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Final Report

Bangladesh: Cyclone Bulbul

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRBD023
Date of Issue: 15 May 2020	Glide number: TC-2019-000147-BGD
Operation start date: 8 November 2019	Operation end date: 14 February 2020
Host National Society: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society	Operation budget: CHF 386,249
Number of people affected: 722,674	Number of people assisted: 19,250
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: 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, Turkish Red Crescent, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation:	
Government of Bangladesh (GoB), UN Resident Coordinator (RC) office, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The special weather bulletin issued by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) informed about a cyclone developing over the northwest Bay of Bengal (BoB) on 7 November 2019. Cyclone “Bulbul” reincarnating from Cyclone “Mamto” categorized as “very severe”, made landfall over India on 9 November 2019 before entering Bangladesh on 10 November 2019 (local time at 12:00am-1:00am). The cyclone impacted thirteen southern districts of the country while packing up winds of up to 120km/h (75mph) and gusts of up to 130km/h (80mph). The cyclone stayed in Bangladesh for around 36 hours - one of the longest enduring cyclones that Bangladesh has ever faced in the last 52 years. The impacted coastal sea line faced greater than three-metre inundation at average due to the heavy precipitation and tidal surge¹. According to Khulna Met Office², the cyclone hit the Sundarbans with a wind speed of 120-130 km/h.



Need assessment carried out by BDRCS in Cyclone Bulbul affected Bagerhat district. (Photo: BDRCS)

Around 2.1 million people were evacuated and moved to some 5,587 cyclone shelters on 9 November with the help of Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) volunteers, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD), Police Armed Forces and other organizations after BMD assigned various warning signals along the coastal districts in anticipation of Cyclone Bulbul.

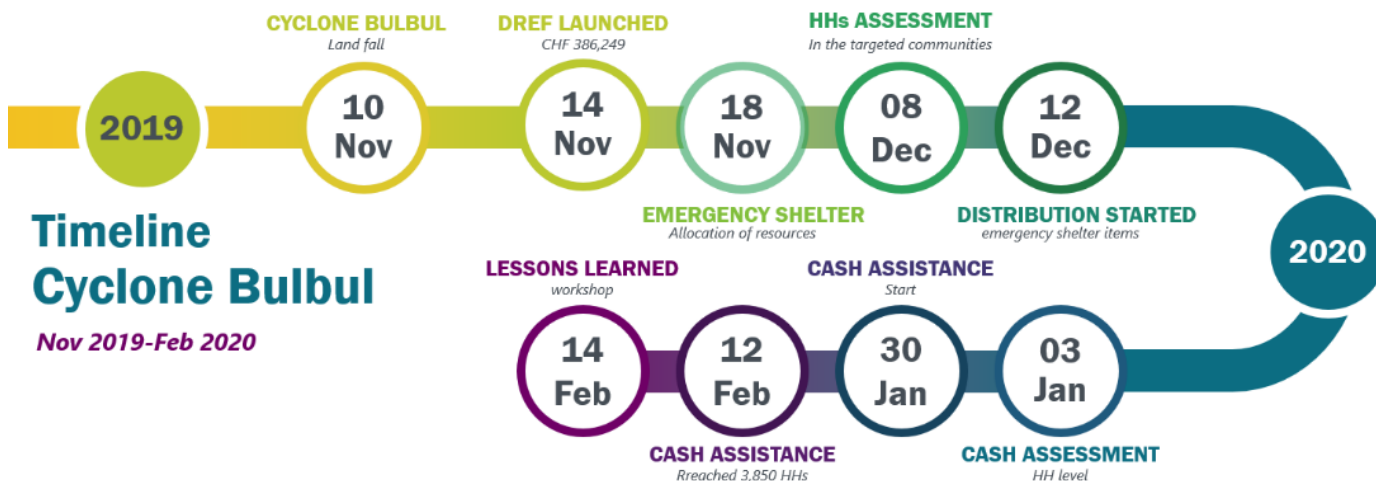
The cyclone affected around 722,674 people in Satkhira, Khulna, Bhola, Bagerhat, Patuakhilai, Barguna and Pirojpur districts. More than 108,000 houses and 117,000 hectares of crops affected along with significant damages to several

¹ Cyclone Bulbul 2019 –Joint Rapid Assessment, Needs Assessment Working group (NAWG) Bangladesh

² Cyclone Bulbul: 4500 trees in Sundarbans damaged, *The Daily Star* 17, Nov 2019.

embankments by cyclone Bulbul. According to the daily disaster report published by Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), nine people have died from various causes during the cyclone.

