

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, LANDSLIDES AND TORNADOS

Appeal No. MDRBD002
Operations Update no.2
10 August 2007
[Glide no. FF-2007-000080-BGD](#)

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 186 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 02; Period covered: 31 July to 08 August 2007; Appeal target: CHF 842,258 (USD 684,762 or EUR 510,459); Appeal coverage: 94%; Outstanding needs: CHF 53,357 (USD 44,316 or EUR 32,338);

([Click here for the attached Donor Response List and here for the live list on the Federation website](#))

Appeal history:

- **Launched on 3 July 2007 for CHF 842,257 (USD 684,762 or EUR 510,459) for 6 months to assist 133,255 beneficiaries.**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated on 20 June 2007 to assist 10,000 families: CHF 250,000 (USD 203,252 or EUR 150,875).**

Operational Summary:

Over the past two months, torrential rains raging across Bangladesh have lead to floods and landslides, causing damage statistics to skyrocket. Tornado that hit several areas further aggravated the situation. Since the appeal was launched in the beginning of July, the disasters' impact has intensified: number of families affected has gone up from about 77,900 to more than 1.9 million, while flood-hit upazillas (sub-districts) have escalated from 26 to 237.

According to the National Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation, the recent floods have affected about 9.8 million people ([click here for Annex 1 for details of the disaster's impact](#)). The



A woman carries her belongings on a raft. International Federation.

floods eroded embankments and damaged houses, roads, educational centers and other infrastructure. Thousands have taken shelter by the roads, in public places or shelters provided by the government and different agencies. With the incessant rain and heightened vulnerability of the affected population, where floods have only compounded the effects of long-term poverty, it is expected that the scenario in parts of the country will worsen further.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation secretariat have been conducting a joint assessment in response to floods, though high water levels have made this difficult. Since 8 August, a rapid assessment team has been active in the country, representing the BDRCS and the Federation, including the Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit (DMU). Once this is completed, plans are underway for a revised emergency appeal, which would widen the scope of assistance to the flood-hit communities. Corresponding to the large number of affected people, **the revised emergency appeal would assist approximately 900,000 affected people, with the budget estimated to be around CHF 5 million.** The target to launch the revised emergency appeal mid-August.

Much more funds are therefore needed to deliver these additional services, and donors are strongly encouraged to enhance support to the appeal.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal on www.ifrc.org.

Background

Following the massive damage caused by the combined effects of floods, landslides and a tornado since 8 June, thousands of flood-affected people across Bangladesh are passing their days in misery, even as floodwaters recede in different districts. Indeed, the former head of the Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization has said in a local daily that the situation would take a serious turn in the next few days.

People are facing severe scarcity of relief materials, drinking water and medicines in the affected areas. Health experts fear that the number of diarrhea patients will double in mid-August because of the scarcity of clean drinking water in most of the flooded areas. During the 24 hours prior to reporting, about 394 persons in nine upazillas (sub-districts) of Sirajganj district have stricken with diarrhea¹. Inhabitants of many flooded districts sought refuge on higher land, public places and roadways. Several hundreds are camping on the outskirts of the affected areas, with little protection from harsh weather conditions. In the districts of Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Jamalpur, it is reported that people are having trouble burying their dead, as every inch of land was under water.

Latest flood statistics from the government, specifically the Directorate for Flood and Rehabilitation, paint a bleak picture. A total of 255 people have been killed and about 9.8 million people (1.9 million families) are affected across 39 districts and their corresponding 237 upazillas (sub-districts). Of the displaced, about 363,886 people are taking shelter in 1,394 relief centers (refer to annex 1 for more details on the flood's impact).

There is concern that the ongoing flood situation may bring down the current fiscal year's estimated GDP growth by 0.2 per cent. According to a World Bank preliminary impact assessment of the 2007 Bangladesh flood, an already high inflation rate of 9.2 per cent in June could accelerate in the coming months.

¹ Source: Print media - "The Independent", 09 July 2007

Operational developments

During the last reporting period, distributions were completed for 9,000 families in four districts. Currently, distribution is going on in eight districts, targeting 11,300 families (refer to table 1 for details). Plans are underway to distribute to another 6,000 families in nine districts (refer to table 2 for details).

