Emergency appeal
Bangladesh: Population movement

This Emergency Appeal is being launched on a preliminary basis and seeks a total of 3,265,766 Swiss francs to enable the IFRC to support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to deliver assistance and support to some 25,000 people for 9 months, with a focus on the following sectors: Health, WASH, food security, nutrition, emergency shelter, non-food items, restoring family links and disaster risk reduction. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation, and will be adjusted by 1 June 2017 based on further detailed assessments and further analysis.

Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) <click here>

The crisis and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

October-December 2016: Mass population movements influx from Rakhine State in Myanmar to Cox’s Bazar takes place

2 January 2017: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) requests support from its in-country partners to scale-up activities

17 January 2017: 273,151 Swiss francs allocated from the IFRC’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

25-31 January 2017: A joint Movement (BDRCS, IFRC and ICRC) assessment takes place in different areas of Cox’s Bazar District

7 February 2017: A Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) member is deployed to support the DREF operation

February 2017: ICRC provides 450,000 Swiss francs towards the BDRCS response, with BDRCS also raising 30,000 Swiss francs from their local donors.

18 March 2017: IFRC launches an Emergency Appeal for 3,265,766 Swiss francs, to enable the delivery of assistance to 25,000 people.

Displaced children receive blankets from BDRCS at Kutupalang, Ukhiya, Cox’s Bazar in January. (Photo: Mehedi Hassan Shishir/IFRC)
The operational strategy

**Needs assessment and beneficiary selection**
Findings from assessments carried out between December 2016 and January 2017 and an analysis of secondary data indicate that the newly arrived population in Cox’s Bazar are extremely vulnerable. Concerns for the newly displaced persons include lack of access to food security and nutrition, basic household items, WASH facilities, shelter, health, psychosocial support (PSS), gender and protection issues and the need for Restoring Family Links (RFL) services.

Many of the new arrivals have no access to income sources and inadequate access to the minimum levels of food for survival. As a result, many are adopting negative coping strategies which are affecting the new arrivals along with the wider host and other communities. Diarrhoea, skin diseases, pneumonia, fever, respiratory tract infections and water borne diseases are commonly reported. The available health services are unable to cope with the increasing case load.

The new influx group is also at risk of communicable diseases due to poor preventive measures and low knowledge on hygiene practices. Inadequate sanitation facilities are compelling open defecation, creating concerns for the contamination of water sources. At present, one community/shared latrine is used by at least 185 households. These latrines are not protected and are structurally unsound, which is leading to privacy and security concerns.

Menstrual hygiene management is another key aspect which needs to be addressed. Hygiene promotion activities and distribution of menstruation management materials among women and girls of menstruating age will be considered.

There are considerable psychosocial needs among the new arrivals, including those related to gender-related risks, including gender-based violence, and inadequate access to information for females due to low rates of literacy. Gendered roles also impact on access to nutrition and, due to low numbers of female health staff, there are barriers to females accessing basic services due to cultural issues around visiting male service providers. Many of the new arrivals are children, who face risks to their safety and dignity, including exposure to violence and inadequate access to food and water. Those risks are even higher for unaccompanied children.

Although safe drinking water sources are available, they are insufficient to meet the minimum needs for drinking, cooking and basic hygiene practices. One shallow hand pump is being used by at least 200 households, whereby each household is only receiving an average 17 litres of water. There are also long queues of one hour in the morning and evening to use the hand pump. In some cases, the water quality is found to be not suitable for drinking due to poor water management and storage.

The newly arrived population is seeking shelter in often poor and fragile structures, which are unable to offer privacy, security or protection from weather. This is compounded with limited access to construction and shelter materials and toolkits – often to limit the establishment of permanent settlements. The cutting of hill tops for settlements also increases the risk of soil erosion and landslides around the area. The use of forest trees, shrubs and herbs as fuel for cooking further affects the ecosystem in the area. Therefore, there will be a need to advocate for temporary shelter assistance and measures for environmental protection. The new influx of population is also living with inadequate essential household items to meet the minimum needs of a family. Some of the identified basic household needs include blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, mats, fire boxes, clothes – sarees, lungies and baby clothes – towels, buckets with lids and cooking stoves with fuel.

There is a need to scale up community engagement activities within host communities and the influx population, including the provision of information on the registration process and mobility options. This could include mapping out BDRCS and other stakeholders’ services, enhancing their visibility and access to the targeted persons. Health and hygiene promotion messaging can be delivered through posters, brochures, and audio recorded information programmes through radio or loud speakers to be played in strategic locations.

