

DREF Bulletin



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: COLD WAVE

**Final Report for DREF
Bulletin no. MDRBD001
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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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: January to February, 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 150,000 allocated from the Federation's DREF in January 2007, to respond to the needs of this operation targeting 30,000 beneficiaries in 64 districts of Bangladesh.
- This operation was implemented for one month, and completed by February 2007. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin final report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by mid-May, 2007).



Distributing blankets during the cold wave response by Dinajpur unit, one of the hardest hit districts

Background and summary

Throughout the months of January and February 2007, Bangladesh reeled under a cold wave that caused suffering for approximately 1.9 million vulnerable people across the country (source: ministry of food and disaster management, government of Bangladesh). Vulnerable people were heavily impacted by the cold spells, especially in the far northern districts. The death toll across the country reached 141 (as of 24th January) and cold-related diseases saw a sharp rise. Children, women and the elderly were the worst affected, along with homeless people in towns and cities.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation Bangladesh delegation immediately responded to the cold wave situation by distributing 8,700 blankets from the national headquarters warehouse emergency stock.

Subsequently, based on a growing need, 30,000 blankets were procured, through the allocated DREF funds, for further distribution and replenishment of the buffer stock. By the end of the operation, a total of 25,050 blankets had been dispatched to the units, of which 24,066 were reported as distributed, and a further 13,650 were kept as buffer stock.

Analysis of the operation

Coordination

The government and aid agencies distributed blankets and warm clothing in affected areas of the country. According to the disaster emergency response group¹ (DER), the government distributed 127,000 blankets in

¹ An in-country body coordinating disaster response, jointly chaired by the UN and the ministry of food and disaster management.

different parts of the country (by 28th January). However, the relief was not sufficient considering the huge number of vulnerable people affected. Coordination through the DER enabled the BDRCS to identify groups that had received relatively less attention from the government.

Most of the BDRCS branches were involved in the local administration of the operation, especially at the time of distribution. Pursuant to the guidelines sent from the BDRCS national headquarters, the deputy commissioners and upazilla (sub-district) executive officers were regular kept informed and involved.. Local law enforcing agencies were also brought into play, for crowd control and to ensure a systematic distribution of blankets.

The BDRCS and the Bangladesh delegation maintained contact with other Movement constituents and coordinated with various external agencies such as the UK Department for International Development (DfID), ECHO, and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Achievements and impact

The blankets were procured following Federation logistics procedures and the quality of blankets was jointly verified by Crown Agents, an international quality control company and by the Federation regional logistics unit.

Responding to requests from the BDRCS units, the National Society’s headquarters dispatched an additional 16,350 blankets to branches all over the country, using their own fleet of vehicles and commercial vehicles. Based on the severity of the cold spell, districts in the north and south of the country were prioritized for receiving assistance. Of this amount, 15,366 have so far been reported as distributed (see below “*regular detailed reporting on the distribution*” for more details on this point).

It was possible to replenish the 8,700 blankets previously distributed, plus an additional 4,950 blankets, making a total of 13,650 blankets for buffer stock for future emergencies.

a) Blankets distributed from buffer stock	8,700
b) Blankets procured	30,000
c) Dispatched from new stock	16,350
d) Distribution reported from new stock	15,366
e) Distribution not reported yet	984
Total reported distribution	(a + d) 24,066
Total buffer stock replenished	13,650

This is 3,650 blankets more than the 10,000 replenishment planned for in the DREF request. The reasons for this were that some of the districts in the northern part of Bangladesh had already been covered by the government and other agencies. The lack of capacity within BDRCS to distribute the total amount as quickly as other agencies, and the turbulent political situation in Bangladesh were other contributory factors. These issues related to the distribution have been raised and discussed many times between BDRCS and the Federation, and are being addressed through wider ongoing organizational development initiatives within BDRCS.

BDRCS and the Bangladesh delegation closely monitored the operation. Officials from BDRCS national headquarters visited several units to monitor distributions. The disaster management delegate, with other delegation personnel and concerned BDRCS staff, made spot checks to several districts to determine the effectiveness of the distribution in different parts of the country.

The units in Lalmonirhat, Thakagaon, Panchagar, Dinajpur, Bogra, Bhola and Tangail districts were found to have been very efficient in distributing blankets, taking only two days from receipt to final allocation. District deputy commissioners were involved in the distribution, and local law enforcement agencies assisted with crowd control. A monitoring team also checked the status of blanket distribution in the Nilphamari and Shariatpur units. The health delegate and head of delegation visited the Bagerhat unit and found that the selection and distribution process had been carried out within the planned timeframe. The health delegate and other delegation personnel took the opportunity to support the blanket distribution process during their programme visit to Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts area. Sirajganj, Bhola and Nertrakona units were also visited by delegation disaster management staff members and proved to have carried out distributions in a timely and systematic manner, in response to the cold wave. These visits helped monitor the promptness and efficiency of the distribution process. Monitoring has also been conducted through telephonic conversation with several units.

