

# FINAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **BANGLADESH: FLOODS 2000**

19 December  
2001

*Appeal No. 20/2000*

*Launched on: 18 August 2000 for two months for CHF 3,239,213, revised on 6 October, increased to CHF 3,796,936 for six months until 31 May 2001*

*DREF Allocated: CHF 200,000*

*Beneficiaries: 771,000*

*Final Report Period covered: 18 August 2000 - 31 May 2001*

*Last Ops. Update no. 10 issued 4 May 2001*

### **“At a glance”**

***Appeal coverage: 97.1%***

***The Disaster/Situation: The monsoon season that began early June 2000 caused serious flooding in Bangladesh. Torrential rains and water run-off from India, combined with heavy infrastructure damage to embankments and roads, caused more than 3.5 million people to leave their homes. The flooding destroyed housing, farmland and roads and caused considerable economic damage, exacerbating unemployment among agricultural day labourers. Towards the end of September 2000, high rainfall in the upper catchment areas of Ichamati and Sonai Rivers caused extensive flooding in south-western Bangladesh, affecting an estimated 2.7 million people in six districts. Unlike other parts of the country, floods had not occurred in these areas for over 60 years and the population was not as prepared. Extensive damage resulted.***

### **The context:**

Although most of the flood waters receded quickly, a combination of low-lying lands, a lack of outlets to drain water, and silting up of drainage channels left large areas of land under stagnant water. An estimated 1.4 million people remained in perilous condition in fragile temporary shelters. They had few belongings and little warm clothing for the winter.

In addition to the flooding and river erosions, a tidal surge in the Bay of Bengal flooded the main town of Sandwip and surrounding village with 1.8 metres of water. A total of 110,000 people were affected and 5,000 acres of cultivated land were destroyed. An additional 10,000 acres were damaged. The sudden influx of water from West Bengal



which surged into the western districts of Bangladesh, inflicted further damage to the districts of Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenaidah and Satkhira. Overall, more than 3.5 million people were affected. The number of seriously affected districts rose from 22 to 32, half of the 64 administrative districts in Bangladesh. In the Brahmaputra/Ganges basin the worst affected districts of Lalmonhirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj, Jamalpur and Tangail experienced severe river erosion. More than 100,000 families were left homeless and huge areas of farmland were destroyed.

In the Padma/Ganges basin the worst affected districts were Chapai-Nawabganj, Rajshahi, Kusthia, Pabna, Rajbari, Faridpur, Manikganj and Shariatpur. The worst affected districts in the Meghna basin were of Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Chandpur, Noakhali and Bhola.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with support from the Federation, provided emergency relief to the affected population.

***The Federation launched an Emergency Appeal 20/2000 on 18 August 2000 to meet urgent food and health needs of 200,000 of the most vulnerable people. The appeal was revised on 6 October 2000, and the expected number of beneficiaries to be assisted was increased to 771,000.***

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

The BDRCS / Federation responded rapidly to the disaster. Based on initially assessed needs, a Plan of Action (PoA) was prepared by the BDRCS, in consultation with the Federation Delegation in Bangladesh. Immediately after the assessment of humanitarian needs, a relief operation was launched in Meherpur district with first supplies of emergency food stocks procured by BDRCS utilising their Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) emergency funds. The distribution was carried out by BDRCS volunteers.



**(Picture: floods caused river erosion in Kurigram District.)**

Joint teams of BDRCS/Federation/bilateral personnel monitored the emergency through an extensive series of ground, river and aerial surveys after the heavy rains throughout monsoon season. These surveys enabled the BDRCS and the Federation to be on the spot at the height of the crisis, encouraging local BDRCS volunteers and initiating a more effective response.

Despite the shortage of boats, BDRCS volunteers were, where possible, rescuing and evacuating villagers stranded by the floods. In addition, squad members of the BDRCS CBDP programme warned villagers in advance of the floods to evacuate their homes and seek safety on higher ground.

The priorities of the relief operation were to distribute food and non-food items as well as to provide emergency medical assistance. The operation ended in May 2001. It provided emergency relief assistance (food and non-food items) to about 1,472,200 flood-affected people and medical services to 150,547 people.

