



# BANGLADESH

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

16 August 2024

## IN SUPPORT OF THE BANGLADESH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY



**68**

National Society branches



**155**

National Society local units



**122,559**

National Society volunteers



**2,757**

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



**214,783**

Climate and environment



**294,604**

Disasters and crises



**1,080,742**

Health and wellbeing



**659,518**

Migration and displacement



**87,541**

Values, power and inclusion



**126,953**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

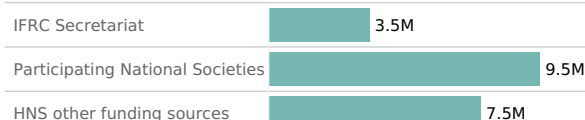
Country	Funding Requirement	110.9M	
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	32.7M
		Funding	22.1M
		Expenditure	12.6M
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	11.8M
		Funding	10.6M
		Expenditure	6.1M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	13M	
	Funding	7.8M	
	Expenditure	7M	
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	53.4M	
	Funding	7.5M	

### Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

Overview



Funding Sources

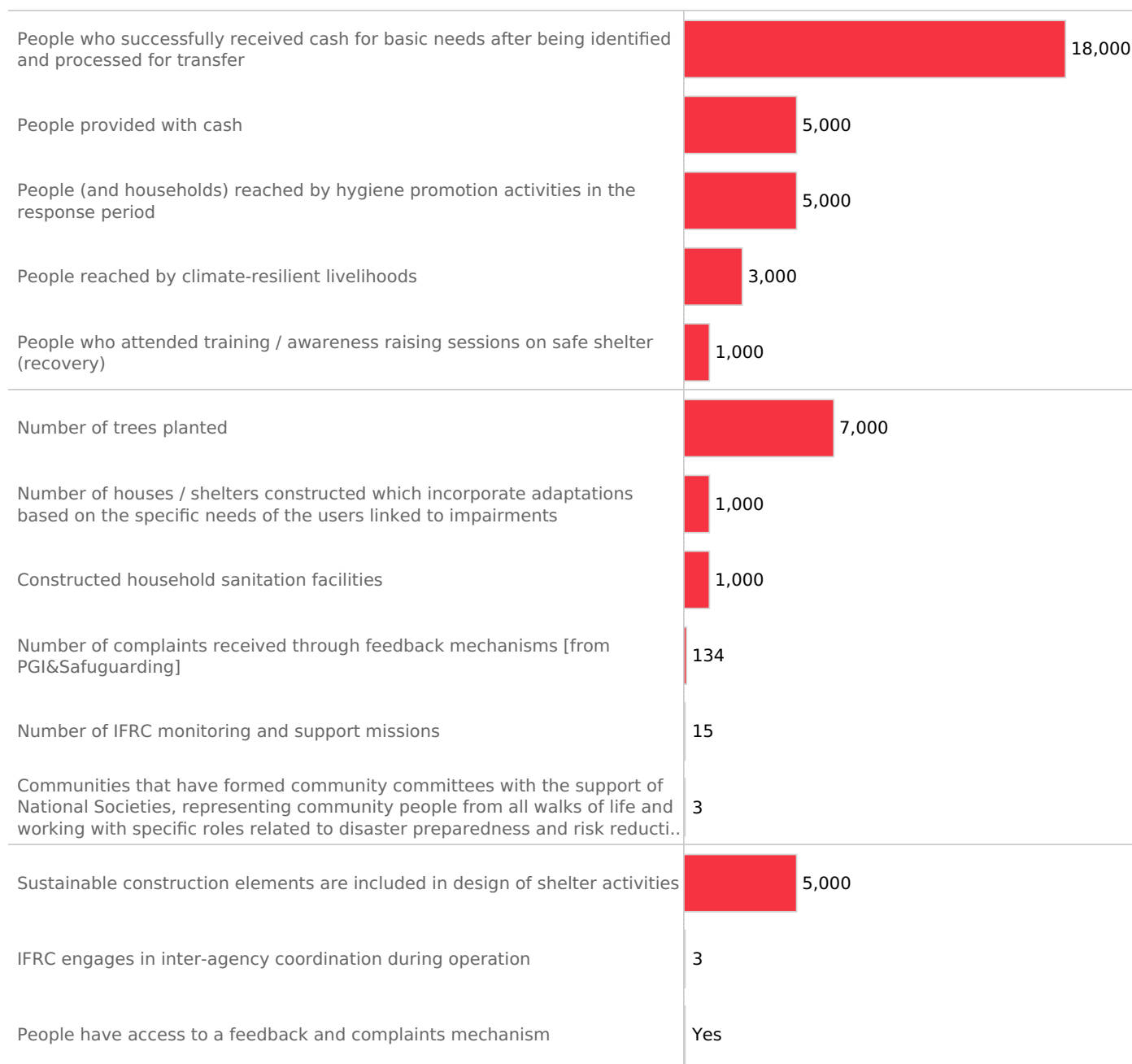


Appeal number **MAABD001**

In addition to: CHF 500,000 DREF Funding

# ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRBD028 / Bangladesh Flood 2022



# ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRBD018 / Bangladesh Population Movement

People covered by formal disaster preparedness and anticipatory action plans	197,000
People reached with epidemic preparedness, and health literacy information at community level	137,000
People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	125,000
People (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period	54,000
People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	53,000
People provided with access to safely managed sanitation services or to improved sanitation facilities (according to context)	35,000
Community feedback reports produced	142,000
Volunteers involved in the response operation that have increased their skills in response and management of operations	767
Trained as Red Cross or Red Crescent WASH (community health) Volunteers	178
National Society has adapted or developed its business continuity plan (BCP) considering a multi-hazard approach	Yes
National Society has active coordination mechanism for operations (i.e. EOC, situation room)	Yes