In view of the context, BDRCS has come up with an overall response strategy to address the humanitarian needs of affected people. Based on the assessment findings, the National Society developed an initial overall plan of action (PoA) for one year, with a budget of CHF 5 million. This Emergency Appeal focuses on nine months of that plan, thus a budget of CHF 3.26 million.
Over the coming weeks, BDRCS – with support of its Movement partners – will undertake continuous and detailed analysis of the context, and subsequently develop a revised plan of action with a broader focus, a higher caseload, an increased budget and a longer timeframe. The revised Emergency Appeal and plan of action, to be issued by 1 June 2017, will outline better the longer-term strategy of BDRCS and IFRC in addressing the needs of affected people.

Out of the target 5,000 families, 2,000 families have been identified from the official camps for humanitarian assistance. Priority will be given to females who are more at risk of gender-based violence, pregnant/lactating females (including young pregnant women), elderly persons, people with disabilities, unaccompanied children and families that have more dependant members than standard family size.

Coordination and partnerships
BDRCS, as an auxiliary to the Government and guided by the Fundamental Principles, works closely with the authorities at both national and local levels. The existing coordination mechanism with the IFRC, ICRC and in-country PNSs (currently six PNSs in the country) involves a bi-monthly Movement Coordination Forum (MCF) led by BDRCS. A task force was formed, with one member from each Movement partner, to develop the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) for this Emergency Appeal.

Based on discussions with Movement partners, it was agreed to follow the one-window approach with BDRCS at the centre to lead the implementation. IFRC and ICRC are closely supporting the BDRCS to manage its positioning and the Government access. This Emergency Appeal and separate ICRC funding will contribute to the one-window approach through the BDRCS as the most acceptable, effective and efficient choice for response. Movement partners are encouraged to support the one-window approach, which has been designed with flexibility to accommodate partners’ contributions to the response through a common agreed plan.

The existing humanitarian architecture of Bangladesh is managed by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) platform chaired jointly by UN-OCHA and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The HCTT acts as an advisory group to the Local Consultative Group – Disaster Emergency Response (LCG-DER) providing advice, taking forward agreed actions on behalf of, and feeding back to, the wider LCG DER group. Concurrently the Team also acts as coordination platform of the thematic clusters.

In addressing the population movement issue, the Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has developed a strategy paper in 2014 named “National Strategy on Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh”. This strategy paper has described the actors who are assigned to support the Government access and the Government effort to fulfil the strategy.

In line with the government strategy paper IOM is facilitating regular coordination in Cox’s Bazar for the Old influx Muslims from Rakhine. Since the recent surge of population movement started, IOM is facilitating weekly emergency coordination meetings and sharing humanitarian situation reports. Local administration is supportive towards provision of humanitarian assistance for the incoming people.

The major agencies involved are WFP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, ACF, Solidarity International (SI), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Handicap International (HI), NFO Forum (NGOF), Save the Children, and local NGOs such as MUKTI, BGS, SHED, RTMI. The recent joint assessment by the RCRC Movement has compiled the different services by all these agencies. There is a dedicated website (http://www.cxbcoordination.org/) to coordinate the humanitarian works by different agencies.

Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy
Due to the context of this operation and the risk of this being a protracted crisis, humanitarian diplomacy with Bangladesh authorities and other actors will be undertaken. The IFRC Country Office will be strengthened with a team member to support these efforts. BDRCS is also planning to deploy a focal person to focus on coordination in Cox’s Bazar. Continual coordination with Movement partners will also be maintained to define the best way to continue the support of the affected populations in the longer-term perspective.

Overall objective
The immediate humanitarian needs of 5,000 newly arrived Muslim families from Rakhine (25,000 people) are met through provision of food, non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance, health, RFL, DRR and National Society Capacity building over an initial period of nine months.
## Proposed sectors of intervention

### Health

**Outcome 1: The health and psychological wellbeing of the targeted population is improved**

**Output 1.1 Psychosocial support is accessible by target population**

**Activities planned:**
- Provide orientation and mobilization of the trained volunteers
- Implement PSS activities in the targeted communities, including specialized gender-based violence (GBV) PSS and child-friendly PSS
- Establish child friendly spaces that can be accessed by children once a week, to identify and train volunteer CFS people and the establishment of weekly activities for children
- Conduct GBV training of staff and volunteers, including development of relevant IEC materials such as pocket cards that volunteers can carry which contain GBV referral details
- Conduct awareness raising sessions on GBV referral services and child friendly spaces

