

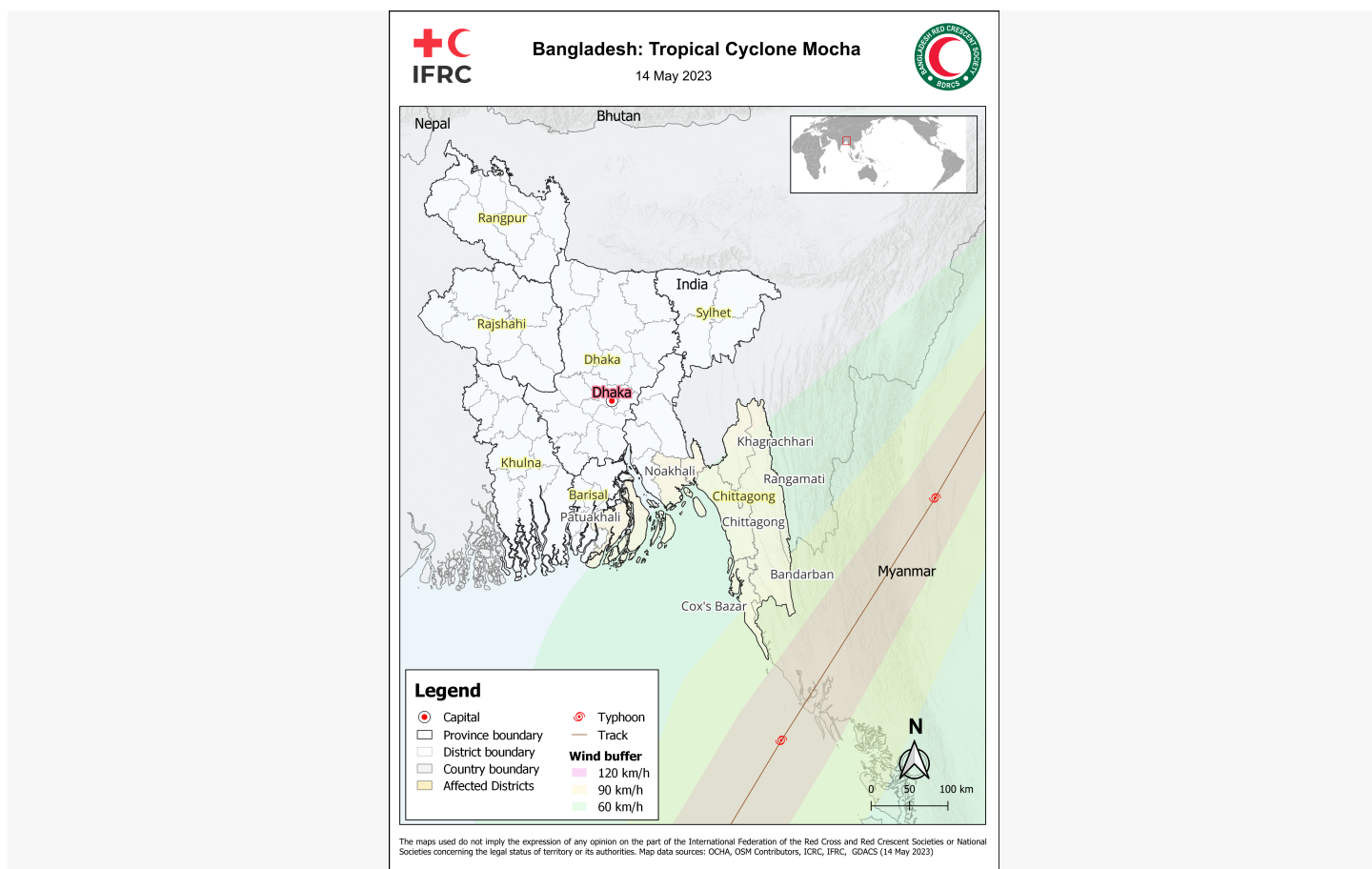


Community people participating in hygiene awareness sessions in Teknaf sub-district of Cox's Bazar.

Appeal: MDRBD030	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 499,538	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Cyclone
Glide Number: TC-2023-000071-BGD	People Affected: 750,000 people	People Targeted: 30,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 17-05-2023	Operational End Date: 30-11-2023	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Areas: Chittagong			

The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Red Cross/Crescent Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of BDRCS, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Map of Cyclone Mocha track and affected areas - Bangladesh (Source: IFRC IM)

Date of event

2023-05-14

What happened, where and when?

Cyclone 'Mocha' was first noticed as a low-pressure area in the greater North Indian Ocean on 8 May 2023 by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), which gradually intensified and transformed into a very severe cyclonic storm. According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) it turned into a deep depression and on 11 May 2023 morning intensified into a cyclonic storm "Mocha" (pronunciation: Mokha) over the same area (ref. BMD bulletin number 1).

On 13 May 2023, BMD issued 'great danger' signal number 10 (ten) for one of the coastal districts Cox's Bazar coastal district and their offshore islands and chars (char in Bangladesh refers to island in river, a piece of land surrounded by water). At the same time, BMD issued 'great danger' signal number 8 (eight) for Chattogram, Feni, Noakhali, Laksmipur, Chandpur, Barishal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Barguna districts and their offshore islands and chars (ref. BMD bulletin number 12).

According to the special weather bulletin number 17 of BMD on 14 May 2023, 2:00 am Bangladesh Standard Time (BST), the very severe cyclonic storm 'Mocha' over the east central Bay of Bengal and adjoining area moved in a North-Northeasterly direction, intensified over the same area and has centred about 490 km South-Southwest of Chattogram port, 410 km of South-west of Cox's Bazar port, 530 km South of Mongla port and 460 km south of Payra port of Bangladesh.

According to the Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), following the great danger signal and evacuation order of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), over 750,000 people were evacuated to safety in Cox's Bazar and other areas.

Cyclone Mocha made landfall in southeast Bangladesh and north Myanmar coasts around 3:00 pm BST on 14 May 2023 with a maximum sustained wind speed of 190-210 km/h gusting to 220 km/h and affected tens of thousands of families and homes and key facilities have been destroyed, especially in the camps settlement and neighboring local communities.

During the landfall of Cyclone Mocha, a strong surge with 6-7 feet tides across the coastal districts namely Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Noakhali, and Feni and with the storm and heavy rain destroyed a huge number of jhupri (shacks; made of jute sticks, tree leaves, jute sacks, etc.) and kutchra (temporary; made of mud brick, bamboo, sun-grass, wood and occasionally corrugated iron sheets as roofs) houses in Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Chattogram, Rangamati districts.

Considering the Cyclone Mocha impact and BDRCS request, the IFRC approved the DREF and allocated CHF 499,538 immediately for emergency response. This DREF support, allowed BDRCS to reach most vulnerable people with emergency humanitarian assistance.

Scope and Scale

The Department of Disaster Management (DDM), under the MoDMR collected and collated the initial damage information. A total of 429,337 individuals were reported to be affected in Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Feni, and Noakhali districts. Cox's Bazar incurred the maximum damage. Due to the cyclone, a total of 2,052 houses were completely destroyed, 10,692 houses were partially damaged, along with 11,555 latrines, 266 water points, and 703 acres of croplands.

