

# 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: FLOODS

13 September  
2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 15/2004; Operations Update no. 4; Period covered: 19 August-7 September 2004; Appeal coverage 160%; Revised Appeal coverage: 100%;** ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#))

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 26 July 2004 for CHF 4,350,000 (USD 3,440,095 or EUR 2,844,997) to assist 1 million beneficiaries. Due to overwhelming positive response revised on 6 September 2004 seeks to assist some 1,407,500 beneficiaries (281,500 Families) for six months

**Outstanding needs:** Nil

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Annual Appeal [01.56/2004](#)

#### Operational Summary:

Countrywide, the flood situation has improved, and water has receded from all the flood-affected areas. All the rivers except two are flowing below danger level and experts say no new floods are likely in the coming weeks. The total death toll now stands at 747 since the beginning of the floods.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has provided emergency assistance to more than 12,000 families from its limited resources. Appeal support is very encouraging from all sectors of the local and international communities. An exceptionally strong response to the appeal resulted in a total of CHF 6,960,695 (CHF 2,610,695 above the original appeal).

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### Background

The monsoon arrived early in June. Persistent and exceptionally heavy rainfall augmented by torrential river flows (coming from Nepal, India and Bhutan) and accelerated snow and ice melts from the Himalayas, contributed to

severe flooding. Forty-three of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been affected. A total of 36 million people (over 25 percent of the population) have been affected by this disaster. As of 31 August, the official death toll stood at 747. Countrywide, the flood situation has improved, water has receded from all the flood-affected areas and communities have started to move back to rebuild their lives. According to the weather bulletin issued by Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) the overall flood situation in the country is now normal. All the rivers except two are flowing below danger level and experts say no new floods are likely in the coming weeks.

This year's flooding was reported as the most severe since 1998, with the floods wiping out people's household, food stocks and source of income. Over 20 million people have lost their homes in this destructive flood. Official reports indicated that floods have completely destroyed crops, including paddy rice on 1.6 million acres and partially destroyed crops on one million acres. Additionally 15,000 livestock have died and 3,158 km of embankments and thousands of kilometers of roads and infrastructure have been severely damaged or destroyed throughout the country.

Much of the capital city of Dhaka had been hit by floodwaters. All emergency flood shelters are now closed and flood-affected families are now busy rebuilding their makeshift homes and livelihoods. It is reported that as many as 30 million people in Bangladesh will need food aid for the next five months (when the next rice harvest is expected).

As of late August the floodwaters have receded, leaving in their wake the heightened risk of waterborne diseases and other health concerns. Diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections (such as pneumonia) skin diseases, and rising rates of malnutrition urgently need to be addressed. Lack of clean drinking water, hygiene inputs, and adequate sanitation facilities for the affected population increase the threat of disease outbreaks. Although no major epidemics have been reported to date, based on previous seasonal endemics, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warns of a possible peak in flood-related diseases following the complete recession of flooding in the second or third week of September. Replenishment of seed stocks remains a priority in many areas.



**BDRCS chairman distributing JICA-supported family kits at Bhuapur, Tangail, 5 September 2004.**

The government is facing additional security emergencies following bombings at a political rally and the subsequent nationwide strikes. Multi-sector efforts continue to bring relief, and to aid rehabilitation for flood-affected people in the face of the current political and civil disturbances.

## Operational developments

BDRCS is maintaining close contact with all BDRCS district branches in the flood-affected districts and with the Federation have set up a task force in order to further strengthen the operational activities of BDRCS national headquarters (NHQ) during the monsoon season. The emergency flood relief control room at BDRCS NHQ was opened for better coordination and information sharing with the district units and other stakeholders.

The delegation also initiated and deployed one relief delegate and one medical relief coordinator for six months and a logistic delegate for three months. All relief delegates worked in the flood-affected areas. Accompanied by BDRCS relief coordinator, relief delegates travelled to flood-affected areas to assist RC branches to identify beneficiaries, provision of storage facilities in the district RC branches and also supervising distribution of relief goods in a speedy and organised manner.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Since the beginning of the flood season, BDRCS and the Federation have constantly monitored the development of floods. BDRCS distributed relief goods from its limited supply of buffer stocks and local fundraising to more than

12,000 families before the launch of Federation international appeal. Distributions are made among the most vulnerable people severely affected by the floods. The local Red Crescent branches along with community-based disaster preparedness squad volunteers have assisted the affected people in shifting to safer ground, while also providing limited emergency relief through local fundraising for immediate distribution among the affected population. The Federation was the first agency to launch an international appeal on 26 July. As reported in Operations Update 3, following the emergency grant of EUR 1,350,340 (CHF 2,064,670) by European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the State of Kuwait made a generous donation of USD 1 million and the governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and United Arab Emirates (UAE) and all national society donors including the Monaco RC made contributions. In addition, the sister national society's rapid response and local fundraising brought contributions from major banks in Dhaka-HSBC and Citicorp.

