

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Bangladesh: Cyclone SIDR

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD003  
GLIDE No: TC-2007-000208-BGD  
Operations update n° 6  
24 December 2007

Period covered by this Operations Update: 13-20 December 2007

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 24,483,160 (USD 22.2 million or EUR 15 million) in cash, kind, or services to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to assist 243,000 families (1,215,000 beneficiaries) over two years from the date. This appeal was launched on 25 November 2007. [<click here for the Emergency Appeal>](#)

A Preliminary Appeal was launched for CHF 3,989,305 on 16 November 2007 to mobilize immediate relief assistance.

CHF 250,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.



Beneficiaries awaiting BDRCS relief distribution in Bagerhat district

This operation is to be implemented over a two-year period and is expected to be completed by November 2009. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

### Summary:

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation responded to the devastating Cyclone SIDR, which struck the southern coastal and inland areas of Bangladesh on 15 November 2007, with immediate relief distribution in the most affected areas. To date, the BDRCS/Federation have distributed urgently needed food and are in the process of distributing non-food relief items to approximately 100,000 people (20,000 households) across the four most affected districts of Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur. Relief distributions to another 200,000 people (40,000 households) across an additional five districts will continue after the Eid and Christmas religious holidays.

Detailed assessment activities are ongoing for early recovery activities across a range of sectors. While immediate shelter needs are being met through the distribution of plastic sheeting and tarpaulins, support for more durable shelter is consistently identified by beneficiaries as their highest priority. Implementation of a community based cyclone resistant shelter programme will commence in early January 2008, targeting 5,000 new household shelters and 30,000 improved household shelters across the four most affected districts. In addition, British Red Cross support will target the extremely vulnerable and hard-to-reach fishing communities on the southern coastline with durable shelter and livelihoods assistance.

Though the incidence of sanitation related diseases did not pose a problem following the cyclone and resultant flooding, with the onset of cold weather in the disaster affected areas, BDRCS and Federation health workers remain concerned about preventing the spread of diseases like acute respiratory tract infection. The areas affected have chronic poor water quality sources and sanitation practices which will need to be addressed over

the medium to longer term. Early water and sanitation assistance is in an advanced stage of planning with community level infrastructure works anticipated to commence in January 2008.

The psycho-social well-being of the communities affected by the disaster will be addressed through the provision of psychological first aid to those who have suffered great loss and to BDRCS staff and volunteers. The psycho-social needs assessment team has completed their assessment and the report and plan of action will be available in the coming weeks. With timely funding assistance (commitments being sought) the programme will be able to deploy 20 psychology students from Dhaka university, trained in psychological first aid and referral, as volunteers to the worst affected communities in early January 2008.

Planning for the provision of livelihoods assistance to affected communities has commenced and a range of options for early assistance are being investigated. The livelihoods assistance programme will target shelter programme recipients for an integrated approach to household recovery. Similarly, water and sanitation and health assistance will seek to compliment the community based approach to shelter reconstruction.

**Since the launch of the Appeal, international response has been positive. The plan of action prepared by the BDRCS, with the support of the delegation and FACT has been circulated. However, in due course of time the need to revise it depending upon the financial situation and the operational need may take place. A donor contribution list attached with this operations update that shows contributions for which pledge management notes have been received. Including those pledges which are currently indicated but not confirmed in writing, to date we have reached 55.57% coverage.**

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have contributed or pledged to this Appeal. However, there is still a need for further contributions to enable BDRCS/Federation to deliver the planned assistance as laid out in this Appeal.**

[<Click here for current donor contributions list>](#)

## The situation

Bangladesh is still struggling to cope with the devastating effects of Cyclone SIDR, which tore through this deltaic country on 15 November 2007, killing thousands of people and rendering several millions more homeless and starving. According to the latest figures (given in the table on the right) from the disaster management information centre of the Bangladesh's ministry of food and disaster management, the number of deaths as of 18 December 2007, shows an increase from the figures reported in the previous operations update.

Agricultural losses have been high and there is an increased risk of widespread food insecurity in many areas of the country. Economists fear that a silent famine may be stalking the country as the devastating cyclone (and monsoon floods prior to that during June-October 2007) have not only destroyed crops but also affected agricultural production and income-generating activities. Seed losses and fertilizer shortages are likely to further constrain early agriculture sector recovery.

The health situation in the cyclone affected districts remains stable. The diarrhea situation remains manageable and reported cases of fever and skin diseases remain low. A priority concern remains the risk of respiratory tract infection and the spread of flu / pneumonia cases during the colder winter months.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's (BDRCS's) operation in response to Cyclone SIDR is being carried out as planned. Its' flood response operation in the northern and central parts of the country is also being implemented simultaneously and flood-affected families have been provided with food and non-food packages, along with livelihood support in the form of seed distribution. Plans are underway to distribute thousands of blankets to beneficiaries for the winter. (See Floods Operations Update no. 9 posted on 11 December 2007).

**Table 1: Situation table**

Affected districts	30
Affected upazillas (Sub-districts)	200
Affected unions	1,950
Affected households (families)	2,064,026
Affected population	8,923,259
Reported deaths	3,363
People injured	55,282
People lost (missing)	871
Houses damaged (Fully)	563,877
Houses damaged (Partially)	955,065
Crops damaged (Fully)	742,827 acres
Crops damaged (Partially)	1,730,117 acres
Livestock deaths	1,778,507
Roads damaged (Fully)	1714 km
Roads damaged (Partially)	6,361 km
Educational institutions (Fully)	4,231
Educational institutions (Partially)	1,2723
Embankment damaged	1,875 km
Damaged trees	4,065,316

## Coordination and partnerships

As part of the Cyclone SIDR response, the Federation continues to build its capacity to effectively coordinate and facilitate Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners and to engage effectively with non-Movement partners, including the Bangladesh government and the United Nations (UN) coordination mechanisms, particularly the various sectoral Clusters Working Groups. The BDRCS are supporting the early recovery cluster joint assessment which is currently underway.