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	295,000
	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response activities	164,000
	People reached by epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response activities	118,000
	People covered by a functional early warning system (KRI)	6,000
	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	36%
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	1.1M
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	690,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	26,000
	People reached with shelter support	23,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	50%
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	660,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	328,000
	People donating blood	99,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	92,000
	People reached with immunization services	52,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	7,000
	Trained as Red Cross or Red Crescent WASH (community health) Volunteers	5,000
	People trained in epidemic control	25
	National Society has adapted or developed its business continuity plan (BCP) considering a multi-hazard approach	Yes
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	88,000
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	127,000
	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	2,000
	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of	36
	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	21
<b>National Society development</b>	Volunteers involved in the response operation that have increased their skills in response and management of operations	767
	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	National Society has active coordination mechanism for operations (i.e. EOC, situation room)	Yes
	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers	Yes
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	Participation in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
	National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA policy to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
American Red Cross	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Australian Red Cross	●						
British Red Cross	●	●	●	●		●	●
Canadian Red Cross Society	●						
Danish Red Cross		●	●	●	●		●
Finnish Red Cross	●						
German Red Cross		●	●	●	●	●	●
Japanese Red Cross Society	●			●			●
Korean Red Cross	●						
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	●						
Monaco Red Cross	●						
Netherlands Red Cross	●						
Qatar Red Crescent Society			●	●		●	
Red Cross Society of China	●						
Swedish Red Cross	●			●			
Swiss Red Cross	●	●	●	●		●	●
Turkish Red Crescent Society		●		●		●	●

■ Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

In 2023, while rising inflationary pressures posed a concern for [Bangladesh's economy](#), the country made a swift recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic which was supported by prudent macroeconomic policies. The estimated growth in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 6 per cent. This growth, however, has been accompanied by several challenges, including energy shortages, balance-of-payments deficit, and revenue collection which fell short of expectations. Alongside these developments, the country faced some significant humanitarian challenges, particularly due to disasters induced by natural hazards. [Continuous monsoon rains](#) in August, flash floods, landslides, dengue, Cyclone Mocha, Cyclone Hamoon, and Cyclone Midhili affected the lives and livelihoods of the people. On 16 April 2023, the capital city of Dhaka experienced a temperature of more than [40.6 degrees Celsius](#), the highest in the city in 58 years, underscoring the need for urgent environmental efforts to reduce the impact of climate change in the country.

Aside from the above-mentioned challenges, road safety is one area which is of concern, with an estimated 5,425 people who were killed in 2023.

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, 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. It is also home to the world's largest refugee camp, Cox's Bazar. The camp is in the southeast coastal district of the country and provides refuge to some 870,000 people from the Rakhine state of Myanmar. While the country faces challenges related to governance, civil society participation, climate change, social inclusion, and access to basic services, over the 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 reduction of 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.

In terms of healthcare, 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.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society advanced community resilience through its Integrated Flood Resilience and Climate Resilience programmes. It organized numerous community and school sessions on climate change, disaster preparedness, and health. Key achievements include revising [early action protocols](#), supporting cyclone shelter preparations and providing [cash grants](#) for flood-resilient sanitation and access to water. It also provided livelihood support alongside environmental initiatives, conducted a climate impact assessment, and distributed essential items to affected communities and undertook infrastructure improvements for them. The National Society also focused on disaster preparedness, reviewing Cyclone Sitrang's response, updating its climate strategy, and developing the national Early Action Protocol for Cyclones.

### Disasters and Crises

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society advanced community resilience through diverse initiatives. It repaired roads and raised school grounds in Tangail to reduce flood vulnerability and observed National Disaster Preparedness Day to enhance disaster knowledge. Its [disaster risk reduction](#) efforts included distributing [early warning](#) messages during Cyclone Mocha and organizing events to explore disaster and inequality links. The National Society conducted training in first aid, search and rescue, and disaster preparedness under various projects and programmes. Coastal resilience projects featured road and cyclone centre repairs, extensive community education and disaster awareness

campaigns. Urban resilience activities included city assessments and cross-learning visits. The National Society also trained volunteers, supported school disaster preparedness and improved road safety through education and first aid. It integrated flood resilience work which involved updating community frameworks, developing early action protocols and organizing awareness days.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, in 2023, advanced its health and policy strategy by developing a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) framework, enhancing national immunization programmes, and establishing a new health centre in Magura. It conducted outreach on non-communicable diseases in Gazipur and provided medical services to nearly 1,500 patients. The National Society strengthened public health through community-based surveillance and dengue response activities. It mainstreamed MHPSS services and supported mental health awareness, including stress management training. Under the integrated flood resilience programme, it improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices, repaired tubewells, and distributed menstrual hygiene kits. Its emergency WASH response involved training, procurement of purification supplies and the development of integrated health-WASH interventions. The National Society also conducted simulation exercises for disaster preparedness.

## **Migration and Displacement**

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has continued to respond to the longstanding population movement crisis in Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char Island. This operation continues to serve as one of the largest operations under migration and displacement. Other undertakings of the National Society In 2023 included the finalisation of evacuation shelter management guidelines, drone training for disaster response and the initiation of a national shelter mapping project. It provided cash support for flood displacement, conducted cyclone and fire preparedness simulations, and improved infrastructure with tailoring centres where sewing skills training was provided for women.

## **Values, Power, and Inclusion**

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society trained staff and volunteers in protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and distributed PGI guidelines widely. It conducted community engagement and accountability training, developed information materials, and broadcast radio programmes on key issues for targeted communities. The National Society also organized community consultation sessions and folk events, enhancing feedback mechanisms and raising awareness on disaster risk management and gender-based violence.

## **Enabling local actors**

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society finalised the delayed Operation Plan, enhanced district-level reporting and completed a joint due diligence assessment in 2023. The National Society advanced its digitalization efforts by mapping IT equipment, launching HR software and upgrading digital tools. Financial sustainability was bolstered through a new resource mobilization strategy, fundraising initiatives, and business development plans for 10 properties. Governance improvements included orientation workshops for district council chairmen and participation in global leadership groups, while youth engagement was strengthened through conferences, policy translations and capacity-building projects.