There have also been contributions from the commercial sector including KAFCO, Malaysian Airways and other multi-national companies, as well as members of the public and expatriate community. This exceptionally strong response to the appeal resulted in a total of CHF 6,960,695 (CHF 2,610,695 above the original appeal). Thus the following reflects the revision to the original appeal.

**Operation Objective: To meet the urgent needs of some 1,407,500 unassisted and displaced beneficiaries severely affected by the ongoing monsoon season who were living in their flooded homes, river embankments, roadways and chars through provision of basic food items, family kits, medical services, small scale agricultural support and low cost housing during the rehabilitation phase**

### Emergency Relief Phase

**Objective 1: 188,250 displaced and unassisted families to receive emergency complementary food ration for one month within the coming weeks.**

Through this appeal, BDRCS and the Federation intends to assist 188,250 most vulnerable displaced families by distributing emergency food supplies of 3,765 MT of rice (including 945 MT allocated by the World Food Programme<sup>1</sup> (WFP)), 705 MT of dhal (lentils) and 282 MT of cooking oil for an initial period of one month. Each affected family will receive a food ration consisting of: 20 kg of rice, 5kg of dhal (lentils) and 2 litre of cooking oil.

### **Progress/Achievements**

RC district units completed the distribution of 700 MT of WFP allocated rice among 35,000 families on 25 August. Procurement of ECHO-supported food items for 60,000 families also completed. Planning for the storage and smooth transportation of these items and preparation of the detailed distribution plan for the ECHO-supported food item is also complete. Suppliers completed the delivery of rice and dhal (lentils) and oil delivery direct to the BDRCS district units will be completed by 10 September, distribution of ECHO food component in the five northern districts commenced on 5 September and is expected to be completed in two weeks' time. Distribution in the rest of the five districts will be starting soon and expected to be completed by end of September.

Tendering process for the procurement of food items for additional 75,000 families is under process, quotes due on 12 September. Orders will be placed for the purchase of 1,500 MT of rice, 375 MT of dhal (lentils) and 150 MT of cooking oil, on completion of the tendering process and approval from International Federation of Red Cross Geneva procurement department.



**Figure 4 Beneficiaries in the queue to receive relief goods (family kits) at Bhupur, Tangail, September 2004.**

<sup>1</sup> 47,250 families will receive 20 Kg of rice each from WFP allocated rice

**Impact:**

Initial distribution of 700 MT of rice among the most vulnerable families affected by the floods completed, providing them the necessary food supplies to meet their immediate requirement.

ECHO-supported food items will be distributed in worst flood-affected districts, the food support will facilitate in reducing the impact of floods damage on the severely affected population.

**Constraints:**

The transportation and distribution of food items in the affected districts is very important. However, unforeseen delay due to tense ongoing political situation and numerous hartal (nationwide strikes) have disrupted the distribution schedules in the affected areas to some degree.

**Objective 2: 81,128 flood-affected families received family kits and emergency BDRCS buffer stock replenished over a period of four months.**

Eighty-one thousand one hundred and twenty-eight family kits will be distributed among the most affected vulnerable families (75,000 of them are also beneficiaries of the food items).

**Progress/Achievements**

The purchase order for the 30,128 family kits (22,128 earmarked for ECHO programme) was issued after approval by the Geneva logistics department. In the meantime, 1,000 ECHO family kits have been distributed in four places at Sirajganj on 17 August. The suppliers so far delivered 12,397 family kits (7,722 ECHO- and 4,675 Japan International Cooperation Agency- (JICA) supported family kits), with the remaining 17,731 kits expected to be delivered by 20 September.

All the family kits have been sent to the affected areas for distribution. The first distribution of 1,250 JICA-supported family kits started at Bhuapur, Tangail on 5 September, with the Ambassador of Japan His Excellency Matsushiro Horiguchi, additional resident representative and deputy resident representative of JICA present on the occasion. Six thousand family kits also sent to Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari for distribution this week.



