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DREF Operation Final Report

Bangladesh: Cold Wave

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRBD012
GLIDE n° CW-2013-000001-BGD
9 July 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 296,679 was allocated from IFRC DREF to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to provide immediate assistance of 30,000 blankets distribution to 15,000 affected families across 21 districts. The DREF also supported an additional 9,000 blankets as preparedness stock.

This operation was initially planned for three-month implementation; however BDRCS managed to carry out all planned activities much earlier.

Distribution has begun with 30,000 blankets mobilized from BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness stock and BDRCS own stock. Following a call for deployment, ten national disaster response team (NDRT) members were deployed on 5 January 2013 for a week to assist BDRCS units with beneficiary selection and distribution. The replenishment of the 30,000 blankets has completed by end of February 2013.



Blankets being dispatched from BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness stock in the national headquarters' warehouse.
Photo: BDRCS.

Of the total allocated DREF, CHF 273,814 was spent. The balance of CHF 22,865 will be returned to the DREF pot. This final report is issued with the final financial report.

IFRC, on behalf of BDRCS, would like to extend gratitude to all donors and partners for their generous contributions. Details of the contributions to this DREF can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org>.

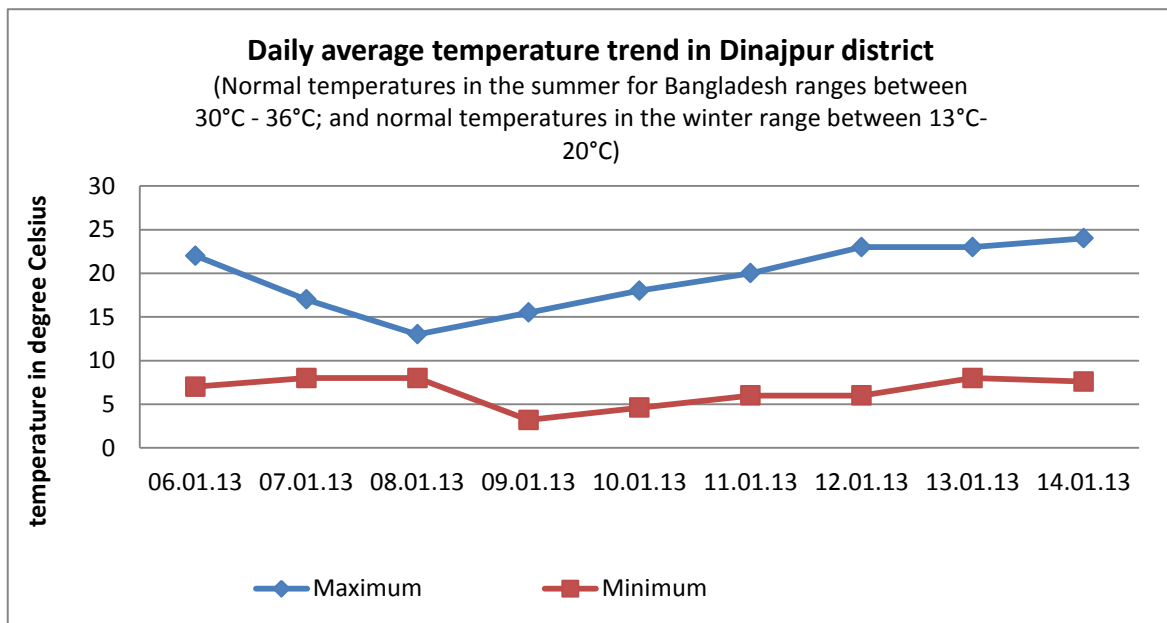
The situation

Bangladesh experienced extreme cold weather (temperatures dropped to 7°C - 9°C) since mid-December 2012, affecting low-income people, particularly in 22 districts (Panchagar, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamary, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajganj, Pabna, Mymensing in the north, Moulvibazar in the east and Kushtia, Jessore, Faridpur and Madaripur in the south). The cold wave struck the northern districts of the sub-Himalayan regions of Bangladesh, claiming more than 72 lives, mostly children due to hypothermia. Hospitals in the affected districts reported an increase in the number of admissions for cold weather-related illness, particularly children, women and the elderly. Poor and

homeless people are more susceptible to the cold wave as they do not have the means to keep themselves warm.

Furthermore, the cold wave has caused crop and other natural resource losses, which will have a longer term negative impact on Bangladesh's economy. Winter crop failures will result in greater poverty, poor dwellings, and seasonal unemployment (especially agricultural or farming sectors). According to the representative of the Dinajpur district meteorological office, the minimum temperature of Dinajpur in 2013 fell to 3.2 degree Celsius (on 9 January 2013) which is the lowest in the last four decades. The average min temperature recorded in Dinajpur district during February and March is 14°C.¹

An average temperature trend graph was produced for Dinajpur district on 15 January which showed that the minimum temperature remains far below than the normal winter temperature range.



