

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.8
14 November 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. 08; Period covered: 14 October to 06 November 2007; Appeal target: CHF 7.11 million (USD 5.9 million or EUR 4.3 million); Appeal coverage: 55%; Outstanding needs: CHF 3.2 million (USD 2.85 million or EUR 1.95 million).

[Click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report¹.](#)

[Click here to go directly to the donor 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 7,113,118 (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

With the support of the Federation, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continue to assist the vulnerable flood affected people of Bangladesh. To date, non-food items have been distributed to 221,500 people by the BDRCS/Federation, and up to 27,000 people have received family kits. Meanwhile, 33,500 of food parcels, according to needs, have been distributed through BDRCS's own initiative to 44 affected districts.

The Federation/BDRCS team also assessed the health and care needs of five districts, namely Tangail, Manikganj, Rajbari, Faridpur and Shariatpur. Further to an independent assessment, the team also interviewed government health authorities and other agencies on their response to health in emergencies, in order to avoid duplication of interventions. Based on new information, the ECHO plan of action has been revised to include water and sanitation activities, such as the installation of various new facilities in the affected communities located in three of the five ECHO-supported districts.

Activities implemented so far have helped improve the lives of targeted beneficiaries. The supplementary food rations have helped affected people slowly return to their normal activities, with the relief commodities filling the gap of food insecurities. The seeds to be distributed will help to re-cultivate destroyed crops, thereby assisting the vulnerable in reclaiming their livelihoods. Improved water and sanitation facilities as well as exposure to information, education and communication materials on health and care will benefit the local people by helping to minimize exposure to health risks through knowledge.

¹ Attached financials do not reflect in-kind donations. For most current appeal coverage, please refer to donor contributions list, located [here](#).

National society volunteers are continuing to assist in the selection of beneficiaries and distribution of cards to the new beneficiaries in the central areas of the country for distributing supplementary food and non-food items.

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

Background

The devastating floods have affected and displaced millions of people across the country. Floodwaters have caused colossal damage, destroying approximately two million hectares of crops and vegetables². According to official sources, the government of Bangladesh has intensified its efforts to recoup the losses suffered by the country's agriculture sector, especially the current 'aman' crop (seasonal rice crop). Floodwaters have damaged and/or destroyed households, embankments, roads, and institutions. An estimated 1,100 people have died, and diarrhoea, dysentery and other waterborne diseases were at a rise.

The long-term effects of the floods are becoming more apparent day by day. Various newspaper sources highlight that many people are migrating from the flood-affected districts to look for work in the city. Unfortunately, a lack of employment opportunities has resulted in people resorting to alternatives such as begging to survive.

The government of Bangladesh, national and international organizations are continuously working to support the flood victims. Financial aid and assistance from national and international donor agencies and governments have been received to support the people in rebuilding their lives.

According to the sources from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, the seasonal low lies over South Bay and is extending its trough to North Bay. All the rivers are flowing well below their respective danger levels, and no flood situation prevails over the country.

Operational developments

The government of Bangladesh and other stakeholders including the BDRCS have been providing relief, food and shelter items to the flood-affected people since the onset of the disaster. The BDRCS, with the assistance from the Federation, has been responding through its various branches to help the vulnerable.

BDRCS is carrying out the operation in the field with technical assistance from the operations coordinator, relief delegate and key staff. Volunteers from all affected branches have been engaged for beneficiary selection, card and relief items distribution. The procurement process for local goods is underway, headed by the procurement and logistics delegate. The recent increase on prices of oil and lentils initially procured for the fourth phase of distributions has led to re-tendering (details can be found further in the report). The process is being carried out according to Federation rules and with technical advice and support from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur.

During this reporting period, five teams comprising of BDRCS and Federation staff monitored the beneficiary selection and distribution of cards as well as food and non-food items in the field. Furthermore, a team assessed the need and future distribution of seedlings, while another team covered water and sanitation and health care needs assessment.

