

Emergency appeal operations update Bangladesh: Cyclone Komen

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD015	GLIDE n° TC-2015-000101-BGD
Operations update n° 3	Timeframe covered by this update: 16 November 2015 to 31 January 2016
Date of issue: 4 March 2016	Date of disaster: 29 July 2015
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Md. Adith Shah Durjoy, Acting Disaster Operations Coordinator, IFRC Bangladesh Delegation	Point of contact (name and title): Md. Belal Hossain, Director, Disaster Response Department, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.
Operation start date: 11 August 2015	Operation end date: 31 March 2016
Operation budget: CHF 856,924 Current coverage: 44%; CHF 373,281 (donor response) Funding gap: CHF 483,643	DREF allocated: CHF 156,661
Number of people assisted: 6,500 families (32,500 people). Revised down to 4,000 families (20,000 people)	
Host National Society(ies) present (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), 160 volunteers, and 15 BDRCS staff (NDRTs, NDWRTs, monitoring teams) and 6 IFRC staff mobilized so far in 5 district branches. Apart from these, Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) staff and volunteers mobilized.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Swedish Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Bangladesh, UN Agencies, INGOs, Mobile money transfer company for piloting CTP.	

Summary:

The operation is in its fifth month and continues to support the affected vulnerable families in food security, emergency shelter and water and sanitation (WatSan) sectors in a scaled down approach in terms of number of beneficiaries as the appeal is not fully funded. In addition, the operation also has a component on awareness and advocacy on disaster risk reduction (DRR) for the affected communities which was supposed to be initiated in December 2015. As of now, the Appeal coverage is CHF 373,281 (or 44 per cent of the total requested). Based on the availability of funding, it is not possible to implement all the planned activities under DRR components. This has resulted in the re-prioritisation of activities to focus on the most critically needed. BDRCS took the initiative to conduct an awareness session on DRR in the targeted affected communities for the beneficiaries who are already covered under the food security, emergency shelter and WatSan sectors.

Cyclone Komen made landfall on 30 July 2015, weakening as it moved slightly towards the northeast. Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Bandarban, Noakhali, Feni and Bhola districts were significantly affected. The regions were already affected by the previous flash floods and landslides which had started at the end of June 2015. In addition to the number of people that were injured during the cyclone, at least seven people (including two children) were reported to have lost their lives and 38 people were reported missing. The Government district level 'D-form' data immediately after the disaster indicated many houses were flattened or under water, trees uprooted, and power supplies and communication systems disrupted in some places. Crops were damaged and shrimp projects flooded. Due to the impact of the cyclonic storm, heavy to very heavy rainfall triggered in southern Bangladesh widespread flooding. Consequently the lives and livelihoods of the people of those areas were further worsened.

A Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG) was formed to identify the damage and needs of all these areas affected by Cyclone Komen and subsequent flooding. This assessment was commissioned by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and covered ten districts. The cumulative effect of the floods coming after Cyclone Komen increased the affected population to 2.6 million people. The impact of these events was felt most acutely by the extreme poor¹. It is estimated that 218,665 people (57,774 households) fall within this demographic. The HCTT also produced a Joint Response Plan (JRP) based on the assessments undertaken in different stages. The JRP proposed an immediate to longer term response strategy as well as mitigation measures based on the inputs from mainly the Food Security, Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) and Early Recovery clusters.

This Emergency Appeal has been designed in line with the JRP strategy and has maintained a good coordination with the national humanitarian stakeholders. The Government of Bangladesh has already responded during the first few weeks of the disaster with rice and cash to many of the affected areas while a number of humanitarian organizations and UN agencies had responded with food assistance, health and WASH relief. In line with the JRP, humanitarian donors, like the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), had mobilized funds to its partner international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to support the response.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) requested support from IFRC via the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 11 August 2015 to support 3,000 families in the five districts of Chittagong, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Feni and Noakhali with the provision of unconditional cash grant, primarily to meet their food needs for one month. In addition, BDRCS, to address the critical needs of the affected population, provided from its Disaster Preparedness stocks 3,000 tarpaulins, 30,000 packets of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and installed two mobile water treatment plants. Within three weeks of the start of the operation, BDRCS completed the distribution to 3,000 families of its first phase of unconditional cash grant (3,000 Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) per person) and one tarpaulin per family.

Subsequently, on 24 August 2015, an Emergency Appeal was launched to support a total of 6,500 affected families to address their Food, WASH, Livelihood and Emergency Shelter needs. Out of these 6,500 families, the Emergency Appeal targeted: 4,000 families to support with cash grants for food and emergency shelter (tarpaulins); 2,000 families were to benefit from safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; and 500 families were to receive livelihood cash grants at a later stage of the operation. However, with the current funding situation, the operation had to revise the target down to 4,000 families from 6,500 families. This revised target anticipated supporting: 3,000 families with cash grants for food and emergency shelter (tarpaulins); and 1,000 families to benefit from safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. Out of these 4,000 families, around 3,000 families will be given an awareness session on DRR in March 2016. At this point of the Emergency Appeal, all activities related to the revised target have been completed except for the DRR awareness sessions.

