (3-5 September) to assess the current situation and make recommendations regarding the possible inclusion of these Districts in *Phase II*. A detailed report will be prepared shortly.

Secretariat approval and release of CHF 170,000 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) facilitated immediate BDRCS deployment of six mobile medical teams and two internationally experienced BDRCS Relief Co-ordinators. Together with a 'local supply' framework agreement recently set in place by the delegation, it also allowed a rapid start to the process for procuring relief materials to be distributed in *Phase I* of the emergency operation. Equally rapid and generous response by sister National Societies has enabled the BDRCS and the Federation to complete the process for procuring emergency relief items (family kits, oil and dal) for 5,000 vulnerable families in each of the Districts of Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Sirajganj, respectively, during *Phase I*.

An MOU recently signed between WFP, the BDRCS, and the Federation and approved by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MDMR) was successfully activated by the issue (on 11 August) of a Government Order authorising the release to BDRCS of up to 1,000 mt of rice stored in government warehouses throughout the country. Acting on this, the BDRCS submitted a request for the immediate release of 300 mt of locally stored rice for distribution in the Districts of Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Sirajganj. Government Delivery Orders subsequently issued on 1 September are enabling BDRCS to collect proportionate quantities of rice from government warehouses situated close to the respective locations of relief distribution points in each of the three Districts.

Procurement and subsequent distribution of relief items associated with *Phase II* of the emergency operation will commence as soon as sufficient funds become available.

### ***Local monitoring, co-ordination and support***

The BDRCS Field Co-ordinators have been providing professional support of a very high standard to District Branches since the beginning of the operation. Currently, one Co-ordinator is based in Bogra to oversee implementation of the relief operation in Gaibandha and Sirajganj Districts and the other is based in Jamalpur, to assist the BDRCS Branch in that District.

Together with a senior member of the Delegation's local staff, a Relief Delegate seconded by the Japanese RC was deployed in Bogra District on 3rd September to provide further support and encouragement to BDRCS Officers and volunteers in their efforts to successfully implement *Phase I* of the relief operation.

### **Objectives, activities and results w**

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

In line with initial donor response to the Appeal, the relief operation has been split into two phases:

#### ***Phase I***

- Deployment of 6 mobile medical teams for an initial period of one month
- Assistance to 15,000 vulnerable families in the districts of *Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Sirajganj*.
- 5,000 families in each district to receive a family kit and a supplementary food ration (20 kg rice, 4 kg dal and 1 lt. cooking oil)

#### ***Phase II***

- Subject to sufficient funding and re-assessed needs.

The original intention was to provide emergency relief assistance in the districts of Bogra, Shariatpur and Noakhali. The BDRCS and Federation delegation have continued to monitor, assess and evaluate needs in these Districts through frequent field monitoring visits. It may be necessary to make adjustments to the original plan of action (particularly with regard to the selection of Districts to be assisted) if it becomes evident that the situation has significantly improved in some Districts since the beginning of July. Any change will be substantiated by detailed assessment reports.

In accordance with established Federation procedures, the ***procurement*** of 15,000 family kits, 15,000 litres of cooking oil and 60 mt of dal has been completed. Professional assessment of the quality of food items undertaken by the Crown Agents (a specialised quality control agency contracted by the Federation) has certified the quality of supplied dal and cooking oil as very good. The packaging process is in its final phase and the delivery of produced goods started taking place in the last week of August. To date, a total of 10,186 family kits, 60 mt of dal and 15,000 litres of cooking oil has been delivered to the BDRCS warehouse at its NHQ. Delivery of the remaining 4,814 family kits is expected to take place by 9 September 2002.

With active support from the local BDRCS Branches in the three Districts (Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Sirajganj), local ***warehousing*** space has been secured. In accordance with agreed distribution plans, the BDRCS organised primary ***transportation*** of relief goods to District locations by components of its own logistics fleet (six trucks, three pick ups) during the reporting period

#### ***Beneficiaries:***

Members of the Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) squads, Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers and Unit Executive Committees of the respective Districts carried out surveys and the selection of beneficiaries has now been completed in all three Districts targeted under *Phase I*. As anticipated, the BDRCS experienced several challenges/obstacles in identifying beneficiaries who fully met the criteria

profile laid down in the National Society's "Disaster Relief Field Manual". Given this, the early deployment of Relief Co-ordinators and subsequent field visits by the BDRCS Secretary General and Federation Head of Delegation proved to be very helpful to the branches in finalising beneficiary lists. All lists were compiled by 2 September and detailed distribution plans (with exact dates and places of distribution) have been established. The beneficiary lists will be shared with all relevant bodies (government, NGOs etc.) in order to avoid duplication of benefits.

### Relief: distribution of food and basic non-food items w

As the same beneficiaries targeted for emergency supplementary food assistance will also receive a family kit, it has been decided that the distribution of all items will take place simultaneously (food and non-food items together). Accordingly, a joint distribution plan has been prepared.

