

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 10 October 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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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. 3 ; Period covered: 6 September - 10 October 2002;

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 78.6%

Related Appeals: South Asia regional programmes 01.24/2002

Outstanding needs: CHF 443,424

Summary: Donor response has been good. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society continues to maintain contact with flood-affected branches as they provide ongoing assistance to 75,000 beneficiaries. The planning and implementation of phase II of the operation has begun.



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. 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.

This year, according to the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), the floods have damaged infrastructures worth 1.91 billion TKO. (approx. CHF 51 million) across the country. With the Roads and Highways Department of Agriculture Extension (AD) and Dhaka City Corporation still taking the full picture

of damages the floods and river erosions had on the roads and croplands, the total amount of damages could be tripled.

During the reporting period, the monsoon has been less active. Light rainfall at few places along the Brahmaputra, the South Eastern Hill and the Meghna basins and light to moderate rainfall along the Ganges have been recorded. The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre ruled out any chances for further flood this year.

On 25 September 2002, a tornado of lesser intensity swept through the central-northern district of Bogra affecting 1,000 families from 17 villages. According to the reports, one person died, 20 were injured and more than 300 houses were swept away. The local authorities organized distribution of emergency food relief and small quantities of corrugated iron sheets and clothing to 410 most affected families.

Based on the request from the Bogra Unit, BDRCS headquarters decided to act immediately by providing an emergency assistance (family kits) to 300 families whose houses were totally destroyed, especially those who have received no assistance by government or any other agency.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

The BDRCS and the Federation delegation have continued to maintain daily contact with 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 continued to meet regularly on a twice weekly basis. Its meeting facilitated comprehensive and timely access to up-to-date information, the identification and resolution of problems and collective expedition of ongoing flood relief operations. The main topics discussed during those meetings covered updates on: funding status, medical teams, assessment teams, procurement, transportation, selection of beneficiaries, distribution process, finance, information/media coverage, possible donor visits etc.



Together with a 'local supply' framework agreement recently set in place by the delegation, it also allowed to continue a rapid process for procuring relief materials to be distributed in *Phase II* of the emergency operation. Equally rapid and generous response by sister National Societies has enabled the BDRCS/Federation to complete the process for procuring emergency relief items (family kits, oil and dal) for 13,000 vulnerable families in the Districts of Bogra, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Feni during *Phase II*.

Responding to a requests submitted by the BDRCS Bogra District Branch (25 September) for emergency relief assistance for the families affected by a tornado that swept through Bogra on the same day, a joint assessment team (out posted in Bogra district during the relief operation) was despatched to assess the situation and make recommendations. Based on the report produced it was recommended to distributed 300 family kits to those who have lost all their houses and belonging due to tornado. The distribution was finalized on 30 September.

Local monitoring, co-ordination and support

The BDRCS Field Co-ordinators have continued to provide professional support of a very high standard to District Branches through the operation. Currently, one Co-ordinator is based in Bogra to oversee implementation of the relief operation in Bogra, one Co-ordinator is based in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat (commuting) overseeing implementation in those two districts and in addition, one more Co-ordinator has been deployed in Feni, 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 has been deployed in Bogra District since 3rd September to provide further support and encouragement to BDRCS Officers and volunteers in their efforts to successfully implement *Phase I* (completed on 21 September) and *Phase II* (to be completed on 21 October) 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.*

The *Phase I* of the relief operation **has been successfully completed**. The last distribution under the *Phase I* took place on 21 September as per the original Plan of Action. A total of **75,000 beneficiaries** have been assisted.

