

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. 5
17 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 over 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 05; Period covered: 04 September to 12 September 2007; Appeal target: CHF 7,113,118 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980); Appeal coverage: 26%; Outstanding needs: CHF 5,231,701 (USD 4,300,971 or EUR 3,158,095).

[Click here to go directly to the contributions list.](#)

[Click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report.](#)

Appeal history:

- **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.**
- **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.**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated on 20 June 2007: CHF 250,000 (USD 203,252 or EUR 150,875).**

Operational Summary

The floods have reoccurred in an estimated one-third of the area in the country since last week, triggered by heavy rainfall which led to swelling in major rivers.

An estimated 100,000 people are newly marooned in different districts, while some fortunate ones took shelters on highlands and in flood shelters. The government flood-forecasting centre warned that the situation is likely to worsen.

The affected people continue to suffer, due to the lack of food, drinking water, medicine and feed for their livestock.



BDRCS health team providing medical care to the affected.

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

Background

The monsoon rains have battered the river delta nation and much of the region over the past months, leaving hundreds killed, hundreds of thousands homeless, and over ten million affected.

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The government and media report that the monsoon is mostly active over the Brahmaputra basin. Brahmaputra-Jamuna recorded a slight rise at Noonkhawa, as did the Ganges-Padma, and the rising trend may continue. The flood situation in the south-central part of the country in particular is deteriorating, and the prevailing flood situation in the districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj is likely to worsen. The flash flood situation in the districts of Comilla, Feni, Noakhali and Lakshmipur may remain unchanged.

Fresh floods gripping the country have increased the numbers of those affected to 11.39 million¹ people in 46 districts, killing 848 people to date. Over 6,281 people are still in shelters. It has damaged and/or destroyed households, embankments, roads, institutions and a huge area of crops. A more detailed report is still to come from the field.

The newly planted seedlings in thousands of hectares of land have gone under water. The initial crop damage is estimated to be close to USD 100 million (approximately CHF 120 million) if not more, while the UN World Food Programme (WFP) anticipates over a million people will likely require food assistance until the end of the year. The estimates in the local media suggest that the country's agricultural sector has suffered losses of between USD 80 to USD 100 million (approximately CHF 96.2 to 120 million). It is anticipated that the prevailing situation will result in serious consequences on the harvest expected in early 2008.

Added to this already alarming situation are international commodity prices and rising fuel costs. Food prices in Bangladesh are high, but the floods - some of the worst in recent years - have exacerbated the situation. Food prices in the flood-affected areas could still rise further, as suppliers struggle to get their products to market with trucks that take up to four times longer to deliver goods, resulting in additional transport costs.

The country's health services continue to be tested, following an increase in waterborne diseases, most notably diarrhoea, as well as other post-flood ailments, including pneumonia, typhoid, hepatitis, conjunctivitis and a host of skin infections. According to the country's ministry of health, over 100,000 cases of diarrhoea have been reported since the end of July nationwide.

Tornados lashed in some parts of Lalmonirhat and Chittagong districts, leaving up to 100 thatched houses damaged and at least 20 people injured. Minor quakes occurred in the northeast part of Dhaka City with no casualties reported. Water-logging problems persist in 221 villages of Tala of Khulna district. Over 75,000 people in this area are marooned and their livelihoods destroyed.

Operational developments

The trend for people living in flood-prone areas is to rely on traditional mechanisms to cope with the floods. Fast-growing vegetables and seasonal crops help affected communities return to pre-disaster status. Unfortunately, the second wave of floods to hit the country has affected its post-flood cultivation, hampering the people's ability to recover.

In response to the second wave of floods, BDRCS youth in Sylhet evacuated 25 families from the collapsed houses to a temporary shelter. In coordination with the local administration, they are providing dry food from their own resources to the affected people in shelter. In Moulovibazar, the BDRCS youth team has assessed damage and needs of the communities.



BDRCS volunteers assisting in the distribution of relief items.

The security situation mentioned in the last report has subsided. However, the fourth phase of distribution for food and non-food items for 21,500 beneficiaries has yet to take place due to the re-tendering process which started on 8 September. The process has been conducted following advice from the Geneva Secretariat, due to previous

¹ Source: Government of Bangladesh

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technical shortcomings. The regional procurement coordinator from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur is providing technical support to speed up the process of re-tendering and in identifying the proper solutions in the procurement of food and non-food items. Distributions of the fourth phase will be conducted once the re-tendering has been done.

The operations coordinator and one relief delegate have arrived and taken over their task in the operation. They have already visited two of the flood-affected areas for an introductory and monitoring visit. The relief delegate, along with four teams comprising BDRCS and Federation staff are presently in the field to assess the flood situation for further intervention. The joint assessment team is visiting 20 of the 46 affected districts. On 12 September, the assessment team in Kurigram reported that two of the nine sub-districts are badly affected, and four others very badly affected. Up to 20,000 houses were partially/completely destroyed, 40,000 people badly hit and 115,000 marooned. Water of the four rivers (Bhramaputra, Dharala, Dudkumar and Tista) surrounding the Kurigram is rising fast. A complete picture from the field can be expected within a couple of days.

BDRCS volunteers including the Red Crescent youth are involved extensively in response to this large-scale relief operation in all the affected areas of Bangladesh. Local volunteers including Red Crescent youth have been involved in rescue operations in two districts in the affected areas.

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.

