

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Bangladesh | Flood

31 March 2024



As part of readiness activities, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) conducts orientation sessions on Flood EAP and its planned activities to Red Crescent volunteers and staff (Photo: BDRCS)

EAP No: EAP2021BD03	Period covered by this annual report: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
EAP approved: July 2021	EAP timeframe: 5 Years

Annual Budget: 9,318 CHF
EAP Budget: 349,920 CHF

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has allocated CHF 349,920 for the implementation anticipatory actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of Flood in Bangladesh. This Early Action Protocol (EAP) includes an allocation of CHF 90,488 to preposition stock and undertake annual readiness activities in order to implement early actions, if and when the trigger is reached. The early actions to be conducted have been pre-agreed with the National Society and are described in the [EAP summary](#).

The geographic location, land characteristics, multiplicity of rivers, and the monsoon climate make Bangladesh highly vulnerable to natural hazards. Flood is an annually recurring hazard with a larger impact- affecting lives, livelihoods, and assets of poor and vulnerable populations.

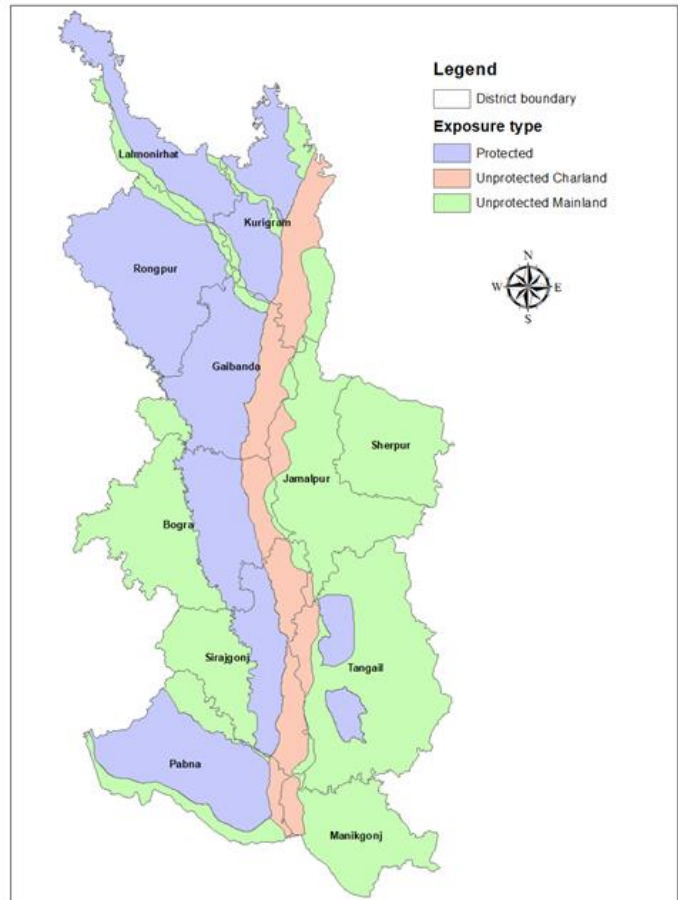
Jamuna, Padma, and Meghna are the major river systems in Bangladesh and this EAP covers flooding in Jamuna. People living along the Jamuna River are vulnerable to flooding; especially during the monsoon season (June to September). Floods have the greatest impact on people who are living in low-lying areas, live below the poverty line, live in fragile houses, and have several dependent family members to care for. The direct impacts include personal security (deaths- by drowning, water-borne diseases, snakebites etc.), building and infrastructure damage/destruction (especially slum, mud huts, tin walled huts, public properties- schools, health facilities etc.), and loss of grains, crops, and livestock. The economic cost of flood is huge; for instance, the Government of Bangladesh in 1999 estimated a total economic loss of 1998 floods at 2 billion USD- equivalent to 6 per cent of the FY 1997/98 GDP. This EAP has prioritized four following impacts:

- Human causality (deaths due to drowning and others)
- Loss of livelihood linked to livestock.
- Loss of movable assets and food grains.
- Household asset damage.

