

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD002
GLIDE FF-2007-000080-BGD
Operations update n° 16
22 May 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update:
28 December 2008 to 28 February 2009

Revised Appeal budget: CHF 5.095 million (USD 4.85 million or EUR 3.12 million)

Appeal coverage: 94.8%; **Outstanding needs:** CHF 261,142 (USD 274,309 or EUR 426,703).

[<click here for the Emergency Appeal>](#)
[<click here for the interim financial report>](#)

Appeal history:

- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated on 20 June 2007: CHF 250,000
- 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.
- Emergency Appeal budget revised on June 2008 for CHF 5,095,836 (USD 4,851,236 EUR 3,118,852)
- Operations Update no. 16 notes an extension of the operating time frame till the end of February 2009 to complete distribution activities. A final report will follow by 31 May 2009.

Summary:

On account of high death toll from the floods, there was a rise in waterborne diseases: this includes diarrhoea and dysentery. Additionally, the floodwater caused damage to crops and vegetables, and destroyed households, embankments, roads, and institutions. Millions of displaced people took shelter and lived in flimsy temporary makeshift houses along the roadsides and the riverbank, while others were given accommodation in flood shelters, schools and other public buildings.

The government of Bangladesh requested for assistance from non-governmental organizations and other foreign aid agencies to cope with the situation. The International Federation and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) immediately responded and mobilized their own resources. The BDRCS Red Crescent Youth (RCY) were deployed to evacuate the affected people. Dried foods such as molasses and puffed rice; rice and potato; and cash were distributed to 27,500 people in all the affected districts. BDRCS with the support of the International Federation later extended their assistance by distributing non-food items to 317,500 people and more food items to 287,800 targeted beneficiaries. BDRCS mobilized five medical teams to assist and treat 12,405 patients and distributed 36,600 water purification tablets and 17,561 sachets of oral rehydration solution to the affected population. All relief assistance was distributed on time and have helped targeted beneficiaries to restore a sense of normalcy to their lives. In addition, this assistance also prevented further deterioration of the affected's assets.

Livelihood assistance was provided to 11,200 families in three of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office's (ECHO) supported districts. Paddy, wheat, onion seedlings, and saplings were distributed to the beneficiaries in the category of small-scale farmers who have lost their crop to enable them to re-cultivate and regain their livelihood and return to their normal lives.

Almost all recovery activities are completed with shelter material support yet to be provided. Though the flood is over, many of the flood affected people are still living in makeshift houses. The government has given some cash assistance for housing repair but they have used it up for more demanding needs after the second wave of floods. The International Federation and BDRCS strongly feels that the needs of the affected must be met, even though a year has passed by. This will help the targeted beneficiaries to have decent shelters for their families and will do much to protect their sense of dignity.

Due to the security situation in Bangladesh on account of the recent elections, some planned activities were not carried out in the field. As such, BDRCS and the International Federation sought to extend the operational time frame for a further two months to 28 February to ensure that all planned activities, particularly in distribution, are carried out.

At this juncture, BDRCS and the International Federation would like to take this opportunity to thank all donors who have contributed to this appeal with contributions received and pledged. Donors include: American Red Cross; Australian Red Cross; Australian Red Cross/Australian government; British Red Cross; Canadian Red Cross; Danish Red Cross; the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office; Finnish Red Cross; German Red Cross; Hong Kong Branch of the Red Cross Society of China; the Intel Foundation; Irish government; Japanese Red Cross; Republic of Korea Red Cross; Lichtenstein Red Cross; Monaco Red Cross; Netherlands Red Cross; Norwegian Red Cross; Singapore Red Cross; Singapore Red Cross/Singapore government; Swedish Red Cross; Swiss Red Cross; and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent. Additional contributions also came from: Kraft Foods; the Western Union foundation; and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' Fund for International Development; and the Voluntary Relief Fund of the World Health Organization. We would also like to acknowledge independent donors on-line, and private donors from the United States of America.

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

The situation

With an increased death count and at the onset of water diseases BDRCS, with the aid of many non-governmental organizations and the government have stepped up efficiency levels for assistance to the vulnerable. In effect, BDRCS has managed to: provide shelter for displaced peoples; distribute food items and cash; deploy medical teams to areas with medical needs; and give livelihood assistance to communities who had urgent need of such a service. In sum, the Flood Operation is almost completed except for the distribution of shelter materials, which is still pending. There are various reasons for the delay. During the revised budget plan in March 2008, shelter materials support was discussed; and was accepted that this was an issue to be included in the budget planned. However, BDRCS' management officially acknowledge and agreed to this only later. The targeted districts were changed several times and was only finalized and approved by the BDRCS leadership in September 2008. Furthermore, the tendering and purchasing process also took time as the International Federation procurement standard procedure requires that all the materials be sent for quality checking -- which is a time consuming process.

