



BANGLADESH

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

19 March 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 171.1M**

In support of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society



68

National Society branches



2,757

National Society staff



122,559

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



400,000

Ongoing emergency operations



1.3M

Climate and environment



2.6M

Disasters and crises



1.6M

Health and wellbeing



1M

Migration and displacement



430,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement in Cox's Bazar

Longer-term needs

- Disaster resilience and response
 - Health programming
- Support to the displaced population from Myanmar

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- Innovation and digitalization

Key country data

Population **171.2M**

INFORM Severity rating **very high**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **high**

Human Development Index rank **129**

Population below poverty level **18.7%**

Funding requirements

2024

Total 84.6M CHF

Through the IFRC

31.2M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

15.5M CHF

Host National Society

37.9M CHF

2025**

Total 78.1M CHF

Through the IFRC

15.9M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

7.6M CHF

Host National Society

54.6M CHF

2026**

Total 8.4M CHF

Through the IFRC

4M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

4.4M CHF

**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

15M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

3M CHF

Climate and environment

6.1M CHF

Disasters and crises

1.7M CHF

Health and wellbeing

750,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

250,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

4.5M CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Australian Red Cross*

British Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross Society*

Red Cross Society of China*

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

Korean Red Cross*

Kuwait Red Crescent Society*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Swedish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MDRBD018

Longer-term needs:

MAABD001

Hazards



Climate change



Rising sea levels



Floods



Cyclones



Cross-border population movement



Technological hazards

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society** was constituted in 1971 and is the oldest humanitarian organization in Bangladesh since the country's independence in the same year. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1973. It is currently a member of IFRC's Governing Board, for a second consecutive term.

The National Society's mandate, as stated in the country's Standing Order on Disasters, is to complement the authorities' emergency response efforts, particularly in disaster preparedness. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is the National Society's key partner, with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare serving as its line ministry. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society effectively manages emergencies and crises with the support that it receives from the IFRC network, and has positioned itself as one of the key actors in preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation, and reduction of risks in the country.

The Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), a globally recognized community-based disaster preparedness programme is a flagship initiative jointly run by the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in the field of disaster management. It covers early warning systems, search and rescue, evacuation, shelter, first aid, relief distributions, and rehabilitation activities. The

CPP's strength lies in its 76,000 community volunteers. The National Society has been a pioneer in forecast-based actions for floods, cyclones and heatwaves.

In the field of healthcare, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society runs eight blood centres, two eye hospitals, one general hospital and one medical college hospital, which provides comprehensive healthcare services. It has 57 mother and child healthcare (MCH) centres providing primary and maternity healthcare services, three outdoor clinics, three diploma nursing institutes and six Red Crescent midwifery training institutes.

The National Society uses its auxiliary role to advocate and support the implementation of national plans related to climate change, such as the National Adaptation Plan and the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent's current Strategic Plan 2021-25 identifies three strategic goals:

- Enhance capacity to contribute towards saving lives from disasters and crises, with a view to reducing adverse impacts through building resilient communities
- Improve access to quality health services for safe, dignified and healthy living
- Transform into a strong National Society

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

With a population of over 172 million people, Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world (an average of 1,328 people per square kilometre). Two-thirds of this low-lying country live within five metres of sea level, many of them in rapidly expanding informal settlements and on marginal agricultural land. Located in the "Ring of Fire" region (a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes), Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to disasters and climatic variability due to its geographical location. The risk of natural hazards, particularly earthquakes,

is higher in the northern and eastern regions of the country. With 32 per cent of the population living in rapidly urbanising areas, frequent earthquakes pose a massive risk to millions of people in the country. Other natural hazards such as cyclones, floods, river erosion and landslides threaten to jeopardize lives and livelihoods. Considering the significant disaster risks, the Bangladesh government has taken measures to enhance its preparedness and response – this includes earthquake-resistant building codes, public awareness campaigns, and collaboration with international organizations and neighbouring countries.

With nearly 30 per cent of its population between the ages of 15 and 29, Bangladesh faces challenges in creating meaningful

jobs. The country's high rates of unemployment, low wages for workers, lack of access to education and health care, and environmental degradation are factors contributing to both internal and external migration. Since 2017, Bangladesh has also become host to hundreds of thousands of people fleeing violence in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, one of the biggest population movement crises in the world. As a result, it is home to the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, the southeast coastal district of the country.

While the country faces challenges related to governance, civil society participation, climate change, social inclusion, and access to basic services, in recent years Bangladesh has made significant progress in reducing the death toll of extreme weather events through the development of early warning systems and storm shelters, as well as a reduction in poverty and improved education rates. The country aspires to achieve middle-income status by 2031 and to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category by 2026.

At the same time, although Bangladesh's economy has experienced a rapid recovery following the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it continues to face significant challenges in the form of global economic uncertainty, inflation, energy shortages, a balance-of-payments deficit, and revenue shortfall. With parliamentary elections due in 2024, the country is witnessing an increase in the number of political violence. Bangladesh's health care has improved remarkably in the last two decades. However, less than half of the population is covered by essential health services. Inequitable access to those services is one of the main issues, with wide differences in coverage between districts and economic groups. As the country becomes more urbanized and industrialized, it faces a triple burden of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and injuries. Poor water and sanitation issues create extreme vulnerability to illnesses and diseases, mainly affecting populations living in urban poor areas.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency Operation	Bangladesh: Population Movement Operation
Appeal number	MDRBD018
Duration	18 March 2017 – 31 December 2024
People to be assisted	1 million (camp: 884,000; host community: 100,000; Bhashan Char: 18,000)
Funding requirement	CHF 81,869,000
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational strategy	Operational Strategy
Last operation update	Operation Update No.18

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

In 2016, the population movement crisis in the Rakhine state of Myanmar resulted in the displacement of a colossal number of people who crossed the border into Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh called on the Bangladesh Red Crescent to respond to the emergency in December 2016, in line with the National Society's mandate to provide humanitarian services as auxiliary to the public authorities. Thereafter, an allocation was made from IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) in support of the National Society's response. This was followed by the launch of the IFRC Emergency Appeal in March 2017. The appeal has been revised on seven occasions, with the last revision covering the period from January 2022 to

31 December 2024. The seventh revision marks a new phase of the IFRC's support to the National Society in its continued response to the protracted crisis, and in compliance with the request of the Government to continue providing humanitarian services, in line with the National Society's auxiliary role.

Currently, approximately 931,000 people are living in the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar which collectively make up the world's largest refugee camp situated in Bangladesh. The people in the camps need support with preparation for seasonal cyclones and monsoon rains, health disasters such as pandemics, and protection against the impacts of environmental and ecosystem degradation. Within the camps themselves, there is work to be done to advance child protection and suppress sexual violence, trafficking and the exclusion of people with disabilities and

other marginalized groups.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent's Population Movement Operation in Cox's Bazar, which was established in 2017, has a team of 282 staff members. The Cox's Bazar unit (branch) of the National Society has been supporting the operation from the beginning of the crisis, particularly through its 300 Red Crescent youth volunteers. The operation under the current IFRC Emergency Appeal is likely to continue beyond 2024, subject to the recommendations from an ongoing rationalization exercise being conducted by the National Society with the support of the IFRC network. Among other aims, the exercise will develop a shared understanding of the operating environment and humanitarian landscape in both Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char island. It will also explore the most feasible and appropriate strategic priorities, scope and operational modalities, and ways to optimize resources.

