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DREF operation update

Bangladesh: Tropical Storm

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBD011
GLIDE n° ST-2012-000176-BGD
Operation Update n°1
3 December 2012

Period covered by this update:
18 October to 22 November 2012

Summary: CHF 292,693 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 October 2012 to support Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to deliver assistance to 25,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

A heavy tropical storm hit some remote islands of three different coastal districts of Bangladesh at 2200 hours of 10 October 2012. The affected districts are Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong. BDRCS quickly responded to the disaster and volunteers from the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) took part in the search and rescue. BDRCS's district units coordinated with the local administration to distribute dry food (pressed rice and molasses). During this reporting period BDRCS distributed dry food for 2,600 families, tarpaulin for 4,500 families, water jerry cans for 4,000 families and cash grant for 4,500 families.



Beneficiary registration and process documentation by American RC cash transfer delegate. **Photo:** BDRCS.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by February 2013. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by May 2013).

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on:
<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

The situation

As of 22 October 2012, Disaster Management Information Cell (DMIC) of Bangladesh Government reported:

- Approximate 25,875 households have been affected by the storm in Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong districts. Out of these, 8,015 households are “fully affected” and 17,860 households are “partially affected”.
- A total of 36 deaths, 183 injured and 72 missing.
- Approximate total of 24,380 shelters have been damaged, out of which 8,050 shelters are fully damaged and 16,330 are partially damaged.

The high number of destroyed and damaged houses indicated that shelters were been severely affected. It is unlikely that the households affected has adequate the financial resources to purchase materials to rebuild their houses. This is particularly the case in Monpura and Charfassion. Therefore, shelter needs is a priority. In storm affected places, farming and fishing are the two main livelihoods though crops are not inundated; approximately 36,959 acres of productive lands are damaged. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE, Date 19/10/12), the storm didn't significantly impact the rice culture; the impact has been on the vegetable crop.

The fishing sector has been affected more than the agriculture sector with losses of assets: boats, nets and some fish farming ponds. At least 22 out of the 36 deaths were fishermen. The cyclone occurred five weeks before the harvesting period.

The affected areas are mainly composed of remote islands, making accessibility challenging. This is a major factor in response mapping.

Protection/Gender Based Violence (GBV) potentially could be issue for women and children especially in remote islands. This is particularly true considering the modality of cash distributions which have been seen to make recipients vulnerable in some isolated cases. BDRCS has advised cash grant recipients, particularly women and children, to take necessary precaution.

The Government of Bangladesh already responded with food distribution for 12,560 households providing 30kg of rice for each family. Government is also continuing Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme with a package of 30kg rice per households per month for 12,503 households. This VGF programme is planned for three months. Government has also provided cash of BDT 25, 000/ family that lost a primary bread-winner due to the storm and started a shelter grant scheme with a package of corrugated galvanised iron (CGI) sheet and BDT 500 for 5,000 families. Save the Children, Oxfam, Muslim aid and Islamic Relief has also responded in distributing non food items (NFIs) for the affected people.

BDRCS supported through IFRC distributed NFIs (emergency shelter materials, water jerry cans) and dry food to 3,000 families in three districts. NFIs were dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness stock with provision of replenishment through the DREF mechanism. BDRCS initiated cash distribution to 5,000 families through the DREF support for the purchase of food. These 5,000 includes the 3,000 households that received NFIs in the initial stage. Each 5,000 household is receiving BDT 2,000 cash. Those who did not receive emergency shelter materials will receive one tarpaulin.

Meanwhile, in complimenting emergency shelter component, Oxfam has supported some 2,000 households in terms of WatSan in Noakhali district. However based on the multisectoral review supported by the Assessment of Capacities Project (ACAPS) carried out on 5 November 2012, there was no significant issues to be addressed for WatSan component within the affected communities.

Coordination and partnerships

BDRCS affected district (Noakhali, Chittagong and Bhola) unit offices collected secondary information on damages and immediate needs from local administration. Based on available information from Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC), meeting of which BDRCS is a key member, BDRCS units requested for assistance from the national headquarter (NHQ). IFRC is coordinating with ECHO to explore further support for humanitarian assistance.

Within three days of assessment, reports were circulated among IFRC, Oxfam, Muslim Aid, and Save the Children in addition to the official situation report from the DMIC. To have a common analysis and shared understanding of the situation, a small group composed of IFRC, Muslim Aid, UNDP, Oxfam, Islamic Relief, Solidarities International, Concern Worldwide, WFP, FAO were formed with the support of ACAPS. They have met three times and reviewed information updates.

Since BDRCS/IFRC are active members of the Local Consultative Group- Disaster Emergency (DER) group, information and operation updates will be shared with other humanitarian agencies and national government in order to avoid any distribution overlap BDRCS/IFRC is also coordinating with NGOs of their plan to respond to their needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers of Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) carried out search and rescue operation. BDRCS response department conducted a rapid assessment through its branch offices in Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong districts. BDRCS local units coordinated with local government authorities on assessing damages and needs. BDRCS deployed ten National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) in three disaster affected districts of Noakhali, Chittagong and Bhola. Based on the information IFRC produced situation reports and shared with e HCTT and other organizations.

