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Emergency appeal Bangladesh: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRBD014

Glide n° [FL-2014-000117-BGD](#)

Issued: 15 September 2014

97,350 people to be assisted

Appeal timeframe: 12 months

End date: 6 August 2015

DREF allocated: CHF 280,160

Appeal budget: CHF 2,206,628

This preliminary **Emergency Appeal** seeks **CHF 2,206,628** to enable the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** to support the **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)** to deliver assistance and support to **19,470 flood-affected families (97,350 people)**, focusing on **food and relief item distributions; health; water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion (WASH); emergency and recovery shelter assistance; National Society capacity building; and disaster preparedness and risk reduction**. The planned response reflects the information available at this point of the evolving operation, and will be adjusted in October based on further developments and more detailed assessments, particularly regarding the recovery phase of the operations.

Details are available in the [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPOA\)](#) <click [here](#)>

The disaster and the response

Mid-August: Monsoon rains intensify over India, upstream and north of Bangladesh and over the northern parts of Bangladesh resulting in an evolving flood situation.

19 August: The Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) triggers a joint-needs assessment (JNA) for nine districts in the north-west based on information of a worsening flood situation.

25 August: BDRCS initiates relief phase one with distributions of dry food in 11 districts.

27 August: [Information bulletin no. 1](#) published.

End of August: Additional areas in the central and north-eastern parts of Bangladesh are flooded.

1 September: [JNA draft report](#) published – main needs identified are food, sanitation and water.

3 September: [Information bulletin no. 2](#) published.

6 September: IFRC launches a [DREF](#) for CHF 280,160 to assist 28,800 people with immediate needs.

10 September: Source from DMIC

- 20 districts affected
- 59 people confirmed dead
- 447 people injured
- 629,243 families affected
- 68,622 families displaced
- 33,893 houses destroyed



(Above) The flood situation in the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh. (Below) BDRCS members travelling to remote areas with relief items. (Photo: BDRCS)



Coordination and partnerships

IFRC has been supporting BDRCS with the initial mobilization of funds and personnel, as well as in preparing situation reports and providing technical inputs for a coordinated relief operation. Four IFRC staff are supporting BDRCS in the field in the immediate relief phase, in four of the key districts supported by the DREF funds. The existing coordination mechanism within IFRC involves a bi-monthly coordination meeting, which covers the regular updates from the National Society's present, immediate issues and follow-up on plans of action. The latest coordination meeting was held on 27 August when the flooding was ongoing. On 4 September, a specific flood coordination meeting was held with the partners. BDRCS arranges an annual Pre-Disaster Meeting which this year was held in May. The meeting addresses the broader preparedness issues and reviews preparedness plan ahead of the season.

The humanitarian community in Bangladesh has a well-defined coordination mechanism on all levels and these have been enhanced and built upon over the past years. Key to this coordination is the sectoral Local Consultative Groups (LCG), which also includes the Disaster and Emergency Relief (DER) co-chaired by the Ministry of Disaster Management and the UN Resident Coordinator. The DER is mandated to ensure effective coordination of national and international stakeholders around all aspects of the disaster management cycle. IFRC is also participating in different coordination meetings with other humanitarian actors in the country, including HCTT and the LCG-DER, and was part of the JNA core team for the north-west assessment.

Within the LCG-DER is the HCTT working group which provides an operational-level forum for coordinated disaster preparedness, response, and recovery across sectors. The group consists of all cluster leads, two representatives from the donors, three elected representatives from the INGO Forum Emergency Sub Group, one representative of the NGO community and the IFRC. Utilizing the strength of HCTT members, tens of organizations pool resources and conduct different types of assessments. This coordinated approach gives a common understanding of the needs as well as a starting point for interventions. In phase one, JNA included rapid assessments focusing on reviews of secondary data and discussion with authorities in affected areas (nine districts in the north of Bangladesh). In phase two, JNA will include consultations with beneficiaries and household surveys, while phase three JNA will cover detailed sectoral assessments under the leadership of the clusters. BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, plays a key role in the JNA, often taking the lead in several districts and providing staff, volunteers and other support to the assessments in the field.

