



# BANGLADESH

## 2025-2027 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 152.7M**

17 January 2025

### In support of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society



**68**

National Society  
branches



**155**

National Society  
local units



**2,827**

National Society  
staff



**162,141**

National Society  
volunteers

### People to be reached in 2025



**1.5M**

Ongoing  
emergency  
operations



**1.3M**

Climate and  
environment



**1.7M**

Disasters  
and crises



**7M**

Health and  
wellbeing



**71,000**

Migration and  
displacement



**638,000**

Values, power  
and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Emergency response

- Population movement
- Flash floods
- Cyclones

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster preparedness and response
  - Health
  - Social care

#### Capacity development

- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Volunteer development

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**High**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**High**

**Human Development Index rank**

**129**

**World Bank Population figure**

**173M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line**

**18.7%**

# Funding requirements

2025

2026\*\*

2027\*\*

\*\*Projected funding requirements

Total 114.7M CHF

Total 20M CHF

Total 18M CHF

Through Host National Society



24.6M CHF

Through Participating National Societies



14M CHF

Through the IFRC



76.1M CHF

HNS Breakdown

IFRC Breakdown

Ongoing emergency operations

63.6M CHF

*\*This figure includes the 2025-2027 funding requirement for the Population Movement Operation Emergency Appeal*

Longer term needs

Longer term needs

1.5M CHF

Climate & environment

12.6M CHF

Disasters & crises

9.8M CHF

Health & wellbeing

616,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

66,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

3M CHF

Climate & environment

750,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

5M CHF

Health & wellbeing

500,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

280,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

3M CHF

Enabling local actors

Through Participating National Societies



10.3M CHF

Through the IFRC



9.7M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

3.5M CHF

Climate & environment

1M CHF

Disasters & crises

4.3M CHF

Health & wellbeing

600,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

260,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

Through Participating National Societies



7.8M CHF

Through the IFRC



10.2M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

4M CHF

Climate & environment

1.2M CHF

Disasters & crises










































4.3M CHF

Health & wellbeing

650,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

## Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	995,000						
British Red Cross	2.3M						
Danish Red Cross	1.9M						
German Red Cross	2.6M						
Japanese Red Cross Society	664,000						
Qatar Red Crescent Society	1.3M						
Swedish Red Cross	1.2M						
Swiss Red Cross	2.5M						
Turkish Red Crescent Society	522,000						

Total Funding requirement **CHF 14M**

### Hazards



Cyclones



Floods



Conflict



Disease outbreaks



Accidents

### Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Australian Red Cross\*

British Red Cross

Danish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

Kuwait Red Crescent Society\*

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 2024.*

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeals:

**MDRBD018**

Population Movement

**MDRBD035**

Cyclone Remal

**MDRBD036**

Bangladesh Floods

Long-term needs:

**MAABD001**

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

As per 2024 Plan. To be updated in full 2025 Plan, as per need

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 Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has 68 branches, nine blood centres, two eye hospitals, two general hospitals and one medical college hospital - Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital, which provides comprehensive healthcare services, 57 mother and child health (MCH) care centres providing primary and maternity healthcare services, five maternity hospitals, three diploma nursing institutes and five Red Crescent midwifery training institutes and three warehouses.

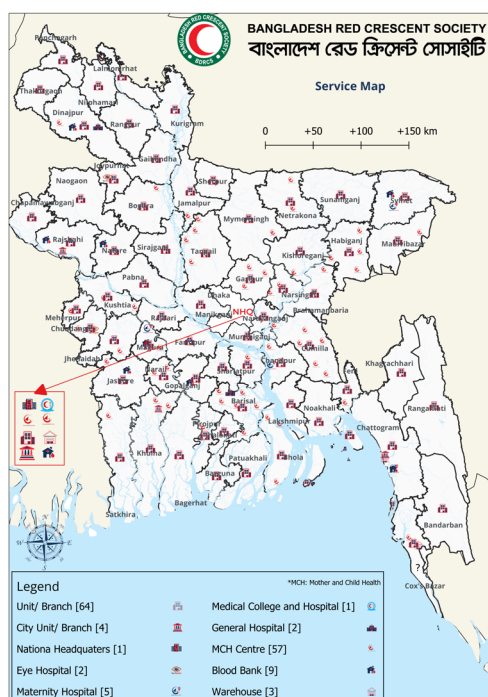
The Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), a globally recognized community-based disaster preparedness programme is a flagship initiative jointly run by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in the field of disaster management. It covers early warning systems, 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.