A rapid assessment has begun, lead by a team consisting of a team leader and a volunteer doctor from the Hong Kong Red Cross branch of the Red Cross Society of China, a member from the Asia Pacific disaster management unit, a health delegate and disaster management officer from the Federation country delegation, and two officials from the BDRCS. The main task of the team will be to gather and verify the detailed information compiled by the Bangladesh delegation on the current flood situation, draft a revised appeal and develop a plan of action. The team has been constituted in consultation with the Federation's Asia Pacific zonal office and South Asia regional delegation.

On 8 August, the BDRCS governing board had an emergency meeting to review the situation and discuss future interventions. They have requested the Federation to scale up support, which will result in a revised appeal. The head of the Bangladesh delegation was also present at the meeting.

The Bangladesh government received some external support from government, international and private organizations as well as individuals. A total of 15 organizations and individuals made donations to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund for flood victims². Although the Bangladesh government has not made an appeal to the international community for support, the Chief Adviser to the government, in his telecast speech on 5 August, welcomed donors' help to fight the floods.

According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, the flood situations continued to improve in the northern districts (Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Bogra and Jamalpur) and north-eastern districts (Netrokona, Sunamganj and Sylhet), with water receding significantly in adjacent major rivers.

Most of the rivers in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins observed a fall, while the rivers in the south-eastern hill basin observed both a rise and fall. The Brahmaputra-Jamuna has receded significantly, but is still above danger level at Serajganj and Aricha. The water level in Jamuna at Serajganj is likely to recede below danger levels over the next few days. This is expected to improve the flood situation in the districts of Serajganj, Pabna and Tangail. While Ganges-Padma river is still above danger levels at Goalundo and Bhagyakul, it is likely to fall over the coming days as well.

The flood situation in the Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Dohar and Nawabganj upazilla's of Dhaka is likely to improve, albeit at a lower rate, in the next few days. Small rivers surrounding Dhaka and Narayanganj observed both a rise and fall. Inundation of low-lying areas in the eastern part of Dhaka city has worsened. The flood situation in the districts of Narshingdi, Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj and Gazipur will continue to improve further, with the water receding in the Meghna river, which has already started falling at Bhairab Bazar.

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

Based on the extent of the damage caused by the disaster and the size of the affected population (about 9.8 million people), together with the capacity of the BDRCS to provide assistance to a percentage of this population, a revised emergency appeal is planned. This revised appeal will be launched after the ongoing rapid assessment is completed. The revision would widen the scope of BDRCS's assistance to approximately 900,000 affected people, which would include an increase in the provision of relief to

² Source: Print media - "Daily Star", 09 July 2007

72,869 people (under objective 1), basic health care services to 200,000 people (under objective 2), and support in early recovery and risk reduction to 11,000 families (under objective 3). The budget for this is estimated to be in the range of CHF 5 million.

Overall Objective: The urgent needs of 133,255 people who were severely affected by the ongoing monsoon season are met and the capacity of BDRCS district units in disaster response in ten of the most affected disaster areas is enhanced.

Objective 1: Relief (food and non-food): 12,651 severely affected and unassisted families receive emergency supplementary food rations and essential clothing items.

Currently, the distributions are taking place as below:

Table 1: Ongoing distributions

No	District	Relief distribution		Response package	Distribution schedule	Remarks
		Families	Person			
1	Kurigram	1,600	8,000	Food ration: 20kg rice, 5kg dahl, 2 ltr edible oil, 1 kg salt Non food : 1pcs Lungi and 1pcs sharee, Health kits: WPT and bleaching powder.	7-12 August 2007	Food ration to 1,300 Family Kit to 300 families in each districts
2	Gainbandha	1,700	8,500	“Food ration to 1400 families as above		300 Family Kits
3	Shirajganj	1,800	9,000	Food ration to 1500 families as above		300 Family Kits
4	Tangail	1,800	9,000	“Food ration to 1500 families as above		300 Family Kits
5	Faridpur	1,000	5,000	“Food ration to 700 families as above		300 Family Kits
6	Sunamganj	600	3,000	“Food ration to 300 families as above		300 Family Kits
7	Sylhet	600	3,000	“Food ration to 300 families as above		300 Family Kits
8	Jamalpur	1,500	7,500	“Food ration to 1,200 families as above		300 Family Kits
9	Shariatpur	700	3,500	“Food ration to 400 families as above		300 Family Kits
	Total	11,300	56,500			

