

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: TROPICAL STORMS

24 April 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1 4/02

This bulletin is for information purposes only. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation Delegation are closely monitoring the situation. No specific requests for external support have been received from any of the National Society's branches. The international and local media included the storms in Bangladesh in their "Breaking news" sections, describing the size of the disaster and impact on the population. As the cyclone season begins this year, partner National Societies and corporate donors are strongly urged to contribute to the Federation Annual Appeal for Bangladesh (01.26/2002) to strengthen disaster preparedness, organisational development, health and youth programmes of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

The Situation

Early Monday 22 April 2002, a series of heavy tropical storms swept across much of mainland Bangladesh. Districts in the north-east - particularly those bordering India and through which the rivers Tista and Jamuna flow - were the most affected. They include Gaibandha, Lalmonirat, Bogra, Nilphamari and Netrokona. Many of these areas were hit by tornados late last year.

Unconfirmed local media reports indicate up to 12 people have been killed and an estimated 400 injured. The storm also damaged large areas of crops and is reported to have brought down trees, electricity supply and telephone lines in several areas as well as destroying about 4,000 lightly constructed dwelling houses. Twenty educational institutions and a number of health facilities are also reported damaged.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

In Gaibandha, the branch has despatched its community based disaster CBD squad to carry out vulnerability and needs assessments and has indicated that it intends to withdraw BDT10,000 from its Disaster Emergency Fund for the local procurement of relief commodities for immediate distribution. Squad members and other volunteers are assessing the situation in Jamalpur District. The BDRCS has requested its liaison officer based in Bogra Branch to meet with local government officials and submit a report to headquarters on the impact of the storm in that district.

Information received early 24 April indicates that affected units have carried out relief distribution from their own unit resources. No further requests for assistance have been received. District administration has allocated 9 metric tones of rice to be disturbed to the affected population of Sadar and Aditmari upazila.

With buffer stocks established with the help of DfID funds last year, the BDCRS has at its disposal a limited number of emergency family kits. Each containing a selection of essential household utensils and articles of immediate utility, these pre-packed kits are available for immediate despatch, if required.

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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