

# DREF operation update



## Bangladesh: Cold Wave

DREF operation°MDRBD005  
GLIDE n° **CW-2010-00013BGD**  
Operations Update n° 1  
18 February 2010

**Period covered by this update:** 22 January to 18 February, 2010

**Summary:** CHF 219,317 (USD 210,914 or EUR 148,704) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 21 January 2010 to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 50,000 people (approximately 10,000 families).

From the middle of December 2009, the northern and south-western part of Bangladesh experienced a severe cold wave which lasted up to end of January 2010. The cold wave combined with dense fog had an adverse impact on the agriculture and fisheries sector as well as on people's health and their way of living. Poor people in the northern part of the country suffered most during the cold wave. According to a reputed national daily, "Janakantha," the local population faced a significant rise in respiratory illnesses, and in some cases death, due to the cold weather -- More than 135 people died from the cold wave across the country. In addition, several Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) branches reported that people died due to the cold weather in their districts.

BDRCS with support from the International Federation responded swiftly to the cold wave. BDRCS/International Federation distributed 48,000 blankets from disaster preparedness (DP) stock at the national headquarters (NHQ). In addition, the organizations have provided packages of warm clothing, (where each package contained two blankets, one shawl, one woollen cap, one saree and one lungi), to 10,000 families with support of the DREF funds. The distributions took place from December 2009 throughout January 2010.

In addition, BDRCS' district units collected warm clothes and distributed them to those who were affected. The Bangladesh government and other humanitarian agencies and organizations, including the UNDP, distributed blankets and warm clothes to the affected people. BDRCS/International Federation have been continuing the distribution of packages of warm clothes to assist distressed people in most affected districts.

At this juncture, the International Federation, on behalf of BDRCS, would like to thank both the donors and partners for their generous support of the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The DREF allocation has been replenished by: the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) by 80 per cent; and the Canadian Red Cross and government by 20 per cent. Details of all donors can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>



Warm clothing distribution  
at Gangachara upazila, Rangpur  
Photo Credit : International Federation

## The situation

The unprecedented cold wave and dense fog that swept all over Bangladesh from the middle of December 2009 has had an adverse impact on the people of Bangladesh. The impact of the cold wave resulted in a significant rise in respiratory illnesses, and in some cases, death among the elderly and the children. During the second week of January 2010, some parts of the country saw temperatures as low as 7.7°C. Though officially it has been said that 135 people died in the cold wave, the hospitals in the affected districts reported higher numbers of admissions with cold related illnesses. BDRCS/International Federation have responded swiftly to address the needs of the affected peoples.

## Coordination and partnerships

Since BDRCS/International Federation are active members of the disaster emergency response (DER) group of Bangladesh, information and operation updates have been shared with other humanitarian agencies and the national government in order to avoid any overlapping of distribution. UNDP distributed 35,000 blankets in ten affected districts: Dinajpur, Kurigram, Rajshahi, Bogra, Sirajgonj, Pabna, Sunamgonj, Sarkhira, Faridpur, and Jhenaidah. Also coordination between UNDP and BDRCS was established in terms of targeting geographic locations. Movement response discussions were held between BDRCS and partner national societies (PNSs) to divert the allocation of Chapainawabganj district to other affected areas as 5,000 people were provided with blankets through the Swiss Red Cross programme. BDRCS has good contacts with the local administration that enables the national society to effectively target the most affected areas and people. BDRCS' NHQ has been communicating with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) to monitor the weather situation. In addition, BDRCS has been gathering situation updates from different agencies including UNDP and the network for information, response, and preparedness activities on disaster (NIRAPAD).

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards objectives

BDRCS and the International Federation closely monitored the situation and overall developments. BDRCS completed the distribution of around 48,000 blankets to the 9,600 families in 64 districts across the country from buffer disaster preparedness (DP) stock. DREF contributions were used to provide packages of warm clothes to 10,000 families in the affected ten districts. The BDRCS unit level officers, the unit executive committee, and local Red Crescent volunteers actively took part in distribution activities for the affected people. In Dhaka city alone, BDRCS distributed 500 blankets to the people who live on the streets. Local Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers in the Chittagong and Satkhira unit distributed 200 blankets and 100 pieces of warm clothes and used garments to the homeless people in Chittagong city and the Satkhira Sadar area. Timely updates on the cold wave situation and BDRCS' response were provided through the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS).

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective:** 50,000 severely affected people or 10,000 families receive a package of warm clothes (two blankets, one saree, one lungi, one shawl and one woollen cap) in ten districts.