Furthermore, IFRC is coordinating with the Shelter Cluster co-lead UNDP and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in compiling shelter and non-food item (NFI) contingency stock data to prepare for the upcoming response. In accordance with the MOU between UNDP and IFRC, UNDP has requested IFRC to take over the coordination role during this disaster period. As such, IFRC hosted and chaired a Shelter Cluster Meeting on 4 September to discuss with the cluster members the response strategy in relation to shelter and NFIs. IFRC is sharing the 4W matrix along with providing gap analysis with the Shelter Cluster partners regularly to track and guide the flood response.

In addition, IFRC is actively involved in the WASH Cluster and Information Management Working Group. IFRC is closely monitoring the situation together with the BDRCS and actively coordinating with all in-country Partner National Societies (PNSs). An Operations Coordinator from the Asia Pacific Zone (APZ) Disaster Management Unit (DMU) in Kuala Lumpur has been deployed to support the emergency planning process and operation.

The operational strategy

BDRCS is a key humanitarian organization in Bangladesh and has been involved in the assessment, monitoring and response since the onset of the disaster. BDRCS volunteers have been acting as first responders on the district level since the flooding begun. Information about the situation and requests for assistance have been flowing from the networks of district branches and volunteers on various administrative levels to BDRCS National Headquarters (NHQ) and shared with IFRC. BDRCS has responded to the evolving situation by designing three relief phases, moving from an initial focus on food towards the provision of water and unconditional cash grants as well as providing medical services through mobile medical teams. Based on initial information in the JNA and previous experience from flood operations, BDRCS has further designed an outline for interventions in the early recovery/recovery stage, including shelter assistance and livelihoods as well as risk reduction activities. A detailed assessment is planned to inform the recovery phase and as such the Emergency Plan of Action is expected to be revised in October.

The proposed strategy outlined below includes a phased approach from relief to recovery. Additional assessments, including a Household Economic Security (HES) assessment, will be needed to make detailed plans for the recovery phase.

As BDRCS is a key humanitarian organization in Bangladesh and is expected to provide assistance in the affected areas, the focus of the relief phase will be on a total of 16 districts, up from the 12 initially targeted. Recovery interventions will focus on the four worst-affected districts, pending detailed assessments, while the provision of safe drinking water is currently planned for three districts.

In the relief phase, distribution of **food** parcels is being carried out by BDRCS to meet the immediate shortage of food in the affected districts. For the immediate term, volunteers trained on Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) will be mobilized to provide **health** message to communities and refer cases to relevant health facilities in close cooperation with the health authorities. The funding for refresher training for this intervention is secured from an existing project and therefore no provision has been made in the budget. As a longer-term intervention, BDRCS will provide health promotion in the affected areas in the recovery phase to increase resilience by improving health awareness, knowledge and behaviour. Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) volunteers will be given refresher training in order to start up promotion activities in the recovery stages. BDRCS will retain a readiness to mobilize these volunteers earlier, should the health situation on the ground require it.

In the **WASH** sector, BDRCS is planning the construction of 40 elevated platforms for tube wells and hand pumps in the four key districts, to mitigate the risk of damage to pumps and/or contamination of water sources during future flooding. Installation of 20 new tube wells in four districts is also planned, to reduce the risk of lack of access to safe water during and after flooding.

Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation process (PHAST) has been found to be a very effective tool to increase hygiene practices following disasters. BDRCS plans to implement PHAST in the key districts selected, targeting the same communities (1,000 families) that will be provided with new tube-wells and household latrines. Hygiene parcels have been planned to be distributed in connection with the PHAST sessions.

