



BANGLADESH

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



14 January 2026

In support of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society



68

National Society branches



155

National Society local units



2,639

National Society staff



132,319

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



1.1M

Ongoing emergency operations



693,000

Climate and environment



3.2M

Disasters and crises



2.4M

Health and wellbeing



138,000

Migration and displacement



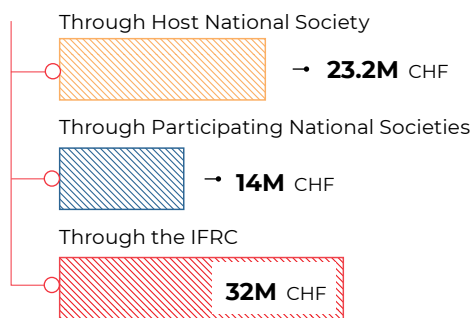
14,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 69.2M CHF



2027

Total 38M CHF

2028

8.4M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

- American Red Cross
- Australian Red Cross*
- British Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross*
- Danish Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Japanese Red Cross Society
- Kuwait Red Crescent Society*
- The Netherlands Red Cross*
- Norwegian Red Cross*
- Qatar Red Crescent Society
- Saudi Red Crescent Authority*
- Swedish Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross
- Turkish Red Crescent

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MDRBD018

Bangladesh Population Movement

Longer-term needs:

MAABD001

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.

Hazards



Population movement



Floods



Cyclones



Epidemics



Earthquakes



Road accidents

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement

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

130

World Bank Population figure

173.6M



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society volunteers leading a community hygiene awareness session in Noakhali district (Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026	2027	
	Host National Society	IFRC	IFRC
Ongoing emergencies		22M	22M
Longer-term needs			
Climate and environment	1.3M	1M	2M
Disasters & crises	15.2M	3M	1M
Health & wellbeing	3.2M	1.4M	1M
Migration & displacement	122,000	575,000	500,000
Values, power & inclusion	153,000	54,000	75,000
Enabling local actors	3.2M	3.9M	2.5M
Total	23.2M	32M	29.1M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
American Red Cross	2026	1.1M		150,000	550,000	-	425,000	-	-
	2027	888,000		200,000	688,000				
	2028	472,000			472,000				
British Red Cross	2026	1.1M	1.1M	-	-				-
	2027	1.4M	1.4M						
	2028	1.4M	1.4M						
Danish Red Cross	2026	1.4M	1M	-	-	-	-	-	
German Red Cross	2026	3.6M		276,000	301,000		950,000	63,000	205,000
Japanese Red Cross Society	2026	477,000	477,000			477,000			
Qatar Red Crescent Society	2026	2.6M			431,000	801,000			
	2027	3.5M			1M	2.4M			
	2028	3.5M			1M	2.4M			
Swedish Red Cross	2026	2.3M	485,000	575,000	1.5M	100,000		50,000	50,000
	2027	2.3M		575,000	1.5M	100,000		50,000	50,000
	2028	2.3M		575,000	1.5M	100,000		50,000	50,000
Swiss Red Cross	2026	833,000		635,000	-	150,000			48,000
	2027	785,000		635,000	150,000				
	2028	635,000		635,000					
Turkish Red Crescent	2026	536,000			76,000	287,000	58,000	116,000	

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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

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

The 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.

