

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: FLOODS

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Heavy rains had led to flooding in the districts of Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira in south-western Bangladesh. Large parts of these districts continue to be waterlogged / flooded and the situation has not improved so far. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation have been assessing the situation, distributing food and non-food items to the affected population and sharing information and coordinating interventions with other organizations.

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The Situation

There has been no improvement in the flood situation in the three districts of Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira in south-western Bangladesh. According to information from the field, the situation could be very serious if heavy rainfall takes place in these areas.

According to an article in a national daily newspaper, the government will deploy the army in the flooded/waterlogged area of Bhabadah in Jessore district. Army personnel will monitor the dredging activities and provide other security measures to overcome the problem. In addition to overseeing dredging, the army personnel will also supervise the government programme for urgent feeding of vulnerable groups. This plan has come into effect after the affected people from Bhabadah area submitted a memorandum to the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee, claiming that one million people from 34 unions of Jessore, Satkhira and Khulna districts had been affected by the floods and that many of their problems would be solved after implementation of the river dredging.



Classes being conducted on the roadside due to flooding of schools

Earlier this week, an assessment team from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation visited Satkhira district and found a similar situation to the one in Jessore. The water and sanitation (watsan) situation is bad and, in the worst affected areas, latrines are washed out and many tubewells are inoperative. So far there have been no outbreaks of gastrointestinal (GI) disease or acute respiratory infection, though skin diseases are prevalent. Due to the poor watsan situation, the area seems vulnerable to major outbreaks of diseases like GI disease. The sub-districts (upazillas) of Tala and Kalaroa in Satkhira are badly affected and access to the affected families has been very difficult. Small boats are the best means of communication. The flooded/waterlogged land will take a long time to drain.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The BDRCS/Federation began distributing food and non-food items to the badly affected families in Jessore district. The BDRCS local unit, with its youth volunteers, has been active in the process. The distribution has been covered by the local media.

Table 1: Distribution of relief items to affected families in Jessore district, as on 4 September 2006

Coverage			Items distributed per family							
Sub-districts (Upazillas)	Union	No. of families	Family kit box	Plastic sheeting	Blankets (Pcs.)	Women's clothing (Pcs.)	Men's clothing (Pcs.)	Rice (10 kg. pack)	Lentils (2.5 kg. pack)	Edible Oil (900 ml. bottle)
Monirampur	Nehalpur	380	359	131	359	---	---	359	359	359
	Shyamkur	245	---	245	216	216	216	216	216	216
	Monoharpur	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Kultia	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Durbadanga	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Dhakuria	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Khanpur	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Keshobpur	Chaluhathi	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Sagardari	425	241	184	425	184	184	425	425	425
Avoyanagar	Bidyanandakathi	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Shundoli	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total		1,050	600	560	1,000	400	400	1,000	1,000	1,000

Note:

1. A Family Kit Box contains the followings: 2 aluminium cooking saucepans, 1 plastic mug, 2 plastic glasses, 2 aluminium plates, 2 spoons, 1 seamless aluminium bucket, 2 soap bars (bath & laundry), 6 candles, 12 match boxes, 1 item of women's clothing, 1 item of men's clothing, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 plastic weave bag, card board box.
2. 50 seriously affected road dwelling families (29 in Shyamkur & 21 in Nehalpur - unions under Monirampur Upazilla) were instantly supported with plastic sheeting only.

The procurement of food rations for 2,300 families has been completed and the items are being distributed. The process of procuring food rations for an additional 2,700 families is ongoing.

The assessment of watsan needs of the affected communities has been completed but intervention by the BDRCS/Federation is being kept on hold as UNICEF is intervening in the watsan sector through the local watsan office of the government.

Table 2: Summary of the emergency watsan needs in Jessore district

Affected Upazillas and Unions	Temporary shelters (camps)	Number of tubewells	Number of slab latrines	Number of water purifying tablets	Bleaching Powder (kg.)	Oral Rehydration Salts
Monirampur 9 Unions	8 Camps	10	25	8,000	200	4,000
Keshobpur 9 Unions	4 Camps	7	16	6,000	100	3,000
Avoyanagar 5 Unions	1 Camp	3	10	20,000	100	5,000
Total		20	51	34,000	400	12,000

The local unit of BDRCS in Satkhira conducted an assessment of three affected sub-districts (*upazillas*) of the district. The assessment was difficult and time consuming as the affected areas were extensively spread out and, due to flooding, the only way of accessing these areas was by using country boats. Many of the areas covered were those which had not been accessed after the disaster.

Table 3: The numbers of most affected families in Jessore and Satkhira district, as identified by the assessment team:

Districts	Sub-districts (<i>Upazillas</i>)	Number of affected families
Jessore	Keshobpur	7,910
	Monirampur	8,000
	Avoyanagar	7,192
Total		23,102
Satkhira	Sadar	400
	Tala	1,140
	Kalaroa	1,300
Total		2,840
Grand total		25,942

The Federation's Bangladesh delegation has provided information to the disaster emergency response group of Bangladesh and to a number of other organisations, about the RCRC action taken. The delegation has held meetings with NGOs like OXFAM to maintain coordination in interventions, especially at the field level.

[Please return to the title page for contact information](#)

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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.*

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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>