

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.4
04 September 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. 04; Period covered: 21 August to 03 September 2007; Appeal target: CHF¹ 7,113,119 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980); Appeal coverage: 26%; Outstanding needs: CHF 5,321,671 (USD 4,4203,667 or EUR 3,237,026).

[Click here for the interim financial report.](#)

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.
- Emergency appeal revised on 16 August 2007 to focus on the floods. The budget was increased to CHF 7,113,119 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980) for eight months to assist 1,200,000 beneficiaries due to the deteriorating situation.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated on 20 June 2007: CHF 250,000 (USD 203,252 or EUR 150,875).

Operational Summary:

Flood conditions in Bangladesh show signs of stabilizing after weeks of heavy rain that wreaked havoc in the country, leaving over 563 dead and hundreds of thousands homeless, according to government statistics (please refer to [Annex 1](#) for details of the disaster's impact).

Though the flood situation in the country is likely to improve further as the major rivers, including the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Ganges-Padma recedes, it is expected that the number of people suffering in the floods' aftermath will continue to rise.

The country's interim government said it is doing everything possible to ensure that flood victims receive food, clean water and access to healthcare.

The revised appeal launched on 16 August for 7,113,119 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980) in cash, kind or service to assist 240,000 families (1,200,000 beneficiaries) for eight months has received CHF 1,881,448² to date. The Federation is grateful for the support received; however, additional help is required to meet needs outlined in the appeal.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

¹ Swiss francs

² This figure includes in-kind donations, which is not reflected in the current financial report. The actual breakdown can be accessed in the donor response list for MDRBD002, available [here](#).

Background

Some 10,661,923 people from an estimated 2,285,620 families have been affected by the floods that hit 40 districts and 256 upazillas, causing colossal damage to lives, property and crops. A total of 10,799 people are still shelter in 53 relief camps, having been displaced from their homes.



Flood waters have started to recede.

Fortunately, flood waters continue to recede across the affected districts. The monsoon's intensity is decreasing, and water levels at major rivers such as Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma are falling or are below danger levels.

With floods easing, many people in relief camps are returning to their homes. However, their future is uncertain as their belongings have been destroyed in the wake of the floods. It will take an average of seven days or so for their mud-thatched houses to dry, provided that the weather remains clear.

It has been reported that at least 710 educational institutions including colleges, high schools, madrasas (religious educational centres) and primary schools have been partially or fully damaged by the floods in nine upazilas.

Meanwhile, the diarrhoea situation across the country remains grim, with 3,647 people newly-infected with water-borne diseases, raising the total to 54,964 since 30 July, as reported by the directorate general of health services control room. Except for a few districts in the north and the Chittagong Hill Tract districts, other flood-affected districts have not reported any malaria cases. So far, no confirmed cases of cholera, malaria and measles have been reported from the flood affected districts (Sources: WHO surveillance report), but other diseases such as acute respiratory infection (ARI), skin diseases and eye infections are prevalent.

Each day, more than 3,000 government medical teams are serving the flood-affected population in the affected districts, including Dhaka. In many Dhaka slums, the city's water and sanitation department is supplying safe drinking water in tankers in addition to regular piped water supply. Communities have reported that they are receiving adequate water supply through pipelines.

So far, the government has distributed 14,365 metric tones of Gracious Relief (GR) rice, BDT 41.9 million (CHF 775,150) GR cash, BDT 4.15 million (CHF 76,775) for relief operations, and BDT 117 million (CHF 2.16 million) for the flood-affected districts from the Chief Adviser's Fund. Meanwhile, various social and charitable organizations continue to provide aid in various flood-hit areas.

Experts say that if the country is flooded for the second time, it will have devastating consequences on the economy, as the recent flood has already caused huge damage to crops, bridges, culverts, roads, embankments and houses.

Operational developments

The operation was hampered by the security situation that evolved after a students' demonstration led to riots in various parts of the country from 20 to 22 August. The government eventually imposed a curfew from 22 to 24 August. This hampered the movement of delegates and personnel from BDRCS and the delegation, especially in Dhaka.

The affected continue to suffer, as there is shortage of food and many are getting infected with waterborne diseases, especially children who are the most vulnerable in this situation.

Various reports from different districts show that thousands of flood-affected survivors have yet to receive assistance due to inadequate quantities of relief and other materials.

BDRCS has given BDT 100,000 (CHF 1,850) to each of the 16 affected districts, providing 16,000 people with dry food such as puffed rice and molasses, from its own resources. Additionally, the BDRCS provided eight

kilogrammes of rice and two kilogrammes of potatoes to each of the 25 districts, benefiting 10,000 people. In another two districts, BDT 25,000 (CHF 463) has been provided to assist 500 people.