Visibility efforts included audio-visual productions and participation in global platforms such as COP 28, showcasing its contributions to disaster response and climate action. Accountability initiatives were enhanced through updated risk management policies, child safeguarding analyses, and infographics highlighting COVID-19 response achievements.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1

<b>Name</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Flood 2022</a>
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRBD028
<b>Duration</b>	25 May 2022 to 30 June 2023
<b>People to be assisted</b>	300,000
<b>Funding requirements</b>	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 7.5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 8.5 million
<b>Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Flood 2022 Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Flood Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest operation update</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Flood Final Report</a>

In June 2022, torrential rain and incessant downpours from upstream regions caused the worst flooding in living memory in the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh. More than 7.2 million people were impacted, and hundreds of thousands of households were isolated by flood waters, while some families took shelter in open areas, on higher ground or in flood shelters. According to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, an estimated 481,827 people had been taken to shelters in a combined effort by the Army, Navy, Fire Service, and local authorities.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society operationalized a comprehensive flood response plan aimed at providing effective integrated assistance to 300,000 people affected by the flood. This plan included both relief and recovery activities to address immediate needs of the affected communities and support their long-term recovery. Through this emergency appeal, the focus was to provide immediate assistance to the affected people and at the later stage, recovery assistance to ensure that the affected people can self-recovery from the crisis in a way that is sustainable and strengthens their resilience to future disasters. Throughout the operations, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) formed a major part of the plan, as due to poor economic conditions and limited income opportunities, as well as increased inflation, the most vulnerable flood-affected people were struggling to meet their essential needs.

**Shelter, Housing and Settlements:** The National Society provided shelter support to approximately 1,200 households in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts, where each households received corrugated galvanized iron sheets and cash to repair their house. It guided families on flood resilient house construction and monitored progress at the community level.

**Livelihoods:** The National Society provided unconditional cash support to approximately 619 households, which was used to rebuild livelihoods, with trained volunteers guiding the community through livelihood proposals. Livelihood training programme were held, along with the distribution of vegetable seeds to address nutritional requirement.

**Multi-purpose cash:** The National Society provided unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to an approximately 4,600 of the most vulnerable households in six flood-affected districts of north-east Bangladesh to meet their basic needs.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** The National Society provided a total of 1,200 households with WASH support in Sylhet and Sunamganj, including nine corrugated galvanized iron sheets and cash for hygienic latrine construction. This was also accompanied with specialized training.

**Protection, Gender and Inclusion:** The National Society distributed 16 tailor-made assistive devices to a total of 15 persons with disabilities.

**Community Engagement and Accountability:** Throughout the operation, the National Society’s CEA mechanism gathered feedback and complaint from households through hotline numbers, feedback box, among others. This information was collated to re-assess and was responded to by the National Society.

2

<b>Name</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh – Population Movement</a>
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRBD018
<b>Duration</b>	From 18 March 2017 – 31 December 2027
<b>People to be assisted</b>	1 million (2022-2024)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: 2017-2027: CHF 198.25 million 2025-2027: CHF 65 million (CHF 56 million for Cox’s Bazar), (CHF 9 million for Bhasan Char) Federation-wide Funding requirements: 2025-2027: CHF 87 million
<b>Revised Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Population Movement Revised Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Latest Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Revised operational strategy</a>
<b>Latest operations update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No. 19</a>

In 2016, a significant crisis unfolded in Rakhine, Myanmar, resulting in the displacement of a staggering 896,879 people who sought refuge across the border in Bangladesh. This mass displacement has evolved into a protracted humanitarian crisis marked by uncertainty about the future, including the potential for repatriation. The affected population, heavily reliant on humanitarian aid, faces urgent needs spanning food, health services, shelter, and protection from natural disasters and environmental degradation. The crisis has placed immense strain not only on the displaced population, termed the ‘camp community,’ but also on the local host community in Bangladesh. The host community faces challenges to livelihoods and the local economy due to the influx of displaced individuals.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through its operational strategy, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society set a target of reaching 979,306 displaced people across 33 camps and Bhasan Char Island, supported through Disaster Risk Management, and targeted coverage in 17 camps through shelter, health, WASH, livelihood, PGI, and CEA interventions. In reference to other sectors of intervention in the camps, the National Society set a target of approximately 300,000 people. This target was based on existing and agreed geographical areas and sectoral responsibilities per area allocated to the National Society, the wider IFRC membership, and other humanitarian actors. This was part of the established arrangements in the UN-led ISCG mechanism for the management of the camp settlement in Cox’s Bazar.

Between September 2023 to December 2023, the National Society reached approximately 1 million people indirectly across 33 camps and the host communities by institutionalizing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) governance in camps, strengthening disaster risk management in host communities, disseminating key preparedness information, and supporting the Cyclone Preparedness Programme. In reference to individual-level direct programmatic support extended between September and December 2023, comprising disaster risk management, health, and care, WASH; shelter, basic needs; and PGI, approximately 200,000 people, comprising 114,000 people in the camps and 90,000 people in the host communities were reached through the National Society’s initiatives.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, under the Integrated Flood Resilience programme, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society made progress in enhancing community resilience by conducting a series of community-led meetings and sessions focused on climate-induced vulnerabilities, disaster risk reduction, and health issues. These initiatives engaged a diverse range of participants, including community members and students, in discussions on climate change, flood vulnerability, and disaster preparedness. The efforts also included targeted outreach through courtyard sessions and school programs to raise awareness and build capacity for effective response to climate risks and disasters. The National Society conducted 236 courtyard sessions covering critical topics such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, flood vulnerability, community resilience, health, and COVID-19. These sessions reached 7,588 community members, with 2,179 males and 5,409 females actively involved. Additionally, 262 school sessions were held to educate students on community resilience, disaster preparedness, and climate risk management.