During the last reporting period, BDRCS signed an agreement with bKash, a mobile money transfer agency. BDRCS conducted a pilot cash transfer programme for 100 families in Chittagong district using the mobile money (bKash) wallet. After reviewing the positive outcomes of the pilot, BDRCS extended the cash transfer programme to another 350 families in Cox's Bazar district. As a result, BDRCS has increased confidence in its capacity to provide mobile money transfers.

As part of the effort to ensure community engagement and accountability, BDRCS established a Complaints and Response Mechanism (CRM) to enable beneficiaries to offer valuable feedback on the goods and services they received, and enable field staff to take necessary and timely actions to address any gaps. Rapid Assessment through Mobile Phone (RAMP²) has been introduced as a survey tool in this operation for the beneficiary identification and selection process. The National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and BDRCS youth

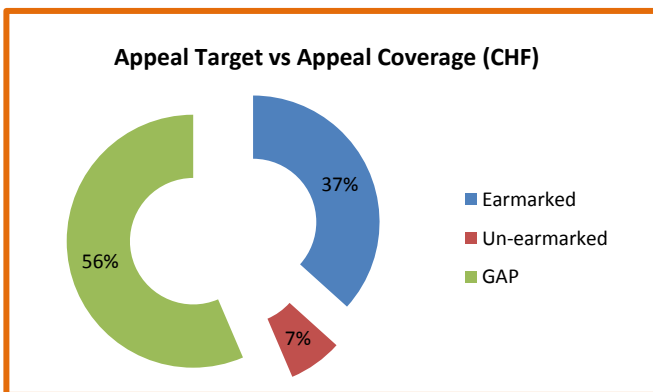
¹ The extreme poor are those living below the 'lower poverty line' according to the Bangladesh Poverty Maps.

² RAMP is a mobile phone based technology, which provides a survey methodology and operations protocol that will enable the organizations/ agencies to conduct surveys rapidly, at reduced costs, with limited or no external assistance.

volunteers were involved in the RAMP survey with additional support provided by IFRC and BDRCS National Headquarters (NHQ) staff. The survey provided baseline information of the targeted beneficiaries in a systematic way, and minimized time, cost and inconsistency in data collection. RAMP has also been used for the post-distribution monitoring.

Support to this Emergency Appeal includes pledges from Canadian Red Cross Society, Japanese Red Cross Society, American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Monaco Red Cross Society. Partners and donors are encouraged to contribute the current funding gap of CHF 483,643. Click [here](#) for the latest donor response list.

While BDRCS, IFRC and the other humanitarian partners were dealing with Cyclone Komen and flooding in the southeastern part of Bangladesh, the north and central parts of the country (not part of the operational area for Cyclone Komen) experienced flooding in the last week of August 2015. An aerial survey was conducted on 30 August 2015 in the northern districts to observe the flooding situation and the potential damage to housing, agriculture, and infrastructure and to map the scale of population displacement. Floods have caused extensive damage to crops in different parts of the country. BDRCS provided BDT 50,000 for dry or cooked food distribution through each of the 13 affected BDRCS Districts Units in the northern and central parts of the country. The joint response of BDRCS to assist 2,500 families in ten districts during this reporting period has been supported by IFRC and the following Participating National Societies (PNSs): German Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and Turkish Red Crescent Society.



Coordination and partnerships

Movement Coordination

The in-country Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners (e.g., BDRCS, in-country PNSs, IFRC, and ICRC) have an existing coordination mechanism in the form of a bi-monthly Movements Partners Coordination Meeting (MPCM). These meetings cover regular updates from the movement partners, immediate issues to be handled and the plan of action. Apart from MPCM, coordination meetings between partners take place whenever the need arises such as a meeting on 12 August, immediately after the launch of the DREF operation, where the tentative plan for the emergency appeal was promptly discussed. IFRC plays a coordination role to assist BDRCS for better response, with support from in-country Movement partners. The ICRC, British Red Cross and German Red Cross participated in BDRCS-led field assessment teams.

The IFRC country delegation is keeping the Movement Partners updated on the Appeal coverage as well as progress of the operation through face-to-face meetings and by e-mail. The country representative of Swedish Red Cross paid a visit to the operation areas during the third week of November 2015. Apart from the in-country Movement Partners, IFRC has organized several teleconferences with PNSs to share updates and explore support for the Appeal.

ICRC has supported 250 families in Bandarban districts following the similar package for food security as identified by the Joint Response Strategy.

External Coordination

The humanitarian community in Bangladesh has a well-defined coordination mechanism at all levels. Key to this coordination is the sectoral Local Consultative Groups (LCG) mechanism between the Government of Bangladesh and development partners. The LCG on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER) is co-chaired by the Ministry of Disaster Management and the UN Resident Coordinator. Within the LCG-DER, the HCTT is a working group which provides an operational level forum for coordinated disaster preparedness, response, and recovery across sectors and consists of all cluster leads, donors, INGO representatives, NGO representatives and IFRC. The last LCG-DER meeting took place on 22 November 2015 and IFRC was the shelter cluster co-lead.

Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) initiated by HCTT offer a coordinated approach to pooling resources from different organizations and enables a common understanding of community needs and a starting point for interventions. During this disaster, HCTT conducted a phase two JNA in three southeastern districts (namely Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban) after the flash floods and landslides in mid-July 2015. The report was shared with relevant stakeholders on 20 July and the subsequent joint response plan was released two days later. As part of its response to Cyclone Komen, the HCTT commissioned a rapid assessment that covered information on the cumulative effect of the June flash floods, Cyclone Komen and the subsequent rain-induced flooding. Based on this assessment, HCTT updated the JRP developed earlier. IFRC was involved with the working group and coordinated the JRP with BDRCS. The revised JRP has identified a caseload of 56,774 households that require multi-sectoral support for three months.

The Government of Bangladesh had allocated more than 2,500 metric tons (MT) of rice and cash of BDT 6 million to all affected districts during the initial weeks of the disaster. The United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 112.5 MTs of high energy biscuits with the assistance of BDRCS to 30,000 families in Cox's Bazar district. Various UN agencies and INGO/NGOs have responded to the immediate needs of the affected population with food packages, WASH activities and cash grants. Also, they are distributing unconditional cash, as per the JRP, with the funding support from DFID and ECHO. As of now, the agencies have supported around 21,000 families with the unconditional cash grant support.

IFRC and BDRCS are actively coordinating with different clusters to provide information in the Who-Where-What-When (4W) matrix. They have shared the Cyclone Komen response plan and operational findings. In addition, IFRC and BDRCS are playing a key role in the cash working group (CWG) to support cash transfer programming and help determine a package of assistance using this modality.

Operational implementation

Overview

This operation is supporting BDRCS to assist the most vulnerable in the five districts affected by Cyclone Komen. Three of the five affected districts were also previously affected by flash floods and landslides at the end of June to mid-July 2015.

BDRCS had mobilized human resources as well as cash, both from branch and NHQ levels, to meet the immediate needs after the flash floods that occurred June to July 2015. In addition, BDRCS, with support from IFRC, has provided cooked food and dry food to 1,500 families and cash support to 1,000 families during the third week of July 2015.

Following the deteriorating situation after Cyclone Komen, a [DREF](#) was launched on 11 August to support 3,000 families with provision of unconditional cash and safe drinking water. An [Emergency Appeal](#) was subsequently launched to scale up the support to 6,500 families. Out of which, the operation targeted 4,000 families with cash grants for food, and emergency shelter through tarpaulin. Another 2,000 families were to receive support through drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. Apart from these, 500 families were to receive livelihood cash grants at a later stage of the operation.

Based on the availability of funding, it was not possible to implement all the planned activities. This has resulted in the re-prioritisation of activities to focus on the most critically needed. With the available funding, the operation can support 3,000 families out of 4,000 with cash grants. These same families will be provided emergency shelter materials from the BDRCS-IFRC joint disaster preparedness (DP) stocks (which will not be further replenished due to the funding issue). Distribution of BDT 3,000 (as a first instalment) and one tarpaulin per family to 3,000 families was achieved. Safe drinking water was provided to 1,000 families during the first reporting period. During the second reporting period, 2,239 families (among the same 3,000 families who received first instalment) were supported with a second instalment of unconditional cash grant support (BDT 6,000 for each family).

During this reporting period BDRCS provided another 741 families out of the remaining 761 with the second phase of cash grant support. Through all these interventions, BDRCS reached 2,980 families with cash grant support out

of a revised target of 3,000 families. The remaining 20 families received only the first instalment as they had migrated to other districts from the community before they could receive the second instalment.

In the second instalment, the beneficiaries received cash either through mobile money transfer or through bank cheque. A total of 100 beneficiaries in Chittagong and 290 beneficiaries in Cox's Bazar received cash grants through mobile money transfers using bKash wallets. The remaining beneficiaries received support through bank cheques. Apart from the cash grant support, hygiene awareness sessions were conducted in three schools and detailed assessments done of 25 tube-wells that needed to be repaired to provide drinking water. An agreement was also signed between Cox's Bazar Red Crescent unit and contractors for repairing.

[Operations update no. 1](#) was issued on 16 September 2015, covering reporting period 11 August 2015 to 7 September 2015 and [operations update no. 2](#) was issued on 11 December 2015, covering reporting period from 8 September to 15 November 2015.