COX'S BAZAR CAMP SETTLEMENT:

Based on the BMD-RIMES Integrated Forecast Portal for Cox's Bazar, in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas, more than 900,000 displaced people from Rakhine (DPfR) experienced 90 kph to 130 kph of wind gust and heavy rainfall due to cyclone Mocha. Considering its hilly topography, the people living in the camps, especially those considered extremely vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, among others, as well as shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and other critical infrastructures had been affected due to the cyclone.

Based on the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) report by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and Shelter and CCCM sector; 1,125 individuals were displaced, and 19 displaced people from Rakhine were also injured. Because of the cyclone, a total of 7,684 houses were damaged, and over 1,700 WASH infrastructures were affected. The cyclone caused damage to 29 Safe Spaces for Women and Girls, two Child Friendly Spaces, three multi-purpose centers, and other protection facilities, including Community Centers and Information Service Centers; as well as 220 learning facilities were damaged.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) report by Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)	https://rohingyaresponse.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Cyclone-Mocha-72-Hours-JNA-Report-17-May-2023.pdf
2. Cyclone Mocha FLASH appeal Bangladesh	https://rohingyaresponse.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Bangladesh_Cyclone-Mocha-Flash-Appeal_May-Dec-2023.pdf

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	<p>BDRCS With the support of Swedish Red Cross, reached another 700 HHs with food package and multipurpose cash grant assistance. In addition to that BDRCS supported 100 HHs with latrines.</p> <p>BDRCS also received support from USAID and reached 4,000 cyclone Mocha affected HHs in Teknaf Sub-district with multipurpose cash assistance through financial service provider.</p>



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation maintained close coordination with BDRCS, its sub-office in Cox's Bazar, in-country Movement partners, and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur during implementation. IFRC closely worked with the BDRCS and PNS's Anticipatory Action team, monitoring the situation in coastal areas and camp settlements in Cox's Bazar. The IFRC Head of Country Delegation (HoCD) joined the MoDMR's CPP Implementation Board (CPPIB) meeting on 13 May 2023 at the ministry along with the BDRCS Secretary General and colleagues from BDRCS, IFRC, and CPP. The IFRC Country Delegation engaged its staff to provide necessary technical support to BDRCS throughout the implementation of the DREF operation.</p> <p>IFRC, as the convener of the Shelter Cluster in emergencies, coordinated the response in a timely, effective, and appropriate manner in line with the needs of the affected people. Shelter Cluster Bangladesh maintained close coordination among MoDMR, its partners, ICCG, etc. Based on the situation, the Shelter Cluster produced necessary situation reports and gap analysis in coordination with NAWG</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The in-country Partner National Societies (PNS) actively monitored the situation and coordinated with BDRCS to extend necessary assistance in preparing for and responding to unexpected circumstances.</p> <p>The Movement Anticipatory Action team, comprised of BDRCS, IFRC, German Red Cross, American Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and RCRC Climate Centre, monitored the forecast and routinely shared technical weather synopses with concerned colleagues as part of the preparation efforts. To enable prompt coordination, several channels, including WhatsApp groups, were created to share forecast analyses with partners and stakeholders such as BDRCS, CPP, MoDMR, BMD, and ISCG.</p> <p>Swiss Red Cross supported BDRCS, IFRC, and other PNS in Cox's Bazar to update the status of all BDRCS health facilities in the camp, including facility preparedness measures.</p> <p>In-country PNS coordinated with their field teams and headquarters. The Bilateral Swedish Red Cross supported BDRCS in reaching 700 households with food and multipurpose cash assistance. Additionally, BDRCS reached 100 households with latrine support with the assistance of the Swedish Red Cross.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC coordinated with BDRCS and closely monitored the situation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The MoDMR closely monitored the situation, and all its relevant departments were put on high alert. CPP updated the Early Warning protocol and arranged orientation for staff and volunteers. CPP maintained close coordination with BMD for updated information. Under the direction of officials, all CPP volunteers worked on the ground to broadcast early warning messages, help evacuate the vulnerable, prepare shelters, etc. MoDMR provided directives for the concerned ministries and departments.</p> <p>A total of 1,006 Cyclone shelters (530 in Cox's Bazar and 576 in Chattogram) were kept ready, where 1,080,850 at-risk populations can take shelter in need. Besides that, an additional 500 cyclone shelters were also prepared in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. The</p>



MoDMR allocated BDT 2 million for the management of cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram districts.

About 14 tons of dry cake and toast, and 200 tons of rice, along with 60,000 pcs Water Purification Tablets (WPT), were allocated for the shelters. Additionally, 1,179 metric tons (MT) of rice and approximately BDT 2 million were kept in reserve for Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. The government advised farmers in the coastal region to harvest ripe paddy, mango, and other products to avoid damage by the cyclone. The government also canceled leaves and holidays of civil servants in those areas until further notice. Early warning/life-saving messages were disseminated through radio, television, and volunteers' network.

UN or other actors

Considering the forecast, different clusters and working groups under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) organized virtual meetings to prepare for and respond to the adverse situation. IFRC took part in all cluster meetings.

From the UN Resident Coordinator office and ISCG, two situation reports were shared on Cyclone Mocha response, and in May 2023, a Flash appeal was launched for Cyclone Mocha Bangladesh. This Flash appeal seeks a total of USD 42.16 million to support displaced people from Rakhine and Bangladeshi communities affected by Cyclone Mocha. It covers the period from May to December 2023. The humanitarian response is led and coordinated by the Government of Bangladesh. The Strategic Executive Group (SEG) provides overall guidance for the response related to displaced people from Rakhine. The UN Resident Coordinator, UNHCR Representative, and IOM Chief of Mission serve as the SEG Co-Chairs. At the field level in Cox's Bazar, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) ensures the overall coordination of the response, together with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) of the Government of Bangladesh.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

BDRCS and the IFRC are key members of all active clusters and working groups in Bangladesh. National NAWG played an important role in generating need assessment findings for the members of HCTT, different clusters (Shelter, WASH, Food Security, Logistics, Displacement, Education), working groups (Cash, NAWG, Forecast based Financing - FbF, Gender in Humanitarian Actions-GiHA), donors, etc. All clusters and working groups closely monitored the situation and shared periodical updates with the relevant stakeholders.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Due to the cyclone, a total of 2,052 houses were completely destroyed, and 10,692 houses were partially damaged in Bangladeshi host communities. Most of the damaged houses are jhupri (shacks made of jute sticks, tree leaves, jute sacks, etc.) and kutcha (temporary structures made of mud bricks, bamboo, sun-grass, wood, and occasionally corrugated iron sheets as roofs). According to the shelter cluster, the priority shelter needs were construction materials, tools, and cash for the reconstruction of the damaged houses. However, many affected households still face challenges in reconstructing their damaged houses.

In the camp settlements, shelters were generally made of temporary materials such as bamboo and tarpaulins, considered to have limited capacity to withstand winds. Consequently, many shelters, especially those exposed in hilly areas, suffered significant damage. Due to the cyclone, 7,684 houses were damaged in the camp. The affected population in the camp was fully dependent on humanitarian assistance, and for repairing their damaged houses, they were in need of bamboo, tarpaulin, rope, etc.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Most of the affected people's income depends on a daily wage basis, such as fishermen, agricultural laborers, and day laborers. Due to the cyclone, there was significant damage, primarily in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, resulting in a substantial loss of income opportunities for the affected population. This, in turn, affected their ability to access essential items like food. One of the key priorities



for the affected population was to secure employment opportunities to meet the basic needs of their families. However, the affected population is still struggling to recover their livelihoods.