The IFRC Disaster Management team is continuing their support to BDRCS for collecting and disseminating information, operation planning and monitoring. IFRC has maintained communication with traditional partners, including ECHO, for possible support.

Response with NFIs (emergency shelter materials, water jerry cans) and dry food have been initially started for 3,000 families of the three districts. NFIs were dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness stock with provision of replenishment through the DREF mechanism. BDRCS has started distribution of cash for food for 5,000 families through the DREF support. These 5,000 includes all the 3,000 households that received NFIs in the initial stage.

The German Red Cross (GRC) has presence in Hatiya, Noakhali. GRC in collaboration with IFRC has been conducting assessment on the ground to support BDRCS on humanitarian response. GRC local staff has been mobilized to work together with BDRCS Noakhali unit for immediate assistance to be given for most affected people. GRC country office indicates to support IFRC for replenishment of NFIs mobilized from BDRCS/IFRC joint Disaster Preparedness stock.

BDRCS district units have distributed dry food for 3,000 families in Bhola, Chittagong and Noakhali districts by 16 October 2012. The selection of beneficiaries was done together with the NDRT and coordination with local government.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: The immediate basic food and essential household needs of 5,000 tropical storm affected families are met within four months in three districts of Bangladesh (Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong).
Outputs and activities planned: The target population received a single cash grant of CHF 25 (BDT 2,000) per family for food and two water jerry cans for water storage.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door-to-door assessments.• Beneficiary registration and validation.• Distribution of a single cash grant for food and immediate needs.• Distribution of water jerry cans by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.• Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.

Progress:

BDRCS deployed NDRT members in affected districts of Bhola, Chittagong and Noakhali on 11 October 2012 to assist BDRCS district units in conducting assessments, identifying and selecting beneficiaries. This team worked closely with district units to facilitate beneficiary registration, finalization and to map a distribution plan. Red Crescent Youth (RYC) volunteers engaged in selection and registration of beneficiaries. RYC volunteers were guided through an orientation on survey forms, vulnerability criteria for selection of appropriate beneficiaries, and participation of affected populations in beneficiary selection process. Affected geographical locations were identified in coordination with local administration, local government institutions and targeted communities.

BDRCS dispatched 4,000 water jerry cans from its joint disaster preparedness (DP) stock and distributed among 4,000 families. The local units arranged dry food from local market and immediately distributed towards 2,600 families. This distribution was completed on 18 October 2012. NDRT members also provided support to the local units in distribution of the relief items.

After allocating support from IFRC DREF mechanism, BDRCS started beneficiary selection for a total of 5,000 families in these three districts. These 5,000 families also include the initially selected 2,600 families assisted by dry food and water jerry can. While the beneficiary registration and selection was ongoing in the community, BDRCS together with IFRC was facilitating the cash grant disbursement process from NHQ to the field. Upon receiving the proper distribution plan along with number of families and date at NHQ, the cash grant was transferred to the field from NHQ appointed bank. The distribution of cash grant has started since 13 November 2012.

During the reporting period, a total of 4,500 families in the targeted seven upazilas of three districts have received cash grant. The rest of the distribution (500 families will be completed by early December 2012. BDRCS has maintained the standard process and documentation, i.e. distribution of beneficiary cards (with date, time and venue of distribution).



Female beneficiary with tarpaulin and water jerry cans. **Photo:** BDRCS.

Beneficiaries were notified in advance of the distribution points in each affected community where they could receive items.

Table 1: Distribution table for food and non-food items.

Districts	Upazila	Items supported to number of families				
		Water jerry can (1 pc/family)	Rice (8kg/family)	Flatten rice (5kg/family)	Molasses (1 kg/family)	Cash (BDT 2,000/family)
Bhola	CharFashion	-	-	-	-	-
	Monpura	1,500	-	600	600	1,800
Noakhali	Hatya	800	-	800	800	1,400
	Subarnachar	400	-	400	400	500
	Companiganj	300	-	300	300	300
Chittagong	Mirersharai	200	100	-	-	100
	Sandip	800	400	-	-	400
Total		4,000	500	2,100	2,100	4,500

The plan was to have all 5,000 families receive two water jerry cans, However only 4,000 families were provided with one water jerry can during the reporting period due to the limited water jerry cans available in BDRCS's DP stock. The procurement processes for water jerry cans have been started through IFRC zone logistic unit in Kuala Lumpur. The water jerry cans will be available within one weeks' time and the distribution will take place in first week of December 2012.