*JICA Addl. Resident Representative distributing family kits at Tangail on 5 September*

Tendering process for the procurement of the 28,000 family kits is completed and quotes closed on 6 September. An order will be placed for the purchase of 28,000 family kits on completion of the tendering process and approval of Geneva procurement department. Remaining 22,000 family kits together with 15,000 family kits and 20,000 blankets for replacement of buffer stock will be initiated soon.

**Impact:**

Family kits have multiple impacts on the affected families who have lost all their possessions – they provide the most necessary non-food items to help restore life to normality after the disaster, and also provide valuable psychological support.

**Constraint:**

Some initial delays encountered regarding multi-colour printing of ECHO and JICA logos on the family kits bag. Current supplier will deliver 5,000 to 7,000 family kits per week. Suppliers currently being considered to increase family kits weekly production rate.

**Objective 3: Provide basic medical services within the first two months of the operation to the flood-affected population, limiting possible outbreaks of waterborne diseases.**

A total of 281,250 people (56,250 families), many of them also beneficiaries of the food and non-food programmes, are expected to benefit from this programme.

### Progress/Achievements

As the floodwaters started receding, the incidence of diarrhoea and waterborne diseases increased sharply. BDRCS deployed 10 medical teams on an emergency basis in the most affected areas of Dhaka city and adjoining areas for two weeks. During the two-week deployment at Dhaka City the medical teams treated 11,007 patients (3,528 male, 4,092 female and 3,387 children under five years old) suffering from diarrhoea, dysentery, skin and other waterborne diseases. An additional 60 mobile medical teams would be deployed in each of the targeted districts.

Forty-eight medical teams (32 supported by ECHO and 12 supported by JICA) deployed in 16 flood-affected districts during the period 13-18 August. Procurement of medicine, medical equipment and visibility items, banners, flags, aprons for 48 medical teams completed. Twelve more medical teams will be deployed in six districts by the end of this week.



*JICA supported medical team providing treatment to affected population in Munshiganj*

Each of the 48 medical teams is provided with essential drugs and basic equipment (blood pressure machine, stethoscope, torch, hurricane lamp, some surgical instruments, etc). Reports from medical team indicate heavy rush of patients in almost all the places and each team is treating more than 100 patients a day. During the first eight days of deployment the 48 medical teams treated 37,821 patients (12,027 male, 16,960 female and 8,834 children under five years old) suffering from diarrhoea, dysentery, skin and other waterborne disease. Medical teams are working in close cooperation with other ECHO partners, Oxfam and Action Aid in Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur. To date, no outbreak of major epidemic has been reported.

Because of the increased medical needs additional medical supplies have been secured and further distribution in the field also completed. On the basis of medical team's reports for the need of additional medicines for treatment of child cough and skin disease, further procurement of three more medicines are done and being sent to the field in the next few days. The procurement of equipment and medicine for the 12 teams is under progress and will be completed by tomorrow.

### Impact:

The service being provided by the deployed medical teams is contributing to the alleviation of the sufferings of the affected population.

### Constraints:

Initial delivery of medicines did not meet supply and demand. Coordination was rather weak in the start-up phase. This has now been rectified, especially with the deployment of medical relief coordinator and further purchase of additional medicine.

### Rehabilitation Phase

**Objective 4: To be provided four months into the operation, agricultural inputs for up to 30,000 affected families who have access to land.**

At the end of monsoon season, once the water levels recede and the conditions are stabilised, the affected population can return to their homes and basic agricultural support will be provided. This will involve the provision of two types of seeds (paddy rice and vegetable) to allow the potential beneficiaries to plant crops at the suitable time of year. This component is very important, as the floods have damaged one million acres of crops and seedbeds while a further 1.6 million acres of arable land has been damaged.

**Progress/Achievements**

Contact has been made with the government seeds department in order to get technical advice for the types of seeds needed in the flood-affected areas. Tendering process for the procurement of 30,000 sets of seeds (two types – paddy rice and vegetable) will start immediately after completion of emergency relief phase.

**Impact:**

N/A

**Constraints:**

It is anticipated that the price of seeds may be a bit higher than initially planned due to increased demand in country by various stakeholders involved in rehabilitation phase.

**Objective 5: After four months of the relief operation, building of 1,000 traditional thatched dwellings for beneficiary families severely affected by the floods and river erosion.**

The rapid onset of flooding and river erosion washed away many families' houses and most basic necessities. The provision of 1,000 traditional dwellings provided to the severely affected families will ensure that some basic needs for housing is met.

**Impact:**

The provision of traditional dwellings provided to the severely affected river erosion families will ensure that some basic needs for housing is met.

