



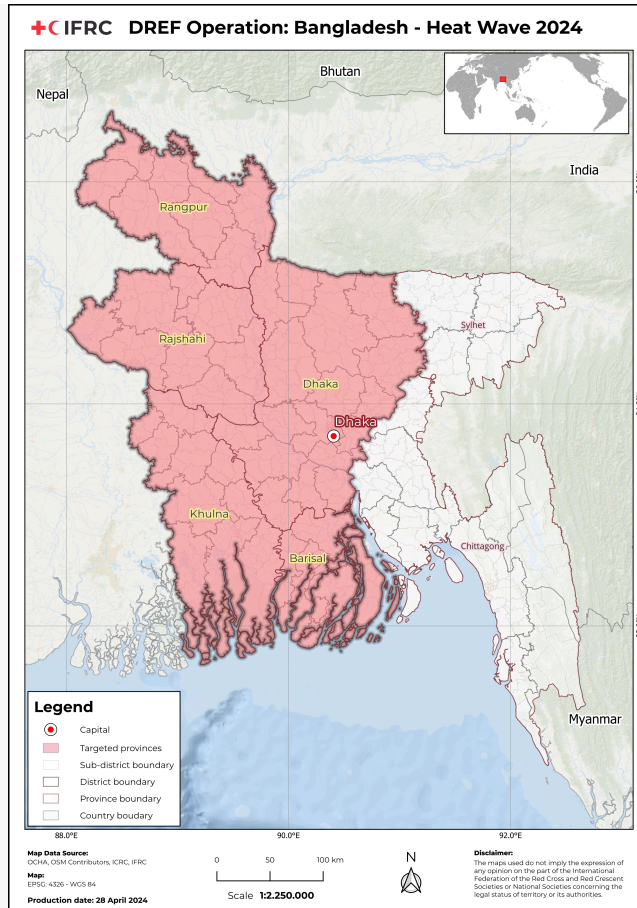
A Red Crescent volunteer in Kushtia distributing safe drinking water and umbrella to a rickshaw puller enduring the scorching heat. (Photo: BDRCS)

Appeal: MDRBD034	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 342,337	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Heat Wave
Glide Number: HT-2024-000056-BGD	People Affected: 33,000,000 people	People Targeted: 500,000 people	People Assisted: 460,000 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 03-05-2024	Operational End Date: 31-08-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months

Targeted Areas: **Barisal, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur**

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Map of Bangladesh targeted area. (Map: IFRC, IM)

Date when the trigger was met

24-04-2024

What happened, where and when?

Based on data from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) dated 21 April 2024, a severe to very severe heatwave was sweeping across some districts of the country, while a mild to moderate heatwave was affecting most districts.

The BDRCS forecast monitoring report indicated that maximum temperatures had exceeded 38 degrees Celsius, with the heat index surpassing 38 for two or more consecutive days. Global forecasts from sources such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and the Global Forecast System (GFS) predicted that temperatures would remain above 38 degrees for two or more consecutive days, along with high heat indices in Dhaka, starting from 21 April 2024, and likely continuing until 30 April 2024.

On 24 April 2024, a severe heatwave (≥ 40 degrees Celsius) was observed in the districts of Rajshahi, Pabna, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jashore, and Patuakhali. On 26 April 2024, Bangladesh set an all-time heatwave record as the Meteorological Office recorded 24 days of heatwave during April, surpassing the previous record of 23 days in 2019.

According to BMD data from 27 April 2024, a severe to very severe heatwave (≥ 40 degrees Celsius) was observed in the districts of Rajshahi, Pabna, Chuadanga, Natore, Chapai Nawabganj, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Jashore, Meherpur, and Bogura. A moderate heatwave (38–39.9 degrees Celsius) was sweeping over the districts of Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Barishal, Patuakhali, Jhalokathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur, Thakurgaon, Joypurhat, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Faridpur, Madaripur, Magura, Manikganj, Rajbari, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Naogaon, and Gaibandha.

According to the observed heatwave data, the most impacted divisions were Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Dhaka, and Barisal. The fluctuation between day and night temperatures was evident, and discomfort had increased due to moisture incursion.