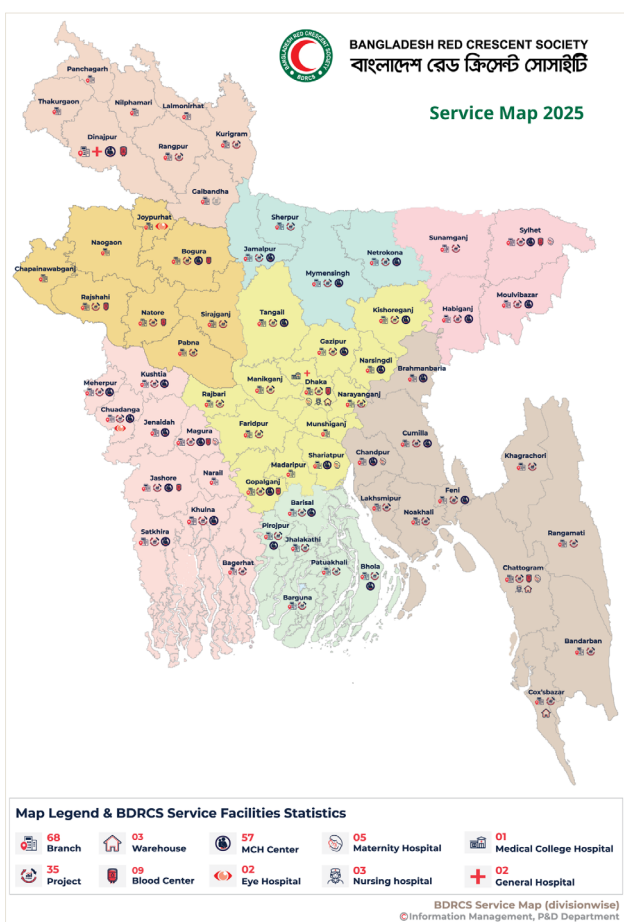
The Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), a globally recognized community-based disaster preparedness programme is a flagship initiative jointly run by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in the field of disaster management. It covers early warning systems,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

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 2021-2026 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 2024, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reached 2.8 million people through its long term services and development programmes and 2.5 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society offices and branches

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 2024, the country saw more than 8,000 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 remained at 4.2 per cent in FY24. By FY26, GDP growth is projected at 6.5 per cent, with inflation easing to 5.2 per cent. This signals a fragile but improving recovery amid limited fiscal space for climate-resilient investment and social protection. Economic constraints heighten risks for poor and marginalized communities and restrict public spending on climate-resilient infrastructure and social safety nets.

Humanitarian and protection priorities remain significant and multifaceted. Bangladesh hosts a large, displaced population from Rakhine State, Myanmar, into Cox's Bazar and the humanitarian response remains dependent on continued external funding. Climate shocks, seasonal floods, epidemic risks, including climate-sensitive disease threats, road trauma and protection needs combine to create overlapping vulnerabilities that require integrated, multi-sectoral responses.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

Emergency Appeal name	Bangladesh – Population Movement
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRBD018
People to be assisted	1.07 million
Duration	18 March 2017 to 31 December 2027
Funding requirements	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)
Link to Emergency Appeal	Bangladesh Population Movement Revised Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy	Revised operational strategy
Link to latest Operation Update	Operations Update No.23

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 IFRC issued a [revised emergency appeal and its operation strategy](#), published on 26 July 2024 to address the evolving needs of displaced people and influx affected host community for an extended period till 2027.

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 (WASH): 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 (PGI): 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.

For the period [01 January to 30 June 2025](#), the following assistance was provided:

- **Shelter:** 3,351 households (16,755 people) supported with mid-term shelters, emergency shelter kits and non-food items.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene:** 92,803 people reached with safe water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion; nine water networks supplied chlorinated water; 273 latrines repaired; 997,505 litres of faecal sludge treated.
- **Health & Care:** 145,040 people accessed health services through three facilities established by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
- **Livelihoods:** 45,690 people trained in tailoring, poultry rearing, plumbing, gardening and net production; conditional cash grants were provided to 484 host community members.
- **Protection, Gender and Inclusion:** 53,113 people, including 1,070 persons with disabilities were reached through protection awareness, life skills training, and referrals.

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.

Macro-economic modelling and sectoral studies indicate climate-driven economic losses in Bangladesh are potentially large. The climate-driven economic burden interacts with other shocks to amplify fiscal and social pressures. 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.

Health and heat impacts are becoming salient adaptation priorities. Recent World Bank reporting and press coverage show rising temperatures and heat exposure are already producing measurable economic and health costs such as the 2024 heat impacts were estimated to cost Bangladesh around USD 1.7–1.8 billion in lost welfare and productivity in the most affected year, and heat-related morbidity and lost workdays are concentrated among vulnerable groups in urban slums and informal workers.

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.

Air pollution and environmental degradation impose significant hidden costs. Recent assessments estimate welfare and economic losses from air pollution at several percentage points of GDP. Earlier World Bank/IHME studies suggested losses of about 6 per cent, while broader analyses place combined environmental damages in the 6–9 per cent range. Reducing air pollution is therefore both a public health and climate resilience priority.

