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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update Bangladesh: Monsoon Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRBD022	Glide n° FL-2019-000079-BGD
EPoA update n° 1; 16 September 2019	Timeframe covered by this update: 18 July to 31 August 2019
Operation start date: 18 July 2019	Operation timeframe: 18 months End date: 31 January 2021
Overall operation budget: CHF 7 million; DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 452,439	
Donors contribution to this emergency appeal: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Swedish Red Cross, The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government), The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government), and from a private donor from the Netherlands.	
Appeal coverage: 15% <see Donor Response >	
N° of people being assisted: 150,000 (30,000 families)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, The Netherlands Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Bangladesh (GoB), UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC), UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, Terre des Hommes (TdH), Oxfam, START Network, Save the Children, Brac, Care, World Vision, Caritas, Friendship, SKS Foundation, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Actions Aid Bangladesh, Sapling.	

Summary of current operation update:

This operation update is issued mainly to inform progress of operation covering the period of 18 July until 31 August and issuance of the emergency plan of Action (EPoA) of the appeal. The planned response actions reflect the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation. Details are available in the EPoA [<click here>](#)

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

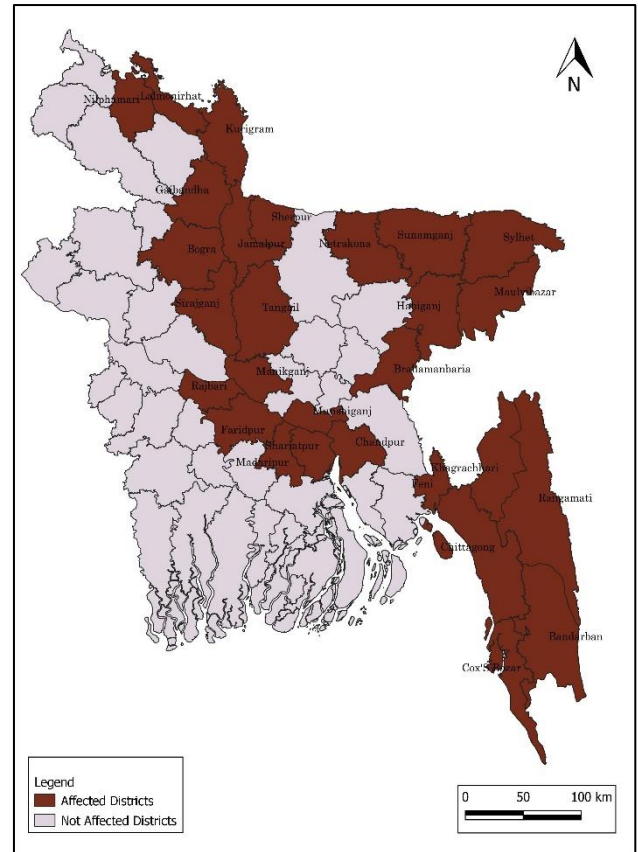
Description of the disaster

Extreme monsoon rains across Bangladesh, India and Nepal have devastated significant parts of those three countries and caused disastrous floods, affecting millions of lives. These heavy rains have led to landslides and extreme flooding and resulting food and clean water shortages as well as threats from waterborne diseases in the country.

The flood started from 7 July due to the heavy monsoon rain and water from upstream flooding in Nepal and India. This extreme monsoonal phenomenon has triggered severe flooding in low lying areas of north and north-eastern region of Bangladesh. More specifically six days of heavy rain and onrush of upstream waters have flooded low-lying areas of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Chattogram (formally known as Chittagong), Bandarban, Rangamati, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Bogura, Nilphamari, Khagrachari, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Netrakona, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Tangail, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sherpur, and Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Rajbari, Shariatpur districts.



Receding water creating riverbank erosion in Sirajganj. **(Photo: BDRCS)**



Bangladesh map, flood affected districts in 2019. **(Map: IFRC)**

Additionally, the heavy rain has triggered landslides in some areas of Chattogram Hill Tract (CHT) districts along with Cox's Bazar. While the monsoon season normally brings annual floods to the country and wider region, this year, widespread flooding in upstream countries, Nepal and India, where millions of people have been severely impacted, have meant that the scale of the flooding this year has been significantly exacerbated. Even though, compared to the 2017 monsoon flood, the 2019 flood is not that widespread, it has impacted many districts, and the distress to the people and disruption created is severe and may last for a longer period of time. The impacts of this event are much larger in scale than they would be in an average annual monsoon event.

According to the National Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), Bangladesh situation report dated 28 July 2019, more than 7.6 million people have been affected in 28 districts, over 300,000 people displaced, approximately 600,000 houses damaged, and 114 people have died. On top of that media report says about 532,000 hectares of crops destroyed¹. It is also reported that embankments have been damaged and inundated.

Besides this intense floods, country's Dengue situation took severe turn up and more than 53,000 people infected since January (out of them 34,000 reported in August 2019) mainly in Dhaka. Dengue situation is still alarming both in capital and outside of Dhaka currently. In the second week of the August, i.e. during the Eid vacation, dengue got a widespread throughout the country and patients are increasing outside of Dhaka.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

BDRCS, established in 1971, is one of the leading humanitarian organizations in the country with its district units (branches) in all 64 districts of the country. In addition, it has four city units that brings the total number of units to 68 hence it has a countrywide network with over 800,000 volunteers and staff.