BDRCS volunteers distribute umbrella and cap among the most vulnerable people due to heatwave (Photo: BDRCS)

Scope and Scale

The extreme heat triggered apparent health problems, including dehydration, electrolyte imbalances, fatigue, vomiting, fever, fainting, diarrhea, pneumonia, and sunstroke. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), as of 30 April 2024, a total of 10 people had died of suspected heat stroke in different parts of Bangladesh. The Ministry of Health had already alerted public hospitals to remain prepared to extend healthcare services as the country was grappling with a severe heatwave.

A nationwide heatwave contributed to a surge in health problems among children, particularly those related to respiratory issues. Hospitals across Bangladesh reported a significant increase in young patients suffering from fever, pneumonia, and diarrhea. This rise in temperature coincided with an influx of patients at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital, particularly children. The 13-bed children's ward was overwhelmed. Jashore experienced a similar situation, where the 27-bed children's ward at Jashore 250-Bed General Hospital reached capacity, forcing medical staff to treat 71 patients on the floor due to a lack of beds.

Exposure to extreme heat reduced working capacity, especially for people engaged in outdoor activities. According to the Meteorological Department, over a seven-day period, temperatures in the capital and other heatwave-affected areas had been consistently four to five degrees Celsius higher than the corresponding period in the past 30 years. As the heatwave swept across the country, the government of Bangladesh declared the closure of schools and colleges for one week, up to 27 April, forcing 33 million children out of school.

According to the daily newspaper Prothom Alo, around 70 per cent of Bangladesh's total population was impacted by the heatwave, particularly in the Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, and Barisal divisions. The extreme heat caused significant hardship, especially for those working outdoors. Many people were confined to their homes, but daily wage earners, such as construction workers and rickshaw pullers, had no choice but to endure the brutal temperatures to make a living.

The heatwave also severely affected the poultry industry. According to the Bangladesh Poultry Association (BPA), marginal farmers suffered losses of around Tk 200 crore during a 10-day period due to the extreme temperatures. Approximately 25 per cent of chickens were affected by the heatwave.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Searing heat shuts schools for 33 million children	https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1wxjj3g965o



2. 10 heat stroke deaths in the last week, 3 in last 24 hours: DGHS	https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/weather/news/10-heat-stroke-deaths-the-last-week-3-last-24-hours-dghs-3598821
3. Daily Newspaper Prothom Alo	https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/DIndex?eid=1&edate=30/04/2024&sedId=1&pgid=463247&isProductPanel=true&MagazineEdID=0&MagEdDate=30/04/2024&isIssueRefresh=False&uemail=
4. An April way hotter than 30-year average	https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/april-way-hotter-30-year-average-3593921
5. Bangladesh breaks 75-year heatwave record	https://www.bssnews.net/news/185814
6. Children at high risk amid countrywide heatwave in Bangladesh	https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/children-high-risk-amid-countrywide-heatwave-bangladesh
7. Heatwave: DGHS issues guidelines to stay safe	https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/health/344690/dghs-issues-8-guidelines-centring-heatwave

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	IFRC Bangladesh Delegation worked closely with BDRCS and supported to implement the BDRCS nationwide heatwave response plan. IFRC also supported for developing relevant IEC materials such as leaflets, banner and provided technical support to prepare voice recordings for miking, information management etc. IFRC updated the GO platform on heatwave situation. IFRC also coordinated with in-country PNSs, IFRC Regional office, and relevant stakeholders to extend support for the nationwide heatwave response plan.
Participating National Societies	With the technical support of IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and German Red Cross (GRC), BDRCS monitored forecast and shared situation analysis report regular basis. To support the BDRCS nationwide heatwave response plan American Red Cross (AmRC), GRC, Swedish Red Cross (SwRC), Danish Red Cross (DRC) and other in-country PNS extended their support through on-going programmes. GRC through its Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) mobilized resources for BDRCS to respond effectively for Rajshahi city. AmRC provided support to Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts; SwRC contributed around CHF 20,000 and DRC supported BDRCS to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) as well as activating the MHPSS call center.



Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	BMD provided heatwave forecast information, based on which "heat alerts" were declared from time to time. The City Corporation sprayed water across the city to reduce heat. Dhaka North City Corporation planned to plant 200,000 trees over two years. The Ministry of Health alerted public hospitals to extend healthcare services as the country was under the grip of a severe heatwave. The government announced the closure of all schools and colleges until 27 April 2024. To minimize health risks due to the scorching heat, the DGHS issued eight guidelines and urged people to follow them.
UN or other actors	UNICEF urged frontline workers, parents, families, caregivers and local authorities to protect children and pregnant women. Jointly, SAVE The Children and Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) conducted heatwave awareness campaign.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

During the implementation of heatwave DREF, BDRCS and IFRC ensured proper coordination with the relevant stakeholders including Government of Bangladesh (GoB), UN agencies and others.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



The whole country was reeling under scorching heat as a severe heatwave gripped parts of Bangladesh, with maximum temperatures ranging from 40°C to over 42°C in some areas. Low-income people and outdoor workers, the elderly, children, pregnant women, persons with overweight, and those with comorbidities such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, chronic kidney diseases, and asthma are more vulnerable to the heatwave in Bangladesh.

Due to excessive heat, health risks such as severe headaches, body aches, muscle pain, skin lesions, altered mental states, heat exhaustion, heat rash, heat cramps, and heatstroke—including symptoms like high fever, dehydration, heavy sweating, rapid heart rate (tachycardia), loss of appetite, hypotension (low blood pressure), painful cramps (especially in the legs), muscle spasms, seizures, coma, syncope, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and weakness—increased.

During the heatwave, excessive sweating and dehydration particularly affected marginalized people working outdoors, such as rickshaw pullers, daily laborers, and street vendors. Many relied on freely available water sources, such as municipal waterlines and ponds, which were not properly purified or hygienic. Since purifying drinking water required time and cost, these marginalized people often had no choice but to consume unsafe water. As a result, there was an increased risk of water- and food-borne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, and hepatitis.

The Health Emergency Operation Centre and Control Room of DGHS began collecting data on heatstroke patients in government hospitals across the country. As of 30 April 2024, 10 deaths had been reported due to heatstroke. According to national newspapers, in Chudanga and Meherpur, the number of heat-related illness cases was increasing in hospitals due to the intense heatwave. The Daily Sun reported that hospitals across different parts of the country, including Dhaka city, experienced a rise in cases of influenza, typhoid, and diarrhea.

The needs of vulnerable low-income livelihood groups, including rickshaw/van pullers and informal vendors, were not met due to a lack of immediate support within a short period. Working in open areas caused dehydration, leading to severe heat-related illnesses. Many had limited awareness and accessibility to safe drinking water and oral rehydration during the heatwave, increasing their risk of severe health hazards.

During heatwaves, these low-income people drank water from unsafe sources, which further increased their health risks. Cases of diarrheal diseases also rose, leading to a surge in waterborne disease cases at health centers. The immediate need was to raise awareness and ensure access to safe drinking water to protect vulnerable people from extreme heat exposure.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

According to UNICEF's 2021 Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), children in Bangladesh are at "extremely high risk" of the impacts of climate change. The unusual rise in temperatures poses grave risks, particularly to newborns, infants, and young children, who are considered an especially vulnerable population to heat-related illnesses. Similarly, elderly people, pregnant women, and lactating mothers are also vulnerable to heatwave-related illnesses. The heatwave also severely impacted those working as day laborers, rickshaw or van pullers, and hawkers, who required more attention and immediate assistance.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Low-income outdoor workers, such as rickshaw/van pullers, hawkers, and tea stallers, were vulnerable to heatwaves, which impacted their daily lives, particularly in terms of health and livelihoods. Considering the heatwave situation and forecast at the time, it was expected that the heatwave would continue for an extended period.

These vulnerable groups needed to be aware of possible protective measures against heatwaves. To address immediate needs, it was essential to ensure access to personal protective items such as umbrellas and caps, as well as cooling stations during periods of excessive heat.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Prioritizing the most affected and vulnerable people due to extreme heatwave hazards, it was emphasized that communities needed to receive proper information on adverse health impacts and prevention. By integrating Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), efforts were made to ensure that communities were informed about health risks in an appropriate way through the proper channels.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF allocation aimed to support 500,000 people affected by the heatwave by providing awareness on heatwave risks, safe drinking water, caps and umbrellas, first aid and PSS services, and setting up cooling stations in more than 27 severely heatwave-impacted districts in the Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal, and Dhaka divisions for three months. By the end of the operation, an estimated 460,000 people were reached through these interventions.