Multi purpose cash grants

To address immediate basic needs across various areas such as food, shelter repair, hygiene, health, education, livelihood inputs, transportation, and other household items, multi-purpose cash assistance was identified as a top priority for the affected population. Since there were no significant impacts reported in the local markets, the affected population preferred cash assistance to fulfill their emergency needs.



Health

Several local health centers suffered damage from the cyclone, impacting their services. Additionally, several individuals were injured due to the cyclone's impact and require medical assistance. A proportion of the affected people were living in makeshift or damaged houses, increasing the risk of outbreaks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases.

In Cox's Bazar camp and several upazilas in Chattogram, there was already an ongoing acute watery diarrhea outbreak, which might escalate. In the month of May 2023 alone, more than 400 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea were reported from Chattogram. A team from the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research (IEDCR) visited different parts of Chattogram to investigate the cause of the diarrhea outbreak. There was also an increased need for psychosocial support in the affected areas.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The drinking water sources, and sanitation facilities were damaged, affecting vulnerable communities in Cox's Bazar. These communities faced a lack of access to safe drinking and WASH services. The priority WASH needs included the immediate distribution of safe drinking water, installation and rehabilitation of emergency latrines, and distribution of hygiene promotion items for handwashing and personal hygiene. Vulnerable people were at risk of being affected by diarrheal diseases, which could further increase the mortality and morbidity of WASH-related diseases. Creating awareness about drinking safe water, practicing good hygiene behaviors, and adopting proper sanitation practices were crucial to reducing further health and environmental risks. By the end of the operation, there was still a gap in reaching the affected population with WASH assistance, particularly in repairing their damaged latrines and tubewells.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The cyclone had comparatively higher and differential impact on the socially vulnerable and marginalized population groups, especially women, adolescent girls, children, lactating mothers, pregnant women, and people with disabilities. Currently, damaged houses for many families without access to basic needs exposed higher sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) risk to women, adolescent girls, children, and people with disabilities.



Migration And Displacement

More than 750,000 people were temporarily evacuated before the cyclone's landfall, and they returned to their homes after the cyclone passed. Due to the damage to houses, affected households were in need of shelter and other essential humanitarian assistance.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Understanding the unique needs of each community and reaching out to the most vulnerable individuals are paramount during disaster events. To ensure local ownership and community empowerment, the integration of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) was deemed essential for the IFRC-DREF operation. Ensuring CEA integration allows targeted communities to provide inputs and steer the operation.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aimed to assist 30,000 people affected by Cyclone Mocha in Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Bandarban, and Noakhali districts through activities under livelihoods and basic needs, shelter, health, WASH, and MPCG, along with cross cutting activities under CEA and PGI. With the IFRC-DREF support, BDRCS reached total 31,077 people with emergency assistance through sectoral interventions.

Operation strategy rationale

Livelihoods and Basic Needs

To address immediate emergency food needs, BDRCS provided food packages to people sheltering in collective centers and makeshift shelters. Through the Cash for Work (CFW) initiative, BDRCS created work opportunities for affected individuals, assisting in repairing connecting roads to shelter centers and access roads based on community consultation. To support the affected community, BDRCS provided vegetable seeds along with other humanitarian assistance for homestead gardening to meet family nutritional needs and promote household self-sufficiency. Through this DREF support, BDRCS reached a total of 21,248 people under livelihood and basic needs.

Shelter

BDRCS promptly mobilized tarpaulins, shelter toolkits, bamboo, etc., from contingency stock and distributed them to meet the emergency shelter needs of displaced people and those whose houses were damaged due to the cyclone. Later, through the IFRC-DREF, shelter relief items mobilized from contingency stock were replenished and stored in BDRCS warehouses for future operations. BDRCS reached a total of 14,786 people with emergency shelter assistance.

Health

In coordination with local authorities, BDRCS mobilized trained volunteers and a mobile medical team to cater to the health needs of affected people, particularly in remote locations, by providing first aid, psychological first aid, and medical assistance. The medical team comprises doctors, nurses, health assistants, and volunteers—a self-sufficient team with basic equipment and medicine to provide basic health care services to affected communities. BDRCS reached a total of 16,804 people with emergency health assistance through the IFRC-DREF.

WASH

To address the drinking water need, BDRCS provided drinking water along with water containers immediately. To ensure access to drinking water, BDRCS repaired damaged tubewells in targeted communities. For access to hygiene sanitation, BDRCS assisted targeted households by constructing latrines. Alongside this assistance, to enhance hygiene practices, BDRCS conducted hygiene awareness sessions and provided hygiene parcels to targeted households.

Multipurpose Cash

To address the emergency basic needs of affected households, BDRCS provided multipurpose cash assistance through a financial service provider. The cash assistance value was set based on the recommended package of the National Cash Working Group in Bangladesh to meet immediate basic needs for one month. With this DREF support, BDRCS provided multipurpose cash assistance to 3,375 cyclone-affected households.

Migration

Local authorities reallocated around 750,000 people to cyclone-safe shelters from different districts in Cox's Bazar and islands that were mostly affected. Additionally, refugees from host communities/camps were also reallocated to cyclone-safe shelters in fewer numbers. After the cyclone made landfall, people returned to their homes.

PGI

To reduce SGBV, trafficking, child abuse, and other risks and vulnerabilities, lifesaving and protection-based awareness messages were prioritized for dissemination among the affected community.

CEA



BDRCS carried out CEA activities, providing suitable information in relevant formats as aid. BDRCS ensured community participation throughout the process of needs assessment, planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Feedback mechanisms were in place and widely publicized, enabling communities to provide input and steer the operation.

RCY, NDRT/NDWRT members, and staff working on this operation were equipped with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to respond to queries from communities and stakeholders. Orientation on CEA, integrated with PGI, was provided to volunteers and staff engaged in the operation. Sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) were collected and analyzed for implementing the operation.

Continuous Assessment and Coordination

BDRCS conducted rapid assessments and household assessments to gather more information about the damage and needs of targeted communities. Based on assessment findings, BDRCS prioritized sectoral interventions and provided humanitarian assistance accordingly. BDRCS maintained close coordination with government departments, elected local representatives, humanitarian agencies, ICCG, etc., to ensure a coordinated response.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

BDRCS targeted those people who were taking shelter in the cyclone shelters during the cyclone landfall and prioritize affected households whose house, WASH facilities, livelihood etc. were severely impacted.

In addition to that, BDRCS also targeted households who living in temporary shelters or makeshift houses in Cox’s Bazar camp areas who are forcefully displaced from Rakhine. BDRCS is also in consultation with concerned stakeholders, targeted the most affected most affected communities and people based on the assessment.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

BDRCS prioritized and ensured the dignity, access, participation, and safety of the most at-risk population considering following selection criteria:

- Affected by the Cyclone Mocha
- Houses and/or Latrines were damaged.
- Displaced people living in the temporary or makeshift shelters.
- Marginalized families unable to meet basic essential needs

BDRCS prioritized the targeted families considering the vulnerability of affected families e.g. elderly, sick persons, children including adolescents, female-headed households, lactating mothers, and people with disabilities etc.

