

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: FACTORY DISASTER

12 April 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin No.01/2005 is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

A garments factory, one-hour drive from Dhaka, collapsed in the early hours of Monday morning, 11 April. It was reported that up to 600 people could have been working in the building at the time. The confirmed death toll has risen to 26 with four bodies pulled out Monday night, one rescue official said. According to officials and witnesses, nearly 100 people have been rescued alive so far.

It was a nine-story garments building that collapsed, which exported garments to USA, Germany, Switzerland and France. The collapse of the factory, built only three years ago, seems to be caused by faulty construction. A boiler in the basement also exploded, and a massive pile of bricks and concrete slabs was all that remained of the building.

Rescue Operation

Recovery is still going on, conducted and coordinated by the Bangladesh army and fire service. Government medical personnel are still on standby at the site. Rescuers have been trying to reach the people trapped in the rubble on Tuesday. One problem is that because of the location, heavy lifting equipment cannot reach the site. Officials said that they believe around 100 to 150 people were still trapped, but it is really impossible to give an exact number at this point. Extricating the victims, dead or alive, is proving a difficult task as they are trapped deep under the debris or in the tangle of



Rescuers sift through the rubble of the collapse building to pull out survivors. Photo Daily Star

crumpled iron rods and bricks. Due to the complete collapse of the building, there is little hope of finding further survivors.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society deployed their youth first aid teams in the initial phase; two teams have remained at the disaster site, assisting the survivors where possible. The BDRCS's blood bank is on standby and has given alerts for donors, while the BDRCS Holy Family Hospital has offered emergency beds. On Tuesday morning, the Federation's head of delegation gave a live interview with BBC London. Further updates will be issued if required.

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.

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