BDRCS has been active since the beginning of the floods and around 575 Red Crescent volunteers and 100 staff were immediately mobilized to various districts to respond the disaster. Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers have supported awareness programmes, evacuation and provided first aid. RCY volunteers also supported local administration in distributing government food stocks to affected people who have been evacuated to safe shelters. Furthermore, they also supported the fire service and civil defense in repairing the main road that connects Rangamati with Chattogram and the rest of the country.



Red Crescent volunteers helping people to evacuate in Bandarban. **(Photo: BDRCS)**

¹ The Daily Star dated 29 July 2019. <http://epaper.thedailystar.net/index.php?opt=view&page=2&date=2019-07-29>

In terms of coordination, followings are the key actions taken by BDRCS during this reporting period:

- BDRCS attended an inter-ministerial coordination meeting called by the government on 12 July 2019.
- BDRCS activated its flood contingency plan and opened the Emergency Control Room at NHQ during the initial stage of the disaster and kept all its volunteers and staff on high alert for possible deployment. The unit offices (branches) were active and coordinating with the local authorities to ensure a timely response to the people in need.
- Coordination meetings took place regularly at the BDRCS NHQs which were attended by all Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners.

BDRCS provided following assistances and services for the flood affected people during this reporting period:

Activities	Achievements
Distribution of dry food and cooked food	66,270 people reached
Distribution of food packages (15 days)	2,500 families
Mobilization of 6 water treatment units	78,460 litres of safe drinking water provided
Distribution of jerrycans	4,122 pieces
Disinfection of tube wells	320 tube wells
Distribution of hygiene parcels	2,900 families reached
Temporary latrines	12 latrines
Distribution of tents (in kind support by UNHCR)	700 families
Distribution of tarpaulins and shelter tool kits	1,250 families
Mobile medical teams x 4	4,480 people treated
Multipurpose cash grant (BDT 4,500/CHF 55)	2,500 families ²
Distribution of 8 types vegetable seeds	1,500 families

Considering current Dengue situation, BDRCS has initiated a comprehensive programme on Dengue Awareness Campaign 2019. BDRCS is continuing support through the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, Blood bank, Youth and Volunteer department in terms of patient service, supplying blood (platelets), awareness raising (through their branches), psychosocial support etc. In total 650,000 awareness leaflets have been distributed in 250 schools and among general people in 53 branches with Awareness campaign rally in 23 branches. There are 40 volunteers who are trained on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and working on providing support to the patients and their attendants in six major hospitals in Dhaka city. Blood Bank of BDRCS has provided 2,482 bags of platelet and the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital has provided treatment to 1,641 dengue patients since May 2019.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC is helping the host National Society (NS) with the initial mobilization of funding and personnel as well as in preparing situation reports and providing technical inputs for a coordinated relief operation. IFRC is part of the NAWG and is also participating in different coordination meetings, including the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), Strategic Executive Group (SEG)³ and cluster working group meetings. IFRC country office is liaising with the IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and through APRO with the Secretariat in Geneva as well as with neighbouring country offices. IFRC has been closely monitoring the evolving situation and has been regularly publishing information bulletins and situation updates. To meet the immediate need of 50,000 people IFRC allocated CHF 452,439 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 July 2019 which helped BDRCS to expedite the response operation without any delay. Based on the request from BDRCS, IFRC has launched emergency appeal on 30 July and seeking 7 million CHF to assist 150,000 flood affected people. As IFRC is the convener of the Global Shelter Cluster and agencies are requesting for such support, IFRC in country Shelter Cluster focal point is regularly coordinating with other agencies and as well as with the Global Shelter Cluster Coordination Team, providing technical inputs to develop humanitarian response plan and strategy for responding to emergency shelter and recovery needs. The Global



IFRC Head of Country Office (HoCO) visiting and engaging flood affected communities in Bogura and Lalmonirhat. (Photo: IFRC)

² BDRCS has plan to reach 12,500 families with multipurpose cash grant (BDT 4,500) in 8 districts. Apart from already reached 2,500 families, BDRCS is currently working to reach another 5,000 families by end of September. The remaining 5,000 families will be reached by 2nd week of October 2019.

³ This is an inclusive decision-making forum consisting of heads of international humanitarian organizations to ensure an effective humanitarian response to the crisis. To support the Government of Bangladesh in managing and responding to the crisis, humanitarian actors coordinate under the leadership of the SEG at the Dhaka level, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, IOM, and UNHCR. The membership includes UN agencies, INGOs (ACF, MSF and Save the Children), and the Red Cross/Crescent movement (ICRC, IFRC).

Shelter Cluster deployed a coordinator on 5 August 2019 for the initial three weeks of the response, with support of the Canadian Red Cross and a second rotation has been requested by the country office.

Currently there are 11 Red Cross Red Crescent partners in the country. They are American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent.