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](#).

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

In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reached more than three million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities



# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Situated on the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh is a vibrant South Asian country characterized by its fertile plains, lush river deltas, and a diverse landscape that includes the Sundarbans mangrove forest, home to the Bengal tiger. With a population of 173 million, Bangladesh is the 8th most populous country in the world, with a population density of 1,333 people per square kilometre. This puts an immense pressure on infrastructure, resources, and urban services, especially in cities such as Dhaka. 32 per cent of the country's population live in urban areas.

In 2024, political unrest in Bangladesh following the student-mass movement (also called the July Revolution) led to a change in the regime where a new interim Government took charge of the administration on 8 August 2024. Violent crackdown by security forces of the protesters escalated tensions as the initial job-quota movement turned into a country-wide anti-discrimination movement. Reports on the mass movement state that more than 1,500 individuals were killed during the July-August uprisings, with thousands more injured.

Two-thirds of the Bangladeshi population live within five metres of sea level, many of them in rapidly expanding informal settlements on marginal agricultural land. 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. 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.

In addition to environmental risks, Bangladesh experiences significant number of road accidents, with an estimated 34,478 people killed in road accidents in the last five years. In 2023, the country saw more than 6,000 instances of road accidents, which are caused by underlying issues such as poor road infrastructure, careless driving, improper traffic management, and insufficient enforcement of traffic regulations that contribute to high accident rate.

While Bangladesh has seen significant economic growth in recent years, it now faces challenges such as global economic uncertainty, inflation, energy shortages, a balance-of-payment deficit, and a revenue shortfall. The balance-of-payments deficit and accelerated inflation have led to a slowdown in real gross domestic product (GDP) growth which is projected to remain relatively subdued at 5.6 per cent in FY24 which was 5.8 in 2023. The Asian Development Bank has lowered its forecast for Bangladesh's economic growth to 5.1 per cent for the fiscal year, primarily due to supply disruptions caused by the political unrest in 2024.



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society volunteers supporting a flood affected family to safe shelters in Sirajganj. (Photo: IFRC)

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh – Population Movement</a>
<b>Appeal code</b>	MDRBD018
<b>People to be assisted</b>	1.07 million
<b>Duration</b>	18 March 2017 to 31 December 2027
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Federation-wide Funding requirements (2025-2027): CHF 87 million IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements (2025-2027): CHF 65 million (CHF 56 million for Cox's Bazar), (CHF 9 million for Bhasan Char)
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Population Movement Revised Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Revised Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No. 21</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.

The National Society's interventions under this emergency appeal consists of the following components:

### Health and care

The National Society's health and care programme, comprising clinical health services, community health and first aid (CBFHA), awareness campaigns, and psychosocial support continues to serve displaced people in camps and host communities.

### Shelter, housing and settlements

Provision of mid-term shelters for displaced people in camps, emergency shelter based on rapid damage verification, maintenance of damaged shelters, host community shelter repair and maintenance, among others.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

People in camps and host communities were provided with recurrent operation of water networks, repair of hand tubewells, operation of faecal sludge management plant, solid waste management plants and camp cleaning campaigns, repair of latrine and bathing cubicles as well as hygiene promotion with kits distribution.

### Livelihoods

Skills training and necessary inputs (cash and logistics) support for most vulnerable households in camps. Specific trades identified through community consultation which included tailoring, net making, chicken farming, vegetable gardening and barber service.

### Protection, gender and inclusion

Provision of PGI essential service at DAPS centre, awareness raising on PGI in camps and host communities, case referral and follow up, and PGI mainstreaming.

