

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: MONSOON FLOODING

1 July 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin No.02/2004 is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. BDRCS will need CHF 42,000 to replenish its buffer stocks of family kits and modest funds for transport and distribution costs.

The Federation further emphasises that support is needed for the Bangladesh 2004 Annual Appeal ([no.01.56/2004](#)) disaster preparedness programme.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: A.F.M. Obaidur Rahman, Secretary General, email: bdrcs@bangla.net, phone: +88 02 933 7314
- Federation Delegation in Bangladesh: Tony Maryon, Head of Delegation, email: ifrcbd03@ifrc.org; phone: +88 02 831 5401-2, Mobile: + 88 0171 521 615, fax: +88 02 934 1631
- In Geneva: Ewa Eriksson, Regional Officer Asia-Pacific Department; email: Ewa.Eriksson@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4252

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

As reported earlier the rainfall in the last two weeks has been severe resulting in flash floods affecting the Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Brahmanbaria and Comilla districts. The flood waters have now spread to the neighbouring district of Feni. Hundreds of villages have been flooded marooning hundreds of thousands of people, completely damaging 1300 houses and causing substantial damage to the standing crops. Cracks have developed in several flood protection embankments in the above north eastern districts. As the water begins to recede in some areas there is growing concern for an epidemic of water-borne diseases. Local newspapers have already reported diarrhoea outbreaks in Moulvibazar, further adding to the suffering of the affected people. Flash floods have now moved to the previously unaffected areas of Baghaichari, Rangamati, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts caused by the sudden rush of water from the mountains across the border in India.



Flash flood affected area in Kamalgonj, Moulvibazar district

Overall the flooding in northern Bangladesh has worsened. All the major rivers and their tributaries continue to rise due to the rush of water from upper catchments causing serious river erosion in Manikganj river. According to media reports 100,000 people living close to rivers had been isolated by flood waters and up to 600,000 hectares of land planted with rice and other crops have been covered by water. Once rice crops are under water for more than four days, the crop is ruined.



Damage house affected by flash floods at Feni

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The local Red Crescent unit along with community-based disaster preparedness squad volunteers assisted the affected people in moving to safer places. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)/Federation relief assessment team was dispatched to the flood-affected areas on 27 June and returned to Dhaka on 30 June. Joint assessment team recommended the following distribution:

Habiganj	Moulvibazar	Feni
Family Kits 200 BP/5 biscuit 17 cartons	Family Kits 300 BP/5 biscuits 25 cartons	Family Kits 100 BP/5 biscuits 8 cartons

A beneficiary list of the families that had their dwellings completely destroyed is being prepared by the local Red Crescent unit. BDRCS relief trucks left Dhaka on 29 June for the affected areas, reaching there on the same day.

The CHT-Rangamati Red Crescent Unit sent an assessment team to the flood affected areas of Baghaichari Upazilla (sub-district) and the team reported the following:

Affected unions	2	Culvert fully destroyed	3
Affected areas	497 square km	Ring well fully destroyed	15
Affected families	200	Embankment damaged	2.
Most vulnerable	80	Paddy land submerged	11 hectares

Following the assessment the Rangamati RC Unit had distributed 75 family kits and 10 cartoons of BP/5 biscuits among the most flood affected population of Baghaichari.

The BDRCS with support from the International Federation is closely monitoring the situation. Contacts have also been made with the local authorities, UN and other organisations for better coordination and information sharing.

Needs

BDRCS requires CHF 42,000 to replenish and procure additional buffer stocks of 2000 family kits and modest funds required to meet transportation and distribution at the earliest. As further flash floods are anticipated as the monsoon season begins, small scale requests for assistance from the branches are expected.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the [Federation's Annual Appeal](#).