



Bangladesh: Cyclone SIDR

Emergency Appeal n° MDRBD003
GLIDE No:TC-2007-000208-BGD
Fact sheet n° 1
08 December 2007

Appeal target (current): 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.

Appeal coverage: the donor response to this appeal has been generous and timely; we would hope to reach 40% coverage including those pledges which are currently indicated but not confirmed in writing. However, more aid is urgently needed, particularly unearmarked cash contributions to enable the operation to respond effectively to the needs on the ground, as planned. [<click here for contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- An Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 16 November 2007 for CHF 3,989,305 (USD 3.5 million or EUR 2.4 million) to assist 235,000 beneficiaries for 9 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.
- Operations Update no. 4 was issued on 04 December 2007.

The Disaster (and its impact)

The estimated death and destruction caused by the cyclonic storm Sidr, which hit the south-western coast of Bangladesh on 15 November 2007, is rising. The latest figures (as of 7 December 2007) given by the Bangladesh government's Disaster Management Information Centre (Ministry of Food and Disaster Management) stood at 3,328 people dead and 8.7 million people affected, an increase from the figures reported in the previous operations update. A total of 871 people are still reported missing. Damages are also severe with 1.5 million houses damaged (completely/partially) and approximately 2.5 million acres of crops damaged.

Response by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and International Federation

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation are providing relief assistance in the form of food, potable water, clothing, household and hygiene items, medical assistance, shelter relief and livelihood support to the most affected families in nine districts, to meet their urgent immediate needs.

Operational update

- So far, the BDRCS/Federation have been providing food and non-food assistance, to 20,000 families in the four most affected districts of Borguna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Patuakhali.
- A first draft of the plan of action was prepared and shared with all partners. This was prepared based on information from the government/cluster system, BDRCS, assessment by the Federation's field assessment and coordination team (FACT) and international and local NGOs.
- The FACT team members are in the process of leaving Bangladesh.
- The head of the Federation's Bangladesh delegation visited Barisal district to assess the feasibility of setting up an operational office there. Initial findings indicate that the choices with regard to office space and accommodation are limited.
- A regular coordination meeting was held with all partner national societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This is a forum for information sharing and strengthening coordination. It was also emphasized by the shelter cluster coordination group for more information on what partners are planning in the field of shelter.



BDRCS volunteers help a woman beneficiary during relief distribution in Patuakhali district.

more information on what partners are planning in the

- An internet based Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination group has been set up for information sharing on the operation.
- Parallel to the Cyclone Sidr operation, a regional disaster response team training on relief and shelter was started. This is being hosted by the Bangladesh delegation, with support from the Federation's South Asia Regional Delegation.

Impact Summary

- As a result of the destruction caused by Cyclone Sidr, populations been affected by destroyed/damaged houses, loss of food stocks and limited access to essential food items, as well as loss of most of their household items.
- Households who have lost their main income earner, especially women headed households, are at high risk and are finding it more difficult to regain or develop their livelihood.
- The fishing and agriculture sectors have been badly affected. Markets are functioning although prices have had to be reduced as people don't have the income to spend at the market. This has affected the income of traders, which has reduced.

Response Summary

Food and non-food items

- Relief teams in the field completed the distribution of food and non-food items to the most affected 15,000 families in Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Patuakhali districts. In Barguna district, the distribution of food and non-food items for 5,000 beneficiaries continues and will be completed by 13th December.
- The process of identifying and assessing needs of the next group of beneficiaries (30,000 families in the four most affected districts) for the provision of further relief assistance, starting this week, has begun.
- As a result of good relations established by the relief teams with the local government, police and community members like village leaders and school teachers, in the four districts, they have had the cooperation of these groups for conducting efficient distributions.

Health

- A two-member Danish Red Cross team arrived in Dhaka to conduct a needs assessment on psycho-social issues and identify support required.
- Two medical teams left Dhaka on 5th December, one each for Barguna and Patuakhali districts.
- Medical kits for upazilla (sub-district) health complexes could not be distributed as planned due to procedural delays.

Water and sanitation

- The distribution of non-food items related to water and sanitation are ready to be started as soon as possible. The exact places of intervention are mostly coordinated at the district level.
- Members of UNICEF's water and sanitation unit visited the Bangladesh delegation. There was a sharing of information on the operation and an agreement for closer coordination.

Shelter

- Market research to define the availability and technical specifications of materials to be distributed is continuing. The response will be in line with the decisions taken in the Emergency Shelter Cluster and it will support the communities' efforts with local materials and techniques.
- A book titled "Battling the Storm" on cyclone resistant techniques, developed by the BDRCS with support of the German Red Cross, has been re-edited for the benefit of the Shelter sector.

Livelihoods

- A rapid livelihoods/shelter/water and sanitation assessment, carried out a by BDRCS/Federation team in the Barguna, Patuakhali and Barisal districts, with particular focus on Patuakhali and Barguna districts, was completed. The findings were that:
 - Income generation programmes should be implemented as soon as possible to supplement relief distributions and give people the choice in prioritizing their needs.
 - 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.
- An early recovery assessment team focusing on livelihoods and shelter will arrive on Friday 8th December, funded by the British Red Cross. The assessment will be carried out in the four districts of Barguna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Patuakhali over three weeks.

Logistics

- The first two consignments of non-food items, from the Australian Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross, were received in Dhaka and are undergoing customs clearance.
- The procurement of hygiene parcels and rigid jerry cans has been locally started.
- The estimated date of arrival of 3,700 hygiene kits coming from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur is 8th December. The kits will arrive at Chittagong.
- Approval was received from the committee of contracts (logistics and response mobilization department) at the Federation office in Geneva, for the procurement of 50,000 food parcels and non-food items comprising sarees (women's clothing item) and lungis (men's clothing item). Approval is awaited for the procurement of family kits and plastic sheeting.
- The British Red Cross emergency response unit (ERU) left for Barisal on 8th December.

Actions by Government of Bangladesh and Others

- The Government of Bangladesh is participating in the Emergency Shelter Cluster, which is being coordinated by a Federation deployed shelter coordination team, providing expertise and guidance to the organizations of the cluster.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the World Health Organisation held a third health cluster meeting on 3rd December, attended by Movement partners, national and international organizations and UN agencies.
- The ICRC continues to work with the BDRCS to trace those listed as missing and restore family links among the affected people.

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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- Country delegation in Bangladesh: Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (head of delegation), email: selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org, phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631.
- South Asia regional representation in India: Mr. Al Panico (regional representative), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
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For more details and news stories, photos and all operational updates visit:
<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=27>