



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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# **Requirements for and use of Weather, Climate, and Water Information**

**A users perspective from  
the IFRC**



## Session Overview

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- Introduction to the IFRC
- Two examples
- Cooperation with providers to date
- Challenges & Opportunities



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## International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies

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163 National Societies supported by a Secretariat in Geneva as well as 16 regional and 60 country offices

National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field.

National Societies provide a range of services including disaster preparedness, disaster relief, health and social programmes, and assistance to people affected by war.



## Using forecast material

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### Cambodia (flood monitoring)

- Cooperation between MRC and Red Cross
- High tech system
- Down to local level through radios and flags

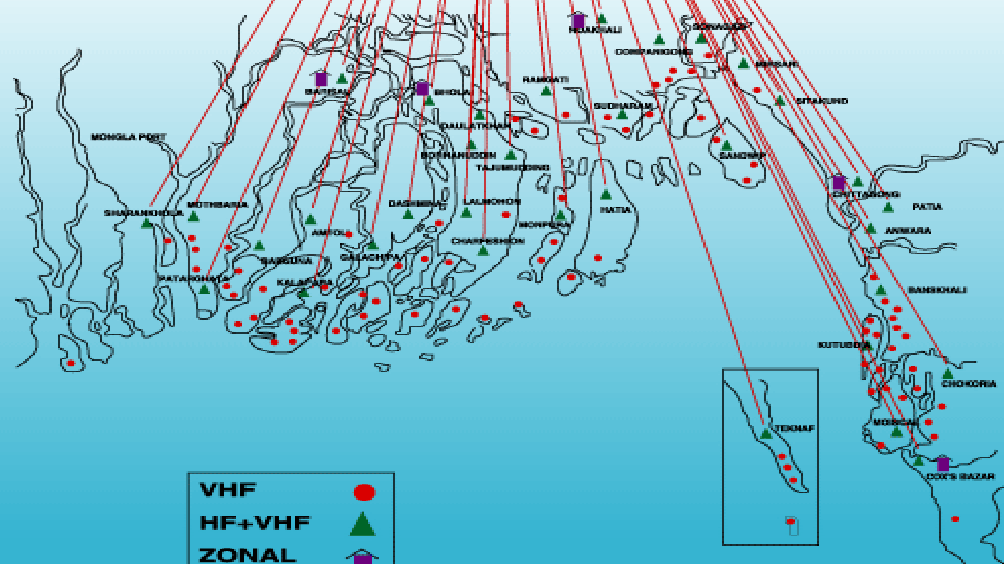
### Bangladesh (cyclone preparedness)

- Cooperation with government & met offices
- In 1970, half a million people died in one cyclone
- Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) evacuated 2.5 million people during 5 cyclones in 1990s



## TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

HQ  
DHAKA

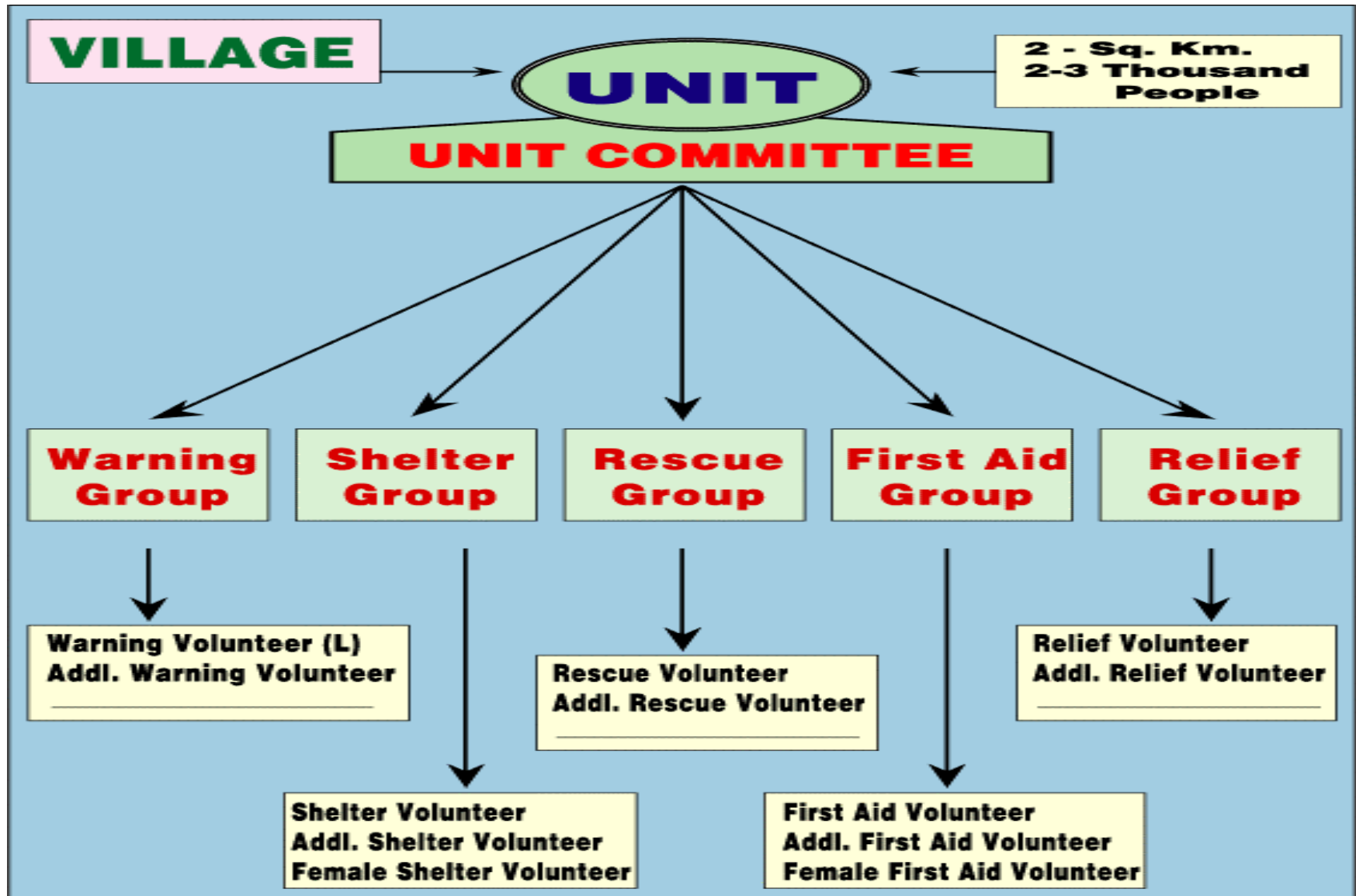


- VHF ●
- HF+VHF ▲
- ZONAL OFFICE 🏠



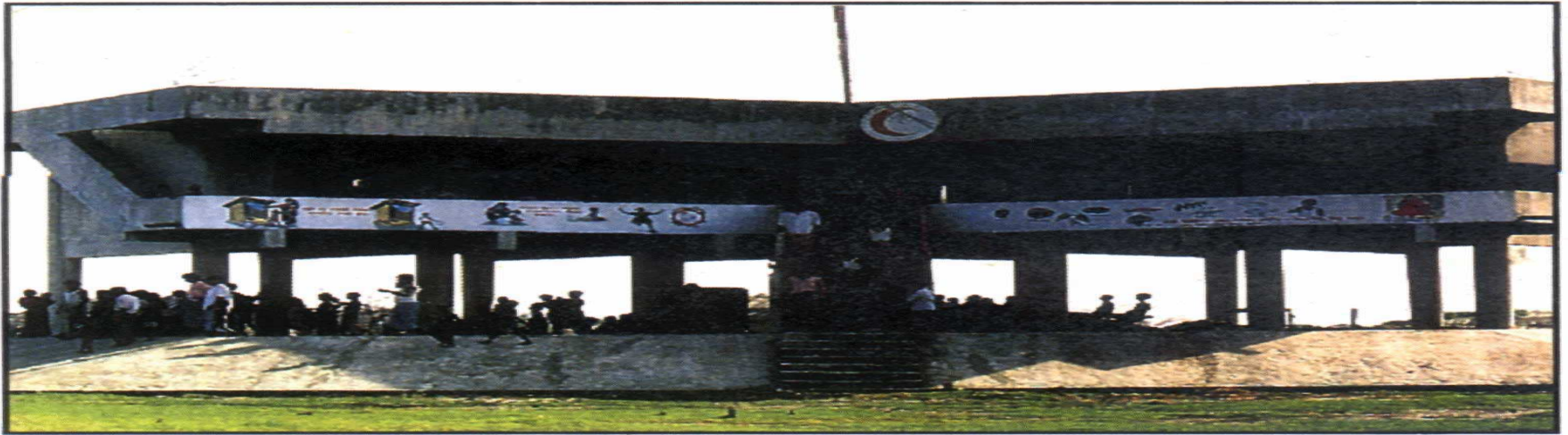
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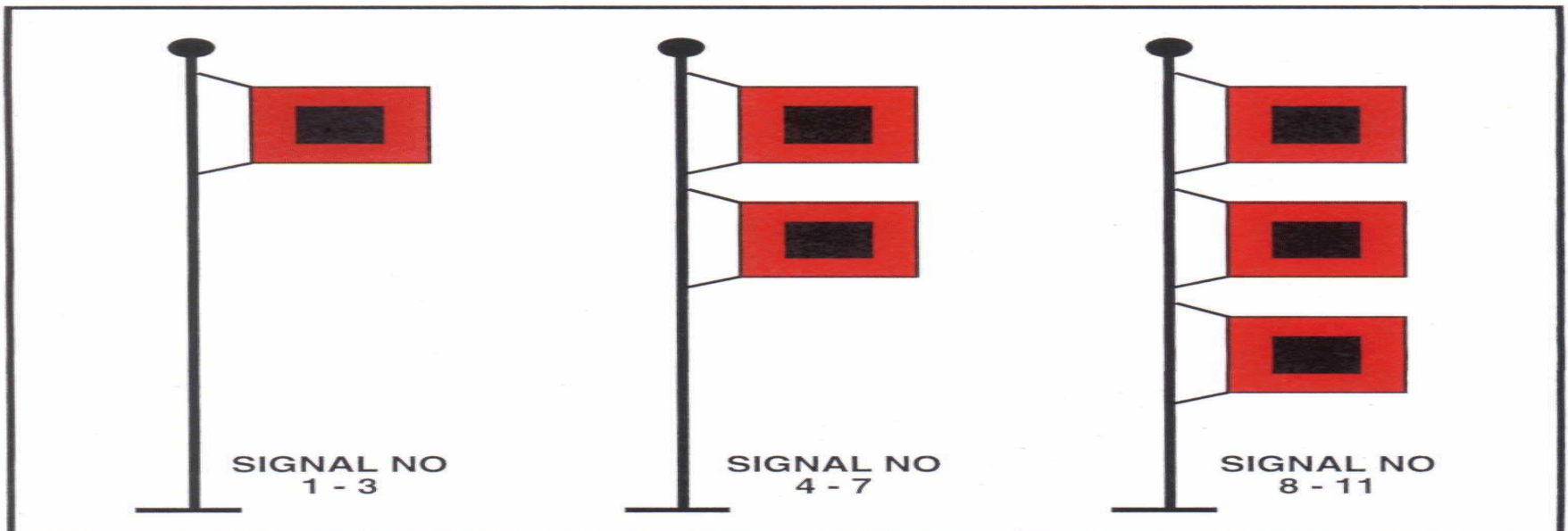




## BDRCS - Cyclone Shelter



## HOISTING OF SIGNAL FLAGS







## Cooperation to date

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Partnership with Met offices is a key element of the climate change risk reduction programs and program development

Experiences in a number of countries: Nicaragua, Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia, Netherlands

Key issues of cooperation:

1. General awareness raising and education about increased weather related risks due to climate change, in the context of other existing and emerging vulnerabilities of society
2. A common understanding about seasonal weather forecast systems and how to communicate these to society
3. Early warning for emerging extreme weather events; a common understanding of the risks and communications to (groups in) society at risk



## Some Challenges

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- Different perceptions on the right quality of information
- Different perceptions on information transfer (e.g.. early warning systems need to be embedded in the wider disaster management operations)

More generally:

- Need more user friendly information, for instance, based on local assessment of risk;
- Need better delivery systems;
- Need more open sharing of data;
- Need greater local participation (plus two way feedback);
- Need to better measure impact of early warning



## Finally:

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We have a common interest:

*A better cooperation between Red Cross/Red Crescent and Met offices is likely to improve the weather and climate change forecasts for society and thus strengthening the resilience of people*