Alongside the **IFRC**, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's response to the population movement crisis has been bilaterally supported by the **British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross**, and the **Turkish Red Crescent Society**.

Areas of emergency response by sector

Risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery

Up to one million people in camps and the host community will strengthen their disaster readiness and resilience. Priority actions comprise the establishment of a comprehensive disaster risk management (DRM) structure across all camps, and the strengthening the existing DRM structure across the host community. This includes advancement of interventions on cyclone preparedness; climate-smart disaster risk reduction; and multi-hazard emergency response and preparedness, as part of the DRM structure across all displaced and host communities respectively.

Health and Care

The health risks of 300,000 people in the camps and 100,000 people in the host community will be reduced, and communities will enjoy improved health and wellbeing. Actions comprise the provision of services at Bangladesh Red Crescent health facilities for the benefit of displaced and host communities, the provision of community-based health services to displaced and host communities, and the re-establishment of mobile medical teams. Also included is the provision of mental health and psychosocial support to displaced and host communities through community-based health and first aid services at Bangladesh Red Crescent health facilities and community outreach services, with a focus on psychological first aid.

Shelter, housing and settlements

A total of 120,000 people in the camps and 35,000 people in the host community will strengthen their safety and well-being through shelter and settlement solutions. Priority actions include the provision of shelter and settlement solutions, and essential household items; construction and improvements to community infrastructure; and building awareness and the capacity of the community on safe shelters.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

115,000 people in the camps and 35,000 people in the host community will experience reduced risks of waterborne and water-related diseases, and as such, enjoy improved wellbeing. Priority actions comprise the provision of water supply including climate-smart, nature-based solutions; the provision of environment-friendly, innovative sanitation services and management; and improved hygiene among displaced and host communities.

Livelihoods

The livelihoods of 20,000 people in the camps, and 50,000 people in the host community will be restored and strengthened. This will be achieved through the provision of skills development opportunities including training, for most vulnerable individuals among both camp and host communities. It also includes the provision of household livelihood assistance to vulnerable households among the host community.

Protection, gender and inclusion

115,000 vulnerable and marginalized individuals in the camps are being supported and empowered. This is being undertaken through the provision of essential Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) services at various facilities and through household outreach in both displaced and host community areas, and PGI mainstreaming across all sectoral programmes delivered in both displaced and host community areas. It also includes the referral of protection cases to case management actors and providers of essential services such as protection and health.

Support for displaced community on Bhashan Char island (for interested donors to contribute towards through a separate project code)

This support is targeted at about 18,000 people relocated from the camp settlement in Cox's Bazar to Bhashan Char island. The objective of the support is to enable the community on the island to be disaster-ready and benefit from improved health.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Bangladesh has long been exposed to various climatological (e.g., drought), hydrometeorological (e.g., cyclones, storm surges, floods), and other geophysical (e.g., landslides and erosion) hazards. It is the largest delta in the world, with the Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Meghna River systems flowing towards the Bay of Bengal. A huge portion of Bangladesh's land area experiences frequent flooding, especially flash floods, along with river erosion. The country ranks 132 out of 180 on [Yale's Biodiversity and Habitat Protections Indicator](#), with two-thirds of the country having an elevation of five meters or less.

The number of people exposed to extreme river floods in Bangladesh is expected to grow by 6 to 12 million by the 2040s, and coastal inundation could increase by 2 to 7 million by the 2070s, unless significant adaptation measures are taken. Tropical cyclones, associated storm surges, and extreme rainfall are predicted to worsen flash, river, and coastal flooding, which will endanger lives, infrastructure, and the economy. The livelihoods of people in the coastal zone, including many of the poorest communities, are threatened by saline intrusion and natural resources degraded by climate change-related factors. In addition to the coastal zones, areas of climate vulnerability across the country will be affected by the impacts of climate change. The combination of rising

temperatures, saline intrusion, increased drought frequency, flooding, and waterlogging will affect food production, leading to reduced yields for the agricultural sector.

The country's rapid population growth, unemployment, and habitat loss are accelerating the degradation of its natural resources, also posing a significant threat to Bangladesh's biodiversity. This is exacerbated by deforestation, habitat destruction, and biodiversity loss. The consequences of these issues include decreased vegetation coverage, soil degradation, loss of species richness, genetic diversity, and ecological services. This poses a significant threat to Bangladesh's sustainability.

At the same time, Bangladesh is grappling with a significant increase in plastic use and pollution due to rapid urbanization. The annual per capita plastic consumption in urban areas has tripled in the last 15 years, with low density polyethylene (LDPE) packaging materials (plastic bags) being consumed fivefold. Only 31 per cent of the 977,000 tons of plastic consumed in 2020 were recycled, highlighting the need for a multistakeholder, circular economy approach.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is supporting the process of integrating climate resilience into national development planning, mainly through the inclusion of monitoring and evaluation frameworks based on existing capacity.



A Bangladesh Red Crescent volunteer takes information from a Cyclone Mocha-affected villager in Cox's Bazar district, in 2023. (Photo: BDRCS)

Some of the recent significant policies on climate change of the Government of Bangladesh are:

- The development of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which recognizes the impacts of climate change. Based on the latest climate change projections and through extensive consultations at the local and national levels, the NAP identified 90 high-priority and 23 moderate-priority interventions, which require a total investment of \$230 billion over a 27-year implementation period (2023–2050).
- The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted in 2021, as the core element of the Paris Climate Agreement. It is one of the most significant climate change plans of the country that covers four sectors with different goals.
- The Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCPP) which aims to improve the country's ability to cope with the consequences of climate change, including rising sea levels and other extreme weather conditions. This plan attempts to mobilise resources to implement a new pathway to ensure reduced climate impacts.
- Approved in 2018, the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 is the planning framework for the country to invest in its Delta region for short and medium-term socio-economic development. The initiative also addresses sustainable management of water, ecology, the environment, and land resources in the context of their interaction with disasters induced by natural hazards and climate change.

The country will need at least \$12.5 billion in the medium term for climate action and environmental sustainability. The country has led the way in [adaptation and disaster risk management](#), however with ever-increasing climate and environmental risks, further adaptation efforts are vital, and a low-carbon development path is critical to a resilient future for Bangladesh.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC's [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness, (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change, (3) addressing climate displacement, and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The climate-related work of the Bangladesh Red Crescent cuts across all five strategic priorities:

- Ensure the mainstreaming of climate resilience programming and operationalization of the Climate Change Strategy (2023-2024)
- Promote effective diplomacy and leadership for urgent climate action
- Work towards achieving the IFRC's Climate Champion initiative and Early Warning for All (EW4ALL)
- Strengthen health services and systems to prevent epidemics and pandemics, and reduce urban environmental and health hazards
- Include new climate-resilient approaches in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programming
- Conduct advocacy for people displaced, as well as people migrating due to climate change impact.
- Enhance the capacities of local government representatives, civil societies, media people, and volunteers on climate and disaster policies and laws
- Ensure minimum standards of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) throughout all climate related activities.