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors		
Outcome 1: Continuous assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.		
Output	Activities planned	Progress (%)
Output 1.1: Participation in assessments and continuous collection of information from local units	Orientation and deployment of NDRTs to selected areas for participating and contributing to the assessment after the flash floods	100%
	Data collection and analysis	100%
	Assessment by the BDRCS branches after Cyclone Komen	100%
	Continued information collection from local units	90%
	Beneficiary selection survey through RAMP ³	75%
	Monitoring visits by joint teams of BDRCS headquarters and IFRC	80%
	Final evaluation	Removed
Outcome 2: An environment of information sharing and transparency is ensured through employing beneficiary communication tools and mechanisms		
Output	Activities planned	Progress (%)
Output 2.1: Access to relevant information	Identification on information needs and communication channels	85%
	Identification and dissemination of key messages on behavioral change and aid assistance	80%
	Orientation of communities on mechanisms to receive information/provide feedback	80%
	Identify community radio stations and relevant themes for live radio programme	Removed*
	Orientation of communities on call in radio programme and forming listener clubs	Removed
Output 2.2: Provision of communication tools for community mobilization and information sharing	Establishing kiosks/information boards in strategic locations	100%
	Opening hotlines/complaints box/ and information desks	100%
	Community consultation in different stages	100%
	Developing brochures (beneficiary accountability, WASH, etc.)	Ongoing
	Hosting live radio programme	Removed
	Prepare and disseminate FAQ for different stakeholders	Removed

³ A beneficiary selection survey (through RAMP) has been added newly and was not included in the initial Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA).

Output 2.3: Provision of feedback mechanisms on aid assistance	Orientation of staff and volunteers on beneficiary accountability	100%
	Consultation and orientation of communities on lodging complaints and receiving feedback	100%
	Setting up CRM through hotline/information desks/complaints box	100%
	Registering complaints and feedback received	100%
	Coordinate response towards complaints and feedback	100%
	Conducting beneficiary satisfaction survey	100%

Note: * The themes for the live radio programme were identified but due to low radio station coverage, the radio programme was canceled. As such, this activity has been removed.

Progress:

Assessments: BDRCS and IFRC were actively involved with the national level assessments as well as with BDRCS' own assessment when insufficient information was available from the field. Most of the damage and needs assessments were completed during the first reporting period.

An assessment was conducted during this reporting period to understand the effectiveness and usefulness of distributed tarpaulins. It was found that the beneficiaries were still using the tarpaulins effectively and for various purposes depending on the season. Beneficiaries used them as a roof covering sheet during rainy days and as a ground sheet during harvesting time to dry rice. They were also using them for storing and covering seeds and valuable goods.

Beneficiary Selection: This process was completed for 3,000 families during the last reporting period. They received the first phase of assistance for food and shelter. During the second phase of assistance to the same families, BDRCS reviewed the list of selected families before the distribution. They found 20 cases where the whole family or members of the family had migrated to other districts or sub-districts.

Beneficiary Communication:

CRM was introduced during the first phase of distribution of goods and services to communities. It was done through a variety of means (including hotline, information desks and complaints box). CRM was maintained during the second phase of distribution (which took place during this reporting period). Information boards were placed in the communities which also served as a way to inform them of the beneficiary list. As mentioned in the last Operations Update, the community radio stations had very limited coverage in the operation areas where BDRCS is working. So BDRCS decided to disseminate the thematic message prepared for the targeted communities through community gatherings and awareness sessions in April 2016.



Volunteers posted beneficiary lists at a community gathering place in Cox's Bazar. Photo: BDRCS.

Before implementing the emergency response, a team consisting of NDRT members and unit volunteers went to the affected communities to better understand their living conditions and priority needs. Based on the feedback received, BDRCS, with the support from IFRC, designed the emergency response packages to be aligned with the JRP strategy. Beneficiaries were contacted by volunteers and, again by, local unit representatives when they were selected. Before the distribution of the support package, the target beneficiaries were consulted by BDRCS to ensure that distribution points were located in the most suitable location for their access. Beneficiary cards with detailed information of the distribution were provided to each beneficiary.

During the distribution, a focus group discussion was held to review the whole selection process, packages offered and feedback mechanisms. During the last reporting period, a post-distribution satisfaction survey showed that approximately 90 per cent of beneficiaries were aware of the emergency support package and satisfied with the distribution arrangements. It further revealed that the majority of beneficiaries were properly informed about the distribution date, venue and time. Beneficiaries reported that the overall implementation was transparent. Some 65 per cent of beneficiaries felt that additional support, such as shelter reconstruction, is needed. During the second phase of distribution, a beneficiary satisfaction survey was conducted and yielded similar findings.

BDRCS contacted beneficiaries to inform them about distributions and to get feedback on operational activities. In addition, BDRCS followed-up with the beneficiaries who were absent from the distribution event by phoning them and sending local volunteers to their houses. There were challenges to deliver assistance to all the beneficiaries, e.g., the death of some beneficiaries, and some who had moved away from their communities for better livelihoods either through deep sea fishing or migration to other locales. A community participatory approach was taken by BDRCS to identify possible solutions from beneficiaries and local community leaders.

