

## **BANGLADESH: FLOODS**

31 January 2001

*appeal no. 20/2000*

*situation report no. 8; Programme extension to 30 April 2001*

*period covered: 9 November - 31 December 2000*

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*The relief programme has been extended until 30 April 2001 since a significant percentage of funding was received in December 2000. Six sub-districts of south western Bangladesh remain affected by stagnant flood waters, although floods have subsided in other areas. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with support from the Federation, has implemented phase 1 of its food distribution plan whereby 177,500 vulnerable families in 20 districts affected by floods and river erosion received assistance. Phase 2 targets 25,000 families in the south western districts. A WFP programme has been set up in order to ensure food security until the harvesting of the next rice crop in May 2001 and to improve the nutritional status of affected populations. The BDRCS is working in close cooperation with the WFP and other external partners. Given the emphasis on provision of food and the suffering caused by the current cold temperatures, the BDRCS is implementing a distribution of blankets and warm clothing for 276,000 vulnerable beneficiaries.*

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### ***The context***

Unusually high rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the Ichamati and Sonai Rivers caused extensive flooding in southwest Bangladesh towards the end of September 2000, particularly affecting an estimated 2.7 million in six districts. In these areas, unlike other parts of Bangladesh, floods have not occurred for over 60 years. Therefore, the population was not prepared for such a crisis which resulted in extensive material damage. Although much of the flood waters have since receded, in six

sub-districts of three of these districts a combination of low-lying lands, a lack of outlets to drain water, and silting up of drainage channels have left large areas of land under stagnant water. An estimated 1.4 million people remain in a perilous condition in fragile temporary shelters, with few belongings and face the cold winter temperatures with little warm clothing.

## *Latest events*

Given that water levels have receded in many flood affected areas and the scale of the destruction caused by the floods, the government and local authorities are focusing on repair of infrastructure to assist the homeless to reconstruct houses. The government has announced a grant of Tk.1000/- (CHF 31.-) for each family which has lost a house. However, this is insufficient to rebuild a house, however modest.

It was reported by the BDRCS Jessore branch that Putkhali union in Sharsha (Jessore district) was under water and that the situation was unlikely to change for some weeks. Also, water logging continues to be a problem in several areas of the flooded Upazillas (sub-districts).

On 20 December, national daily newspaper reported: "Nilphamari in grip of severe cold". The cold wind blowing from the Himalayan range over this area enhanced the intensity of coldness. The winter season usually starts in early October and ends in March, bringing misery to the poorer section of the population.

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangtha (BSS) national news agency reported that large areas in the districts of Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibanda and Nilphamari have been afflicted by a severe cold wave. For several days, dense fog covered the entire Rangpur zone.

The inter-agency Emergency Working Group (EWG) met on 27 November 2000. It was stressed that winter has arrived and there is an emerging need for non-food relief items - mainly clothing, blankets and shelter materials.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB) are assisting the government to repair primary school buildings. ADB has also announced agricultural credit facilities. It was indicated that, in addition to its on-going food relief assistance, BDRCS will focus on rehabilitation needs. The Federation emphasised the need to respect SPHERE standards for relief interventions.

It has been proposed to expand the EMG and extend its mandate. Its objectives would be to establish a standing forum dealing with all aspects of disaster preparedness and to design disaster response approaches that take into consideration the particular strategy/strengths of participating agencies. All agencies participating in the meeting appreciated the value such a forum and expressed their willingness to be participate. A small group will be convened by WFP to draft the ToR for discussion.

### **Inter-agency Post-flood Needs Assessment Report**

The mission's final report recommended stepped-up relief assistance, including food and non-food items, to help the affected population to cope with the situation until such time as they regain access to regular employment and income sources.

### **WFP**

The aim of WFP relief assistance is to prevent any further setback in the food security and nutritional status of the affected population, until the next rice-harvesting season in May 2001.

WFP started operating an emergency operation (EMOP) project - Assistance to Flood Affected People in Southwest Bangladesh - for a period of 12 months - December 2000 through November 2001. The following table shows the details:

Phase	Activity	Duration	Beneficiaries	Food MT
One	General food distribution	6 months (December 2000 - May 2001)	950,400	73,561
	Supplementary feeding	6 months (December 2000 - May 2001)	157,900	2,842
Two	Emergency school feeding	10 months (Feb - November 2001)	175,000	3,500

*Compiled from data of the District and Upazilla administrations.*

WFP assistance will target the poorest rural households. Of a total of 1.4 million people who remain affected, some 0.2 million live in urban areas. Of the remaining 1.2 million people, WFP assistance will target the landless farmers and those with land holdings of less than 0.8 hectares as per FAO definitions. Thus, assistance in the form of a general food ration for each individual is required for a total of 950,400 people, as indicated in the table below.