Regular Federation led coordination meetings with partner national societies (PNSs) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continue to be held under the leadership of the head of the Federation's Bangladesh delegation. During the reporting period, one such meeting was held on 19 December. The meetings ensure effective information sharing, coordination of assessment activities and briefing of new staff under the operation. Sector specific technical working groups are currently being established to maintain necessary coordination and manage information among Movement partners. Movement partners present in-country but not formally engaging with the Federation's coordination efforts are encouraged to share information. For example, the Kuwait Red Crescent informed the head of the Bangladesh delegation that they plan to divert their support for the operation through the Bangladesh government.

In addition to regular coordination meetings, a number of orientation and training sessions have been conducted, including an orientation session on psycho-social programming, a brief orientation on early recovery assistance, and an introduction to cash-transfer programming. These sessions serve the purpose of raising awareness within the Federation on key concepts and approaches to programming, as a basis for developing common approaches, and as a basis for further advocacy and training with BDRCS.

The Bangladesh delegation continues to participate in meetings with key institutional donors and to seek funding support for the Appeal. For example, on 14 December, the delegation participated in a meeting organised by USAID for key partners, in order to plan for the visit of a delegation from USAID. The USAID team will visit Morrelgunj upazilla (sub-district) in Bagerhat district to observe Federation supported BDRCS activities. Further, delegation meetings with UN agencies over the past week have secured a sizeable soft pledge for shelter and other activities under the Appeal. Discussions are underway with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office for possible partnership in shelter constructions, with the UNDP being interested in providing financial support for shelter constructions. However, negotiation is going on regarding the timeframe of the activity.

### Inter-agency coordination and the Emergency Shelter Cluster

The Federation continues to play a visible lead role for the shelter coordination group (SCG). The SCG receives data from the partners on their plans and actual operations for distribution of non-food items and shelter materials. To date, of 35 agencies registered with the SCG, 13 have submitted information on their plans and actual operations.

**Table 2: Summary of planned and actual distributions, as reported before 13 Dec 2007**

No of agencies	NFI Distributions, targeted households			Shelter Materials Distributions, targeted households		
	No of Districts	Planned	Already distributed	No of Districts	Planned	Already distributed
13	8	321,873	116,993*			
6				7	95,249	0

At the SCG coordination meeting held on 19 December, it was agreed that shelter assistance had to be re-oriented from permanent to emergency and transitional shelter and its implementation accelerated. Many affected households are still living under reclaimed damaged building materials, which is not sufficient to face the hardship of the upcoming winter and rainy season. Using some rough estimation of the hardship and the poverty in the affected region, it can be said that the gap for emergency and transitional shelter needs is in the range of 200,000 households. According to the shelter coordinator, a press release is being prepared to request the donors to "reinviolate their funding efforts".

\* Included in the number of planned targeted households

A workshop on building cyclone-resistant shelter was conducted in Barisal on 15 December, attended by approximately 50 participants, including BDRCS and Federation staff and representatives from the UN and international NGOs.

The SCG members are participating in the Early Recovery Cluster joint assessment, which is currently underway and due to report in mid-January 2008. The shelter assessment team will focus on interviews/focus group discussions with families across six districts, 13 upazillas and 39 unions.

#### **Coordination with the ICRC - restoring family links**

The BDRCS, with the support of the ICRC, has updated its database since the start of the operation. To date, 284 people have been confirmed as missing. The identities of missing persons are being compared with the lists of those killed, which are provided by the government. Once this is done, it is followed up by the BDRCS volunteers in the field to clarify its authenticity.

The BDRCS is in the process of printing tracing posters, containing names and basic information on the missing persons from Patuakhali, Borguna and Pirojpur districts. The posters will be posted throughout the most affected districts, calling on the public to share information on the missing persons' whereabouts as well as to report new cases. The tracing activities are also being extended to other affected districts such as Bagerhat and Chittagong.

## **Red Cross Red Crescent action**

The focus of BDRCS action in response to Cyclone SIDR, with the support of Federation and other Movement partners,, including regional response tool/regional disaster response teams (RDRT), during the reporting period is summarized in the table below.

**Table 3: Focus of BDRCS action**

<b>RCRC partner (in-country)</b>	<b>Focus of action 13-20 December 2007</b>
British Red Cross	Shelter and livelihoods assessment
ERU (Logistics)	Barisal warehouse management, sea and air freight inbound
Federation	Coordination, relief distributions, logistics, recovery assessment (water and sanitation and health)
German Red Cross	Relief, shelter and mother and child health assessment
Kuwait Red Cross	Relief through government
RDRT	Relief distributions (4 most affected districts)
Spanish Red Cross	Relief and recovery programme planning
Swiss Red Cross	Relief distributions

Whilst the bulk of the initial food and non-food item distributions is now complete, there have been some unfortunate delays due to situation specific factors. The massive scale of the need for immediate food and non-food relief items, together with logistics hampered by poor road conditions, difficulty in accessing some remote locations and a recent shortage of local trucks has made the transporting of adequate supplies difficult. Competition between cyclone affected communities for 'slow to arrive' relief resources from all agencies have resulted in the escalation of tension in already politically charged environment. The relief distribution plan has subsequently favoured multiple distributions to smaller groups of beneficiaries in communities where political rivalry and conflict is a risk to the safety of beneficiaries and BDRCS staff and volunteers. The BDRCS and the Federation have also been vigilant in pursuing transparency in the beneficiary selection process with local administrators and have been insistent upon independent control over distributions. This has, in a few cases, led to delays in agreeing on beneficiary lists with local authorities and to local authorities giving their priority to relief items from other organisations channelled directly through the government. Four RDRT members are in the field to monitor the ongoing distribution and provide necessary support as and when required. Their involvement has helped to upscale distribution on various occasions.

