

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: Monsoon Floods

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This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Many areas in Bangladesh have been deluged during a heavy monsoon since the end of July. Several districts in the north, north-west and north-east have been inundated. Sylhet, Sunamgonj, Chapai-Nawabgonj, Rajshahi and Kusthia have been most affected by increasing water levels in the Surma, Mahananda and Padma rivers. The Surma in the north-east is over danger its level at three points, in particular in Companigonj Upazilla in Sylhet district. This has disrupted education and road communications. Fifty-five villages in the area have been affected. However, Sylhet and Sunamgonj districts receive the heaviest rainfall in Bangladesh and the situation is not yet critical. The government's flood forecasting and warning centre confirmed that the three major rivers are in danger of overflowing. Padma river is flowing 110 cm over the danger level and Mahananda over 47 cm. The river Tista washed away a cross dam in the Dolaganaripar area. The outlook for the next 10 days is that river levels are likely to rise.

Media reports said that recent flooding in neighbouring states of India - in particular, Bihar, Assam and Malda of Bay of Bengal - is also likely to affect Bangladesh.

On 2 August, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) attended an inter-ministerial meeting to review the floods as well as preparedness and relief. The BDRCS and the Federation are watching daily developments closely.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The BDRCS has instructed community based disaster preparedness units in affected districts to release limited relief funds from their disaster emergency funds. Sunamgonj and Sylhet units have already distributed a small quantity of relief items among the affected population.

Three joint BDRCS/Federation teams will conduct a two-day preliminary assessment - in Sylhet and Sunamgonj (one team), Chapainowabgonj and Rajshahi (second team), and Manikgonj, Rajbari, Fardipur and Kuthia (third team) - to measure preparedness for a major relief operation. An ECHO representative will join the first team.

BDRCS/Federation logistic departments have begun procuring essential relief items so that assistance can be offered quickly if the situation deteriorates.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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