Table 2: Planned distribution

No	District	Relief distribution		Response package	Distribution schedule	Remarks
		Families	Person			
1	Manikgonjg	1,000	5,000	“Food ration to 700 families as above	3 rd week of August	300 Family Kits
2	Lalmonihart	800	4,000	“Food ration to 500 families as above		300 Family Kits
3	Rajbari	700	3,500	“Food ration to 400 families as above		300 Family Kits
4	Shriatpur	1,000	5,000	“Food ration to 700 families as above		300 Family Kits

5	Bogra	500	2,500	“Food ration to 200 families as above		300 Family Kits
6	Madaripur	500	2,500	“Food ration to 700 families as above		300 Family Kits
7	Munshigonj	500	2,500	“Food ration to 200 families as above		300 Family Kits
8	Netrokona	500	2,500	“Food ration to 200 families as above		300 Family Kits
9	Sherpur	500	2,500	“Food ration to 200 families as above		300 Family Kits
	Total	6,000	30,000			

The BDRCS and Bangladesh delegation team has come across several difficulties while carrying out distributions in the targeted districts. Due to heavy rainfall, the challenge of transporting items to the distribution point still persists.

Objective 2: Basic health care services (including preventive and promotive health) are provided to 35,000 members of the most severely affected population for one month.

The health team is in constant contact with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Dhaka, and also with the civil surgeons of various districts. The response teams in the field are monitoring the health and water and sanitation situation. The rapid assessment team is also assessing the situation.

The United Nations Children’s Fund provided 200,000 more water purification tablets on 2 August. In the meantime, the government authorities gave 60,000 oral rehydration solutions (ORS) packets.

Since 3 August, the BDRCS/Federation has distributed 302,000 water purification tablets, 50,000 ORS and a drum of bleaching powder in 18 districts through the volunteers and 12 maternal and child welfare centres. The Red Crescent volunteers are also distributing water purification tablets and ORS in flood affected areas of Dhaka. According to the WHO surveillance report during 30 July to 5 August 2007, there have been 13,808 diarrhea cases reported across the country. There was a small outbreak of diarrhea cases in the eastern part of Dhaka city, which is now under control.

Six medical teams, each consisting of one doctor and one paramedic with basic essential medicines and equipment, are on standby to be deployed at 48 hours notice. In addition, request of WHO and government health authorities to supplement their medicine stock is being considered.

Objective 3: 2,000 families severely affected by the floods receive support to relocate their houses, are provided with supplementary construction materials where needed, have tube-wells installed and are encouraged to erect raised platforms in their houses.

This activity will be revised due to other priorities.

Objective 4: The capacity of BDRCS to respond effectively to disasters is enhanced.

No specific activities have been undertaken within this objective during the reporting period due to other priorities. However, on-the-job mentoring for the BDRCS staff and volunteers is ongoing.

Federation Coordination

Discussions on the flood situation and relief operation have been held on a daily basis with BDRCS headquarters. The BDRCS and Federation team are maintaining close contact and coordination with the government authorities at the local level. The government has been providing valuable information on the disaster and beneficiaries' situation. The delegation has been in contact with in-country partner national societies and the ICRC, and is sharing operational information.

The Swiss country representative has been in contact with delegation to discuss the possibility of providing 300 tents to the operation. Process of acceptance of this donation, as well as proposals from some other NS's, is ongoing in cooperation with KL RLU.

The details of the distribution provided by the delegation have been widely circulated to various agencies through the DER network during the reporting period.

On 5 August, the head of delegation met with the acting resident coordinator of UNDP and shared information on the present flood situation. Both agreed to keep in close contact on the relief operation. Similarly close coordination with others actors is maintained.