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Cyclone Remal
<b>Appeal code</b>	<a href="#">MDRBD035</a>
<b>People to be assisted</b>	650,000 people
<b>Duration</b>	12 months (29 May 2024 to 31 May 2025)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 10 million Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 12.5 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Cyclone Remal Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No. 2</a>

Cyclone Remal made landfall on 26 May 2024, causing severe flooding in coastal districts of Bangladesh and India. The storm, with winds of 111 km/h, affected 4.59 million people, leading to the evacuation of over 808,510 individuals across 19 districts. At least 16 people died, and more than 170,000 houses were damaged. Power outages, limited connectivity, and contaminated water sources worsened the situation, leaving affected communities without clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

This operation aims to assist 500,000 people in eight districts affected by Cyclone Remal, providing cash assistance, clean water, sanitation, shelter, livelihoods, health services and disaster risk reduction. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society supported by IFRC, prioritizes vulnerable populations, ensuring sustainable recovery and resilience against future shocks. The plan incorporates gender-sensitive approaches, environmental sustainability and ongoing coordination with local authorities and agencies. Through both immediate relief and long-term recovery, the operation focuses on restoring livelihoods, rebuilding homes, and improving health services.

The National Society's interventions under this emergency appeal consists of the following components:

#### Shelter, housing and settlements

Distribution of tarpaulins and sleeping mats along with distribution of shelter kits.

#### Livelihoods

Distribution of food packages including rice, soyabean oil, sugar and iodized salt.

#### Multi-purpose cash

Provision of multi-purpose cash grants to affected communities.

#### Health and care

Provision of primary healthcare services including psychosocial support, distribution of oral rehydration salt. Maternal and child health centres were also renovated.

#### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Provision of purified drinking water and hygiene kits to affected communities.

The operational strategy integrated the cross-cutting approaches of community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), with the aim of recognizing and valuing all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response.

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Floods</a>
<b>Appeal code</b>	MDRBD036
<b>People to be assisted</b>	400,000
<b>Duration</b>	06 September 2024 to 30 September 2025
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 7.5 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 6 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Bangladesh Floods Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No. 1</a>

Since mid-June 2024, a total of 14.6 million people have been affected by a series of flooding events hitting Bangladesh across the northern, northeastern and southern regions, displacing millions and causing widespread damage. Starting in mid-June 2024, repeated floods have severely affected the northern regions of Bangladesh due to heavy rainfall and water inflows from upstream countries, including Nepal and India. Districts such as Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogura, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Tangail, and Munshiganj have experienced extensive flooding. The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) report of 11 July 2024 estimated that around 5.13 million people have been impacted, comprising 2.61 million women, 1.51 million children and adolescents, and 0.53 million elderly individuals. The floods caused extensive damage to infrastructure, severely disrupting economic and social activities. According to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), 86 per cent of drinking water points and 84 per cent of sanitation facilities were compromised, with 59,338 water points and 118,412 latrines damaged. Additionally, schools were affected, with teaching materials destroyed and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities left unusable.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this emergency appeal, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will be targeting and prioritising the most affected communities, aiming to reach 300,000 people with humanitarian assistance in the hardest hit districts, focusing on WASH, shelter, food security, livelihoods, and health. Federation-wide efforts, meanwhile, target reaching 400,000 people. The National Society will ensure the dignity, access,

participation, and safety (DAPS) of the most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children and adolescents, marginal-income farmers, female-headed households, lactating mothers, pregnant women, widows, and persons with disabilities.

Under this emergency appeal, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will provide assistance to flood-affected communities with interventions such as:

#### Shelter, housing and settlements

Provision of emergency shelter support and repairing of houses.

#### Livelihoods

Provision of emergency food assistance, agricultural support, conditional cash assistance, skill-based training, among others.

#### Multipurpose cash

Multipurpose cash assistance to households through assessments and market analysis.

#### Health and care

Provide psychosocial support to affected people, strengthen community health, and provide medical services.

#### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Water distribution through mobile water units, distribution of hygiene parcels, hygiene promotion in emergencies, repairing water points, among others.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Bangladesh has been affected by types of climatic impacts such as floods, changes in seasonal patterns, and effects on agricultural products. If currently climate trend of global warming persists, Bangladesh is at risk of facing severe climate change impact, with projected data suggesting that one-third of the country's agricultural GDP could be lost to due to climate variability by 2050. This may also lead to the displacement of more than 13 million people within the country due to rising sea levels, agricultural impacts and water scarcity, with majority of the affected people consisting of women. In order to bolster the country's resistance, Bangladesh has undertaken locally led adaptation efforts and has developed frameworks and policies to reduce the impacts of climate change. In the last COP28 event held at the United Arab Emirates in 2023, Bangladesh committed to work towards accessing the loss and damage fund, monitor the global progress as per the Global Stock Take Report, work towards achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation, work with developed countries for climate financing, and aim to facilitate climate financing by 2025.