World's largest natural mangrove forest- the Sundarbans took a massive blow of Cyclone Bulbul which significantly slowed down the speed before it entered the locality. There were no wildlife casualties reported; however, around 4,589 trees were damaged according to the Bangladesh Forest Department. The western part of Sundarban saw a damage of approximately 4,000 trees and 587 trees in the eastern part as reported in Cyclone Bulbul 2019 joint rapid assessment by Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG)³. The assessment also reports that a loss of USD 5.5 million (approx. CHF 5.4 million) in fisheries was faced with a total of 11,223 hectares of affected pond/gher (fish farm) land and initial livestock damage was USD 285,000 (approx. CHF 281,979). The affected areas were heavily dependent on agriculture and fisheries as indicated by their loss.



Summary of 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 850,000 volunteers and staff.

BDRCS had been active since the beginning of cyclone formed and regularly participating in government's decision-making meetings in order to collaborate accordingly. BDRCS along with IFRC Country Office (CO) and other Movement partners closely monitored the situation, had regular coordination meetings during its progression. Around 900 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers were engaged with CPP volunteers in disseminating early warning messages, evacuation of the people to the cyclone shelters, distributing dry food and drinking water as well as providing First Aid services to people taking shelter. Another 22,000 RCY volunteers were kept on stand-by in the coastal districts for immediate deployment. BDRCS closely coordinated with the CPP, and more than 55,000 CPP volunteers were engaged throughout the coastal areas.

BDRCS accomplished the following major activities under the Cyclone Bulbul DREF operation:

- BDRCS distributed a total of 11,450 packets of dry food which included flattened rice, sugar, puffed rice, biscuit and water, among people who resided overnight in the shelters during cyclone Bulbul.
- BDRCS distributed 3,500 pieces of tarpaulin and 350 set of family tents among the cyclone affected districts. These targeted families also received the IEC materials on proper fixing of tarpaulin.
- With the support of volunteers, National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members, Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member and staffs; BDRCS reached 3,850 families with the Multipurpose Cash Grant (MPCG) (CHF 56/household) through using the electronic money transfer services (EMTS) of Bangladesh Post Office (BPO), one of the leading financial service providers.
- Detail household level assessment questionnaires were developed for conducting households' assessments for MPCG distribution considering Protection, Gender Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and others cross cutting issue.
- Approximately, 100 RCY volunteers and staff orientated on Open Data Kit (ODK), PGI and CEA in Satkhira, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Patuakhali & Barguna districts.
- A dedicated information management (IM) team worked on data cleaning and analysis and CEA team shared the findings with the respective RC unit for community feedback.

³ Cyclone Bulbul 2019 Joint Rapid Assessment, Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) Bangladesh, dated 23 November 2019

- BDRCS organized a lesson learned workshop in Khulna on 14th February 2020.



Both BDRCS and CPP volunteers disseminated early warning and preparing for response throughout the cyclone prone areas. (Photos: BDRCS)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC CO in Bangladesh kept close coordination with BDRCS, its sub-office in Cox's Bazar, in-country Movement partners and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur. IFRC closely monitored the development of Cyclone Bulbul and its consequence in the coastal districts as well as camp settlements in Cox's Bazar. Following the request of BDRCS, IFRC allocated CHF 386,249 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to help BDRCS with necessary response and mobilized of the personnel, as well as in preparing situation reports and providing technical inputs for a coordinated operation. In December 2019, IFRC deployed one general profile RDRT to support BDRCS in this operation.

