

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

Appeal No. MDRBD002
Operations Update no.3
21 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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 03; Period covered: 09 August to 20 August 2007; Appeal target: CHF 7,113,118 (USD 5,907,905 OR EUR 4,310,980); Appeal coverage: 13%; Outstanding needs: CHF 6,201,080 (USD 5,150,399 or EUR 3,758,230);

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

Appeal history:

- Emergency appeal launched on 3 July 2007 for CHF 842,257 (USD 684,762 or EUR 510,459) for six months to assist 133,255 beneficiaries.
- The Emergency appeal was revised, due to deteriorating flooding situation in the country, on 16 August 2007 for CHF 7,113,118 for eight months to assist 1,200,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated on 20 June 2007 to assist 10,000 families: CHF 250,000 (USD 203,252 or EUR 150,875)

Operational Summary:

The suffering of the population affected by the recent floods in Bangladesh has been rising, even as floodwaters recede in some parts of the country. According to latest government figures, 370 deaths have been reported so far, and approximately 2.3 million families (10.6 million people) are affected across the country. Thousands of people have been marooned and the receding floodwaters are leaving thousands more infected with water-borne diseases.

Significant damage has been done to houses, property, roads and infrastructure. Seedbeds have also been damaged and various crops like paddy, jute, sugarcane and vegetables have been destroyed, impacting food and livelihood options. The livestock and fish production sectors have suffered as well. [\(click here for Annex 1 for details of the disaster's impact\)](#).

Corresponding to the large number of affected people, the revised emergency appeal was launched on 16 August 2007, to assist 1,200,000 affected people, widening the scope of assistance by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society/Federation to the flood-hit communities.

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



A family receives food and non-food items (Federation)

Background

Though the flood water is receding in some parts of the flood affected areas of Bangladesh, concerns of the aftermath persist as consequences of the floods are just beginning to emerge. About 2.3 million families (10.6 million people) have been affected due to the floods that hit 40 districts and 252 upazillas (sub-districts) of the country, causing colossal damage to life, property, crops and livestock. Approximately 225,500 people, displaced by the floods and unable to return home, are still taking shelter in about 950 relief camps. The death toll has risen to 370, as, according to reports from different districts, thousands of affected people are facing severe shortages of food, drinking water and drugs, and are yet to receive relief assistance (owing to inadequate quantity of relief materials). The flood situation in the low-lying eastern part of Dhaka city remains static as water in the rivers around the city is receding very slowly (refer to Annex 1 for more details on the flood's impact).

A number of water-borne diseases, like diarrhea, cholera and skin diseases, are afflicting and spreading fast among the affected population, with already thousands of people already having been affected. The civil surgeon's office in the flood affected districts said that diseases are spreading due to a lack of drinking water in these areas. Around 62 government medical teams and a six-member defense medical team, together with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), various NGOs and international organizations, are working towards trying to stop this spread.



Dhaka city under water (Federation)

According to the Directorate General of Health control room, 4,146 people contracted diarrhea across the country, in duration of 24

hours. The print media reported that 840 people with cases of diarrhea and pneumonia were admitted to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR), in a span of 20 hours. Since the week prior to reporting, tents have been set up at the ICDDR hospital, to accommodate the onrush of diarrhea patients, who are being treated with antibiotics instead of the usual saline treatment, as they are suffering from severe diarrhea.

The floods have seriously affected the production of crops, including paddy, jute, sugarcane and vegetables, in 262 upazillas of 44 districts, which may lead to increase in the price of food items, especially vegetables. According to a preliminary estimate by the Department of Agricultural Extension, crops worth about BDT 20 billion (CHF 350 million or USD 291 million) in the 262 upazillas were damaged. Economists are of the view that the huge damage of crops in the flood-affected areas may lead to a record increase in the country's inflation rate.

According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the weather phenomenon in the Ganges, Meghna and Brahmaputra river basins, during the one to days following the date of reporting, could be a turning point in the present flood situation in Bangladesh. A fresh spell of rainstorm, under the impact of a latest depression over northwest Bay of Bengal (off West Bengal-Bangladesh coast), could again aggravate the overall flood situation. The meteorological office has said that the depression is likely to intensify further and move in a north-westerly direction. Squally weather may continue to affect maritime ports. According to the FFWC, the flood situation in some districts is likely to deteriorate slightly as rivers swell due to heavy rain.

Relief supplies, in cash and in kind, are being provided by different organizations and institutions to the Chief Adviser's relief fund and money being donated to this fund has been declared tax-free.

Operational developments

The emergency flood relief control room at BDRCS national headquarters was opened for better coordination and information sharing with its district units and other stakeholders. BDRCS headquarters continues to maintain close contacts with all its district branches. The national society has established a taskforce with the Federation, to

strengthen the activities of BDRCS headquarters during the monsoon season. The Chinese ambassador has given a cheque of USD 30,000 directly to the BDRCS, for the flood affected people.