In terms of partners' readiness and existing relief stock in the country, Danish Red Cross has contributed bi-laterally food packages (2,500 dry food and 2,500 standard food packages). British Red Cross is ready to replenish some relief items distributed from the current Disaster Preparedness (DP) stock. Turkish Red Crescent, Qatar Red Crescent, Swiss Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross are keeping their headquarters updated and ready to support BDRCS as needed. As part of Forecast based Financing (FbF) initiative, BDRCS provided cash grant support to 479 households in Kurigram (with German Red Cross support) and 431 household in Gaibandha (with Swiss Red Cross support). German Red Cross has also secured funding to support 3,000 households in Kurigram, Tangail and Jamalpur with unconditional cash grant and seeds. Movement partners have started contributing to the IFRC emergency appeal and expressed their willingness to contribute more.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has been continuously monitoring the situation through its Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), while they have taken necessary measures to support the flood affected people through its Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). A total of 28,350 metric tons of rice; 118,000 packets of dry food; BDT 49,150,000 (approx. CHF 556,967) as cash support; another amount of BDT 163,500,000 (approx. CHF 1,852,780) for house repair; BDT 1,800,000 (approx. CHF 20,397) for baby food and BDT 2,400,000 (approx. CHF 27,197) for livestock fodder allocated by the GoB for all 64 districts through its regular response mechanism. Also, 8,500 makeshift tents and 54,500 bundles of iron sheets allocated by the GoB and 2,451 medical teams; 11 water treatment plants deployed. The Department of Livestock Services (DLS) vaccinated 127,057 livestock and 388,176 poultry. Immediate treatment of 65,977 livestock and 295,701 poultry was provided. MoDMR allocated 94 recreational kits for distribution, with the provision of awareness raising sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) initiated a BDT 21.23 million worth recovery programme for 32,121 farmers to prepare seedbed and seedling in 10 districts.

WFP provided 193.94 metric tons of High Energy Biscuits to 51,717 households in three districts. They also activated FbF and distributed cash in Kurigram district. FAO is providing technical assistance to the MoA and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MoLF). UNICEF provided 7.5 million Water Purification Tablets (WPT) which GoB is distributing to affected communities. UNICEF also provided 10,000 hygiene kits, 20,000 jerry cans and 2 mobile water treatment plants. UNICEF reached 25,000 severely affected people with critical lifesaving messages through community volunteers. UNICEF also provided therapeutic milk supplies through the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) to ensure the treatment of Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM). UNICEF is supporting local primary education officials with Education in Emergencies kits to be distributed among 26,000 children in the worst affected districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Tangail, Sylhet, Bandarban and Sunamganj. UNFPA provided 3,500 dignity kits in support of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) for restoring the dignity of women and girls in temporary shelters and, psychosocial support for the well-being of women and girls. Plan International Bangladesh will support 20 primary and secondary schools in Kurigram through Cash for Work. BRAC planned to support 159 non-formal BRAC schools in Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sumangamj and Sylhet districts. World Vision Bangladesh will be supporting families with MPCG in Bandarban and Jamalpur districts. Save the Children secured funding to implement an Education in Emergency project targeting 60 non-formal schools in Chattogong and Cox's Bazar districts. They also planned to reach 15,000 beneficiaries with off-farm livelihood support in Kurigram and Sirajganj districts.

NGOs supporting the national efforts are: CRS, BRAC, TDH, Friendship, GUK, MJSKS, SKS, Solidarities, MMS, ASOD, NDP, CARE, Concern Worldwide, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid, Aid Comilla, HelpAge, ActionAid, Caritas Bangladesh, World Vision, United Purpose, Save, Habitat for Humanity, Plan Bangladesh, Oxfam, DAM and BNKS. Their support is notably funded by the allocations made by Start Fund Bangladesh amounting to £1,000,000 (approx. CHF 1,186,540) for relief operations in Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bandarban and Bogura.

While BDRCS is coordinating with the GoB at national and local levels, IFRC and RCRC partners are coordinating with the HCCT, sectoral clusters, NAWG, UNRCO, MoFA, MoDMR by attending meetings and sharing information on regular basis to avoid duplication of support provided to the flood affected areas and to capture the gaps to address the needs. A 4W matrix has developed and BDRCS and other agencies are placing relevant intervention information there. It is expected that a consolidated version will be made available for HCCT soon.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

BDRCS mobilized need assessment teams during the initial stage of the flood situation. Also, NAWG has conducted a Joint Need Assessment (JNA), in coordination with GoB and the humanitarian community in the country. Government situation reports and all the need assessment reports indicate enormous damages of infrastructure, including roads,

impacting access of affected people to health care and needs of food, water, sanitation, rehabilitation of livelihoods, health and shelter supports.

According to BDRCS initial need assessment, flood affected people took temporary shelter on the embankment and higher ground. Considering that the monsoon season may continue till September, a further deterioration of the situation



Flood affected people taken shelter on the embankment. (Photo: Feroz Salah Uddin/BDRCS)

is possible. Risks of landslides, flash floods, prolonged waterlogging phenomenon in coming days are not excluded. People taken shelter on higher lands such as embankments and roads, most of them have now started going back to their homes but most of houses are fully or partially damaged. According to the findings of the need assessment teams shelter assistance is one of the urgent needs in the communities.

Drinking water sources have been contaminated by flood waters and according to the JNA, 73,000 tube wells are damaged. The assessors found that there is a scarcity of safe drinking water and shortage of safe drinking water is a pressing concern and one of the priorities needs along with sanitation facilities. People are also collecting water from other distant locations. Some people are boiling flood contaminated water to make the water drinkable. Needs of safe drinking water was also highlighted by the community people. It was also highlighted that the condition of the latrines was very poor in terms of health and hygiene issues. The needs assessment team found that many people use temporary latrines which are only covered with jute bags with very poor safety conditions.

There have been reports of waterborne and vector borne diseases⁴ in some places. Access to public services such as health is severely limited in the flood affected districts. BDRCS also reported some of its Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres have been affected by flood. According to JNA, it is estimated 5 million people are at high risk of water-related diseases in the worst affected districts.