Regarding the shelter activities: the supplier delivered materials in December 2008. Several samples were taken at random and sent to the laboratory for testing as a part of a quality check. The test met the specifications following the International Federation standard procurement procedures.

As a note, during the period under the caretaker government just a few months before the elections in Bangladesh, no permission was granted for the distribution of any relief items. This was to avoid the misuse of humanitarian assistance for personal benefit. The general parliamentary election in Bangladesh took place on 29 December 2008. The result of the election has directly affected the BDRCS leadership. On 22 January 2009, the second phase of local government elections took place. This has further affected the planned distribution in the month of January 2009 since the interim caretaker government issued instructions that relief activity and distribution should not take place until the elections are over.

The former chairman of the national society resigned after the election. The present BDRCS chairman, after getting acquainted and acclimatized to the new environment, approved and agreed to reduce the distribution to 19 districts only instead of 34, prioritizing the most affected districts. Due to all these reasons, BDRCS had to extend the operation time frame to complete distribution operations.

Though the distribution is considered late, it is essential. This is because those who are affected have not recovered from the devastation that was caused by the floods. It was also noticed during follow-up field visits that needs were still visible. Potential beneficiaries have not received any assistance from the government or other

organizations (whether they are non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, or private organizations). Many affected people are still living in makeshift houses from plastic sheets, leaves, salvaged torn zinc sheets and so on. Without assistance it is impossible for them to recover their losses -- mainly due to economic reasons.

All the other relief items -- requisites such as blankets, saris, lungis and tarps arrived. These items were also kept as buffer stock in the private warehouse. The future plan is to store all these items in BDRCS' warehouse as stock maintained by BDRCS and the International Federation.

Coordination and partnerships

Frequent meetings with BDRCS' headquarters and its units took place. These meetings concerned the delays in distribution. Discussions on the modules of distribution, and the effective mobilization of the RCY with an efficient process also took place. Also, at intermittent intervals, usage and storage of buffer stocks was also discussed in various meetings.

The activities and progress of the operations have been shared with in-country Movement partners during weekly coordination meetings.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Overall objective: The urgent needs (health and care, water and sanitation, food and non-food items, clothing, household items, etc.) of 197,670 unassisted families (988,350 people) have been met, the outbreak of communicable diseases is prevented and early recovery needs are supported, while BDRCS capacity is enhanced.

Objective 1: 182,970 severely affected and unassisted families (914,850 people) receive additional emergency food rations and essential non-food items.

All completed and reported in earlier Operations Updates.

Objective 2: Basic health care services (including preventive and promotive health) are provided to 50,220 families (251,100 people) of the most severely affected population for two and half months.

The distribution of oral rehydration solution (ORS), and water purification tablets (WPT) have improved the health of affected people. Posters, pamphlets and public health education materials during and after the floods have educated the beneficiaries in safer practices. These have increased the sharing of learnt information and have benefited the affected people by helping to minimize the exposure to health risk and outbreak of water borne diseases.

The construction of individual and community latrines and raised platform tube-wells will provide them hygiene sanitary facilities and access to safe drinking water and other household need during future floods.

All completed and reported in earlier Operations Updates.

Objective 3: 14,700 families severely affected by the floods will receive the necessary construction materials for damaged houses and/or livelihoods support, through in kind goods.

As mentioned earlier, the final approval for the plan for housing materials support for 31 districts was delayed and ultimately after the revision, the BDRCS governance decided to increase the number of districts to cover 34 districts.

The tendering and procurement process for the housing construction materials took time, as the presamples had to be sent for laboratory tests for post-delivery inspection in order to ensure the quality as per International Federation standard. The BDRCS request to carry on with the distribution of housing materials in January 2009 was taken to avoid the misuse of humanitarian assistance for personal interest. The other reason is the backlog of working advances, which needs to be cleared out as part of the annual closing.

The 52,500 pieces of corrugated galvanized iron sheets (CGI) and 7,000 CGI roof ridges have been delivered and are being stored in the BDRCS warehouse as of 31 December 2008. However, the distribution of housing material support was hindered on account of the recent elections and is currently on-going.

BDRCS is aware and understands the value of the assistance and impact of the distribution as well as how much it is going to benefit people affected by the floods. They have requested and appealed to the Federation to extend the distribution to February 2009.

Objective 4: The enhancement of capacity of BDRCS to respond effectively to disasters.