**Floods 2002 Relief Distribution - Phase I**  
**Time frame for distribution in all three districts: 5-20 September**  
**Bangladesh Red Crescent Society**

District	Sub-District	Beneficiaries	Relief materials				Remarks
			Rice (Kg)	Dal (Kg)	Oil (Ltr.)	F. Kits	
Jamalpur	Bakshibanj	500	10000	2000	500	500	All relief goods: 16.8 MT of Dal, 4,200 lt. Of Oil and 4,200 PCs of Family Kits for 4,200 families are delivered to the local RC Unit. The remaining goods for 800 families will be delivered one day before distribution (11 Sept 02)
	Dewangonj	700	14000	2800	700	700	
	Islampur	800	16000	3200	800	800	
	Sharishabari	800	16000	3200	800	800	
	Madargonj	600	12000	2400	600	600	
	Melandah	450	9000	1800	450	450	
	Jamalpur	1150	23000	4600	1150	1150	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>100000</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>	
Gaibandha	Sadar	1400	28000	5600	1400	1400	5,000 Family Kits, 20 MT of Dal and 5,000 lt. of Oil delivered to the local Red Crescent Unit.
	Palash Bari	350	7000	1400	350	350	
	Gobindagonj	200	4000	800	200	200	
	Sadullapur	200	4000	800	200	200	
	Sundargonj	800	16000	3200	800	800	
	Shaghata	500	10000	2000	500	500	
	Fulchhari	900	18000	3600	900	900	
	Municipality	450	9000	1800	450	450	
	Kurigram	200	4000	800	200	200	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>100000</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>	
Sirajgonj	Tarash	100	2000	400	100	100	Due to problems encountered in the process of beneficiary selection which has created slight delay in this district, only 3,000 family kits, 12 MT of Dal and 3,000 lt. Of Oil have been delivered to the local Unit. Remaining goods will be delivered according to schedule.
	Raygonj	100	2000	400	100	100	
	Belkuchi	200	4000	800	200	200	
	Cawhali	200	4000	800	200	200	
	Enayetpur	100	2000	400	100	100	
	Ullapara	100	2000	400	100	100	
	Kamarkhand	50	1000	200	50	50	
	Shajadpur	220	4400	880	220	220	
	Kazipur	130	2600	520	130	130	
	Sadar	3800	76000	15200	3800	3800	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>100000</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>15000</b>	<b>300000</b>	<b>60000</b>	<b>15000</b>	<b>15000</b>	

*Note: In case of political unrest in the country (Hartals - national strikes) possible delays in the distribution process could be expected.*

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

In accordance with BDRCS procedure, each beneficiary family head (or nominated representative) has been issued with a relief slip/card which clearly indicates the relief entitlement and the time and place of its distribution. Distributions will be carried out by RCY volunteers, supervised by Branch Officers and BDRCS

staff. The first distributions are scheduled to take place on 5th September in Jamalpur (TNO Office distribution point - 300 families) and Gaibandha (Fulchari distribution point - 700 families) and on 9th September in Sirajganj District (Tarash College distribution point - 100 beneficiaries).

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

Procurement of 15,000 family kits to be distributed during *Phase I* is completed. 10,186 family kits have already received in the central BDRCS warehouse in Dhaka and subsequently despatched to the affected Districts in advance of final distribution.

**Water and sanitation: Distribution of Water purification tablets**

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

To date, the WHO has donated more than 5 million water purification tablets to BDRCS. Each medical team has been provided with water purification tablets and ORS to distribute among people currently seeking medical assistance and to the general population in areas without access to safe drinking water in the affected Districts. Available stocks of water purification tablets - both in the field and at the BDRCS central warehouse in Dhaka - are considered to be sufficient for current needs.

**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 BDRCS Medical Relief Co-ordinator (MRC) was deployed in the field just a few days after the start up of the medical operation - in order to provide necessary support to six mobile medical teams, to monitor operation implementation, assess medical needs and to make recommendations for appropriate action in case of changing needs in particular Districts. The MRC has travelled frequently within and between affected Districts in which the mobile teams are deployed. Based on a report prepared by the Medical Co-ordinator and improvement in the general health situation in some Districts, a medical team initially deployed to Noakhali District was re-located on 19th August to the northern district of Kurigram, where the needs for emergency medical assistance are regarded as being much greater. Based on the same recommendations, a second mobile medical team (initially deployed to Shariatpur District) was transferred to Kurigram on 4 September, to assist their colleagues facing difficulties coping with all medical needs in this specific District.

Unlike the experience of previous flood operations (in which the majority of affected populations during both flood and post-flood periods were reported as suffering from diarrhoea and dysentery) the most prevalent ailments - particularly among women and children - are skin diseases, malnutrition induced anaemia, pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO), acute respiratory infections (ARI), gastro-enteritis and worm infection.