At the international policy level, Bangladesh remains an active voice. The Government's updated Nationally Determined Contribution in 2021 includes mitigation and adaptation commitments, with ambitious conditional and unconditional targets. A commonly cited figure in policy summaries is an emission reduction ambition of about 21.8 percent by 2030 under specified scenarios. At COP28 in Dubai in 2023, Bangladesh strongly advocated for operationalizing the Loss and Damage facility, ensuring balanced adaptation and mitigation finance, and strengthening the Global Goal on Adaptation. These positions directly shape the country's requests for international finance and technical support. The COP28 decision to establish a Loss and Damage mechanism is significant for mobilizing resources to address climate-related losses in Bangladesh, although questions remain about scale, modalities, and access.

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.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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.

The National Society plans to:

- Strengthen community resilience in climate hotspots such as coastal zones, haor areas, Barind and hill tracts by institutionalizing [anticipatory action](#), inclusive disaster risk reduction and [nature-based solutions](#)
- Expand and modernize the [Cyclone Preparedness Programme](#) by incorporating common alerting protocol, increasing use of social media and other digital technologies
- Scale up locally led climate adaptation initiatives from school-based disaster risk reduction and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) improvements to livelihood diversification, displacement preparedness and [community-based risk reduction](#) action plans
- Mainstream climate-smart and environmentally sustainable practices across its operations including [green response](#), sustainable logistics, energy and waste management
- Develop and implement a Climate Change Strategy to position itself as a national leader and trusted auxiliary in climate and environmental action
- Scale up urban disaster preparedness through volunteer training and partnerships with city authorities

- Promote climate-smart and environmentally sustainable practices in urban communities

Planned activities in 2026

- Organize public awareness campaigns on heat risks and preventive measures using information, education and communication (IEC) materials
- Enhance capacity of government officials and disaster management committees on health and first aid for heat-related risks
- Identify and train youth climate ambassadors in targeted educational institutions to advocate for heat and climate action
- Improve early action and community preparedness mechanisms
- Provide training and offer cash grants for new and diversified livelihoods
- Raise awareness among farmers on climate- and saline-resilient crops and improved land management
- 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

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. It also supports the National Society in playing an auxiliary role through joint humanitarian diplomacy at national, regional and global levels, engaging in international and national climate forums.

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** 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 Society 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. It will promote climate-smart water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and school-based disaster risk reduction while advancing environmental sustainability in humanitarian response.

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. It will strengthen and expand community-based disaster preparedness, early warning systems and other climate-resilient initiatives.



Disasters and crises

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

According to the [INFORM Risk report \(2025\)](#), Bangladesh is classified as a high risk country, with a risk rating of 6.1 out of 10, ranking 23rd among 191 countries, and with a hazard exposure of 7.9 out of 10. Its geographical position in the Bay of Bengal exposes it to recurrent cyclones, floods, riverbank erosion, and storm surges, while northern and hilly regions are prone to earthquakes and landslides.

Bangladesh also continues to grapple with complex and overlapping crises. In 2024, political unrest disrupted governance and service delivery, demonstrating the interlinkage between political instability and humanitarian access. In parallel, road traffic accidents remain a chronic mass-casualty hazard, with thousands killed annually. These compound risks stretch the capacity of national institutions, humanitarian actors, and communities to prepare and respond.

Bangladesh lies in a highly active earthquake zone with several nearby faults and plate boundaries, including the Indo-Burma Subduction Zone and Dauki Fault, capable of generating high-magnitude quakes. The impacts of a major earthquake would be severe, including mass casualties, collapse of poorly built structures, large-scale infrastructure damage, secondary hazards such as fires and gas leaks, disruption of essential services, and long-term economic losses. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, with a population density of 30,093 residents per square kilometre, has been marked as one of the 20 cities most vulnerable to earthquakes in the world. On 14 August 2023, the country recorded an earthquake of 5.5 magnitude, when the

tremors were felt in various regions of the country including Dhaka. On 9 September 2023, an earthquake of 4.4 magnitude struck several parts of Bangladesh.

Climate change is intensifying these risks, with increasing frequency of heatwaves, cold spells, and vector-borne disease outbreaks adding new dimensions to disaster and health crises. Two-thirds of the population live within five metres of sea level, and millions reside in informal settlements on disaster-prone land, heightening their exposure.