The flood relief operation 2000 comprised of the following phases:

- *flooding and river erosion along the major river basin (from July 2000),*
  - Distribution of 11,500 emergency food/family parcels (rice and dal).
- *the tidal surge in the Bay of Bengal (from August-September 2000),*
  - Distribution of 2,750 emergency food / family parcels (rice and dal).
  - Deployment of mobile medical teams.

- *the massive flooding in the south western districts (from September 2000).*

- Distribution of food (rice and dal) and non-food items (saree, lungee, children sweaters, blankets, corrugated iron sheets and plastic sheets) to 280,190 families affected in eight districts in the southwest of Bangladesh.

- Deployment of mobile medical teams.

CHF 200,000 was immediately released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for emergency food assistance to the victims of flood/river erosion in the 13 districts of Kurigram, Laibhanda, Lalmonirhad, Nilphamari, Chandpur, Chapai-Nawabganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Tangail, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Shariarpur and Bogra.

**(Picture: A Hong Kong Red Cross representative visits a food distribution in Chuadanga district.)**



To improve overall control and monitoring of the relief operation a control, coordination and monitoring centre (CCMC) was established on 9 October 2000 at the Jessore branch of the BDRCS. The CCMC had the overall responsibility for the management of the BDRCS's activities linked to the emergency relief operation in Jessore, Satkhira, Meherpur, Chudanaga, Kusthia, Jhenaida, Chapai Nawabganj and Rajshahi. The CCMC Jessore was headed by a controller supported by a deputy controller, an experienced store man, a relief officer, a medical coordinator, an office assistant and seven Red Crescent youth volunteer leaders. The CCMC maintained daily contact with the BDRCS national headquarters control room to ensure better coordination on relief operational issues.

## Relief distributions w

### *Beneficiaries*

The beneficiary selection criteria as stated in the BDRCS Disaster Relief Field Manual were used to support the most vulnerable. The generally accepted RC/RC definition of the most vulnerable in terms of emergency/disaster is: those who are unable to survive/recover and whose suffering cannot be alleviated without external assistance. Relief assistance is given on the basis of assessed needs as opposed to loss resulting from the disaster.

The selection of beneficiaries was done mainly via door-to-door survey when possible. Steps were taken to ensure that most affected population was reached. The operation:

- visited villages and selected people according to their needs;
- ensured as much participation by the local community as possible;
- avoided using intermediaries as much as possible;
- carefully avoided duplication of persons/families;
- used RC youth who were familiar with the area.

**(Picture: a beneficiary receiving a blanket in Chuadanga district)**

As a result, the following categories of beneficiaries were selected:

- Families most severely affected by the floods, river erosions or tidal surge;



- Families who have not been the beneficiary or recipient of any substantial relief assistance from the Government, Red Cross, NGOs and other organisations:
- Heads of households without income;
- Members of the family incapable of work because of disability, serious illness or old age;
- Families headed by women with no income (those who are widows, divorced, or separated);

The survey was carried out by a team of Red Crescent honorary life members, community based disaster preparedness squads and volunteers. A ration card was issued to selected beneficiaries before distributions. On it were details of the distribution point, quantity and date of distribution.

However, selection of beneficiaries was the most difficult part of the implementation of the relief operation. The needs of the affected population was much greater than relief items available. To cover as many affected families as possible, the BDRCS decided to distribute only one non-food item per family. Each family was given a choice of a blanket, saree, or lungie. In terms of shelter, it was decided that a selected family would receive either plastic or corrugated iron sheets, but not both. The supply of corrugated iron sheets was covered by ECHO.

More than 90 percent of non-food items were distributed among different families (one per family). Only a few exceptions were made in Satkhira and Chuadanga districts, where more than one item had to be distributed among affected families due to greater losses of property (houses washed away with all belongings inside).

With these steps, it was possible to increase the number assisted from 771,000 to 1,400,950 beneficiaries. The final beneficiary lists were checked by the joint monitoring team of the Federation Delegation and BDRCS Relief Department.

### **The relief distribution was split into four phases:**

(Note: initially the plan was to carry out relief operation in three phases but due to circumstances, including late arrival of funds, this was changed to four)

#### **Phase One** (August-October 2000), River Erosion Relief

- Distribution of emergency food items
- Food ratio per family consisted of 20 kg of Rice and 4 kg of Dal.