BDRCS) staff and volunteers, including the Red Crescent Youth (RCY) and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers are extensively involved in the response operation, working closely with the local government and other agencies to distribute relief items to affected families. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, there

is a heightened level of community receptiveness to BDRCS messages about disaster early warning, community preparedness, safe evacuation, assessment, relief distribution and first aid services. Regular BDRCS programming in these areas is continuing with diminished human resources. Support to strengthen BDRCS programming in these areas is necessary as part of a holistic response to the disaster and integrated/coordinated approach to disaster risk reduction.

The various technical sectors and PNSs are currently engaged in more detailed assessment and programme planning, building upon the work of the Federation's field assessment and coordination team's (FACT) rapid assessment and pre-existing data from BDRCS programmes and other agencies.

#### **Volunteers' own initiative**

**In one of the worst hit areas, Sarankhola upazilla (sub-district) in Bagerhat district, approximately 30 volunteers, comprising Red Crescent Youth and representatives of the executive committee of the district branch, distributed food and non-food commodities from the branch's resources. The volunteers also raised funds through the efforts of schools, colleges and the business community to assist the cyclone affected families. They distributed blankets to 300 people to protect them from the cold during the winter season, provided cooked food (mixed vegetable rice) to 11,500 people, and provided drinking water to 300 people. In addition to the food and non-food parcel distribution, the team also handed cash amounts of BDT 200 (CHF 3.4) per family to 100 families.**

For the British Red Cross logistics ERU, three replacement personnel have arrived to continue the logistics support to the operation. The recovery delegate from Federation Geneva is in Bangladesh till a recovery delegate is appointed to continue the livelihood activities of the operation. The health delegate provided by Japanese Red Cross has arrived and is in the field to monitor health related activities and to provide technical support to the health department. The relief officer from Federation Geneva and the finance officer from the Kula Lumpur zone office left Bangladesh on 13 December. The psycho-social programme team from the Danish Red Cross and the regional reporting officer left on 15 December after completion of their work for the cyclone operation. The regional disaster response officer is in the country and managing the regular disaster management activities of the delegation. The head of the South Asia regional delegation is in the country to get an overview of the operation and support the country delegation and national society in the operation.

### **Progress of proposed relief operation**

#### **Goal of the operation:**

The overall goal of the operation is to restore the lives and basic living conditions of communities affected by the Cyclone SIDR disaster.

The operation is guided by the Federation's goals to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters and diseases, to increase local community, civil society and RCRC capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability, and to promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

The strategic objectives for the operation are twofold:

- To provide timely **relief** to meet the basic needs of those most affected by the cyclone; and
- To provide appropriate **recovery** support to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable people in the cyclone affected areas.

The achievement of the objectives will be measured against the specific sectoral objectives and expected results described below. However, a key to the success of the overall operation strategy will be the performance of the BDRCS and the Federation in coordinating and facilitating Movement partners in implementing their own activities in support of the Appeal. With a view towards supporting effective Movement coordination, the Federation will provide technical and programming human resources to support the following strategic priorities:

**Participatory programming approaches** – engaging beneficiaries in meaningful discussions about their needs and priorities and seeking to involve key stakeholders in the programme design process. Support for using the Federation vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) tool to conduct a common (not separate sector specific) participatory assessment with target beneficiaries in a given location. Priority will be given to supporting all RCRC projects to strengthen beneficiary communication.

**Integrated programming in the four most affected districts** – encouraging the sector specific programmes to collaborate on detailed assessment (VCA) to target the most vulnerable communities with an integrated package of assistance including food and non-food items, shelter, water and sanitation, health, psycho-social support and

livelihoods assistance. This could be met through coordinating Movement resources and through partnerships with other agencies providing relief and recovery assistance in the selected target communities.

**Flexible aid delivery approaches** – disseminating the use of cash/voucher transfer programming to PNSs and to engage BDRCS in the monitoring and evaluation of pilot projects. Encouraging productive partnerships with local community based organisations and NGOs for well-coordinated and integrated local programming and supporting innovative approaches to volunteer engagement and capacity building (for example strengthening links between the CPP and RCY volunteers).

**Promotion of humanitarian values within relief and recovery programmes** – strengthening awareness and respect for the independence, neutrality and impartiality of the Federation. In areas where conflict poses a risk to staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, the operation will build capacity in “do no harm” methods (the Federation “better programming initiative”).

**Monitoring and evaluation** – the Federation will provide technical assistance to BDRCS and RCRC societies with ongoing assessments, monitoring, review and evaluation activities.

## RELIEF (1 YEAR)

### **Food and Non-Food Items**

**Objective (Food):** Immediate needs on food rations for 100,000 cyclone-affected families in the south coastal lines shall be met by the effort of international and domestic assistance within the first three months, thus supporting them to focus on sustaining their lives.

**Expected result:** Targeted cyclone affected families have received adequate food rations to cope with the effects of cyclone.

Between 12-16 December 2007, 6,396 additional families (31,980 beneficiaries) in nine most affected sub-districts have been assisted with food ration<sup>\*</sup> for a month. A total of 20,000 families (100,000 most affected people) have already been assisted.