Following activities have been achieved:

Phase I

- *Emergency relief assistance (food and non food items) was provided to 15,000 vulnerable families (approx. 75,000 beneficiaries) in the districts of Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Sirajganj.*
- Six mobile medical teams provided emergency medical services to approx. **42,000 beneficiaries** in the districts of Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Shariatpur, Bogra, Noakhali, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat during the two months period. The medical teams, initially deployed to Noakhali and Shariatpur districts, after the joint assessment mission confirmed that there was an improvement in the medial situation in those two districts, had been shifted to the northern districts of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat where the needs for medical assistance were much greater.
- 5,000 families (approx. 25,000 beneficiaries) in each district received a family kit and a supplementary food ration (20 kg rice, 4 kg dal and 1 lt. cooking oil)



Phase II

- The final planning for the *Phase II* has been carried out in parallel with the implementation of the Phase I through reassessment of needs. Changing needs have been identified through several BDRCS and Federation joint reassessment missions organized during August and September. The assessment teams visited the districts of Noakhali, Shariatpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Feni and Chittagong. Based on their findings and recommendation, it was jointly decided that the needs have changed and the situation has showed much improvement in the districts of Noakhali and Shariatpur, initially targeted under this appeal, and the districts of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Feni were in much greater need of assistance. Although Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts had been identified by the DER multi-sectoral assessment teams as those in great need of relief assistance - very limited assistance has been provided. Accordingly, an adjustment to the original BDRCS/Federation plan of action for the *Phase II* was made, in particular with regard to the selection of Districts to be assisted, as it became evident that the situation has significantly improved in some Districts since the beginning of July.

The joint Emergency Flood Co-ordination Task Force has commonly agreed to provide following assistance under the **Phase II** of relief operation in the districts of Bogra, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Feni:

- ✦ **Bogra** - 5,000 families (5,000 Family Kits, 5,000 lt. oil, 20 MT dal and 100 MT rice)
- ✦ **Kurigram** - 2,500 families (2,500 Family Kits, 2,500 lt. oil, 10 MT dal and 50 MT rice)

- ☞ **Lalmonirhat - 2,500 families (2,500 Family Kits, 2,500 lt. oil, 10 MT dal and 50 MT rice)**
- ☞ **Feni - 3,000 families (only food assistance: 3,000 lt. Oil, 12 MT of dal and 60 MT rice)**



Buffer Stocks

In addition to above mentioned, and as an important component of the Phase II, the BDRCS buffer stocks would be replenished with 5,000 family kits, 5,000 blankets, 2,000 litters of cooking oil, 6 MT of dal in order to strengthen BDRCS disaster response capacities.

In accordance with established Federation procedures, the **procurement** of 10,000 family kits, 15,000 litres of cooking oil and 60 mt of dal for the Phase II has been completed. Procurement of an additional 5,000 family kits for the buffer stocks and 5,000 blankets is expected to be finalized by the end of October. 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 delivery of all goods (food and non-food items for the Phase II distribution) has been carried out during the month of September. A total of 10,000 family kits, 60 mt of dal and 15,000 litres of cooking oil has been initially delivered to the BDRCS warehouse at its NHQ from where it was further shifted to the respective Districts awaiting distribution to the final beneficiaries.

With active support from the local BDRCS Branches in the four Districts (Bogra, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Feni), local **warehousing** space has been secured. In accordance with agreed distribution plans, the BDRCS has continued 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:

Using the same methodology as during the Phase I, 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 four Districts targeted under *Phase II*. Unlike during the Phase I, the BDRCS did not experienced many obstacles during the process of identifying beneficiaries who fully met the criteria profile laid down in the National Society’s “*Disaster Relief Field Manual*”. The deployment of three Relief Co-ordinators and subsequent field visits by the joint Federation and BDRCS NHQ team proved to be very helpful to the Branches in finalising beneficiary lists. All lists were compiled by 4 October 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 (except Feni district where there was no identified needs for distribution of Family Kits), 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 II
Time frame for distribution in all three districts: 7-21 October
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