### **Flood-River Erosion Relief Operation 2000**

Districts	Relief materials		Beneficiaries	
	Rice (metric tonnes)	Dal	Families	Individuals
Kurigram	20	4	1,000	4,960
Gaibandha	20	4	1,000	4,851
Lalmonirhat	20	4	1,000	5,189
Bogra	20	4	1,000	5,090
Pabna	20	4	1,000	5,111
Sirajgonj	20	4	1,000	5,201
Tangail	20	4	1,000	4,889
Munshigonj	20	4	1,000	4,709
Sariatpur	20	4	1,000	4,776
Nilphamari	20	4	1,000	5,224
Chandpur	20	4	1,000	4,921
Magura	10	2	500	2,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>57,500</b>

**Phase Two** (August-September), Tidal Surge Relief

- Distribution of emergency food items in districts of Chittagong and Noakhali
- Food ratio per family was consisted of 20 kg of Rice and 4 kg of Dal

Districts	Relief materials		Beneficiaries	
	Rice metric tonnes	Dal metric tonnes	Families	Indivs
Sandwip – Chittagong	40	8	2,000	9,611
Mirersharai – Chittagong	5	1	250	1,424
Sitakundo – Chittagong	5	1	250	1,347
Hatiya - Noakhali	5	1	250	1,343
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>13,725</b>

**Phase Three** (September-January), south-western Floods Relief Operation

- Distribution of emergency food items. In phase three the following items were distributed: rice dal, chira, gur, children sweaters and lunges. The food basket consisted of 20 kg of rice, 4 kg of dal, as well as a lungee, saree, or child sweater, per family. Bearing in mind an already difficult socio-economic situation (60% of live below the poverty line), and the size of the flood-affected population, the BDRCS decided to distribute only one item per family. This way, it targeted more beneficiaries than planned and avoided unsavoury incidents at distribution sites because of the overwhelming demand.

Districts	Rice (MT)	Dal (MT)	Chira (MT)	Gur (MT)	Lunge (Pc)	Child. Sweater (pc)	Saree (Pc)	Blanket (Pc)	C.I. Sheet (Pc)	Plas. Sheet (Pc)	No. families	Beneficiaries
Satkhira	545	107	50	10	7000	6000	7000	7000	8400	5000	79,850	399,250
Jessore	395	77	30	6	4000	3000	4000	3500	4900	3000	49,600	248,000
Chuadanga	355	68	15	3	4000	3000	4000	3500	4900	3000	41,600	208,000
Meherpur	205	38	15	3	2500	2100	2500	2500	3500	1500	27,600	138,000
Jhinaida	180	34	10	2	2500	1820	2500	2500	3500	1500	24,070	120,350
Kustia	145	29	15	3	2000	1820	2000	2000	2800	1500	22,770	113,850
C.N.Gonj	60	12	20	4	2000	2400	2000	2000	2800	1500	21,100	105,500
Rajshahi Dist.	40	8	5	1	2000	2100	2000	2000	2800	1300	13,600	68,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1925</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26000</b>	<b>22240</b>	<b>26000</b>	<b>25000</b>	<b>33600</b>	<b>18300</b>	<b>280,190</b>	<b>1,400,950</b>

**Phase Four** (January - May), south-western Floods Relief

- Distribution of emergency food and non-food items (see above table)

During the phase four, BDRCS carried out distribution of Hong Kong donation of rice and dal (20 kg or rice, 4 kg of dal), blankets (one per family), corrugated iron sheets (14 pcs per family) and plastic sheets (3 pcs per family).

- **Medical operation**

The BDRCS conducted a relief medical operation in eight districts of Satkhira, Jessore, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenaidah, Kusthia, Chapai Nawabgonj and Rajshahi. In addition, medical interventions were carried out in Sandwip and Chittagong following a tidal surge. Twenty-two medical teams worked for three and a half months from 13 September to 31 December 2000.



Each medical team consisted of a doctor, paramedic, male Red Cross youth (RCY) volunteer and female volunteer. Each team was equipped with basic medicines. A total of 150,547 people received health assistance from these medical teams, principally in relation to diarrhoea, dysentery and acute respiratory infections. **(Picture: Distribution of food in Meherpur district).**

- **Distribution**

All distributions were made directly to the selected flood affected beneficiaries through the local units. The committee members and RC Youth took part in the distribution.

As mentioned earlier, each family was issued a distribution card. All distribution lists were signed or a thumb print impression applied as confirmation of receipt of the relief items. Each distribution was followed up by a monitoring visit.