This EAP provides step-by-step instructions for the following early actions to be implemented to reduce the loss of lives, livestock, and household assets:

- Unconditional cash grant
- Evacuation transportation by boat
- Early warning dissemination for early action (evacuation support)
- Provision of basic first aid

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with support from the IFRC, successfully completed its planned readiness activities under the flood EAP. As part of these efforts, BDRCS trained 200 volunteers (124 male and 76 female) from the Red Crescent, as well as 20 members (15 male and 5 female) of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and the National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT) on flood EAP. The training covered key areas such as Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF), Cash in Emergencies, Anticipatory Action (AA),




Map: Exposed elements in the Jamuna River basins

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI). To date, BDRCS has trained over 500 staff, NDRT/NDWRT members, and Red Crescent volunteers across 2022 and 2023.

The early actions under this flood EAP were developed based on a feasibility study and the findings from the EAP evaluation in 2020. The evaluation revealed that cash transfers helped beneficiaries reduce losses in livelihoods and livestock. Beneficiaries who received cash assistance reported losing only 9 per cent of their cows and calves, compared to 22 per cent in the comparison group. The cash also helped beneficiaries reduce negative coping mechanisms.

In addition, BDRCS procured and positioned 36 smartphones, along with 4 Wi-Fi routers and SIM cards, for rapid beneficiary data collection. It also placed 22 First-Aid box sets with refill packs and visibility items in strategic locations across 11 flood-prone districts.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY AREA OF FOCUS

 Health	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	Not applicable	Not Applicable
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	Not applicable	Not Applicable

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Under the health sector, BDRCS procured 22 sets of first-aid boxes and 22 infrared thermometers in 2021. Subsequently, BDRCS propositioned these items at the 11 flood-prone districts of Bangladesh. The items in the first-aid boxes are:

No.	Items/Specifications	Quantity
1.	Bandage Roll 4" x 6 yard	12 pcs
2.	Bandage Roll 6" x 6 yard	12 pcs
3.	Elastic creep bandage 4" x 5.5 yard	2 pcs
4.	Triangular bandage, cloth ½ sq meter	2 pcs
5.	Cotton Roll 200 gm-2 pcs	2 pcs
6.	Micropore 1" & 2"	2 rolls
7.	Dressing forceps, stainless still 6"	1 pc
8.	Scissor 5"	1 pc
9.	Thermometer, Fahrenheit, Mercury	1 pc
10.	Eye shield, plastic	3 pcs
11.	Soap	1 pc
12.	Soap case, plastic	1 pc
13.	Towel 1" x 1"	1 pc
14.	Kidney tray medium	2 pcs
15.	Tourniquet 18"	1 pc
16.	Splint wooden 6"	3 pcs
17.	Splint wooden 9"	3 pcs
18.	Surgical gloves 7 size	1 pair
19.	Surgical gloves 7.5 size	1 pair
20.	Safety pin 2"	12 pcs
21.	Torchlight with 2 battery	1 pc
22.	Additional battery for torch	1 pair
23.	Water bottle 1ltr	1pc
24.	Nebanol ointment	1 pc

25.	Hexisol 50 ml	1 bottle
26.	ORS	10 packets
27.	Tab. Ace 500 mg	20 pcs
28.	Notebook	1 pc
29.	Ball pen	1 pc
30.	Plastic sheet 3 feet x 3 feet	1 pc


Due to the available stocks from IFRC's covid-19 global emergency appeal, BDRCS didn't procure remaining items in EAP's Year-1 under the health sector like PPE and face mask.

 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	Not applicable	Not applicable

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

As part of its readiness activities, BDRCS provided orientation on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) to 220 participants (139 male and 81 female), including staff, NDRT/NDWRT members, and volunteers, during the flood EAP orientation sessions in eight flood-prone districts of Bangladesh. Key discussion points covered during the PGI orientations included: Understanding PGI in Anticipatory Action, Gender and Diversity, Dignity, Access, Participation, and Safety (DAPS), Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and policies such as the Child Protection Policy, the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy, and the Code of Conduct (CoC)

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

 Influencing others as leading strategic partner	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	Not applicable	Not Applicable
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	636	350

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

BDRCS, along with IFRC and its members, provided technical support to the Anticipatory Action Taskforce (AA Taskforce), led by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), to develop a national-level harmonized flood Early Action Protocol (EAP). Simultaneously, BDRCS organized divisional dialogue platforms on Anticipatory Action (AA) in flood-prone regions to scale up AA for sustainable development. Additionally, BDRCS and IFRC organized and participated in several coordination meetings with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), the Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group (AA TWG), the AA Taskforce, and other relevant stakeholders. These meetings primarily focused on Anticipatory Actions and BDRCS's flood EAP.