The fourth phase of distribution is expected to take place within the next three weeks. So far, 28,300 families (approximately 141,500 people) have been reached in 21 districts in the first three phases of assistance. Affected families were provided with either food rations or/and family kits, depending on their situation, while all were given water purification tablets (please refer to annex 2 of Operational Update 4 for details of the distribution). It is planned that 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. However, the distribution plans may be amended, further to reports received from the assessment teams.

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 were deployed in Dhaka City to provide basic treatment. A total of 8,968 patients have received basic treatment from the mobile medical teams. Up to 23,000 oral rehydration salts' (ORS) packets have been distributed in the affected areas around Dhaka City to all patients and the affected people. In addition, 59,000 water purification tablets have been distributed for 1,950 families.

The World Health Organization continues to share its surveillance report regularly with the Federation.

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 taken place due to the funding situation.

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

From its own resources, BDRCS has distributed dry food to 10,100 families in 26 districts as of 12 September. The dry food comprised of 8 kilogrammes of rice and 2 kilogrammes of potatoes, and each district received 400

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packets of these items. In Sylhet district, 24 Red Crescent youth participated in rescue operations. Red Crescent youth and volunteers were also involved in rescue missions in Kurigram.

During the joint review meeting between BDRCS and Federation, a detailed discussion on the procedures of the distributions was evaluated. In this meeting, remedies and lessons learned were discussed as well.

Federation Coordination

Discussions have been ongoing between BDRCS, Swiss Red Cross and the Federation to facilitate the distribution of 300 tents, including selection criteria and coordination with local administration.

The delegation participated in several meetings organized by the government's disaster emergency response group. Federation has also been participating in sub-group meetings, which are formed to improve relief assistance coordination with various agencies. Several teams have been formed by the government, UN and non-government organizations to assess the present situation. The delegation has no need to participate in these government assessment teams since they are involved in working closely with BDRCS units. However, an understanding has been developed that information will be shared and all possible cooperation/coordination will be maintained with the other agencies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

On 3 September, during a brief joint review meeting between the BDRCS and Federation field teams, emphasis was on the distribution process and compliance with Movement Principles. In addition, the head of the delegation emphasized proper maintenance of integrity and accountability issues.

National Society Capacity Building

The quick intervention of branches for assessing and identifying the needs of the communities has highlighted the improved capacity of the national society. In addition, this was made visible through the distribution of relief items which involved volunteers, staff and governance members.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The British Red Cross project advisor working within the framework of the delegation was interviewed on 8 September 2007 by the monthly publishing magazine Marie Clare. The interview focused on the impact of the Bangladesh flood situation on adolescent women and steps that are taken to protect them.

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:

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- 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: Mr. Al Panico (Head of regional delegation), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Asia Pacific Zone in Malaysia: 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. Latifur Rahman (Regional disaster management delegate), email: latifur.rahman@ifrc.org; tel + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 975 0144.
- 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.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBD002 - BANGLADESH - FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, TORNDAO

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/9
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		7,113,118				7,113,118
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>		150,535				150,535
<i>Bangladesh - Private Donors</i>		16,006				16,006
<i>British Red Cross</i>		74,100				74,100
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>		86,130				86,130
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		279,600				279,600
<i>Hong Kong Red Cross</i>		19,301				19,301
<i>Irish Government</i>		328,800				328,800
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		42,066				42,066
<i>Liechtenstein Red Cross</i>		18,433				18,433
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		16,500				16,500
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		179,400				179,400
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>		12,282				12,282
<i>VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief</i>		2,000				2,000
C1. Cash contributions		1,225,153				1,225,153
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>German Red Cross</i>		131,520				131,520
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		272,720				272,720
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>		100,000				100,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		504,240				504,240
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		1,729,393				1,729,393
D. Total Funding = B + C		1,729,393				1,729,393

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		1,729,393				1,729,393
E. Expenditure		-498,923				-498,923
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		1,230,470				1,230,470

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Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
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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)		7,113,118					7,113,118	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	648,150						648,150	
Clothing & textiles	1,334,000		123,876			123,876	1,210,124	
Food	2,928,800		313,233			313,233	2,615,567	
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		185			185	129,415	
Total Supplies	5,766,550		437,293			437,293	5,329,257	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	74,074						74,074	
Computers & Telecom	16,111		916			916	15,195	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	25,370						25,370	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	115,555		916			916	114,640	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	85,056		24			24	85,032	
Distribution & Monitoring	111,067		19,040			19,040	92,026	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	72,667		3,099			3,099	69,568	
Total Transport & Storage	268,789		22,163			22,163	246,626	
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		3,591			3,591	29,520	
National Society Staff	68,444		3,943			3,943	64,501	
Total Personnel Expenditures	349,556		9,185			9,185	340,371	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	13,890		4,328			4,328	9,562	
Total Workshops & Training	13,890		4,328			4,328	9,562	
General Expenditure								
Travel	71,630		1,284			1,284	70,346	
Information & Public Relation	24,982		2,409			2,409	22,573	
Office Costs	21,110		2,827			2,827	18,283	
Communications	13,333		1,736			1,736	11,597	
Financial Charges	1,667		3,911			3,911	-2,245	
Other General Expenses	3,704		115			115	3,589	
Total General Expenditure	136,426		12,282			12,282	124,144	
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)	7,113,118		498,923			498,923	6,614,195	
VARIANCE (C - D)			6,614,195			6,614,195		