**Output 1.2: Target population has improved access to medical assistance**

**Activities planned:**
- Provide training on response and referral for persons faced with GBV
- Deploy mobile medical teams

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**Outcome 2: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases is reduced**

**Output 2.1: 5,000 families have immediate access to safe drinking water**

**Activities planned:**
- Distribute jerry cans (2 per household) and replenish stocks
- Procure and distribute water buckets, with lids, and mugs
- Install 30 deep tube wells
- Maintain / repair 50 tube wells

**Output 2.2: 5,000 families have access to improved sanitation facilities**

**Activities planned:**
- Procure and install 50 mobile latrines
- Procure materials and build 80 trench latrines
- Conduct de-sludging bi-monthly as part of maintenance

**Output 2.3: 5,000 families receive basic hygiene parcels and promotional materials**

**Activities planned:**
- Procure and distribute hygiene parcels
- Print and disseminate hygiene IEC materials
- Conduct awareness sessions through the PHAST methodology

### Livelihoods; Nutrition; Food security

**Outcome 3: Immediate food and nutrition needs of the targeted population are met**

**Output 3.1: 5,000 families are provided with food packages**

**Activities planned:**
- Procure and distribute food items (bi-weekly for 5 months)

**Output 3.2: 500 children and mothers are provided with nutritious meals**

**Activities planned:**
- Procure and distribute food items for mothers and children (2 meals per day for 2 months)
- Set up temporary feeding stations
## Shelter (including Household non-food items)

**Outcome 4: Immediate emergency shelter and non-food item needs are met**

**Output 4.1: 5,000 families receive emergency shelter and non-food items**

**Activities planned:**
- Procure and distribute NFIs (blankets, kitchen sets, clothes, mosquito nets)
- Replenish tarpaulins and procure ropes
- Distribute tarpaulins and ropes and provide awareness sessions on emergency shelter
- Print and distribute IEC materials to raise awareness on shelter settlement and environment protection (leaflets and posters)
- Undertake advocacy with the Government on emergency shelter material distribution

## Restoring Family Links (RFL)

**Outcome 5: Family links are re-established and maintained between separated relatives**

**Output 5.1: People are supported to access appropriate means of communication to re-establish and maintain contact with their loved ones**

**Activities planned:**
- Provide phone service and collect ‘safe and well’ messages
- Collect and process tracing requests
- Provide charging sources (solar panel or other mobile charging service)
- Undertake awareness sessions about RFL services among the affected people
- Set up RFL booths in camps
- Coordinate with other agencies on the ground (MSF, UNHCR, IOM, etc.)
- Coordinate with UNICEF on cases relating to unaccompanied minors
- Share the documentation about RFL services with authorities and stakeholders

## Disaster risk reduction

**Outcome 6: Community resilience to disasters is protected and restored**

**Output 6.1: Adequate information on how to reduce risk is provided to the communities**

**Activities planned:**
- Conduct tree planting campaigns
- Organize awareness sessions on preventable disaster risks in target communities
- Reproduce and distribute IEC materials
- Procure and distribute cooking stoves and fuel
- Conduct a case study on the population’s movement impact on the environment

## National Society capacity building

**Outcome 7: National Society capacity to deliver on programmes and services in population movement crises is strengthened**

**Output 7.1: Capacity of BDRCS headquarters and branches to respond to population movement crises is strengthened**

**Activities planned:**
- Provide orientation on the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values at branch level
- Train volunteers on the complaints response mechanism
- Strengthen the coordination capacity of the branch
- Set up warehouses and distribution centres in the camps
- Procure and provide personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers
- Support the branch in putting in place a finance system
- Procure and provide office and IT equipment for the branch
- Procure and provide one vehicle for the branch
- Conduct BOCA to inform the formulation of a comprehensive branch development plan
Quality programming (areas common to all sectors)

Outcome 8: Continuous assessments and situation analysis are used to inform the design and implementation of the operation

Output 8.1: Needs assessments, beneficiary selection and monitoring are undertaken

Activities planned:
- Support joint Movement assessments (rapid and detailed)
- Select beneficiaries
- Undertake joint BDRCS-IFRC monitoring visits
- Provide orientation of staff and volunteers on beneficiary accountability and digital assessments
- Undertake post-distribution monitoring (with 10% of target households as a sample)
- Implement community engagement and accountability activities
- Undertake a livelihoods and cash feasibility study
- Undertake a final external evaluation

Program support services

Human resources
The BDRCS will use its existing staff and volunteers for the response operation. There is an existing set up in Cox’s Bazar to operate for the registered refugee camps. This set up and the district branch will be strengthened through deployment of senior staff from NHQ. BDRCS has deployed five NDRT members and will continue the deployment from its pool of 44 NDRT members. The district branch has deployed existing youth volunteers, and members of the executive committees to work on assessment and beneficiary selection. However, considering the multi-stakeholder coordination needs on the ground, BDRCS has planned to hire an experienced local coordination specialist who is familiar with the current context and has knowledge on the Movement.