Active and motivated BDRCS volunteers including the Red Crescent youth (RCY) are involved extensively in response to this large scale relief operation. Significant impact has been made by the 5,600 RCY-trained volunteers in the severely flood-affected areas. The volunteers worked with the local government and other agencies to disseminate early warnings, community preparedness, safe evacuation, assessment, relief distribution and first aid services. For example, in Munshigonj, the unit disaster response team and the RCY has done commendable work in beneficiary selection for the distribution of relief items.

Currently, distribution has been completed under the three initial phases. Plans are underway to start phase four, with all distributions made direct to selected beneficiaries through the local Red Crescent branches.

Two senior regional disaster management officers from the South Asia regional representation have arrived to assist and provide necessary support to strengthen the logistics and relief operation. Also, logistics, operational and relief delegates will arrive within a couple of weeks to further strengthen the operation, with the operations coordinator scheduled to arrive on 3 September. For better information dissemination and an improved logistics system, an information and communications officer as well as a logistics and IT officer have been recruited. They have started their work this month.

The regional procurement coordinator from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur provided support in strengthening their system and identifying the best solutions in the procurement of food and non-food items. This process has been accepted and endorsed by all involved parties. On a broader scale, the mission also looked into identified and analyzed the existing logistics capacity in the country and recommended additional support and assistance where required.

The emergency flood relief control room at BDRCS national headquarters opened for better coordination and information sharing with the district units and other stakeholders is continuing. BDRCS continues to maintain close contacts with all its district branches.

The 300 tents provided by Swiss Red Cross have arrived, with custom clearance proceeding smoothly.

Donors at local levels have also started providing support. On 28 August, officials from Standard Chartered Bank gave the delegation BDT 900,000 (CHF 16,650) for the flood-affected communities and discussed the possibility of volunteer support in relief operations.

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

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, 28,300 families³ (approximately 141,500 people) were reached in 21 districts in the first three phases of assistance. Families were provided with either food rations or family kits, and all were given water purification tablets (please refer to annex 2 for details of the distribution). Under the fourth phase, an estimated 21,500 families (approximately 107,500 people) will receive food rations and 6,300 families (approximately 31,500 people) will receive family kits. This will be distributed within the second week of September in 21 districts (please refer to annex 3 for planned distribution). The 300 tents provided by



Relief items being transported by boat for distribution.

³ Calculation based on average of five people per family.

the Swiss Red Cross will be distributed between 5 to 9 September (please refer to annex 4 for details).

The distribution in some of the districts has been time-consuming due to scattered and remote settlements. Furthermore, the shortage of boats in some areas and the delay in supplies of salt caused some hiccups in the distribution. However, this situation is now under control and distribution is proceeding as planned.

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 have been deployed. 7,542 patients have received basic treatment from the mobile medical teams. Among them, 3,865 were children below 5 years of age (51.2 per cent).

On 22 August, three mobile medical teams reached communities living along the flooded canals by boats to provide limited curative services and health education. Until 26 August, 21,000 oral rehydration salts' (ORS) packets were distributed in the flood-affected areas around Dhaka city to all patients and the affected people. Also, 58,000 water purification tablets have been distributed to 1,200 families.



Mobile medical team at work in Pallid area in Dhaka City.

The World Health Organization shares its surveillance report regularly with the Federation.

BDRCS mobile medical teams – Dhaka

Date	No. of medical teams	Total cases (including children) treated	<5 yrs of age				
			Diarrhoea	Dysentery	ARI	Referral	Total children treated
12/08	5	748	85	58	49	1 diarrhoea	332
14/08	5	679	77	44	32	0	313
15/08	5	821	219	52	49	0	438
16/08	5	875	100	63	77	0	382
18/08	5	936	166	77	17	0	465
19/08	5	965	162	103	33	0	502
20/08	5	1039	191	58	56	0	554
21/08	5	896	151	93	22	0	505
22/08	3	583	128	60	45	0	374
26/08	3	676	83	44	36	0	317
Total	-	8218	1362	652	416	1	4182

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.

No significant action has been taken due to the funding situation.

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

The BDRCS disaster relief committee meeting was held during the reporting period, in which the Federation also participated. Extensive discussions were held regarding the current operation.

Federation Coordination

The UN has been in regular contact with the delegation regarding shelter issues and possible coordination. Discussions are ongoing on possible coordination/collaborations. Information has been shared with the UN regarding shelter activities.

On 23 August, the delegation held a meeting with the European Community Humanitarian office's (ECHO) in-country office with representatives from the regional office on the Federation proposals.