German Red Cross Forecast based Financing (FbF) team in Bangladesh closely monitored Cyclone Bulbul path and provided necessary technical support to BDRCS. American Red Cross through its Forecast based Action (FbA) under Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme of BDRCS supported the preparedness measures and early actions such as evacuation of the people and providing food, water, etc. to the people taking shelters.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) allocated 4,300 Metric Ton (MT) Gratuitous Relief (GR) rice; BDT 18.5 million (approx. CHF 225,000) GR cash, 14,000 packets dry food; 900,000 BDT (approx. CHF 11,000) for child food and BDT 900,000 (approx. CHF 11,000) for animal food. As many as 1,577 medical teams were formed by the GoB and kept ready in coastal districts to provide emergency medical services.

The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) produced two situation reports on Cyclone Bulbul. In addition to that Office of the UN Resident Coordinator issued two Flash updates. An inter-cluster/working group meeting held in Dhaka on 10 November and decided to conduct joint rapid assessment. On 17 November, NAWG shared the final assessment report. Start Funds awarded to Caritas, Uttaran and Shushilan for a total of £248,624 (approx. CHF 317,165) to respond to the Cyclone Bulbul affected communities at Satkhira and Khulna districts. As a convener of the Shelter Cluster, IFRC regularly updated the members about the evolving situation of Cyclone Bulbul and worked closely with national cash working group (CWG), NAWG, HCTT and other clusters.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

According the joint rapid assessment, shelter was identified as one of the top priority areas considering the extent of damage. Affected families who did not manage to repair their damage houses were in need of house repairing assistance. It was also observed that some of these affected families were living on the embankment and roadside by

building makeshift shelter. At the same time, the winter season was also impacting these affected families, as they have very limited protection from adverse weather.

Major livelihood of the affected area are agriculture and fisheries complemented by livestock. According the joint rapid assessment both agriculture and fisheries were significantly affected due to cyclone Bulbul. Winter vegetable is the worst affected followed by rice ('Ropa Aman' variety). Total loss of winter vegetable is USD 9.3 million (approx. CHF 8.9 million) and Ropa Aman is USD 5.5 million (approx. CHF 5.4 million). Agriculture inputs and food security livelihood assistance are primary need of the affected community as the cyclone made landfall just before harvesting. The heavy rainfall and tidal surge due to cyclone Bulbul caused massive damage of fisheries and livestock. Most of the ponds and ghers (fish farms) were flooded and fishes were washed away. Total Fisheries loss is USD 5.5 million (approx. CHF 5.4 million). Total 11,223 hectares of pond land was affected. The initial livestock damage is reported as USD 285,000 (approx. CHF 281,979).

Risk Analysis

Usually winter season continue up to mid of February and it was anticipated that there will be mild to severe cold wave with heavy fogs in January 2020. Considering the winter season, BDRCS prepositioned blankets and long worm clothes through its fund-raising initiatives and these were provided during the severe cold wave. At the same to mitigate the possible delay in terms of implementing ongoing operational activities during winter; more volunteers and NDRT members were mobilized too.

While implementing operational activities, BDRCS provided additional support in some of the districts where branch office had less capacity in terms of experienced volunteers, executive members and staffs. BDRCS NHQ also took initiative to provide more orientation and training on PGI, CEA, ODK and implementation process in these respective branch offices as well.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

BDRCS and CPP mobilized their volunteers for disseminating early warning and helping local authorities for evacuation to cyclone shelters. At the same time BDRCS responded swiftly based on the forecast of the eminent danger and provided basic survival items like food, water, among the people who took shelter at the community cyclone shelters.

Based on the rapid need assessment findings, BDRCS mobilized 3,500 tarpaulins and 350 tents from contingency stock to meet the emergency shelter needs. In addition to that due to cold wave BDRCS allocated more than 10,000 chador (large piece of warm cloth) from the contingency stock. Household assessment was conducted by BDRCS to identify the most affected families who needed emergency shelter assistance in consultation with local government and other shareholders. More than six NDRT members were deployed to assist the respective BDRCS local branches to provide the tarpaulins and tents among the most vulnerable families.

