

Report 2004-2008



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Federation-wide Tsunami Semi-annual Report: Bangladesh

Appeal No. 28/2004

This report covers the period of 1 May through 30 September 2008, but reports cumulative totals from December 2004 onwards.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Residents of Chorbiraj standing in front of one of the 41 cyclone shelters in the district of Patuakhali. **Photo: International Federation**

In brief

Executive Summary:

The control and management of the cyclone preparedness programme has been the subject of discussion between the government and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, the national society's position being strongly supported by the Federation. Despite some challenges, there are ongoing activities to reduce the risks related people prone to tsunami and cyclone.

As part of the tsunami programme, the Bangladesh Red Crescent repaired and renovated six cyclone shelters and conducted assessments on 41 shelters, with detailed assessment on 44 shelters still pending. The replacement of warning equipment, such as megaphones and dry cell batteries for the “very high frequency/high velocity human factor” (VHF/HVHF) radio network, proved tremendously helpful in disseminating early warning before the most recent Cyclone Rashmi.

[Click here for the Global Tsunami Semi-annual Report and collective Red Cross and Red Crescent financial report](#)

[Click here for other Tsunami Semi-annual Reports by country](#)

[Click here for a list of national societies currently involved in the tsunami operation](#)

Operational Overview

The Bangladesh Red Crescent’s cyclone preparedness programme/tsunami programme went through a period of difficulty owing to the unclear role between the government and national society regarding the ownership of the programme. The appointment of a government official to manage the programme created confusion, delaying the implementation of the programming. The nation’s continued state of emergency under a caretaker government

has further delayed resolving the situation. The Bangladesh Red Crescent, with the support of the International Federation, continues to seek ways to resolve the situation with the government of Bangladesh.

Performance Table

Programmatic Performance Indicators for Bangladesh	Total
Overall estimated number of persons reached by International Federation and partners	36,000

The above programmatic indicator table shows cumulative achievements up to 30 September 2008.

[Click here for table showing quantitative analysis of the tsunami operation by performance indicators](#)

Disaster Management

Community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) training curriculum field testing workshop

The International Federation, through the regional office in South Asia, has initiated the development of a standardized disaster risk reduction training curriculum within the “building safer communities” initiative, targeting field practitioners and communities in order to improve the overall quality and impact of the disaster risk reduction training programme outputs in South Asia. This curriculum will be equally useful to other agencies working in the region and is being developed with the technical support from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). A draft CBDRR training curriculum and participant’s handbook has been prepared. In order to get feedback and input from disaster risk reduction practitioners in the Red Cross Red Crescent and external relevant agencies, three field testing workshops were organized in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively. In Bangladesh, the CBDRR training curriculum field testing workshop was organized from 12 October to 19 October 2008. Issues related to early warning, the community-based disaster management programme and the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development were covered. The participants at the workshop were disaster risk reduction professionals from different countries in South Asia (such as Bhutan and Nepal), donor agencies (Swedish Red Cross), international agencies (Plan International, Islamic Relief and World Vision), the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the International Federation.



Participants conducting vulnerability and capacity assessment in a community in Munshiganj, Dhaka as part of a CBDRR workshop. **Photo: International Federation**

Based on the outcome of the field testing process, the following documents will be finalized:

- CBDRR training curriculum
- Participant’s handbook on CBDRR
- Trainer’s guidebook on CBDRR
- A set of information, education and communication materials on CBDRR

Replacement of cyclone warning equipment

In preparation for the cyclone season (March to April and October to November), the national society has replaced equipment such as megaphones and dry cell batteries for the VHF/HVHF radio network to ensure a proper early warning system in case of potential cyclones. The early warning system utilizing the equipment performed well, informing affected communities of government alerts during cyclones Nargis and Rashmi, and during other small cyclones that hit the coastal belt and offshore islands.

Renovation/repairing of cyclone shelters

Under the tsunami programme, 56 minor repair and renovation works were implemented on six cyclone shelters. A team of technical experts continue to assess the condition of cyclone shelters for repairing works in the cyclone preparedness programme command areas. The team has completed assessments on 41 shelters and plan to conduct the same for 44 others.

