

Information Bulletin n° 1
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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

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The situation

Excessive rains from 26-30 June caused flash floods and landslides on 30 June in the south-eastern region of Bangladesh. According to the Disaster Management Information Center of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the three districts, namely Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, and Bandarban, are affected. In total, 131 unions experienced floods, directly affecting 276,250 families, with 25 per cent of the houses fully damaged. A total of 371.5 kilometres of road were inundated and damaged due to flooding, while 5,310 acre of crops has been fully destroyed.



Damaged houses at Ramu Upazila, Cox's Bazaar. Photo: Grojatra (A National NGO)

Affected districts	3
Affected upazila	29
Affected union	131
Affected families	276,250
Number of deaths	20
Damaged houses/shelter	91,808 (out of which around 25% is fully damaged)
Affected roads	371.5 kilometre
Affected crops	5310 acre

Fig .1. Assessment of Damage (Source: BDRCS situation report)

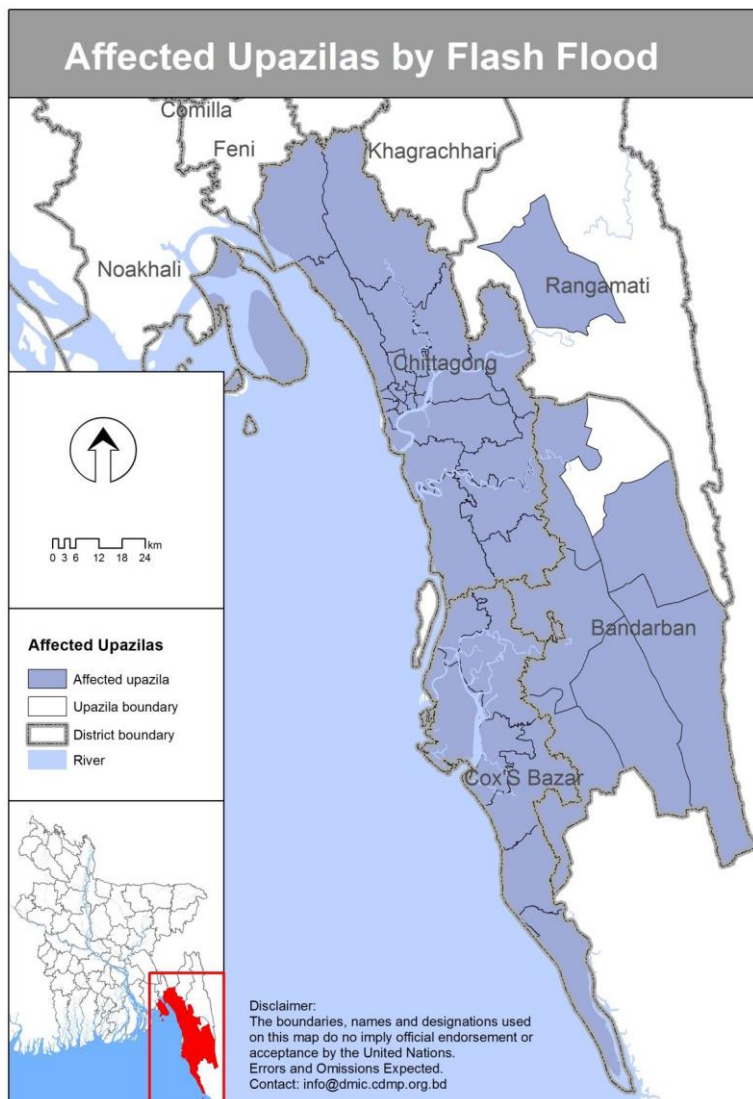


Fig 2. Map of affected districts (Source: DMIC, CDMP www.dmic.org.bd)

In the first week of July, the torrential rain ceased and the water has since gone down. People have started returning to their homes and using reusable materials to fix the damaged shelters. While some people are taking shelter in houses of relatives or neighbours, others remain without shelter and are the most vulnerable. Those who have lost crops and food stocks may require external support to recover. The marginal farmers in particular are at a critical stage as their crops have been destroyed.