In the area of early action protocols ([EAP](#)) to enhance disaster preparedness and response, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society revised its Cyclone EAP, approved an EAP for a heatwave, initiated the revision of the flood EAP, and is currently developing the EAP for cold wave. For the most recent cyclones, the National Society produced and circulated forecast monitoring and situation update reports regularly with the government, UN agencies, INGOs/NGOs, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and other relevant stakeholders. The National Society also worked on raising awareness on heatwave through different dissemination methods and undertook a massive collaboration effort including camp volunteers in Cox's Bazar and community volunteers at Bhashan Char, in aiding local authorities in the preparation of thousands of cyclone shelters in the coastal areas.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's efforts in providing technical support to the government in finalizing a national level harmonized early action protocol on cyclone and flood hazards. It assisted the National Society activating the Quick Action Fund which supported the National Society in carrying out [anticipatory actions](#) during cyclone Sitrang and flash flood in Chattogram district. These efforts were bolstered by the IFRC's support in areas such as facilitating multistakeholder discussion on national platforms and technical guidance for capacity strengthening of local community and its staff.

The **American Red Cross**, in collaboration with the IFRC and Climate Centre, has been actively supporting the development of a National [Early Action Protocol](#) for Cyclone in Bangladesh. This initiative involved engaging technical experts/consultancy firms. Several consultations were held with coastal communities, sectoral experts, policymakers, government officials, and key stakeholders to gather input.

The **German Red Cross**, under the anticipatory action initiative, provided support to the National Society in simulated cash support, orientations, meetings, workshops, among others.

*IFRC Secretariat and National Societies adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation*

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Under the Sustainable National Societies and Resilient Communities project, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society provided conditional [cash grants](#) to 268 households for the installation of flood-resilient sanitary latrines. Additionally, the National Society extended grants to 100 households for plinth raising and tubewell repairs, ensuring access to safe drinking water. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society also supported the installation of 20 community-level tubewells in these districts.

To further enhance community well-being, the National Society conducted hygiene promotion and behavioural change

activities through courtyard and school sessions. Livelihood support was provided through training and grants, benefiting 443 households. In alignment with environmental goals, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organized orientations on Green Response, celebrated World Environment Day 2023, drafted a Green Response policy and district action plan, and performed self-assessments at both National Headquarters and branch levels.

Under the Integrated Flood Resilience Programme and the Integrated Climate Resilience Programme, the National Society provided cash grants for climate-resilient sustainable livelihood options, including cattle rearing, agriculture, grass and fodder cultivation, and technical support to enhance their income and reduce their vulnerability and resilience to disasters and floods. The beneficiaries also received skill development training and orientation on cattle rearing, agriculture, business development and technical issues. These efforts were complemented by support in income-generating activities, better production, and the distribution of flood-resilient cookstoves.

The National Society also conducted an assessment to assess the specific needs emerging from the climate crisis in the four targeted countries (Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar). These questions included the extent of their exposure to climate-induced hazards and stressors, their underlying vulnerabilities, and the most pressing gaps in the overall response of government as well as humanitarian and development actors. Additionally, in the Itna sub-district in Kishorganj, the National Society distributed essential items such as water containers, installation of water tanks which benefited communities and schoolchildren.

### IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the National Society to advance its Climate Change strategy. It supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in identifying areas of focus within the climate change arena where the National Society can contribute to achieving its overall strategic goal. It provided both financial and technical support to the National Society for the implementation of its initiatives under climate and environment such as the facilitation of discussions on climate change.

The **American Red Cross** also supported the National Society in renewing its climate change strategy. It supported the National Society in the build up to the COP28 and helped finalized contents in climate change context for COP28.



## Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, two IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) were approved for the National Society's response to a [fire incident](#) and [cyclone](#).

1.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Bangladesh Fire Incident in Camp 11
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRBD029
<b>DURATION</b>	6 months (10-03-2023 to 03-09-2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 500,000
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	15,000
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Fire incident final DREF report</a>

The DREF allocation of 500,000 CHF supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in assisting approximately 15,000 people affected by the fire in Camp 11 of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. The National Society supported the affected people by addressing immediate shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene needs of the population affected by the fire through the provision of life-saving interventions and restoration of essential services for the affected population.

## 2.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Bangladesh Cyclone Mocha 2023
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRBD030
<b>DURATION</b>	6 months (17-05-2023 to 30-11-2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 499,538
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	30,000
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Cyclone Mocha final DREF report</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 499,538 supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in assisting approximately 30,000 people affected by Cyclone Mocha in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar in the areas of Chattogram, Bandarban, and Noakhali districts. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as livelihoods and basic needs distribution, shelter, health interventions such as WASH, along with cross-cutting interventions such as community engagement and accountability and protection, gender and inclusion.

*Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises*

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

Under this objective, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society facilitated local community resilience in Tangail. This included repairing one community road and raising a school ground to mitigate flood vulnerability. As a result, community members benefited from reduced flood vulnerability, leading to preserved household resources. The National Society observed National Disaster Preparedness Day and International Day for Disaster Preparedness in communities to impart knowledge on disaster preparedness. Throughout this reporting period, the National Society conducted community disaster management committee and community disaster response team meeting, with the inclusion of other management committees to strengthen the resilience of these communities.

Under its disaster risk reduction project, the National Society distributed early warning messages to communities during Cyclone Mocha in accordance with the government and the weather department's bulletins, aiming to enhance preparedness for the potential impact of Cyclone Mocha. Events such as "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future" was commemorated on International Disaster Risk Reduction Day. These types of events serve as a platform to explore the link between disaster and inequality, and provides a practical, hands-on experience for emergency responders and community members, helping them to understand and prepare for the realities of disaster situations. These efforts were supplemented by interventions such as life skills development, financial literacy, leadership and organizational development, aimed at empowering individuals and communities to effectively respond to and mitigate disaster risks. Surveys and assessments conducted by the National Society in 2023 also showcased the National Society's impact such as its cash grants to youths and businesses.

