

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD002
GLIDE No. FF-2007-000080-BGD
Operations update n° 9
14 December 2007

Period covered by this Operations Update:
07 November to 11 December 2007

Appeal target: CHF 7.1 million (USD 5.9 million or EUR 4.3 million)

Appeal coverage: 57%; Outstanding needs: CHF 3,067,759 (USD 2,743,970 or EUR 1,859,248).

[<click here for the Emergency Appeal>](#)

Appeal history:

- An 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).



An elderly woman waiting in line for seed distribution in flood-affected Manikganj district

Summary:

Despite all challenges, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, with the support of the Federation and other valuable donors, managed to continue its early recovery initiatives for the flood affected most vulnerable targeted population. Until today (in Tangail, Manikganj and Shariatpur districts) 45 water systems have been restored and 10 newly installed; 400 latrines have been erected, which gives approximately 8,000 people access to safe drinking water and facilitates safe hygiene practices. Encouragingly, under the livelihood programme, seeds for winter crops (rice, wheat, vegetables) were distributed in the three most affected targeted districts; and 11,200 marginal and small farmers managed to get involved again with the Red Cross Red Crescent support to their traditional business; where 56,000 people directly benefiting. In parallel, the operation reached at fourth phase of relief distribution. The activities are being carried out at a slower pace than initially planned, due to the unforeseen Cyclonic storm SIDR, which struck the coastal areas of Bangladesh in November. Steps have already been taken to speed up the process and to return to the normal pace of implementing the activities in the field.

[For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal at http://www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

The situation

Torrential rains leading to two consecutive phases of floods between the months of June and October 2007 devastated the lives of millions of people across Bangladesh. So far, approximately 1,110 people have been

reported dead. Part of In addition to the destruction of houses, 4.9 million acres of crops and vegetables were destroyed. Due to the scarcity of drinking water, hazardous diseases prevailed throughout the flood affected districts. The government of Bangladesh, along with national and international organizations, has been working continuously to support the most vulnerable people in the flood affected districts.

According to reports from the print media on 29 November, a fresh spurt of flooding affected 9,000 people in seven villages in Satkhira district. This was confirmed by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)/Federation team that was carrying out an assessment on the situation in Satkhira after Cyclone SIDR hit. The Kabodak and the Kholpetua rivers burst their embankments; about 32 metres of the Kabodak embankment collapsed and about 183 metres of the Kholpetua embankment has been washed away by the river water. Many of the affected people have taken shelter on high land and in educational institutions.

On 15 November, Cyclone SIDR hit southwest Bangladesh, causing widespread death, devastation and the wrecking of livelihoods for millions of families in large parts of the country. As of 10 December, 3,347 people have been reported dead as a result of the cyclone and infrastructure, crops and roads reported as extensively damaged. As a result of this, the BDRCS with the support of the Federation, has temporarily diverted its operations into responding to the situation in the cyclone affected areas and is currently implementing its relief phase under the cyclone operation. To help the cyclone affected populations cope with their immediate needs during this emergency phase, food and non-food stocks, initially procured for distribution among flood-affected populations, were diverted to the cyclone-affected areas.

Despite the diverting of operations into responding to the Cyclone SIDR, there has been progress in the distribution of seeds and interventions in the area of water and sanitation in the selected four flood-affected districts. Details of these are mentioned below in the report.

Coordination and partnerships

The Federation has been working closely with European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) in the relief distribution process under the floods operation. The desk officer from ECHO, Brussels visited a number of remote areas that had been affected by the floods and interacted with families who had benefited from relief assistance provided by BDRCS, with support from the Federation, and funded by ECHO. Besides this, coordination meetings related to the recovery phase of the floods operation were held with ECHO and Federation representatives in Dhaka.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

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

Relief activities related to the flood operation continue even after Cyclone SIDR struck the country. While food and non-food items for 20,000 flood-affected families were temporarily diverted to the cyclone operation, in order to provide immediate assistance to the cyclone-affected population, the related distribution under the floods operation will resume by the fourth week of December. Plans are underway to start the fifth phase of distribution in January 2008.

Currently, up to 44,300 flood-affected families have been provided food packages. Each package contains a combination of carbohydrate, protein, fat, and iodine, consisting of 20 kg rice, 5 kg lentils, 1 kg salt and 2 litres of oil. The package has given one month additional food security (which been expressed by the beneficiaries) a family for approximately one month. In addition to the food package, a non-food package consisting of required cooking utensils, lungies (men's clothing item) and sarees (women's clothing item) were also distributed among 49,700 families. Prior to and beginning of the winter season (December and January), plans are underway to distribute thousands of blankets to the most vulnerable families in the flood affected areas.

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.

BDRCS volunteers are continuing to disseminate hygiene messages in the targeted communities, such as the use of sanitary latrines, importance of washing hands and keeping food covered. This is important as it aims at preventing water borne diseases, which have affected a large number of people during the floods. As the

prevalence of flood-related diseases have reduced, BDRCS mobile medical teams are no longer required in the flood affected areas.

Common health hazards during floods include the inundation of latrines with flood water, which renders latrines unusable while contaminating water sources with human excretions. Currently, in Tangail, Manikganj and Shariatpur districts, 45 water systems have been restored and 10 newly installed; 400 latrines have been erected, which gives people access to safe drinking water and facilitates safe hygiene practices. Raised platforms for wells are raised in order to protect them from contamination in case of flooding during the next monsoon season.

