

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

**Appeal No. MDRBD002**  
**Operations Update no. 6**  
**01 October 2007**  
**Glide no. FF-2007-000080-BGD**

*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**Operations Update no. 06; Period covered: 13-27 September 2007; Appeal target: CHF 7,113,118 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980); Appeal coverage: 46%; Outstanding needs: CHF 3,849,733 (USD 3,200,110 or EUR 2,341,686).** *Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.*

#### Appeal history:

- Emergency appeal launched on 3 July 2007 for CHF 842,257 (USD 684,762 or EUR 510,459) for six months to assist 133,255 beneficiaries.
- Emergency appeal revised on 16 August 2007 to focus on the floods. The budget was increased to CHF 7,113,119 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980) for eight months to assist 1,200,000 beneficiaries due to the deteriorating situation.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated on 20 June 2007: CHF 250,000 (USD 203,252 or EUR 150,875).

The revised appeal launched on 16 August for 7,113,119 (USD 5,907,905 or EUR 4,310,980) in cash, kind or service to assist 240,000 families (1,200,000 beneficiaries) for eight months has received CHF 3,263,385 to date. The Federation is grateful for the support received; however, additional help is required to meet the needs outlined in the appeal.

#### Operational Summary

Bangladesh has experienced a new, potentially more devastating round of floods. Environmentalists and flood experts have expressed concerns over the intensity of these second spell of floods, which is also predicted to last for quite some time. As this second phase came only shortly after the first round of flooding, the immense suffering of the affected people continues and has worsened in some cases. Displaced families either have taken shelter in places provided by agencies or are living in high roads, schools, mosques, etc.

Fresh floods threaten major damage on newly sown paddy rice and vegetable fields - over a million hectares of land across the inundated districts. If the waters do not recede fast in these districts, these crops could be completely lost contributing to the huge loss of the farmers and adding to the looming food crisis. Diseases are also spreading since there is scarcity of drinking water and inadequate treatment facilities in remote areas. As roads have been partially or fully damaged due to the floods, it has become very difficult to reach people in remote areas.

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### Background

The second phase of floods in Bangladesh has posed new challenges not only for the government, but also for the non-governmental and international organizations in their efforts to rehabilitate the flood-affected people.

**Bangladesh: Floods; Appeal no. MDRBD002; Operations Update no. 06**

Thirty-nine districts were affected during the first spell of floods. Due to water flowing downstream, triggered by torrential rain, seven more districts (Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, and Bhola) were affected. A total of 46 districts have been affected by the first and second phases of floods.



*Family travelling in make shift raft in Tangail district*

The monsoon is fairly active over Bangladesh and moderate to strong over the North Bay area. The water levels in the rivers Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma are receding from 'above danger level' to 'normal level'. All small rivers surrounding Dhaka district are receding, and this trend is set to continue. However, though the water levels are receding and the flood situation in the south-central part of the country is likely to improve, the overall aftermath of the floods may last for some time.

The government had distributed housing grants among the affected people after the first flooding, but the fresh floods have again put these people at risk. It is, therefore, likely that recipients of these grants will unfortunately use them for other purposes instead of rebuilding their houses. Seedlings of *aman* (rice) and vegetable beds that the farmers had been trying to prepare for the second time in the season were ruined again. The government has now taken steps to increase boro rice yields to offset crop losses.

The government's Disaster Management Information Centre has stated that approximately 0.65 million people in nine districts are still marooned and are taking refuge in flood shelters, schools, and on high roads in different areas. An increasing number of displaced and jobless people are heading to the big cities in search of food and employment. According to leading national newspapers, many of these people have been reduced to begging, due to inadequate job opportunities in cities.

People from rural areas are suffering badly due to a shortage of fodder for their livestock. Villagers in Gowainghat, Beanibazar, Kanaighat, and Golapanj districts are harvesting green paddy from the inundated fields to use as cattle fodder.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, between 30 July-20 September 2007, 161,719 people were affected by diarrhea, and 3,521 medical teams were active in the diarrhea-affected areas. According to media reports, most of the country's tube wells in the flood-affected areas have been submerged and there is an acute shortage of drinking water. The Ministry of Health has issued public information in the print and electronic media about how to access drinking water from the tube wells.

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund has allocated a sum of \$6 million (approximately CHF 7 million) for the flood-affected people of Bangladesh. The World Bank will provide \$75 million (approximately CHF 88 million) loan in budget support to Bangladesh as emergency flood assistance.