Under the V2R project in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, the National Society worked to enhance disaster preparedness and community resilience in the V2R areas. Special days related to disaster preparedness were observed, and training sessions were conducted for volunteers. Distribution of tree saplings, workshops on disaster management and contingency planning, collaborating meetings with stakeholders, and prepositioning of early warning equipment are some of the interventions done by the National Society under this project.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's key initiatives included training community volunteers in first aid, search and rescue, fire safety, and earthquake preparedness, while providing basic traffic rule orientation to volunteers under the road safety initiative. It also organized school inception meetings, courtyard sessions on multi-hazard preparedness in urban slums, and awareness sessions on multi-hazard preparedness in camps. The National Society conducted training on Red Cross principles, on first aid, and emergency operations were conducted for students, volunteers, and staff. Similar interventions were also carried out under the National Society's urban disaster risk reduction interventions in 2023.

To strengthen the disaster risk management structures and capacities of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, it took several activities to enhance disaster resilience and community preparedness. The National Society conducted orientations on the Government's standing order of disaster to strengthen local disaster management committees and organized national and inter-organizational dialogues on disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and the National Society's auxiliary role. It sensitized stakeholders through orientation sessions on project activities and emergency operation centre dashboard, observed National Disaster Preparedness Day, and held consultations on resource mobilization strategies.

Under its coastal disaster risk reduction programmes, the National Society focused on enhancing community resilience through various disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives. Key activities included the construction and repair of roads and cyclone centres as part of small-scale mitigation measures, engaging the local community through cash-for-work programs. Extensive courtyard sessions were held across multiple upazilas, educating participants on DRR, disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation, health, hygiene, and socio-economic issues. The project also marked significant disaster awareness days with rallies and discussions at various levels. Training sessions were conducted to strengthen community resilience, including community-based health and first aid training for newly selected organizers and disaster preparedness training for teachers. Additionally, school disaster preparedness workshops were organized to enhance disaster planning efforts within educational institutions.

The National Society's coastal cities resilience and extreme heat action project conducted targeted activities to enhance urban resilience. This included training session for core facilitators on City Assessment, equipping participants from Bagerhat and Satkhira municipalities with the skills needed to carry out assessments in their respective areas. It also organized workshops on City-wide Risk Assessment in Bagerhat and Satkhira to address municipal vulnerabilities and capacities related to shocks and stressors, and to develop a roadmap for mitigating these risks. Additionally, a cross-learning visit to Khulna City Corporation was arranged, where participants from Bagerhat and Satkhira municipalities, along with local officials and project staff, shared knowledge and explored opportunities in climate change adaptation.

The National Society's enhance community resilience programme, in 2023, included a series of training session focused on disaster response and preparedness. Sylhet Unit volunteers received training in search and rescue, equipping them to support similar efforts in schools. Light Search and Rescue training was also conducted for students and teachers in Netrokona and Sylhet, empowering them to effectively respond to various disasters. To further enhance school-level disaster resilience, the National Society supported schools in developing Disaster Preparedness and Risk Mitigation Plans, which aim to reduce disaster losses while providing broader economic, social, and environmental benefits. Additionally, a school-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiative was launched in Chattogram City Corporation.

In the area of road safety, the National Society initiated a series of activities to improve safety around schools and educate stakeholders. This included organizing an orientation event for ten school principals in February 2023, followed by an advocacy session in March 2023 attended by 20 officials from humanitarian organizations and government bodies. Additionally, two [first aid](#) training sessions were conducted in schools, benefitting 70 participants, including teachers and students. During the Eid festivals, volunteers were deployed to assist traffic police in managing road congestion, providing first aid services, and aiding persons with disabilities at various transport terminals in Dhaka.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society through financial and technical assistance to support the National Society's efforts under climate and environment. This includes supporting the National Society through the facilitation of stakeholder meetings, technical assistance for targeted training sessions, community dissemination efforts, and coordinated support with other stakeholders to carry out community resilience initiatives.

The **American Red Cross** supported the National Society with the Coastal Cities Resilience & Extreme Heat Action Project. It also extended support for the Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Programme for implementation of critical infrastructure improvements and community resilience activities across coastal regions.

The **British Red Cross** supported the National Society through the V2R Project in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, focused on improving disaster preparedness and community resilience. Special days promoting disaster preparedness were observed, with training sessions held for Community Disaster Management Committees and Cyclone Community Preparedness Programme volunteers. Training was also provided for Women's Disaster Management Committees and Union Disaster Management Committees.

The **Danish Red Cross** supported the National Society through targeted training initiatives on community resilience. Training on search and rescue, school-based disaster risk reduction activities, training of trainers on DRR are some interventions supported by the Danish Red Cross.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, the German Red Cross supported the National Society's efforts which focused on enhancing disaster risk management structures and capacities across Bangladesh through strategic initiatives.

### *Policy and media advocacy at central and district level on CCA, DRR and community resilience*

#### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

Under the integrated flood resilience programme in 2023, the National Society conducted activities which included reviewing and upgrading the National Society's community resilience framework and organizing training sessions for local government officials on disaster risk management. Workshops were also held to share lessons learned and best practices from programmes, fostering collaboration with government officials and stakeholders. The National Society worked on developing early action protocol for cold waves. It organized "Heatwave Actions Day" to raise awareness and distributed drinking water to those at risk. It also conducted anticipatory action orientation sessions, organized technical working group meetings, and participated in regional dialogues on anticipatory actions.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's efforts in early warning for all aims to ensure universal access to early warning systems for extreme climate and weather events by 2024. The National Society held a two-day National Consultative Workshop with high-level stakeholders and technical experts. The National Society also formalized the agreement for the Governance, Response Readiness, Institutional and Community Preparedness (GRIP) in Southeast Bangladesh. A discussion was also initiated to conduct a scoping study for the expansion of the CPP.

Under the Sustainable National Societies and Resilient Communities (SNSRC) project, the National Society conducted community engagement in Jamalpur and Kurigram districts. Key activities included courtyard sessions and school sessions to educate communities, students, and teachers on disaster risks and climate change impacts. Flood markers were installed, and community resilience funds were established. Additionally, community participation was strong in events such as International Day for Disaster Reduction and National Disaster Preparedness Day.

#### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in developing an early action protocol on cold waves. It also supported the National Society in enhancing preparedness and response capabilities at the national and community levels and includes such interventions as early warning systems which translates into life-saving actions in times of disasters.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supported the National Society by implementing extensive community-based disaster preparedness initiatives in Jamalpur and Kurigram districts. Activities included conducting courtyard sessions and school sessions to educate communities and students on natural disasters, climate change impacts, and flood preparedness. The project also facilitated the establishment of flood markers and community resilience funds, benefiting participants across the communities.



## **Health and wellbeing**

*National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms*

#### **Progress by National Society against objectives**

In 2023, under this objective, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society began the process of developing its health and policy strategy. It also developed Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) framework which will be integrated in the National Society's health policy and strategy.

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in its efforts to actively participate in the health and nutrition cluster group. During this reporting period, the IFRC provided technical support to develop a health cluster term of reference for emergencies.

The Danish Red Cross provides technical support to the National Society in developing an MHPSS roadmap.

*The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services across the life course*

## Progress by National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society worked to enhance the national immunization programmes by providing vaccinations through its mother and child health centres. A new centre was established in Magura to enhance healthcare services. In Gazipur, the National Society raised awareness about non-communicable diseases. Community-based health programmes were conducted across 56 centres. The National Society also translated the epidemic control for volunteer's toolkit into Bengali and conducted training sessions using the new materials.

Under the Bangladesh enhanced community resilience programme, the National Society focused on non-communicable disease prevention and community health in Gazipur. It conducted outreach activities, including screenings and referrals. The National Society introduced NCD specialists in four maternal and child health centres. It organized four health camps, provided medical consultations, diagnostics, and free medicines to nearly 1,500 patients.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society strengthened its role as a public health partner through enhanced collaboration with government health authorities. The implementation of the community-based surveillance (CBS) system facilitated early disease detection and response. During the dengue outbreak, the National Society conducted public health promotion activities, including school and community-clean-up campaigns.

As part of its efforts to mainstream mental health and psychosocial support programme, the National Society provided MHPSS services at camps and conducted psychological first aid (PFA) training to enhance volunteer skills in supporting people in distress. Stress management session trained volunteers in identifying and coping with stress. The National Society marked World Mental Health Day and emphasized mental health as a universal right.

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the National Society in the establishment of the new healthcare centre in Magura. It also provided support to the National Society by actively engaging in dengue-related coordination meetings to develop new awareness messages for better community engagement.

The Danish Red Cross provided support to the National Society in its enhanced community resilience programme and MHPSS initiatives. It also supported the National Society's efforts in community-based surveillance under the DG ECHO-IFRC PPP programme.



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organising awareness session on heat-related illnesses in Bajakajla slum. (Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society)

*Communities have increased access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services*

### **Progress by National Society against objectives**

Under the V2R project in Teknaf, the National Society's efforts to enhance community resilience in health included a study on climate-resilient livelihoods and a survey assessing latrine needs for persons with disabilities. Educational handwashing sessions reached students, and water testing of tubewells was carried out with the Department of Public Health Engineering. A well-being study was conducted for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in V2R communities. Stakeholder engagement involved meetings on protection referral pathways and with the Union Steering Committee on women and child protection. The National Society strengthened staff capacity through protection and case management training, and anti-trafficking training was provided to women.

Under the integrated flood resilience programme, the National Society focused on enhancing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices and resilience. Participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation sessions educated communities on WASH behaviours. Tubewells were repaired and made flood resilient, with new installations addressing historical flood levels. The National Society observed World Water Day and World Toilet Day to highlight water and sanitation issues, with events emphasizing the importance of proper water usage and hygiene practices. Additionally, under this programme, menstrual hygiene management kits were distributed to pregnant women and adolescent girls.

In its emergency WASH response and preparedness project, the National Society conducted training sessions to enhance emergency WASH response and preparedness. Specialized sessions on hygiene promotion and in emergency and menstrual hygiene management were also conducted for volunteers and staff across flood and cyclone-affected districts, preparing them for effective hygiene interventions. The National Society procured water purification powder, developed emergency WASH flipcharts, and acquired tanks for water preservation. The National Society also developed a concept note on One WASH to implement integrated health and WASH interventions in fragile disaster-exposed communities in Bangladesh.

Under the SNSRC project, the National Society focused on improving water and sanitation infrastructure and awareness. It repaired household and community tubewells, making them flood resilient, and installed flood-resistant sanitary latrines. Tubewell management committees were formed and were equipped by the National Society.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the National Society's efforts under this objective by providing technical and financial support to bolster the National Society's capacities in providing training and conducting health-related community dissemination campaigns.

The **American Red Cross** supported the National Society by donating water purification units which will be used for saline water purification and non-saline water purification for floods.

*Communities at risk from pandemics and epidemics have increased access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services*

### **Progress by National Society against objectives**

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society collaborates with community-based health volunteers to promote health and control epidemics. Together with relevant authorities, it is assessing feasibility and developing protocols for a community-based surveillance system. In 2023, the National Society made efforts to combat cholera and improve disease surveillance in Bangladesh. A multisectoral intervention for acute water diarrhoea/cholera was finalized with input from participations across 18 organizations, and this plan was presented to the Global Task Force on Cholera Control. An Oral Cholera Vaccine campaign in Bhashan Char achieved 90 per cent coverage among displaced people, with 86 per cent receiving the second dose. New surveillance protocols for dehydration and Rapid Diagnostic Tests were introduced, and healthcare workers were provided training on updated cholera testing and reporting. Additionally, a preventive cholera vaccination plan was submitted to Gavi, securing approval for 100 million doses and 45 million dollars in operational funds.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the National Society's efforts by providing financial and technical assistance in interventions such as training of volunteers and in the promotion of key messages to combat cholera.