Planned activities in 2024

- Scale-up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, early action, and preparedness
 - Innovative climate-resilient livelihoods and sustainable water resource management
 - Develop small and medium enterprises in rural and urban areas focusing on climate change
 - Promote a green response and nature-based solutions in programmes
 - Reduce the vulnerability of climate-affected women through context-specific, viable livelihood opportunities like small businesses, agriculture, enterprises, and livestock
 - Continue to implement community-based disaster risk reduction and forecast-based financing (FbF) programmes
 - Support the celebration of relevant days on climate action and disaster risk reduction at the central and local levels
 - Spread awareness in educational institutions about climate change, disaster risks, community resilience, and loss and damage
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** approved a [DREF Heatwave Early Action Protocol](#) in July 2023, in support of the Bangladesh Red Crescent. This will enable the National Society to utilise an immediate allocation of CHF 499,930 to implement early actions once triggers are met. The actions which include readiness and prepositioning of stocks are meant to support up to 123,700 people during an early action timeframe of two months. The protocol is meant to be in place for five years. In addition, IFRC supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent's integrated programme on flood resilience (phase two), and the project for the economic improvement of rural women in Bangladesh, which will continue until the first quarter of 2024. The IFRC also provides technical support on climate and environmental issues.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from EU National Societies and the IFRC, the Bangladesh Red Crescent will further its work on heatwaves preparedness and response. This includes raising awareness through heat action days, and developing a preparedness checklist wherein local community leaders and local authorities will be sensitised. Environmental sustainability of operations will be increased by promoting greening of the supply chain and practices in sectoral interventions, including through orienting staff and volunteers on the concept of green response, carrying out environmental impact assessment through piloting relevant tools, and conducting awareness sessions on nature based solutions. The German Red Cross will support these activities.

The **American Red Cross** is supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent on the coastal disaster risk reduction initiative and city resilience. It will help with the updating of the National Society's Climate Change Strategy to scale up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness. It will also engage with the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the IFRC on the Youth in Climate Action initiative.

The **British Red Cross** will focus on supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent with integrating climate change adaptation into programme strategies, mitigate the effects of climate change on urban communities and enhance comprehensive waste management initiatives.

The **Danish Red Cross** will work closely with the Bangladesh Red Crescent to strengthen climate resilience and livelihoods.

The **German Red Cross** is supporting the National Society in its implementation of forecast-based financing (FbF) in Bangladesh. It will also support urban resilience and the green response.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will assist the Bangladesh Red Crescent with the integration of climate change-related activities and the promotion of green responses at institutional and community levels.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will assist the National Society with integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programming, and prioritising the riverine island areas.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Bangladesh](#)

According to the [INFORM Risk report \(2022\)](#), Bangladesh is classified as a high risk country, with a risk rating of 5.8 out of 10. It ranks 28th among 191 countries, and has a hazard exposure of 8.2 out of 10. Monsoon floods are particularly severe in the country, causing significant economic damage and loss of lives and livelihoods. Annual flooding affects around 30 to 70 per cent of the country. Monsoon floods generate a greater impact in terms of loss of life and livelihoods compared to flash floods. Between 2014 and 2020, the monsoon floods in the country led to a staggering \$1.4 billion in economic damages. More than 28.39 million people were affected, and 2.86 million people were temporarily displaced. In 2022, Bangladesh faced an unprecedented flash flood in seven northeastern districts. Almost 7.2 million people were affected by this flood, with 55

deaths, over 480,000 people displaced, 83,394 hectares of cropland damaged, and more than 135,000 houses either fully or partially destroyed.

In Bangladesh, cyclones have always had disastrous impacts. According to the Asian Development Bank, twelve of the big cyclones that have affected Bangladesh since 1965 have killed 480,000 people. Between 2014 and 2020, cyclones caused \$2.3 billion in economic losses, with the 2020 Cyclone Amphan accounting for \$1.5 billion in total damages. In October 2022, Cyclone Sitrang impacted almost one million people in the country. Bangladesh narrowly escaped massive damage from severe cyclone Mocha as it hit the coast of Myanmar, near Cox's Bazar, in May 2023.

Riverbank erosion is another key vulnerability in Bangladesh, forcing millions of people to be displaced. A total of 283

locations, 85 towns and growth centres, along with 2,400 kilometres of riverbanks in Bangladesh, are vulnerable to erosion. Between 2015 and 2019, approximately 15,196 mostly inhabited hectares of land had eroded. The Padma-Jamuna River erodes between 5,000 to 6,000 hectares each year.

Landslides in Bangladesh have caused over 700 deaths and a thousand injuries between 2000 and 2018, with the most significant in 2017, resulting in 171 deaths and \$2.23 billion in economic loss. The risk is high in eight districts, with Chattogram City Corporation, Ukhiya, and Teknaf identified as hotspots.

Since 1900, there have been over 100 moderate earthquakes in Bangladesh, with over 65 occurring after 1960. This indicates fresh tectonic activity or propagation of fractures from adjacent seismic zones. There are five major fault zones in and around Bangladesh which pose the risk of a severe earthquake hitting the country. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, with a population density of 30,093 residents per square kilometre, has been marked as one of the 20 cities most vulnerable to earthquakes in the world. On 14 August 2023, the country recorded an earthquake of 5.5 magnitude, with tremors felt in various regions of the country including Dhaka, while on 9 September 2023, an earthquake of 4.4 magnitude struck several parts of Bangladesh.

Fires are a significant hazard in Bangladesh, mainly in urban and industrial areas. According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) authority, around 285,000 fire incidents occurred in the country between January 1999, and December 2020. In 2022, more than 24,000 fire incidents occurred in the country, which killed 85 people and wounded 377. Fire incidents have increased four times over the last two decades due to population density, unplanned urbanisation, the violation of construction rules, increased use of gas cylinders, and limited oversight from the government on the implementation of rules and regulations. Industrial incidents have not been uncommon in the country, with the Rana Plaza disaster becoming one of the most significant disasters in recent history. The Rana Plaza building collapse on 24 April 2013 killed 1,138 workers and left more than 2,500 injured.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent, through its [Strategic Plan 2021-25](#), focuses on strengthening flood and cyclone preparedness programmes with a stronger focus on anticipatory action and integration with the wider government and non-governmental response. There will also be investments in earthquake preparedness, early warning dissemination mechanisms at community and organizational level, the continuous enhancement of cash and voucher assistance, and integrating nature-based solutions and a green response in disaster risk management.

Planned activities in 2024

- Respond to emergencies as they arise
 - Strengthening early warning dissemination mechanisms at community and organizational level
 - Raising awareness of disaster risk reduction issues at community and organizational level
 - Investing in structural and non-structural measures to enhance preparedness
 - Investing in structural and non-structural mitigation options
 - Building the capacity of community-based organizations and the local-level administrative tier of the Government
 - Enhancing the capacity of volunteers to respond to emergencies
 - Documenting best practices and sharing with different stakeholders
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2023, IFRC provided DREF allocations for three separate emergencies and one Early Action Protocol. Two of these allocations are described below, while the others can be found in the Climate and Environment and Health and Wellbeing sections.

IFRC DREF - Fire Incident: the DREF allocation of CHF 500,000 in March 2023 supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent to assist 15,000 people affected by a fire which broke out in the Cox's Bazar camp settlement for displaced people from Rakhine state in Myanmar. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as the distributions of emergency shelter kits and essential household items, as well as the construction or rehabilitation of water networks.