The IFRC Bangladesh Country Office has so far used existing staff for the operation and has already deployed four staff to the field to assist BDRCS district branch with assessments and coordination on a rotation basis. The Country Office is receiving technical support from the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) on a regular basis. This Emergency Appeal budget includes a provision for strengthening the Country Office with an operations manager and one team member who will support humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

This Emergency Appeal covers travel, accommodation and per-diem costs related to the staff and volunteers mobilized as well as pre-positioning cost for BDRCS and IFRC staff. The Emergency Appeal will also cover insurance for the volunteers used in the operation through the IFRC global volunteer accident insurance scheme. An RDRT member is deployed for a period of two months to support the implementation of the operation. ICRC have provided human resources support for assessment.

Due to the particularities of this operation, surge support for gender and diversity will be mobilized for a period of one month to support the specific needs related to this operation. A specialist with experience in displacement and migration will be deployed to provide strategic support and guidance, share lessons learned from similar operations in other parts of the world, and guide the revision of this plan. Other provisions for monitoring and quality assurance by the APRO have been planned, including in PMER.

Logistics and supply chain
Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation’s requirements and aligned to IFRC’s logistics standards, processes and procedures. Food and NFI s, such as hygiene items, clothing, kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans and tarpaulins are needed for this operation. The procurement will be conducted locally by the IFRC Bangladesh CO/NS headquarter in accordance with IFRC procurement procedures and processes except for the mosquito nets, which will be mobilized from the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur. The operation will utilize tarpaulins and water jerry cans from the BDRCS disaster preparedness stocks and those items will be replenished through the RLU.
A briefing on procurement and warehousing will be conducted to strengthen the capacity of NS Cox’s Bazar branch by the NS HQ logistics with support of IFRC CO logistics. BDRCS has a warehouse (approx. size of 112 sqm) in the registered refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar district but that can only be used for the registered camps. The Chittagong regional warehouse in the neighbouring district can be used as backup storage. Further, BDRCS is planning to construct a temporary warehouse and distribution shed in the new makeshift camp area to facilitate the storage and distribution under this Emergency Appeal budget. Necessary fleet support will be provided from the existing fleet capacity of BDRCS and IFRC CO. It is planned that an IFRC vehicle will be deployed to Cox’s bazar for the whole operation period. IFRC KL RLU will provide technical support to NS and IFRC CO as needed.

Information technologies (IT)
High speed Wi-Fi internet connectivity is available in IFRC Bangladesh Country Office as well as in BDRCS NHQ. Staff members and volunteers in the field operation will be supported by 3G modems and internet data packages on their smartphones which will enable them to communicate electronically with the headquarters and to send reports and pictures. Rapid Mobile Phone (RAMP) based assessments will be carried out electronically through mobile apps on digital tablets, e.g. Magpie. An orientation session on digital assessments will be provided to prepare the volunteers using the tablets for assessments. The prepositioned NDRT and RDRT IT telecom tool kits will be mobilized in the operational activities and pre-deployment briefing will be given as per need. On-site and remote IT Telecom support will be provided by both the IFRC Country Office and BDRCS ICT sections. The information management delegate will also be available for a field support mission.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information
The BDRCS communication department will lead communication and media relations support to the operation. Technical support will also be provided by communications counterparts in the country offices of IFRC and ICRC in Dhaka and IFRC communication team in Kuala Lumpur, the principal aim is to ensure that the Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian response is professionally communicated, understood and supported by internal and external stakeholders. Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate public information focused on the humanitarian needs and the Movement response is vital to support effective resource mobilisation efforts and enhance collaboration with key partners and stakeholders.