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.

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. 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.

Fire poses a major threat in Bangladesh's urban and industrial regions, with over 285,000 incidents reported between 1999 and 2020. Factors such as high population density, unplanned urban growth, construction violations, increased use of gas cylinders and limited regulatory oversight have led to a fourfold rise in fire cases over the past two decades. Notable disasters include the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013, which killed 1,138 and injured more than 2,500. In 2019 alone, 24,078 fires resulted in 184 deaths and 560 injuries. Fire Service and Civil Defence data for 2022 showed over 24,000 fire incidents, causing 85 deaths and 377 injuries.

Bangladesh hosts more than one million displaced Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. The camps have been affected in the past by landslides due to a lack of slope stabilization 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).

Community-based disaster risk management will be institutionalized through safe schools, local disaster management committees, and inclusive risk reduction measures engaging women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The National Society will also strengthen its auxiliary role in disaster law and policy to inform government frameworks and humanitarian coordination mechanisms, while enhancing community and institutional resilience to earthquake risks through improved preparedness, response capacity and risk-informed development.

Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen early warning dissemination mechanism at the community level
- Provide cash grant for affected individuals/households under resilient livelihood initiatives
- Organize skill-based training for communities impacted by disasters

- 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
- Conduct community consultation and household assessment for beneficiary selection
- Strengthen cash preparedness by rolling out cash and voucher assistance (CVA) standard of procedures and increase CVA utilization through multisectoral and programme-specific response
- Conduct training in disaster risk reduction for staff and volunteers

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.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, the IFRC approved a Cold Wave Early Action Protocol in support of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. This will enable the National Society to utilize an immediate allocation of CHF 499,980 to implement early actions once triggers are met. The actions which include readiness and prepositioning of stocks were meant to support up to 150,000 people during an early action timeframe of three months. The protocol is meant to be in place for five years.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the Bangladesh Enhanced Community Resilience Programme by strengthening early warning systems, building volunteer capacity and implementing safe school protocols.

The **German Red Cross** will enhance disaster risk management structures and first aid capacity within the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society through branch-level preparedness, advocacy on statutory disaster responsibilities and improved coordination with authorities.



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.

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. Menstrual hygiene management is a fundamental right for women, but knowledge and practices are still low. 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 among the highest in the world.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization (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 such as 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.

Bangladesh hosts more than one million displaced Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, where acute needs persist in nutrition, WASH-related health, maternal and child care and mental health and psychosocial support. Health services for both refugees and host communities remain overstretched, requiring sustained humanitarian and health interventions.

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:

- Strengthening epidemic and pandemic preparedness, including early detection, surveillance and community-based outbreak response
- Expand access to primary health care, first aid and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) through Red Crescent clinics, mobile health units and branch-level health volunteers
- Promote community-based health and hygiene, focusing on maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools and communities
- Build branch-level emergency health capacity, including blood donation services, ambulance networks and volunteer first aid teams
- Integrate climate-smart health services, addressing heatwave response, water safety and resilient health infrastructures in disaster-prone areas

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) unit and WASH strategy for both emergency and developmental WASH interventions
- Distribute hygiene promotion kits and replenish water systems through water purification tablets and hygiene kits

- Conduct Health Camp in coordination with stakeholders
- Conduct outreach activities at community level on self-screening, where to seek support and individual follow up in Netrokona and Habigonj
- Strengthen national immunization programme at the community level
- Promote community-based awareness about non-communicable diseases among the elderly population
- Distribute safe drinking water and menstrual hygiene management kits during emergencies
- Conduct WASH training for staff and volunteer

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in enhancing institutional readiness for epidemic and pandemic preparedness, rolling out epidemic control for volunteer and community-based surveillance, cash and voucher assistance for health, integration of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and mental health and psychosocial support, along with global tools for community epidemic preparedness.

The **Danish Red Cross** provided support for epidemic preparedness and mental health and psychosocial support interventions, integrating health into community resilience programming.

The **German Red Cross** supported in expanding first aid, ambulance and blood services through training and system strengthening at branch level.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported health-WASH integration, nutrition-sensitive programming and maternal and child health services.