Estimated Affected Population Requiring Relief Assistance by Broad Age Group and Gender December 2000 - May 2001											
District/ Upazilla	Target h/hold	Target Population			Under 5 years			5 - 10 years		Over 10 years	
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
Debhata	7,400	16,700	16,100	32,800	2,400	2,400	4,800	2,400	2,400	11,900	11,300
Kolaroa	29,400	69,800	67,000	136,800	10,400	10,400	20,800	12,000	11,000	47,400	45,600
Satkhira	39,000	108,500	104,300	212,800	17,000	17,000	34,000	17,700	16,900	73,800	70,400
<b>Total</b>	75,800	195,000	187,400	382,400	29,800	29,800	59,600	32,100	30,300	133,100	127,300
<b>Jessore</b>											
Sharsha	60,800	122,800	118,000	240,800	20,000	19,300	39,300	21,700	20,900	81,100	77,800
Jikargacha	27,300	70,200	67,400	137,600	9,600	9,600	19,200	12,000	11,200	48,600	46,600
<b>Total:</b>	88,100	193,000	185,400	378,400	29,600	28,900	58,500	33,700	32,100	129,700	124,400
<b>Jhenaidah</b>											
Moheshpur	32,400	96,700	92,900	189,600	15,200	15,200	30,400	16,900	16,100	64,600	61,600
<b>Total:</b>	32,400	96,700	92,900	189,600	15,200	15,200	30,400	16,900	16,100	64,600	61,600
<b>Grand Total:</b>	196,300	484,700	465,700	950,400	74,600	73,900	148,500	82,700	78,500	327,400	313,300

The total number of beneficiaries of all project components amounts to 964,200:

Type of ration	Duration	Number of beneficiaries	Sub-set of beneficiaries	Totals (MT)	Food basket/ ration scale per capita
<b>General:</b>	6 months	950,400	-	-	-
- Wheat	6 months	-	-	57,024	10 kg/month
- Pulses	6 months	-	-	11,405	2 kg/month
- Oil	6 months	-	-	5,132	1 ltr/month
<b>Blended food</b>	6 months	-	157,900	2,842	3 kg/month
<b>Biscuits</b>	10 months	13,800	161,200	3,500	2 kg/month
<b>Total</b>	12 months	964,200	-	79,903	-

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

The Federation has continued to support the action undertaken by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), in close co-operation and co-ordination with the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, UN agencies and international organisations. The following activities have been

supported under each objective stated in the Federation’s full emergency appeal launched on 6 October 2000.

**Emergency Relief Interventions**

**Food items**

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continued phase 1 food relief activities begun in August under the preliminary appeal. 177,500 vulnerable families have received assistance from the BDRCS in 20 districts affected by flooding and river erosion. Of these, 115,000 families (575,000 beneficiaries), received emergency food aid distributions carried out by the BDRCS in the six worst-hit western districts.

BDRCS started phase 2 of food relief distributions in south western districts on 6 November 2000 in Satkhira district. The food support ration for 25,000 families (125,000 beneficiaries) for a period of two weeks includes 20 kgs of rice and 4 kgs of dal. All relief items for the western districts are being channelled through the Control, Co-ordination and Monitoring Centre (CCMC) at the local BDRCS unit in Jessore.

Invitations to tender for the supply of 250 mt of rice and 50 mt of dhal for phase 3 food distributions were published in local newspapers on 17 December 2000. The food support will cover 12,500 families (62,500 beneficiaries) for a period of two weeks.

It is possible that a phase 4 distribution will be needed to cover distribution of 550 mt of rice and 110 mt of dhal for 27,500 families (137,500 beneficiaries).

The distribution of food phase 2 relief items during the reporting period is indicated below:

**District/Unit allocation of food relief items**

Sl. No.	Districts/ Units	Allocation of Relief Materials (mt)			No. of family	No. of beneficiaries	Distribution started on
		Rice	Lentils	Total			
1	Satkhira	150	30	180	7,500	37,500	6 November
2	Chuadanga	100	20	120	5,000	25,000	26 December
3	Meherpur	55	11	66	2,750	13,750	21 December
4	Jessore	100	20	120	5,000	25,000	21 December
5	Kushtia	55	11	66	2,750	13,750	26 December
6	Jhenaidah	40	8	48	2,000	10,000	26 December
7	CCMC Jessore	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	-

*Source: BDRCS Relief Control Room & Relief Department, as of 26 December 2000*

**Non-food items**

The procurement process for non-food relief items was initiated during the reporting period.

Given that the temperature in the flood affected areas is expected to drop to between 5° - 7° Celsius between the end of December and mid-January, BDRCS will provide winter clothing to families identified as being most vulnerable to these conditions, as follows:

<b>Proposed allocation of clothing materials, etc.</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>No. Of families</b>	<b>Allocation per family</b>
blanket	10,000	2
saree	18,200	1
lungi	20,000	1
Children's pullover	7,000	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,200</b>	-

The total number of proposed beneficiaries for this intervention is 276,000.