Activities planned:

- Door to door assessments
- Beneficiary registration
- Local procurement of some items according to International Federation standard procedures
- Dispatch and transportation by BDRCS to the distribution sites
- Storage and distribution of relief items, especially at unit level
- Distribution by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers
- Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by the BDRCS national headquarters and the International Federation.

### Progress:

As of 11 February 2010, the distribution of packages of warm clothing to 10,000 families in the ten affected districts has been successfully completed. Three major items in the package: the blankets, shawls, and woollen caps were procured, following the International Federation procurement procedure. Other items in the package were dispatched from disaster preparedness stock. Prior to the distribution, the standard quality

inspection was conducted by BDRCS' and the International Federation's logistics and disaster management teams. BDRCS deployed ten officers from its headquarters to assist respective units for the registration of beneficiaries and physical distribution as well as for coordination with government and other stakeholders, in order to prevent duplication and overlapping of resources. The respective unit executive committees, unit level officers and unit level volunteers were involved in the entire distribution process. The beneficiary selection process was done through door-to-door assessment by the trained volunteers. From the International Federation's side, two field monitoring officers were recruited for the short term and deployed in targeted districts to assist BDRCS in monitoring the distribution. In addition to the team deployed, two teams comprising of BDRCS and International Federation disaster management personnel were in the field to monitor the beneficiary registration and card distribution. They also observed the distribution and provided assistance based on needs at the distribution points.

District distribution is shown in the following table on [ANNEX I](#) on page five.

#### **Challenges:**

- Many of the most vulnerable people who were affected by the cold wave live in extremely remote areas of Bangladesh. This made the logistics of reaching them very difficult.
- The governance in branches closest to the affected communities is newly elected, and have little experience in responding to disasters. This caused delays in distribution with some beneficiaries forced to wait hours before receiving relief items.

#### **Logistics**

**Progress:** The procurement of 20,000 blankets, 10,000 Shawls, and 10,000 woollen caps was done by following the International Federation's procurement process. The Asia Pacific zone office's technical unit, the Regional Logistics Unit has formally approved the procedure.

Following, the local Committee of Contract's (CoC) meeting for procurement took place on 25 January 2010. The work order was placed on 28 January 2010. The rest of the items in the package; that is to say, 10,000 sarees and 10,000 lungi have been dispatched from the disaster preparedness stock, which will be replenished as soon as the procurement process of these items is completed. The suppliers started delivering the items at the NHQ in Dhaka from 31 January 2010.

Along with the above items, 10,000 woven poly propylene sacks marked with ECHO, the International Federation and BDRCS logos have also been purchased following the International Federation procurement procedures. It will help beneficiaries carry package items easily. Items were then dispatched to the respective units through BDRCS vehicle.

## How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses, and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society, and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination, and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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## **ANNEXE 1: District relief distribution**

Sl. No	District	Upazila	Beneficiary selection		Distribution date	No. of family	Status
			Start	Complete	Start		
1	Panchagar	Tentulia	25.01.10	29.01.10	8.02.10	300	Done
		Debiganj			6.02.10	400	Done
		Atwari			5.02.10	300	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
2	Thagurgaon	Baliadangi	25.01.10	30.01.10	6.02.10	400	Done
		Haripur			7.02.10	300	Done
		Ranisenkail			7.02.10	300	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
3	Nilphamari	Dimla	25.01.10	29.01.10	4.02.10	500	Done
		Jaldhaka			3.02.10	500	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
4	Dinajpur	Biral	25.01.10	30.01.10	6.02.10	500	Done
		Fulbari			7.02.10	500	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
5	Lalmonirhat	Hatibandha	25.01.10	28.01.10	6.02.10	400	Done
		Patgram			6.02.10	300	Done
		Aditmari			7.02.10	300	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
6	Kurigram	Roumari	25.01.10	30.01.10	5.02.10	250	Done
		Chilmari			5.02.10	50	Done
		Chilmari			6.02.10	250	Done
		Ulipur			6.02.10	450	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
7	Gaibandha	Fulchari	25.01.10	11.02.10	8.2.10	200	Done
		Sundarganj			8.2.10	200	Done
		Saghata			8.2.10	200	Done
		Gabindaganj			8.2.10	200	Done
		Sadullapur			9.2.10	200	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
8	Rangpur	Gangachara	25.01.10	29.01.10	4.02.10	500	Done
		Pirganj			5.02.10	500	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
9	Chuadanga	Damurhuda	25.01.10	3.02.10	6.02.10	400	Done
		Sadar			10.02.10	200	Done
		Jiban nagar			9.02.10	400	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
10	Magura	Sadar	25.01.10	9.02.10	11.02.10	500	Done
		Sripur			11.02.10	500	Done
Total families assisted in this district						1,000	
<b>Grand total</b>						<b>10,000</b>	

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