## Migration and displacement

*Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate*

### Progress by National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Displacement Management Cluster organized reviewed finalized the “Evacuation Shelter Management Guidelines,” with a formal launch in May 2023. These guidelines offer practical advice tailored to Bangladesh’s context for managing evacuation centres. The displacement management cluster also organized drone training for disaster response, conducted displacement tracking, and started a national evacuation shelter mapping project. Additionally, a comprehensive training manual on Evacuation Shelter Management was developed. In response to river erosion in Tangail, the Integrated Flood Resilience Programme provided cash support to beneficiaries displaced from their homes.

Under the Humanitarian Assistance to Protracted Crisis in Cox’s Bazar (HAPCC), the National Society carried out significant WASH and shelter interventions which reached beneficiaries in Cox’s Bazar and Bhashan Char. The National Society provided safe drinking water access to people through the improvements of facilities, including the construction and rehabilitation of tubewells and ring wells. The National Society’s sanitation support also provided individuals with support through initiatives such as maintenance of latrine and bathing facility, new constructions, and faecal sludge management. Hygiene support was extended to people through promotion activities and distribution of essential items. The National Society’s shelter assistance also included construction of durable shelters for host communities and the conducting of follow-up sessions on safe shelter practices for previous beneficiaries.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, in 2023, conducted simulation exercises for cyclone and fire preparedness where it engaged participants across schools, camps, and unions. The National Society conducted orientation session on disaster management for members and officials and made key infrastructure improvements which included construction of tailoring centres and providing sewing skills training for women, with the additional distribution of sewing kits in 2024.

### IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provided both technical and financial support to the National Society for the initiatives outlined under this objective.

The **German Red Cross** provided support to the National Society through the humanitarian assistance to protracted crisis in Cox’s Bazar project. It also supported the National Society in transitional aid in disaster risk reduction and livelihoods for host and guest communities in Cox’s Bazar.



## Values, power and inclusion

*IFRC and National Societies are safe and inclusive organizations, where ensuring dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities is central to all that we do*

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society trained staff and volunteers across various branches and headquarters in PGI minimum standards, protection mainstreaming, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) basics. Concurrently, an additional 130 staff and volunteers underwent PGI training and orientations facilitated by different projects and programs. Notably, 23 individuals received advanced training of trainers to enhance the PGI team’s capacity for delivering future training sessions.

The National Society distributed guidelines on PGI minimum standards in emergencies to branches, in all departments in National Headquarters, among IFRC and membership staff in Dhaka as well as in the PMO. Staff and volunteers participated in the online gender-based violence and safe access to digital platforms training, which was organized in March 2023.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, the National Society conducted community engagement and

accountability (CEA) training sessions. It also developed and distributed information, education and communication materials on awareness messages targeting feedback mechanisms, gender-based violence, disaster risk management, and [epidemic pandemic preparedness and response](#) issues. Six radio programmes on various disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response topics were broadcast in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and Rajshahi, reaching over 137,000 people indirectly.

Two studies covering [CEA](#) aspects (perception survey, and evaluation on feedback mechanism) were carried out by the National Society.

A total of 3,101 people attended 154 community consultation sessions on preferred feedback channels in Cox's Bazar, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet. Five gamvira (folk song) events focused on various protection issues and feedback mechanisms were held in Rajshahi as part of the celebration of International Women's Day which reached 1,838 people

### **IFRC network joint support**

The **IFRC** supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in conducting stakeholder mapping, organizing and facilitating coordinating workshops to support the National Society in understand CEA approach in Cox's Bazar. It also extended technical support in other areas of community engagement and accountability and in protection, gender and inclusion.

The **British Red Cross** supported the National Society by conducting 14 Community Engagement and Accountability training sessions, involving 276 participants. The training focused on the Feedback and Complaints Response Mechanism (FCRM), emphasizing committee leaders' roles in implementing and facilitating the CEA system. Additionally, 48 sessions on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse engaged 993 participants across various groups.

## **ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS**



### **Strategic and operational coordination**

#### **IFRC membership coordination**

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly 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, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC. This partnership benefits from the implementation support of the German Red Cross as the lead EU National Society, as well as the Danish Red Cross, and coordination support from the IFRC, in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and community engagement and accountability. Top of Form

IFRC network partners in Syria include the **American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross**, and the **Swedish Red Cross**.

#### **Movement coordination**

The [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) initiative is applied by all Movement partners in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Red Crescent, in its capacity as convener under the [Seville Agreement 2.0](#), continued to convene coordination meetings and summits, provided expertise of the political, socio-economic, and humanitarian environment in the country.

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.

### External coordination

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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 are 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.

The 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.



## National Society Development

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, under National Society development, the National Society advanced several organizational processes. The delayed Operation Plan for 2023 was finalized and led to the streamlined district-level reporting mechanisms expected to consolidate reporting from branches to headquarters starting 2024. Bangladesh, as a pilot for the New Way of Working (NWoW), continued with the Country Coordination Team (CCT) meetings and completed a common accountability framework, while a common resource mobilization plan is underway. The National Society completed a joint due diligence assessment, which will inform the 2024 operational plan. The revision of the National Society's standing orders, initially started in 2021, is being finalized. Additionally, the National Society held its seventh partnership meeting which focused on enhancing collaboration and scaling up humanitarian response efforts, resulting in a declaration to strengthen partnerships and localize humanitarian action.

The National Society completed the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) for all its branches. The results, analysed in a workshop and compiled into a dashboard with key recommendations, will guide future branch development efforts. The branch development framework, finalized in the third quarter, includes a branch recognition element, with awards based on 2022 performance.