Due to displacement of people and loss of food stocks, there is an urgent need for food assistance. Short-term food security appears more imminent a problem; however, there will still be a significant impact on the long-term food security due to the impact on crops and livelihoods. Less work opportunities followed by reduced purchasing capacity of the vulnerable families, will result in a prolonged lean season negatively affecting food security and nutrition status. Elderly, female headed households, pregnant and lactating women and those already relying on food aid (such as the VGF - vulnerable group feeding - a national safety nets programme) are the most vulnerable in terms of food security, in relief as well as in the recovery phase.

FAO as well has reported that the floods in northern areas have caused significant loss of livestock and fisheries. National NAWG report⁵ mentioned that negative coping strategies have been seen – people eating fewer meals per day, borrowing money at high interest, selling productive assets on cheaper price and purchasing food on credit. The report says that damages to crops and livestock in the northern districts have severely destroyed livelihoods which will result to long term negative impact to household income and food insecurity.

There is limited information regarding protection vulnerabilities, for instance children with disabilities, separated children and data of children or women in informal or formal shelters. Restoring dignity for flood-affected women and girls and increase access to life-saving referral services could be crucial need. Off-farm livelihood support to flood affected women to prevent negative coping mechanism is also crucial. Integration and advocacy with other clusters and government to ensure mechanism are in place to identify potential negative consequences of GBV.

⁴ According to the National Health Emergency Operation Centre, during 10-21 July 2019, 2825 diarrhoea cases, 987 Acute Respiratory Infection – Pneumonia, 717 skin diseases reported.

⁵ Monsoon Flood 2019 Joint Needs Assessment: Phase 1 Light, dated 29 July 2019

During this monsoon season risk of dengue is high and particularly from June to September/October. This year it took a severe turn as number of patients are increasing. According the latest report of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of Bangladesh, total reported cases since January 2019 is 53,182. Out of total number of patients reported, August recorded 34,721 cases and the number of total reported death as per GoB is 40. In addition to the government, WHO and BDRCS, other agencies responding, there is still need to aware mass people about dengue and community clean ups to prevent build-up of stagnant water as part of the community prevention activities. It is also identified that the distress people need psychosocial support to overcome the situation.

Operation Risk Assessment

Overall security situation in the country is normal and currently there is no major threat which may directly hinder the implementation of the planned activities. To ensure safety and security of all people involved, adequate measures like staff tracking (e.g. via phone or Short Messages Service - SMS), pre-deployment security/safety briefs, situation monitoring, regular or ad hoc security/safety updates, contingency plans, WhatsApp group, and the completion of the respective IFRC e-learning courses (i.e. Personal Security, Security Management, Volunteer Security) are in place. Proper visibility of Red Cross and Red Crescent is maintained by the field teams. All the vehicles accommodated with the proper safety equipment like life jackets, first aid kit. The security team is keeping close coordination with the UNDSS, ICRC Security team in Dhaka as well as with the BDRCS units and local administrations in the operational areas.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Strategy of this operation:

- Meeting immediate, medium-term and recovery needs of communities affected by the current flooding.
- Anticipating and responding to additional humanitarian needs during the remainder of the 2019 monsoon season.
- To strengthen the capacity of BDCRS in Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) and National Society Development (NSD).

In the immediate phase, foods, safe drinking water, medical assistance, emergency shelter, sanitation and hygiene will be provided to the 20,000 flood affected families. In the anticipated phase, BDRCS is also planning to take early action to the future floods with the provision of emergency food, shelter, WASH and health services for 10,000 families. Furthermore, BDRCS also plans to support some most vulnerable families and communities to recover from the effects of the recent floods. This recovery phase will begin immediately after the completion of emergency phase. In the recovery phase assistance will be provided to address people's medium-term needs in terms of restoring sanitation and water facilities, reconstruction of damaged shelters and improving livelihoods and food security. The coping mechanism for future floods will be addressed through Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities.

Most of the assistances will use cash-based interventions in order to reach the most vulnerable people in timely and dignified manner. Following the previous audit and evaluations, the cash-based interventions have been made more structured, robust and strengthened. The Cash SOP has been drafted and approved by the BDRCS Governing Board and will be followed thoroughly for all cash-based interventions including activities under this EA. Furthermore, in-country practical emergency cash trained (PECT) staff, technical officers from BDRCS and IFRC and cash trained NDRT members will be mobilized to support the implementation of cash-based interventions during emergency and recovery response. Additionally, some partners have expressed willingness to support human resources, if required, for cash monitoring and impact study/analysis.

Beneficiary selection is also key in the operation. BDRCS, as always, has a robust beneficiary selection process. The beneficiary data in this operation too will be managed by BDRCS and IFRC using Open Data Kit (ODK). ODK is an open source Android app that replaces paper forms used in survey-based data gathering. It supports a wide range of question and answer types and is designed to work well without network connectivity. The household assessment form is designed in consultation with all sectoral stakeholders, including IT, PMER, CEA and PGI. BDRCS in this operation will engage a data management team based in the headquarter led by the ICT unit of BDRCS. In order to facilitate exit strategy planning, close consideration will be given to the design of the DRR component under the operation, to ensure, where possible, that links are made between DRR interventions under the operation to the ongoing community resilience programming of the national society.

BDRCS currently is identifying most affected and needy people and distributing emergency dry food and usual food packages. Identification and selection of the beneficiaries for the emergency cash assistance has already started. Further need assessment for the recovery support and livelihood will be conducted in coming months once the emergency distribution and other immediate priority activities are completed. CEA and PGI units are engaged in planning, beneficiary selection and distribution to ensure transparency, accountability and equal opportunity.