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.

Despite hardships from factors such as poverty, resource scarcity, population, and natural calamities, Bangladesh has worked towards incorporating environmental concerns in sectoral policy formation and benchmarking success at the field level. The country's 2021 nationally determined contributions (NDCs) commit to reducing emissions by 21.8 per cent till 2030. 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. Recent growth in the country's manufacturing sector is expected to improve the overall economy, but at the cost of

tremendous stress on the natural resource base and overall environmental unless the pollution loads is addressed. Urban activities, real estate development, industrial development, and transport are some major causes of environmental stress. 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 climate-related work of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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

The Bangladesh Red Cross 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, multiyear 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.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Improve early action and community preparedness mechanisms
- Implement climate-smart community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and community resilience programmes
- Establish effective community early warning systems to reduce climate-induced loss and damage
- Implement forecast-based financing projects and ensure seasonal preparedness and forecasting actions
- Increase engagement with government agencies, partner, and the private sector on climate action through advocacy and climate diplomacy
- Coordinate the work of youth volunteers and environmental partners to initiate and contribute to environmental and climate awareness campaigns

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to implement projects on climate risk reduction and adaptation activities focusing on the priorities set by the National Society. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society to intervene in climate change adaptation, community resilience, the early warning for all initiative and anticipatory actions. It provides technical support to the National Society for overall climate crisis and environmental issues.

The **American Red Cross** supports the National Society in coastal disaster risk reduction and coastal city resilience. It focuses on updating the National Society's climate change strategy to scale up climate-smart disaster risk

reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness as well as in implementing youth in climate action initiative.

The **British Red Cross** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in enhancing community security and resilience against climate threats in vulnerable urban settings, natural disasters and ecologically critical regions of Bangladesh. This is achieved through climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions programming with the integration of sustainable and climate-smart livelihoods, waste management, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protecting ecosystem and biodiversity, disaster preparedness and risk reduction, among others.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to enhance climate resilience and promote alternative livelihood opportunities in targeted communities.

The **German Red Cross** serves as the country lead for the global DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership which began in 2022. As a pioneer in anticipatory action 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. To further position the National Society as the country's technical expert in forecast-based financing, the German Red Cross is supporting the establishment of an anticipatory action Secretariat hosted by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. German Red Cross-funded initiatives have strengthened the capacities of the Bangladesh Red Crescent and urban stakeholders.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the National Society in integrating climate change aspects in various activities and promote green response at institutional and community levels.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the National Society through the joint action for mitigating climate-induced uncertainties and natural adversities (JAMUNA) project to improve rural resilience in the Jamuna River basin region and also supports the National Society to improve urban resilience through its climate-resilience clean cities (3C) project.



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## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit 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, ranking 28th among 191 countries, and with 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 7 northeastern districts. Almost 7.2 million people were affected by this flood, with 55 deaths, 481,827 people displaced, 83,394 hectares of cropland damaged, and 135,770 houses either fully or partially destroyed.

In Bangladesh, cyclones have always had disastrous impacts. According to the Asia Development Bank, 12 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 of the total damages. In October 2022, Cyclone Sitrang impacted almost 1 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. Riverbank erosion has compelled millions of the country's population to be displaced from their place of origin. A total of 283 locations, 85 towns and growth centres, along with 2400 kilometres of riverbank line 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 727 deaths and 1,017 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 8 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 poses 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 9 September 2023, an earthquake of 4.4 magnitude struck several parts of Bangladesh, and on 14 August 2023, the country recorded an earthquake of 5.5 magnitude, when the tremors were felt in various regions of the country including Dhaka.

Fire is a significant hazard in Bangladesh, mainly in urban and industrial areas. According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence, around 285,000 fire incidents occurred in the country between January 1, 1999, and December 31, 2020. In 2019, 24,078 fire incidents caused 184 deaths and 560 injuries. 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. According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) in the country, in 2022, more than 24,000 fire

incidents occurred in the country, which killed 85 people and wounded 377.