*The Bangladesh Red Crescent has dispatched six medical teams to the worst affected districts, each team is composed of a doctor, a paramedic, Red Crescent youth and female volunteers and medical supplies*

**Bangladesh Red Crescent - Emergency Medical Relief Operation 2002**

Particulars	Gaibandha (14-27 Aug)	Sirajgonj (14-27 Aug)	Jamalpur (16-28 Aug)	Bogra (14-27 Aug)	Shariatpur (14-28 Aug)	Kurigram (20-27 Aug)	Noakhali 14-19 Aug	Grand total
Diarrhoea	221	59		320	108	120	69	1,084
Dysentery	291	65		320	42	150	34	1,313
PUO/Fever	357	74		345	307	170	28	1,385
ARI	379	96		335	103	204	72	1,539
Skin Disease	508	71		408	294	249	79	2,193
Anemia/ Malnutrition	453	229	344	395	166	93	48	1,728
ENT	19	267		318	69	58	21	780
Worm	239	253		408	94	87	45	1,323
Eye	59	159		298	45	19	14	625
UTI	30	-		230	4	-	9	294
Peptic ulcer	243	158		330	177	71	11	1,128
Injury/First Aid	-	132	3	65	1	49	2	252
Others	9	142		225	123	163	1	1,197
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,802</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>3,997</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>14,841</b>

Note: 70 % of patients treated are women (39.94%) and children under 5 (31.0%)

Each medical team has been provided with essential drugs and basic equipment (BP machine, stethoscope, torch, hurricane lamp, some surgical instruments, savlon, gaze, bandages etc). Recent reports from the field indicate an urgent need for systemic anti fungal agents, antihistamine (histamine), paracetamol, metronidazol tablets and syrups, iron and folic acid, vitamin “B” complex, antacid and ranitidin.

A recently notified generous contribution to the Appeal from the Hong Kong Red Cross (specifically in support of emergency medical operations) will enable a one month extension in the field of at least two medical teams and the procurement of necessary medical supplies. A detailed list of WHO approved essential medicines has been submitted to HKRC for its consideration of a possible additional, ‘in-kind’, donation to BDRCS.

### Coordination w

The BDRCS and the Federation Delegation have continued to liaise with the governmental, local and international organizations, NGOs and national umbrella organizations such as the Disaster Forum and the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB).

The National Society and Federation continue to keep in-country donors and donor national societies informed about developments related to the relief operation

Regular Disaster Emergency Response (DER) Group meetings are attended by BDRCS and Federation representatives, in order to coordinate relief interventions among partners and avoid duplication of assistance.

### Advocacy/Public Information w

International and national media interest in the floods and associated Red Cross/Red Crescent relief initiatives has remained high during the reporting period - in which the Federation Head of Delegation, BDRCS Chairman and its Secretary General have been interviewed, variously, by the BBC ‘World Service’, CNN, and other broadcasters. Local media coverage (in Bangla and English) has also been sustained in many national TV and radio stations and newspapers.

### Outstanding needs w

With the monsoon anticipated to last until mid/late September and with rains in India continuing unabatedly, it is unlikely that there will be an early end to this emergency. As river levels have started to fall, the impact of river erosion has become more evident in many Districts. This phenomenon will generate further displacement of people to marginal land.

As anticipated in earlier reports, many families that have returned to their homes are facing rehabilitation needs (repairs, recovery of tube wells and sanitation facilities) and the threat of waterborne epidemics. With large areas still under water, embankments and fields destroyed, opportunities to earn income remain scarce and food is still in demand.

The Initial response to the preliminary Appeal has been encouraging. However, if the BDRCS is to succeed in its goal of providing appropriate aid to 150,000 of those worst-affected and rendered most vulnerable by flooding and river erosion, there is a need for further support by donors.

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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.*

*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's website.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

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<b>Bangladesh - Floods</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 21/2002</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				06.09.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>2'076'000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 60.4%</b>
BRITISH - RC		75'000	GBP	172'215	23.08.2002	
DENMARK (EMBASSY)		45'000	USD	67'500	01.09.2002	
FINNISH - RC		60'000	EUR	88'188	01.08.2002	
GERMAN - RC		222'022	EUR	325'091	16.08.2002	FAMILY KITS
JAPANESE - RC		69'700	USD	102'738	14.08.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		800'000	SEK	127'840	08.08.2002	RELIEF ITEMS, INCL. TRANSPORT & DISTRIBUTION COSTS
SWISS - RC				55'500	14.08.2002	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				939'072	CHF	45.2%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
JAPANESE - RC				30'000	28.08.2002	DELEGATE 6 MONTHS
BANGLADESH - GOVT / WFP	RICE	1'000	MTS	284'211	10.08.2002	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				314'211	CHF	15.1%