

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. 7
13 October 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. 07; Period covered: 27 September to 10 October 2007; Appeal target: CHF 7,113,118 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980); Appeal coverage: 47%; Outstanding needs: CHF 3,749,748 (USD 3,202,176 or EUR 2,258,884).

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

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

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

The situation continues to deteriorate in Bangladesh despite the receding floodwaters. Millions of people have been displaced across the country and are still living on embankments and roadsides in temporary, flimsy shelters. The number of deaths has increased to 1,100, and diarrhoea, dysentery and other waterborne diseases are spreading fast. Fresh floods have damaged newly sown paddy rice and vegetable fields – approximately over a million hectares of land across the inundated districts. In many areas, access is only possible by boat.

The national society volunteers in the field have assisted in the selection of beneficiaries for distributing supplementary food and non-food items. They have also helped in training the beneficiaries on how to pitch up the tents, which were recently distributed to 11 districts. The volunteers are visiting the beneficiaries who received the tents on a regular basis to provide further assistance, and the relief items that have been distributed so far will be an enormous help for the upcoming annual festival to the flood-affected people.

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

Background

The monsoon is fairly active over Bangladesh and moderate to strong elsewhere over North Bay. All the rivers are flowing below their respective danger levels. According to the flood forecasting and warning centre (FFWC) outlook, no flood situation prevails over the country. However, while the floodwaters continue to recede in monsoon-hit Bangladesh, it is leaving behind immense challenges in terms of crop and infrastructure damages, health services and food aid. This is a challenge faced by the government, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in their efforts to help rehabilitate the affected families.

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The long-term effects of the floods are only just beginning to materialize. Not only have people been stripped of their possessions by the floodwaters, they are also burdened with the loss of this year's rice crop. In normal years, the fields are harvested and then prepared for the next planting in late August and September. After transplanting the *aman* rice crop in late September, the agricultural labourers face unemployment for up to two months as they wait for the crop to ripen and harvesting to begin in December. However, due to the damage caused by the floodwaters to the *aman* rice this year, the labourers will be out of work until the next harvesting season. Previous years' experience shows that many are likely to starve in the affected districts. Malnutrition, particularly among children and women, is very common, which adds up to an extremely desperate situation faced by the people.

Water logging, which is visible all around Dhaka city due to the poor drainage system, further aggravated the flood situation. Most of the canals in the city are either being encroached upon by illegal land grabbers or clogged due to the illegal dumping of solid and construction waste.

According to the directorate general health services of the Bangladesh government, over 3,300 medical teams are working in the 39 flood-affected districts to provide emergency medical services to the flood victims. This is to tackle the health problems existing in 560 flood shelters, as a part of mitigating health impacts due to the floods.

Many national and international non-governmental organizations are working to support the flood victims with donations from national and international donor agencies and governments from different countries. Donors include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), Thematic Humanitarian Response (THS), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and others. Besides these agencies, many individuals, group of individuals and companies have extended their help to the flood-affected communities.

Operational developments

Although the floodwaters are receding, the 46 affected districts are still in need of immediate assistance. Millions of people require various types of support such as food and non-food items, shelters, and medical facilities.

The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) funding for €500,000 (approximately CHF 822,000) was officially signed on 19 September 2007 to support five districts with food/non-food items, as well as the mobilization of six mobile medical teams. The districts supported under this programme include Tangail, Manikgonj, Faridpur, Sharitpur and Rajbari.

Two teams consisting of Federation and BDRCS staff have been formed to conduct the initial distribution of relief items in two of the five districts (Tangail and Manikgonj). The relief delegate joined the team in Tangail, and Red Crescent youth volunteers assisted in the verification and selection on beneficiaries. Distribution of food and non-food items started on 8 October and was completed by 10 October. Each team split into two groups to monitor the distribution in two or three distribution points simultaneously. Initial reports coming from Manikgonj have also stated that the distributions were carried out as planned. Senior Red Crescent youth volunteers extended their help in distributing relief items and in beneficiary selection, along with the officials and committee member volunteers. Further details of the distribution will be reported once the teams return from the field.