IFRC DREF - Cyclone: the DREF allocation of CHF 499,538 in May 2023 enabled the Bangladesh Red Crescent to assist 30,000 people in Cox's Bazar affected by Cyclone Mocha. The National Society provided the targeted people (comprising the host community, as well as displaced people from Rakhine in the camp settlement) with support such as livelihoods and basic needs support, shelter, and multipurpose cash grants, over a six-month period.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from EU National Societies and the IFRC, the German Red Cross will support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in

reference to disaster risk management (DRM). The National Society will continue to reduce the vulnerability of both urban and rural communities in the four districts of Rajshahi, Sylhet, Dhaka and Cox's Bazar. Activities will cover risk awareness and an information management system ensuring functional community early warning coverage; capacity building to support communities and institutions, including schools and disaster management authorities for a coordinated, efficient and a timely preparedness and response through Preparedness for Effective Response (PER); and effective DRM legislation as well as a framework and system. Emergency stocks in the most vulnerable districts will be augmented to cover an additional 20,000 households. Collaboration has been agreed upon with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to train Red Crescent volunteers in agricultural hazards and vulnerability mapping, and the use of susceptibility mapping and community risk identification for landslide prone areas.

The **American Red Cross** will support the Bangladesh Red Crescent with the promotion of alternative, climate-friendly livelihood options.

The **British Red Cross** will support sustainable livelihoods programming and the capacity strengthening of local government to deal with shocks and hazards.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support emergency preparedness and response, preparedness and risk reduction activities at the community level.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society in emergency preparedness linked with school safety and school DRR.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** will support the National Society's efforts to reduce the potential health risks of malnutrition (food insecurity) in remote areas; and also support livelihood, household item distributions, and shelter initiatives.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will support the development of a community level contingency plans as well as capacity building of local government structures and local community groups on disaster risk reduction.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support early action, emergency response and preparedness.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** will support the National Society's work on shelter, food security and livelihood-related assistance.



Health and wellbeing

In the last two decades, Bangladesh's health and care services have seen remarkable improvement. However, challenges continue to remain. Less than half of the population has access to essential health services and Bangladesh is ranked 49 out of 100 on the Universal Health Care service coverage index. Inequitable access to health is one of the main challenges in the country, and there are wide differences in coverage between districts and economic groups. There are only 0.8 hospital beds available per 1,000 people.

The country is facing the triple burden of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and the burden of injuries as the country becomes more urbanized, motorized, and industrialized. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 400 children die daily from Acute Respiratory tract infections (ARIs) in Bangladesh. Pneumonia, infection, and birth asphyxia are major causes of under-five deaths in the country.

Bangladesh has a biannual peak of diarrheal disease outbreaks though the country has made significant progress in reducing diarrheal-related deaths over the years. It is also a cholera endemic country and at risk for cholera outbreak. Mortality

due to cholera has been reduced dramatically but morbidity remains a threat for the health system of the country. Among vector borne diseases, malaria is common in some areas in northeast and southeast Bangladesh, and dengue is another mosquito-borne disease emerging as a serious public health challenge. In 2023, dengue outbreaks in the country saw an increase in cases and fatalities. Up to 26 August 2023, the country recorded 537 fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease, a staggering five times higher than the previous year. The number of dengue patients being hospitalised continues to rise daily, and health facilities are overwhelmed due to the increased number of dengue patients. Government hospitals continue to face an acute shortage of beds.

Maternal health remains a leading issue due to a high maternal death rate of 173 per 100,000 live births in the country between 2000 and 2017. Access to maternal health care is inequitable in the country, with only 17 per cent of the poorest women having sufficient access to antenatal visits compared to 66 per cent of their wealthiest counterparts. Menstrual hygiene management is a key concern regarding women's health, with only 36 per cent of adolescent and 30 per cent of adult

women having heard about menstruation before their first occurrence. Adolescent girls have limited knowledge of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), including family planning and sexually transmitted diseases. The adolescent fertility rate in Bangladesh is 81 per 1,000 adolescents (among the highest rates in the world).

The Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) initiative in Bangladesh aims to achieve 90 per cent vaccination coverage nationally. While the country has made strides in the last 40 years on immunization and child health, due to Bangladesh's population, 30,000 children under one year have not received a single vaccination dose.

In Bangladesh, 70 per cent of all deaths are caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs). NCDs include heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and chronic lung diseases which are responsible for 74 per cent of all deaths worldwide. Among the NCDs, cardiovascular diseases have the highest mortality rate (34 per cent) in Bangladesh.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the health system and livelihood of the people in the country. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been about two million cases, and 29,476 deaths.

Road traffic accidents are a growing concern in Bangladesh. In 2019, deaths due to road traffic injuries were 15 per 100,000. Road traffic accident deaths and injuries predominantly affect young people in Bangladesh and the working-age population more broadly. Injuries resulting from road accidents are the second leading cause of permanent disability in the country.

Recent dramatic shifts in climate patterns and erratic weather conditions have worsened the water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in flood, cyclone and drought-prone areas. Coupled with general poor access to health services, sanitation issues create extreme vulnerability to illnesses and diseases, mainly affecting populations living in urban poor areas. This has led to increased outbreaks of diseases like dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. Access to water and sanitation facilities is also challenging, making it difficult to practice hygiene norms. Safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are crucial to protect communities from water and food-borne diseases in emergencies and disasters.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent is well recognized in the country for its health services through its health institutions, blood donation centres and mother and child health (MCH) centres. In view of the changing epidemiological trend in the country, the National Society aims to scale up health care services through a stronger community-based approach and facilitate opportunities for social inclusion. This will be done by expanding maternal, newborn and child health services to reach the poorest through MCH centres and by ensuring

access to evidence-based Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRH). The capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent in providing mental health and psychosocial support will be strengthened to help communities affected by disasters, poverty and violence. It will also position itself as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the national cholera control plan. The National Society will build its capacity in faecal sludge management and solid waste management.

Planned activities in 2024

- Enhance institutional readiness through ensuring sufficient stocks of medical items for epidemic and pandemic preparedness
- Roll out epidemic control for volunteer and community-based surveillance in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
- Enhance mobile medical teams and train staff and volunteers on public health-in- emergencies
- Strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent's MCH centres
- Continue to supply the Bangladesh Red Crescent's blood bank with equipment and consumables
- Develop the National Society's WASH strategy and establish a WASH unit
- Explore opportunities for new climate-resilient WASH programming and integration of menstrual hygiene management
- Introduce and promote nature-based solutions in WASH
- Commence the IFRC [One WASH](#) Initiative to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases and to eliminate cholera
- Reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by road crashes by enhancing institutional preparedness within the Bangladesh Red Crescent and schools, and in developing partnerships.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in responding to disease outbreaks. The IFRC provided a [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) allocation](#) of CHF 305,871 in July 2023, in support of the Bangladesh Red Crescent's assistance to 500,000 people in Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka, affected by a dengue outbreak. The assistance provided over a four-month period consisted of support to public health services responding to the outbreaks; enhancing public awareness through health promotion and community mobilization, and supporting blood services to better respond to the increased need for blood.