The Federation/BDRCS team also assessed the health and care needs of the five ECHO-intervention districts, namely Tangail, Manikganj, Rajbari, Faridpur and Shariatpur. Further to an independent assessment, the team also



Red Crescent Youth in Tangail district announcing to the beneficiaries on the different relief commodities which are going to be distributed to them.

² Estimate based on operations update no. 7, located [here](#).

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interviewed government health authorities and other agencies on their response to health in emergencies, in order to avoid duplication of interventions. According to district level health authorities, up to 65 medical teams with adequate life saving medicines have been providing essential basic health care to the five districts. In addition, the Bangladesh army medical teams were well prepared to give essential drugs to prevent any further disease outbreaks. As such, the team concluded that the most pressing need for these affected districts was water and sanitation, this being an alternative option to basic and primary health care approach.

On another front, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society's bilateral contribution to the BDRCS in support of the floods operation was used as part of the relief materials to assist 15,000 flood-hit families. The materials included an estimated 1,000 packs consisting of a ten kilogramme pack of rice, four kilogrammes of dahl, two litres of oil, a sari, lungi, mat and plastic sheet.

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

To date, 21 districts have been provided with food and non-food items in the initial three phases of distribution. Up to 44,300 families (approximately 221,500 people) were provided with a food and non-food package each, and an additional 5,400 families (approximately 27,000 people) received a family kit each.

During this reporting period, five teams comprising of BDRCS and Federation staff went to Tangail, Manikgonj, Rajbari, Faridpur, Shariatpur and Magura districts to monitor the beneficiary selection, registration and distribution of cards for food and non-food items.

As part of the third phase of distributions, a total of 20,000 packages of food and non-food items have been distributed in the five ECHO-supported districts, between October and early November. Details on distributions in Tangail and Manikganj were covered in [operations update no. 7](#). Distributions in the remaining three districts of Rajbari, Faridpur and Shariatpur have been completed at the time of reporting. Consolidated details are as follows:

District	No. of families	Rice (20kg per bag)	Dhal (5kg per bag)	Oil (2liter per bottle)	Salt (1kg per bag)	Lungi (one per family)	Saree (one 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
Rajbari	2,000	40,000	10,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Faridpur	4,800	96,000	24,000	9,600	4,800	4,800	4,800
Shariatpur	4,000	80,000	20,000	8,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total	20,000	400,000	100,000	40,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

The fourth phase of distributions, to support another 21,500 families in 26 districts with food and non-food commodities, has begun. To date, 1,500 families have been provided with food and non-food packages, as well as 300 family kits, in Magura. Lungis, saris, rice and salt have been ordered and the deliveries will begin soon. Unfortunately, unstable international market conditions have resulted in an increase in the price of oil and lentils, thereby delaying the procurement and distribution process to the remaining 25 districts. However, re-tendering is already underway, and once finalized, the testing of pre-supply samples by authorized inspection agency Crown Agents will be done. Further to the approval by the Committee on Contract from Geneva, orders will be placed, with the process expected to be completed by 19 November.

In some cases the demand for relief items were so high that local Red Crescent units were in favour of splitting the food and non-food packages in order to cover more number of people. Challenge was to convince them not to split the packages and to maintain the SPHERE Standards. Appropriate beneficiary selection became another challenge because of the high number of affected people and the intervention from different agencies. Identifying the most vulnerable people and avoiding duplications was emphasized by the RC unit and the joint BDRCS & Federation

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monitoring team. Collaboration and coordination with government agencies and other organizations are making it possible in order to reach the right beneficiaries.

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.

The Federation and BDRCS joint mission team has conducted a further need assessment in the five ECHO-funded districts to assess health intervention needs. As part of the assessment, the team consulted government health authorities and other agencies on the overall health situation, as well as needs and response to health emergencies.