It is planned that the assessment teams will be sent to the remaining three districts after the Eid festival, with distributions estimated to be completed by the end of October.

With the support and assistance in file preparation from the Kuala Lumpur regional logistics unit, the procurement of the fourth phase of food and non-food items for 21,500 families was sent to the Logistics and resource mobilization department (LRMD) at Federation Secretariat in Geneva and approved by the Committee of Contract. The purchase order has been placed and delivery of the items started on 7 October, to be followed by



Relief items being carried to the distribution site in Manikgonj.

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distribution on 8 October. Approval has been requested from LRMD for the procurement of food and non-food items for a further 20,000 families.

To date, BDRCS, from its own initiative, has assisted 13,000 families in 39 districts, and have started to assist a further 14,700 families. The Kurigram branch unit undertook the initiative and responsibility to support three communities of an estimated 300 families. Additionally, the unit planned and took effective steps to reactivate previous community-based disaster management activities. A few meetings were conducted with the respective communities to identify the types of livelihood support required to improve their living conditions. A committee was formed in each of the three communities, and fund of an estimated CHF 1,700 was raised, further to the 100 goats provided by the BDRCS. The Kurigram branch unit is confident that they will be able to launch a good livelihoods programme by January 2008.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society recently handed over a significant amount of relief materials to the BDRCS for 15,000 flood-hit families. Further details will be provided in future reports.

Red Cross 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 relief teams left on 6 October to assist the units in ensuring that all the necessary preparation work was completed, and the commodities have been delivered to the unit offices. On 7 October, the teams planned the course of distribution with the units and verified that the beneficiary list.

In total, the ECHO fund will serve an estimated 20,000 families or 100,000 beneficiaries in five districts. Relief items consisting of food and non-food items have been distributed to a total of 9,200 families by the two teams, with 4,400 families in Tangail and 4,800 families in Manikgonj. The remaining 10,800 families in Faridpur, Sharitpur and Rajbari districts will be finalized before the end of October.

The following requirements were requested and agreed to be delivered by logistics/supplier on 7 October to the two units:



Thumb print of a beneficiary is taken before distributing the relief items.

District	Families	Rice (20kg per bag)	Dhal (5kg per bag)	Oil (2 litres per bottle)	Salt (1kg per bag)	Lungi (1 per family)	Saree (1 per family)
Tangail	4,400	88,000	22,000	8,800	4,400	4,400	4,400
Manikganj	4,800	96,000	24,000	9,600	4,800	4,800	4,800
Total	9,200	184,000	46,000	18,400	9,200	9,200	9,200

The commodities underwent inspection by the Crown Agent.

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.

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Five mobile medical teams are serving the flood-hit families around Dhaka. The distribution of 36,600 water purification tablets and 17,516 oral rehydration salts between 27 September and 7 October has taken place in various areas around Dhaka city. A total of 4,200 families and patients have benefited from this distribution.



Medical team providing health and care to the flood affected people.

The volunteers in the field assisted in the distribution of water purification tablets and oral rehydration salts, and disseminated personal hygiene and water and sanitation messages to help improve the lives of target beneficiaries. The reduction of water born diseases and complications of the existing diseases is averted through timely and essential treatments.

Part of the ECHO funds will also be used to provide emergency health care services to 20,000 families to prevent waterborne disease outbreaks in the targeted flood-affected communities. However, some other affected population of the catchment's area may also benefit from this intervention. Plans are underway to carry out the activity.

BDRCS Mobile Medical Teams: 27 September to 3 October 2007

Date	No. of medical teams	Total cases (including children) treated	<5 yrs of age				
			Diarrhoea	Dysentery	ARI	Referral	Total children treated
27/09	5	628	91	53	39	0	348
28/09	5	665	79	48	38	0	320
29/09	5	605	64	16	44	0	226
30/09	5	580	36	33	26	0	203
01/10	5	631	56	18	24	0	215
02/10	5	625	59	23	44	0	293
03/10	5	677	60	29	36	0	261
04/10	5	609	59	28	24	0	213
05/10	5	546	39	35	29	0	253
06/10	5	588	64	21	28	0	269
07/10	5	645	80	59	34	0	322
Total		6799	687	363	366	0	2923
Total 12 Aug - 7 Oct		12,330	1166	654	732	2	5514

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.