**Details of the flood situation as on 25 September 2007**

Affected Districts	46
Affected Upazillas (Sub-districts)	263
Affected Pourashava (Municipality)/Union	2,096
Affected households (families)	2,961,972
Affected population	13,771,380
Reported deaths	1,046
House damaged (Fully)	84,321
House damage (Partially)	1,003,799
Crop damaged (Fully)	890,898 Hectares
Crop damaged (Partially)	1,353,366 Hectares
Road damaged (Fully)	3,705 Km
Road damaged (Partially)	27,828 Km
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Fully)	563
Educational institutions/Infrastructure (Partially)	8,190
Embankment damaged (Fully)	88 Km
Embankment damaged (Partially)	1,008 Km
# of shelters opened	141
# of people in shelters	51,158

## Operational developments

Assessment teams in the field reported that most of the agricultural lands are under water in all the districts visited. It has been estimated that the northern part of the country will face a huge shortage of food as vegetable and croplands are inundated. According to reports from the local administration in Sylhet, 24,711 acres of cropland was destroyed, while 128,186 acres of land was partially damaged. Farmers mostly depending on one cropping a year would not be able to re-cultivate.

As a result, the economy will face an enormous negative impact due to this second wave of flooding across the northern part of the country. People have lost their jobs because the main livelihood of this area is agriculture based. The recent flood damaged the *aman* crop, which may mean there will be a lack of employment possibilities (“Monga”) for day labourers until April<sup>1</sup>. The daily labourers are mainly dependent on the relief supplies they are receiving. In Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts most people are living below poverty line.



**The only source of clean drinking water is submerged underwater**

The immediate needs of the affected families is supplementary food, clothing, seeds of seasonal vegetables, housing materials, water purification tablets (WPT), oral rehydration salts (ORS) and water and sanitation (watsan) rehabilitation. Supplementary food will stop the trend of selling of property and livestock. Four teams, comprising of representatives from the BDRCS and the Federation, are in the field for the distribution of 300 tents donated by the Swiss Red Cross.

ECHO funding for €500,000 (CHF 822,000) was signed on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007, to support five districts with food/non-food items including the mobilization of six mobile medical teams.

The senior regional disaster management (DM) officer left last week after completing her work for one month with the logistics team in Dhaka. This consisted of ensuring specifications were followed, standards for food items were met, and Federation standards for procurement were followed. The re-tendering process for relief items was also completed. It has been sent to the Logistics and Resource Mobilization department at Federation Secretariat in Geneva, for approval from the Committee of Contract. The logistics delegate arrived on 18<sup>th</sup> September and will support the logistics and procurement process.

The Unit Disaster Response Team, comprising of 25 members with 10 members being female, and Community Disaster Response Team, comprising of 16 members, have assisted in beneficiary selection, verification of tent distribution and setting up of the tents in the CBDM districts.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

**Overall Objective: The urgent needs (health and care, water and sanitation, food, clothing, household items, shelter etc.) of 240,000 unassisted families (1.2 million people) are met, the outbreak of disease is prevented and early recovery needs are supported, while BDRCS capacity is enhanced.**

**Objective 1: 170,000 severely affected and unassisted families (850,000 people) receive additional emergency food rations and essential non-food items**

The fourth phase of the distribution of food and non-food items will start as soon as the approval from Geneva on the re-tendering is received. For four days, the BDRCS’s local branch in Sylhet, through their own capacity, has

<sup>1</sup> “Monga” is the local term for this seasonal scarcity of employment and hence a lack of household income, seasonal higher prices of basic food commodities, and the after-effects of monsoon flooding, leading to lack of access to food amongst mainly rural poor landless families.

**Bangladesh: Floods; Appeal no. MDRBD002; Operations Update no. 06**

distributed flattened rice and brown sugar to the 25 affected families in shelter.

Part of the ECHO funds will benefit 125,000 people in the five districts. Supplementary food (20 kg rice, 5 kg lentils, 2 litre edible oil and 1 kg salt) support will be provided to the 20,000 most affected, poor, vulnerable families in the five targeted districts for a period of one month. Beside this, the above-targeted families will also be provided with essential clothing (for men and women).

**Objective 2: Basic health care services (including preventive and promotive health) are provided to 70,000 families (350,000 people) of the most severely affected population for two and half months.**

So far, five mobile medical teams have been deployed for 16 days and have provided treatment to 12,405 patients. Among them 6,478 were children who were less than five years of age. The BDRCS volunteers accompanying the mobile medical teams distributed WPT and ORS to the flood affected families.