The local BDRCS branches in the flood affected districts are in close contact with local administration in assessing the current situation, and communicate with the emergency control room at BDRCS headquarters, with updates, on a regular basis. The local branches, with the help of Red Crescent Youth volunteers, have assisted in shifting affected people to safer ground and have participated in the distribution of limited emergency relief, through local fundraising for immediate distribution. All distributions have been made directly to the selected beneficiaries through the local branches.

Since 8th August, an assessment team, representing the BDRCS and the Federation, including the Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit, has been

active in the country, assessing the extent of the flood damage and revising the emergency appeal. The team conducted an aerial assessment throughout the flood affected areas, including physical visits to Sirajganj and Gaibanda districts, and visits by road to Manikganj, Dhaka and Faridpur, to assess the present needs of the most affected people living in remote villages, for inclusion in the revised appeal. They had several meetings with international and government organizations, NGOs and UN agencies.



BDRCS volunteers distributing food and non-food items to flood affected people in Faridpur district (Federation)

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

The Federation was the first agency to launch an international appeal on 03 July 2007, with an amount of CHF 842,257 (USD 684,762 OR EUR 510,459) being sought, in cash, kind or services, to assist 26,651 families (133,255 beneficiaries) for six months. Due to the prevailing crises and deteriorating flood situation, a revised appeal was launched on 16 August 2007, for an amount of CHF 7,113,118 (USD 5,907,905 OR EUR 4,310,980), in cash, kind or services, to assist 240,000 families (1,200,000 beneficiaries) for eight months. There has been a generous response, with CHF 912,038 received so far (see contribution/donor response list at the end of this update).

Overall Objective: The urgent needs (health and care, water and sanitation, food, clothing, household items, shelter etc.) of 240,000 unassisted families (1.2 million people) are met, the outbreak of disease is prevented and early recovery needs are supported, while BDRCS capacity is enhanced.

Objective 1: 170,000 severely affected and unassisted families (850,000 people) receive additional emergency food rations and essential non-food items.

Under the ongoing relief distribution programme, 19,600 families were reached in 12 districts, during the first and second phase, with food ration, non-food items and family kits. Under the third phase, 8,700 families will be covered in nine districts (refer to Annex 2, table 1 at the end of this update).

The distribution has been time consuming due to the fact that the affected communities live in scattered settlements and the beneficiary list has to be verified. Relief materials had to be transported in boats in some areas. Distribution was further delayed due to a shortage of edible oil in the market, and the Federation's Bangladesh delegation has been exploring different options and possibilities for overcoming this problem.

The entire volunteer base in the affected districts has been mobilized and involved in the flood response. A total of 315 volunteers, including Red Crescent Youth, actively participated in assessment and relief distribution programme in the affected districts.

Objective 2: Basic health care services (including preventive and promotive health) are provided to 70,000 families (350,000 people) of the most severely affected population for two and half months.

Five mobile medical teams (each team comprising a medical officer, paramedic and volunteer) were deployed since 12th August to deliver preventive, promotive and limited curative health care to the flood affected population around Dhaka city (refer to Annex 2, table 2 at the end of this update). In other affected districts, the teams, along with volunteers, distributed about 1.3 million water purification tablets (WPT) and 190,000 oral rehydration solution (ORS) packets. WPTs were obtained from UNICEF and about 50% of the ORS packets were obtained from the government's health department. UNICEF has allotted one million more WPTs to BDRCS/Federation, for distribution in the flood affected areas.



A boat ride to fetch safe drinking water (Federation)

BDRCS has allotted 10 beds in the Holy Family Medical College hospital, to treat diarrhoea patients free of charge. Three weeks prior to the date of reporting, 29 community based disaster management (CBDM) volunteers received training on public health in emergencies, and are now actively applying this training through their involvement in hygiene promotion and distribution of WPTs and ORS in the affected areas.

Objective 3: 15,000 families severely affected by the floods have received the necessary construction materials for damaged houses and/or livelihoods support, through in kind goods or under special cash voucher programme system, by December 2007.

At the end of monsoon season, once the water levels recede and the conditions are stabilized, the affected population can return to their homes. Severely affected families will be provided with construction material and basic livelihoods support.

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

BDRCS has formed committees, for disaster response and procurement, to undertake the relief operation. The Federation is also a member of these committees. A large number of BDRCS volunteers, including Red Crescent Youth, have been extensively involved in responding to this large scale relief operation, since the past two months, and are a vital asset to the operation. Significant impact has been made, especially by the 3,530 CBDM trained volunteers in the severely affected areas, in terms of disseminating information about flood early warning, community preparedness, safe evacuation, assessment, relief distribution and first aid services, together with local government and other agencies.

Federation Coordination

The Bangladesh delegation is coordinating with relevant government and humanitarian agencies with regard to the overall disaster situation, through the Disaster and Emergency Response (DER) network. BDRCS/delegation is in constant touch with WHO, UNICEF and the director general of health services, Bangladesh government. WHO shares its situation reports with the delegation on a regular basis. The delegation regularly participates in the water and sanitation cluster meetings organised by the directorate of public health engineering, with the support of UNICEF.