As a part of the initial assistance to the flood-affected families, 300 families (approximately 1,500 people) in 11 districts were provided with a tent each from the Swiss Red Cross. The districts where the tents have been distributed are Bogra, Gaibanda, Kurigram, Tangail, Sirajgong, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Chandpur, Manikgonj and Munsiganj.

Of the 300 tents distributed, 61 tents could not be erected due to flood waters that have yet to subside. Up to 24 tents, initially planned for Bogra, have been re-allocated because it was identified by the assessment team that there was no need for it at this point of time. A plan of action is now under construction to distribute these 24 tents (after the upcoming festivities of Eid) in the districts of Jamalpur and Chandpur where there is still a pressing need for shelter. A team will leave for Jamalpur and Chandpur on 16 October to finalize this particular issue.

Under this objective, livelihoods support and necessary construction materials will be provided in kind. The number of beneficiaries will be finalized based on available funding. As reported previously, the seedlings

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distribution will take place after the waters recede in the fields, which may take over a month. The Federation and BDRCS, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), will decide on the types of seeds suitable for this season, the number of beneficiaries to be assisted and related costs for this operation. Currently, all branches have been requested to prepare a list of an estimated 1,000 beneficiaries each for the distribution of seeds.

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

The Kurigram unit has approximately 20 dedicated Red Crescent youth volunteers and 25 disaster response team volunteers. After the distribution of the tents, the beneficiaries were provided with follow-up and assistance (if needed) to erect the tents, in addition to general support from the volunteers.

Furthermore, the unit executive committee (EC) is coordinating well with the local authorities. Meetings are held daily in addition to regular telephone communication, to ensure constant updates on the current situation. Two community-based disaster management officers are performing their duties, including organizing and conducting trainings, managing the logistics and financial aspects of the operation as well as monitoring, implementing and reporting the progress so far.

BDRCS action not funded by the appeal

Up to 13,000 families of 39 districts have been assisted by the national society with approximately CHF 104,980 from its own funds and donations received from different organizations. Relief goods distributed to the affected communities include pulses, oil and potatoes as well as flattened and pressed rice, and work is already underway to further assist another 14,700 families. Initial plans are to finish the distribution by 14 October before the Eid festival. The packages will include ten kilogrammes of rice, four kilogrammes of dahl, 2 litres of oil, a sheet, a mat, a saree and a lungi¹, to be distributed in 21 other districts.

Federation Coordination

During the last coordination meeting on disaster and emergency response with the United Nations (UN), World Bank, international and local non-governmental organizations, it was announced that during the month of October a comprehensive assessment will be conducted in the flood affected areas in order to present to the government a report on the situation and progress by 31 October. The main objectives of the present assessment and consequent report include validation of previous damage reports, compilation of lessons learned, formulation of a recovery report and consequently, a long term of response management system. Details of the upcoming report can be expected in due time.

A meeting was held on 2 October with all the relief members of the Federation. The meeting focused on the distribution of ECHO commodities (food and non-food) in two branches- Tangail and Manikganj. It was agreed that the BDRCS would provide four officers to jointly assist these units and monitor the distribution. The disaster management officer and BDRCS relief officer have requested that the units prepare the registration and verification of the beneficiary list and ration cards, etc., and coordinate with the local authorities on all related activities accordingly. Arrangements have been made for each unit to send a volunteer to collect the newly printed distributions list and beneficiary cards from the Federation delegation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

Nothing significant to report.

National Society Capacity Building

Nothing significant to report.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Emergency shelter needs among 28 affected families the Chandpur district were met by the BDRCS, with assistance from the Swiss Red Cross Society on 1 October. This distribution was covered by four leading national

¹ Cotton garment worn around the waist.

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newspapers. In addition, the tent distributions in the different districts were shown on national television channels all over the country.