Some of the shelters were discovered to be in critical situation and in urgent need of expert assessment to decide whether they are worth saving and repairing for future use. The Bangladesh Red Crescent director has requested the concerned authorities to carry out the detail assessment.

Training on Public Health in Emergency (PHiE)

In collaboration with the health programmes, the Bangladesh Red Crescent and International Federation organized training sessions on PHiE for community health volunteers in cyclone preparedness programmes, one of which has been successfully conducted and implemented to respond to primary healthcare in time of disasters. Prior to the training for volunteers, a training-of-trainers for health personnel has been conducted. Eight more of such trainings shall be conducted in the last week of November and all trainings will be completed by the end of 2009. The objective of the PHiE training is to train two volunteers (one man and one woman) from each of the 113 selected cyclone shelters to focus on health hazards and basic health and hygiene care during tsunami and cyclones.

Looking Forward

The activities on raising awareness and better preparedness for tsunami will continue in conjunction with similar activities set for cyclone awareness and preparedness. Hence, if a tsunami strikes in future, coastal communities are likely to be better prepared to respond to the disaster.

Communication

To strengthen the communication structure of the International Federation in Bangladesh, the information/communications officer and a national society staff member participated in the communications and media relations forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 18 to 20 November. The three-day training event was organized by the Asia Pacific Zone office. Representatives from 19 national societies, several International Federation country delegations offices from South Asia and East Asia, as well as from the Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross and International Federation headquarters in Geneva, participated in the event.

Radio communication is one of the most important means of communication and the only one that is sustainable and reliable during an emergency (tsunami and cyclone). A chain of radio network has been set up with all the relevant branches and linked directly with the control room in the Bangladesh Red Crescent headquarters to enable them to communicate and share pre/post awareness and information of the incidences during tsunami and cyclone.

Capacity building

Due to the lack of knowledge among staff and volunteers, there is a need for training on maintaining and attending to the radios so that a better communication network is possible within the country. Moreover, there is a great need for training on minor repairs and setup of the equipment. Thus, the International Federation information technology officer and the health delegate will attend a training session in Cambodia which will take place on 17 November to 7 December 2008. The training will focus on information technology and communication (such as radio networks and wireless settings) related to cyclone warning under the International Federation school health project. With good understanding and knowledge obtained from this training for emergency response, health, water and sanitation, shelter and relief, it is hoped that a better network would be established within the country. Additionally, the knowledge would be shared with volunteers maintaining the radio centres, enable them to conduct more effective training and also work for establishment of emergency camps in case the country faces tsunami or cyclones. A survey has been carried out by the Bangladesh Red Crescent to gather all the malfunctioning radios for repair. A list of the radios is expected to arrive at the national headquarters soon.

Contact information:

For further information specifically related to the tsunami operation, please contact:

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Figures represent progress achieved up to 30 September 2008

FIGURE 1: Analysis of programmatic performance indicators for Bangladesh

Ind. No.	Programmatic Performance Indicators	Total
1	Overall estimated number of persons reached by International Federation and partners (using coverage methodology only, not by sector)	36,000

Other data points to be included:

No./List of Red Cross Red Crescent organizations working/operational in country:

Bangladesh Red Crescent
International Federation

No./List of Red Cross Red Crescent organizations contributing programme data to this report:

Bangladesh Red Crescent
International Federation

FIGURE 2: Analysis of knowledge sharing and active learning performance indicators

Knowledge sharing and active learning					
By Country	Total	Health & Care	Shelter & Community Construction	Disaster Management	Livelihoods
Number of evaluations, reviews or formal assessments completed or in process this period	3	1		1	1
Number of evaluations, reviews, formal assessments planned for next period	2	1		1	
New technical documents available from Red Cross Red Crescent this period (evaluation reports, lessons learned reports, sectoral guidelines, tools, policies etc.) by type by national society		1		1	
Knowledge sharing/active learning events underway or completed (involving one or more International Federation members) this reporting period, by type by national society					
Knowledge sharing/active learning events planned for next period by national society					1