Some significant outcomes from these meetings include:

- A gap analysis on Anticipatory Action (AA) in terms of finance, forecasting, and actions.
- BDRCS's draft AA strategy and a shared update on the EW4ALL (Early Warning for All) initiative.
- Linking AA with shock-responsive social protection (SRSP).
- Scaling up AA within the Movement by developing new EAPs and guidelines for additional hazards.
- A request to utilize the AA TWG website and online platforms to share new learnings and case studies for advocacy at local, national, and policy levels.
- The need to establish an advocacy forum to raise policymakers' awareness of AA and develop a national regulatory framework for an enabling environment.

Additionally, BDRCS is hosting the AA Secretariat to strengthen coordination among relevant stakeholders.



BDRCS conducts a validation workshop for National harmonize flood EAP (Photo: IFRC)

 <p>Strengthening National Society</p>	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	Not applicable	Not Applicable
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	8,682	9,446

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

In 2023, the BDRCS, with the support of IFRC, completed its planned readiness activities under the flood Early Action Protocol (EAP) in its third year. BDRCS trained 220 participants (139 male and 81 female), including staff, volunteers, and NDRT/NDWRT members, on the flood EAP, its planned activities, PG, CEA, and cash in

emergencies across eight flood-prone districts: Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Bogura, Tangail, Gaibandha, and Sirajganj.

BDRCS now has dedicated staff providing technical support, particularly for forecast monitoring and the smooth implementation of planned activities under this EAP. The forecast monitoring report is regularly shared with Movement partners and AA Technical Working Group (TWG) members during the monsoon season.

In addition, BDRCS procured 36 smartphones, along with 4 Wi-Fi routers and SIM cards in 2021 as part of its pre-positioning stocks under the flood EAP. These resources are intended to facilitate quick beneficiary data collection, ensuring the timely distribution of multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable households within the agreed timeframe.



BDRCS conducts orientation for its volunteers and staff on Flood EAP and its planned activities. (Photo: BDRCS)

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS

Except for BDRCS volunteers, there is no institutionalized volunteer group dedicated to disseminating early warning messages in the flood-prone areas of Bangladesh. In response, BDRCS is planning to introduce the Flood Preparedness Program (FPP) in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh. This FPP will start on a small scale, linking with BDRCS's existing development programs in the flood-prone districts.

A proposed adjustment is for BDRCS to revise its current Flood EAP to include the FPP and expand its geographical scope from the Jamuna Basin to the Padma Basin, reaching more vulnerable populations. The FPP can serve as a transformative initiative to reduce the loss of lives, livelihoods, and movable assets of the most vulnerable communities in flood-prone areas. It will function similarly to the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), which has been in place since 1973 in coastal districts to reduce loss of life and property by disseminating early warning signals from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and assisting people in taking shelter.

Likewise, the FPP aims to build flood-resilient communities by enhancing flood preparedness, coping mechanisms, and response capacities to reduce flood risks, losses, and damages

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2021, the IFRC DREF approved a total allocation of CHF 349,920 from its Forecast-based Action (FbA) mechanism for BDRCS. This amount includes an immediate allocation of CHF 21,909 for prepositioning, CHF 68,579 for readiness, and CHF 259,432 automatically allocated to implement early actions once the defined triggers are met. For Year 3 (January to December 2023) of the Flood EAP, the total budget allocation for readiness activities was CHF 9,318; and by the end of December 2023, the expenditure amounted to CHF 9,796, representing a variance of around 5 per cent¹. This increase was due to higher-than-planned orientation-related costs. Based on recommendations from concerned staff and volunteers in the respective units, BDRCS extended the number of orientation days to ensure participants gained a thorough understanding of the Flood EAP.

Contact information.

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Reference



Click here for:

- [EAP Summary and budget](#)

¹ At the time of report issuance, financial report details cannot be produced and attached due to technical issues with IFRC system. Financial report will be provided upon request once all technical issues are resolved.