The IFRC will also help roll out the National Society's health policies and strategies. It will support the Bangladesh Red Crescent to be part of the 5th Health Population and Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP) of the Government of Bangladesh.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the National Society will continue to scale up and strengthen community-based surveillance (CBS), linked to the national disease surveillance system, and preparedness and response for disease. The targeted geographical areas will remain the slum populations of five wards in Rajshahi, five wards in Sylhet and two wards in Dhaka South City Corporations. The CBS feasibility study carried out in the previous period allowed the identification of key next steps, such as the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the Institute of Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), joint preparation of CBS protocol, development of a data management system to integrate CBS data into the national surveillance system and train the identified community volunteers and health workers. At community level, efforts to build the capacity of and promote healthy practices amongst community members will be increased through continued structured household health promotion sessions, health campaigns, hygiene sessions and practices. The National Society volunteers will also support national immunization and vaccination campaigns at community level. The **Danish Red Cross**, being the lead of the epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response (EPPR) pillar in Bangladesh under the PPP, will provide strategic and coordination support on EPPR activities.

The **American Red Cross** will work with the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the IFRC to improve community access to safe water.

The **British Red Cross** will work to integrate WASH initiatives into DRR and resilience plans and promote environmental-friendly MHM practices.

The **Danish Red Cross** will work with the Bangladesh Red Crescent and partners in mainstreaming Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS and promoting quality health care information and services.

The **German Red Cross** will pursue WASH support for displaced people in Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** will support capacity building of the health services.

The **Swedish Red Cross** as part of resilience development will assist communities in constructing WASH facilities that are flood-resistant and eco-friendly.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will strengthen the Bangladesh Red Crescent's health department through policy and strategy development as well as focus on CBS, epidemic-pandemic preparedness, and WASH in schools.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** will be engaged in delivering locally-led health services, and mental health and psychosocial support services.



Migration and displacement

Bangladesh's internal migration, three times larger than international migration, is linked to poverty, seasonal labour demand, disasters, and climate change. Long-term migration is dominated by economic forces, but by 2050, migration patterns in Bangladesh will be increasingly linked to climate change, potentially resulting in 13.3 million internal climate refugees. Internal migration has contributed to the development of key industries but has also led to the rapid growth of urban slums, putting excessive pressure on the environment, health, and economy. Children of migrant families living in slums are particularly vulnerable due to a lack of supervision of child labour. Bangladesh ranks seventeenth in the world in terms of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), linked to the country's vulnerability to disasters and climate change. Bangladesh's migration and internal displacement are interlinked, with migration often serving as an adaptation strategy to offset environmental and economic stresses.

A [2020](#) report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) ranked Bangladesh as the sixth country of origin for international migrants, with 7.4 million Bangladeshi migrants living overseas. Bangladeshi migrants often undertake low-skilled jobs abroad, with 83.8 per cent of females employed as domestic workers and 77.4 per cent of males as unskilled workers. The government recognizes the importance of labour migration and implements policies to safeguard workers and regulate recruitment agencies. Despite government efforts to protect labour migrants, there are important challenges affecting the thousands of people leaving Bangladesh each year to work overseas. Attempts by the government to reduce migration costs have had limited success. The increase in migration to foreign countries has also led to numerous risks, including mistreatment, detention, and deportation, particularly for women. Returnees often face limited access to employment, healthcare, psychosocial support, and rejection

from their communities. IOM reported that 70 per cent of returning migrants struggle to find employment in the country.

Bangladesh is also host to approximately 931,000 people from Rakhine, Myanmar, living in camps in Cox's Bazar. See ongoing emergency response section for details on cross-border population movement.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Migration and displacement are areas of high need in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Red Crescent, with the support of IFRC and other partners, has been responding to the humanitarian needs of displaced persons from Myanmar to Bangladesh through the Population Movement Operation since 2017. The Bangladesh Red Crescent's [Strategic Plan 2021-25](#) strives to effectively engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess and respond to their urgent requirements, with an emphasis on migration and Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities, as well as raising awareness of the vulnerabilities of migrants and the risks they face.

Planned activities in 2024

- Assist migrants and internally displaced persons, and ensure protection services
- Support internally displaced people by improving their skills and connecting them to the urban employment market
- Integrate and mainstream migration and displacement principles across its operations and programmes
- Support the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs)
- Support cross-border and route-based cooperation between the Bangladesh Red Crescent and neighbouring National Societies

- Prevent conditions that lead to internal displacement in the context of disasters and climate change
- Map the migration and displacement situation in Bangladesh
- Carry out advocacy for people displaced due to the impact of climate change
- Support the establishment of digital platforms to facilitate access to migration and displacement resources

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC: The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster in Bangladesh, renamed the Displacement Management Cluster, is led by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the Government of Bangladesh and co-led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The cluster falls under the structure of the Humanitarian Country Task Team (HCTT) and focuses on preparedness and response to natural hazards. The Bangladesh Red Crescent and the IFRC are members of the cluster and are working closely to implement the Strategy for Management of Internal Displacement induced by disasters and climate impacts. Aligned with this, the IFRC is supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent in working closely with the Government of Bangladesh to find solutions for displaced persons. IFRC will also support the National Society in establishing [Humanitarian Service Points](#) (HSP) along migratory routes.

The **American Red Cross** will support the National Society's work as part of the Government of Bangladesh's National Displacement Management Cluster to track and manage internally displaced populations in secondary cities.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the National Society's assistance to people to adapt to the impact of population movement through effective service delivery.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** will support the National Society's services to migrants and displaced people in emergencies.



Values, power and inclusion

Bangladesh faces significant challenges in addressing the uneven distribution of economic growth, technological advancements, and digitalization across society. One such challenge for the country is ensuring the rights of its 64 million children, including 1.7 million engaged in child labour, and 46 per cent living in multidimensional poverty. The country also has one of the highest rates of child marriage globally, with many children being victims of abuse and repression. [The](#)

[Youth Development Index \(YDI\) 2020](#) ranks Bangladesh 126th out of 181 countries in terms of youth development, education, employment, and opportunities.

Education in Bangladesh is low, with only 83 per cent of children completing primary education, 65 per cent completing lower secondary education, and 29 per cent completing higher secondary education. Socioeconomic disparities are

exacerbated at higher levels of education, with approximately 4.6 million children out of school. The quality of education in Bangladesh is low, with most children not acquiring basic reading fluency. COVID-19 has affected access to education for the poorest children, who have limited access to technology. Inclusive education for children with disabilities is crucial. Lack of adequate infrastructure and facilities keep children with disabilities behind in accessing education.

In Bangladesh, socio-cultural and traditional factors continue to create barriers to women's emancipation, including limited mobility, access to rights and opportunities, less decision-making power, and political participation. Women continue to be marginalized in society, with control over women's bodies and life choices often subject to religious law.

Indigenous communities, comprising about 50 different ethnic communities, are also facing challenges. The 2022 population census found that 1.6 million people in the country are from ethnic communities, constituting 0.99 per cent of the total population. Bangladesh has a constitution that ensures affirmative action for indigenous peoples and prohibits discrimination based on race, religion or place of birth. However, these communities are situated in isolated areas, and therefore lack basic infrastructure, while facing poverty, low education and poor housing conditions, and possess few physical assets.