Operation strategy rationale

Since the beginning of April 2024, BDRCS, with the support of the German Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and IFRC, monitored the forecasted heatwave situation. Based on forecast analysis, on 21 April 2024, BDRCS activated the Heatwave Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Dhaka City under the anticipatory action pillar of IFRC-DREF. Subsequently, on 24 April 2024, BDRCS shared a nationwide heatwave response plan to scale up operations across the country.

BDRCS implemented heatwave-related activities in 53 districts (out of a total of 64) with the support of its respective branches. Based on the severity of the heatwave's impact and the needs of affected communities, IFRC, through this DREF, supported BDRCS in scaling up the nationwide heatwave response in priority-affected cities across 27 districts. Dhaka City was excluded from this support as it was already covered under the Heatwave EAP. Additionally, districts supported by in-country Participating National Societies (PNS) were also excluded from the DREF-supported intervention.

The BDRCS nationwide heatwave response successfully mitigated the impact of extreme heat on vulnerable communities across 53 districts. Through strong coordination, community engagement, and timely interventions, BDRCS and its partners provided lifesaving support and raised awareness about essential protective measures. The lessons learned from this operation will further strengthen BDRCS's preparedness and response mechanisms for future heatwave events.

Coordination and Partner Support

The operation was carried out in close coordination with BDRCS, IFRC, and in-country PNS, which extended their bilateral support to the



BDRCS nationwide heatwave response plan:

- German Red Cross provided support in Rajshahi.
- American Red Cross contributed to response efforts in Satkhira, Khulna, and Bagerhat.
- Swedish Red Cross contributed approximately CHF 20,000.
- Danish Red Cross supported BDRCS in providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

Response Activities

BDRCS successfully addressed the needs of the most vulnerable communities through the following activities:

- Dissemination of awareness messages on heatwave risks and protective measures.
- Distribution of safe drinking water at key locations.
- Provision of caps and umbrellas for personal protection from direct sunlight.
- Establishment of cooling stations for affected individuals.
- Provision of first aid and MHPSS services.
- Provision of ambulance services.

To mitigate the impact of the heatwave, BDRCS placed a strong emphasis on raising public awareness regarding protective measures, including drinking sufficient water, resting in shaded or cool areas, frequent bathing, wearing light-colored cotton clothing, and using umbrellas or caps. Volunteers actively disseminated awareness messages about heatwave-related illnesses through miking, leaflet distribution, and a tree plantation campaign.

Leaflets were distributed in major hotspot areas in consultation with local government authorities, city corporations, and relevant stakeholders. During distribution, dedicated BDRCS volunteers engaged with communities, explaining key awareness messages and emphasizing their importance. To maximize outreach within a short timeframe, BDRCS continued awareness campaigns through miking and tree plantation initiatives.

Additionally, safe drinking water was provided at strategic locations in affected cities, ensuring that vulnerable populations had reliable access to clean water. Cooling stations were established in key locations where individuals could rest, receive first aid, and access psychosocial support services. Furthermore, to enhance personal protection, umbrellas and caps were distributed among vulnerable individuals.

Volunteer and Staff Engagement

BDRCS mobilized more than 400 volunteers and staff members for this operation. Volunteers played a crucial role in disseminating awareness messages, setting up cooling stations, providing first aid, and distributing drinking water, umbrellas, caps, and leaflets.

BDRCS headquarters coordinated with district branch offices to ensure the effective implementation of response activities. Regular guidance was provided through reporting mechanisms, surge staff deployments for monitoring, and financial resource allocations. At the district level, BDRCS branch officers ensured the timely execution of planned activities with the support of dedicated volunteers.

To safeguard the well-being of volunteers and staff, BDRCS implemented work rotations to allow sufficient rest periods. Personal protective items, including umbrellas, caps, and adequate drinking water, were provided to all volunteers and staff. In alignment with duty-of-care principles, all volunteers and staff were covered under health and accidental insurance.