Challenges:

- Although the community information board is recognized in many operations as a good way to disseminate information, for this operation it was not the case. Many of the houses in the operational areas were scattered and difficult to access. So placing a community board in a specific location did not serve the intended purpose. A better option for disseminating information was found to be having community gatherings, with prior notification through the community leaders and BDRCS volunteers.
- After indepth discussions between IFRC and BDRCS, the final evaluation has now been removed from activity plan. The IFRC country delegation will instead work closely with BDRCS to follow up on some of the key recommendations previously proposed in the last two evaluations as they are still relevant and of importance.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion		
Outcome 1: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases have been reduced through access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion.		
Output	Activities planned	Progress (%)
Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	Short briefing to the trained RCY volunteers for operating mobile water treatment plant (1,000 ltr/hr)	100%
	Mobilizing water treatment plants to the affected areas with NDWRT members	100%
	Setting up and running water treatment plants for 2,000 families in 3 locations in Cox's Bazar district for 15 days	100%
	Distribution of ORS solution packs from DP stock and replenishment through local procurement	100%
	Disinfection of 25 tube-wells in Cox's Bazar district	Removed
	Repairing of 25 tube-wells in Cox's Bazar district	30%
	Distribution of jerry cans for 1,000 families	50%
	Replenishment of jerry cans through RLU	Removed
Output 1.2: Improve access to sanitation	Identification of locations to install portable collapsible latrine	100%
	Mobilization of portable collapsible latrine from DP stock	100%

facilities to 1,000 families	Installation of portable collapsible latrine for displaced people in Cox's Bazar district	100%
	Supporting community for maintenance	100%
Output 1.3: Improve sanitation practice hygiene knowledge and behaviour of 1,000 families	Mobilization of hygiene promotion kits for displaced people in Cox's Bazar district	100%
	Volunteer orientation	100%
	Hygiene promotion through distribution of hygiene promotion kits	100%

Progress:

Access to safe drinking water and latrines in Cox's Bazar district was an acute concern for the temporarily displaced population from the beginning of the operation. To meet their immediate needs, BDRCS mobilized water treatment plants and portable collapsible latrines with the help of National Disaster WatSan Response Team (NDWRT) members. As a result, about 1,000 families were reached. See more at [IFRC web stories](#).

As reported in the second operation update, repairing of water sources like tube wells and hygiene promotion activities were considered as priorities to improve access to safe drinking water and practice of good hygiene in the affected areas.

The WatSan team came up with a detailed plan of action drawn from assessment findings. It provided orientation to the volunteers and the members from Cox's Bazar unit on tube-well repairing and hygiene promotion. In three primary schools, in the same area where initial drinking water support was provided, school students were utilized as change agents to promote better hygiene practices to their families.



Primary school students participating in an interactive practical session of hygiene promotion in Cox's Bazar. Photo: BDRCS.

Twenty-five tube wells were identified for repairs and 1,000 beneficiaries were selected for jerry can distribution. Cox's Bazar unit have already signed an agreement with contractor to repair the tube wells. A detailed assessment had already been conducted for each tube well to identify the components that needed repair. Currently the WASH team is deployed in the field to provide technical support and work closely with the Cox's Bazar unit for the ongoing repairs.

Challenges:

- There was a lack of WatSan technical staff, particularly in a supervisory role, for this operation. This gap was partly addressed through the support received from the WatSan delegate and in-country trained WatSan Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT).
- Identification and selection of tube wells for repairs was a major challenge as BDRCS had limited resources to assess each tube well. However through community consultations and participation of local units, BDRCS was able to come up with a final selection of tube wells.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods		
Outcome 1: Immediate food and household needs of the affected population are met		
Output	Activities planned	Progress (%)
Output 1.1: Provision of unconditional cash grants to 3,000 families affected by Cyclone Komen in the 5	Identification of most affected unions in the 5 districts with functioning markets	100%
	Beneficiary selection	100%
	Beneficiary registration and cash form preparation	100%

districts to cover food and household needs for 3 months (Target revised from 4,000 to 3,000 HHs)	Setting up cash transfer programme (CTP) procedures	100%
	Distribution of unconditional cash grants (BDT 3,000 each HH) to 3,000 families in the first phase through cash in envelope modality	100%
	Onsite monitoring during the distribution	100%
	Distribution of unconditional cash grants (BDT 6,000 each HH) to the same 3,000 families in the second phase through bank transfer modality	99%
	Post distribution monitoring and reporting	65%
Outcome 2: Livelihoods are protected and negative coping strategies and food insecurity reduced among 500 affected populations in 3 districts (Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and Bandarban districts)		
Output	Activities planned	Progress (%)
Output 2.1: Provision of cash grant to 500 families for restoring livelihoods.	Beneficiary selection and finalization	Removed
	Dissemination of beneficiary list in communities	Removed
	Setting up CTP procedures	50%
	Livelihood income generating activities (IGA) proposal finalization	Removed
	Distribution of livelihood cash grant (BDT 8,000 each HH) to 500 families through bank transfer modality	Removed
	Conduct post distribution survey of livelihoods grants	Removed

Progress:

It was initially planned that 4,000 families across five affected districts would be assisted with unconditional cash grants given in two instalments to purchase food and household items as required. For the first instalment, each targeted beneficiary family would receive BDT 3,000 (equivalent to CHF 37.50). For the second instalment, the same beneficiary families would receive BDT 6,000 (equivalent to CHF 75). This intervention was aligned with the joint response strategy developed by the HCTT. The Food Security cluster coordinated with the relevant agencies for geographical targeting of beneficiaries. However, due to a funding shortfall, the target was revised down to 3,000 families from the initially planned 4,000 families.