Total Targeted Population

Women	9,453	Rural	68.5%
Girls (under 18)	5,697	Urban	31.5%
Men	8,955	People with disabilities (estimated)	1.9%
Boys (under 18)	5,895		
Total targeted population	30,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
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Landslides and/ or flash floods in locations where teams have gone for response.	Advisory & briefing to teams to avoid such places. Monitoring & issuing timely advisory to teams about locations affected by/ have potential to be affected by landslide/ flash flood.
Health Risks (vector borne diseases in particular).	Adequate health safety measures to be taken. Staff health to issue health advisory for personnel working in response. Use of Mosquito repellent & mosquito nets. Keeping personal medication & First aid kits with response team.
Facilities and RCRC infrastructure in the camps or communities damaged including loss of life that prevents or delays response.	Issuing timely advisory to stay inside safe shelters. Preventive measures to minimize loss of assets in warehouses. Alternative means of sourcing emergency response items.
Communication means or network may be disrupted/ cut off	Alternative means of communication. Close link with NS local unit. Support from UN entity can be taken if needed/ wherever available.
Transportation and vehicle movement may be restricted due to extreme weather conditions or disruption of road networks	Alternative routes. Alternative means of transport. Monitoring of road network system & issuing timely advisories.
MEDVAC and emergency evacuation will be difficult	Alternative transport options for evacuation. Air transports can be explored for difficult to reach areas.
Disruption in supply of daily necessities.	Keep emergency stock & equipment for 7 days at least.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The National Society's security framework is applicable for the duration of the operation to its staff and volunteers. The existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation, and critical incident management, was in place. This includes, but is not limited to, situation monitoring, regular or ad-hoc security/safety updates and alerts/advice, staff and movement tracking (e.g., via phone or SMS), security assessment in operational areas, and pre-deployment security briefs. The IFRC CD security team keeps close coordination with BDRCS, local administrations in the operational areas, and external humanitarian actors in the country on the situation, particularly in the cyclone-affected areas. To ensure the safety and security of volunteers, BDRCS mobilized a large number of local volunteers in groups to conduct assessments, monitoring, and distribution in some of the remote and security-concern areas. At the same time, BDRCS avoids working after dark and encourages volunteers and staff to return to their base before sunset.

As both BDRCS and IFRC have a 'Zero Tolerance' policy against corruption, discrimination based on gender or race, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and bullying, staff and volunteers were oriented during the implementation of this operation as a mitigating measure for the above risks.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 134,640

Targeted Persons: 15,000

Assisted Persons: 14,786



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of household assisted with tarpaulins	3,000	2,888
# of people receive orientation on proper fixing of tarpaulins and on safe local building techniques	15,000	14,786
# of household assisted with emergency shelter materials in the camps	800	1,444
# of household assisted with shelter toolkits	1,000	1,444

Narrative description of achievements

The cyclone caused 12,744 houses to be fully or partially damaged, plunging them into a dire situation immediately after the cyclone and triggering a humanitarian crisis. Many households were unable to repair their houses through their own efforts and required external support. Immediately after the cyclone, a significant number of households found themselves living in open spaces without essentials. Based on the priority needs of the affected population, BDRCS reached 14,786 affected people (2,888 households) with emergency shelter assistance, among which 1,444 households reached in camps and another 1,444 households reached in Bangladeshi communities in Teknaf.

BDRCS reached 1,444 households in Teknaf host communities with tarpaulin and shelter toolkits. Each household received two pieces of tarpaulins and one set of shelter toolkits. Along with the essential emergency shelter items, BDRCS provided orientation to targeted households on the proper fixing of tarpaulins and safe local building techniques. Prior to the distribution of tarpaulin and shelter toolkit, BDRCS conducted a detailed assessment to select the target people. BDRCS carried out a detailed household assessment, leveraging the expertise of NDRT members, volunteers, and staff to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable households. Based on the extent of damage, priority needs, and vulnerability of the targeted households, BDRCS provided emergency shelter assistance in Teknaf host communities of Cox's Bazar.

The population movement crisis has impacted 971,904 displaced people from Myanmar, mainly living in 33 camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya subdistricts of Cox's Bazar. During Cyclone Mocha, these camps experienced significant damage, particularly in terms of shelter. Two Rapid Damage Verifications (RDVs) were conducted by a joint team of BDRCS and IFRC in camps. Based on the first RDV, BDRCS initiated the distribution of shelter repair kits within 72 hours, reaching a total of 1,320 households (HH). Following the second RDV, a distribution was conducted after 72 hours, reaching 124 households. Based on more detailed need assessment, BDRCS reached more affected households than the initial target (800 households). In total, BDRCS assisted a total of 1,444 households in camps with emergency shelter assistance based on the level of shelter damage incurred and following the ISCG Shelter Sector Guideline. For major damage houses, targeted families received 2 pieces of tarpaulins, 60 pieces of small bamboo, 2 pieces of big bamboo, 2 kg of 6 mm diameter rope, and 2 kg of 3 mm diameter rope. For partially damaged houses, BDRCS provided 1 piece of tarpaulin, 20 to 40 pieces of small bamboo, 1 kg of 6 mm diameter rope, and 1 kg of 3 mm diameter rope. In camps, BDRCS distributed a total of 44,540 pieces of small bamboo, 782 pieces of big bamboo, 1,560 kg of 6 mm diameter rope, 1,560 kg of 3 mm diameter rope, and 1,560 pieces of IFRC standard tarpaulins among 1,444 households.

To monitor the overall operation, BDRCS along with IFRC developed a monitoring and evaluation plan for the implementation of planned activities. Accordingly, BDRCS deployed NDRT members, PMER, and operation team members to monitor the planned shelter activities and provide technical guidance. BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, also conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) at the household level and satisfaction survey. The PDM results reveal that among the beneficiaries who received the shelter toolkit, a substantial 96% have actively utilized it to repair their houses, reflecting the practical impact of the assistance. Around 98 per cent of responders affirm that the toolkit remains in usable condition, emphasizing its durability and sustained functionality. Similarly, 96 per cent of responders have utilized tarpaulins as temporary roofing or walling solutions. Additionally, a high satisfaction rate is evident, with 98 per cent of tarpaulin recipients expressing that the distributed tarpaulins are still in a usable state.

Lessons Learnt

- Regular meetings and communication channels for inter-sector collaboration were established, with increased collaboration with PMO, MRRO, and other projects, keeping the branch offices at the center.
- Strengthened collaboration and networking with local administration helped BDRCS implement a coordinated response. In addition, the engagement of Teknaf sub-district level community volunteers assisted BDRCS in reaching affected people with humanitarian assistance on time.



- Emergency Plan Development: Developed an emergency plan for PMO aligned with ISCG and SOP to enhance preparedness and response effectiveness.
- Considering security concerns, BDRCS engaged its volunteers, NDRT, and staff in large groups and avoided working in remote locations after sunset. Incorporating security assessments into response operations.