CEA and PGI

BDRCS ensured the full integration of CEA and PGI throughout the operation. A gender-sensitive approach was adopted to ensure equitable access to humanitarian aid. Socio-cultural barriers limiting access to services were considered, including a gender-sensitive selection process, accessible accountability mechanisms, and gender-balanced field teams to facilitate equal access for all genders.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

Under the IFRC-DREF, the operation primarily targeted vulnerable groups, including workers such as rickshaw/van pullers, construction workers, and hawkers/street vendors. Additionally, people living below the poverty line—particularly elderly individuals, people with disabilities, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children—were prioritized. Communities residing in slum areas, temporary roadside settlements, and pedestrians were also included in the intervention.



BDRCS mobilized a large number of volunteers to ensure broad community outreach. Special efforts were made to reach elderly individuals, people with disabilities, children, and pregnant women, particularly those living in slum areas. BDRCS volunteers conducted door-to-door visits to deliver assistance while ensuring the integration of PGI principles throughout the operation.

The rationale for targeting these groups is following:

1. People who work outside such as rickshaw/van pullers, street hawkers, construction workers, agriculture laborers, are inescapably exposed to the heat during their working hours, on top of they have to perform strenuous physical labor.
2. The elderly are vulnerable to extreme heat because it causes respiratory problems, worsened by frequent loadshedding/blackout in hot season. The elderly people also suffer from heatstroke, increased headache, and blood pressure problems.
3. As slum areas are overpopulated and congested with low ventilation, lower height of the roof and use of corrugated iron sheets as housing material; increase the temperature inside the house and impacting the life of slum dwellers more.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Considering the impact on the target groups, the following criteria were considered.

1. Marginalized people working outdoors
2. Limited access to have drinking water, self-protective items like cap, umbrella.
3. Limited access to take rest under shade.

In addition, elderly individuals, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), children, and people with disabilities were prioritized due to their heightened vulnerability to extreme heat conditions.

Total Targeted Population

Women	169,000	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	93,500	Urban	-
Men	154,000	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	83,500		
Total targeted population	500,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Due to excessive heat, engaged volunteers and staff may become sick, which may hinder the implementation of operational activities.	A large number of volunteers and staff were oriented and engaged in the response efforts through a rotation system. A portion of volunteers was kept on standby for deployment as needed. Additionally, volunteers were provided with caps, umbrellas, and sufficient drinking water to ensure their safety and well-being while carrying out response activities.
Procurement of essential relief items in large quantity identified as potential risk for this operation.	BDRCS has an existing agreement with a vendor for the provision of drinking water, which allows timely procurement and nationwide distribution. To expedite the procurement process, BDRCS procured caps, aprons, and drinking water, while IFRC



managed the procurement of umbrellas and the printing of leaflets simultaneously.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Apart from challenges related to road access in some affected areas and increased health risks due to the heatwave, mosquito-borne diseases, waterborne illnesses, and vehicle accidents, there were no major security threats in Bangladesh that directly interrupted the implementation of operational activities.

To mitigate security risks, adequate measures were implemented throughout the operation. Both BDRCS and IFRC adhered to their 'Zero Tolerance' policy against corruption, gender or racial discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and bullying. As a preventive measure, staff members and volunteers were oriented on IFRC policies and guidelines.

The National Society's security framework was applied throughout the operation to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers. In cases where personnel under IFRC security responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS staff, required deployment, the existing IFRC country security framework was followed. Rapid security assessments and analysis were conducted as needed.

Additionally, all IFRC staff were required, and RCRC staff and volunteers were encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses. Staff and volunteers were regularly briefed on the security situation and reactions in emergency.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Implementation



Budget: CHF 170,709
Targeted Persons: 500,000
Assisted Persons: 460,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with health-related awareness messages	500,000	460,000
# of liters of safe drinking water distributed	300,000	245,000
# of people served by the cooling centers	5,000	0
# of volunteers trained on FA and MHPSS	25	0
# of people reached with first aid and MHPSS service	1,000	73

Narrative description of achievements

With the support of IFRC, BDRCS reached over 460,000 people by disseminating heatwave-related Early Warning Messages (EWM) through leaflet distribution and miking across 27 districts in Bangladesh. To facilitate this outreach, BDRCS mobilized more than 1,000 volunteers and staff, ensuring widespread awareness and preparedness.