The Swiss Red Cross is in close contact with the delegation regarding the distribution of tents. Several meetings have taken place among BDRCS, Swiss Red Cross and the Federation delegation regarding the tent distribution.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

During some of the relief distributions in Madaripur, Lalmonirhat and Bogra, the security forces accepted the request made by the Federation and BDRCS team that during the time of the distributions, the security personnel should not be armed in distribution areas.

The Code of Conduct for NGOs in Disaster Relief and Movement Principles are being disseminated to the various stakeholders involved in the process before or during the distributions.

National Society Capacity Building

Besides on-the-job mentoring from the delegation, a brief review of the last distribution is planned on 3 September, together with the BDRCS. It is expected that through this process, necessary improvements in the operation can be addressed.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The relief operation has received wide coverage in local as well as national media. Several TV channels and national newspapers covered and published news regarding the distributions carried out by BDRCS and Federation.

An example of the coverage was visible in Munshigonj unit where the RCY volunteers collected resources from local communities for the flood affected people. RCY members of local schools and colleges placed donation boxes at strategic points to gather resources from local business houses, offices, public and educational institutions, and supported each of the 200 flood-affected families with four kilogrammes of rice. This initiative received significant attention in electronic and print media.

With the support of the British Red Cross communications team that visited last month, several stories have been posted on the web.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: Mr. M. Shafiul Alam (Secretary General), email: bdrcs@bangla.net, phone: +88.02.935.2226.
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- 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: Mr Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of zone), email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; phone: +603.2161.0892; fax: +603.2161.1210; Regional Logistics Unit – Mr Ilir Caushaj (Regional Logistics Coordinator), ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org, phone: +60 3 2628 2707, fax: +60 3 2168 8573; Kuala Lumpur Disaster Management Unit (DMU) – Mr Naoki Kokawa (Head of DMU), email: naoki.kokawa@ifrc.org; tel + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 375 1635.
- 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.

Financial report below; [click here to return to the title page.](#)

Annex 1: Details of the flood situation

Affected districts	40
Affected upazillas (Sub-districts)	256
Affected pourashava (Municipality)	68
Affected unions	1,997
Affected households (families)	2,285,620
Affected population	10,661,923
Reported deaths	563
Houses damaged (Fully)	69,807
Houses damage (Partially)	915,532
Crops damaged (Fully)	295,604 hectares
Crops damaged (Partially)	270,923 hectares
Roads damaged (Fully)	3,148 Km
Roads damaged (Partially)	23,180.26 Km
Educational institutions/infrastructure (Fully)	390
Educational institutions/infrastructure (Partially)	7,611
Embankment damaged (Fully)	79.05 Km
Embankment damaged (Partially)	675.59 Km
Number of shelters opened	53
Number of people in shelters	10,799

Annex 2: Distribution completed

Sl. No.	Phase	District	Food Ration		Family kit		Water purification tablets	
			(Family)		(Family)		(Family)	
1	Phase - 1	Bogra	3,000		Nil		3,000	
2		Feni	1,500		Nil		1,500	
3		Cox's Bazar	2,500		Nil		2,500	
4		Bandarban	2,000		Nil		2,000	
Total of Phase - 1				9,000		Nil		9,000
5	Phase - 2	Kurigram	1,300		300		1,600	
6		Gainbandha	1,400		300		1,700	
7		Shirajganj	1,500		300		1,800	
8		Tangail	1,500		300		1,800	
9		Faridpur	700		300		1,000	
10		Sunamganj	300		300		600	
11		Sylhet	300		300		600	
12		Jamalpur	1,200		300		1,500	
Total of Phase - 2				8,200		2,400		10,600
13	Phase - 3	Manikgnj	1,000		300		1,300	
14		Shariatpur	700		300		1,000	
15		Lalmonirhat	800		300		1,100	
16		Bogra	800		300		1,100	
17		Madaripur	500		300		800	
18		Munshiganj	500		300		800	
19		Netrokona	500		300		800	
20		Sherpur	500		300		800	
21		Rajbari	700		300		1000	
Total of Phase - 3				6,000		2,700		8,700
Totals			23,200		5,100		28,300	

Annex 3: Planned distributions for the 4th Phase (as of 9-20 September)