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 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.

Political unrest in 2024 further displaced families internally, compounding vulnerabilities. Migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons often lack access to protection services, psychosocial support, and mechanisms to address discrimination, leaving them further marginalized.

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. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's priorities include:

- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection services for displaced populations, refugees and host communities, including health, WASH, shelter and psychosocial support
- Strengthen [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#), [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) to ensure the voices of displaced people, women and youth inform humanitarian programming
- Enhance disaster-displacement preparedness, supporting anticipatory action, safe evacuation, and local contingency planning for climate- and disaster-induced displacement
- Support migrant workers and returnees with protection, legal information, reintegration support and livelihood opportunities.
- Advocate for protection of migrants and displaced populations, reinforcing the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's auxiliary role in humanitarian diplomacy, disaster law and coordination with government and international partners

Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct orientation on [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) services for migrants at educational institutions at sub district level under Cox's Bazar district
- Dissemination sessions on RFL services for migrants in Government Technical Training Centres

- Migration-related awareness sessions for community members in 10 migration prone districts
- Consultation meeting with Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training to find out collaboration options

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 IFRC will continue to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society by providing capacity building and orientation for staff and volunteers on migration and displacement and facilitating coordinated humanitarian diplomacy, resource mobilization and policy engagement to ensure protection and durable solutions for displaced populations. Additionally, the IFRC commissioned an assessment on the needs and aspirations of migrants and displaced persons through an external consultant and supported the development of guidelines on migration and displacement for the National Society.

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 community resilience and protection initiatives in areas affected by displacement.

The **German Red Cross** provided capacity building for branches on migration-sensitive disaster preparedness and first aid.

The **Swiss Red Cross** implemented joint programmes to strengthen host-refugee community resilience, livelihoods and social inclusion.



The National Society conducted plumber training for Rohingya community in Cox's bazar camp for the displaced (Photo: IFRC)



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 2023](#) ranks Bangladesh 138 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. Inclusive education for children with disabilities is crucial. Lack of adequate infrastructure and facilities keep children with disabilities behind in accessing education.

Bangladesh ranks 130th out of 162 countries in the [Gender Inequality Index 2023](#). 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 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. Persons with disabilities in Bangladesh face persistent exclusion in education, livelihoods and humanitarian services. Other vulnerable groups include LGBTQI+ individuals, minorities, climate-displaced communities, and those at risk of trafficking.

Gender-based violence and child marriage remain widespread in Bangladesh. A 2024 UNFPA survey reported that over half of Bangladeshi women have experienced [intimate partner violence](#) in their lifetime.

Community trust in institutions has weakened due to political instability and governance challenges in 2024–25, extending to humanitarian actors unless communication is transparent and feedback is acted upon. Multi-channel engagement such as radio, SMS, social media and local committees is essential to reach diverse communities and ensure accountability.

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 to:

- Promote humanitarian values, diversity and inclusion through IEC materials, youth engagement and training
- Support safe and inclusive learning spaces in disaster-prone areas, complementing formal education with non-formal education opportunities on humanitarian principles and preparedness
- Institutionalize PGI
- Strengthen safeguarding through revised Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies, whistleblowing mechanisms and survivor-centred investigation processes
- Build staff and volunteer capacity through systematic training on PGI, SGBV, child protection, disability inclusion and trafficking
- Institutionalize CEA with a national CEA Strategy, focal points in each programme, and integration into planning, monitoring, and reporting.
- Strengthen Feedback and Complaint Response Mechanisms
- Build community trust by broadcasting risk information through multiple channels and developing standard CEA indicators and checklists

Planned activities in 2026

- Training session for investigation committee members on safeguarding or PSEA cases
- Organize meeting and workshop on PGI-related issues
- Roll out revised policy on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) with standard operating procedures and guideline