Challenges

- Considering limited resource to meet the huge needs of affected communities, BDRCS faced difficulties to identify the targeted households. To overcome this challenge, BDRCS conducted detail household assessment to prioritize the most vulnerable households.
- Emergency response was hindered due to the absence of a formal committee in the local unit.
- During cyclone Mocha response particularly in camp settlement BDRCS coordinated with PMO, MRRO and other key stakeholders working in Cox's Bazar, however it was identified that more operational level coordination was required.
- Security concerns impeding timely implementation of planned activities. Considering the security concern BDRCS ensured its volunteers, NDRT members and staff return to its base office before the sunset.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 33,577

Targeted Persons: 15,000

Assisted Persons: 21,248

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of household reached with seven days food assistance	3,000	4,100
# of household assisted with vegetable seeds	2,250	2,250
# of people reached with cash for work	500	50

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS conducted a detailed household needs assessment and found a higher need for food assistance than the initial target of 3,000 households. Considering food as one of the top priority needs, BDRCS immediately reached 1,800 households with dry food who took shelter in evacuation centers and provided food packages to 2,300 households in Teknaf sub-district of Cox's Bazar. In total, with the support of this DREF, BDRCS reached 4,100 households with food assistance. Additionally, bilaterally with the support of the Swedish Red Cross, BDRCS reached another 700 households with food assistance. The procurement of food items was done locally to meet emergency food needs. Each dry food package consisted of ready-to-eat items such as bread, puffed rice, molasses, biscuits, and peanuts. After the cyclone landfall, BDRCS provided a 7-day food package that included sunned rice, lentils, soybean oil, sugar, salt, and semolina.

BDRCS also provided locally appropriate vegetable seeds to 2,250 households along with multipurpose cash assistance. According to post-distribution monitoring, 76 per cent of the 225 respondents expressed high satisfaction with the quality of the seeds. Furthermore, these recipients reported successful utilization of the seeds, having already grown vegetables in their homestead gardens. The grown produce played a crucial role in addressing the nutrition gap within their families. This positive feedback underscores the effectiveness of providing seeds as a means of promoting sustainable livelihoods and enhancing food security among the affected households.

Based on the initial plan, BDRCS conducted community consultations and assessments to identify appropriate cash-for-work schemes. BDRCS identified four schemes to repair community earthen roads in Teknaf sub-district of Cox's Bazar and planned to create work opportunities for around 500 daily laborers. Unfortunately, due to prolonged monsoon and the unavailability of earthen soil (due to inundation), except for one scheme, BDRCS was not able to start the implementation of cash-for-work schemes on time as planned. During the operation timeframe, BDRCS was able to complete one cash-for-work scheme by engaging 50 daily laborers for 20 days and repaired one earthen road. This repaired road enhanced road communication in the targeted community.



Lessons Learnt

- One of the lessons learnt for BDRCS to have framework agreement to ensure timely procurement of food and other relief items.
- Based on changes in community needs and priorities, BDRCS was able to assist more people with food assistance than initial target through the IFRC-DREF. Such continuous assessment and consultation with communities by BDRCS were appreciated by the affected communities.

Challenges

- BDRCS faced challenges in meeting the huge needs with limited food assistance. To overcome this challenge, BDRCS identified the most vulnerable targeted households through community feedback and household assessments.
- Due to the absence of a formal executive committee in the local BDRCS unit, there were delays in decision-making and response. To ensure the smooth implementation of this DREF operation, BDRCS engaged its staff from the headquarters and deployed NDRT members. Additionally, BDRCS involved its staff from the Population Movement Operation in Cox's Bazar.
- Difficulties were encountered in reaching remote and hilly areas due to weather conditions and a lack of transport facilities.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 144,795

Targeted Persons: 11,250

Assisted Persons: 17,280

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of household reached with multi-purpose cash grant support	2,250	3,375

Narrative description of achievements

Based on available damage and need assessment information during the initial stage, BDRCS planned to reach 2,250 households with multipurpose cash assistance. However, later during the detailed household assessment conducted by BDRCS, it was found that a large portion of the affected population still needed cash assistance. As a result, with the support of the IFRC-DREF operation, BDRCS reached a total of 2,250 households in the first phase and another 1,125 households in the second phase. In total, 3,375 cyclone-affected households, encompassing 17,280 individuals, received multipurpose cash assistance in the Teknaf sub-district of Cox's Bazar district.

This cash assistance was tailored to address both the functionality of the market and the diverse needs of the affected people. BDRCS provided the multipurpose cash assistance through engaging financial service providers; the Bangladesh Post Office (BPO) and bKash (a mobile money transfer company). Additionally, BDRCS, with bilateral support from the Swedish Red Cross and USAID, reached an additional 4,700 cyclone-affected households with multipurpose cash assistance. Based on the recommendation of the national cash working group, each targeted household received a one-time grant of BDT 5,000 (approximately CHF 42 per household) to meet their diverse needs.

BDRCS mobilized their trained NDRT members, who had received training in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), to assist the local branch with the assessment and distribution of cash grants.

To conduct PDM, BDRCS used systematic sampling to select sample households for data collection. A sample size equivalent to 10 per cent of the total target population was determined. The PDM was carried out across the five unions of Teknaf sub-district, Cox's Bazar. According to the PDM, all respondents unanimously expressed their satisfaction with the Multipurpose Cash Grant (MPCG) support, considering its appropriateness as emergency assistance. More than 80 per cent of responders indicated that the cash assistance helped them to meet the emergency daily needs. PDM findings also indicated that responders spent this cash assistance across various sectors, including food, repairing houses, essential household items, agriculture, medical expenses, livestock, education, etc. A total of 78 per cent of responders spent the cash on repairing their damaged houses, followed by 69 per cent of responders spending on food, and 48 per cent of responders spending on education.



Lessons Learnt

• Considering factors such as recent price hikes, BDRCS and IFRC will advocate for and share lessons learned with the national cash working group to revise cash packages, ensuring they better meet the needs of the affected population.

Challenges

- BDRCS volunteers, NDRT members, and staff faced significant challenges in conducting household assessments due to factors such as remoteness, inundation, and transportation limitations. Nevertheless, with the dedicated support of local volunteers, BDRCS persevered in carrying out the assessments and finalizing the selection of targeted households for cash assistance.
- Considering the security concerns in Teknaf, BDRCS implemented the operation through careful planning and risk mitigation strategies. As a consequence, BDRCS avoided working longer hours in the affected communities and returned to the base before sunset.
- Some of the target households faced difficulties in opening bKash accounts due to a lack of understanding of technical issues. BDRCS volunteers helped and guided these targeted households to open bKash accounts.



Budget: CHF 28,747

Targeted Persons: 25,000

Assisted Persons: 16,804

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with first aid services	500	480
# of people reached with Psychological First Aid	500	424
# of persons received clinical health service through mobile medical teams and the Primary health care center in the camp	5,000	900
# of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities	25,000	15,000

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS, in consultation with the Civil Surgeon, deployed 2 mobile medical teams (MMT) in Teknaf along with medicine. Each MMT included 1 doctor, 1 midwife, 3 volunteers for health education, and 2 volunteers for mental and psychosocial support. Doctors, paramedics, and volunteers were deployed from Cox's Bazar, and medicine was allocated from BDRCS NHQ. Through these MMTs, BDRCS reached more than 900 patients with medical assistance, particularly in terms of providing treatment by doctors, offering maternal and childcare by midwives, providing health education to the people, and delivering mental and psychosocial support. In addition to that, BDRCS reached 480 people with first aid service and 424 people with psychological first aid support.