In response to this disaster, the district governments have allocated 580 MT of rice, and cash of BDT 6.5 million (around CHF 84,000). The disaster management committees in district and sub-district levels are activated, supporting the distribution of government-allocated rice and cash, conducting local evacuations and providing damage information through the local governance structure. The joint needs assessment (JNA phase 2), activated from The Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) meeting on 29 June, is now ongoing in the field with the lead from the local government and participation from humanitarian agencies (CARE, Oxfam, Concern Universal, Muslim Aid, Christian Aid, etc). Members from IFRC and BDRCS are also participating in this assessment. The JNA team is using a smart phone-based survey technique which is the first time ever for this type of

assessment in Bangladesh. The report as a result of this JNA is expected to be available after 15 July. The JNA phase 2 report is expected to provide more detailed information of the affected sub-districts in terms of their damage, needs, coping mechanism, recovery needs and gaps.

At the same time the cluster leads will provide a response strategy based on the JNA findings. The National Health Crisis Management Centre and Control Room of DG Health and all Civil Surgeon offices of respective districts have been alerted and activated to monitor the health situation on a 24-hour basis. A total of 126 medical teams from the local government are working to tackle common health issues such as water borne diseases in the flood affected areas. World Health Organization (WHO) as a health cluster lead is supporting the emergency health intervention by the government. World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 112.5 tons of biscuits among affected people of Cox's Bazar with support from BDRCS district unit's volunteers.

Apart from the flooding in south-eastern Bangladesh, the government, BDRCS and IFRC are aware and concerned about the flooding which has begun in the northern and north-eastern districts of Bangladesh. It is likely to worsen as the south-western monsoon continues into August and September. As the catchment areas of northern India and the Tibetan Plateau drains into the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers (which become the Padma and Jamuna in BD), the Padma and Jamuna rivers are starting to rise and may rise further. BDRCS and IFRC will continue to monitor the situation, keeping NDRT on standby and reviewing disaster preparedness stocks.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Around 50 Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) volunteers of Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) were involved in rescue and first aid services to the affected and injured people, and directing people to the cyclone shelters. BDRCS deployed staff to participate in the JNA Phase 2. BDRCS is also collaborating with WFP to distribute 112.5 ton biscuits to 30,000 families in Sadar, Chakaria, Ramu and Pekua Upazila of Cox's Bazar District.

BDRCS district branches mobilized public donations to purchase dry food and in-kind support like cooked food in response to the flash floods in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban,

Other BDRCS' response activities are listed as follows.

- BDRCS mobilized cash of around BDT 150,000 to the Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts, which also supported the distribution of dry food support to 1,500 people (1 kg dried rice and 400 gram jaggery per person).
- BDRCS assisted in distributing an additional 1.5 tons of rice (5 kg of rice for each family) to 300 families in Bandarban district.
- BDRCS' planned provision of cash grants of BDT 1,000 per family (refer to Fig 3)

BDRCS is trying to manage the needs with local resources. BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, has initiated the provision of cash support to 1,000 flood affected vulnerable families in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts to enable them to purchase food and essential non-food items. Direct cash distribution is planned for 400 families in Bandarban and 600 families in Cox's Bazar. Each family will receive BDT 1,000 (approx. CHF 11.8) cash grant. The BDRCS NHQ are conducting monitoring visits to these two districts, and one NDRT member will be deployed in Cox's Bazar and another one in Bandarban to provide assistance.

Fig 3: Distribution Plan for Cash Grant in two districts.

District	Upazila	No of HH	Distribution Date
Bandarban	Bandarban Sadar	200	14/07/2015
	Lama	100	15/07/2015
	Naikhongchari	100	16/07/2015
	Total	400	
Cox's Bazar	Ramu	100	15/07/2015
	Chokoria	300	16/07/2015
	Sadar	100	17/07/2015
	Pekua	100	17/07/2015
	Total	600	
	Grand total	1,000	

IFRC Bangladesh delegation is providing BDRCS with adequate technical assistance where required, and also assisting in updating the DMIS. IFRC has availed resources in terms of human resource, cash-for-food and other needs as well as non-food items (NFIs) from DP stocks. Partner national societies (PNSs) are taking part in the cluster meetings as per the pre-defined roles and updating the Movement partners. They have also made their staff available to be deployed as and when required.

BDRCS is also observing the northern part of the country where there is a potential risk of flooding with anticipation that the upper catchment in India will be receiving more rain in the coming weeks.

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.



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.
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