A continuous coordination is taking place with all other clusters and agencies. Greater care is exercised to avoid duplication in providing assistance to the affected people. Global Shelter Cluster Coordinator has been deployed and is coordinating with other agencies in terms of shelter needs. An interagency shelter cluster coordination meeting was

held at the IFRC office. Procurement process for various emergency items has already started to ensure timely delivery of the planned relief items. Required cash has already been requested from the IFRC Secretariat.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 6,250

Male: 3,128

Female: 3,122

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlement	35,000	6,250

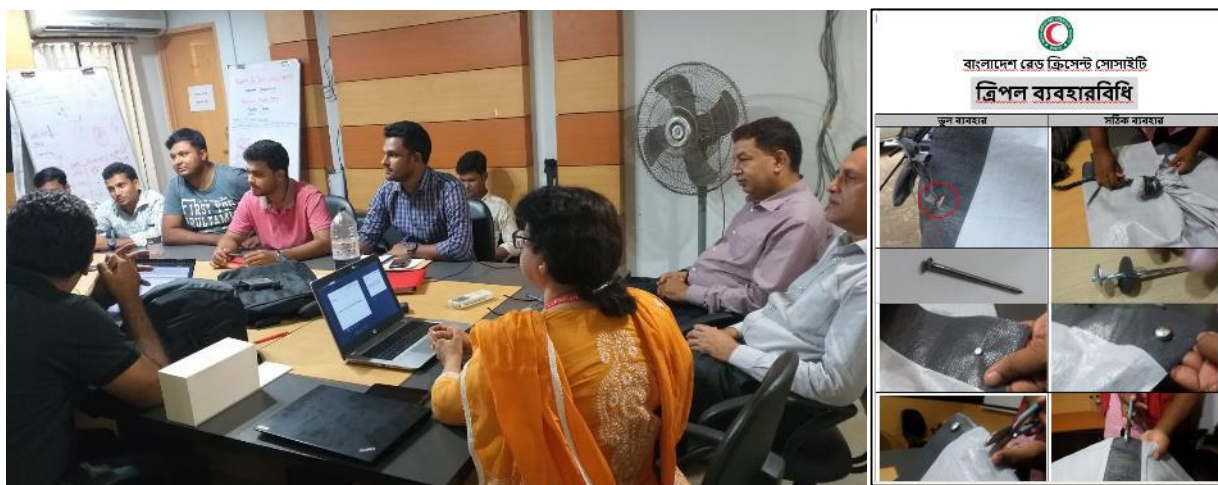
Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	5,000	1,250
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	2,000	-
# of households provided with conditional cash grant	2,000	-

Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive	7,000	1,250

Progress towards outcomes



Orientation to the NDRTs on uses of shelter toolkit and tarpaulin distribution along with PGI briefing (left). Guideline on the use of tarpaulins in Bangla (right). (Photo: IFRC)

BDRCS allocated emergency shelter items like tarpaulins, shelter toolkits and tents in five most affected districts - Jamalpur, Tangail, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Kurigram). BDRCS mobilized five NDRT members to support the branches for assessment and distribution of emergency shelter items. At the same time BDRCS mobilized tarpaulin and shelter toolkits for 1,250 families from the joint disaster preparedness stock of BDRCS-IFRC. An orientation session on uses of tarpaulins and shelter toolkit in national headquarter was organized. With the support of RCY and NDRT members, BDRCS conducted household assessment to select beneficiaries. Deployed NDRTs organized orientation on uses of tarpaulins and shelter toolkit in the branch level and during the distribution time. So

far, BDRCS has distributed tarpaulin and shelter toolkits among 1,250 flood affected families through this emergency appeal. In addition to that BDRCS also distributed 700 tents among another 700 flood affected families.



Affected people in Jamalpur receiving tarpaulins and shelter toolkits (Photo: IFRC)

Challenges:

Due to Eid-ul Adha⁶, most of the transport agencies engaged their trucks in transporting animals with three to four times higher price and that create scarcity for BDRCS to hire truck to transport the shelter items from its warehouses to districts. Which took extra time for BDRCS to negotiate and arrange the transport to mobile the tarpaulins and shelter tool kits.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 48,270

Male: 4,832

Female: 4,822

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households that have enough food, cash or income to meet their needs	10,000	8,324
Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with dry food assistance	10,000	8,324
# of households reached with food package for two weeks	10,000	On-going
Output 1.2: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, income generating activities and post-harvest management		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households supported to increase/improve household food production	2,000	Planned
Output 1.3: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with multipurpose cash	7,000	On-going

Progress towards outcomes

For the immediate phase of the emergency response, BDRCS distributed cooked food among 5,350 people for 3 days in Bandarban. BDRCS also distributed dry food packages among the 12,154 households in 14 affected districts, out of these, 2,500 households assisted by the funding from one PNS (Danish Red Cross) and around

⁶ The second of two Islamic holidays celebrated worldwide each year (the other being Eid al-Fitr).

2,400 households assisted by the local fund of BDRCS five local branches. As flood water receded, people are suggested to receive the food package instead of dry food packages. Based on the available fund, BDRCS already allocated two weeks of standard food packages for distribution among 3,000 households in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Tangail districts. BDRCS already distributed the food packages among the 2,500 households in 4 flood affected districts with the support of Danish Red Cross.