Cyclone Mocha disrupted sanitation facilities, water supply systems, and healthcare infrastructure, which could lead to the rapid spread of diseases. In the wake of Cyclone MOCHA, the risk of epidemic outbreaks was a pressing concern as the Dengue situation was already ongoing as a National threat of Public Health. A cumulative of 5,567 confirmed dengue cases, including six (6) deaths (CFR 0.1%), had been reported in Epi week 31, 2023. To address this, the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) rollout was initiated as part of the emergency response strategy in the post-cyclone response. Before the rollout, BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, conducted a 3-day long training on ECV in Cox's Bazar and trained 25 volunteers (8 females and 17 males). This training helped BDRCS to:

- Equip volunteers with knowledge of common post-disaster diseases, their causes, and symptoms.
- Train volunteers in preventive measures such as proper hygiene, sanitation, and waste management.
- Develop skills in rapid outbreak response, including identifying and reporting suspected cases.
- Promote community awareness about disease prevention and public health.
- Adequate the Teknaf BDRCS volunteers to conduct the Community Assessment tool.



With the support of these trained ECV members, BDRCS formed four teams and mobilized them in the affected communities to rollout the epidemic prevention and control activities. BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, developed and printed the required ECV flipchart and poster for health awareness sessions. BDRCS organized a total that reached more than 15,000 people through epidemic prevention and control activities. ECV trained local volunteers disseminated information on diseases such as Dengue, COVID-19, and Diarrhea to the community using the community's language, ensuring clear communication.

Under the duty of care for volunteers and staff, BDRCS ensured insurance coverage throughout the IFRC-DREF operation.

Lessons Learnt

- Acknowledging the delayed response through MMT and strategizing for earlier action to maximize impact.
- Incorporating an anticipatory action plan (along with budget allocation, HR, and logistics) for emergency health responses into the regular health program of BDRCS, particularly in disaster-prone regions.
- During FGDs, community members recommended considering audiovisuals and videos for health awareness to enhance understanding. Community members expressed a desire for more information on different diseases and credited the sessions for raising awareness about the Dengue outbreak.

Challenges

- Due to lack of proper internal coordination, BDRCS was not able to deploy the MMT on time. As a result, BDRCS reached 909 patients with health service which was less than the initial target (5,000 people).
- The number of patients suffering from skin illness exceeded the level that was expected, which led to an exhaustion of medicine supply; in all, 366 patients out of 909 were reported to have skin disorders. There was a limited medicine to choose from.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 52,122

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Assisted Persons: 10,164

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of litres of water distributed (according to WHO standards) with buckets	52,500	3,600
# of families provided with hygiene kits	2,000	1,444
# of people reached through hygiene promotion	10,000	10,164
# of people provided with excreta disposal facilities	1,000	1,152

Narrative description of achievements

To meet the drinking water need, BDRCS immediately procured water bottles and distributed 3,600 liters of drinking water among the 1,800 affected people. According to BDRCS's detailed assessment, it was found that affected people had limited access to drinking water due to the damage of tubewells, and the affected community prioritized tubewell repairing as an effective way to get access to drinking water. As a result, to ensure access to drinking water in the long run for the targeted communities, BDRCS repaired a total of 35 damaged tubewells instead of further purchasing drinking water. With this initiative, BDRCS was able to support more than 350 households to get access to drinking water regularly (approximately 4,500 liters per day). In addition to that, BDRCS distributed 1,444 jerrycans (10-liter capacity) among the affected population for storing and carrying drinking water.

Due to Cyclone Mocha, a significant number of latrines were damaged in Teknaf sub-district. Following a community-driven approach, BDRCS supported the construction of a total of 225 sanitary latrines in the targeted communities with the support of the IFRC-DREF, and



a total of 1,152 affected people gained access to safe sanitation. In addition to that, with bilateral support from the Swedish Red Cross, BDRCS supported the community to construct another 100 sanitary latrines. BDRCS provided technical assistance to design locally appropriate sanitary latrines in consultation with the Department of Public Health Engineering and communities. Based on the agreed design, BDRCS initially supported the construction of 3 model sanitary latrines in strategic locations for the communities to demonstrate how to construct sanitary latrines. BDRCS oriented the targeted households and masons on sanitary latrine construction using these model latrines. After the orientation, BDRCS provided each of the targeted households received BDT 24,000 (approximately CHF 200) from BDRCS through the financial service provider in two installments. The National Disaster Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Response Team (NDWRT) played a crucial role in monitoring the entire process, from site selection to completion.

BDRCS mobilized hygiene parcels from the contingency stock and reached a total of 1,444 affected households with it. Each hygiene parcel included essential items such as bathing soap (12), laundry soap (8), sanitary pads (1 pack), toilet paper (5 rolls), toilet brush (1), nail cutter (1), toothpaste (2), toothbrushes (5), hand washing liquid soap with a dispenser (1) and refill packages (2), hair oil (1), comb (1), and a towel (1).

To implement the hygiene promotion activities, BDRCS mobilized trained volunteers along with NDRT WASH members. These trained volunteers made the affected people aware of food hygiene, how to keep clean and safe household water, personal hygiene, and good sanitation practices, and the control of flies, mosquitoes, and other disease vectors. During the distribution of hygiene parcels, BDRCS female volunteers discussed menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and distributed a pictorial descriptive leaflet among the targeted people.

BDRCS reached 7,220 people through hygiene promotion activities by conducting courtyard sessions using IEC materials. In addition to that, BDRCS reached another 2,994 people with hygiene awareness during providing latrine support and repairing of tubewells. BDRCS reached in total 10,214 people with hygiene promotion through this DREF operation.

According to the PDM, it was observed that all the respondents expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the hygiene parcels. During Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with the beneficiaries, unanimous feedback was received, indicating that the hygiene parcels, complemented by hygiene sessions, played a crucial role. Participants affirmed that the items provided were utilized by their families, and the hygiene practices shared during the sessions and through IEC material (Leaflet) were actively implemented. The consensus among beneficiaries was that receiving hygiene parcels immediately after the disaster was a valuable assistance in upholding household hygiene standards.

Lessons Learnt

Community-driven approach for latrine construction and tube-well repairs: The completion of latrine construction and the repair of tubewells through a community-driven approach received high appreciation and is strongly recommended for similar future operations. Involving the community in these initiatives leads to successful outcomes and is deemed effective for future operations.

Challenges

During the FGDs, it was highlighted that the beneficiaries were assisted by NDWRTs in various ways. For instance, in some cases where labor for construction was needed, the teams facilitated the beneficiaries in finding suitable labor. Moreover, in communities where the local market was relatively distant, posing a challenge for material transportation, the NDRT and NDWRTs organized group transportation, allowing 2/3 beneficiaries to buy and transport materials collectively. This collaborative approach helped minimize transportation costs.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 14,515

Targeted Persons: 30,000

Assisted Persons: 31,077

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of dignity kits distributed	1,000	1,000



# of people reached with PGI awareness/activities	30,000	31,077
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Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, conducted detailed assessments and consultations with the targeted groups to identify the needs of women of reproductive age and to design appropriate dignity kits, considering the local context of affected communities. BDRCS reached a total of 1,000 households with dignity kits, and IFRC logistics colleagues supported BDRCS in procuring these dignity kits. Criteria such as reproductive health age (15-49 years), divorcees, widows, girls aged 15-18, including persons with disabilities, separate or unaccompanied children, orphans, lactating mothers, transgender individuals, and sex workers, were considered to identify the targeted households. Each dignity kit consisted of one bucket with a lid, four panties, ten sanitary napkins, four pieces of menstruation cloth, 1 kg of detergent powder, one piece of bathing soap, one hand torch, and one whistle.