As of 31 July 2023, 931,960 people live in 33 overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee camp. People living in these camps are particularly vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters. The camps have been affected in the past by landslides due to a lack of slope stabilisation and poor drainage, floods, and fires. Furthermore, due to its location, there is a high risk that the camp could be hit by a cyclone in the future. 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.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society works to strengthen flood and cyclone preparedness programmes with stronger focus on anticipatory action that benefits from agile early warning systems. Its priorities for the coming years include focus on earthquake preparedness and collaboration and coordination with the Government of Bangladesh and other actors, enhancing the response capacity and recovery operations to ensure agility, timeliness, and proper targeting, and enhancing collaboration with disaster risk reduction actors nationally and internationally. The National Society will aim to continuous enhancement of cash and voucher assistance (CVA).

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Strengthen early warning dissemination mechanism at the community level
- Conduct training on disaster risk reduction to staff and volunteers
- Provide cash grant for affected individuals/households under resilient livelihood initiatives
- Build disaster-resilient shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure
- Organize comprehensive disaster risk management (DRM) capacity enhancement events
- Mobilize public support for effective legislative measures through a nationwide network of Red Crescent volunteers to save lives on the road in Bangladesh
- Enhance knowledge and improve skills on safer road behaviours of Red Crescent youths, students, teachers and guardians
- Organize workshops and training on community resilience framework for staff
- Conduct community consultation and household assessment for beneficiary selection

- Strengthen cash preparedness by rolling out CVA standard of procedures and increase CVA utilization through multisectoral and programme-specific response
- Update contingency stock of emergency shelter

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society encompasses areas such as earthquake preparedness interventions through enhancement of partnerships, supporting the National Society's efforts in reducing mortality and morbidity through road safety programmes, developing risk-informed planning process and enhancing response capacity of the National Society, and supporting the National Society in enhancing cash and voucher assistance for emergency responses and recovery, among others.

The IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeal will be drawn on as needed for National Society responses to crises and disasters.

The **American Red Cross** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in promoting alternative climate-friendly livelihood options and identifying and improving communications to safe places within the communities. It supports the National Society in enhancing anticipatory and response readiness capacity and reinforces the National Society's role by working with government agencies.

The **British Red Cross** supports the National Society in strengthening organizational readiness and capacity by focusing on disaster response department, cash readiness capacity, and disaster response teams.

The **Danish Red Cross** works with the National Society to enhance emergency preparedness and response, focusing on risk reduction activities at the community level. Additionally, it supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in building community resilience through school-based disaster risk reduction initiatives in alignment with local disaster management committees.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society in emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction through community awareness, capacity building, and early warning systems. It also supports the National Society in coordinating with partners to integrate anticipatory action in community-based disaster risk reduction.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the development of community level contingency plan and supports the capacity building of local government structures, ward disaster management committee and local community groups on disaster risk management.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society by providing shelter, food security, and livelihood assistance for displaced people from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar. It also focuses on strengthening disaster response capacity and building resilience by offering skills training and supports sustainable livelihoods.



## Health and wellbeing

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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 scores 49 out of 100 on the [Universal Health Care service coverage](#) index. Bangladesh's complicated, multi-level primary healthcare system is difficult to reform. 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 outbreak in the country saw an increase in cases and fatalities. As of 26 August 2023, the country has 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 acute shortage of beds.

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 more than two million cases, and more than 29,476 deaths.

In Bangladesh, about 557,234 deaths were caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which constitute 70 per cent of all deaths. 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.

Road traffic accidents is 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.

In a 2019 survey on mental health conducted by the Government and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the overall prevalence of mental disorders among the age-group 18 years and above was 16.8 per cent, with depression and anxiety disorders the most prevalent issues.

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. Menstrual hygiene management is a fundamental right for women, but knowledge and practices are still low. Only 36 per cent of adolescent girls and 30 per cent of schoolgirls know about menstruation before menarche. Lack of awareness regarding sexuality and reproductive health, adolescent girls (which represent one-third of the population) 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.