Persons with disabilities in Bangladesh also face challenges. According to the Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013, about 2.8 per cent of the population have disabilities, with a prevalence of 6 per cent among those below the age of 18, and 14 per cent among those above that age. In 2013, the government passed the Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act to replace the Disabled Welfare Act.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent strives to guarantee that no one is left unsafe, behind, or excluded. The National Society aims at mainstreaming the IFRC's standards on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in its work, as well as strengthening safeguarding policies and approaches. It is also committed towards ensuring Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in all its interventions. The Bangladesh Red Crescent's priorities include:

- Enhance quality access to education for all vulnerable groups and strengthen vocational training programmes.
- Ensure climate resilient school infrastructure, with gender segregated sanitation facilities to reduce drop out and absenteeism rates among schoolgirls.
- Promote women's empowerment and capacities, while advocating for women's access to land, information, education, and participation.

- Engage men and boys as allies to promote gender equality and engage communities to prevent child marriage and gender-based violence.
- Strengthen PGI programming along with capacity building in both PGI and CEA for Bangladesh Red Crescent staff.
- Strengthen the safety and security of Bangladesh Red Crescent staff and volunteers through systematic programming.

Planned activities in 2024

- Mainstream PGI into sectoral programming and operations
- Undertake a child safeguarding risk analysis
- Training on CEA for staff and volunteers
- Digitalize the National Society's CEA hotline number and feedback database
- Improve access to psychosocial support especially for children

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, together with its network partners, will support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in addressing the specific vulnerabilities of women, people living with disabilities, children, and the elderly. This will include the adoption of CEA approaches in activities across all five strategic priorities. Support will also be provided for enhanced PGI mainstreaming, including on PGI data collection and analysis, and documenting good practice. Work under way includes support to the National Society on sensitive feedback and providing CEA trainings for staff and volunteers on safeguarding, including a survivor centred approach and PGI minimum standards. It also includes support to establish long-term partnership with people with disabilities specialized organisations.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the National Society will continue to ensure an effective and dynamic feedback and complaints response mechanism is in place. This will include consultations with communities to understand their expectations of a feedback mechanism, and preferred channels for providing feedback; encourage positive behaviour and address fear, rumours and stigma; and the formation of CEA committees at community level and orientation on feedback mechanisms. The Swedish Red Cross is supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent in reference to the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar under the PPP.

The **American Red Cross** will assist the Bangladesh Red Crescent in supporting the local government system to be more inclusive and child-friendly.

The **British Red Cross** will support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in strengthening its capacity to roll out CEA mainstreaming/institutionalization within organizational and programmatic frameworks.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in mainstreaming CEA, PGI, and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in programmes.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will support CEA capacity building and PGI mainstreaming.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will engage with the Bangladesh Red Crescent in mainstreaming PGI and PSEA in programmes.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** will support the National Society's education programmes.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Bangladesh Red Crescent has committed to five transformations in its [Strategic Plan 2021-25](#) which are essential for overall National Society development. It will strive towards ensuring financial sustainability both at the central level and its branches, increasing the number of members and volunteers, speed up digitalization at all levels, enable itself to become a trusted and accountable local actor, and increase partnership and collaboration at all levels.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent has carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification ([OCAC](#)) process in 2014 and 2018. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Bangladesh Red Crescent is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) process, and is at the workplan phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent will effectively participate and engage with the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and will aim to take a leadership role in advancing the IFRC Global Shelter Cluster commitments. In line with the National Society multi-year country support plan, there will be continued efforts to achieve one plan, one report and one dashboard for all Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. This will entail a common resource mobilization effort, bringing both national and international funding streams into one approach.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent will engage in the Asia Pacific Women's Leadership programme and ensure women representation at decision-making levels of the Bangladesh Red Crescent headquarters and branches.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

- Facilitate the implementation of the New Way of Working, in line with the IFRC Agenda for Renewal.
- Support the National Society in developing and implementing partnerships, while ensuring all external partnerships credit the work of the Bangladesh Red Crescent
- The **IFRC** will support and enhance the capacity of the National Society to take a leadership role in shelter cluster coordination.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent aims to improve the overall management systems, facilities and accountable service delivery; and to promote volunteerism. These in turn encompass priorities such as HR development, branch development, financial sustainability, property development, partnership building, visibility and branding, accountability and transparency, volunteer development, logistics development, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), and the duty of care.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC has prioritized National Society development support due to the National Society's clear vision on its development as laid out in its [Strategic Plan 2021-25](#). In this connection, a National Society development support direction paper was developed in June 2021 to guide the IFRC and its membership in supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent for the period 2021 to 2025. The direction paper outlines the work, support, the process of prioritization, coordination and funding modalities. Accordingly, the IFRC Network will provide the following support:

- Strengthen the auxiliary role of the National Society and understanding of the seven Fundamental Principles,

among government entities with whom the National Society engages and collaborates.

- Engage with government and parliamentary bodies to finalize the National Society's legal base
- Support the Bangladesh Red Crescent to link its Red Crescent law, constitution and [Strategic Plan 2021-25](#)
- Support the National Society in the development of a property business plan as part of its Resource Mobilization strategy
- Support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in reference to volunteer policy and implementation guidelines
- Support the National Society in establishing regional strategy hubs to facilitate localization of preparedness and decentralize administrative functions
- Strengthen the Asia Pacific Branch Organisational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) hub hosted by the Bangladesh Red Crescent
- Support the National Society's logistics development which will include a five-year Bangladesh Red Crescent Strategic Development Plan with capacity enhancement and development initiatives including training
- Facilitate peer-learning processes within the Bangladesh Red Crescent and between the Bangladesh Red Crescent and other National Societies



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent will enhance advocacy and communication efforts to raise awareness and build local trust. It will aim particularly at accessing climate change adaptation funds and support for the population movement crisis in Cox's Bazar and the relocated camp community on Bhashan Char island. It will also engage in driving global and regional collective humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

- Support the Bangladesh Red Crescent to commission a perception study on the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the country

- Support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in the preparation a roadmap for strengthening its auxiliary role at all levels
- Facilitate a dialogue on the Disaster Law study commissioned in 2019 with Government of Bangladesh authorities (Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Continue with supporting the preparation of advocacy messages to the government
- Develop and implement policies and strategies related to the communications including social media, in order to ensure transparency and accountability
- Organize training sessions on influencing skills
- The **British Red Cross** will continue to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in the implementation of its plan of action on humanitarian diplomacy which was developed in 2023 with the National Society's management and leadership.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- The Bangladesh Red Crescent seeks to enhance its institutional learning, coordination and risk management processes. As part of accountability and agility, it will undertake internal controls and audits, both at headquarters and branches
- Undertake an annual external audit of headquarters and major limbs of the National Society
- Ensure a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) framework is in place and operational
- Institutionalize its digital information management system, focusing on HR management, asset management, volunteer management, and warehouse management

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

To capacitate National Society staff, training and mentoring sessions will be organized on issues related to results-based management. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework

across programmes will also be established to ensure that high-quality evaluations and reviews are carried out. As part of this work, the donor requirements and indicators used for programme monitoring and reporting, will be referenced and streamlined.

The **British Red Cross** will continue to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent in the area of HR development.