To ensure PGI support in emergency operations and strengthen the PGI pool, BDRCS organized a four-day-long Training of Trainers (ToT) on "Protection, Gender, and Inclusion" from 15-18 October 2023, at the national headquarters. The objective of this PGI ToT training was to strengthen the capacity of the PGI facilitators with a clear understanding of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion and Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies, negative coping strategies, other social and gender-based vulnerabilities exacerbated in any given situation. A total of 25 Red Crescent volunteers (19 male and 6 female) received PGI ToT training. The training contents were delivered through a variety of adult-learning methods, such as brief topics, group formation, participant-led information sessions, group discussions, simulation activities, and sharing practical experiences and local-level challenges with interactive discussions. In addition to that, more than 50 volunteers, NDRT, and staff engaged in this operation were oriented on minimum standards of PGI, SGBV response and prevention, including referral pathways, PSEA, and child protection issues with policy. Throughout the operation, these volunteers disseminated PGI messages among 31,077 affected people during community consultations and sectoral interventions. This created awareness in the community to keep family members safe from SGBV, trafficking, safeguard children, and discuss the specific needs and concerns of vulnerable groups.

BDRCS identified and engaged a diversified group during the implementation of PGI activities. BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, also conducted a Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis for Cyclone Mocha operation, which helped strengthen child safeguarding practices and reduce the risk of harm against children during the implementation of the operation.

Based on consultations with affected communities and vulnerable groups, BDRCS implemented sectoral interventions and provided appropriate humanitarian assistance. During the provision of food assistance, BDRCS identified food items based on the local context and the needs of different age groups. Similarly, during the provision of multipurpose cash assistance and other sectoral assistance, BDRCS prioritized the most vulnerable groups to receive humanitarian assistance. BDRCS supported people with disabilities by constructing user-friendly latrines, repairing tubewells, and repairing community access roads. Considering the particular needs of women of reproductive age, BDRCS provided appropriate dignity kits.

Lessons Learnt

- Dedicated and trained human resources for implementing PGI to enhance effectiveness. In addition to BDRCS staff and volunteers, community-based local organizations and groups need to be oriented on PGI and engaged throughout the operation.
- Ensuring sufficient tools and resources to carry out PGI-related activities.

Challenges

- During the IFRC-DREF operation timeframe, BDRCS was simultaneously engaged in three emergency operations, and it was challenging to maintain a consistent pool of PGI trained volunteers, NDRT, and staff throughout the operation.
- Due to very limited dedicated human resources for PGI, conducting community consultation and detailed assessments for providing an appropriate dignity kit took longer than expected.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 2,356

Targeted Persons: 1,300,000

Assisted Persons: 1,000,000



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with safe evacuation and early warning message dissemination (indirectly reached number, as volunteers were attended for EW dissemination and evacuations)	1,300,000	1,000,000

Narrative description of achievements

Following the early forecasts from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and Global Forecast System (GFS) regarding the low formation in the Bay of Bengal, the Anticipatory Action team, comprised of members from BDRCS, the IFRC, German Red Cross, American Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Climate Centre, started monitoring the situation. BDRCS prepared synoptic weather updates on a regular basis, and the reports were shared with the IFRC, PNSs, and other local partners of BDRCS. As part of the preparation efforts, the team also shared technical weather synopses with the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in Cox's Bazar. To enable prompt coordination, a number of channels, including WhatsApp groups, were created to share forecast analyses with partners and stakeholders such as CPP, MoDMR, BMD, and ISCG.

BDRCS worked closely with CPP and local administration at the ground level since the initial stage of the cyclone forming in the Bay of Bengal. Volunteers conducted awareness campaigns, using megaphones and loudspeakers to inform Bangladeshi and camp communities about the potential impact of the cyclone. At the same time, they were working with local administration and CPP volunteers for the safe evacuation of exposed populations. Early warning messages and life-saving information were disseminated through BDRCS social media platforms, reaching more than 1 million people (indirect reach).

In the camp areas, more than 3,000 camp volunteers in 33 camps were re-oriented on the Cyclone Early Warning System (EWS). Trained camp volunteers conducted awareness campaigns using megaphones and loudspeakers across all 33 camps to inform residents about the possible impact of the cyclone. A team of 180 volunteers, including Protection and Social Well-being (PSW) volunteers and staff members, were involved in actively delivering cyclone preparedness messages, and 16 Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) organizers had been deployed to the camps. By collaborating with the Community Protection Partners, Site Management Support Agencies (SMSAs), and Support Volunteers (SuV), they actively disseminated cyclone preparedness information and lifesaving messages. To ensure effective coordination, 16 individuals were assigned to the CiC's office control room and SMSAs to ensure efficient camp management and coordination. BDRCS worked under the supervision of Additional RRRC in Bhasan Char, who works closely with government departments and the Navy. A team of 106 BDRCS Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and Site Management Support (SMS) volunteers, supported by 20 CPP volunteers per cluster, were deployed for field-level activities.

Following the great danger signal and evacuation order of the Government of Bangladesh, over 750,000 people were evacuated to safety in coastal districts with the support of CPP, BDRCS, local government, and the armed forces division.

Lessons Learnt

- N/A

Challenges

- N/A



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 4,241

Targeted Persons: 25,000

Assisted Persons: 31,077

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of methods established to collect feedback from the community	2	2
# of methods established to share information with communities about what is happening in the response, including selection criteria if these are being used	2	2
# of satisfaction survey/post distribution monitoring survey conducted	2	2

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS ensured meaningful community participation throughout the process of needs assessment, planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Based on consultations with affected communities, acceptable feedback mechanisms were established and widely publicized (distribution of pocket cards, stickers, and posters), enabling communities to provide input and steer the operation. BDRCS provided suitable information in relevant formats as aid. To implement CEA activities, BDRCS oriented more than 50 volunteers, NDRT/NDWRT members, and staff working on this operation and equipped them with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to respond to queries from the communities and stakeholders. To understand the needs of different vulnerable groups, BDRCS collected and analyzed sex, age, and disability disaggregated data to design sectoral interventions.

During the operation, BDRCS's dedicated CEA team received a total of 750 community feedback regarding the Cyclone Mocha response in Cox's Bazar. Out of these, 351 feedback were addressed in consultation with relevant departments, and the remaining 399 were promptly addressed in accordance with FAQs. The feedback mainly concerned the selection process, targeted geographical area, distribution venue, and time. Among the feedback, some requests were received to become beneficiaries for receiving humanitarian assistance from BDRCS. The initial list of eligible households from the household assessment was shared with the communities and displayed in multiple gathering places. Considering the feedback, BDRCS also conducted household assessments for additional households and identified an additional 14 vulnerable households. The preliminary list of targeted households was finalized, and BDRCS provided sectoral humanitarian assistance accordingly.

BDRCS also conducted a satisfactory survey and PDM to get feedback from the target population in order to further enhance the relevance, effectiveness, and appropriateness of this operation. According to post-distribution monitoring, a high percentage of 96 per cent of responders indicated awareness of the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism and familiarity with the process of complaints and providing feedback. Notably, the most popular method for community members to register their feedback and complaints was through the BDRCS hotline number. For the sectoral interventions, BDRCS also engaged with the targeted communities and groups through community consultations, assessments, etc., and this operation carried out a community-led approach for the construction of latrines, repairing of tube wells, earthen roads (under the cash-for-work scheme), and providing appropriate dignity kits. The widespread awareness and utilization of the CFM allowed community members to share their feedback in the feedback process, and responders expressed satisfaction with the mechanism, highlighting the prompt response received after filing their feedback.