Similarly, Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) will be implemented through BDRCS trained volunteers and staff. Using PASSA will allow the community to identify the risk in terms of **shelter and settlement**, and assist them in building safer shelter. PASSA will help shelter beneficiaries to decide how best they can use the shelter cash grant to rebuild and/or upgrade their shelter and make it safer. The shelter repairs, targeting 1,000 families, will be implemented through cash grants distributed to beneficiaries through individual bank accounts. There will be strong monitoring by the community committees, and respective district BDRCS staff and volunteers.

In the early recovery phase of the operation, BDRCS plans to implement cash-based support to help re-establish/initiate livelihood activities for 1,000 families through a cash grant of BDT 6,000 (CHF 75). The above mentioned HES assessment will help identify more detailed targeting and modalities. In all likelihood, small farming farmers will be among the targeted, which will directly improve their food security. The cash support for **livelihoods** is likely to be two-fold, based on positive experiences in previous operations. The first part will be cash support for restarting/re-establishing of livelihoods and the second part cash grant of BDT 4,000 (CHF 50) will be incentive for participating in training on **DRR** issues.

As preparation for the winter season during December and January, whereby the northern parts of Bangladesh often experience cold waves, **preparedness stocks** of 5,000 blankets is planned to ensure BDRCS can respond quickly to the needs of the affected population (also affected by the floods) as needed.

Risks

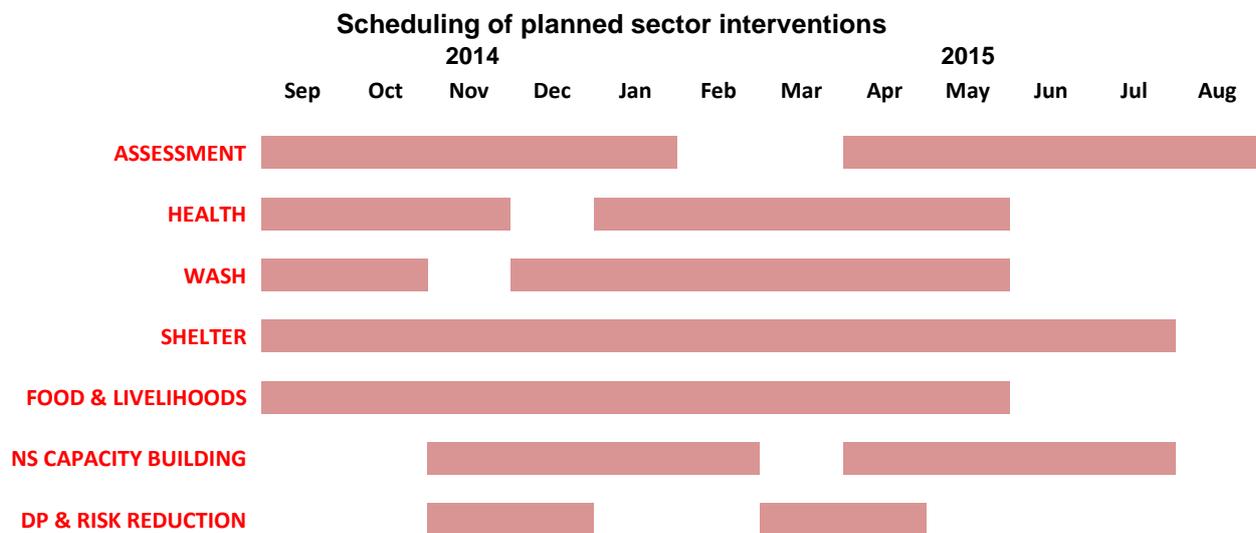
The monsoon season continues into October and while forecasts currently are good, heavy rains could still cause more flooding. Directly after the monsoon season ends, the second peak of cyclone activity begins in the Bay of Bengal, which could have some level of impact on the inland districts where BDRCS will focus its recovery programming. In December and January, temperatures can drop to 6-8 degrees centigrade on normal years and as low as 3 degrees in particularly bad seasons. As part of the Emergency Appeal, BDRCS is appealing for support with preparedness stocks of blankets, in order to be able to react swiftly should the cold wave season so require.

