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## Information bulletin

# Bangladesh: Building Collapsed

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population or replenish the stock which has been used to assist the vulnerable families under this operation.

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BDRCS staff and volunteers first response to Savar where the building collapsed to provide relief to the injured people. **Photo:** BDRCS/IFRC.

## The situation

On 24 April at 09:00, an eight-storey Rana Plaza private building collapsed in Savar, 20km north of Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. The collapsed building housed several garment factories, a bank and at least 300 shops.

As of 26 April at 12:00, a total of 305 dead bodies and 2,348 wounded people have been recovered from the scene, including women and children, while the number of people still trapped inside the rubble is unknown. Local district authority has released 286 dead bodies to their relatives. Some 23 dead bodies are stored at Dhaka Medical College Hospital Mortuary awaiting identification. Some 2,000 injured people have been rescued and provided with immediate basic first aid or transferred to nearby hospitals for medical attention.

**Table 1: Summary of damages and losses provided by DMIC, as of 26 April 2013 1800hr**

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Number of death                     | 305    |
| Number of injury                    | 2,348  |
| Estimated number of trapped persons | >1,500 |
| Number of vehicles                  | 30     |

*Source: Disaster Management Information Network, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.*

Search and rescue operation has been carried out by the Bangladesh Army and Fire services, civil Defence, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Border Guards Bangladesh, local police Bangladesh Navy and volunteers, including the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). Drilling machines and cranes were used in

removing the heavy rubbles in search for survivors. The rescue operation was slowed down due to the heavy traffic of bystanders within the 2km vicinity of the collapsed building. Traffic, however, was being diverted to allow response teams to access the area without much difficulty. Spot and torch lights were transported to the area to assist the various rescue teams to continue the operation at night. BDRCS is among the response agencies at the site. Other agencies include Save the Children, World Vision, and Anjuman E Mofiudul Islam.

In the 26 April press release by the Director General of the Department of Disaster Management and Relief from the Ministry of Disaster Management, the rescue operation is likely to continue for the next three days to recover people trapped inside the collapsed building and secure the area to prevent potential damage from the remaining of the collapsed building. Ten teams from the Ministry of Health have been deployed to provide immediate medical assistance to the injured people. The Bangladesh's Army has established mobile tent/camp for providing primary health service.

The government has supplied 3,000 sets of intravenous saline, 500 injections, 7,000 pieces of antibiotic, and 5,000 pieces of paracetamol tablets through Enam Medical hospital and Savar Upazila health complex.

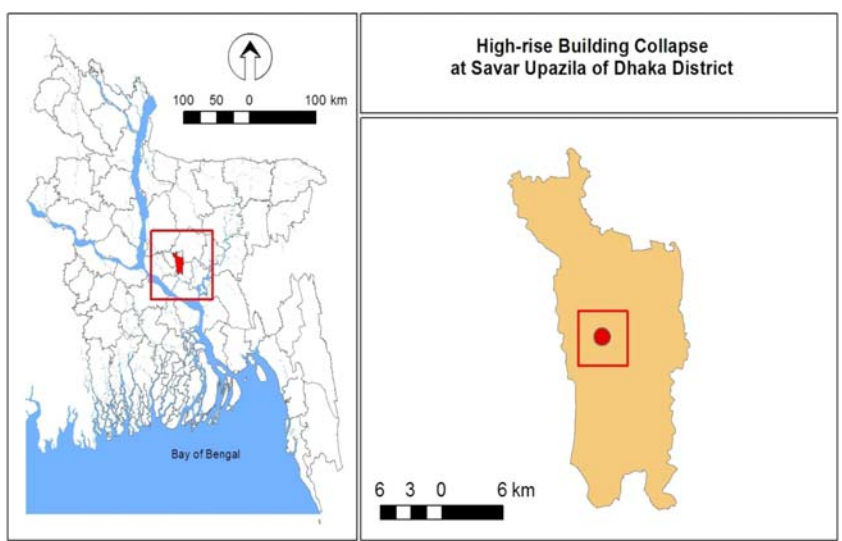
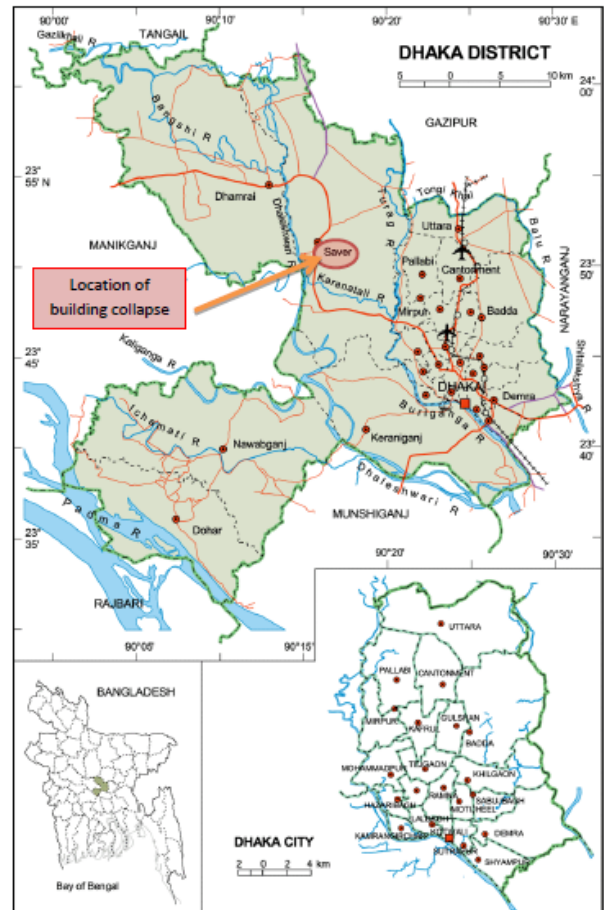
Hospitals providing medical assistance include Enam Medical College Hospital, Savar Combined Military Hospital, Sima General Hospital, Super Clinic Centre and Savar Gana Sashtha Kendra.