BDRCS conducted a three-day-long training on CEA to enhance the disaster preparedness and response capacity. The training took place in Dhaka from 20-23 November 2023, and trained 25 volunteers (Male-19, Female-6) integrated with the CEA trained pool. The training was facilitated by the CEA expert from BDRCS and IFRC. The training provided in-depth understanding of the Community Engagement and Accountability approach to the participants and equipped them with the necessary skills to support the process of integrating CEA into BDRCS' emergency response for the affected people.

Lessons Learnt

- To ensure community participation and transparency, publishing a preliminary beneficiary list with the affected population and finalizing the list based on community feedback played an important role. BDRCS will continue this approach in future operations as well.
- Establishing feedback channels since the beginning of the operation was one of the lessons learned in this operation. Incorporating feedback from the community resulted in the inclusion of 14 households for receiving humanitarian assistance in this operation. It is also recommended in the lessons learned workshop to engage more female staff and volunteers in conservative settings.

Challenges

- BDRCS experienced challenges in identifying targeted households from a large number of cyclone-affected populations and meeting the expectations of affected people. BDRCS, through its community feedback mechanism and a series of community consultations, explained BDRCS's mandate, working modalities, and limitations.
- BDRCS has a dedicated CEA team with limited human resources in the headquarters, and they supported local volunteers and NDRT members to implement CEA activities. However, considering the workload at the field level, local volunteers and NDRT members



experienced difficulties in addressing feedback on time. Understanding the local accent was challenging for the deployed staff and NDRT members. BDRCS overcame this challenge with the support of local volunteers.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 25,919

Targeted Persons: 10

Assisted Persons: 10

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring missions conducted to support operation	10	9
# of people from IFRC APRO joining Lessons Learned Workshop	1	0

Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation closely coordinated with BDRCS, its sub-office in Cox's Bazar, in-country Movement partners, and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur throughout this DREF operation. IFRC, as a member of the anticipatory action team, worked with BDRCS and PNS's and monitored the situation in coastal areas and camp settlements in Cox's Bazar. The IFRC Head of Country Delegation (HoCD) joined the MoDMR's CPP Implementation Board meeting on 13 May 2023 at the ministry along with BDRCS Secretary-General and colleagues from BDRCS, IFRC, and CPP.

IFRC worked closely with BDRCS and provided technical support to prepare the situation report and to analyze the disaster impact based on available information from EOC. IFRC, as one of the key members, actively engaged in all the active clusters and working groups and shared updated information with BDRCS. IFRC's concerned colleagues assisted BDRCS in carrying out the sectoral activities according to the emergency plan of actions. IFRC IM staff supported BDRCS to analyze the collected data to facilitate the beneficiary selection process, which eventually helped BDRCS implement operations efficiently. IFRC communication staff also supported to develop and disseminate key messages, IEC materials, etc. IFRC logistic teams, along with BDRCS, played an important role in mobilizing contingency stock from different warehouses and arranging fleet support to carry out the response activities. Apart from that, IFRC logistics timely completed the procurement of tarpaulins, shelter toolkits, jerrycans, bamboo, dignity kits, hygiene parcels, and food packages. IFRC finance ensured the fund flow, and expenditures were in line with the agreed budget. IFRC PMER colleagues provided technical support for developing the monitoring and evaluation plan, conducting monitoring visits, facilitating workshops, and reviewing reports. Under this DREF operation, IFRC sectoral leads also supported BDRCS to enhance its response capacity through facilitating training and orientations on cash, CEA, PGI, ECV, IM, etc.

IFRC, as the convener of the Shelter Cluster in emergencies, coordinated the shelter response to address the shelter needs of the affected people. Based on the disaster impact, Shelter Cluster developed the shelter response strategy for its partners and provided technical inputs during the development of the Flash appeal. Shelter Cluster Bangladesh maintained close coordination among MoDMR, its partners, ICCG, etc.

The Operation Coordinator from APRO, IFRC, was planning to visit operational activities and attend the lessons learned workshop in November 2023. However, due to a sudden emergency, the operation coordinator was urgently deployed in another country; as a result, the planned visit of the APRO operation coordinator was canceled.

Lessons Learnt

- N/A

Challenges

- N/A





Budget: CHF 58,626

Targeted Persons: 20

Assisted Persons: 20

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS organized a day-long lesson learned workshop on 25 November 2023 in Cox's Bazar, with more than 100 concerned participants from local government, Cox's Bazar BDRCS unit, PMO, MRRO, BDRCS NHQ, IFRC, and PNSs in attendance. The MOCHA Lesson Learned Workshop provided invaluable insights into the strengths and areas for improvement in the response operations. The positive practices highlighted, such as the swift early warning system, active community participation, and effective coordination, underscore our capabilities and commitment to emergency response. However, consistent themes and challenges, including transportation limitations, coordination issues, and delayed responses, were identified, calling for targeted improvements. The workshop served as a platform to identify key lessons that will inform future operations.

The emphasis on community consultation, anticipatory action planning, and the need for dedicated resources in CEA, PGI, and Information Management (IM) are critical takeaways. The importance of timely communication, streamlined processes, and innovative approaches has been underscored. Moving forward, incorporating these lessons into BDRCS standard operating procedures, enhancing coordination mechanisms, and addressing identified challenges will be pivotal.

Lessons Learnt

- Enhanced Coordination: Regular meetings and communication channels were established for inter-sector collaboration. Increased collaboration with PMO, MRRO, and other projects, placing branch offices at the center. Strengthened collaboration with local administration.
- BDRCS is expanding its volunteer network by reaching the sub-district level. In the IFRC-DREF operation, the main intervention area, Teknaf sub-district, was more than 80 km away from BDRCS Cox's Bazar unit office. To implement the operation, BDRCS received great support from local volunteers at the sub-district level, enabling BDRCS to complete the operation within the timeframe.

Challenges

- Delayed emergency response due to the absence of a formal committee in the local unit.
- Delays in invoice settlement and fund transfer hindered the implementation of operational activities.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/5-2023/12	Operation	MDRBD030
Budget Timeframe	2023/5-2023/11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29/Feb/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBD030 - Bangladesh - Cyclone Mocha 2023

Operating Timeframe: 17 May 2023 to 30 Nov 2023

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	499,538
DREF Response Pillar	499,538
Expenditure	-496,783
Closing Balance	2,755

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	309,408	359,259	-49,851
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	107,094	2,101	104,993
PO04 - Health	2,828	53,773	-50,946
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	37,041	60,311	-23,270
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	13,195		13,195
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		1,840	-1,840
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability		531	-531
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	469,566	477,817	-8,250
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	11,781	4,913	6,868
EA02 - Secretariat Services		766	-766
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	18,191	13,288	4,903
Enabling Approaches Total	29,972	18,966	11,005
Grand Total	499,538	496,783	2,755

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 499,538 was allocated for BDRCS to assist 30,000 people affected by the cyclone. The funds were utilized to provide emergency food, drinking water, MPCG, sanitation, health, shelter, and cash for work support. The total expenditure recorded at the end of the operation was CHF 496,783 (99.44 percent of the budget), leaving a balance of CHF 2,755. The remaining funds will be returned to the IFRC-DREF pool.

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[Click here for reference](#)