Communications support to this operation will ensure that the Movement is well profiled through proactive public information activities that integrate the use of BDRCS and IFRC online platforms, media relations activities, audio-visual production and social media engagement. Primary target audiences will include national, regional and international media, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, peer organizations as well as donors and the wider public. Attention will also be given to ensure that BDRCS staff and volunteers are well accepted and recognized by beneficiaries and the wider community. Branded materials including caps, t-shirts, vests will be provided to volunteers to ensure a high level of visibility.

Community engagement and accountability
Community accountability and feedback/response mechanisms will be integrated into the operation to ensure that affected populations have access to timely and accurate information on the nature and scope of services provided by BDRCS, and expected behaviour of staff and volunteers. Since only a fraction of the affected population will be selected, the selection criteria will be communicated clearly to beneficiaries and wider communities so that they understand the rationale behind the selection process. This will avoid potential tensions/frustrations by the people who do not meet the beneficiary selection criteria. Best practices will be captured and all efforts made to record case studies as the operation progresses.

Gender and protection
BDRCS will apply the IFRC Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming throughout the response and sector plans to ensure sensitivity to the needs of at-risk individuals and groups. In addition, BDRCS will ensure that staff and volunteers sign the Code of Conduct as well as its own Child Protection Policy that the National Society is developing in line with the IFRC Child Protection Policy.

Some specific measures to be incorporated in programming include menstrual hygiene management, safe access to sanitation, safe drinking water sources, psychosocial support and medical assistance for those who have experienced GBV and SBV. BDRCS will ensure that its staff and volunteers are well-aware of referral pathways, and able to offer non-judgemental referral information that is up to date. This will be preceded by rapid PSS and GBV training for BDRCS teams. There will also be ongoing coordination with the GBV Cluster.
Security
In 2016, there was a string of deadly attacks by militant outfits in Bangladesh. Since then, the Bangladesh authorities remain on alert for possible further attacks, and have been taking direct actions and various initiatives to disrupt activities of militant groups and thwart potential attacks. The political situation has remained relatively calm since the mid-2016 local elections, and few hartals (shutdown) were called more recently by the opposition parties were under control of the law enforcement, with no reported casualties and very little impact on public lives in the capital or elsewhere. It is anticipated that the security forces will maintain efforts to ensure security and normal life. Given the focus of the present Emergency Appeal on the area with complex sensitivities, including the potential safety and security issues, it will be important to maintain regular dialogue with relevant authorities and law enforcement bodies.

The IFRC Bangladesh Country Office’s security unit has put in place several mitigation measures, and will continue monitoring to observe any change in the situation and provide updates through real time SMS alerts, information reports and security advisories. All visitors will be provided with security welcome packs and on-arrival security briefings. An operational security risk assessment will be carried out in the operational area of Cox’s Bazar district.

The safety and security of volunteers and staff members engaged in the operation will remain as the highest priority and adherence to the safety and security procedures (e.g. wearing life jackets by all staff and volunteers travelling by water transports) will be made mandatory. Moreover, the support of IFRC’s Regional Security Coordinator based in Dhaka will be available to ensure safety and security in the operational activities.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)
BDRCS will be responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of the operation - primarily at the branch/unit level, but supervised and supported closely by its headquarters and the IFRC country office. BDRCS and IFRC monitoring team, including the National Disaster Response Team, will visit the operation sites. Regular internal reporting and progress tracking by the field officers will help to gather information during day-to-day operational issues.

IFRC, through its country office in Dhaka and the PMER team in Kuala Lumpur, will provide necessary technical support to BDRCS. The joint IFRC and BDRCS monitoring teams will make field visits on a needs basis. This will help identify and, where possible and necessary, resolve any problems.

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC Emergency Appeal minimum reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation’s timeframe – with the first expected within the first month of the operation – and a final report within three months of the end of the operation.

A monitoring and reporting plan will be prepared in consultation with BDRCS PMER team. Necessary tools and templates for regular data collection and reporting will be adopted from existing PMER resources.

An external final evaluation will be taken place after the implementation of all the activities.

Administration and Finance
Operational expenses such as volunteer per diem, accommodation, transportation, communication and coordination activities are factored in. Procurement will be done following BDRCS procedures with IFRC technical support. Finance and administration support to the operation will be provided by BDRCS national headquarters, with backing from the finance team of the IFRC country office.

Budget
See attached IFRC Secretariat budget (Annex 1) for details.

Garry Conille
Under Secretary General
Programme and Operations Division

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General
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**How we work**

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC’s vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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**The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:**

- **Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.**
- **Enable healthy and safe living.**
- **Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.**
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<th>Budget Group</th>
<th>CHF</th>
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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: DEVINFO, International Federation