Based on forecast analysis and heatwave severity, BDRCS identified hotspot areas and provided targeted assistance. As part of its response, BDRCS distributed:



- 10,000 umbrellas and 20,000 caps to rickshaw/van pullers, hawkers, and traffic police, helping protect them from extreme heat exposure.
- Over 245,000 liters of safe drinking water in 27 districts, ensuring hydration for vulnerable populations. Water was distributed in 1-liter bottles to individuals in high-risk, high-footfall public gathering areas.
- First aid and MHPSS to 73 people during the DREF operation, addressing immediate health and well-being needs.

However, due to changing weather conditions and a drop in temperature, BDRCS did not establish the planned cooling stations in identified areas. Additionally, between July and August 2024, Bangladesh experienced civil unrest, leading to movement restrictions. As a result, BDRCS was unable to organize the planned training sessions during this period.

Despite these challenges, the operation successfully delivered critical early warning messages, protective items, and essential hydration support, significantly reducing the risks associated with extreme heat exposure.

Lessons Learnt

- Finalize the framework agreement with the supplier for potential goods. Based on community feedback, increasing the quantity and ensuring the quality of umbrellas and caps will better meet needs. For future green responses, avoiding plastic bottles and introducing reusable or eco-friendly alternatives will promote sustainability.
- Establish clear and comprehensive guidelines on health and safety during extreme heat conditions. This is crucial for protecting individuals' well-being, raising awareness, and ensuring communities are better prepared to mitigate health risks in future heatwaves.

Challenges

- The absence of framework agreements with potential suppliers led to delays in procuring essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as umbrellas, caps, and drinking water.
- The lack of adequate guidelines for health safety during extreme heat conditions poses a significant risk to public well-being.
- A shortage of trained volunteers for heatwave response created operational challenges. However, BDRCS mobilized its NDRT/NDWRT members to guide volunteers in implementing planned activities under the heatwave DREF operation.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 7,003

Targeted Persons: 500,000

Assisted Persons: 460,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteer received orientation on PGI	400	338

Narrative description of achievements

To ensure targeted support, BDRCS prioritized assistance for the most vulnerable groups, including elderly people, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), children, and persons with disabilities.

During the heatwave season, BDRCS conducted extensive community outreach to mitigate the impact of extreme temperatures on vulnerable populations. This included social media engagement, leaflet distribution, miking, and awareness campaigns in the most affected areas. As a result, thousands of pedestrians received critical heatwave preparedness information, helping to reduce heat-related suffering.

From 27 May to 6 June 2024, BDRCS organized a two-batch training on CEA, PGI, and safeguarding for its volunteers and staff. A total of 55 Red Crescent volunteers, including members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and Unit Disaster Response Team (UDRT),



participated (49 male, 6 female), strengthening BDRCS's capacity for inclusive and protective disaster response. Additionally, on 21 May 2024, BDRCS conducted a virtual orientation session on the Nationwide Heatwave Response 2024, where the facilitators also oriented participants on PGI. A total of 283 participants, including officials, Unit Level Officers (ULOs), Youth Chiefs, and Red Crescent Youth Volunteers from 53 BDRCS units, joined the session (114 male, 169 female). This initiative reached a total of 338 staff and volunteers, compared to the target of 400, and enhanced the readiness and knowledge of volunteers, improving the effectiveness of the ongoing response.

To further protect vulnerable groups, BDRCS carried out a Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis throughout the response. This assessment helped identify and mitigate potential risks, ensuring child protection measures were effectively implemented.

Lessons Learnt

- Ensure an inclusive awareness campaign by combining miking, leaflet distribution, and diverse information dissemination methods tailored to the impacted areas. This helps reach a wider audience, including those with limited access to digital platforms, ensuring that critical information is accessible to all segments of the community.
- Enhance information dissemination by complementing traditional methods like miking with social media and other digital platforms for broader reach. Volunteers should take a proactive role in leveraging innovative channels to maximize awareness and engagement. This ensures that information spreads quickly, reaches different demographics, and increases overall community preparedness and responsiveness.