To date, the revised target has been fully achieved for the first instalment of the cash grant. For the second instalment, 2,980 out of 3,000 families (99 per cent) received the cash grant.



Left: Beneficiaries are opening their own mobile banking account (bKash wallet).
Right: A couple of weeks later they received cash grant support through their own bKash wallet. Photos: BDRCS.

In the second phase of cash distribution, the cash was provided through a bank cheque and mobile money transfer. Before receiving the cash, each beneficiary completed the Cash Grant ID (CGID) card with support from unit volunteers. This document helped BDRCS to track the beneficiary's participation throughout the whole distribution process. Apart from the CGID, each beneficiary signed a master roll when receiving their bank cheque. After receiving the bank cheque, they went to the bank to withdraw the cash.

During this reporting period, BDRCS piloted a cash transfer programme for 100 families in Anowara Upazilla (a sub-district) of Chittagong district using the mobile money transfer mechanism through bKash wallet. It was found that mobile money transfer is more transparent and convenient for beneficiaries where the banking network does not extend. It allows beneficiaries to collect cash from local bKash agents. After reviewing the advantages of this new cash transfer mechanism, BDRCS assisted another 290 families in Cox’s Bazar through bKash wallets.

Through the post-distribution monitoring survey, it was found that the unconditional cash grants were mainly utilized for purchasing food, repairing houses and investing in livelihood activities. It was also found that around ten percent of the beneficiaries had spent their cash on their children’s education and for medical assistance. The following graph shows the cash spending trends.

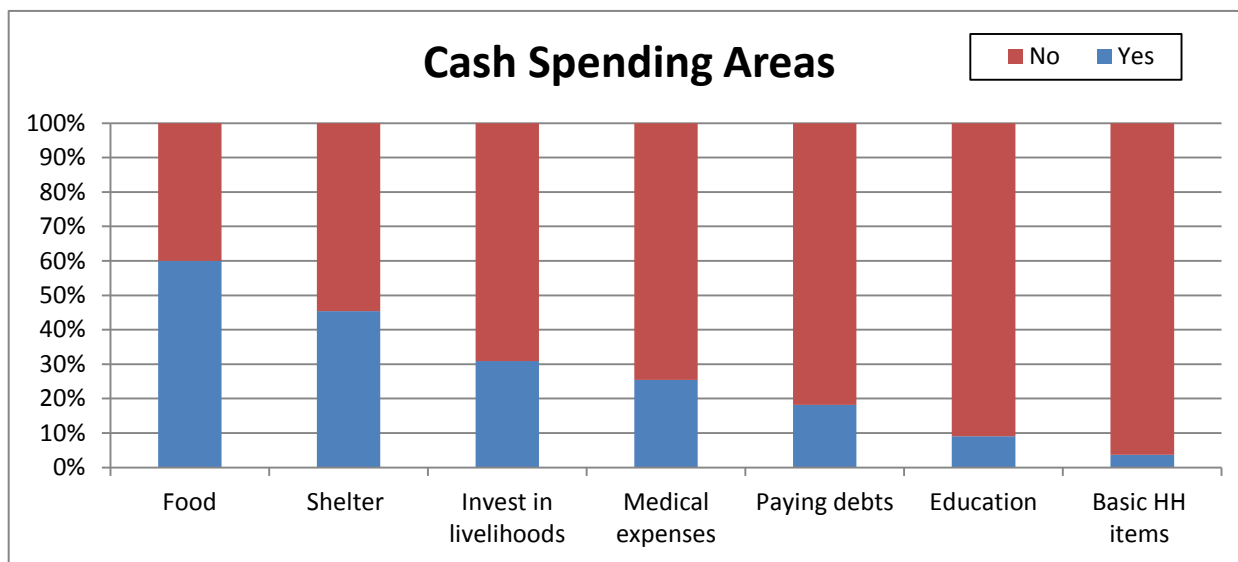


Figure: Cash spending areas of beneficiaries

Due to funding constraints, restoring the livelihoods of 500 affected families through cash grant distribution has been canceled from this Emergency Appeal.

Challenges:

- One of the key barriers of CTP modality is the capacity of local banks in meeting the high volume of cash out transaction. Many local banks have cash liquidity restriction whereby the amount involved in CTP modality often exceeds the ceiling of available fund in the bank. Regular communication and follow up by the BDRCS branches with the district level banks helped to minimise any transaction issue related to CTP modality.
- To open a bKash account, it is mandatory to have national identity card (NID), which have great advantage in terms of transparency and at the same time, it is a limitation for mobile money transfer as some beneficiaries do not have NID. However the limitation was overcome by nominating one of the family members who have NID.
- For mobile money transfer, two additional important documents, apart from CGID and master roll; are needed to open bKash account and for mobile sim registration separately. These long documentation process and activation of both mobile sim and bKash account took longer time than expected.
- Mobile network was down during one of the cash distributions through bKash wallet in Cox’s Bazar, as a result cash withdrawal was delayed and beneficiaries had to wait longer time than expected.