The food ration per family consisted of the following:

**Food**

20 kg of rice

4 kg of dal

**Clothing:**

Sarees for women - 26,000 / Each family received one

Lungees for men - 26,000 / Each family received one

Child sweaters - 22,240 / Each family received one

**Blankets for families in the south western districts of Bangladesh**

Blankets - 26,000 / Each family received one

**Shelter material**

Corrugated Iron sheets - 33,600 PCs (paid by ECHO) / Each family recipient received 14 pcs

Plastic Sheets - 18,300 pcs / Each family recipient received 3 pcs

The distributions were carried out by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Unit volunteers and CBDP members and the network of disaster preparedness committees and squad members and volunteers through distribution centres in all affected districts.

- **Monitoring**

The relief operation was monitored by BDRCS and Federation representatives. The relief operation for the tidal surge of Hatiya and Sandwip was directly undertaken by the BDRCS national headquarters and monitored jointly by the BDRCS and Japanese Red Cross Delegate.

Joint field visits were organised with BDRCS/Federation representatives and the ECHO representative in Bangladesh in March and May 2001. They monitored distribution of non-food items. Representatives from the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) also visited the south western districts in May to monitor distribution organised by BDRCS units in districts of Satkhira and Chuadanga.

- **Procurements**

Procurement of all relief items was made locally (except blankets which were procured in India) by the Federation Delegation in accordance with standard Federation procedures including a minimum of three quotations and open bidding system. Strict quality checks were made at receiving points by independent inspection agents hired by Federation.

The tendering process for the procurement of blankets (tender invitations, receiving of bids) was carried out by the Federation Delegation. The best offer was from an Indian supplier. As a result 25,000 blankets were bought instead of 11,000, the number originally budgeted for.

It had been planned to procure 18,200 sarees but tendering low market prices enabled 26,000 to be bought for the same budget approved by ECHO.

- **Transportation/Storage**

The commodities purchased in Dhaka were transported by truck to Jessore and before to distribution, stored in the BDRCS central warehouse in Jessore. On several occasions, the BDRCS used its own trucks (only three were in good condition) to transport relief items to the central warehouse and distribution points.

Local transportation was hired (on the basis of three quotations) and used for the transport of relief items from Jessore to distribution centres. On a few occasions additional warehousing in Jessore was rented to cope with the arrival of several items at the same time.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

The BDRCS has 34,000 well-trained community based disaster preparedness volunteers and a membership of more than 350,000 people. It has extensive experience in responding to flood emergencies, and can rely on technical assistance from the Federation Delegation in Bangladesh as well as other Federation resources.

The BDRCS implemented the relief operation by achieving the initially planned objectives, providing relief items to 280,190 families or approx. 1,400,250 beneficiaries as opposed to the original target of 771,000 beneficiaries. The effectiveness of the operation also enhanced the image of the Red Crescent. It boosted confidence for similar such activities in the future.

### **Coordination**

The BDRCS and the Federation Delegation liaised with the government, local and international organisations, NGOs and national umbrella organizations such as the Associations of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and the Bangladesh Disaster Forum. Liaison was extended to continued contact with the International Centre for Diarrhoea Diseases Research Bangladesh (ICDDR) and MSF Holland concentrating its efforts on a diarrhoea treatment centres in the south western districts.

The National Society and Federation also kept in-country donors and donor national societies informed about developments throughout the relief operation. Several joint field visit were organised with the BDRCS/Federation, ECHO and the Hong Kong Red Cross.

The World Food Program (WFP) held regular coordination meetings with other UN agencies and international organizations at which BDRCS/Federation was represented. The main purpose was to coordinate relief operations among various partners in order to avoid duplication of aid. This objective was achieved through combined efforts of all involved in relief operations in the flood affected districts in the southwest of Bangladesh.