Volunteers packaging dry food package in Bogura (left); RCY volunteer reaching inundated families with dry food and water in Tangail (right). (Photo: BDRCS)



Distribution of dry food package in Bogura. (Photo: BDRCS)

BDRCS is planning to reach 12,500 households with multipurpose cash grant (BDT 4,500) to meet the multipurpose need of one month in 8 districts (Gaibandha, Kurigram, Bogura, Sirajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sylhet and Sunamganj). As of now BDRCS reached 2,500 households and currently working to reach another 5,000 households by end of September. The remaining 5,000 households will be reached by 2nd week of October 2019. Among these 12,500 households, through this appeal 7,000 households will be covered. The package is designed based on the recommendation of national cash working group and considering the monthly expenditure basket. People will receive the MPCG through the electronic money transfer services (EMTS) of the Bangladesh Post Office (BPO). Currently BDRCS is conducting household assessment using the mobile based data collection tool (KoboCollect). Along with the MPCG, each beneficiary will receive eight types of vegetable seeds.

In BDRCS national headquarters (NHQ), an orientation workshop was organized with the deployed NDRTs regarding the beneficiary selection by adopting Open Data Kit (ODK), mobile based data collection tool. Trained NDRTs have conducted sessions for the volunteers in every selected branch before starting the assessment. From the NHQ, a dedicated team has been deployed for managing the data from server and provided technical support to the deployed persons. Currently, there are seven PECT and five RDRT trained members from BDRCS and IFRC Bangladesh Country office are working for the on-going flood operation.

Challenges:

BDRCS is in process to procure foods package (two weeks) from the NHQ and as the procured food need to be tested by independent agency. As a result, food distribution will take longer time.



Health

People reached⁷: 250,000

Outcome 1: Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with health assistance	25,000	250,000 ⁸

Output 1.1: Communities are provided by NS with services to identify and reduce health risks

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with emergency health assistance	15,000	4,480
# of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities	n/a	250,000
# of people reached with longer-term Community Based Health and First Aid (eCBHFA) services	10,000	planned

Progress towards outcomes

BDRCS mobilized four mobile medical teams (each team have 1 doctor and 1 paramedic and 1 RCY) in Tangail, Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Kurigram districts. So far 4,480 patients received medical assistance from three mobile medical teams. Another mobile medical team has been deployed and the service is ongoing in Kurigram district.



Medical teams providing medical assistance to the patients in Tangail. (Photo: BDRCS)

Dengue Response:

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is continuing support through the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, Blood bank, Youth and Volunteer department in terms of patient service, supplying blood (platelets), awareness raising, psychosocial support etc. In total 650,000 awareness leaflets distributed in 250 schools and among general people in 53 branches with awareness campaign rally in 23 branches. Out of these 650,000 leaflets, BDRCS produced 250,000 with IFRC's support and 400,000 were produced by the different units (branches) using their own fund. Some 40 volunteers trained on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and working on providing support to the patients and their attendants in 6 major hospitals in Dhaka city. Blood Bank of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has been provided 2,482 bags of platelet and Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital has provided treatment to 1,641 dengue patients from May 2019 to till date.

IFRC has allocated CHF 5,000 for publishing leaflets containing awareness messages from BDRCS. IFRC also provided BDRCS with mosquito repellents which will be used by volunteers and officials for preventing mosquito bites during their service in the hospitals or community or any other relevant setting for activities against Dengue. ICRC proposed to support BDRCS for on-going dengue response.

⁷ Including dengue response.

⁸ 4,480 people reached by mobile medical team and another 250,000 BDRCS has counted by leaflet distribution for Dengue response. Total leaflets were distributed 600,000 (250,000 by IFRC's supported fund and 400,000 by the different units using their own fund). Considering overlapping of people reached via mobile medical team and health awareness campaign, the highest number taken is 250,000 according to the leaflets distributed.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's (BDRCS) Response: Dengue Situation

18 August 2019



53,182 total dengue cases



839 outside of Dhaka



7,856 undergoing treatment

Source: DGH



650,000 Awareness leaflets distributed in 250 schools and among general people in 53 branches.



Awareness campaign rally in 23 branches



Visits to the hospitals in 5 branches



Blood donation and free blood group test in 9 branches. BDRCS blood bank provided 2052 bags of platelet.



Cleaning work and campaign in 22 branches



Awareness campaign through Social Media



60 volunteers engaged in 6 major hospitals in Dhaka City



40 volunteers trained on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA)



24 hours Hotline for blood and platelet +8801811458537 & +8802-9139940



Volunteers cleaning water to remove mosquito larva (left); Volunteers providing PSS services to dengue patients and their relatives in hospital (middle and right). (Photo: BDRCS)

Challenges:

- Procurement of medicine for mobile medical teams was delayed in the beginning, due to meet the huge immediate need they had to purchase basic medicines from the local pharmacies.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 73,700

Male: 36,894

Female: 36,806

Outcome 1: Vulnerable people have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with WASH services	95,000	73,700

Output 1.1: Communities are provided by NS with improved access to safe water

Indicator-:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with safe water	35,000	63,384
# of water points disinfected	200	Ongoing

Output 1.2: NS promote positive behavioural change in personal and community hygiene among targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items	5,000	2,900
# of people reached through PHAST and CHAST	10,000	Planned

Output 1.3: NS provide communities with knowledge and best practice to improve sanitation facilities

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of temporary latrines constructed	50	12
# of people have access to (temporary) safe latrine facilities	10,000	1,200
# of households provided with conditional cash grant for construction of improved latrines, hygiene and cleaning items	2,000	Planned

Progress towards outcomes

BDRCS, with support of trained RCY, National Disaster WatSan Response Team (NDWRT) members, deployed six water purification units in Tangail, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Kurigram and Bogura districts. Using these water purification units, BDRCS purified 78,460 litres of drinking water and distributed among 31,384 people.