During early January, the movement of vehicles on roads and highways remained restricted as thick layers of fogs covered the air reducing visibility. Due to this heavy fog, ferry services, port and air traffic schedules were heavily disrupted. A large number of passengers suffered extreme hardship, as trucks, buses and private cars were stranded. Approximately 400 loaded trucks and 200 passenger buses were stranded on both sides of the river.

During the reporting period, the situation improved all over the country but mild cold wind still persisting in the northern districts. Blankets and warm cloth were required to keep warm, especially during the night.

The most vulnerable people to the cold wave are the marginal poor of the rural areas. The government has no estimation or indication about the total number of affected people as the damage is not visible like floods or cyclones. There has been some consensus among district level Red Crescent representatives as well as some government officials that BDRCS can take the total number of vulnerable group feeding (VGF) card holder people as the total most vulnerable due to the cold wave as these populations are considered to be the marginal or ultra-poor of society. In terms of geographical settings, people residing near rivers or bodies of water can be considered as the most affected as cold winds and fog are concentrated more in these areas. In terms of severity of the cold wave, women, children and the elderly are the most affected. The poverty rate in the country stands highest in the northern districts of Rangpur and Rajshahi whereby more than 50 per cent of the population lives below the poverty.² These populations are the most vulnerable as their capacity to protect themselves from cold wave is inadequate. In this context, the needs are:

- Warm cloths like blankets, shawls, woollen caps.

¹ Freemeteo data – weather history for Dinajpur, Bangladesh, 2013.

² Joint data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), World Food Programme and World Bank.

- Basic medical support for the children and elderly people suffering from cold related diseases, especially in the areas lacking basic health facilities.
- Short term agricultural support to the marginal farmers to restore paddy and potato cultivation.

The government has allocated 313,608 blankets throughout the country. However, the government assistance is inadequate to cover a large number of the affected population. In addition to the government distributions, several humanitarian organizations, university students, business community and local NGOs have responded to people affected by the cold wave by providing warm clothes to the rural and urban poor.

Bangladesh is not a severely cold-prone country except during the short winter season when the average temperature remains 13°C-20°C. People of Bangladesh are used to this cold but when the mercury drops to a single figure temperature, the cold weather becomes as a disaster. This phenomenon has been happening in the last few years, but this year the duration of the single figure temperature has been long and also triggered chilly winds which have carried fog. In particular, the situation in the north and north-western areas is severe. It is necessary to consider this cold wave as a disaster and take preparedness and response action because this event will happen again in the coming years due to the climate change effect.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners was established through set meetings to explore possibilities of support to the cold wave affected population. Discussions were held between BDRCS and Partner National Societies (PNSs) to allocate necessary relief support to affected populations. These PNSs included British Red Cross, German Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. A total of 20,000 blankets from BDRCS stock and 10,000 from the IFRC/BDRCS joint stock were dispatched immediately as the impact intensified. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordinated with other humanitarian agencies such as Muslim Aid, Action Aid, UNDP and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) to keep track on the updates to support affected populations to avoid any duplication on the ground. Discussions were also held with the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management in targeting geographic locations. BDRCS units of the most affected districts in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, maintained contact with district administrations for identifying remote locations identified by government or other organizations. BDRCS national headquarters communicated with BMD (Bangladesh Meteorological Department) to monitor weather pattern changes. BDRCS is collecting situation updates from different agencies including the network for information, response and preparedness activities on disaster (NIRAPAD). Since BDRCS and IFRC are active members of the Disaster Emergency Response (DER) group, information and operation updates were shared with other humanitarian agencies and the government to avoid any distribution overlap.

Humanitarian cluster on early recovery has been updating the 3W mapping to plot the gap and facilitate a coordinated response. BDRCS/IFRC conducted an assessment in the most affected districts and the report has been shared in the HCTT meeting.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

BDRCS and IFRC have been closely monitoring the situation. The BDRCS response department conducted an assessment on the situation through its unit offices located in the northern, eastern and north-eastern parts of the country. Discussions were held between IFRC and DG ECHO on the current cold wave situation in the country as well as possible interventions. A total of 20,000 blankets from BDRCS stock and 10,000 from the BDRCS/IFRC joint disaster preparedness (DP) stock were dispatched immediately as the impact intensified. NDRT members were deployed to assist local units for the response operation. During this reporting period, BDRCS distributed 44,000 blankets throughout the country including the DREF contribution of 30,000 in 21 most affected districts.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 75,000 severely affected people/ or 15,000 families receive blankets (two blankets/family) in 21 districts.

Output: Families received blankets are better protected from the effect of cold wave.

