

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: LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2007) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please see [contact details](#) on the last page.

The Situation

Heavy rainfall resulted in a landslide in Chittagong district in Bangladesh on Monday, 11 June 2007, killing 124 people so far and destroying houses, roads and embankments, as well as disrupting electricity, gas lines and communication facilities. According to the Bangladesh weather office, rainfall measured on 11 June (until 9 pm) was 408 mm, the heaviest in 25 years. A number of areas were under water as a result of incessant rainfall over the four days prior to the date of reporting. On 11 June, it was reported that 41 wards (consisting of 1.5 million people) were waterlogged. On Tuesday, 12 June, the number of people in the waterlogged areas decreased to 500,000, as the water level receded.

Some of the major rivers are still flowing above the danger level and many river embankments in different parts of the country have been seriously damaged. People have been forced to take shelter in army cantonment areas and shelters built by the government. The maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla hoisted cautionary signal No-3, as advised by the government's meteorological department.

Four reasons were identified for the landslide: indiscriminate cutting of hill forest cover for setting up slum dwellings, abnormal rise in the level of high tide, high tide combined with concurrent heavy rainfall, and the poor drainage system.

The search and rescue operation by the Bangladesh army, police and the fire service and civil defence department is ongoing. United Nations agencies are also active and the World Food Programme and United Nations Children's Fund have jointly started an assessment in Chittagong. Action Aid Bangladesh is working with the fire service and civil defence department in search and rescue, food and medical support for 1,800 families in Kumira in Chittagong district, and has provided the support of rescue equipment to the fire service and civil defence department. The NGOs 'Islamic Relief, Bangladesh' and a local NGO 'Unite Theatre for Social Action' are also responding to the situation. Community people, teachers and students from Chittagong university are participating in the rescue operations.

So far, the government has allocated 1.3 million Taka and 200,000 kilograms of rice for the relief operation in Chittagong. The local administration is distributing clothing items for men and women, as well as dry food items to the affected people, while the army is providing clothing, oral rehydration salts, rice, cooked food, biscuits and other dry food in some affected areas of Chittagong, together with medical support to the injured. The United Nations Development Programme will transfer money equivalent of US\$ 20,000 to a government fund, to complement its response effort.

Reports from local Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) units and media sources state that moderate to severe flooding also took place (on 12 and 13 June) in other parts of Chittagong district, as well as in other districts of the country including Cox's Bazar, Comilla, Netokona, Sunamganj, Feni, Borguna, Hobiganj, Moulibazar, Joypurhat, Bogra, Naogaon, Kurigram, Chandpur, Shariatpur and Rangpur. The press reported a landslide, following flash floods, in Bandarban district, which left two people dead. This was confirmed by the local BDRCS unit in that area.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Six BDRCS search-and-rescue teams were deployed in the affected areas, and are continuing operations alongside personnel from the government and other organizations. According to the BDRCS/Federation joint assessment team sent from the national society headquarters, and the assessment teams at the field level, 253 families, mostly slum dwellers, have been severely affected by the landslide. Health personnel from the local BDRCS hospital and the Red Crescent Youth (RCY) are providing basic treatment to the injured.

The local BDRCS unit in Chittagong has provided dry foodstuffs from its own resources. Of the 500 family kits on standby at the local unit office, 260 have already been issued to the most affected families, at two distribution points. A team comprising five RCY members (including two female members) have been assigned for each spot.

Radio France was in contact with the Federation's Bangladesh delegation, seeking information about the disaster. The Chairman and Secretary General of BDRCS, along with the delegation's programme coordinator, are visiting Chittagong city.

Coordination

Close coordination has been established and maintained with government counterparts and other international and local NGOs, active in the emergency operation. The Bangladesh delegation has been providing all the necessary information about the BDRCS / Federation interventions to the Disaster and Emergency Response Group (DER)¹, which is maintaining coordination among the different agencies. The DM delegate and DM officer from the delegation, along with their BDRCS counterpart, are participating in the emergency meeting called by the DER. The in-country partner national societies are also being kept informed and are keen to provide necessary assistance.

¹ An in-country body coordinating during disasters, jointly chaired by the UN and the ministry of disaster management

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 undertakes activities that 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.