The BDRCS branches have mobilized more than 180 trained volunteers for the relief distribution. The Federation has deployed a technical team comprising of a relief delegate, four RDRT members and four DM officers in order to provide technical support to the BDRCS's respective branches. The Federation team is closely monitoring the operation to ensure beneficiary accountability and maintain integrity. In addition, they have conducted on-the-job orientation for BDRCS staff and volunteers on important aspects or relief assistance such as code of conduct, Sphere standards and relief procedures.

To ensure the quality of the food ration, an independent quality inspection agency was assigned. Based on the quality inspection report, the food ration was distributed. During the distribution, informal interviews were conducted with some of the beneficiaries most expressed satisfaction with the relief assistance as they could receive the most essential items prior to the religious festival-Eid.

[\(Refer to annex-1 for detailed information about the distribution and a tentative plan\)](#)

**Objective (Non-Food):** To cope in a post situation of devastating cyclone of nine districts, distribution of non-food items shall be made along with food items for 100,000 cyclone-affected families to meet their basic needs within the first three months.

**Expected result:** Targeted cyclone-affected families have received essential non-food items<sup>†</sup>.

During this reporting period 7,174 families (35,870 most affected people) in seven different sub-districts were assisted. In addition to this, Swiss Red Cross assisted 3,425 families (approximately 17,125 people) in response to this Appeal. Altogether, 10,599 families (52,995 populations) have been assisted with clothing, blankets, cooking utensils, tarpaulins and ground sheets. These relief items helped the affected population to cope with the situation, as a result of which they are gradually returning to their normal life. The BDRCS staff, volunteers and the Federation relief team made good efforts to distribute these essential items with a week. Another lot of distribution will begin from 27 December.

<sup>\*</sup> This supplementary food ration consists of rice (20 kg), lentils (5 kg), edible oil (2 litres) and iodized salt (1 kg) per family. This is in accordance with BDRCS's relief manual and is compatible with the Sphere standard.

<sup>†</sup> Non-food items consists of per family - 2 blankets, clothes (2 sarees, 2 lungies and clothes for children), 1 family kit (contents include cooking saucepans, plastic mug, plastic cups, aluminum plates, spoons, candles and match boxes and plastic weave bag), 1 tarpaulin, 1 ground sheet for shelter and 2 jerry cans for water and sanitation.

## Health

**Objective:** The health status of 243,000 families (1,215,000 beneficiaries) among cyclone-affected population is improved by providing basic health care (preventive, promotive and curative health care) for two months.

**Expected result:** Cyclone-affected population has improved access to adequate basic health care services to prevent communicable diseases.

During this reporting period, 12 medical teams were in the field. Till 11 December, the teams had treated 29,487 patients. Out of them 20% were diarrhoeal diseases, 12.8% were acute respiratory tract infections (ARI), and 15.3% were fevers. Neither these teams, nor any of the other agencies involved in providing health care, have come across any suspected typhoid cases as reported by government teams. The most feared diarrhoeal diseases outbreak seems to have been averted to a larger extent or yet to happen. Recent reports also confirm that the ARI incidence is not too high. According to a government of Bangladesh/World Health Organisation (WHO) report, the number of diarrhoeal diseases and ARI are declining steadily. Recent reports show that injuries too are mainly old wounds with secondary infections and to date no tetanus has been reported.

The government continued to deploy 690 medical teams including specialists. No statistics available on the number of medical teams deployed by humanitarian agencies, NGOs and international NGOs. The number of patients treated by these agencies is not included in the government/WHO reports. The health cluster has recently been activated and regular meetings take place to update on the situation. Under this cluster, four sub-groups have been formed, viz. disease surveillance, psycho-social support and mental health, nutrition and reproductive health. The Federation is actively participating in disease surveillance and psycho social support and mental health sub-groups.

Procurement of hygiene parcels is ongoing. Distribution of oral rehydration salts in the affected communities is continuing. Further details will be provided in the next operations update, when more information is provided from the field.

**Table 4: Health care and support by district**

Name of the district	No. of patients treated		No. of medical kits supplied to hospitals
	Reporting period	Total	Total
Bagerhat	NA	3,097	5
Barguna	NA	5,479	2
Patuakhali	NA	5,316	2
Pirojpur	NA	2,421	2
Barisal	NA	NA	
Bhola	NA	NA	
Jhalokathi	NA	891	
Khulna	NA	4,599	
Satkhira	NA	1,148	
Other districts(Goplaganj, Shoriatpur, Faridpur and Madaripur)		6,536	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>29,487</b>	<b>11</b>

## Water and sanitation

**Objective:** The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases has been reduced through provision of sustainable water purification means and water containers for 100,000 households for one year.

**Expected result 1:** Access to sustainable safe water.

After the completion of the assessment by the water and sanitation (watsan) delegate and watsan officer in Bagerhat and Pirojpur districts, a conclusion has been drawn for an intervention on the urgent need for physical implementation of water supply and sanitation. Therefore, it is planned that within this week requisition for construction materials will be prepared and by the end the fourth week of December construction work for safe water supply and improved sanitation will start in six most affected unions in the districts of Bagerhat and Pirojpur. The constructions must be completed before the start of the rainy season in the month of April 2008.

A total of 1,500,000 water purification tablets (WPT) is urgently needed in the nine affected districts. Following a requisition for 750,000 WPT in the districts of Bagerhat, Barguna, Pirojpur and Patuakhali, the first load of 750,000 WPT has arrived and has been distributed to all the four targeted districts, benefiting 25,000 cyclone affected people.

Additionally, out of 200,000 of jerry cans budgeted, a total of 88,000 has been procured and another 12,000 jerry cans will be procured soon. It is planned that the rest of the 100,000 out of the 200,000 jerry cans budgeted will be transferred to construct latrines/water supply options. So far, 30,000 jerry cans have been distributed in the four most affected districts. Two water testing kits for the Federation and hygiene kits for targeted beneficiaries are still in the pipeline.