Activities planned:

- Door to door assessments.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Dispatch and transportation of blankets by BDRCS to the distribution sites.
- Storage and distribution of blankets, especially at the unit level.
- Distribution of blankets by trained Red Crescent Youth volunteers.
- Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distribution of blankets.
- Replenishment of 39,000 blankets through IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Logistic Unit.

Impact:

A total of 30,000 blankets (20,000 from BDRCS stock and 10,000 from the IFRC/BDRCS joint stock) were dispatched immediately for distribution to 15,000 cold wave-affected families in priority districts of northern Bangladesh.

Replenishment of 39,000 blankets has been done through the Zone Logistic Unit (ZLU) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. From this replenishment, 9,000 blankets are kept for Disaster Preparedness stock for BDRCS. Distribution of 30,000 blankets in 21 districts was completed by 17 January 2013. Meanwhile these 30,000 blankets were replenished through the DREF.

In addition to the 30,000 blankets available, BDRCS launched a national-level appeal for donations either in the form of cash or in-kind from local institutions like banks, garments factories, and mobile phone companies as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) wings by which they have provisions to support vulnerable people. As of this reporting period, BDRCS has distributed an additional 33,396 blankets (apart from DREF contribution) that they received from various sources as well as from their own fund.

Distribution of blankets started on 4 January 2013 in three of the most affected districts of Panchagar, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur where blankets were dispatched by BDRCS on a priority basis. Following a call for deployment, ten NDRT members were deployed on 5 January 2013 for ten days to assist BDRCS concerned units with beneficiary selection and distribution.

Table 1: District wise allocation

S.N	Unit	Number of families	S.N	Unit	Number of families
1	Panchagar	1,000	12	Pabna	500
2	Thakurgaon	500	13	Natore	500
3	Dinajpur	1,000	14	Gopalganj	500
4	Rangpur	1,000	15	Manikganj	500
5	Lalmonirhat	500	16	Jamalpur	500
6	Kurigram	1,000	17	Sirajgonj	500
7	Nilphamari	500	18	Jessore	1,000
8	Gaibandha	1,000	19	Magura	1,000
9	Rajshahi	500	20	Jhenaidah	500
10	Rajshahi City	5,000	21	Chuadanga	1,000
11	C.Nawabganj	1,000		Total	15,000

During the distribution, BDRCS/IFRC conducted a needs assessment in the most affected districts. Report of the assessment was shared with the HCTT (Humanitarian Country Task Team, co-chaired by UNOCHA representative and Director, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief)

as a reference for humanitarian response decision by the response agencies to increase the assistance coverage.

In terms of geographical settings, those residing near water bodies were considered the most affected as cold winds and fog concentrated more in those areas. In terms of population type, women, children and the elderly were the most affected.

VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) /VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) beneficiaries of the government's social safety net programme who belong to the lowest poverty line were considered highest priority for receiving blankets. BDRCS concerned district units and Red Cross Youth were engaged in the beneficiary selection and distribution of blankets.

Table 2: PoA-distribution of blankets and replenishment (Dec-Feb 2012)

Activity	Remarks		
	Dec	Jan	Feb
Rapid assessment			
Mobilization of unit volunteers for selection of beneficiaries			
Dispatching of 30,000 blankets from BDRCS/IFRC stock			
Selection and registration of beneficiary families			
Mobilization of NDRT			
Distribution of beneficiary card			
Distribution of blankets			
Procurement of blankets for replenishment			
Reporting/updates			

Logistics

IFRC worked on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field. 39,000 blankets have been supplied by pre-positioned stock from BDRCS and have been replenished by IFRC zone logistic unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

1. **Financial report [below](#)**
2. **Click [here](#) to return to the title page**

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

MDRBD012 - Bangladesh - Cold Wave

Timeframe: 03 Jan 13 to 03 Apr 13

Appeal Launch Date: 03 Jan 13

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/1-5	Programme	MDRBD012
Budget Timeframe	2013/1-4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

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		296,679				296,679	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
Other Income							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		296,679				296,679	
C4. Other Income		296,679				296,679	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		296,679				296,679	
D. Total Funding = B + C		296,679				296,679	

* 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		0				0	
C. Income		296,679				296,679	
E. Expenditure		-273,814				-273,814	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		22,865				22,865	

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

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)			296,679			296,679		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	278,571		222,251			222,251	56,321	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	278,571		222,251			222,251	56,321	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage			8,513			8,513	-8,513	
Distribution & Monitoring			8,799			8,799	-8,799	
Logistics Services			13,480			13,480	-13,480	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage			30,791			30,791	-30,791	
General Expenditure								
Communications			31			31	-31	
Financial Charges			4,030			4,030	-4,030	
Total General Expenditure			4,061			4,061	-4,061	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recovr	18,107		16,712			16,712	1,395	
Total Indirect Costs	18,107		16,712			16,712	1,395	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	296,679		273,814			273,814	22,865	
VARIANCE (C - D)			22,865			22,865		