WPT are regularly distributed along with general relief items, where needed. BDRCS staff and volunteers disseminate information on personal hygiene, the use the raised tube well water for drinking, and the use of ORS during diarrhea, among beneficiaries. The availability of WPT and this awareness raising has avoided, to some extent, the outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera. The number of diarrhoeal cases, acute respiratory infections (ARI) and eye infections that were decreasing shows slight increase after the second wave of floods. The government continues to deploy nearly 3,500 medical teams in the flood-affected districts. WHO continues to share information on communicable diseases with Federation on a regular basis.

#### Mobile Medical teams 12 August-24 September 2007

Date	No. of medical teams	Total cases (including children)	<5 yrs of age				
			Diarrhoea	Dysentery	ARI	Referral	Total children treated
12/08	5	748	85	58	49	1 diarrhoea	332
14/08	5	679	77	44	32	0	313
15/08	5	821	219	52	49	0	438
16/08	5	875	100	63	77	0	382
18/08	5	936	166	77	17	0	465
19/08	5	965	162	103	33	0	502
20/08	5	1039	191	58	56	0	554
21/08	5	896	151	93	22	0	505
22/08	3	583	128	60	45	0	374
26/08	3	676	83	44	36	0	317
05/09	5	655	117	47	41	0	420
17/09	5	697	89	44	41	0	383
18/09	5	747	50	44	54	0	395
23/09	5	705	45	30	59	0	342
24/09	5	647	79	50	61	0	422
25/09	5	646	47	44	46	0	334
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>12,405</b>	<b>1,749</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6,478</b>

Part of the ECHO funds will provide emergency health care services to 20,000 families to prevent water borne disease outbreak in the targeted flood affected communities (Faridpur and Manikganj districts). However, some other affected population of the catchment's area may also benefit from this intervention.

**Objective 3: 15,000 families severely affected by the floods have received the necessary construction materials for damaged houses and/or livelihoods support, through in kind goods or under special cash voucher programme system, by December 2007.**

For initial support before providing construction materials, five teams comprising of Federation and BDRCS are in the field to verify and finalize the beneficiary list for the distribution of tents donated by the Swiss Red Cross. The 11 districts where the tents will be distributed are Bogra, Gaibanda, Kurigram, Tangail, Sirajgong, Jalmalpur, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Chandpur, Manikgonj and Munsiganj. The teams will train Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers on how to set up the tents so that they can, in turn, can teach the beneficiaries.

Part of the ECHO fund will provide seeds for beneficiaries in the five districts. A total of 5,000 single income beneficiary families have been rehabilitated with the provision of five types of vegetable seeds (100 grams each)

## Bangladesh: Floods; Appeal no. MDRBD002; Operations Update no. 06

and five types of saplings for plantation in regenerating their livelihood. According to the team returning from the targeted areas covered under the ECHO support, the distribution of seedlings can take place only after the water recedes in the fields, which may take over a month.

### **Objective 4: The capacity of BDRCS to respond effectively to disasters is enhanced.**

BDRCS has re-allocated staff and provided office equipment (a desktop computer, laptop, printer and computer accessories) to the relief department, to strengthen the department to speed up the flood relief operation.



*Tent distribution in Tangail district to the affected people*

A team, consisting of about ten BDRCS members, has been developed for assessment, beneficiary selection and relief distribution. This team is providing support to the units in terms of beneficiary selection, relief distribution and capacity building at the unit level, along with the Federation team. The volunteers are refreshing their experience and knowledge and in some cases learning new techniques for quicker response to cope up with the situation.

The volunteers are refreshing their experience and knowledge and in some cases learning new techniques for quicker response to cope up with the situation.

## **BDRCS action not funded by the appeal**

The volunteers and staff of many of the BDRCS units are experienced in flood relief operations and RCY volunteers in some districts have taken steps to evacuate many affected people to safer places. The RCY and community volunteer team in Sylhet district evacuated 25 families and damage assessment was conducted by the RCY in Moulovibazar district. In Tangail district, the RCY volunteers are assisting the local administration in conducting assessments and in disseminating messages on flood damage and needs to the local government departments, electronic and print media, and to national and international humanitarian agencies.