Two refresher training workshops for “Lessons Learnt Workshop” and “Relief Management Training” were organised in June 2008 to enhance the competency skills of 24 unit officers from the RCY and national headquarters (NHQ) for better response in future disasters. The “Lessons Learnt Workshop” will improve the quality of the services to be provided.

Trainings were provided by the relief delegate and response officers of the International Federation and BDRCS to all RCY and unit officers before every distribution. Various issues were addressed and the code of conduct, humanitarian value and the Red Cross and Red Crescent activities were discussed.

First aid and rescue kits were provided to all the 64 units to better equip and gear them up for efficient response to future needs. Computers were also provided to the NHQ to be distributed to the most active unit/department during the floods. This will help the unit RCY to have access to computers in preparation for effective reporting. Two vehicles (a micro bus and Pajero jeep) were purchased and handed over to the relief department at BDRCS NHQ.

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 \(NGOs\) 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 International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: Mr. M. Shafiu Alam (secretary- general), email: bdracs@bangla.net, phone: +88.02.935.2226.
- Country delegation in Bangladesh: Mr. Pepe Salmela (head of delegation), email: pepe.salmela@ifrc.org, phone: +88.02.933.7314, fax: +88.02.934.1631.
- South Asia regional delegation in Delhi: Mr. Azmat Ulla (head of regional delegation), email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
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 - Disaster management unit: Mr. Daniel Bolanos Gonzalez (regional disaster response delegate), email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org ; phone: +603 9207 5723, mobile; +6 012 975 0144;

[<Interim financial report below ; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBD002 - Bangladesh - Floods, Landslides, Tornado

Interim Financial Report

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2007/6-2009/3 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2007/6-2009/2 |
| Appeal | MDRBD002 |
| Budget | APPEAL |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

| | Goal 1: Disaster Management | Goal 2: Health and Care | Goal 3: Capacity Building | Goal 4: Principles and Values | Coordination | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| A. Budget | 5,095,836 | | | | | 5,095,836 |
| B. Opening Balance | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| <u>Cash contributions</u> | | | | | | |
| American Red Cross | 150,535 | | | | | 150,535 |
| Australian Red Cross | 15,076 | | | | | 15,076 |
| Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government) | 368,862 | | | | | 368,862 |
| Bangladesh - Private Donors | 16,006 | | | | | 16,006 |
| British Red Cross | 475,307 | | | | | 475,307 |
| Canadian Red Cross | 86,130 | | | | | 86,130 |
| Danish Red Cross | 102,835 | | | | | 102,835 |
| ECHO | 816,615 | | | | | 816,615 |
| Finnish Red Cross | 279,600 | | | | | 279,600 |
| German Red Cross | 131,710 | | | | | 131,710 |
| Hong Kong Red Cross | 165,496 | | | | | 165,496 |
| Intel Foundation | 55,900 | | | | | 55,900 |
| Irish Government | 328,800 | | | | | 328,800 |
| Japanese Red Cross | 314,786 | | | | | 314,786 |
| Korea Republic Red Cross | 50,000 | | | | | 50,000 |
| Liechtenstein Red Cross | 18,433 | | | | | 18,433 |
| Monaco Red Cross | 16,500 | | | | | 16,500 |
| Netherlands Red Cross | 514,654 | | | | | 514,654 |
| New York Office (from Kraft Foods) | 13,125 | | | | | 13,125 |
| New York Office (from Western Union Foundation) | 35,001 | | | | | 35,001 |
| Norwegian Red Cross | 98 | | | | | 98 |
| On Line donations | 17,516 | | | | | 17,516 |
| OPEC Fund For Int-l Development | 280,507 | | | | | 280,507 |
| Singapore Red Cross | 4,221 | | | | | 4,221 |
| Singapore Red Cross (from Singapore Government) | 23,921 | | | | | 23,921 |
| Swedish Red Cross | 109,140 | | | | | 109,140 |
| Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government) | 179,400 | | | | | 179,400 |
| Swiss Red Cross | 105,850 | | | | | 105,850 |
| United Arab Emirates Red Crescent | 12,282 | | | | | 12,282 |
| United States - Private Donors | 1,328 | | | | | 1,328 |
| VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief | 2,000 | | | | | 2,000 |
| C1. Cash contributions | 4,691,630 | | | | | 4,691,630 |
| <u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u> | | | | | | |
| Norwegian Red Cross | 1,709 | | | | | 1,709 |
| Swiss Red Cross | 91,000 | | | | | 91,000 |
| C3. Inkind Goods & Transport | 92,709 | | | | | 92,709 |
| <u>Inkind Personnel</u> | | | | | | |
| Netherlands Red Cross | 17,747 | | | | | 17,747 |
| C4. Inkind Personnel | 17,747 | | | | | 17,747 |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5) | 4,802,086 | | | | | 4,802,086 |
| D. Total Funding = B + C | 4,802,086 | | | | | 4,802,086 |
| Appeal Coverage | 94% | | | | | 94% |