The National Society also advanced youth engagement through several key initiatives such as the January Youth Chief Conference, which resulted in a Plan of Action and the translation of the Red Crescent Youth policy into Bengali, which was distributed to all branches. Celebrations of RCRC Day, International Volunteers Day, and other events in multiple districts enhanced staff and volunteer capacities. Youth-led projects in Pirojpur and Lakshmipur, focused on capacity building and PGI training. The rollout of the Y-ADAPT toolkit included a successful ToT in Dhaka, participation in regional summits, and the IFRC Global Innovation Summit.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society enhanced governance through various initiatives, including orientation workshops for 68 district council Chairmen on the RCRC Movement. Resource Mobilization and Asset Management Committee meetings were held with governing board members to discuss priorities and solutions. It participated in the global women leadership working group meetings and the AP regional conference. Additionally, in 2023, the National Society completed a new joint organizational capacity and due diligence assessment to ensure effective use of programme funds and accountability.

Under its financial sustainability efforts, the National Society focused on various governance and strategic initiatives. The Fundraising department completed a “Local Donor Market Assessment” and a “Resource Mobilization Strategy,” leading to a planned reform of the Fundraising Department. The National Society launched its annual fundraising month in May, conducted online campaigns for earthquake relief and Zakat, and organized local resource mobilization workshops. Additionally, the National Society enhanced the commercial viability of ten selected properties with business development plans completed in December 2023, aimed at generating income to support humanitarian activities.

Other key areas of development that the National Society focused in 2023 included targeting the capacity enhancement of the National Society’s planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). The efforts under PMER aims to strengthen the National Society’s skills to plan, implement, and monitor projects while adhering to accountability and transparency standard, and ultimately improve project/programme management, quality assurance, and service delivery and promote a culture of effective project management. The National Society also worked on human resource development in order to ensure the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. Logistic development workshops were crucial in understanding critical gaps and weaknesses in the organizational structure related to the logistics function of the National Society. Other areas include finalization of the National Society development support direction paper, risk register and business continuity plan, and common accountability which comprises five commitments that revolve around strong leadership, well-functioning support systems, adherence to established standards when designing and implementing programmes, among others.

Under the National Society’s digitalization efforts, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society conducted an IT equipment mapping for its 68 branches and HQ, identifying gaps and receiving support address these needs. Upgrades included internet connections, Kobo data collection training, and various digital initiatives. The National Society launched HR software, a digital attendance system, and a mobile app for Solid Waste Management Fee collection. Three ICT trainings were held, and awareness campaigns focused on digital safety. Virtual collaboration tools were introduced, and licenses for Office 365, Zoom, and Power BI were procured. An ERP system is being implemented with consultant oversight, and a concept paper for MIS revamp was developed. The Disaster Response department’s EOC was enhanced with new equipment and digitalization efforts to improve emergency response capabilities.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society by providing technical assistance for the development of a draft National Society Development support plan and aiding in the transition to a streamlined monthly reporting system for districts. The IFRC collaborated on joint analyses and frameworks under the Agenda for Renewal, sharing learnings with other National Societies. It also supported the National Society in conducting a joint due diligence assessment, the results of which are expected to influence the National Society’s 2024 operational plans. Support continued with the revision of the National Society’s standing orders, despite initial setbacks, with a new consultant expected to complete the process. The IFRC played a role in the 7th partnership meeting, aimed at improving collaboration and localization efforts, and in providing ongoing support for branch development, youth and volunteer initiatives, and governance and finance development.

The **American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross**, and the **Swedish Red Cross** provided support for the National Society’s objectives for its development.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society undertook initiatives to enhance disaster preparedness and climate action. The National Society organized a national workshop to review the response to Cyclone Sitrang, focusing on the effectiveness of early warnings and anticipatory actions. The National Society also updated its climate strategy, positioning itself as a Climate Champion National Society to advocate for sustainable, locally led climate action. Additionally, the National Society developed the National Early Action Protocol for Cyclones, ensuring coordinated anticipatory action efforts across the country.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society further showcased its work through various visibility efforts. It launched the Above-Standard Visibility (ASV) initiative, creating audio-visual productions to highlight disaster risk management and epidemic preparedness at Cox's Bazar Camp 11. The National Society also produced impactful documentary films and photo stories on its operations in Bhashan Char and during the Flood 2022 emergency. These efforts, along with active participation in global platforms and the COP 28 conference, effectively raised awareness of National Society's contributions and achievements in disaster response and climate action.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent in various interventions such as organizing workshop on Cyclone Sitrang, signing a climate action agreement, and updating the National Society's climate strategy. It helped develop the National Early Action Protocol for cyclones, advocated for the Inter Sector Coordination Group in multi-hazard response, and facilitated the National Society's participation in international events such as COP 28 and regional platforms. Additionally, IFRC supported the Early Warnings for All initiative and provided communication support to showcase the National Society's work through media and documentaries.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, in its accountability and agility initiatives, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society focused on enhancing operational effectiveness and safety. It received and updated its risk management policies and conducted a child safeguarding risk analysis during Cyclone Mocha and Flood 2022 to strengthen child protection practices. Additionally, the National Society created infographics to highlight achievements in COVID-19 response and various funded projects.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has supported the National Society in several key initiatives such as updating the risk register in accordance with the new risk management policy, with the revised version set for release in the upcoming quarter. It has also been instrumental in facilitating funding mechanisms through the National Society development direction paper since 2021, with this year's focus on branch development, resource mobilization, finance development, and youth development.



## 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.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Bangladesh 2023 Financial Report](#)  
**Note:** For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRBD030](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

### Contact information

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#### Kazi Shofiqul Azam

Secretary General  
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society  
T +880 1811 458500  
[secretarygeneral@bdracs.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@bdracs.org)  
[www.bdracs.org](http://www.bdracs.org)

#### Herve Gazeau

Head of Strategic Partnerships  
& Resource Mobilization  
IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur  
T +6019 268 6503  
[herve.gazeau@ifrc.org](mailto:herve.gazeau@ifrc.org)

#### Alberto Bocanegra

Head of Delegation  
IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation, Dhaka  
T +88 01711 521 615  
[alberto.bocanegra@ifrc.org](mailto:alberto.bocanegra@ifrc.org)

#### Sumitha Martin

Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre  
New Delhi  
[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)