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. Bangladesh faces significant hygiene-related challenges, particularly in rural 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 Society is recognized in the country for its health services which include its health institutions, blood donation centres and mother and child health centres. The changing epidemiological trend in the country warrants that the National Society scale up health care services, especially through a stronger community-based approach and by facilitating opportunities for social inclusion. The objectives of the National Society include dissemination of its health strategy to all branches of the National Society, expansion of maternal, newborn and child health services through centres, improving the capacity of the National Society in providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), prevention of non-communicable diseases, among others. Under the National Society's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will develop WASH unit and strategy for both emergency and WASH interventions.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Develop water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) unit and WASH strategy for both emergency and developmental WASH interventions
- Disseminate the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society health policy and strategy
- Develop National Society mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) plan of action based on framework and established MHPSS referral pathway and tools
- Develop Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's first aid policy
- Strengthen the capacity of National Society mother and child healthcare centres
- Strengthen national immunization programme at the community level
- Strengthen blood services and increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations
- Expand the reach, quality and modalities of first aid activities, including training of volunteers, staff and public



- Enhance capacity of National Society mobile medical team and train staff and volunteers on public health in emergency
- Conduct water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training for staff and volunteer
- Distribute hygiene promotion kits and replenish water systems through water purification tablets and hygiene kits

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in enhancing institutional readiness through the stockpiling of medical items for epidemic and pandemic preparedness, rolling out epidemic control for volunteer and community-based surveillance, and enhancing the capacity of the National Society mobile medical team and train staff and volunteers on public health in emergency. Other components of IFRC support to the National Society includes community health and blood services, developing National Society WASH and other relevant health strategies, supporting the positioning of the National Society as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the national cholera control plan, and supporting the National Society in advocating for stronger legislation to improve road safety in Bangladesh.

The **American Red Cross** supports the National Society to improve community access to safe water and to help them tackle adverse health impacts of extreme weather.

The **British Red Cross** supports the National Society in integrating WASH initiatives into disaster risk reduction and resilience plans, promote environment-friendly practices.

The **Danish Red Cross** collaborates with the National Society on the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases in communities. Efforts include promotion of quality healthcare information and services through National Society

health facilities, such as maternal and child healthcare centres, hospitals, and health posts. The Danish Red Cross will continue to lead the emergency preparedness and response pillar under the IFRC DG ECHO-PPP initiative in Bangladesh, focusing on the effective implementation of community-based surveillance. It leverages its expertise within health and emergency responses and is scaling up its operations to support the wellbeing and resilience of communities in the Northeast and Southeast of Bangladesh.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society under WASH, specifically to the population in Bhasan Char.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** provides support to the National Society's health initiatives for displaced persons from Rakhine living in Cox's Bazar. It also supports community-based health and first aid (CBFHA) activities in host communities.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** supports the capacity building of health service providers.

The **Swedish Red Cross**, as part of resilience development, supports communities in constructing and maintaining flood-resistant and environment-friendly WASH facilities, promoting continuous improvement and fostering behavioural change within community groups.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the National Society's health department in policy and strategy development. Its support also focuses community-based surveillance, epidemic and pandemic preparedness, and WASH in schools. The Swiss Red Cross also focuses on Cox's Bazar for health and potential emergency response linked with displaced people.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supports the National Society in providing essential health services including MHPSS for displaced people from Myanmar in Cox Bazar's camp. It also works closely with the National Society to implement comprehensive WASH interventions aimed at improving access to clean water and proper sanitation.



## Migration and displacement

In 2017, hundreds of thousands of people from the Rakhine state of Myanmar fled their homes and took shelter in Bangladesh. As of this reporting period, 931,960 people currently live in the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and more than 32,000 people have been relocated to Bhashan Char Island, Noakhali district. The Government of Bangladesh provides accommodation to the refugees on a temporary basis and has no intention of enabling local integration. Multiple failed repatriation efforts have turned into a protracted global humanitarian crisis. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, with the support of the IFRC and its membership, is engaged

in providing humanitarian support to both camp and host communities in Cox's Bazar since 2017 through the IFRC's Emergency Appeal as well as by engaging in bilateral work with different partners.

A 2020 report 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. A 2020 study by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that 70 per cent of returning migrants struggle to find employment in the country.

