



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: FLASH FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.*

*For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

**This Information Bulletin is for information only. No specific requests for external support have been received from any of the National Society's branches. As the monsoon season has begun, partner National Societies and corporate donors are strongly urged to contribute to the Federation's Annual Appeal for Bangladesh (01.53/2003) to strengthen the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's disaster management, health and humanitarian values programmes.**

### The Situation

On 27 June, the worst landslides in the country's recent history, triggered by incessant monsoon rains, left more than 65 people dead in the remote Chittagong Hill Tract districts of Khagrachori and Chittagong. In addition, there are many others who may be trapped under chunks of earth that slid in the areas where the rescue operation is happening. Communication between Chittagong and three hill districts has been cut off due to landslides and flooding along different points of the road.

Due to continuous heavy rainfall and upstream inflow over the last few days, the flash flood situation in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins, especially in the districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvi Bazar, Habiganj, Netrakona, Khagrachari, Cox's Bazar, Jamalpur, Lakshimpur, Comilla and Feni are likely to deteriorate. Damages to standing crops caused by floodwaters in affected areas are extensive.

The flood situation in the northern, north-eastern and south-eastern region has affected more than 500,000 people in 17 districts. To reduce the pressure of water in some places the authorities opened the sluice gates. As a result, the dam in several places has been partially washed away. A similar situation is occurring in the Brahmaputra basin where concrete cement blocks intended to protect the area are disappearing fast, creating concern among the population.

According to the Flood Forecasting Warning Centre (FFWC) the situation is likely to deteriorate over the next two weeks. It is important to mention that the neighboring



**A house washed away by the incessant rains.**



**Road communications remained snapped at many points.**

Indian state of Assam has also been experiencing a second spell of floods, and if it continues it could lead to further swelling of rivers in Bangladesh. In addition, with the increase of water level, river erosion is a serious concern in the northern districts of the country.

## Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), supported by the Federation, has been closely monitoring the situation. BDRCS national headquarter is in constant contact with its district units receiving information on a daily basis on new developments.

Based on the request for assistance, supported by duly prepared assessment reports received from the districts units of Chittagong, Khagrachori and Feni, the BDRCS headquarters dispatched 900 family kits, 3,700 kg of dal, and 900 kg of high protein biscuits to the respective units. Each of the three units distributed

a family kit, 4 kg of dal and 1 kg of high protein biscuits to the 300 most affected families. To date, the total number of beneficiaries assisted by the BDRCS is 4,500. The Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society visited the most affected areas, and observed the distribution in Chittagong district on 30 June 2003.

BDRCS/Federation Disaster Management Co-ordination meetings at the Society's national headquarters, with participation of representatives from key departments such as relief, logistics, finance, health, procurement, information, transport and the Federation delegation will continue to take place on a regular basis.

As in previous years, the coming eight weeks are critical for Bangladesh as the situation could change overnight with extensive monsoon rainfall in the region (in and around Bangladesh).

The BDRCS and the Federation will continue to closely monitor the situation, and if necessary the Society will be prepared to act immediately in order to assist the most vulnerable. At present, the BDRCS/Federation delegation in Bangladesh will remain on high alert.

## Needs

At this stage there is no need for external assistance. Regular updates on the changing situation will be provided

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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 programs, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*



**BDRCS Feni district Unit distributing emergency relief stocks to the most vulnerable affected by this year's monsoon flooding**