According to the office of the civil surgeon, the district level health authorities currently have a sufficient number of medical teams and an adequate stock of life saving medicines and health kits. These medical teams are currently based in Tangail, Manikganj, Rajbari, Faridpur and Shariatpur, and are providing services in the form of treatment, distribution of oral rehydration salts, bleaching powder and water purification tablets to the vulnerable. In addition, the district level Bangladesh army medical teams are on stand-by with essential drugs to treat cases related to health in emergencies.

However, it was found that most of the sanitary facilities of the affected families were destroyed in the wake of the floods in Tangail, Manikganj, Rajbari, Faridpur and Shariatpur districts. The families who have returned to their collapsed houses are living in unhygienic conditions. Furthermore, families who have lost their belongings due to the river bank erosion are now living along the road sides and embankments with limited access to water and sanitation.

The flood-affected vulnerable families require external support to re-establish their access to the damaged/lost water and sanitation facilities. It has been identified by the BDRCS and Federation joint team, government and World Health Organization (WHO) that many tube-wells in the riverine islands and low-lying areas are submerged under flood water, preventing marooned people from getting safe drinking water. Sanitary latrines are also inundated and have become unusable. It is planned that the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities will take place in the districts of Manikganj, Tangail and Shariatpur, thereby benefiting up to 8,000 people.

Awareness of health-related issues needs to be further strengthened in the communities. Many people living in the flood plain areas still possess limited knowledge on family and community level hygiene. In order to cope with the present and possible future floods, knowledge on basic hygiene should be enhanced. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials are being prepared, covering a range of topics including the use of water purification tablets and bleaching powder, preparation and use of oral rehydration salts, do's and don'ts to prevent waterborne disease outbreaks or epidemics as well as practical advice to pregnant women, children, etc. The IEC materials will be pictorial in nature and produced in the local dialect for easy understanding and interpretation of the communities. Awareness-raising will help in the prevention of health hazards and reduction of possible outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Target beneficiaries

No	Activities	Beneficiary category	No. of beneficiaries
1	Raising the platform of 45 existing tube-wells and upgrading facilities in Tangail, Manikganj and Shariatpur districts.	Marginal families living in the riverine island and low-lying areas affected by the flood and highly exposed to flooding	4,500 people
2	Installation of 10 new raised tube-wells in three districts.		1,000 people
3	Installation of 400 new raised sanitary latrines in relevant districts.		2,500 people
4	Increase in family and community levels of hygiene awareness in three districts.		8,000 people

Procurement procedures for the relevant water and sanitation components have started in the three districts. The technical specifications have been finalized and local tenders are currently being received. It is expected that the tenders will be completed and finalized by 17 November.

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.

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Before commencing seed distributions, the BDRCS/Federation relief teams conducted assessments to identify the targeted beneficiaries in all the five ECHO-sponsored districts. The assessment teams have submitted their reports based on information from the field. The rehabilitation phase will start within the next two weeks; a total number of 11,200 marginal and small farmers will receive seeds after the procurement process has been finalized. It is expected that the farmers will be able to start cultivating their lands by December.

The seed tendering process has been initiated after finalizing technical specifications in consultation with the field, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as well as the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). It is expected that the tenders will be received by 13 November. This will then be finalized with the approval from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Further to the completion of distributions of food and non-food items, focus will then be moved to the reconstruction phase.

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

The distribution of food and non-food items have been implemented by The Red Crescent Youth team, followed by an orientation on Code of Conduct for emergency response, Red Cross Red Crescent Principles and coordination with local administration. This is in addition to consistent on-the-job training and orientation for staff and volunteers. The branch has also been briefed on their roles and responsibilities in obtaining access to the government coordination network in order to avoid any duplication of efforts.

Federation Coordination

The Federation and the BDRCS continue to coordinate frequently with the government, United Nations and other humanitarian agencies. Regular coordination has also been maintained with BDRCS branches. On 18 October, a sharing discussion, as part of regular coordination with ECHO representatives, was held. It was recognized that, further to the needs assessment carried out by Federation/BDRCS, the initial allocation for emergency primary health care through mobile medical teams should be revised. This is due to the fact that the government of Bangladesh and its district health authorities have sufficient medical teams to address current health needs. As such, it was proposed that the funds could be re-directed to a water and sanitation programme, as it is very much related to primary health care and is a current and pressing need in the affected districts.