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II. Balance of Funds

| | Goal 1: Disaster Management | Goal 2: Health and Care | Goal 3: Capacity Building | Goal 4: Principles and Values | Coordination | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| B. Opening Balance | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| C. Income | 4,802,086 | | | | | 4,802,086 |
| E. Expenditure | -4,495,710 | | | | | -4,495,710 |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | 306,376 | | | | | 306,376 |

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

| Account Groups | Budget | Expenditure | | | | | TOTAL | Variance |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| | | Goal 1: Disaster Management | Goal 2: Health and Care | Goal 3: Capacity Building | Goal 4: Principles and Values | Coordination | | |
| A | | | | | | | B | A - B |
| BUDGET (C) | | 5,095,836 | | | | | 5,095,836 | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Shelter - Relief | 833,333 | 870,234 | | | | 870,234 | -36,901 | |
| Construction Materials | | 18,744 | | | | 18,744 | -18,744 | |
| Clothing & textiles | 721,641 | 832,317 | | | | 832,317 | -110,675 | |
| Food | 1,206,123 | 1,255,488 | | | | 1,255,488 | -49,365 | |
| Seeds,Plants | 127,119 | 127,682 | | | | 127,682 | -563 | |
| Water & Sanitation | 434,831 | 99,670 | | | | 99,670 | 335,161 | |
| Medical & First Aid | 8,475 | 7,482 | | | | 7,482 | 992 | |
| Other Supplies & Services | 461,530 | 135,933 | | | | 135,933 | 325,598 | |
| Total Supplies | 3,793,051 | 3,347,548 | | | | 3,347,548 | 445,503 | |
| Land, vehicles & equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Vehicles | 138,983 | 134,498 | | | | 134,498 | 4,485 | |
| Computers & Telecom | 22,458 | 13,929 | | | | 13,929 | 8,529 | |
| Office/Household Furniture & Equipm. | 2,034 | 3,966 | | | | 3,966 | -1,932 | |
| Total Land, vehicles & equipment | 163,475 | 152,394 | | | | 152,394 | 11,082 | |
| Transport & Storage | | | | | | | | |
| Storage | 29,904 | 48,061 | | | | 48,061 | -18,157 | |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 55,390 | 82,225 | | | | 82,225 | -26,835 | |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 109,954 | 23,498 | | | | 23,498 | 86,457 | |
| Total Transport & Storage | 195,248 | 153,784 | | | | 153,784 | 41,464 | |
| Personnel | | | | | | | | |
| International Staff | 257,400 | 227,133 | | | | 227,133 | 30,267 | |
| Regionally Deployed Staff | 1,650 | 1,650 | | | | 1,650 | 0 | |
| National Staff | 51,250 | 64,779 | | | | 64,779 | -13,529 | |
| National Society Staff | 68,679 | 29,696 | | | | 29,696 | 38,983 | |
| Consultants | 3,150 | 3,150 | | | | 3,150 | 0 | |
| Total Personnel | 382,129 | 326,408 | | | | 326,408 | 55,722 | |
| Workshops & Training | | | | | | | | |
| Workshops & Training | 32,772 | 14,129 | | | | 14,129 | 18,643 | |
| Total Workshops & Training | 32,772 | 14,129 | | | | 14,129 | 18,643 | |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | 29,831 | 18,603 | | | | 18,603 | 11,228 | |
| Information & Public Relation | 25,593 | 12,236 | | | | 12,236 | 13,357 | |
| Office Costs | 51,525 | 28,187 | | | | 28,187 | 23,338 | |
| Communications | 23,729 | 17,665 | | | | 17,665 | 6,064 | |
| Financial Charges | 61,322 | 106,823 | | | | 106,823 | -45,501 | |
| Other General Expenses | 5,932 | -793 | | | | -793 | 6,725 | |
| Total General Expenditure | 197,932 | 182,721 | | | | 182,721 | 15,210 | |
| Programme Support | | | | | | | | |
| Program Support | 331,229 | 289,791 | | | | 289,791 | 41,438 | |
| Total Programme Support | 331,229 | 289,791 | | | | 289,791 | 41,438 | |
| Services | | | | | | | | |
| Services & Recoveries | | 28,936 | | | | 28,936 | -28,936 | |
| Total Services | | 28,936 | | | | 28,936 | -28,936 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 5,095,836 | 4,495,710 | | | | 4,495,710 | 600,126 | |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | 600,126 | | | | 600,126 | | |