Challenges

- Although early warning message dissemination was conducted through miking and leaflet distribution, there was a gap in ensuring an effective message dissemination for persons with disabilities (PWD) and the elderly. This lack of accessibility may limit their ability to receive timely and actionable information during emergencies.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 71,391

Targeted Persons: 500,000

Assisted Persons: 460,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with awareness messages	500,000	460,000
# of saplings distributed during heatwave awareness campaign	30,000	0

Narrative description of achievements

To mitigate the impact of the heatwave, BDRCS disseminated Early Warning Messages (EWM) in affected areas by mobilizing its dedicated volunteers and staff. Prior to this, BDRCS developed and finalized EWM materials (leaflets, banners, and festoons) in consultation with the Government and other relevant stakeholders to ensure accuracy and effectiveness.

Through this initiative, BDRCS reached 460,000 people with heatwave awareness messages via leaflet distribution and miking across 27 districts in Bangladesh.

However, due to civil unrest in Bangladesh and the restructuring of BDRCS's managing board at both the headquarters and branch levels, the National Society was unable to procure and distribute saplings within the operational timeline.

Despite these challenges, the intervention successfully enhanced community awareness, preparedness, and resilience against heatwave-related risks.



Lessons Learnt

- Develop a clear and well-defined Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for heatwave response activities to ensure consistent implementation and effective coordination in future emergencies. This will enhance preparedness, streamline actions, and improve overall response efficiency.
- Prioritize volunteer safety through comprehensive measures, including training on safer access and risk management, particularly in areas affected by civil unrest or conflict. Additionally, ensuring proper logistical arrangements for volunteers in the field will support their well-being and operational effectiveness.

Challenges

- The absence of a defined Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for heatwave response led to inconsistencies and challenges in implementation and coordination.
- Lack of effective coordination with local government and other stakeholders during implementation hindered efficiency. Future efforts should focus on improving communication with all relevant internal and external stakeholders in advance.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 8,317

Targeted Persons: 500,000

Assisted Persons: 460,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions	500,000	460,000

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS ensured meaningful community participation throughout the implementation of its heatwave response. As part of its CEA activities, BDRCS oriented more than 56 volunteers, NDRT/NDWRT members, and staff during the heatwave DREF operation, equipping them with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to effectively address community and stakeholder inquiries.

BDRCS disseminated early warning messages across 27 districts, reaching 460,000 people through leaflet distribution and miking. Additionally, BDRCS provided a hotline number to all targeted individuals, enabling them to seek information, share feedback, and provide suggestions.

During the operation, BDRCS received 260 heatwave-related emergency calls through its toll-free hotline, demonstrating active community engagement and the effectiveness of its communication channels.

This approach strengthened two-way communication, enhanced community trust, and ensured a responsive and inclusive heatwave intervention.

Lessons Learnt

- Assign dedicated personnel for CEA activities and ensure proper documentation and training. This will enhance efficiency, improve implementation, and strengthen community trust and participation in future projects.

Challenges

- The lack of clear guidelines and insufficient time for feedback collection significantly hindered the effectiveness of CEA.





Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 7,879

Targeted Persons: 10

Assisted Persons: 10

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of IFRC staff are engaged to assist BDRCS for timely implementation of response activities	10	10
# of monitoring visit by IFRC staff	5	2

Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation closely coordinated with BDRCS, in-country Movement partners, the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO), and the Geneva office throughout the Heatwave EAP operation. IFRC provided technical and monitoring support to ensure the successful implementation of the response.

Key contributions from IFRC included:

- Sectoral Support: IFRC colleagues assisted BDRCS in implementing sectoral activities, ensuring effective and timely intervention.
- Communication & Awareness: IFRC communication staff supported the development and dissemination of key messages and IEC materials, increasing public awareness and engagement.
- Logistics & Resource Mobilization: IFRC logistics teams, in collaboration with BDRCS, played a critical role in mobilizing contingency stock from multiple warehouses and arranging fleet support for efficient operations.
- Financial Oversight: IFRC finance ensured that fund flow and expenditures remained in line with the agreed budget, maintaining transparency and accountability.
- Monitoring & Evaluation: IFRC PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting) colleagues provided technical support in developing the monitoring and evaluation plan, conducting field monitoring visits, facilitating workshops, and reviewing reports to ensure continuous improvement.
- Capacity Building: IFRC sectoral leads strengthened BDRCS's response capacity by facilitating training and orientations on cash, CEA, PGI, IM, and other critical areas.