The Federation country delegation and BDRCS had three consecutive meetings on 9, 16 and 17 of October 2007 to finalize the dates of distribution for the ECHO districts in the central part of the country. This is in addition to the planning of the fourth phase of distributions for the remaining 25 affected districts.

Updates and reports are regularly issued to share with respective partners and donor agencies. Since the beginning of the operation, weekly to fortnightly reports were issued. The current reporting strategy will see an operations update per month issued, unless the situation deteriorates.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

During the distributions in October, the volunteers and staff of Manikganj and Tangail demonstrated high motivation and commitment towards the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. They continued with distributions throughout the important religious days of Ramadan, right up till first day of Eid so as to reach as many beneficiaries as possible.

National Society Capacity Building

Nothing significant to report.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

So far, several stories and photos to profile flood operations has been posted on the web. Interventions by the BDRCS and Federation have received coverage in electronic media, such as that on the distribution of relief items in Rajbari district.

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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[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	2007/1-2007/11
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 (received)</u>						
American Red Cross		150,535				150,535
Australian Red Cross		368,862				368,862
Bangladesh - Private Donors		16,006				16,006
British Red Cross		475,307				475,307
Canadian Red Cross		86,130				86,130
Danish Red Cross		102,835				102,835
ECHO		664,000				664,000
Finnish Red Cross		279,600				279,600
German Red Cross		115,080				115,080
Hong Kong Red Cross		165,496				165,496
Irish Government		328,800				328,800
Japanese Red Cross		314,786				314,786
Korea Republic Red Cross		50,000				50,000
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		3,430,754				3,430,754
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Red Cross		15,763				15,763
ECHO		167,300				167,300
German Red Cross		16,730				16,730
Hong Kong Red Cross		-2,027				-2,027
Swedish Red Cross		109,140				109,140
Swiss Red Cross		20,000				20,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		326,907				326,907
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Other		8,800				8,800
C5. Inkind Personnel		8,800				8,800
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		3,766,461				3,766,461
D. Total Funding = B + C		3,766,461				3,766,461

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		3,766,461				3,766,461
E. Expenditure		-1,142,201				-1,142,201
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		2,624,261				2,624,261

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MDRBD002 - BANGLADESH - FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, TORNADO

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		156,786			156,786	1,177,214	
Food	2,928,800		784,974			784,974	2,143,826	
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		941,945			941,945	4,824,605	
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		643			643	84,412	
Distribution & Monitoring	111,067		27,302			27,302	83,765	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	72,667		6,423			6,423	66,244	
Total Transport & Storage	268,789		34,368			34,368	234,421	
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	136,400		40,005			40,005	96,395	
Delegate Benefits	78,000						78,000	
Regionally Deployed Staff	33,600		1,650			1,650	31,950	
National Staff	33,111		12,883			12,883	20,228	
National Society Staff	68,444		9,435			9,435	59,010	
Total Personnel Expenditures	349,556		63,973			63,973	285,582	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	13,890		4,652			4,652	9,237	
Total Workshops & Training	13,890		4,652			4,652	9,237	
General Expenditure								
Travel	71,630		9,949			9,949	61,681	
Information & Public Relation	24,982		8,858			8,858	16,124	
Office Costs	21,110		7,951			7,951	13,159	
Communications	13,333		6,074			6,074	7,259	
Financial Charges	1,667		16,064			16,064	-14,397	
Other General Expenses	3,704		236			236	3,467	
Total General Expenditure	136,426		49,132			49,132	87,294	
Program Support								
Program Support	462,353		44,749			44,749	417,604	
Total Program Support	462,353		44,749			44,749	417,604	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	7,113,118		1,142,201			1,142,201	5,970,917	
VARIANCE (C - D)			5,970,917			5,970,917		