On 4 October, a press conference on BDRCS and Federation-assisted steps to rehabilitate flood-affected families took place. Media coverage included eight leading newspapers and various national television channels. Furthermore, a web story on volunteer activities in the prevailing flood situation was posted in the web.

Annex 1**Details of the flood situation as 04 October 2007**

Affected Districts	46
Affected Upazillas (Sub-districts)	263
Affected Pourashava (Municipality)/Union	2,096
Affected households (families)	2,961,972
Affected population	13,771,380
Reported deaths	1,110
House damaged (Fully)	84,321
House damage (Partially)	1,003,799
Crop damaged (Fully)	890,898 Hectares
Crop damaged (Partially)	1,353,366 Hectares
Road damaged (Fully)	3,705 Km
Road damaged (Partially)	27,828 Km
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Fully)	563
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Partially)	8,190
Embankment damaged (Fully)	88 Km
Embankment damaged (Partially)	1,008 Km
# of shelters opened	40
# of people in shelters	5,032

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: bdracs@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: 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; phone: + 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, TORNADO

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/10
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/2
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>						
American Red Cross		150,535				150,535
Bangladesh - Private Donors		16,006				16,006
British Red Cross		475,307				475,307
Canadian Red Cross		86,130				86,130
Finnish Red Cross		279,600				279,600
German Red Cross		115,080				115,080
Hong Kong Red Cross		19,301				19,301
Irish Government		328,800				328,800
Japanese Red Cross		314,786				314,786
Liechtenstein Red Cross		18,433				18,433
Monaco Red Cross		16,500				16,500
On Line donations		4,624				4,624
Swedish Red Cross		179,400				179,400
Swiss Red Cross		80,000				80,000
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent		12,282				12,282
United States - Private Donors		80				80
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief		2,000				2,000
C1. Cash contributions		2,098,863				2,098,863
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Danish Red Cross		102,835				102,835
ECHO		830,000				830,000
German Red Cross		16,600				16,600
Hong Kong Red Cross		146,873				146,873
Swiss Red Cross		20,000				20,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		1,116,308				1,116,308
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Other		4,400				4,400
C5. Inkind Personnel		4,400				4,400
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		3,219,571				3,219,571
D. Total Funding = B + C		3,219,571				3,219,571

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		3,219,571				3,219,571
E. Expenditure		-674,590				-674,590
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		2,544,981				2,544,981

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Interim Financial Report

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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		416,913			416,913	2,511,887	
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		540,973			540,973	5,225,577	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	74,074						74,074	
Computers & Telecom	16,111		3,382			3,382	12,729	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	25,370						25,370	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	115,555		3,382			3,382	112,174	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	85,056		24			24	85,032	
Distribution & Monitoring	111,067		20,411			20,411	90,655	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	72,667		4,462			4,462	68,205	
Total Transport & Storage	268,789		24,897			24,897	243,892	
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	136,400		20,303			20,303	116,097	
Delegate Benefits	78,000						78,000	
Regionally Deployed Staff	33,600		1,650			1,650	31,950	
National Staff	33,111		7,707			7,707	25,404	
National Society Staff	68,444		6,896			6,896	61,549	
Total Personnel Expenditures	349,556		36,556			36,556	312,999	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	13,890		4,351			4,351	9,539	
Total Workshops & Training	13,890		4,351			4,351	9,539	
General Expenditure								
Travel	71,630		7,450			7,450	64,179	
Information & Public Relation	24,982		3,815			3,815	21,168	
Office Costs	21,110		4,988			4,988	16,122	
Communications	13,333		4,224			4,224	9,110	
Financial Charges	1,667		9,973			9,973	-8,307	
Other General Expenses	3,704		184			184	3,520	
Total General Expenditure	136,426		30,633			30,633	105,792	
Program Support								
Program Support	462,353		33,798			33,798	428,555	
Total Program Support	462,353		33,798			33,798	428,555	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	7,113,118		674,590			674,590	6,438,528	
VARIANCE (C - D)			6,438,528			6,438,528		