On 19th August, during a coordination meeting with in-country Movement partners, the delegation provided updated information on the relief operation. The Swiss Red Cross is in close contact with the delegation to provide necessary assistance for the transport of 300 tents into the country for the affected people. The head of mission of Medecins Sans Frontieres-Holland visited the delegation to collect information on the health situation and discuss possibilities for future interventions.

On 9th August, the BDRCS secretary general and head of delegation went on a monitoring visit to Tangail and Sirajganj districts, and held official meetings with units there, as well as observed the relief distribution. The project adviser of the European Union consortium project visited Jamalpur district to observe the relief distribution there.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

The operation ensures that programme implementation considers the Fundamental Principles while delivering humanitarian assistance. Timely assistance is being provided to the most vulnerable affected people and to those who are in most distress, without discrimination, based on BDRCS/Federation independent needs assessments. The BDRCS and Federation 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. According to the national society's disaster management relief manual, priority has been given to female headed families, the elderly and physically challenged people during distribution and recovery.

National Society Capacity Building

The 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 its capacity to implement and provide support to affected communities in a speedy and efficient manner.

During a field visit in Kurigram district, the Federation and British Red Cross communication team discovered that the local BDRCS unit managed to effectively reach beneficiaries in very remote areas (some of them a four-hour boat ride from the district headquarters) that have not yet been covered by any other agencies.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The BDRCS and Federation response to the current floods in the country has been covered by the national and local print and electronic media (radio and television), in both Bangla and English languages.

A communications delegate and a photographer from the British Red Cross spent five days in Bangladesh, to capture the flood situation for wider global media coverage. They visited some remote areas of the country, as well as Tangail and Kurigram 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

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[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, TORNSAO

TIMEFRAME: 21 Jun 07 to 03 Mar 08

LOCATION: Bangladesh

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	842,258
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	912,038
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	108%

Updated on: 20 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
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	10,000		16,500				16,500
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				510,014				510,014
Inkind Goods & Transport								
Swiss Red Cross	CHF	152,025		152,025				152,025
Total Inkind Goods & Transport				152,025				152,025
Other Income								
DREF Allocations	CHF	250,000		250,000				250,000
Total Other Income				250,000				250,000
Total Income				912,038				912,038
TOTAL FUNDING			0	912,038	0	0	0	912,038
COVERAGE			0%	108%	0%	0%	0%	108%

Annex 1: Government figures on impact of floods as on 16 August 2007

Affected Districts	40
Affected Upazillas (Sub-districts)	252
Affected Pourashava (Municipality)	67
Affected Union	1,958
Affected households (families)	2,260,885
Affected population	10,601,486
Reported deaths	370
House damaged (Fully)	63,441
House damage (Partially)	876,602
Crop damaged (Fully)	5,21,303 Hector
Crop damaged (Partially)	567,154 Hector
Road damaged (Fully)	2,878.43 Km
Road damaged (Partially)	19,931.26 Km
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Fully)	397
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Partially)	6,572
Embankment damaged (Fully)	72.36 Km
Embankment damaged (Partially)	682.62 Km
# of shelters opened	953
# of people in shelters	225,504

Annex 2: Tables

Table 1: Distribution update (as of 20 August 2007)

No	Phase	District	No. of families	Family kits	Response package	Distribution schedule	Status	Remarks
	1 st Phase		Food and non-food item					
1		Bogra	3,000		Food ration: 20kg rice, 5kg lentils, 2 ltr edible oil, 1kg salt.	18-31 July 2007	Completed	From the BDRCS own fund BDT 1,600,000 cash has been allocated to purchase dry food for affected families in 16 districts
2		Feni	1,500					
3		Cox's Bazar	2,500					
4		Bandarban	2,000					
1	2 nd Phase	Kurigram	1,300	300	Non food item: 1pcs men's clothing item and 1pcs women's clothing item.	7-20 August 2007	Completed	
2		Gainbandha	1,400	300				
3		Shirajganj	1,500	300				
4		Tangail	1,500	300				
5		Faridpur	700	300	Health kits: water purification tablet and bleaching powder			
6		Sunamganj	300	300				
7		Sylhet	300	300				
8		Jamalpur	1,200	300	Family kits: kitchen set, hygiene kit	22-28 August 2007	Family kits are delivered at all branches	
1	3 rd Phase	Manikganj	1,000	300				
2		Shariatpur	700	300				
3		Lalmonirhat	800	300				
4		Bogra	800	300				
5		Madaripur	500	300				
6		Munshiganj	500	300				
7		Netrokona	500	300				
8		Sherpur	500	300				
9		Rajbari	700	300				
21	Total	21	23,200	5,100				

Table 2: BDRCS Mobile Medical Teams – Dhaka

Date	No. of medical teams	Total cases treated	Less than 5 yrs of age			
			Diarrhoea	Dysentery	ARI	Referral
12 Aug	5	748	85	58	49	1 diarrhoea
14 Aug	5	679	77	44	32	0
15 Aug	5	821	219	52	49	0
16 Aug	5	875	100	63	77	0
18 Aug	5	936	166	77	17	0
Total	-	4,059	647	294	224	1