The IFRC network will provide support to the National Society in upgrading its network infrastructure to ensure reliability and increased bandwidth for remote and field operations. This will help to facilitate communication among remote teams and improve data collection methods and tools to better track humanitarian efforts and measure impact. The Bangladesh Red Crescent will also explore collaborations with other humanitarian organizations for knowledge-sharing and joint technology initiatives. One key aim of this collaboration will be to reduce energy consumption in data centres and offices by employing green IT practices.



A volunteer from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) disseminates information about the dengue outbreak to students as part of a campaign targeting schools throughout Dhaka city, in 2023. (Photo: IFRC)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The **IFRC** has been supporting the work of the Bangladesh Red Crescent for several decades, and has a delegation in Dhaka and a sub-delegation in Cox's Bazar. The IFRC has a legal status agreement in Bangladesh signed with the Government of Bangladesh. IFRC support focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. The IFRC works with the Bangladesh Red Crescent in strengthening its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In 2023, IFRC supported the National Society with three new DREF operations, and launched one DREF Early Action Protocol. It also continued its support for the Population Movement Operation (PMO) in Cox's Bazar through its long-running Emergency Appeal – this operation which began in 2017 in support of displaced people from Rakhine state in Myanmar, as well as the affected host community in Cox's Bazar, is one of the largest IFRC-supported emergency operations. The IFRC also continues to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the Government of Bangladesh to help people in their recovery from COVID-19 and in receiving vaccinations.

In recent floods in the Sylhet region, the IFRC supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent on the integrated flood recovery

operation. The IFRC is also supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent through the Integrated Flood Resilience Programme (IFRP) Phase II in Tangail district that mainly focuses on the physical, social, economic and environmental capacity development of communities through a community-based disaster risk reduction approach. The IFRC helped the National Society in pre-positioning activities under the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for floods and cyclones. It also supports a road safety programme in Dhaka, and an emergency WASH response and preparedness programming across the country. The IFRC plays an active role in NSD and capacity building of the Bangladesh Red Crescent and its countrywide volunteer network. Together with the membership, the IFRC helps the Bangladesh Red Crescent to maintain a contingency stock for immediate relief items, as well as water purification units.

The IFRC is hosting the Country Support Platform (CSP) which is an operational arm of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC). The CSP in Bangladesh is working with Government of Bangladesh to effectively implement the National Cholera Control plan, ensuring consistency and alignment with the global roadmap.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent is part of the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative, which is being piloted in 14 countries. It aims to establish a new model of membership coordination, working to instil a thorough change in the ways the IFRC network works together, placing the National Society of the country at the centre. This includes prioritizing effective coordination for much greater gains, optimizing the power of working as one IFRC network by sharing resources, learnings,

and common standards, and to ultimately achieve greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning to ensure that National Society partners present in a country participate in one multi-year country plan, which will ensure that the resources and expertise of the network in country are used in a complementary and efficient way.

Several coordination mechanisms are in place and practiced regularly in Bangladesh. Different programme level coordination meetings take place with participating National Societies, and bi-weekly country representatives' meetings take place convened by the IFRC head of delegation. In addition, a Country Coordination Team (CCT) was instituted in February 2022, led by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Secretary General and coordinated by the IFRC Head of Delegation. In emergency response, the IFRC adopts a membership-wide approach, keeping the National Society response plan at the centre. One of the most successful outcomes of the Federation-wide approach is the shared leadership modality piloted by the

IFRC and the American Red Cross in the Population Movement Operation. In the 2024 plan, this shared leadership will be expanded for the development interventions in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

Bangladesh is part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between DG ECHO and the IFRC, which began in 2022 and will continue into 2024. The Bangladesh Red Crescent is implementing the activities under this partnership with the support of IFRC, the German Red Cross (lead EU National Society), Danish Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross. This initiative features support for three pillars comprising disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response; and risk communication, and community engagement and accountability.

There are currently nine participating National Societies in the country that have long-term partnerships with the Bangladesh Red Crescent:

The **American Red Cross** has been working in Bangladesh since 2007. It supports National Society development, disaster and climate risk management, anticipatory action and early warning, Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), cash readiness, localization and decentralization, financial sustainability, digitalization and humanitarian diplomacy, collectively with the IFRC. The American Red Cross is supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent, together with local governments, and technical partners, to implement disaster and climate risk management efforts in both rural and urban areas of the Bangladesh coastal belt. This involves a community-specific focus in the high-risk southwestern coastal districts through the Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction programme. With IFRC, the American Red Cross supports the National Society in comprehensive disaster risk management in the Cox's Bazar camp settlements and district. It is also supporting the strengthening of disaster risk governance and community early warning and anticipatory action systems and structures at the national and local levels. The American Red Cross is supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent to engage in a macro-level flood preparedness initiative targeting the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin area through the establishment of partnerships with Google, forecasting agencies and academic partners.

The **British Red Cross** has operated in the country since 2006, in the areas of early recovery and integrated resilience programming. It is also a major contributor to IFRC emergency response mechanisms in the country. The British Red Cross focus has shifted to the urban context, after a decade of supporting rural programmes in coastal and northern districts. The urban resilience programme started with the Barishal City Corporation, and currently supports livelihoods resilience. The British Red Cross also supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent in its climate change adaptation project in

Narayanganj City Corporation. It supports the Population Movement Operation in Cox's Bazar through the IFRC, and with the Swedish Red Cross, it supports the National Society in water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in the camp. It also continues to support resilience interventions benefiting host communities in the Teknaf sub-district in Cox's Bazar. The British Red Cross will continue to support National Society development, building upon the former's earlier investments in the area of Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), cash preparedness, community engagement and accountability; and branch development.

The **Danish Red Cross** has worked with the Bangladesh Red Crescent since the 1980s, focusing primarily on community-level health care and disaster response activities. It increased its presence in the country in 2017, following the influx of people from the Rakhine state of Myanmar into Cox's Bazar. The Danish Red Cross also supports preparedness and risk reduction initiatives of the Bangladesh Red Crescent and its immediate response to communities affected by multi-hazards and disasters. It supports the promotion of access to quality information and health care services, including mental health and psychosocial support at the Bangladesh Red Crescent's existing mother and child health centres. As technical lead on mental health and psychosocial support, the Danish Red Cross supports the National Society in ensuring that mental health and psychosocial support is mainstreamed into its health interventions, disaster response systems and regular programmes. The Danish Red Cross also supports the National Society in empowering people to adapt to the impact of migration and displacement, and rebuild their lives. National Society Development is also integrated into Danish Red Cross-supported programmes on policy and systems development, volunteer management, youth engagement and branch development.

The **German Red Cross** has been a partner of the Bangladesh Red Crescent for more than 40 years, supporting the strengthening of disaster risk management structures and capacities within the long-term National Society Development approach. It has been leading the support provided to the Bangladesh Red Crescent in reference to programming funded by ECHO. It is also the country lead for the global DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership which began in 2022. As a pioneer in anticipatory action (AA) and urban resilience programming, the German Red Cross supports the National Society in forecast-based financing and integration into the IFRC's DREF anticipatory pillar. Early Action Protocols (EAPs) for cyclones, floods and heatwaves are in place. To further position the National Society as the country's technical expert in forecast-based financing, German Red Cross is supporting the establishment of an AA Secretariat hosted by the Bangladesh Red Crescent, in partnership with the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP). German

Red Cross-funded initiatives, including urban resilience building through knowledge and innovation and the Dhaka Earthquake Emergency Preparedness-Enhancing Resilience project, have strengthened the capacities of the Bangladesh Red Crescent and urban stakeholders. The German Red Cross will also support the National Society in the development of shock-responsive social protection initiatives. It will continue its contribution to the protracted population movement crisis in Cox's Bazar through work in WASH, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and shelter. It will also continue its WASH support to the population in Bhashan Char.