These contributions enhanced BDRCS's operational efficiency, strengthened coordination, and improved overall response effectiveness in addressing the heatwave's impact.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 77,038

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of BDRCS staff and volunteers mobilized	400	500
# of monitoring visit by BDRCS staff	5	3



# of lessons learned workshop organized	1	1
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Narrative description of achievements

During the heatwave response, 500 staff and volunteers were mobilized, surpassing the initial target of 400, ensuring broader community engagement and timely assistance. Additionally, BDRCS staff conducted monitoring activities to assess the effectiveness of interventions and identify areas for improvement.

BDRCS organized a day-long Lesson Learned Workshop on 24 August 2024 in Dhaka, bringing together stakeholders from both the Heatwave Early Action Protocol (EAP) and Heatwave DREF operations. More than 100 participants from BDRCS branch offices, BDRCS National Headquarters (NHQ), IFRC, and PNS attended the workshop. The workshop provided critical insights into the strengths and areas for improvement in heatwave response operations. Key takeaways included lessons on response effectiveness, coordination mechanisms, and future strategies. These insights will inform future planning to ensure a more efficient and impactful response to extreme heat events.

Lessons Learnt

- Prepositioning essential stocks is crucial for enhancing readiness and ensuring the timely availability of supplies during emergencies. This minimizes delays in response efforts, allowing for a faster and more effective distribution of aid to affected communities.
- Increasing BDRCS representation in inter-cluster coordination groups is essential for improving operational efficiency and collaboration. Stronger representation ensures better information sharing, coordinated decision-making, and more effective resource allocation, ultimately leading to a more streamlined and impactful response.

Challenges

- Timely fund transfer to the National Society is very important for the effective and timely implementation of the planned early actions. Delays in funding can hinder response efforts.
- The absence of prepositioned stocks hindered readiness efforts and caused delays, impacting the timely availability of essential supplies.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRBD034 - Bangladesh - Heatwave

Operating Timeframe: 03 May 2024 to 31 Aug 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/5-2025/1	Operation	MDRBD034
Budget Timeframe	2024-2025	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 07/Mar/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	342,337
DREF Response Pillar	342,337
Expenditure	-180,190
Closing Balance	162,147

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	114,144	43,607	70,537
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0		0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	218,763	246,139	-27,376
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	0		0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	332,907	289,747	43,160
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	9,432	-109,557	118,989
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	0		0
Enabling Approaches Total	9,432	-109,557	118,989
Grand Total	342,339	180,190	162,149

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 342,337 was allocated to BDRCS to assist people affected by the heatwave. These funds were utilized to raise awareness about heat-related illnesses, their signs and symptoms, and prevention methods. BDRCS-trained volunteers provided first aid and MHPSS services. In addition, BDRCS distributed safe drinking water, umbrellas, and caps.

The total expenditure recorded at the end of the operation amounted to CHF 180,190, representing 52.63 per cent of the budget. This left a balance of CHF 162,147, which will be returned to the DREF pool.

During the operation timeframe, Bangladesh experienced civil unrest between July and August 2024, along with changes in weather and a drop in temperature. As a result, BDRCS was unable to establish cooling stations or organize the nationwide tree plantation campaign. These factors mainly contributed to the significant variance between the allocated budget and actual expenditure.



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Md. Mijanur Rahman, Director, Disaster Response, mdmijanur.rahman@bdracs.org, +8801811458522

IFRC Appeal Manager: Alberto BOCANEGRA, Head of Delegation Bangladesh, alberto.bocanegra@ifrc.org, +8801711521615

IFRC Project Manager: HASIBUL BARI RAZIB, Sr. Manager-Disaster Preparedness and Respose, hasibul.bari@ifrc.org, +8801718535128

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Operations Coordinator, OpsCoord.SouthAsia@ifrc.org

Media Contact: Al-Shahriar RUPAM, Senior Officer Communications, AL-SHAHRIAR.RUPAM@ifrc.org, +88 01761775075

[Click here for reference](#)