In addition to the allocation received from headquarters for blankets, some branches also distributed warm clothing, jackets and family kits to affected people, using local resources. Thakurgaon unit volunteers and executive members distributed blankets, together with about 200 articles of used clothing collected by the unit.

Dinajpur unit bought 3,100 blankets, 2,000 shawls and 500 sweaters with their own funds, and distributed these items together with the headquarter allocation of 450 blankets. Similarly, Brahmanbaria unit distributed 200 sarees, 100 lungees, 100 shawls, 300 sweaters/old clothes and 100 blankets, from local resources collected,

Distribution of blankets to pre-determined beneficiaries using procedures in the BDRCS Disaster Relief Manual

Trained Red Crescent youth volunteers and unit executive committee members pre-selected the most vulnerable people in their respective communities (based on door-to-door surveys) and provided them with blankets to resist the cold wave. Beneficiary pre-selection was consistent with the BDRCS disaster relief manual and prioritized people with disabilities, widows, orphans, lower income groups, the elderly, and ethnic and religious minorities.

Regular detailed reporting on the distribution

The level of detail in this current report demonstrates the level of success in ensuring regular detailed reporting on the distribution, which provided information on the results of the operation. The table to the right, and the further details given above were made possible through the reports provided by BDRCS.

As at 9 April, reports indicate that 24,066 blankets (of the 25,050 dispatched) have been distributed in 66 units (out of the 68 planned units) throughout the country (see table). Of the remaining two units, the Rangpur unit has become non-functional and the Moulavibazar unit did not report on the distribution.

BDRCS District Branch	Blankets	BDRCS District Branch (cont.)	Blankets (cont.)
Bagerhat	300	Kishorgonj	450
Bandarban	300	Laxmipur	300
Barisal	300	Lalmoinirhat	450
Bhola	300	Mymensing	300
Bogra	600	Manikganj	300
Borguna	260	Madaripur	300
Brahmanbaria	300	Magura	300
Chapai Nawabganj	450	Munshiganj	300
Chandpur	450	Meherpur	256
Chittagong City	300	Narail	300
Chittagong District	200	Natore	450
Comilla	300	Naongaon	450
Cox's Bazar	300	Narsindi	300
Chuadanga	300	Netrokona	300
Dhaka City	149	Nilphamari	450
Dhaka District	300	Noakhali	450
Dinajpur	450	Narayanganj	450
Faridpur	351	Pabna	450
Feni	450	Panchagar	450
Gaibandha	450	Pirojpur	300
Gazipur	300	Potuakhali	300
Gopalganj	450	Rajbari	300
Hobiganj	600	Rajshahi City	450
Joypurhat	450	Rajshahi District	600
Jhalokathi	300	Rangamati	300
Jessore	300	Sirajganj	450
Jhenaidah	300	Sunamganj	450
Jamalpur	300	Sylhet	670
Kurigram	480	Satkhira	450
Khulna City	300	Sherpur	100
Khulna Dist.	450	Shariatpur	300
Kustia	300	Tangail	300
Khagrachari	300	Thakurgaon	450
Sub-total	11,640	Sub-total	12,426
Total distributed and accounted for			24,066
Total dispatched			25,050



A late night blanket distribution among the homeless in Dhaka city

The Federation, through BDRCS, is monitoring the status of the remaining 984 dispatched blankets. The delay in reporting has been attributed to a number of factors linked to the prevailing unstable political situation within the country. The BDRCS secretary general has been apprised of the concerns related to these issues.

A late night distribution of blankets, among homeless people in the capital city Dhaka, was attended by the chairman of BDRCS and the head of Bangladesh delegation, along with other concerned BDRCS officials. The distribution received significant media coverage and appreciation.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page](#)

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBD001 - BANGLADESH - COLD WAVE

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/5
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2007/2
Appeal	MDRBD001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		150,000				150,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		107,540				107,540
C6. Other Income		107,540				107,540
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		107,540				107,540
D. Total Funding = B + C		107,540				107,540

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		107,540				107,540
E. Expenditure		-107,540				-107,540
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		150,000					150,000	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	124,605		96,700			96,700	27,905	
Total Supplies	124,605		96,700			96,700	27,905	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	10,000		3,431			3,431	6,569	
Total Transport & Storage	10,000		3,431			3,431	6,569	
General Expenditure								
Travel	5,280		230			230	5,050	
Communications	365		189			189	176	
Total General Expenditure	5,645		419			419	5,226	
Program Support								
Program Support	9,750		6,990			6,990	2,760	
Total Program Support	9,750		6,990			6,990	2,760	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	150,000		107,540			107,540	42,460	
VARIANCE (C - D)			42,460			42,460		