Shelter and settlements		
Outcome 1: Immediate shelter needs of the affected population are addressed		
Output	Activities planned	Progress (%)
Output 1.1: Provision of emergency shelter	Identification of families to receive shelter assistance	100%
	Transportation of tarpaulins from Chittagong warehouse to	100%

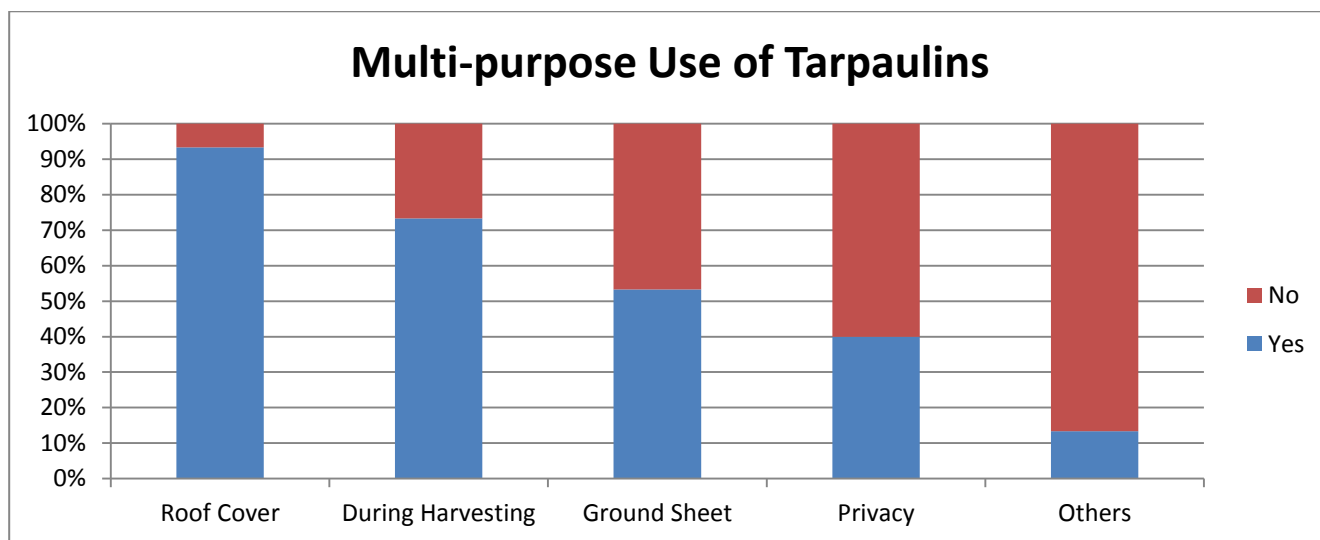
assistance to 3,000 HHs affected by cyclone Komen and flash floods in 5 districts (Target revised from 4,000 to 3,000 HHs)	distribution points	
	Volunteer mobilization for distribution	100%
	Distribution of tarpaulins (1 per family)	100%
	Onsite monitoring during the distribution	100%
	Post distribution monitoring and reporting	100%
	Replenishment of tarpaulins through RLU following standard procurement procedures and standards	Removed

Progress:

The revised target of 3,000 families (instead of the original target of 4,000 families) have been assisted with emergency shelter support, including tarpaulins, during the last reporting period.

An assessment was conducted during this reporting period to understand the usefulness and effectiveness of tarpaulins. More than 90 per cent of beneficiaries were found to use tarpaulins as roof cover during rainy days and more than 70 per cent of beneficiaries used the same tarpaulin to dry their crops and to store them during the harvesting time.

The majority of beneficiaries believe this tarpaulin will survive approximately six to 12 months if exposed continuously to the outdoors and sun. However, they are using it very efficiently, i.e., only when there is a need and depending on weather and season. The rest of time, they keep the tarpaulin safely inside to protect it and ensure it can be used for a long time.



The affected communities were displaced for a period of eight to 15 days immediately after Cyclone Komen and the subsequent flooding. They took shelter in either a cyclone shelter, road or embankment. After that, they returned back to their homes. The families, who had lost their house completely or partially, built temporary shelters using tarpaulins and other salvaged materials. These rapid emergency shelters allowed communities to be protected from the rain, sun and cold throughout the last five months. There is a significant percentage of beneficiaries who also have utilized unconditional cash grants to rebuild their damaged houses.

The replenishment of tarpaulins will not take place due to non-availability of funding.

Challenges:

- As the cyclone season has set in, the tarpaulins distributed need to be re-stocked immediately to be prepared for any potential disaster in the coming months. The current stock level for tarpaulins is 7,074, which is lower than the recommended preparedness level of 10,000.