On 18 and 19 December the Federation watsan delegate held meetings with UNICEF to get an update on watsan activities in the four most affected districts. Watsan technical advisory group meeting on 17 December, comprising of different organizations (Federation, CARE, OXFAM, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee or BRAC and DANIDA, amongst others) finalized the urgent watsan need areas. In this meeting, specific areas of operation have been allocated to all the concerned organizations.

**Expected result 2:** Hygiene practices among the target population have improved.

The rapid assessment on the immediate needs of water and sanitation confirmed that it is essential to have the hygiene promotion programme, integrated with the watsan hardware component in order to improve beneficiary's hygiene practices in the nine affected districts.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material on health and hygiene has been translated into the local language for easy understanding and wide dissemination at the field level. The target is to reach communities in all the nine districts, focussing mainly on women and children, to improve their hygiene practices.

## **Shelter**

**Objective 1:** 5,000 most vulnerable cyclone-affected families who lost their houses in Barguna, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts are living in a new cyclone resistant shelter within one year of the project.

**Expected result:** 5,000 targeted families receive tools, materials, knowledge and support to build an improved shelter.

While many people have succeeded in building temporary shelters out of shelter relief materials, materials from their previous houses and with newly bought materials, there is an urgent need to build houses using materials which can better resist heavy rain, wind and floods. The basic shelters will consist of concrete foundations, wooden beams for columns and roof structure, and corrugated iron sheets. These will be supplemented with a toolkit and technical assistance in more cyclone resistant building techniques. The findings from the field assessment suggest that wall cladding can be provided by the people themselves, out of relief items, recycled materials or newly made or bought material.

Prior experience in disaster resistance construction techniques by the BDRCS will help to define an appropriate shelter model. The identification and assistance of beneficiaries will draw on their capacity built in the field in community participation, network of volunteers and contacts with government officials.

The distribution of tarpaulins, under the current Appeal framework, has started during this reporting period and will continue throughout the upcoming weeks. Toolkits and materials to assist 5,000 households that have lost their complete house will start coming in from the first week of January 2008. A first group of 250 households will start the construction of their basic shelter by mid-January 2008. Close monitoring and evaluation will be done on this first group to reveal the possibilities to improve the quantity and nature of materials, local skills and tools and assistance to be provided to the following groups. Integration of other sectors as with watsan and livelihood will be studied more in detail in the coming weeks and will also be further evaluated following the experience built up during the implementation of this first group.

**Objective 2:** To assist 30,000 cyclone affected families in Barguna, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts to improve their partially damaged houses within one year of the project.

**Expected result:** 30,000 affected families receive tools, knowledge and support to repair and improve their partially damaged homes.

Toolkits for partially damaged 30,000 households will start arriving from January 2008 to respond to the needs of the affected families whose house has been partially damaged. Their initial repair activities will be

strengthened through providing technical assistance, appropriate tools and some minor materials to enhance cyclone resistance.

Barguna, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Patuakhali are the priority districts for the shelter programme. The initial FACT assessment is being supplemented by the results of the assessment teams of the British and Spanish Red Cross, in collaboration with the BDRCS, and also information gathered by the Shelter Coordination Group. This has enabled the shelter team to move forward substantially in refining the initial plan of action for shelter and to take the first steps into the implementation phase.

## **Livelihoods**

**Objective:** To protect the food security and livelihoods of up to 30,000 of the most vulnerable people affected in the districts of Barguna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Khulna.

**Expected results:** Improved food security for the most vulnerable of the population.

Planning for the provision of livelihoods assistance to affected communities has commenced and a range of options for early assistance are being investigated. The livelihoods assistance programme will target shelter programme recipients for an integrated approach to household recovery.

Vulnerable households are concerned about their mid-term food security, that the initial food relief will be consumed well before the next harvest. The replacement of productive assets such as fishing boats, nets and livestock were also high on the priority list of those interviewed in recent detailed assessments. Beneficiaries identified small livestock as being a priority over seeds and saplings, so this option is being investigated in relation to distributing vouchers for small livestock such as chickens and ducks.

Consultations with affected households have confirmed that the initial coping mechanism for many has been to seek loans from family, landlords, NGOs and money lenders to support immediate consumption needs and to re-start disrupted livelihoods. Greater indebtedness poses a threat to the early recovery of vulnerable households.

A detailed livelihoods and shelter assessment led and funded by the British Red Cross started on 10 December. The assessment will be carried out in the four districts of Barguna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Patuakhali over two weeks. The team consists of livelihoods and shelter specialists, along with British Red Cross field staff and BDRCS volunteers. Preliminary findings are being shared with Movement partners and recommendations from the assessment are likely to suggest that British Red Cross support should target the extremely vulnerable and hard-to-reach fishing and farming communities on the southern coastline with durable shelter and livelihoods assistance.

A recovery delegate has been identified and is expected to commence in late January-early February 2008. The livelihoods programme manager position is likely to be filled on an interim basis by a member of the RDRT with relevant experience and with support from a Federation local officer and BDRCS staff and volunteers skilled in VCA.

A recovery strategy workshop is planned for 22 January 2008 in Dhaka and a follow-up branch consultation and dissemination workshop for 24 January 2008 in Barisal. The workshop will build on the results of the recent RCRC and inter-agency recovery assessment to develop a concise RCRC recovery strategy for the Cyclone SIDR Operation.

## **EARLY RECOVERY (1 YEAR)**

The only developments under this component of the operation were under the health sector, as given below. There were no significant developments to report during this reporting period under the 'water and sanitation' and 'shelter' sectors.