Meanwhile risks related to security and access that can have an impact on the operation are *hartals* (strikes and road blocks) and political demonstrations. These types of events are, to a large extent, unpredictable and can be at times disruptive to the movement of BDRCS staff and volunteers.

Selection of beneficiaries

Relief: The populations in temporary shelters or makeshift houses are being prioritized in the selection of beneficiaries in the affected locations. The vulnerability criteria will focus on the elderly, marginal income farmers, women-headed families, lactating mothers, and physically challenged people.

Recovery: In the recovery phase, the beneficiary selection process will ensure community participation by holding consultation sessions, and establishing a mechanism for suggestions, feedback and complaints. At the start of the beneficiary selection for the recovery phase, NDRT members and a Beneficiary Communications team will be deployed to the districts to support the setting up of community consultation and feedback mechanisms. District branches will maintain coordination with District Disaster Management Committees, responsible for overall coordination, to ensure appropriate area selection. The 4W mappings done by the Information Management Working Group will also be consulted. BDRCS/IFRC works in close contact with other humanitarian actors to avoid potential overlapping of geographical locations and beneficiary households.



The IFRC Country Office, supported by a deployment from the Asia Pacific (AP) Zone Disaster Management Unit, has been giving continuous support to the BDRCS in operational planning and coordination, keeping partners and the global system informed about the situation and accessing IFRC funding mechanisms on behalf of BDRCS. In addition, the AP Zone technical support team (i.e. health, shelter, logistics, PMER, etc) has also provided technical review on the operation plan.

Budget

See the attached [IFRC Secretariat budget](#) for details.

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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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

