

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: POST-MONSOON TORNADOS**

9 October 2001

*Information Bulletin N° 1*

**DREF Allocated: CHF 80,000**

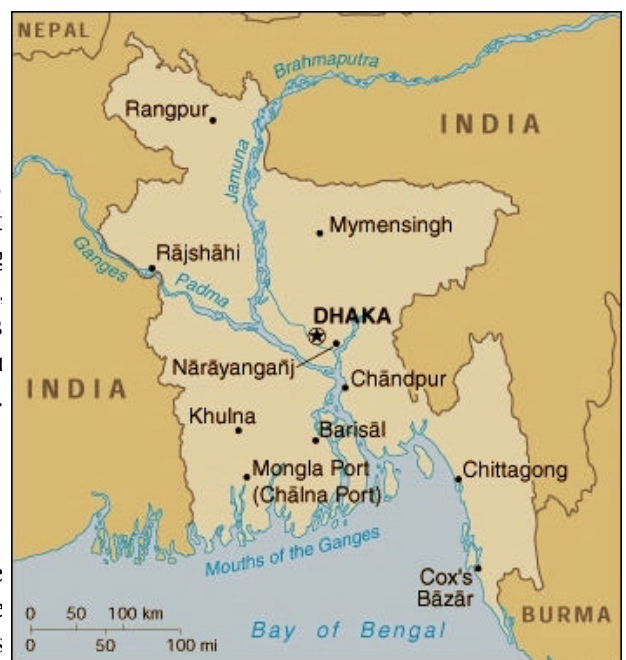
*This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 80,000 has been released, and the Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update*

### **The Situation**

Late on 5 October, several post-monsoon tornados swept through the most isolated and underdeveloped districts of northern Bangladesh causing killing more than 12 people, including three children, seriously injuring over 450 seriously. Thousands were made homeless with the loss of all their belongings and widespread damage was caused. The most affected districts are Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur and Gaibandha.

In Lalmonirhat and Rangpur district over 5,000 families are affected. Hundreds of families are presently living in the open. The most fortunate have temporary shelter in local school buildings (50-100 families). Many trees were uprooted during the tornado's five-minute devastation. Among the infrastructure damaged were educational and electrical facilities. Vulnerability has been heightened because the tornados blew away silos holding food stocks. The next harvest season is not until the end of November.

In the affected districts the government has distributed limited food supplies and small cash allowances (approx. CHF 3) to affected families and ensured adequate medical attention. Limited assistance is being provided by local and international agencies such as Care, Concern, and the Lions Club.



On 7 October, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) officially requested the Federation to provide support for emergency relief assistance for the most affected areas.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The BDRCS has been in frequent contact with its district units receiving day-to-day information on developments. The BDRCS Lalmonirhat unit, recently included in the community based disaster preparedness programme, is using its own emergency funds to procure and distribute relief to 320 families.

From the initial alert, the Federation delegation has been working closely with BDRCS and local authorities to identify the most urgent needs of the affected population, and to deliver appropriate assistance.

After receiving a request for assistance from the BDRCS, a joint BDRCS/Federation team, undertook an assessment mission from 7-9 October to assess the situation and propose a plan of action.

The BDRCS and Federation objectives are to:

- Deliver assistance to the Lalmonirhat and Nilpamari districts, target areas with the most urgent assistance needs;
- Immediately assist 1,500-plus families in the two affected districts by providing food, emergency shelter material (plastic sheeting), family kits and used clothing.
- Complete the relief operation within two weeks.

The BDRCS/Federation logistic departments have commenced procurement of essential relief items.

## ***Needs***

Immediate emergency needs are for:

- 500 rolls of plastic sheeting (i.e. one roll per three families)
- 1,500 family kits consisted of: 2 aluminum saucepans with lead, one plastic mug, two plastic glasses, two aluminum plates, 12 match boxes, two bars of soap, two aluminum spoons, one plastic bucket, six candles, one saree for women and one lungee for men.
- Food rations will consist of 20 kg of rice and 4 kg of dal per family.
- Second-hand clothing (to be provided by BDRCS from emergency relief stocks)

These items are being procured from the DREF allocation, and donors are kindly requested to refund the release from the DREF.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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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>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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