

BANGLADESH: FLOODS

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The Disaster

Flash floods and mud slides have occurred in Chittagong District, Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, particularly Bandarban, from late June onwards. In the latter district 20,000 houses were reported submerged by water and mud slides.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Flood Information Centre reported on 1 July that the level of the Brahmaputra was dropping, while the Ganges continued to rise. In the Meghna basin the Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj recorded rises, as did most of the rivers in the South-Eastern Hill basin. The most recent report of 5 July shows a mixture of falls and rises in river levels. The Brahmaputra-Jamuna has recorded falls at upstream points and the Ganges has just started to fall in the upper reaches. In the Meghna basin a mixture of rises and falls have been noted but at Kanaighat and Sunamganj, rivers are flowing above their respective danger levels.

During the past week, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has been in frequent contact with its district units, which have reported a major increase in flooding in low lying areas. The BDRCS has been meeting regularly with Federation representatives and updating them on the situation.

Stocks of relief goods at unit level are depleted, having been distributed to the worst affected. Branches are strongly soliciting additional support from BDRCS national headquarters as the situation worsens.

While it is difficult to make a long-term forecast with certainty, the outlook for the next 24 hours given by the Flood Information Centre at recording points on all rivers is slightly more rises than falls. With the ground totally saturated, rivers, lakes and ponds full and no let up foreseen in the moderately heavy monsoon rains, people in flood prone areas will most likely continue to be affected.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

There are currently 2 million people requiring assistance. The planned relief operation of the National Society will be based on response systems which can be reduced, maintained or increased as further information comes to hand.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society district units are keeping in regular touch with their national headquarters, and are gathering and recording data of where the floods are occurring, in cooperation with (Govt) Thana officials.

In the meantime BDRCS has sent the following relief materials to nine districts:

No.		Rice (kg)	Dal (kg)	Old clothing (pc)	Tiffin carrier (pc)	Plastic sheeting (roll)
1	Chittagong	2,500		200	50	2
2	Cox's Bazar	2,500		200	50	2
3	Bandarban	2,500	500	200	50	2
4	Rangamati	2,500	500	200	50	2
5	Khagrachari	2,500	400	200	50	2
6	Serajganj	1,000	200			
7	Kurigram	1,000	200			
8	Bogra	1,000	200			
9	Tangail	1,000	200			
Total		16,500	2,200	1,000	250	10

Immediate Needs

It is clear the relief supplies distributed as above meet only a small fraction of the current needs and the priority is to distribute, as soon as possible, 20,000 emergency food ration packs of 10 kg rice, 2kg dal and 2 litres oil to 20,000 of the worst affected families (100,000 beneficiaries). The districts are: Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Barbandanban, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Sunamganj, Sylhet, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibanda, Bogra, Serajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur, Kustia, Rajbari, Lalmonirhat, Panchagar, Manikganj and Dhaka. Many people are living in temporary shelters on embankments and any available high ground.

<i>Item</i>	Budget Summary	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Amount in CHF</i>
Rice		200,000 kg	104,000
Dal		40,000 kg	34,000
Cooking Oil		40,000 lts	64,000
Transport of goods to Units			6,000
Loading and unloading to units			1,000
Unit distribution costs			12,000
Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting			3,000
Sub-total			224,000
BDRCS Capacity building			11,000
BDRCS Core costs			15,000
Total budget			250,000

The above budget has been prepared by the National Society for a relief operation that is ready to begin immediately. To facilitate the start of the operation, CHF 100,000 has been released today from the Federation's

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Donors are invited to provide support to the BDRCS programme through contributions that will replace the DREF advance and finance the relief measures as outlined in the budget.

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