**Objective 1:** The psychosocial well-being of 20,000 most vulnerable cyclone affected families and BDRCS staff and volunteers improved.

**Expected result:** Psychosocial support is accessible to most vulnerable as well as BDRCS staff and volunteers.

A session on psycho-social programme (PSP) orientation and stress management was organised for the delegation by the PSP technical persons. The presentation focused on what is PSP and how it can be integrated in other programmes after an emergency. The session on stress management mainly dealt with personal care one needs to take to avoid stress and this is will be helpful in functioning more effectively

The psycho-social needs assessment was completed by the two consultants from the Danish Red Cross. The report will be finalised and shared within the next couple of days. Following a training on the provision of psychological first aid, conducted by the team for 20 clinical psychology students of Dhaka University, the head of the clinical psychology departmental and the BDRCS, will decide on deployment of the trained team of students to the four worst affected districts. These students will provide psychological first aid to the BDRCS volunteers and staff involved in the relief operation to prevent any future psychological complications.



Psychological first aid training being provided to clinical psychology students of Dhaka University

## **CAPACITY BUILDING/DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2 YEARS)**

### **National society capacity building**

**Objective:** To render effective humanitarian services in most affected 09 districts, BDRCS branch organizational capacity is enhanced

**Expected result:** Systematic branch development is taking place in the nine most affected BDRCS branches to improve service delivery to the most vulnerable.

As reported in the previous updates, the targeted BDRCS branches in the nine most affected districts of the country are still fully involved in the implementation of the relief phase of the operation. On-the-job orientation of the local volunteers by the BDRCS/Federation team is ongoing in places where the distribution of relief is being carried out. The orientation will enhance their knowledge in terms of Code of Conduct, SPHERE application, Humanitarian Values, detailed assessment process, considering fair beneficiary selection and distribution process based on BDRCS relief manual, for the emergency phase followed by recovery and development under an integrated approach.

This relief operation will further strengthen the capacity of the national society to deliver efficient and effective services to the most vulnerable. The detailed implementation of activities under this capacity building component will be part of two years programme process, and will be implemented following the emergency phase. These interventions will be carried out based on an assessment to clearly reflect the capacity building aspect of the affected BDRCS districts branches, national headquarters and volunteers in the plan of action.

### **Disaster risk reduction**

**Objective:** The capacity of targeted communities to respond to and mitigate the effects of disasters has been enhanced

**Expected Result:** Communities in selected vulnerable districts are reached and organised for better resilience to disasters, through newly setup BDRCS Preparedness Units

BDRCS and the Bangladesh delegation, in coordination with the South Asia regional delegation are finalizing talks with a professional camera crew to accompany them to Cox's Bazaar, Bhola and Bagerhat districts, as part of the process of preparing a documentary to create mass community awareness, and compare the effective use of the CPP programme from 1991 to 2007. As a result, viewers all over the world and in Bangladesh will be better informed on CPP related activities. A tentative shooting schedule for the documentary will be finalized by the end of this week. It is intended that the documentary will be used as a mechanism to reach local communities, disaster risk reduction practitioners and governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Since the last reporting period, there has not been any significant progress in terms of capacity building of the targeted communities to respond and mitigate disasters. However, the ongoing operation is directly and indirectly contributing to strengthen the capacity of CPP. Regular volunteer orientations are ongoing on cyclone preparedness to build their capacity on disseminating warning signals, evacuation techniques and better preparedness for search and rescue.

### **Humanitarian values**

**Objective:** Practice of non-discrimination and social harmony among targeted BDRCS and civil society stakeholders is increased.

**Expected results:** Awareness of Fundamental Principles and values and practice of non-discrimination and social harmony among targeted BDRCS civil society stakeholders is increased.

All interventions continue to be carried out with an emphasis on impartiality and neutrality, encouraging a respect for human dignity, gender and ethnic equality, in line with the humanitarian values and the Movement's Fundamental Principles. The BDRCS also adhered to its Disaster Relief Field Manual and RCRC Code of Conduct.

Beneficiary selection was carried through "door-to-door" surveys among displaced population living in temporary shelters and makeshift houses. Particular emphasis was given to the most vulnerable categories of the population such as women and children, elderly, disabled and women headed households.

The component related to the further strengthening and dissemination of humanitarian values and principles among the BDRCS membership, volunteers, staff and civil society at large is being conducted in parallel with the other programmes after the current emergency needs are met.

## **Logistics**

Sea freight consignments from Regional Logistics Unit Kuala Lumpur (RLU KL) have been received at the Barisal warehouse, commencing from 13 December. Dispatch to BDRCS district offices in Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur commenced from 14 December for a total of 25,000 families' food and non-food items. Deliveries of these have been completed on 18 December, with final food and non-food items dispatched for 5,000 families in Bagerhat. The next round of dispatch is again for 25,000 families' food and non-food items, scheduled for commencement from 25 December.

Additional stocks of non-food items (blankets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, vehicles, and hygiene kits), are all scheduled to arrive via Chittagong port from either RLU KL, framework suppliers or direct from donor national societies, commencing from 25 December.

Local procurement for jerry cans, food, hygiene kits, family kits clothing and plastic sheeting is ongoing with most purchase orders now placed with suppliers. Shelter items procurement is underway with commencement expected early in January for receipt into Barisal warehouse prior to dispatch to the BDRCS district offices.