Disaster preparedness and risk reduction		
Outcome 1: Disaster preparedness measures are taken at the community level in 5 affected districts		
Output	Activities planned	Progress (%)
Output 1.1: Training provided to family members of 3,000 families on DRR issues (Target revised from 4,500 to 3,000 HHs)	Beneficiary selection	100%
	Conducting training-of-trainers on awareness raising and sensitization	100%
	Awareness raising activities for 3,000 families	0%
	Distribution of Information, education and communication (IEC) materials (including basic safe shelter awareness and safe siting of shelter) and cash (BDT 500) ⁴ to each family	Removed

Progress:

These activities are planned for the early recovery phase but are contingent upon funding. The current financial status will not enable BDRCS to provide cash grants to each family during the disaster preparedness training sessions. However, the 3,000 families who have been supported for food security and emergency shelter, will be covered through DRR related awareness raising activities. Thus the target is now 3,000 instead of initially planned 4,500. BDRCS and IFRC will utilize the available manuals to conduct the awareness raising sessions for the affected communities. About thirty volunteers will be trained on the content of the awareness raising issues. These volunteers will then be mobilized to the communities to conduct the sessions with selected families.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Bangladesh Red Crescent Society:

- ✓ Md. Belal Hossain, Director, Disaster Response; phone: +88 017 1190 8467; email: belal.hossain@bdracs.org

In IFRC Bangladesh:

- ✓ Azmat Ullaha, , Head of Country Office; phone: +88 01711 521 615 email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org
- ✓ Md. Adith Shah Durjoy, Acting Disaster Operations Coordinator, phone: +8801818257651; email: adithshah.durjoy@ifrc.org

In IFRC country cluster support team in New Delhi (CCST):

- ✓ Leon Prop, Head of CCST; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org
- ✓ Daniel Bolanos, Regional Programmes Coordinator; mobile: +91 88 2668 8542; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org

In IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, Kuala Lumpur:

- ✓ Martin Faller, Head of Operations; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- ✓ Alice Ho, Operations Coordinator; mobile: +60 13 360 0366; email: alice.ho@ifrc.org

For resource mobilization and pledges:

- ✓ Rachna Narang, Senior Relationship Officer; email: rachna.narang@ifrc.org
Please send all pledges for funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

For in-kind donations:

- ✓ Riku Assamaki, Regional Logistics Coordinator, email: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org

⁴ BDT 500 (CHF 6.5) per household as cash for training.

For planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) enquiries

✓ Peter Ophoff, Head of PMER, email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva:

✓ Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer;
email: christine.south@ifrc.org



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How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBD015 - Bangladesh - Cyclone Komen

Timeframe: 11 Aug 15 to 31 Mar 16

Appeal Launch Date: 24 Aug 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/8-2016/1	Programme	MDRBD015
Budget Timeframe	2015/8-2016/3	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		856,924				856,924	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
<i>American Red Cross</i>		97,816				97,816	
<i>British Red Cross</i>		95,916				95,916	
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government*)</i>		25,337				25,337	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		28,300				28,300	
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>		5,397				5,397	
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		120,515				120,515	
C1. Cash contributions		373,281				373,281	
Other Income							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		156,661				156,661	
C4. Other Income		156,661				156,661	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		529,942				529,942	
D. Total Funding = B + C		529,942				529,942	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		529,942				529,942	
E. Expenditure		-494,466				-494,466	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		35,476				35,476	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBD015 - Bangladesh - Cyclone Komen

Timeframe: 11 Aug 15 to 31 Mar 16

Appeal Launch Date: 24 Aug 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/8-2016/1	Programme	MDRBD015
Budget Timeframe	2015/8-2016/3	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
A						B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			856,924			856,924		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	52,000						52,000	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	48,085						48,085	
Cash Disbursement	534,810		332,194			332,194	202,616	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	634,895		332,194			332,194	302,701	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	8,032		20,439			20,439	-12,407	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7,000		5,510			5,510	1,490	
Logistics Services	3,620						3,620	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	18,652		25,949			25,949	-7,298	
Personnel								
International Staff			1,970			1,970	-1,970	
National Staff	27,000		39,444			39,444	-12,444	
National Society Staff	27,000		11,377			11,377	15,623	
Volunteers	4,022						4,022	
Total Personnel	58,022		52,791			52,791	5,231	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	16,000						16,000	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	16,000						16,000	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	9,424		10,218			10,218	-794	
Total Workshops & Training	9,424		10,218			10,218	-794	
General Expenditure								
Travel	37,506		1,517			1,517	35,989	
Information & Public Relations	8,519		1,015			1,015	7,504	
Office Costs	8,000		1,579			1,579	6,421	
Communications	1,000		663			663	337	
Financial Charges	1,500		-6,991			-6,991	8,491	
Other General Expenses			697			697	-697	
Shared Office and Services Costs	11,106		1,621			1,621	9,485	
Total General Expenditure	67,631		102			102	67,530	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			40,566			40,566	-40,566	
Total Operational Provisions			40,566			40,566	-40,566	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	52,301		30,018			30,018	22,282	
Total Indirect Costs	52,301		30,018			30,018	22,282	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			2,629			2,629	-2,629	
Total Pledge Specific Costs			2,629			2,629	-2,629	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	856,924		494,466			494,466	362,458	
VARIANCE (C - D)			362,458			362,458		