- Organize training in [minimum standards for PGI](#) and Sexual and Gender Based Violence in emergencies
- Develop a policy for the protection of whistleblowers
- Observe International Women’s Day and 16 Days of Activism

exchange and advocacy to ensure continuity of education during disasters. It provided technical expertise on [Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies](#), safeguarding, disability inclusion and survivor-centred responses to sexual and gender-based violence and strengthened institutionalization of these areas through organizational assessments and updated safeguarding frameworks. Partnerships were built to enhance disability inclusion and accessible infrastructure. The IFRC co-developed and rolled out a Movement-wide [Community Engagement and Accountability](#) roadmap and policy framework, provided tools and training for digital engagement, perception surveys and data analysis, and supported communication infrastructure to build trust at branch and community levels.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in advancing education initiatives, including non-formal and remedial programmes that integrate humanitarian principles, climate preparedness and life skills, while facilitating knowledge

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

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.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- Health, accident and death compensation for its volunteers
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- Data management system
- PSEA Action Plan
- Digital transformation roadmap



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish formal collaborations with government ministries, embassies, UN agencies, academia, civil society and the private sector
- Actively participate in technical platforms on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, health and humanitarian diplomacy
- Position itself as a credible and visible actor in humanitarian coordination at national and international levels
- Improve shelter response readiness through capacity mapping, stock pre-positioning, partner engagement and updated guidelines
- Scale up local fundraising through professional skill development, donor engagement strategies and nationwide donation mechanisms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society includes strengthening partnerships and advocacy by facilitating participation in regional and global coordination platforms, co-hosting national and regional dialogues and enhancing visibility through joint campaigns and diplomatic briefings. It promoted Movement-wide cooperation by providing guidance and tools for harmonized programming. To reinforce shelter cluster leadership, the IFRC delivered technical expertise, training and surge support, updated shelter standards and accountability guidelines, and advanced inter-sectoral coordination. Additionally, it strengthened resource mobilization through capacity building for fundraising professionals, joint appeals, global visibility campaigns, and sharing best practices to diversify and sustain funding.

The IFRC continues to provide technical and financial support for 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.



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society volunteers in Tangail sharpen their search and rescue skills under the Integrated Flood Resilience programme (Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society)



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Rollout the branch development framework of the National Society with a proper institutionalization process
- Organize a nationwide membership drive to expand the network of members across the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
- Implement Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment 2.0 in all branches in 2026
- Apply the Branch Development Framework through assessments, recognition awards and continuous capacity strengthening of branches
- Improve governance effectiveness
- Expand staff and volunteer capacity building through formal systems for coaching, mentoring and supervision.
- Develop a comprehensive youth leadership framework and co-curricular activity guidelines
- Develop a long-term business model and continue investments in property and infrastructure

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provided technical support to the National Society in training leadership on integrity, safeguarding and governance best practices, and by facilitating the rollout of whistleblower and accountability systems. It sustained funding and technical expertise for the Branch Development Framework, Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment rollouts and the Model Branch initiative to ensure nationwide scaling. The IFRC supported the design and implementation of youth leadership modules, co-curricular frameworks, training of trainers and national youth events to embed Red Cross and Red Crescent principles in schools and youth networks.

Additionally, it provided ongoing support to digitize and consolidate financial management systems across the national headquarters and branches, while continuing investment in information technology solutions, reporting tools, and training for financial transparency and sustainability. The IFRC co-invested in safe, inclusive and modern facilities at the national headquarters and branch level. It facilitated peer exchange with other National Societies on National Society development, mental health and psychosocial support integration and youth programming, and provided external expertise for policy review, curriculum development and evaluation. Lastly, the IFRC supported the National Society in building partnerships with government, private sector and civil society.



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
- Conduct advanced communication training for National Society volunteers
- Build capacity of the National Society in developing strategy on promoting and influencing humanitarian diplomacy
- Engage in driving global and regional collective humanitarian diplomacy efforts
- Enhance communication and visibility of achievements to attract diverse funding streams

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in facilitating facilitated peer exchanges with other National Societies to enhance engagement with governments and public institutions. The IFRC supported the rollout of the National Society's Communications Strategy and social media Policy, including staff training in risk communication and digital engagement and provided technical tools and expertise for digital fundraising, content development, and archiving systems. It co-invested in innovative campaigns such as Green Filming, Women in Red, humanitarian walks, and the Ambassadors initiative to connect humanitarian themes with broad public participation. Additionally, the IFRC supported strengthening of digital fundraising through joint campaign design, global platform integration and surge support during emergency appeals, and shared best practices in fundraising, donor engagement approaches and case study templates. It also supported training and orientation on media engagement, rumour management, and humanitarian storytelling.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Roll out newly developed Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) Framework
- Capacity building of staff and volunteers on PMER, finance, data protection, GIS and mobile data collection at national and unit levels
- Establish functioning digital systems including the Central Data and Information Management System, automated asset management, Tally software for units and advanced use of Navision
- Institutionalize digital tools for fundraising and data visualization and strengthen the capacity of staff and volunteers in digital literacy and data-driven decision-making
- Adapt organizational structures and strengthen governance by conducting possibility studies, management reviews, and human resources restructuring

