

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: TORNADO 24 March 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. 1/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation 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 violent tropical storm which lashed northern Bangladesh on Sunday 20 March has killed at least 56 people, injured more than a 1,000 and left thousands homeless.

A tornado severely damaged 30 villages in the districts of Gaibandha and Rangpur. It is estimated that 1,500 families (at least 10,000 people) have lost their homes. Trees were uprooted and power lines brought down, leaving many without electricity.

Most of those affected are poor and are in urgent need of shelter, food and medicine. Various government agencies are working alongside NGOs in providing emergency relief. Local Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) units are coordinating with the government and other NGOs operating in the affected areas. BDRCS national headquarters is liaising with various actors at central level to ensure good coordination and information sharing.



Map courtesy BBC
<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Subsequent to Sunday's tornado, severe winds lashed various parts of the country on Tuesday and Wednesday (22 and 23 March). Affected areas were Chandpur, Habiganj, Faridpur, Kishoreganj, Manikganj and Munshiganj, killing at least 23 people and injuring over 500. Telecommunications and water supplies have been affected in some areas. Continued heavy rain in many areas, including the capital Dhaka, is causing major disruption.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society national headquarters and the Federation delegation immediately despatched an assessment team to the affected areas in Gaibandha and Rangpur. Trucks carrying relief supplies were despatched at the same time and to date, 900 family kits have been supplied and distributed to people in Gaibandha and Rangpur. Each family kit contains items such as cooking and kitchen utensils, soap, a bucket, basic clothing and, most importantly, plastic sheeting. Three hundred sets of clothing and 30 cartons of biscuits have also been distributed through the local BDRCS units.

The full extent of the damage in the cyclone-affected districts has now been assessed and the BDRCS will continue with emergency relief distributions, based on identified needs. The BDRCS is able to cope with this intervention using disaster relief buffer stocks.

The national society's national headquarters is awaiting reports from units in the areas affected by the severe winds on Tuesday and Wednesday. At this stage the response is at a local level and national headquarters will provide additional assistance if it is requested.

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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