For further information: appeals@ifrc.org

Last updated: 04/06/2014

EMERGENCY APPEAL

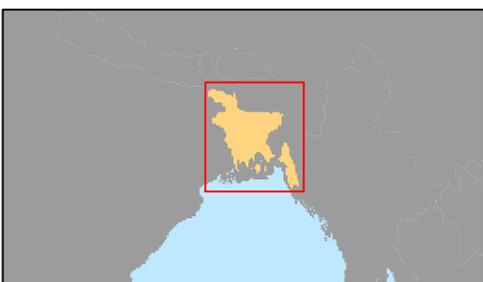
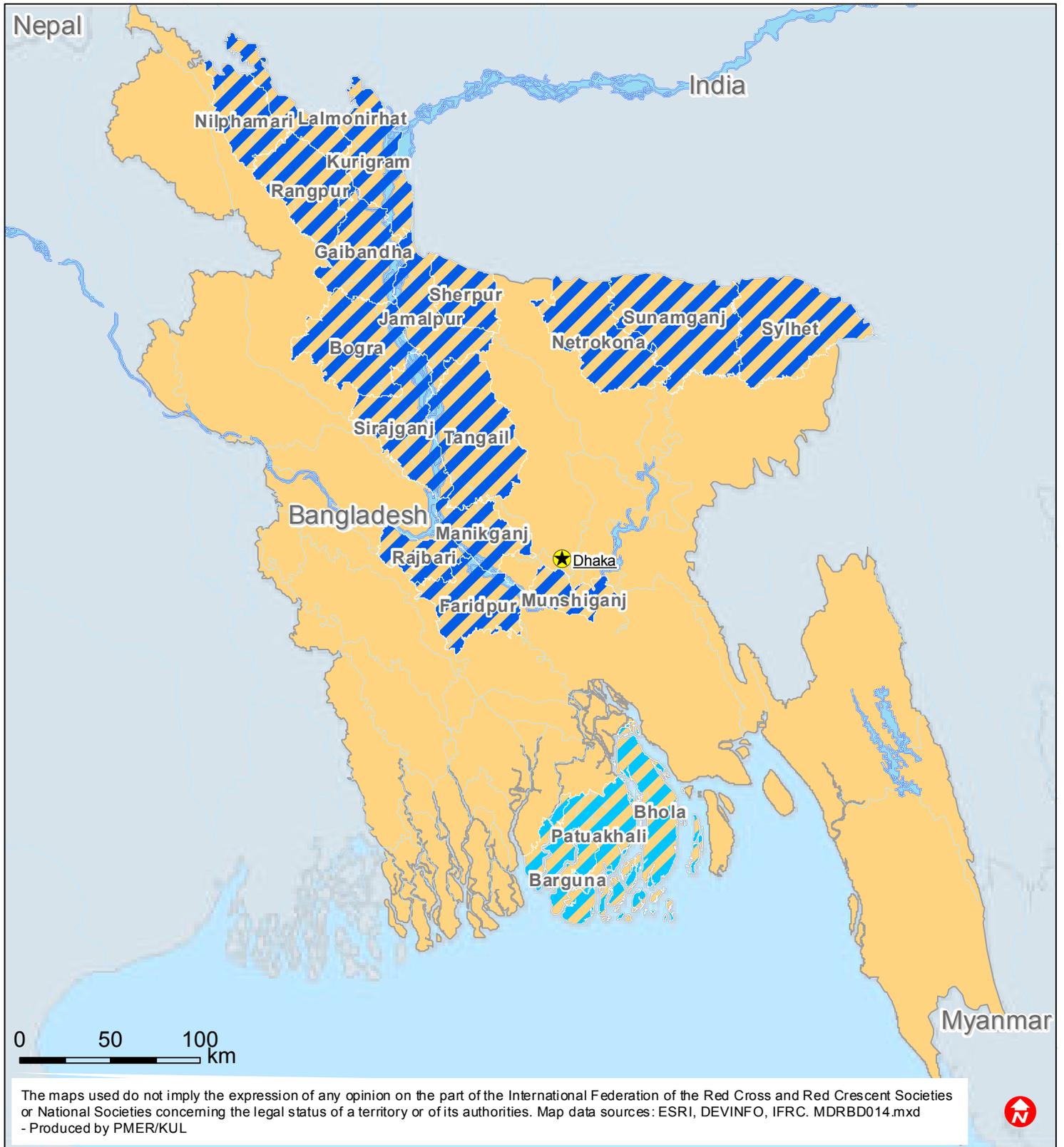
11/09/2014

MDRBD014 Bangladesh: Floods

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	113,875	-	113,875
Shelter - Transitional	468,750	-	468,750
Clothing & Textiles	35,000	-	35,000
Food	41,875	-	41,875
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	132,963	-	132,963
Medical & First Aid	11,500	-	11,500
Utensils & Tools	32,750	-	32,750
Other Supplies & Services	625	-	625
Cash Distributions to Beneficiaries	650,000	-	650,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	1,487,338	-	1,487,338
Storage, Warehousing	13,250	-	13,250
Distribution & Monitoring	7,500	-	7,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,375	-	14,375
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	35,125	-	35,125
International Staff	36,000	-	36,000
National Staff	60,200	5,775	65,975
National Society Staff	99,400	-	99,400
Volunteers	64,150	-	64,150
Total PERSONNEL	259,750	5,775	265,525
Consultants	31,250	-	31,250
Professional Fees	14,000	-	14,000
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	45,250	-	45,250
Workshops & Training	87,650	2,750	90,400
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	87,650	2,750	90,400
Travel	27,000	4,000	31,000
Information & Public Relations	40,000	1,250	41,250
Office Costs	25,250	-	25,250
Communications	8,500	-	8,500
Financial Charges	5,000	-	5,000
Other General Expenses	2,400	-	2,400
Shared Office and Services Costs	34,914	-	34,914
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	143,064	5,250	148,314
Programme and Services Support Recovery	133,781	895	134,677
Total INDIRECT COSTS	133,782	895	134,677
TOTAL BUDGET	2,191,958	14,670	2,206,628



Bangladesh: Floods



-  Affected districts
-  Districted flooded since July 2014
-  Rivers
-  Capitals