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 in facilitating advanced trainings on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) and Information Management, along with refresher training on management information systems and Navision. It supported the institutionalization of the PMER Framework and harmonized planning across projects and emergency operations, while providing tools and methodologies for data quality assurance, joint monitoring, and documentation of case studies and lessons learned. It also resourced and guided the upgradation of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's management information system with application programming interfaces, artificial intelligence, and improved user experience and interface design. In addition, the IFRC accompanied the National Society in reviewing and updating governance frameworks.

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 Society 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 2026, the IFRC continues its support for the [Population Movement Operation](#) (PMO) in Cox's Bazar through its

long-running Emergency Appeal – this operation which began in 2017 in support of displaced people from Rakhine state in Myanmar, as well as the affected host community in Cox's Bazar, is one of the largest IFRC-supported emergency operations. The IFRC also supported the National Society with DREF allocations for one Cold Wave [Early Action Protocol](#).

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

IFRC membership coordination

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

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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.

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 **Turkish Red Crescent**.

The **American Red Cross** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in strong partnership for Cox's Bazar operations, shared leadership in the Population Movement Operation (PMO), digital transformation, coastal disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action.

The **British Red Cross's** assistance to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society comprises strengthening National Society capacity through good governance and accountability, humanitarian diplomacy, migration and displacement, cash readiness, community engagement and climate-smart programming. It also provides support to the PMO through water, sanitation and hygiene and livelihoods interventions through the **Swedish Red Cross** and the IFRC.

The **Danish Red Cross** support to the National Society focuses on health including mental health and psychosocial support, community-based surveillance and disaster preparedness.

The **German Red Cross** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society through longstanding contributions to disaster risk management, early action, and urban resilience.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** supports the National Society in the PMO, emergency preparedness, stockpiles and disaster response capacities.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in shelter for forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals camps, health including hospital services in Cox's Bazar, water, sanitation and hygiene and livelihoods for host and displaced populations.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the National Society in Protection, Gender and Inclusion, Community Engagement and Accountability, resilience programming and green response.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provides support in health, community-based surveillance, climate and environment, disaster risk reduction in urban and rural contexts and assistance to displaced populations in Cox's Bazar through primary health care. It also has a special thematic focus on domestic source fundraising and contributes to capacity-building initiatives of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society through partnership in the PMO, health and livelihoods, particularly women-focused initiatives.

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 (e.g. facilitate emergency first aid services), visits detainees, supports national society development initiatives and promotes international humanitarian law. Together with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, it strives to re-storing 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 Society 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 Society will increase and expand its engagement with Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the IFRC are active members of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and technical clusters and working groups which include food security, WASH, health, gender, child protection, logistics, needs assessment working group (NAWG), National Cash Working Group (NCWG), and information management. Regular coordination and communication is maintained through other coordination platforms such as the Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG), and the ISCG in Cox's Bazar. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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 Society.

The IFRC co-chairs the Shelter Cluster Bangladesh, and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society 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 Society through funding and direct engagement. Major government agencies, including the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (US-PRM), Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others, have contributed to the Population Movement Operation in Cox's Bazar, and health and disaster response operations as well as long term development interventions.

In 2026, IFRC will continue its efforts to reach more institutional donors such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, among others, and strengthen partnerships with both major public and private entities. The IFRC and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's active engagement in the Early Warning for All initiative will strengthen partnerships with WFP, FAO, UNDRR, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant stakeholders. Through the operationalization of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's climate change strategy and roll out of the Climate Champion action plan, IFRC and its membership will support the establishment of partnerships with climate and environmental research institutes and other academic institutions.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 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 2026 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 network databank](#)
- 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 2026 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 network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
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