**Constraints:**

N/A

**Federation Coordination**

BDRCS and Federation delegation continue to liaise with governmental, local and international organisations, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), regularly attending disaster emergency response group meetings in order to coordinate relief interventions among partners and avoid duplication of assistance. BDRCS and Federation delegation are also liaising closely with the Federation's South Asia regional delegation. Head of delegation regularly visits donor missions and UN agencies to update them on Federation/BDRCS activities and has made several field visits with national society governance and major donors.

The planned breakfast operational flood briefing for some 24 donor ambassadors and high commissioners was postponed due to general strike and unavoidable tense political situation, following the bombing on Awami League political rally.

The Japanese ambassador, accompanied by chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and head of delegation, visited Tangail on 5 September and witnessed the first distribution of JICA family kits among the beneficiaries and the deployment of JICA-sponsored medical team. Also a large number of severely handicapped elderly men and women received family kits on the occasion.

**National Society Capacity Building**

BDRCS with its extensive experience in responding to flood emergencies has developed its operational capacity through a number of extensive disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years. This relief operation will further strengthen the capacity of national society to implement the four-year disaster management strategy particularly for community-based disaster management (CBDM) programme for floods. The national society will hopefully continue to receive support for its long-term strategic development programs in the field of disaster preparedness and response. Funding has already been secured for implementation of the national society's new disaster management strategy in relation to the flood-prone districts in Bangladesh.

**Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

Although international media interest has now waned, Red Cross/Red Crescent relief initiatives has been regularly covered by the national media. Local media coverage (in Bangla and English) has also been sustained in many national TV and radio stations and local newspapers. Embassy of the State of Kuwait issued a major press release on 25 August highlighting their contribution to the international Federation flood appeal.

Visibility for the operation will be maintained through local media, HSBC Bank website and international web links. Press releases on Red Cross/Red Crescent action will be issued on a regular basis for publication. Adequate visibility for donors and the Federation will be ensured, including maintaining a high profile in international media.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

# Bangladesh - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

08/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4,350,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 135.2%
AMERICAN - RC		35,138	USD	44,432	25.08.04	MEDICINES FOR 12 MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		50,000	AUD	43,575	06.08.04	
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE		2,000,000	BDT	42,000	28.07.04	
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE		13,000	BDT	273	29.07.04	
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE		400,000	BDT	8,400	01.08.04	
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE		50,000	BDT	1,050	01.08.04	
BRITISH - RC		75,000	GBP	171,450	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATIONAL NEEDS (25%)
BRITISH - PRIVATE DONORS				42	09.08.04	
BRITISH - RC		24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	RELIEF NEEDS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		193,000	CAD	181,034	03.08.04	
ECHO		1,350,340	EUR	2,064,670	04.08.04	
FINNISH - GOVT		176,000	EUR	269,104	10.08.04	
IRELAND - GOVT		75,000	EUR	114,675		
JAPANESE - RC		172,000	USD	217,494	06.08.04	
JAPANESE - GOVT		10,998,900	BDT	230,977	08.08.04	PURCHASE OF FAMILY KITS, MEDICINE, EXPENSES MEDICAL TEAMS
KLEENHEAT GAS		7,147	USD	9,037	23.08.04	
KUWAIT - RC		100,000	USD	126,450	16.08.4	50% FOOD, 50% MEDICINE
KUWAIT - RC		1,000,000	USD	1,264,500	25.08.04	FAMILY KITS, FOODS, MEDICINES , LOGISTICS, WATERWELLS, RECONSTRUCTION
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,290	28.07.04	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		150,000	NZD	119,175	18.08.04	
NORWEGIAN - RC		31,612	NOK	5,769	18.08.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,541,575	NOK	281,337	18.08.04	
SINGAPORE - RC/DEUTSCHE BK		35,000	SGD	25,312	05.08.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		600,000	EUR	100,500	27.07.04	
SWISS- GOVT				250,000	29.07.04	
SWISS - RC				128,342	06.08.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				100	30.08.04	
TURKISH - RC		10,000	USD	12,645	13.08.04	

# Bangladesh - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

08/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				5,783,663	CHF	133.0%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NORWEGIAN - RC		530,652	NOK	96,844	18.08.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				96,844	CHF	2.2%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SAUDI ARABIAN - RC		1,332,326	SAR	40,472	03.08.04	BILATERAL: TENTS, BLANKETS, CARPETS, FOOD, MEDICINES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				40,472	CHF	