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.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Migration and displacement are areas of high need in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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 Society'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.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Mapping migration and displacement situation in Bangladesh
- Supporting internally displaced people moving to urban slums to adapt to live in the city by improving skills and connecting them to the employment market

- Protection services for migrants and internally displaced people in line with protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) guidelines and minimum protection approach
- Support the establishment and implementation of humanitarian service points (HSP) in line with the HSP toolkit
- Build social cohesion between migrants and host communities in Cox's Bazar
- Support cross-border and route-based cooperation between National Societies
- Strengthen capacity in migration and displacement through policies and strategies, training, workshops and peer-to-peer support
- Conduct restoring family link (RFL) to reconnect families
- Participate in the annual meeting of the global migration taskforce and its meetings and webinars

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides both technical and financial support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society for its initiatives under migration and to strengthen the National Society's response for displaced people the country. 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 Society 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 Society in working closely with the Government of Bangladesh to find solutions for displaced persons. The IFRC also supports the National Society in establishing humanitarian service points (HSP) along migratory routes.

The **American Red Cross** supports the Government of Bangladesh's National Displacement Management Cluster to track and manage internally displaced populations in secondary cities.

The **British Red Cross** supports the National Society in strengthening its migration and displacement programming which includes dedicated human resources for migration and displacement, policy and strategy development, training and capacity building of the National Society.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports communities to adapt to the impacts of population movement by ensuring effective

service delivery from safe spaces and by providing mental health support.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society in providing services to Rohingya refugees which include awareness campaign and emergency support. In Cox's Bazar,

the German Red Cross supports the National Society in skill development training and homestead gardening in camps.

The **ICRC** provides support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society under the restoring family links (RFL) initiative.



## 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 126 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.

Bangladesh ranks 129 out of 162 countries in the [Gender Inequality Index 2018](#). 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, therefore lacking basic infrastructure and facing poverty, low education, poor housing conditions, and low physical assets.

Persons living with disabilities (PWD) in Bangladesh are also facing challenges. According to the Persons with Disabilities

Rights and Protection Act 2013, 2.80 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.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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 Society'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 Society staff
- Strengthen the safety and security of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers through systematic programming

### Planned activities in 2025

- Mainstreaming PGI into sectoral programming and operations
- Supporting the Red Crescent Youth movement in all the educational institutes through its co-curricular activity

- Enhancing quality access to education for all vulnerable groups and strengthening vocational training programmes
- Ensuring climate resilient school infrastructure, with gender-segregated sanitation facilities to reduce schoolgirls drop-out and absenteeism rates
- 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
- Improve women's participation in economic activities, formalizing their employment and supporting women's entrepreneurship
- Improve access to psychosocial support especially for children

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in addressing the specific vulnerabilities of women, people living with disabilities, children, and the elderly. This includes the adoption of CEA approaches in activities across all five strategic priorities. Support is also 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.

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

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

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

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

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

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has committed to five transformations in its Strategic Plan 2021-25 which are essential for overall National Society development. It strives 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 Society 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 Society 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

- Emphasize on the way of working with a focus on joint resource mobilization, risk analysis and joint implementation plan
- Develop a common resource mobilization plan that integrates national and international funding streams
- Ensure regular participation in various IFRC and non-Red Cross and Red Crescent forums – nationally and internationally
- Participate and engage with the humanitarian coordination task team meeting and different cluster meetings to exchange information and learning
- Organize pre-disaster planning workshop and meetings with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Health, Department of Disaster Management and other relevant stakeholders
- Assign focal persons for regional and global reference centres and hubs

- Start implementing the commitments made through the Hanoi Call for Action (H4CA) in line with relevant strategic priorities and enabling functions
- Ensure one plan and reporting framework in emergency operations and non-emergency programmes
- Rollout the common resource mobilization plan

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society includes programme components such as facilitating the implementation of the New Way of Working, in line with the IFRC Agenda for Renewal. It supports the National Society in developing and implementing partnerships, while ensuring all external partnerships credit the work of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The IFRC also supports the National Society in enhancing its capacity to take a leadership role in shelter cluster coordination.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society through knowledge management, operationalization, human resources and funding. This component involves coordination with external stakeholders including Government and NGO/ INGO partners.