In addition to the previously stated 26 districts, BDRCS, from its own resources, distributed dry food to 3,500 families in 14 more districts, as on 27 September. Using cash CHF 28,730 (BTD 1,650,000), dry food comprising of 10 kgs of rice, 2 kgs of lentils and 1 litre of edible oil, were purchased for the 14 districts. Each of the 14 districts received 200-300 packets of these items. The RCY participated in packaging and distribution of the relief items.

## **Federation Coordination**

The Federation's Bangladesh delegation participated in several meetings organized by the governmental disaster emergency response group. The Federation has also been participating in sub-group meetings, which are formed to improve coordination of relief assistance by various agencies. Several teams have been formed by the Government/UN/ NGOs to assess the present situation.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives**

Nothing significant to report.

## **National Society Capacity Building**

As the operation unfolds and with participation of governance, staff and volunteers at the various levels, it is also a learning process on systems and procedures, financial management, beneficiary selection and other aspects related to project management.

## **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

Two flood related web stories were posted on the web.

## 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 \(NGO's\) 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 Federation's Global Agenda**  
The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: Mr. M. Shafiul Alam (Secretary General), email: [bdrcs@bangla.net](mailto:bdrcs@bangla.net), phone: +88.02.935.2226
- Country Delegation in Bangladesh: Mr. Selvaratnam Sinnadurai (Head of delegation), email: [selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org](mailto:selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org), phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631
- South Asia Regional Delegation in India: Mr. Al Panico (Head of regional delegation), email: [al.panico@ifrc.org](mailto:al.panico@ifrc.org), phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128
- Asia Pacific Zone in Malaysia: Regional Logistics Unit – Mr Ilir Caushaj (Regional logistics coordinator), [ilir.causha@ifrc.org](mailto:ilir.causha@ifrc.org), phone: +60 3 2628 2707, fax: +60 3 2168 8573; Kuala Lumpur Disaster Management Unit (DMU) – Mr Latifur Rahman (Regional disaster management delegate), email: [latifur.rahman@ifrc.org](mailto:latifur.rahman@ifrc.org); phone: +60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 975 0144.
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Mr. Hiroto Oyama (Regional officer), email: [hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org](mailto:hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org), phone: +41.22.730.4273, fax: +41.22.733.0395

[\*\*Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.\*\*](#)

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Donor response to appeal MDRBD002 - BANGLADESH - FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, TORNAO

TIMEFRAME: 21 Jun 07 to 03 Mar 08

LOCATION: Bangladesh

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	7,113,118
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	3,260,535
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	46%

Updated on: 01 Oct 2007

	Currency	Amount	Coordination & Implementation	Disaster Management	Health & Care	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
<b>BUDGET</b>				<b>7,113,118</b>				<b>7,113,118</b>
<b>FUNDING</b>								
<u>Opening Balance</u>								
<b>Income</b>								
<b>Cash contributions</b>								
American Red Cross	USD	124,500		150,535				<b>150,535</b>
Bangladesh - Private Donors	BDT	900,000		16,006				<b>16,006</b>
British Red Cross	GBP	199,500		475,307				<b>475,307</b>
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	74,250		86,130				<b>86,130</b>
ECHO	EUR	500,000		830,000				<b>830,000</b>
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	170,000		279,600				<b>279,600</b>
German Red Cross	EUR	80,000		131,680				<b>131,680</b>
Hong Kong Red Cross	HKD	1,087,469		166,174				<b>166,174</b>
Irish Government	EUR	200,000		328,800				<b>328,800</b>
Japanese Red Cross	USD	260,900		314,786				<b>314,786</b>
Liechtenstein Red Cross	CHF	18,433		18,433				<b>18,433</b>
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	10,000		16,500				<b>16,500</b>
On Line donations	CHF	798		798				<b>798</b>
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	1,000,000		179,400				<b>179,400</b>
Swiss Red Cross	CHF	100,000		100,000				<b>100,000</b>
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	USD	9,985		12,282				<b>12,282</b>
United States - Private Donors	USD	67		80				<b>80</b>
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	CHF	2,000		2,000				<b>2,000</b>
<b>Total Cash contributions</b>				<b>3,108,511</b>				<b>3,108,511</b>
<b>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>								
Swiss Red Cross	CHF	152,025		152,025				<b>152,025</b>
<b>Total Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>				<b>152,025</b>				<b>152,025</b>
<b>Total Income</b>				<b>3,260,535</b>				<b>3,260,535</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>3,260,535</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,260,535</b>
<b>COVERAGE</b>			<b>0%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>46%</b>