No further in-kind donations have been received at this stage, see updated table below. An up-to-date mobilization table has been published on the Federation's disaster management information system (DMIS) and is being updated regularly. [<Click here for link to most current mobilization table on DMIS>](#)

The Federation continues to work on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to the needs in the field, and donors are urged to coordinate with the KL RLU regarding outstanding needs. Shipping instructions will be provided to donors from the KL RLU, with a Consignment Tracking Number which will be issued before shipping of any goods to the operation.

**"My life is shattered, my husband is no more", said Latika Ara, a woman in need in Kalapara union, Patuakhali district, when she came to the BDRCS relief distribution point. She had lost her husband, a fisherman, in the devastating cyclone. He was one among the many fishermen who were lost at sea when the cyclone struck. Latika Ara survived, along with her four children, but received extensive leg injury when a tree branch fell on top of her. Therefore, the diligent BDRCS volunteers at the distribution point assisted her by carrying the heavy relief package to her house and ensured that she reached home safely. Following this, she said with a faint smile, "I am relieved now; my children can fill their empty stomachs".**

**In this way, BDRCS volunteers are extending a helping hand to many women like Latika Ara, who are suffering as a result of this unfortunate calamity.**



***BDRCS volunteers assist Latika Ara (centre) in carrying the heavy relief package to her house.***

**Table 5: The Mobilisation Table**

Item	Qty (Mob. T)	American RC	British RC	Japanese RC	Netherlands RC	Spanish RC	Norwegian RC	Iranian RC	Australian RC	Supplier Stock	Total	Balance
Blankets	200,000	25,000	7,500	11,000	50,000	20,000	16,000	10,000		60,500	216,000	0
Jerry Cans	200,000		3,000	2,200	28,148				1,500	2,800	37,648	162,352
Tarps	100,000	10,000	3,000	2,200	8,000	1,100				34,050	58,350	41,650
Hyg. Kits	100,000		1,500	2,200	23,000						26,700	73,300

## Communications – Advocacy and public information

A news story on relief distribution in Bagerhat district was published in a local Bengali newspaper on 17 December. This article portrayed BDRCS's efforts in reaching out to the most affected in Bagerhat, distributing 5,000 food packages in the most affected area Morelganj, Sarankhola and Chitalmari.

Delegates and RDRT members in the field are collecting interviews, case histories, photographs and video footage to contribute to Federation communications materials on the Cyclone response.

The South Asia Regional Delegation is supporting the operation with the secondment of staff and short-term technical assistance. The Regional Advocacy Delegate will visit Bangladesh in mid-January to assist the operation to develop skills and strategies for beneficiary communications. The delegate will also assist in coaching Federation and BDRCS staff in participatory approaches to recovery programming, with a focus on the first phase shelter programme for 250 households in Bagerhat.

### 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:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: Mr. M. Shafiul Alam (secretary- general), email: [bdracs@ban gla.net](mailto:bdracs@ban gla.net), phone: +88.02.935.2226.
- Country delegation in Bangladesh: Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (head of delegation), email: [selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org](mailto:selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org), phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631.
- South Asia regional delegation in Delhi: Mr. Al Panico (head of regional delegation), email: [al.panico@ifrc.org](mailto:al.panico@ifrc.org), phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur: disaster management unit: Mr. Latifur Rahman (regional disaster management delegate), email: [latifur.rahman@ifrc.org](mailto:latifur.rahman@ifrc.org); phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 975 0144; regional logistics unit: Mr Jeremy Francis (regional logistics coordinator), [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@ifrc.org), phone: +60 3 2628 2707, fax: +60 3 2168 8573
- In Geneva: Christine South (operations coordinator), email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org), phone: +41.22.730.4529, fax: +41.22.733.0395

**[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

**Distribution information and tentative plan**

**As of 19 December 2007**  
**Beneficiaries = Number of families**

S.N.	District	Upazilla	Relief Item distribution status				
			Food Items (1st lot) Beneficiaries	Non-Food Items (2nd lot) Beneficiaries	Food and Non-Food Items Beneficiaries	Status	Next Distribution Plan
1	Barguna	Betagi	375	375		Distribution completed on 18 Dec 07 (2nd lot)	
		Bamna	325			Distribution preparation going on	325 families (on 20 Dec 07) 2nd lot
		Amtali	1,000	1,000		Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07 (2nd lot)	
		Sadar	2,300	1,795		Distribution preparation going on	505 families (on 20 Dec 07) 2nd lot
		Pathargata	1,000	704		Distribution preparation going on	296 families (on 20 Dec 07) 2nd lot
<b>Total-Barguna</b>			<b>5,000</b>	<b>3,874</b>			
2	Patuakhali	Kalapara	2,300	-		Distribution preparation going on	2,300 families (on 24 Dec 07) 2nd lot
		Mirzagonj	800	800		Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07 (2nd lot)	
		Galachipa	1,900	-		Distribution preparation going on	1,900 families (on 26 Dec 07)
<b>Total-Patuakhali</b>			<b>5,000</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>-</b>		
3	Bagerhat					Distribution preparation going on	2,500 families (on 28 Dec 07) 2nd lot 450 families (on 27 Dec 07)
		Morrelganj	2,500	-	1,300		
		Chitalmari	1,150	-	-	Distribution preparation going on	1,150 families (on 30 Dec 07) 2nd lot
		Sharankhala	1,350	-	650	Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07	1,350 families (on 29 Dec 07) 2nd lot

		Rampal			400	Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07	
		Kachua			500	Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07	
		Sadar			575	Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07	325 families (on 25 Dec 07)
		Mongla			-	Distribution preparation going on	800 families (on 26 Dec 07)
<b>Total-Bagerhat</b>			<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,425</b>		
4	Pirojpur	Zianagar,	800	800		Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07 (2nd lot)	
		mathbaria,	2,500	-			Target area is under re-consideration by BDRCS
		Bhandaria	1,700	1,700		Distribution completed on 19 Dec 07 (2nd lot)	
<b>Total-Pirojpur</b>			<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,500</b>			
5	Barisal						Planning stage
6	Bhola						
7	Khulna						
8	Jholakathi						
9	Satkhira						
<b>Total</b>			<b>20,000</b>	<b>7,174</b>	<b>3,425</b>		