District	Sub-District	Beneficiaries	Relief materials	Remarks
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Kurigram			Rice	Dal (Kg)	Oil (Ltr.)	F. Kits	
			Bhurungamar	200	4'000	800	
Rajarhat	75	1'500	300	75	75		
Ulipur	500	10'000	2'000	500	500		
Nageshwari	375	7'500	1'500	375	375		
Chilmari	475	9'500	1'900	475	475		
Roumari	350	7'000	1'400	350	350		
Rajibpur	250	5'000	1'000	250	250		
Sadar	275	5'500	1'100	275	275		
Sub-total	2'500	50'000	10'000	2'500	2'500		
Lalmonirhat	Hatibandha	550	1100	2200	550	550	The last shipment of remaining 500 family kits is planned to be completed on 8th October-
	Kaliganj	450	9000	1800	450	450	
	Sadar	1100	22000	4400	1100	1100	
	Patgram	100	2000	400	100	100	
	Aditmari	300	6000	1200	300	300	
	Subtotal	2'500	50'000	10'000	2'500	2'500	
Bogra	Sariakandi	2'000	40'000	8'000	2'000	2'000	By 25 September, all relief items were delivered to the Unit.
	Dhunat	900	18'000	3'600	900	900	
	Sonatola	1'450	29'000	5'800	1'450	1'450	
	Gaboli	500	10'000	2'000	500	500	
	Sadar	150	3'000	600	150	150	
	Subtotal	5'000	100'000	20'000	5'000	5'000	
Feni	Fulgaji	850	17'000	3'400	850	-	On 3rd October delivery of all items from NHQ to the Unit was completed.
	Parshuram	440	8'800	1'760	440	-	
	Chhagalniya	625	12'500	2'500	625	-	
	Sonagaji	700	14'000	2'800	700	-	
	Sadar	385	7'700	1'540	385	-	
	Subtotal	3'000	60'000	12'000	3'000	-	
Grand Total		13'000	260'000	52'000	13'000	10'000	

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.

Phase I

Distribution of 300 mt of rice, 60 mt of dal and 15,000 liters of cooking oil was successfully completed on 21 September 2002. A total of 15,000 families or 75,000 beneficiaries have been assisted. Each family received a food ration consisted of: 20 kg of rice, 4 kg of dal and 1 liter of oil as the complementary food ration.

Phase II

Procurement of 60 mt of Dal, 15,000 liters of cooking oil is completed. At the beginning of October, a government delivery order for 260 mt of rice was obtained and delivered to District Units to make necessary arrangements for collection of rice at local level from the government warehouses.

The BDRCS procedure used during the *Phase I* have also been used in the *Phase II*. 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 under the *Phase II* are scheduled to take place on 5th October in Kurigram district (Bhurungamari distribution point - 200 families), on 7th October in Lalmonirhat (Hatibandha distribution point - 250 families), Bogra on 7th October in (Sariakandi distribution point - 484 families) and on 5th October in Feni districts (Fulgaji distribution point - 400 families).

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

Phase I

Distribution of 15,000 family kits, under the Phase I, was successfully completed on 21 September as per original plan of action. As the German government, through German Red Cross, generously funded procurement of 14,600 family kits, a representative from the German Embassy in Dhaka, accompanied by Federation and BDRCS, visited several distribution points in Sirajganj district on 20 September 2002. The visit was widely covered by several national newspapers (both in Bangla and English language).

Phase II

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

Procurement of 5,000 family kits for BDRCS DP buffer stocks replenishment is expected to be finalized by the end of October.

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.



WHO has donated more than 5 million water purification tablets to BDRCS. Each medical team has been provided with water purification tablets and ORS. Those were distributed among people seeking medical assistance and to the general population in areas without access to safe drinking water in the affected Districts.

Remaining stocks of water purification tablets - both in the field (with Medical teams and respective Units) and at the BDRCS central warehouse in Dhaka - are considered to be sufficient.

Early BDRCS response, and generous WHO donation, in response to emerging needs for safe drinking water in the flood affected districts - according to the disease profile monitoring report

prepared by BDRCS medical teams - distribution and utilisation of water purification tablets has proved to be very efficient in the prevention of serious outbreaks of water borne diseases in the 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.