Meanwhile, various organizations have initiated voluntary blood donation activity. BDRCS has launched an appeal to the nation for voluntary blood donation through electronic media to generate supply of blood for the wounded persons.

Bottled water and dry food is being supplied at the operation site for the injured and trapped people as well as the rescue teams.

In view of the unfortunate incident, the government has declared to provide cash support amounting BDT 20,000 (CHF 243) for those who have lost their family member and BDT 5,000 (CHF 61) for the injured persons. Besides that, all wounded persons will receive free medical treatment.

Due to the complexity of the collapsed building, an additional 1,100 trained army personnel were deployed on the afternoon of 25 April to assist in the rescue operation. The Air Force has also started supplying oxygen inside the collapsed structure for the trapped survivors. Meanwhile, a temporary control room has been set up by local authority near the Savar Bus Stand to provide information to the distraught families. The Department of Health Services has opened a round-the-clock emergency control room at its headquarters to monitor the medical care for injured persons. The World Health Organization (WHO) country office for Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, is issuing daily situation reports on health activities conducted on site.





BDRCS staff and volunteers first response to Savar where the building collapsed to provide relief to the injured people. **Photo:** BDRCS.

The nation observed 26 April, as a day of mourning to grieve over the worst ever tragedy in the RMG sector.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Within 24 hours, BDRCS/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has supported the operation with the following:

- A team of 11 volunteers deployed to the site to assist in rescue operation and to provide basic first aid to the injured persons.
- BDRCS Chairman and Secretary General, IFRC Head of Delegation, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) team and relevant directors visited the area and provided necessary direction and guidance to the rescue and medical team on the ground.

- Restoration of Family Link (RFL) volunteers are providing mobile phone services for the injured person to connect with their families or relatives. RFL volunteers are also preparing a list of missing, injured and dead persons.
- Dead body management service with 92 body bags along with ICRC supply of an additional 200 body bags.
- BDRCS medical team is providing primary health care service to injured persons while the ambulance service is kept available for transportation of wounded people to different hospitals or health posts.
- BDRCS has deployed additional 30 volunteers and officers are providing on-site support.
- Bottled water and biscuit are being supplied to the injured.

BDRCS/IFRC also offered the following support:

- BDRCS/IFRC is providing necessary medicines and light surgical tools to the mobile medical camp established at the site.
- BDRCS is distributing oral saline among the rescuer.
- IFRC has provided 126 hand lights and 16 head torch lights for the rescue workers.
- IFRC has provided generator operated flash lights to facilitate rescue and medical care which are being carried by BDRCS and government agencies.
- BDRCS has deployed two National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members along with light search and rescue equipment from BDRCS's earthquake contingency stock.
- Additional two generators and 200 pieces of dry cell batteries have been procured to support the rescue work.
- BDRCS has supplied 600 masks and gloves for the rescue workers.
- German Red Cross, one of the in-country Partner National Societies, provided vehicle support in transporting logistic supply for BDRCS rescue team.
- Some 140 bags of blood was provided through BDRCS Blood Bank in Dhaka.
- As of 26 April at 18:00, 219 people have received medical care or first aid from BDRCS mobile medical post.
- Four BDRCS volunteers were injured at the site while carrying survivors and dead bodies from the collapsed building. They were treated at nearby hospital and transferred to Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital. The same day they have been released from the hospital.
- As of 26 April at 18:00, BDRCS has deployed a team of 100 trained volunteers to the site to assist in the operation on rotation basis.
- BDRCS and ICRC have supplied an additional 292 body bags and 88 body bags respectively to



BDRCS staff and volunteers carrying the injured people to safety for medical assistance. **Photo:** BDRCS.

the operation.

- Upon request from the MoDMR, BDRCS/IFRC has handed over ten set of reinforced cement concrete (RCC) and iron cutter electric machines and one set of demolition hammer to the Bangladesh Army. This support will cover the shortage of appropriate tools for splitting the collapsed RCC elements to recover the trapped persons.
- As of 26 April at 18:00, 150 families were reunited through BDRCS provided RFL services.

BDRCS has received in-kind contributions and cash donation from philanthropist individuals, civil society groups and students to people affected by the incident. The in-kind contributions include rescue equipment, mini size oxygen cane, medicines, dry food, safe drinking water and cash estimated at BDT 150,000 (CHF 1,800).

Meanwhile, BDRCS/IFRC recognised that such event could bring about post-trauma effects on the affected persons and their families/relatives. BDRCS is to provide psychosocial support services using its trained volunteers.

Staff members of the ICRC and IFRC visited the site to assess the situation and liaised with the local authorities and other relevant stakeholders to determine the assistance required to the affected people. On 26 April, an informal discussion was carried out between the Minister of Ministry of Disaster Management, IFRC's Head of Delegation, and BDRCS's Secretary General on the BDRCS/IFRC and ICRC humanitarian response.

BDRCS was interviewed by the BBC World and BBC Radio on the people affected by the incident of the collapsed building and actions by BDRCS.

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## Contact information

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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.