Furthermore, BDRCS also disinfected 320 tube-wells enabling another 32,000 people to have access to safe drinking water. At the same BDRCS distributed 4,112 pieces of jerrycan among the flood affected families who need water container for water storage and carrying.



Volunteers travelling to remote places to provide safe drinking water in Jamalpur (left); Volunteers distributing safe drinking water in Kurigram (right). (Photo: BDRCS)



Volunteers disinfecting tube-wells in Tangail and Jamalpur. (Photo: BDRCS)

At the beginning of the emergency, BDRCS distributed 2,900 hygiene parcels to reach 14,500 flood affected people (2,900 families) in Netrokona, Bandarban, Chattogram, Sunamganj, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar (for communities outside of the population movement camps) and Khagrachari from the joint disaster preparedness stock of BDRCS and IFRC.



Distribution of hygiene parcels in Rangamati (left) and Chattogram (right). (Photo: BDRCS)

With the technical support of NDWRTs, BDRCS installed 12 communal temporary latrines targeting 1,200 displaced people in Tangail and Sirajganj districts. BDRCS also in process to install more communal temporary latrines in Kurigram, Jamalpur and Gaibandha for the flood affected people.



Volunteers installing temporary latrine for the displaced people in Tangail. (Photo: BDRCS)

Challenges:

At the initial stage, it was difficult to reach the remote areas to support the most affected people, especially whose houses inundated. BDRCS arranged special transports (i.e engine boat, banana tree made floating raft, etc) and had taken extra safety measures for volunteers by providing life jackets to reach the people with safe water.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 73,700

Male: 36,894

Female: 36,806

Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services	Yes	Yes

Output 1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff, NDRT, NDWRT members, and volunteers as well as IFRC, PNSs staff oriented on the PGI minimum standard	200	Ongoing
# of dignity kits distributed	3,000	Ongoing

Progress towards outcomes

The operation will ensure the promotion and participation of men and women of different age groups through trainings and consultation. An assessment will be conducted to identify specific needs of different groups. Sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) will be collected and analyzed and will be informing the emergency response. A continuous dialogue among the different stakeholders will be fostered to ensure programmes mainstream DAPS (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety) approach and Minimum Standard on Protection, Gender and Inclusion, based on the identified needs and priorities of humanitarian imperatives on the ground.

BDRCS has organized an orientation session on minimum standards commitment (MSC) for staff and NDRTs. BDRCS also organized an orientation for staff and volunteers on the PGI minimum standard and DAPS approach in NHQ.

Disaggregated data (SADD) have already incorporated in the household assessment form including questions on gender and diversity analysis and specific context for risk assessments. There is a clear instruction by the BDRCS to the district branches to prioritize the flood affected woman headed households, person with disabilities, lactating mothers, unattended children, elderly families as potential beneficiary.



One of the volunteers helping to carry the relief items in Bogura (left); Volunteers distributing safe water jerry cans prioritizing the female headed households in Jamalpur. (Photo: BDRCS)

During the distribution of the assistance, BDRCS paid the special attention the most vulnerable groups. Staff and volunteers briefed about BDRCS Child Protection policy, its code of conduct (CoC). BDRCS shared selection criteria among the communities and shared the finalized list of beneficiaries with them prior to MPCG distribution, BDRCS hotline number widely circulated and volunteers addressing the calls were well briefed through developing frequently asked questions for this operation. A two-pager document (both in Bangla and English) on IFRC Minimum Standard Commitment (MSC) has developed and shared with the response team to be distributed with all the staff and volunteers who are engaged in this operation. Also, a pocket card containing BDRCS hotline number, as well as GoB and police hotlines to address Gender based Violence (GBV) has been developed and under printing process. These pocket cards will be distributed among the community people.



Special sitting arrangement made for women headed households during the shelter items distribution in Gaibandha. (Photo: BDRCS)

Challenges:

The staff, NDRTs, NDWRTs and volunteers engaged in the operation try to mainly focus quickly complete the assessment. Sometimes people feel that collecting of SADD data and asking for specific needs are time consuming. However, through orientation and briefing the understanding is increased and these are incorporated in the assessment questionnaire.

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

People reached: n/a (activities not started)

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through NS programmes for DRR	25,000	Planned
Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with DRR awareness sessions	25,000	Planned
# of households provided with saplings	5,000	Planned
Progress towards outcomes		
All the activities under DRR section have planned for the recovery phase.		

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Follow up on the priorities outlined in the Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification (OCAC) assessment and Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA)	Yes	Planned
Output 1.1: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Insurance for volunteers and staffs deployed in the response	Yes	Yes
Proper orientation to volunteers and staff prior to deployment to response operation on subjects such as PGI, CEA, etc	Yes	Yes
Upgrading/modernization of BDRCS response coordination centre at the NHQ	Yes	Planned
Exit survey and post distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted	Yes	Planned
# of people provided ToT training (i.e on livelihoods, PHAST, CHAST, PASSA etc)	n/a	Planned
# of people trained on NDRT and NDWRT	n/a	Planned
Relief stocks (non-food relief items) prepositioned/replenished	Yes	Planned
Revision of contingency plan	Yes	Planned
Response SOP developed	Yes	Planned
Progress towards outcomes		

As Bangladesh continuously confronts with floods and other natural disasters almost every year, BDRCS aims to be better prepared and provide early warnings to the vulnerable communities and take early actions before such disasters hit the communities.