No	District	Families		Total	Distribution schedule
		Food and Non-food	Family kits		
1	Chandpur	1500	300	1800	9-20 September 07
2	Comilla	1500	300	1800	Same as above
3	Dhaka	1500	300	1800	Same as above
4	Narayanganj	1000	300	1300	Same as above
5	Munsiganj	300	-	300	Same as above
6	Gajipur	800	300	1100	Same as above
7	Jhinaidah	1500	300	1800	Same as above
8	Magura	1500	300	1800	Same as above
9	Pabna	1500	300	1800	Same as above
10	Natore	1000	300	1300	Same as above
11	Rajshahi	800	300	1100	Same as above
12	Narshingdi	1000	300	1300	Same as above
13	Brahmanbaria	300	300	600	Same as above
14	Habiganj	300	300	600	Same as above
15	Sylhet	300	-	300	Same as above
16	Sunamganj	500	-	500	Same as above
17	Gopalganj	1000	300	1300	Same as above
18	Madaripur	300		300	Same as above
19	Barisal	1000	300	1300	Same as above
20	Mymensingh	800	300	1100	Same as above
21	Kishoreganj	800	300	1100	Same as above
22	Netrokona	300	-	300	Same as above
23	Sherpur	300	-	300	Same as above
24	Rangpur	800	300	1100	Same as above
25	Nilphamari	300	300	600	Same as above
26	Satkhira	300	300	600	Same as above
27	Narail	300	300	600	Same as above
	Total	21,500	6,300	27,800	

Annex 4: Tents' distribution to be carried out from 5 to 9 September 2007

No	Cluster	District	No. tents
1	One	Bogra	24
2		Gaibanda	24
3		Kurigram	30
4	Two	Tangail	30
5		Sirajganj	24
6		Jamalpur	28
7	Three	Faridpur	28
8		Shariatpur	28
9		Chandpur	28
10	Four	Manikganj	28
11		Munsiganj	28

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBD002 - BANGLADESH - FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, TORNADO

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/8
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRBD002
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		7,113,119				7,113,119
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross		150,535				150,535
British Red Cross		74,100				74,100
Canadian Red Cross		86,130				86,130
Finnish Red Cross		33,000				33,000
Hong Kong Red Cross		19,301				19,301
Japanese Red Cross		42,066				42,066
Liechtenstein Red Cross		15,100				15,100
Monaco Red Cross		16,500				16,500
Swedish Red Cross		179,400				179,400
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent		12,282				12,282
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief		2,000				2,000
C1. Cash contributions		630,414				630,414
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Bangladesh - Private Donors		16,650				16,650
Finnish Red Cross		246,600				246,600
German Red Cross		131,520				131,520
Irish Government		328,800				328,800
Japanese Red Cross		272,720				272,720
Swiss Red Cross		100,000				100,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		1,096,290				1,096,290
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		1,726,704				1,726,704
D. Total Funding = B + C		1,726,704				1,726,704

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		1,726,704				1,726,704
E. Expenditure		-196,246				-196,246
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		1,530,458				1,530,458

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBD002 - BANGLADESH - FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, TORNDAO

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/8
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRBD002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)		7,113,119					7,113,119	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	648,150						648,150	
Clothing & textiles	1,334,000		43,032			43,032	1,290,968	
Food	2,928,800		127,434			127,434	2,801,366	
Seeds,Plants	92,500						92,500	
Water & Sanitation	270,200						270,200	
Medical & First Aid	104,300						104,300	
Utensils & Tools	259,000						259,000	
Other Supplies & Services	129,600						129,600	
Total Supplies	5,766,550		170,466			170,466	5,596,084	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	74,074						74,074	
Computers & Telecom	16,111						16,111	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	25,370						25,370	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	115,555						115,555	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	85,056		24			24	85,032	
Distribution & Monitoring	111,067		8,017			8,017	103,049	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	72,667		81			81	72,585	
Total Transport & Storage	268,789		8,122			8,122	260,667	
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	136,400		1,650			1,650	134,750	
Delegate Benefits	78,000						78,000	
Regionally Deployed Staff	33,600						33,600	
National Staff	33,111		1,076			1,076	32,035	
National Society Staff	68,444		1,309			1,309	67,136	
Total Personnel Expenditures	349,556		4,035			4,035	345,521	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	13,890		174			174	13,716	
Total Workshops & Training	13,890		174			174	13,716	
General Expenditure								
Travel	71,630		274			274	71,355	
Information & Public Relation	24,982						24,982	
Office Costs	21,111						21,111	
Communications	13,333		369			369	12,965	
Financial Charges	1,667						1,667	
Other General Expenses	3,704		50			50	3,654	
Total General Expenditure	136,427		693			693	135,734	
Program Support								
Program Support	462,353		12,756			12,756	449,597	
Total Program Support	462,353		12,756			12,756	449,597	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	7,113,119		196,246			196,246	6,916,873	
VARIANCE (C - D)			6,916,873			6,916,873		