**Food package (1st lot)** consists of 20 Kg rice, 5 kg lentils, 1 Kg salt, 2 Ltr oil, 1 sari, 1 lungi per family

**Non food package (2nd lot)** consists of 1sari, 1 lungi, 2 blankets, 1 tarpaulin/1 plastic sheet, 1 set family kit, 1 jerrycan, 5 ORS packets per family

**Food and Non food package** consists of above food and non food package per family

**Donor response to MDRBD003 - Bangladesh - Cyclone Sidr**

TIMEFRAME: 16 Nov 07 to 16 Nov 09

LOCATION: Bangladesh

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	24,483,160
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	11,843,753
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	48%

Updated on: 24 Dec 2007

Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
		CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
<b>BUDGET</b>			<b>24,483,160</b>				<b>24,483,160</b>

**FUNDING**
**Opening Balance**
**Income**
**Cash contributions (received and pledged)**

American Red Cross	CHF	12,010		12,010			<b>12,010</b>
American Red Cross	USD	200,000		223,600			<b>223,600</b>
American Red Cross (from USAID)	USD	300,000		335,400			<b>335,400</b>
Australian Government	AUD	1,000,000		992,000			<b>992,000</b>
Australian Red Cross	AUD	585		580			<b>580</b>
Bangladesh - Private Donors	BDT	300,000		4,890			<b>4,890</b>
British Red Cross	CHF	5,851		5,851			<b>5,851</b>
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	300,000		337,200			<b>337,200</b>
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	CAD	250,000		281,000			<b>281,000</b>
Czech Government	USD	82,800		92,570			<b>92,570</b>
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)	CHF	306,330		306,330			<b>306,330</b>
DREF	CHF	250,000		250,000			<b>250,000</b>
Estonia Government	EUR	31,956		51,992			<b>51,992</b>
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	75,000		123,750			<b>123,750</b>
German Red Cross	EUR	241,604		398,647			<b>398,647</b>
Icelandic Red Cross	ISK	3,000,000		57,633			<b>57,633</b>
Intel Foundation	USD	50,000		51,600			<b>51,600</b>
Irish Government	EUR	400,000		660,000			<b>660,000</b>
Irish Red Cross	EUR	30,000		49,500			<b>49,500</b>
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund	EUR	100,000		167,300			<b>167,300</b>
Italian Red Cross	EUR	183,423		302,647			<b>302,647</b>
Japanese Red Cross	CHF	5,810		5,810			<b>5,810</b>
Japanese Red Cross	USD	277,800		310,580			<b>310,580</b>
Korea Republic Red Cross	KRW	68,000,000		83,300			<b>83,300</b>
Liechtenstein Red Cross	CHF	10,000		10,000			<b>10,000</b>
Monaco private donors	USD	20,000		20,640			<b>20,640</b>
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	18,000		29,700			<b>29,700</b>
Netherlands Red Cross	CHF	3,715		3,715			<b>3,715</b>
Netherlands Red Cross	EUR	100,000		165,000			<b>165,000</b>

	Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
<b>BUDGET</b>				<b>24,483,160</b>				<b>24,483,160</b>
<b>FUNDING</b>								
<b>Opening Balance</b>								
<b>Income</b>								
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	EUR	500,000		813,500				<b>813,500</b>
Norwegian Red Cross	NOK	250,000		50,825				<b>50,825</b>
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	NOK	2,250,000		457,425				<b>457,425</b>
Oman - Private Donors	USD	3,250		3,354				<b>3,354</b>
Qatar Red Crescent	USD	27,397		30,630				<b>30,630</b>
Slovakia Government	SKK	2,058,239		99,323				<b>99,323</b>
Slovenian Red Cross	EUR	20,000		33,000				<b>33,000</b>
Swedish Red Cross	SEK	1,000,000		169,500				<b>169,500</b>
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	9,300,000		1,634,010				<b>1,634,010</b>
Swiss Red Cross (from Swiss Government)	BDT	24,409,092		397,868				<b>397,868</b>
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	CHF	2,500		2,500				<b>2,500</b>
<b>Total Cash contributions</b>				<b>9,025,181</b>				<b>9,025,181</b>
<b>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport (pledged)</b>								
American Red Cross	CHF	263,871		263,871				<b>263,871</b>
Australian Red Cross	AUD	14,000		14,966				<b>14,966</b>
British Red Cross	CHF	198,958		198,958				<b>198,958</b>
German Red Cross	CHF	318,600		318,600				<b>318,600</b>
Iran Red Crescent	USD	934,922		1,083,575				<b>1,083,575</b>
Japanese Red Cross	CHF	105,072		105,072				<b>105,072</b>
Netherlands Red Cross	CHF	710,361		710,361				<b>710,361</b>
Norwegian Red Cross	NOK	747,915		162,148				<b>162,148</b>
Spanish Red Cross	EUR	126,134		211,021				<b>211,021</b>
<b>Total Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>				<b>3,068,572</b>				<b>3,068,572</b>
<b>Other Income</b>								
DREF Allocations	CHF	-250,000		-250,000				<b>-250,000</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>				<b>-250,000</b>				<b>-250,000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>				<b>11,843,753</b>				<b>11,843,753</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>11,843,753</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,843,753</b>
<b>COVERAGE</b>				<b>48%</b>				<b>48%</b>