## National Society Development

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Rollout the branch development framework of the National Society with a proper institutionalization process
- Harmonize service delivery in all branches in line with the branch development framework
- Implement the property business development plans of the National Society prepared in 2023
- Follow up on organization capacity assessment and certification ([OCAC](#)) benchmarks related to financial sustainability attributes of the National Society
- Continue to enhance staff capacity on logistics through training and orientation
- Digitalize the National Society's warehouse management system
- Pool fund for capacity development of Red Crescent Youth and introduce learning opportunities for youth

- Continue to participate in the initiatives of the South Asia Youth Network (SAYN) and Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN)
- Utilize youths trained in [Y-ADAPT](#) in selected coastal districts

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **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 Society for the period 2021 to 2025. The direction paper outlines the work, support, the process of prioritization, coordination and funding modalities. Accordingly, the IFRC provides support in areas such as engaging with government and parliamentary bodies to finalize the National Society's legal base, supporting the National Society to link its Red Crescent law, constitution and strategic plan, supporting the National Society in reference to volunteer policy and implementation guidelines, among a range of other services.



The **British Red Cross** provides technical support and financial resources for the implementation of the National Society development plan of action with a focus on response and cash readiness capacity, coordination and partnership, PMER and learning capacity, branch development, youth engagement, among others.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the National Society in areas such as project implementation, branch capacity assessment, branch development framework, financial development of the branches, and more.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society in branch/unit development including branch organizational capacity assessment (BOCA) exercises, resource mobilization, youth

development, policy development and financial management systems of the National Society.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society's efforts in its development through training and equipping the targeted disaster management centres and exploring feasible mechanisms to link the National Society emergency operation centre with government and emergency non-food items stocktaking in targeted areas. Support also includes areas such as strengthening disaster risk management structures and capacity, rolling out fundraising strategy and piloting commercial first aid at branch level. Through the urban disaster risk reduction project, the German Red Cross will develop and launch revenue-generating relevant online courses for the National Society website.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop communication and public advocacy materials aimed at strengthening National Society's auxiliary role in humanitarian action and to build public trust in its interventions
- Conduct advanced communication training for National Society volunteers
- Build capacity of the National Society in developing strategy on promoting and influencing humanitarian diplomacy by enhancing access to training opportunities and peer-to-peer learning
- Engage in driving global and regional collective humanitarian diplomacy efforts

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in maintaining clear and strong communication with

stakeholders to uphold the Red Cross Red Crescent's neutrality and impartiality during civil-political unrest. It supports the National Society in areas such as briefings to various ministries on legal documents, principles and processes, securing legal protections and agreements with the government to protect National Society operations, commission a perception study on the National Society and RCRC Movement in the country. The IFRC support aims to strengthen the auxiliary role of the National Society at various levels and enhance the National Society in regional networks under humanitarian diplomacy. This entails producing and sharing timely and high-impact visibility products on emergencies to position the National Society's work.

The **British Red Cross** supports the National Society in the implementation of its plan of action on humanitarian diplomacy which was developed in 2023.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society in training its staff in humanitarian diplomacy.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Mainstream institutional learnings, coordination and risk communication processes in programme management cycle in line with organizational mandate and principles of accountability for affected people

- Work with government and parliamentary bodies to finalize the National Society's legal base
- Ensure internal control and audit both at headquarter and branches
- Mainstream CEA aspects in all programmes and projects

- Form a legal cell within the legal affairs section to deal with various legal aspects of the National Society
- Institutionalize digital information management system focusing on human resource management, asset management, volunteer management, and warehouse management

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in various programme components under accountability and agility. These include supporting the

National Society's initiative on digital transformation such as the evaluation and upgrading of network infrastructure to ensure reliability and increased bandwidth for remote and field operations, conducting a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the specific requirements and processes of enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, enhancing the finance development and digital financial systems at all levels of the National Society, enhancing the National Society's planning, monitoring and evaluation and reporting (PMER) components, and enhancing its human resources systems.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC has been supporting the work of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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 2024, IFRC supported the National Society with three new emergency appeals. 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.

In recent floods in the Sylhet region, the IFRC supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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.



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society providing livestock rearing training in Bhashan Char, Bangladesh. (Photo: IFRC)

## 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 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 Society 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.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) with implementation support from the German Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross and the IFRC. Through the ECHO PPP, the Bangladesh Red Crescent continues to work on anticipatory actions, with a focus on heatwaves. The German Red Cross supports the National Society on forecast-based financing (FbF) and green response. The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre supports capacity building of the National Society and local authorities on anticipatory action.

There are currently nine participating National Societies in the country that have long-term partnerships with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. These are the **American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent Society, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and the Turkish Red Crescent.**

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## Movement coordination

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [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.





**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 16 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.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-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) 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
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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