BDRCS staff, NDRT and NDWRT members are deployed in the flood affected districts to assist BDRCS respective RC unit. Before deployment, they have received brief orientations on PSEA, PGI and CEA. Earlier, they also received orientations on code of conduct (CoC) and fraud and corruption. And, number of staff, NDRT, NDWRT and volunteers has been covered by insurance through previous programme and has planned by this emergency appeal.

Challenges:

The fund received under the IFRC EA is using mainly focusing on the response activities than capacity building. However, proper briefing of the NDRTs, NDWRTs, staff and volunteers who are engaged in the operation are being provided in an integrated way. It is expected that with the future funding increased more focus will be given to the planned NSD activities.

Ensure effective International Disaster Response

Outcome 1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS supporting this emergency appeal with financial and/or human resources	n/a	7
IFRC engages in inter-agency coordination	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
A coherent shelter strategy is developed in response to the floods	Yes	Planned
# of RDRT deployed	3	Ongoing

Progress towards outcomes

IFRC is already present in Bangladesh since 1970s and supporting BDRCS in disaster response and management. For this operation as well necessary program support and coordination functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: surge support, logistics and supply chain, inter-agency coordination, information technology support, reporting and monitoring, quality control and humanitarian diplomacy. As IFRC is the convener of the Global Shelter Cluster and agencies are requesting for such support, a Shelter Cluster Coordination Team will be deployed with the support from this Emergency Appeal.

American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross Society, Swedish Red Cross have contributed/in the process of contributing to this emergency appeal either with financial and/or human resources.

The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) provided a Shelter Cluster Coordinator who arrived in Dhaka on 5 August. The shelter cluster coordination team organized two shelter cluster coordination meetings, one in IFRC CO; met donors, PNSs and NGOs and has drafted a response shelter strategy document for review. Second surge Shelter Cluster Coordinator will arrive in mid-September for a further month to support this operation. IFRC CO along with BDRCS is engaged in HCCT and Cluster meetings, need assessment, food security, logistics, gender in humanitarian action. An interagency shelter cluster coordination meeting was held at the IFRC office.

For the on-going flood operation, BDRCS has requested to deploy one IM RDRT and one RDRT with PGI and CEA profile. Currently IFRC APRO is in process to mobilize RDRT members in Bangladesh.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC together with the national society uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of lesson learned workshop conducted	1	Planned
# of evaluation(s) conducted	1	Planned
Evaluation is followed up by a management response	Yes	Planned
Output 1.2: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Operation has clear campaign and communications reach strategy	Yes	Yes
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>IFRC will support BDRCS to develop work plan and reporting approach for this operation. Furthermore, BDRCS and IFRC will maintain close coordination with PNSs, ICRC, UN and other humanitarian agencies throughout the operation period. Additionally, IFRC will support BDRCS, as always, in areas such as communications and media relations and coordination with the public authorities and national government. In addition to that under this operation, evaluation and lessons learned workshop will be conducted. Support will be provided to translate and disseminate the Standing Order on Disaster (SOD). The SOD is a statutory order that guides and regulates the disaster response and management in Bangladesh.</p> <p>IFRC team is actively involved with BDRCS in developing the response activities, not only through the EA, also for the bilateral support that BDRCS is receiving from the PNSs and other sources. While IFRC is maintain active coordination with PNSs, UN and other agencies, BDRCS is keeping close coordination with the GoB and its ministries.</p> <p>BDRCS communication team with the support of IFRC CO and APRO teams is actively engaged in social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) as well as sharing flood response information through their website. IFRC global Facebook and Twitter accounts are also highlighting the work of BDRCS on regular basis. Media interviews with CNN, BBC, Times, etc. were arranged for BDRCS and IFRC CO media spokespersons. BDRCS Secretary General attended a live TV talk show programme in local media and highlighted BDRCS flood response works. The IFRC communication team working closely with the Partnership Resource Development (PRD) highlighting IFRC supported activities under this EA to the donors and heling PRD in resource mobilization as well as is working with BDRCS to generate and share material through the weekly Newswire email and post audio visual materials in the Shared photo library.</p>		

Ensure a strong IFRC		
Outcome 1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of operations in accordance to established guidelines	100%	100%
Output 1.2: IFRC staff shows good level of engagement and performance		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of compliance with IFRC HR procedures	100%	100%
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>To meet the demands of the technical and coordination support required to carry out this operation, the following support functions will be put in place to ensure that technical coordination is carried out more effectively and efficiently: human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support; security; planning, monitoring and reporting; partnerships and resource development; finance and administration.</p> <p>Ongoing and continuous technical support is being provided by the IFRC staff in this flood response operation. Besides, flood and dengue response support, other support like logistics, finance, resource mobilization, communication, PGI, reporting, planning, monitoring, security and coordination supports are being provided. An awareness session on dengue prevention was organized for the IFRC staff based in Dhaka.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <p>The existing IFRC staff are assigned to provide support in this operation, stretching the other planned work. However, based on further funding more HR as planned under this EA will be recruited to provide full time support to the operation.</p>		

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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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 always 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.

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**.