IFRC deployed field monitoring officers for supporting the district units to maintain proper processes and documentation for cash disbursement. An American Red Cross cash transfer delegate was involved with the whole cash transfer process starting from beneficiary selection to distribution and documentation. The primary objective was to help BDRCS to prepare a standard operating procedure for cash transfer mechanism in emergencies. A draft SOP has been prepared and circulated for comments.

Challenges:

- Remoteness had causes difficulties to carry cash as bank is not available in those areas. Presently BDRCS is exploring with the mobile banking services, and if successful the services will be considered for future operation.
- Problem has to face to make the BDRCS district unit familiar with the cash transfer process, but with the support from NDRT and IFRC field monitoring officer that problem was resolved.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: The emergency shelter needs for 5,000 flood-affected families are provided within four months in three districts of Bangladesh (Noakhali, Bhola and Chittagong).

Outputs and activities planned: The target families received emergency shelter materials (one tarpaulin per family) to meet their immediate shelter needs.*

Activities planned:

- Door-to-door assessments.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Distribution of tarpaulins by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through BDRCS national headquarters staff and IFRC field monitors.
- Procurement and replenishment of tarpaulins dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC disaster preparedness.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by BDRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

**Only tarpaulins will be provided as other materials (i.e. rope and bamboo) are locally available to fix a makeshift shelter with tarpaulins. People who already have a basic place for shelter use the tarpaulin as a ground sheet. There is longer term shelter solution in discussion by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and will be decided upon further detailed assessment.*

Progress:

Emergency shelter supported beneficiaries are the same as those of food and NFIs. Beneficiaries who received cash grant and NFIs have also received emergency shelter materials. Each beneficiary family is to receive only one tarpaulin to be used as emergency shelter support. The initial assessment showed that other materials like rope and bamboo were locally available which could be used with the tarpaulin to form an emergency shelter. The Government has declared further assistance in the form of shelter cash grant and CGI sheet to provide a longer term solution for the shelter damage. The government commitment, if materialized, is expected to resolve the shelter concerns for at least 50 per cent of the affected people. The longer term shelter needs are being considered by the HCTT and will be decided upon after further detailed assessment.

During the reporting period, BDRCS has distributed one tarpaulin to each of the 4,500 families in the targeted seven upazilas of three districts. The rest of the distributions (500 families) will be completed by early December 2012. The replenishment process for tarpaulin started through IFRC zone logistic unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Table 2: Distribution table for tarpaulin

Districts	Upazila	Items provided to number of families
		1 tarpaulin per family
Bhola	CharFashion	-
	Monpura	1,800
Noakhali	Hatya	1,400
	Subarnachar	500
	Companiganj	300
Chittagong	Mirersharai	100
	Sandwip	400
Total		4,500

According to the field information, there were no land ownership issues found in setting up the emergency shelter. This, however, was more prominent when it comes to permanent or core shelter project as the government has restriction on permanent shelter in which valid land ownership documents should be presented. Meanwhile, the government has made commitment to support other affected families with a cash grant of BDT 20,000 for shelter rebuilding/repairing.

Challenges:

- During beneficiary selection and card distribution, travelling to and within the three districts by the volunteer teams was time- and energy-consuming due to the inadequate transport facilities.
- The delivery of tarpaulins was made difficult due to the need to use water transport facilities.

Logistics

IFRC is working on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field. Tarpaulins have been supplied by pre-positioned stock from BDRCS and will be replenished by the Asia Pacific Zone Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

MDRBD011 - Bangladesh - Tropical Storm

Appeal Launch Date: 17 oct 12

Appeal Timeframe: 17 oct 12 to 17 feb 13

Interim Report
I. Funding

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/10-2012/10
Budget Timeframe	2012/10-2013/2
Appeal	MDRBD011
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	292,693					292,693	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	292,693					292,693	
C4. Other Income	292,693					292,693	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	292,693					292,693	
D. Total Funding = B +C	292,693					292,693	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	292,693					292,693	
E. Expenditure	-9,869					-9,869	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	282,824					282,824	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/10-2012/10
Budget Timeframe	2012/10-2013/2
Appeal	MDRBD011
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		292,693					292,693	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	76,220						76,220	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	49,390						49,390	
Cash Disbursement	121,951						121,951	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	247,561						247,561	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	732						732	
Distribution & Monitoring	12,195	4,622				4,622	7,574	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7,317						7,317	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	20,244	4,622				4,622	15,622	
Personnel								
International Staff		25				25	-25	
Total Personnel		25				25	-25	
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,902						3,902	
Office Costs	1,585						1,585	
Communications	1,220						1,220	
Financial Charges	317						317	
Total General Expenditure	7,024						7,024	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		4,621				4,621	-4,621	
Total Operational Provisions		4,621				4,621	-4,621	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	17,864	602				602	17,262	
Total Indirect Costs	17,864	602				602	17,262	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	292,693	9,869				9,869	282,824	
VARIANCE (C - D)		282,824				282,824		