A total of 30 volunteers have been trained on basic hygiene promotion. The effort is to raise awareness among the communities on how to improve on personal hygiene, to use water purification tablets, to prepare and use oral rehydration salts, the “dos and the don’ts” to prevent water borne diseases and to prevent the outbreak of epidemics. Out of these 30 volunteers, 15 volunteers are women. Additionally, communities will gain knowledge on the importance of acquiring safe drinking water and proper disposal of human waste to prevent diarrhoeal and water borne diseases.

Work orders for the installation of tube wells, upgrading existing tube wells and installation of sanitary latrines have been issued and are expected to be completed by the end of December.

Table 1: Water and sanitation interventions in three districts badly affected by the floods

S. No	Activities	Manikganj	Tangail	Shariatpur	Total
1	Raised platform and upgrading existing tube wells	14	15	16	45
2	Installation of new tube wells with raised platform	3	3	4	10
3	Building new latrines with raised platform	140	140	120	400

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.

During this reporting period, seeds of winter crops such as boro rice, wheat and vegetables, among other, have been distributed to the affected farmers. Seed distributions have been allocated to 11,200 marginal (0.5 acre) and small farmers (one acre) in the districts of Faridpur, Shariatpur, Manikganj and Tangail. The harvest of wheat, onions and rice can be expected within the next two months, which will provide food and income to the most vulnerable farming communities.

Table 2: Seed distribution in four districts badly affected by the floods

No	District	Crop Varieties			No of families*	No of beneficiaries
		Wheat (17 kg per family)	Boro variety no. 29 (10 kg per family)	Onion (850 gram per family)		
1	Faridpur	0	1,800	300	2,100	10,500
2	Shariatpur	1,300	1,400	200	2,900	14,500
3	Manikganj	1,400	1,800	200	3,400	17,000
4	Tangail	1,300	1,500	0	2,800	14,000
	Total	4,000	6,500	700	11,200	56,000

* One farmer per family

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

The strengthened capacity of the BDRCS was demonstrated when Cyclone SIDR hit the country recently. Despite having to cope with two disaster relief operations, the BDRCS, supported by the Federation, maximised its resources to continue with seed distributions and water and sanitation activities in the flood operation, while at the same time addressing the needs of those affected by Cyclone SIDR. The effectiveness of the BDRCS volunteers has also been obvious. They have performed exceptionally well during relief distributions and in many cases, the volunteers helped elderly beneficiaries to carry heavy food and non food packages.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

Till date, five flood related stories have been published on the Federation website. These stories reflect the work done by the BDRCS and Federation, profiling examples of good work done by BDRCS volunteers and strong coordination established by BDRCS/Federation with partners in assisting flood affected families. In addition, a press release on the efforts of BDRCS to assist farmers in supporting their livelihoods (seed distribution) was also published in one of the leading English national newspapers. Another press release was published in one of the leading Bengali newspapers about donations being received by the BDRCS for its flood operation.

To ensure the visibility of BDRCS/Federation work in the flood affected areas, BDRCS volunteers wore aprons with the BDRCS and Federation emblems.

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 International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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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[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Donor response to MDRBD002 - Bangladesh - Floods, Landslides, Torndao

TIMEFRAME: 21 Jun 07 to 03 Mar 08

LOCATION: Bangladesh

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	7,113,118
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	4,045,359
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	57%

Updated on: 14 Dec 2007

	Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BUDGET				7,113,118				7,113,118
FUNDING								
Opening Balance								
Income								
Cash contributions (received and pledged)								
American Red Cross	USD	124,500		150,535				150,535
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)	AUD	356,388		384,625				384,625
Bangladesh - Private Donors	BDT	900,000		16,006				16,006
British Red Cross	GBP	199,500		475,307				475,307
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	74,250		86,130				86,130
Danish Red Cross	CHF	102,835		102,835				102,835
ECHO	EUR	500,000		829,000				829,000
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	170,000		279,600				279,600
German Red Cross	EUR	80,000		131,580				131,580
Hong Kong Red Cross	HKD	1,083,010		163,469				163,469
Intel Foundation	USD	50,000		55,900				55,900
Irish Government	EUR	200,000		328,800				328,800
Japanese Red Cross	USD	260,900		314,786				314,786
Korea Republic Red Cross	CHF	50,000		50,000				50,000
Liechtenstein Red Cross	CHF	18,433		18,433				18,433
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	10,000		16,500				16,500
New York Office (from Kraft Foods)	USD	12,500		13,975				13,975
New York Office (from Western Union Foundation)	USD	33,334		37,267				37,267
On Line donations	CHF	5,175		5,175				5,175
Singapore Red Cross	SGD	30,550		23,685				23,685
Singapore Red Cross (from Singapore Government)	SGD	5,335		4,136				4,136
Swedish Red Cross	SEK	600,000		110,280				110,280
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	1,000,000		179,400				179,400
Swiss Red Cross	CHF	100,000		100,000				100,000
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	USD	9,985		12,282				12,282
United States - Private Donors	USD	67		80				80
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	CHF	2,000		2,000				2,000
Total Cash contributions				3,891,786				3,891,786



Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
		CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BUDGET			7,113,118				7,113,118
FUNDING							
<u>Opening Balance</u>							
Income							
Inkind Goods & Transport (pledged)							
Norwegian Red Cross	NOK	7,200	1,548				1,548
Swiss Red Cross	CHF	152,025	152,025				152,025
Total Inkind Goods & Transport			153,573				153,573
Total Income			4,045,359				4,045,359
TOTAL FUNDING		0	4,045,359	0	0	0	4,045,359
COVERAGE			57%				57%