The **Japanese Red Cross** Society deployed its health Emergency Response Unit from September 2017 to April 2018 as part of the IFRC emergency operation, following the population influx in Cox's Bazar. After this, it continued to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent on health. Currently, it is supporting one health post; and community-based health and first aid activities, in financial partnership with the Qatar Red Crescent. It is also working with the Danish Red Cross to support the National Society in psychosocial support activities.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** has been working in Bangladesh since the start of the population movement crisis in Cox's Bazar in August 2017. Health, shelter, relief and livelihood, and WASH are the major areas of interventions which the Qatar Red Crescent is supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent on. The Qatar Red Crescent also supports the National Society in its response operations in other parts of the country.

The **Swedish Red Cross** country strategy (2022-2025) focuses on three thematic priorities: community resilience, WASH; and emergency preparedness and response. Currently, the Swedish Red Cross is supporting flood resilience programming in the Jamuna River Basin, WASH in Cox's Bazar camp, leading the CEA pillar as part of the IFRC-DG ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership; the development of a Management Information System for the Bangladesh Red Crescent; National Society Development support for a green response and PGI; the flash flood response in the Chattogram region, and an initial response fund to address emergency needs.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is currently supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent in three development projects, aimed at helping disadvantaged and vulnerable communities build their resilience. The Swiss Red Cross has been supporting the National Society through its Reinforcing Rural Resilience programme in Gaibandha, Kurigram and ten other districts, focusing on an integrated approach of scaling up local capacities at the community and local governmental level to enhance preparedness and response readiness to natural and health hazards. The current project will end in June 2024, and the Swiss Red Cross is currently in the preliminary stages of co-designing a new rural project to address the compounding challenges of climate change. In collaboration with other partners, the Swiss Red Cross is supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent in the operation of five primary health care (PHC) centres in Cox's Bazar camps until the end of 2025. This collaborative effort brings specialist health care organizations under one roof in the PHCs to provide a range of services. The third commitment of the Swiss Red Cross is its support for a long-term programme addressing environmental health and waste management in the urban slums of Gazipur. The programme is aimed at getting city corporations to collectively focus on issues impacting the community in health and disaster risk management. It also involves support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent in developing an urban strategy to address the growing needs of urban expansion, internal climate migrants and climate change.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** has actively supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent since 2012. During the influx in 2017, the Turkish Red Crescent provided major relief support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent's Population Movement Operation. In reference to the protracted crisis, the Turkish Red Crescent has complemented its support on shelters with critical peripheral amenities encompassing WASH facilities, health facilities, a multipurpose community centre providing PGI, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), CEA and a new learning centre. The Turkish Red Crescent also provides major food support to host and camp communities, with food packages during religious festivals like Ramadan and Eid-al Adha. It also continues its support towards the response of the Bangladesh Red Crescent to disasters. The Turkish Red Crescent will continue to support the National Society in the provision of shelter and livelihoods for the displaced Rakhine community, in collaboration with partners.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	1.8M						
British Red Cross	1.2M						
Danish Red Cross	2.4M						
German Red Cross	4.7M						
Italian Red Cross	50,000						
Japanese Red Cross Society	239,000						
Qatar Red Crescent Society	1M						
Swedish Red Cross	2.1M						
Swiss Red Cross	1.5M						
Turkish Red Crescent Society	600,000						

Total Funding requirement

15.5M

Movement coordination

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and in-country participating National Societies coordinate regularly through established mechanisms. The ICRC also takes part in the IFRC membership Country Coordination Team (CCT). Discussions are underway to resume the Movement Coordination meetings in alignment with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles and the [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In Bangladesh, the ICRC helps people affected by violence, visits detainees, supports physical rehabilitation services and promotes international humanitarian law. Together with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, it strives to re-establish family links where contacts between relatives have been interrupted, and to reunite missing people with their families. The ICRC will continue working closely with the National Society in protecting and assisting the displaced population from Myanmar's Rakhine state in Cox's Bazar.

Coordination with other actors

In addition to working closely with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as its line ministry, the Bangladesh Red Crescent has also established strong partnerships and good working relationships with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and local government offices in the districts. Additionally, the Bangladesh Red Crescent will increase and expand its engagement with Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent and the IFRC are active members of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and technical clusters and working groups which include food security, WASH, health, gender, child protection, logistics, needs assessment working group (NAWG), National Cash Working Group (NCWG), and information management. Regular coordination and communication is maintained through other coordination platforms such as the Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG), and the ISCG in Cox's Bazar. The Bangladesh Red Crescent leads the Anticipatory Action Working Group (AAWG) and has representations in inter cluster fora. The IFRC also runs the [Sphere Community](#) Bangladesh Secretariat with the active involvement of the Bangladesh Red Crescent.

The IFRC co-chairs the Shelter Cluster Bangladesh, and the Bangladesh Red Crescent participates in the shelter cluster and its working groups. The [Global Shelter Cluster](#) is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) coordination mechanism and IFRC has been leading the Shelter Cluster in disaster contexts since the establishment of the cluster

approach in 2005. This critical mandate places IFRC as one of the lead agencies in the international humanitarian coordination system. IFRC leverages its leadership position in the Global Shelter Cluster for improved coordination, stronger policies and standards across the sector, and better support for affected people in their recovery.

Various external partners are supporting the Bangladesh Red Crescent through funding and direct engagement. Major government agencies, including the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (US-PRM), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), DFAT, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), ECHO, and the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others, have contributed to the Population Movement Operation in Cox's Bazar, and health and disaster response operations as well as long term development interventions.

In 2024, IFRC will continue its efforts to reach more institutional donors such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, among others, and strengthen partnerships with both major public and private entities. The IFRC and the Bangladesh Red Crescent's active engagement in the Early Warning for All initiative will strengthen partnerships with WFP, FAO, UNDRR, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant stakeholders. Through the operationalization of the Bangladesh Red Crescent's climate change strategy and roll out of the Climate Champion action plan, IFRC and its membership will support the establishment of partnerships with climate and environmental research institutes and other academic institutions.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, and the support it is receiving from the IFRC Network, comprising the IFRC and participating National Societies. It is the result of a unified planning process involving the Bangladesh Red Crescent, the IFRC and participating National Societies. It also unifies the emergency response of the National Society with its long-term programming. The plan which is aligned with IFRC's [Strategy 2030](#), will serve as a reference for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Contact information

Kazi Shofiqul Azam

Secretary General, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

T +880 1811 458500

secretarygeneral@bdracs.org

www.bdracs.org

Supipi Jayawardena

IFRC Acting Head

Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

T +6019 648 5410

supipi.jayawardena@ifrc.org

Alberto Bocanegra

Head of Delegation

IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation, Dhaka

T +88 01711 521 615

alberto.bocanegra@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead

IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre
New Delhi

sumitha.martin@ifrc.org