### **Housing**

In Phase 4 (February 2001), BDRCS plans to provide corrugated iron (CI) and plastic sheeting for the repair/temporary construction of housing for people made homeless by the floods. This intervention will cover 20,600 families (103,000 beneficiaries).

### **Beneficiary selection**

Government registration lists which give details of each affected family at the time of the floods provide the basis for identifying beneficiaries for the general food ration. Ration cards are distributed to the head of each household, and only s/he is entitled to collect the food ration. The ration card includes family details and the family's total two weeks ration entitlement. In order to ensure that Red Crescent humanitarian assistance reaches the most vulnerable groups, BDRCS interventions comply with criteria to be followed by all District branches in the event of relief operations, as established in its 'Disaster Relief Field Manual' of 1997. The manual defines the term 'most vulnerable' (in terms of disaster emergency) as: "those who are unable to survive and recover and whose suffering cannot be alleviated without external assistance."

### **Medical operations**

BDRCS conducted relief medical operations in eight districts: Satkhira, Jessore, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenaidah, Kustia, Chapai and Nawabgonj. Additionally, medical interventions were carried out in Sandwip and Chittagong, following a tidal surge. 22 medical teams worked for a period of 79 days from 13 September to 30 November 2000. Each medical team consisted of a doctor, a paramedic, a male Red Cross youth (RCY) volunteer and a female volunteer. Each team was equipped with basic medicines and also had oversight of the distribution of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and water purification tablets (WPT). A total of 150,547 people received health assistance from these medical teams, principally in relation to diarrhoea, dysentery and acute respiratory infections.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The response to the appeal is adequate to meet the currently identified needs.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The BDRCS/Federation continues to liaise with government agencies, UN bodies, ECHO, DFID, NGOs, diplomatic missions and the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) which co-ordinates the relief activities of NGOs and the media. The Federation delegation continues to participate in meetings of the Emergency Working Group on a regular basis.

The EMOP programme will work together with the government using the premises of the Jessore Red Crescent Branch Office for monitoring purposes. This arrangement will continue, initially, for three months and may be extended for up to twelve months.

## *Contributions*

See Annex 1 for details.

## *Conclusion*

The main rice crop in the western districts of Bangladesh, due to have been harvested in November, has been largely lost. This has affected not only the landowners but also deprived the landless and near-landless people. The onset of cold, winter weather has exacerbated the vulnerability of the poorest.

A general focus on the provision of food has resulted in insufficient emphasis on the non-food relief needs of flood affected families. The BRCS has therefore undertaken to distribute clothing and blankets to 276,000 vulnerable beneficiaries

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**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

BANGLADESH - FLOODS 2000						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No.20 /2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				01/31/01
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>3,796,936</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 96.4%</b>
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		20	USD	36	21.11.00	
AUSTRIAN - RC		25,000	EUR	38,933	20.09.00	
BRITISH - RC		45,000	GBP	113,400	25.08.00	
BRITISH - RC		55,000	GBP	142,450	25.08.00	FOOD & OPERATIONAL NEEDS
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	100,000	23.10.00	RELIEF ITEMS
BRITISH - RC		60,000	GBP	151,800	04.12.00	RELIEF ITEMS
CANADIAN - RC		20,000	CAD	23,068	15.09.00	
CHINESE - RC		20,000	USD	35,470	21.09.00	DIRECT DONATION TO NS
DANISH - RC		277,500	DKK	56,777	16.10.00	
ECHO (01001)		500,000	EUR	761,050	19.12.00	NON-FOOD ITEMS
FINNISH - RC		33,637	EUR	52,864	24.08.00	
FINNISH - RC		50,456	EUR	77,087	27.10.00	
GERMAN - RC		400,000	DEM	312,440	23.10.00	
CHINA , HONG KONG - PRIVATE		100,000	BDT	3,284	20.09.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	22.09.00	
IRANIAN - RC		50,000	USD	88,675	24.10.00	
JAPANESE - RC				162,000	24.08.00	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				20,000	25.08.00	
KUWAIT - RC		7,500	USD	13,301	01.11.00	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				50,000	02.10.00	
LUXEMBOURG - GOVT		5,000,000	LUF	189,340	10.10.00	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,157,498	NOK	408,358	15.12.00	
SINGAPORE - PRIVATE		50	USD	89	21.11.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,250,000	SEK	233,875	18.08.00	FLOOD RELIEF OPERATION
SWISS - GOVT				100,000	11.10.00	
SWISS - PRIVATE /ICRC				5,000	11.12.00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>3,143,592</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>82.8%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CHINA, HONG KONG - GOVT/RC		2,000,000	HKD	453,886	20.11.00	RICE, DAL, TRANSPORTATION & DISTRIBUTION
IRANIAN - RC		37,169	USD	63,652	23.09.00	TENTS, BLANKETS, RICE, TEA, OIL, CLOTHES, SLIPPERS, SOAP
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>517,538</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>CHF</b>	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PBD526						