### ***Conclusion***

The Bangladesh 2000 flood operation was well supported by donors and the implementation was successful. Due to the fact that the Federation was able to make considerable savings in procurements and that some planned BDRCS institutional development activities could not be implemented within the programme period, it is noted that the operation concluded with a small balance corresponding to 7% of total cash income (CHF 268,486 of unearmarked contributions). These funds have been used for replacement of flood adapted disaster preparedness stocks (comprehensive family kits and blankets) and for Federation support to Bangladesh Red Crescent development activities as per the annual appeal (01.35/2001). If any donor has objections to these plans please notify us before 31 January 2002.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

*This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.*

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**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Interim report	
Annual report	
Final report	X

**Appeal No & title: 20/2000 Bangladesh floods**

Period: years 2000 and 2001 up to 19/12

Project(s): PBD526

Currency: CHF

**I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	3,796,936				
less					
Cash brought forward					
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>3,796,936</b>				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Austrian Red Cross (DNAT)	38,159				38,159
Bangladesh Private donor (DPBD)	3,182				3,182
British Red Cross (DNGB)	113,918				113,918
British Red Cross (DNGB)	141,653				141,653
British Red Cross (DNGB)	100,740				100,740
British Red Cross (DNGB)	144,360				144,360
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	23,798				23,798
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)	55,639				55,639
ECHO-BANGLADESH FLOODS/2000/	148,429				148,429
ECHO-BANGLADESH FLOODS/2000/	607,579				607,579
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	76,694				76,694
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	52,071				52,071
German Red Cross (DNDE)	312,502				312,502
German Red Cross (DNDE)	15,160				15,160
German Red Cross (DNDE)	23,456				23,456
Hong Kong RC/GVT (DGNHK)	419,731				419,731
Icelandic Red Cross (DNIS)	4,161				4,161
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	162,000				162,000
Kuwait Red Crescent (DNKW)	13,313				13,313
Liechtenstein Red Cross (DNLI)	50,000				50,000
Luxembourg GVT (DGLU)	188,523				188,523
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cr	358,253				358,253
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	39,806				39,806
Red Crescent of Islamic Rep. of Iran (D	82,190				82,190
Red Crescent of Islamic Rep. of Iran (D	3,184				3,184
Republic of Korea Red Cross (DNKR)	20,000				20,000
Singapore Private donors (DPSG)	89				89
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross	179,000				179,000
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	44,750				44,750
Swiss Government (DGCH)	80,000				80,000
Swiss Government (DGCH)	101,363				101,363
Switzerland - Private Donors (DPCH)	5,000				5,000
United States - Private Donors (DPUS)	36				36
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)		-29,000			-29,000
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)		43,141			43,141
Iranian RC			63,652		63,652
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,608,736</b>	<b>14,141</b>	<b>63,652</b>		<b>3,686,529</b>
<b>Coverage</b>	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>		<b>97.1%</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

Opening balance	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	3,622,877
CASH EXPENDITURE	-3,354,391
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<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>268,486</b>

## Appeal No & title: 20/2000 Bangladesh floods

Period: years 2000 and 2001 up to 19/12

Project(s): PBD526

Currency: CHF

### III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	85,176	509,771			509,771	-424,595
Clothing & Textiles	451,240	437,694			437,694	13,546
Food/Seeds	1,861,182	1,459,642			1,459,642	401,540
Water	46,650					46,650
Medical & First Aid	219,787	76,621			76,621	143,166
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools		1,017			1,017	-1,017
Other relief supplies			63,652		63,652	-63,652
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,664,035</b>	<b>2,484,745</b>	<b>63,652</b>		<b>2,548,397</b>	<b>115,638</b>
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.		7,472			7,472	-7,472
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures		650			650	-650
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>8,122</b>			<b>8,122</b>	<b>-8,122</b>
<u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u>	169,807	197,512			197,512	-27,705
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>169,807</b>	<b>197,512</b>			<b>197,512</b>	<b>-27,705</b>
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	55,000	85,316			85,316	-30,316
Personnel (local staff)	53,000	89,783			89,783	-36,783
Training						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>175,099</b>			<b>175,099</b>	<b>-67,099</b>
<u>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	25,000	44,257			44,257	-19,257
Travel & related expenses	15,000	40,295			40,295	-25,295
Information expenses	22,500	22,358			22,358	142
Administrative expenses	374,931	17,706			17,706	357,225
External workshops & Seminars						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>437,431</b>	<b>124,615</b>			<b>124,615</b>	<b>312,816</b>
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	417,663	298,286			298,286	119,377
<u>OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS</u>						
Transfer to National Societies		66,012			66,012	-66,012
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>3,796,936</b>	<b>3,354,391</b>	<b>63,652</b>		<b>3,418,043</b>	<b>378,893</b>

**Consumption rate:** Expenditures versus income 93%  
Expenditures versus budget 90%