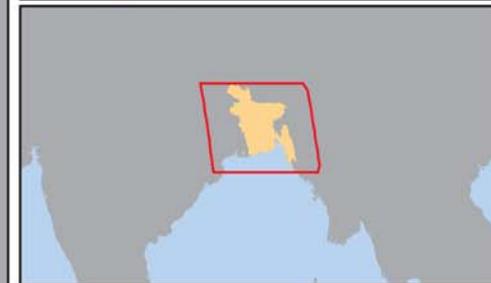
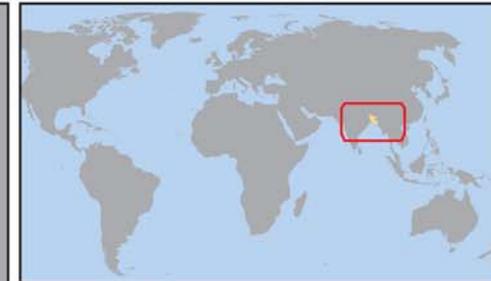
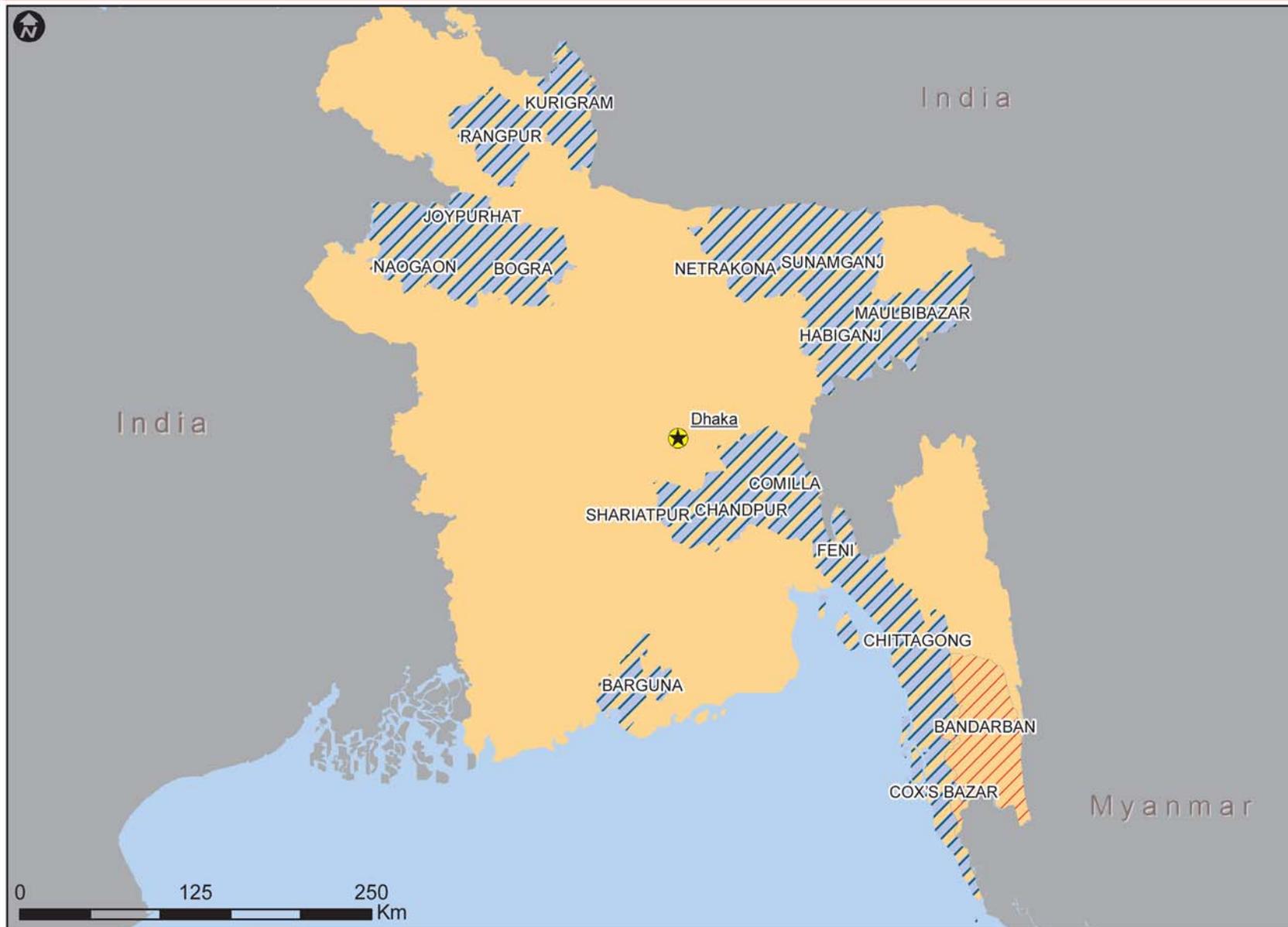
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Bangladesh: landslide and floods



Heavy rainfall resulted in a landslide, killing 108 people so far and destroying houses, roads, embankments and all kinds of communication. Various areas are under water as a result of incessant rainfall over the last three days. A Red Cross Red Crescent team were immediately deployed to assist in this situation.

