

# 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

*Information Bulletin*  
no. 01/2006  
29 August 2006

*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.**

Floods caused by heavy rains have adversely affected parts of south-western Bangladesh, most seriously the districts of Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira. In Jessore, 27,155 families have been affected and a rapidly increasing number of people are being displaced from their homes. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation have been assessing the situation, identifying the needs of the affected families and distributing relief items to them.

***For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:***

- *In Bangladesh: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Mr. M. Shafiul Alam (Secretary General), email: [bdrcs@bangla.net](mailto:bdrcs@bangla.net), phone: +88.02.935.2226*
- *In Bangladesh: Bangladesh Delegation, Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (Head of Delegation), email: [selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org](mailto:selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org), phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631*
- *In India: South Asia Regional Delegation, Ms. Nina Nobel (Programmes Coordinator), email: [nina.nobel@ifrc.org](mailto:nina.nobel@ifrc.org), phone: +91.11.2411.1125, fax: +91.11.2411.1128*
- *In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Mr. Hiroto Oyama (Regional Officer), email: [hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org](mailto:hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org), phone: +41.22.730.4273, fax: +41.22.733.0395*

### The Situation

Floods have adversely affected several parts of three districts (Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira) in south-western Bangladesh. The situation, which started during the first week of August, has worsened after heavy rainfall in these areas. The main causes of flooding are water logging due river sedimentation, excessive rainfall and improper building of dams for fish and shrimp cultivation.

According to data provided by the district commissioner's office in Jessore, 27,155 families have been affected in three sub-districts of Jessore. Reports are yet to be received from Khulna and Satkhira districts.

A rapidly increasing number of people affected by the floods are leaving their houses and belongings and moving to higher ground, especially to roadsides, where they are living in temporary shelters. As these are thatched shelters, built from coconut tree leaves, they are exposed to water leaking due to the heavy rains. On 13 August 2006, an assessment team from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation visited one of the campsites in Jessore district, at which time there were 300 families taking shelter there. When the team visited the camp again on 24 August, the number of families had increased to 420. However, it is reported that many affected people, particularly religious and ethnic minorities, are not leaving their homes for fear of losing their land and belongings.

Different sources have confirmed that there is pressing need for food among the affected population. As the majority of them are daily labourers and farmers, their sources of income have been ruined, making it difficult for them to get food and forcing many to survive on less food.

As reported by the local health authorities, the health situation is under control. No major outbreak of water borne diseases has been identified so far, although skin diseases and seasonal flu are quite common among the affected population. People are using drinking water from different sources, especially deep and shallow tube-wells established on high ground.

The local people feel that it will take months for the water to recede, probably only after the monsoon season is over.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the initial request sent to the Federation and BDRCS, on 13 August (by the Jessore unit of the national society) and based on the information from the **government** district relief and rehabilitation office, the BDRCS and Federation decided to deploy a joint assessment team to assess the situation and needs of the affected population in Jessore district. The team left Dhaka on 13 August and, following its identification and assessment of the most affected families, the following items relief items were distributed, with the support of the Jessore unit of BDRCS:

**Table 1: The numbers of most affected families in Jessore district as identified by the teams to date:**

| Sub-districts<br>( <i>upazilla</i> ) | No. of families | Items distributed   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Keshabpor                            | 420             | Family kits (containing different items including women's and men's clothing, kitchen items and plastic sheets) and blankets to 300 affected families living on the roadside. |
| Monirampur                           | 502             |   |
| Avayapur                             | 8,170           |   |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>9,092</b>    |   |

The number of affected families provided relief items is likely to increase after the team is able to conduct assessments in other districts as well. The team is also trying to visit the interior parts of the country.

After receiving further information (on 23 August) regarding the deteriorating situation, from the BDRCS units in Jessore and Satkhira districts, teams comprising of Federation and BDRCS officials (from BDRCS national headquarters and concerned units) and volunteers have been deployed to carry out assessments in these districts. To speed up the assessment process, plans are underway to deploy additional teams in the field.

BDRCS and the Federation plan to carry out immediate distribution of family kits and food items to the affected communities in these areas. Plans are underway to procure food (rice, lentils and cooking oil) for 1,000 families immediately and for a further 10,000 families in the coming days. The rate of distribution will be per family with 10 kg. rice, 2.5 kg. lentils and 1 litre of oil. While family kits will be distributed from the existing stock, food items will have to be procured. This initial distribution will be to help the badly affected families cope while waiting for distribution from the government or other agencies. The other needs of the communities will be addressed based on further assessments. While family kits will be distributed from the existing stock, food items will have to be procured.

The BDRCS and the Federation are participating in the disaster emergency response meeting and sharing information with other agencies/organisations to maintain necessary coordination and avoid duplication.

*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.*

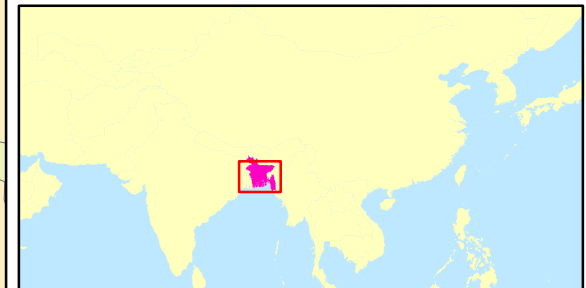
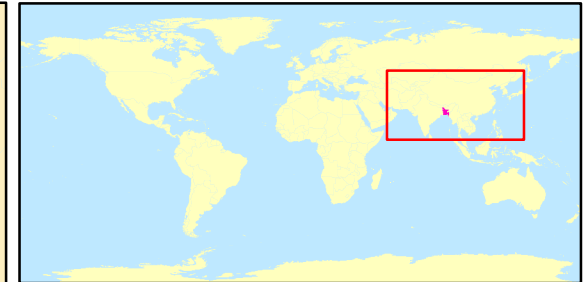
*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) 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>*

[Infographic map below; click here for the title page or contact details.](#)



# Bangladesh: Floods



Floods caused by heavy rains have adversely affected parts of south-western Bangladesh, most seriously the districts of Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira. In Jessore, 27,155 families have been affected and a rapidly increasing number of people are being displaced from their homes. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Federation have been assessing the situation, identifying the needs of the affected families and distributing relief items to them.

 Affected districts