As reported earlier the delegation has facilitated the supplies of water purifying tablets to BDRCS.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The operation ensures that programme implementation considers the Fundamental Principles. The BDRCS and Federation secretariat have also monitored the operation to ensure it is in accordance with the Federation's traditional relief procedure or code of conduct for humanitarian aid. Women-headed families and the physically challenged are given priority during relief distribution.

National Society Capacity Building

BDRCS national headquarter has provided takas 100,000 from its own source to its 16 units to provide dry food to the affected people.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Various local and national media are covering the relief distribution of BDRCS and the Federation. International media like BBC, CNN, Dutch radio have been in contact with the head of the Bangladesh delegation and conducted several interviews. Various local and national media covered the distribution conducted by the BDRCS chairman in Sylhet and Sunamgunj districts.

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.

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

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: Mr. M. Shafiul Alam (Secretary General), email: bdrcs@bangla.net, phone: +88.02.935.2226
- Country Delegation in Bangladesh: Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (Head of Delegation), email: selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org, phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631
- South Asia Regional Delegation in India: Ms. Nina Noble (Acting Head of Regional Delegation), email: nina.nobel@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128
- Asia Pacific Zone in Malaysia: phone: +603.2161.0892; fax: +603.2161.1210
Mr Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of zone), email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org;
Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) – Mr Ilir Caushaj (Regional Logistics Coordinator),
ilir.causha@ifrc.org, phone: +603.2628 2707, fax: +603.2168 8573;
Disaster Management Unit (DMU) – Mr Flemming Nielsen (Acting Head of DMU), email:
flemming.nielsen@ifrc.org; mobile + 41.792173343
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Mr. Hiroto Oyama (Regional Officer), email: hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org, phone: +41.22.730.4273, fax: +41.22.733.0395

[Donor response list and annex below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Donor response to appeal MDRBD002 - BANGLADESH - FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, TORNAO

TIMEFRAME: 21 Jun 07 to 03 Jan 08

LOCATION: Bangladesh

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	842,258
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	788,901
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	94%

Updated on: 10 Aug 2007

	Currency	Amount	Coordination & Implementation	Disaster Management	Health & Care	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BUDGET				842,258				842,258
FUNDING								
Opening Balance								
Income								
Cash contributions								
American Red Cross	USD	24,500		30,135				30,135
British Red Cross	GBP	30,000		74,100				74,100
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	74,250		86,130				86,130
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	20,000		33,000				33,000
Hong Kong Red Cross	HKD	122,469		19,301				19,301
Japanese Red Cross	USD	34,200		42,066				42,066
Liechtenstein Red Cross	CHF	15,100		15,100				15,100
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	1,000,000		179,400				179,400
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	USD	9,985		12,282				12,282
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	CHF	2,000		2,000				2,000
Total Cash contributions				493,514				493,514
Inkind Goods & Transport								
Swiss Red Cross	CHF	45,388		45,388				45,388
Total Inkind Goods & Transport				45,388				45,388
Other Income								
DREF Allocations	CHF	250,000		250,000				250,000
Total Other Income				250,000				250,000
Total Income				788,901				788,901
TOTAL FUNDING			0	788,901	0	0	0	788,901
COVERAGE			0%	94%	0%	0%	0%	94%

Annex 1: Government figures on impact of floods as on 08 August 2007

Affected Districts	39
Affected Upazillas (Sub-districts)	237
Affected Pourashava (Municipality)	73
Affected Union	1,832
Affected households (families)	1,957,072
Affected population	9,877,069
Reported deaths	255
House damaged (Fully)	56,425
House damage (Partially)	737,448
Crop damaged (Fully)	853,632 Hector
Crop damaged (Partially)	581,899 Hector
Road damaged (Fully)	2,574.63 Km
Road damaged (Partially)	18,244.3 Km
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Fully)	535
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Partially)	5,534
Embankment damaged (Fully)	81.06 Km
Embankment damaged (Partially)	648.61 Km
Bridge and culverts damaged (Fully)	14
Bridge and culverts damaged (Partially)	178
# of shelters opened	1,394
# of people in shelters	363,886