Based on the needs of the affected population, all six medical teams were extended for another month. Two medical teams deployed in the northern part (Kurigram and Lalmonirhat) have been further extended until 31 October 2002 when their operation will be brought to an end. Four other medical teams have successfully completed their mission on 8th October. (see table below)

A BDRCS Medical Relief Co-ordinator (MRC) who was deployed in the field just a few days after the start up of the medical operation - continued 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.

Based on a report prepared by the Medical Co-ordinator and improvement in the general health situation in some Districts, (as reported in the Ops Update 2) a medical team initially deployed to Noakhali District was re-located in 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 was re-located (from Shariatpur) to the second most affected northern district of Lalmonirhat for the same reasons.

Each medical team member has been issued a T-shirt with clear insignia of BDRCS and Hong Kong RC - who generously provided funds for the much needed extension of two mobile teams in the northern districts of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat. In addition, medical camps were clearly marked with large banners clearly indicating "Floods 2002 BDRCS Medical Relief Operation" supported by the Hong Kong Red Cross and appreciation of local population.

Bangladesh Red Crescent - Emergency Medical Relief Operation 2002
Disease profile (9 Aug - 18 September 2002)

Particulars	Gaibandha	Sirajgonj	Jamalpur	Bogra (2 teams 9 Aug-11Sep)	Shariatpur (14-28 Aug)	Kurigram (8-18 Sept)	Noakhali (14-19 Aug)	Lalmonirhat (12-18 Sept)	Grand total
Diarrhoea	527	290	761	722	108	303	69	37	2,817
Dysentery	449	189	761	903	42	293	34	84	2,755
PUO/Fever	539	322	495	1034	307	583	28	95	3,403
ARI	685	488	608	921	103	373	72	91	3,341
Skin Disease	982	567	1319	1321	294	588	79	149	5,299
Anemia/ Malnutrition	679	551	713	1115	166	485	48	96	3,853
ENT	201	101	113	664	69	242	21	42	1,453
Worm	492	380	378	1110	94	267	45	87	2,853
Eye problems	237	199	161	576	45	214	14	59	1,505
UTI	143	47	21	443	4	173	9	58	898
Peptic ulcer	434	362	520	984	177	345	11	61	2,894
Injury/First Aid	17	133	18	110	1	56	2	9	346
Others	104	328	560	558	123	387	1	37	2,098
Total	5,489	3,957	6,428	10,461	1,533	4,309	433	905	33,515

Note: 70 % plus of patients treated are women and children under 5

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

- National media interest in the floods and associated Red Cross/Red Crescent relief initiatives has remained high during the reporting period.
- Local media coverage (in Bangla and English) has also been sustained in many national TV and radio stations and newspapers.
- Several web stories covering relief operation related activities such as: medical teams activities, distributions of relief items and dengue fever have been published on www.ifrc.org.

See annex 1 for details

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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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Bangladesh - Floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 21/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			09.10.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'076'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 78.6%
BRITISH - RC		75'000	GBP	172'215	23.08.2002	
CANADIAN - GOVT		99'000	CAD	95'040	03.09.2002	
DENMARK (EMBASSY)		45'000	USD	67'500	01.09.2002	
FINNISH - RC		60'000	EUR	88'188	01.08.2002	
GERMAN - GOVT		222'022	EUR	325'173	16.08.2002	14'600FAMILY KITS
GERMAN - RC		50'000	EDUR	73'230	03.09.2002	OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR FAMILY KITS
CHINA - HONG KONG - RC		143'729	HKD	27'622	03.09.2002	MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS & MEDICINE SUPPLIES
JAPANESE - RC		69'700	USD	102'738	14.08.2002	
MONACO - RC		15'000	EUR	21'969	12.08.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				350	12.09.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		800'000	SEK	127'840	08.08.2002	RELIEF ITEMS, INCL. TRANSPORT & DISTRIBUTION COSTS
SWISS - RC				55'500	14.08.2002	
SWISS - GOVT/SDC				160'000	20.09.2002	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				1'000	12.09.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'318'365	CHF	63.5%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
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	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				314'211	CHF	15.1%