Considering the recommendation of the national cash working group under HCTT; BDRCS provided MPCG among 3,850 households with the support volunteers and staffs from respective district branch office. In addition to that BDRCS mobilized more than 15 NDRT members to support district branch office during cash grant distribution. Each household received BDT 4,500 (approx. CHF 56) to meet their multipurpose needs for one month. BDRCS distributed the MPCG assistance through the EMTS of Bangladesh Post Office (financial service provider) for ensuring transparency and accountability.

BDRCS shared its hot line number with the targeted communities and set up complain/ suggestion box during beneficiary's household assessment and distribution centre for ensuring community engagement and participation. After assessment of the households, BDRCS published the preliminary beneficiaries list in the community for their feedbacks. After incorporating all the feedbacks from the targeted communities, BDRCS finalized the beneficiary list to deliver the assistance.

Under this operation with the support of IFRC, BDRCS conducted the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM). In addition to that with the participation of the representatives of different district branches (EC members, ULO, Volunteers), NDRT members, organized a lessons learned workshop on 14 February 2020 in Khulna. This lessons learned workshop was facilitated by the Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) team of BDRCS, which helped the BDRCS to identify gaps and areas of improvement in future operations.

Summary of key intervention under this DREF:

Sector	Activity	Target	Actual
DRR	Mobilization of CPP and BDRCS volunteers for early warning dissemination and evacuation	2,100,000 People	2,106,918 People
Shelter	Distribution of tarpaulin	3,500 HHs	3,500 HHs
	Replenishment of tarpaulins	3,500 pcs	3,500 pcs
	Orientation on proper fixing of tarpaulins	1	7
Food Security and Livelihood	Distribute emergency food assistance	17,500 people	11,450 people
	Distribution of multipurpose cash grant BDT 4,500 (CHF 56.25) through financial service providers	3,500 HHs	3,850 HHs



BDRCS distributed emergency shelter materials (tent) among the targeted households in Khulna district. (Photo: BDRCS)

Communication

The operation maintained the visibility of the Red Cross and Red Crescent through banners, festoons. Volunteers and staff were using BDRCS vests. BDRCS communication team with the support of the IFRC CO and IFRC APRO teams had been engaging social media (Facebook and Twitter) and highlighting the humanitarian assistance provided to the most affected people. IFRC communication and CEA teams helped the response team in updating the IEC materials appropriate for this operation.

Community Engagement and Accountability

Community Engagement and Accountability has been enhanced through the provision of relevant information to disaster-affected communities and creating accessible feedback mechanisms. To ensure that the communities can raise valid concerns and the operation may receive feedback about the quality of humanitarian assistance being provided, Feedback and Complaints Mechanism (FCM) has been put in place through setting up a feedback desk, information

booth and hotline number. Prior to relief distributions, community people informed about the distribution packages and services. BDRCS has been disseminating their hotline number (+88 01811458524) in the targeted communities.

Orientation on PGI and CEA has been provided to the volunteers and staff engaged in the operation, including Sex Age Disability Desegregated Data (SADDD) collection. SADDD data collection questionnaire incorporated in the household assessment questionnaire. Specific activities around PGI and CEA integrated within all sectors across livelihood, shelter and others.

Logistics and Supply Chain

IFRC CO logistics and procurement unit completed the replenishment of 3,500 tarpaulins through IFRC Asia Pacific Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management (AP OLPSCM). All the received tarpaulins stored in BDRCS warehouse as contingency stock for future operation. BDRCS used its existing transport capacity for transporting relief items to the operations areas. IFRC extended its support to facilitate renting additional vehicles in accordance with the operation's requirements.

Human resources

To complete the DREF operation within the timeline, BDRCS mobilized its staff, NDRT members, RCY and CPP volunteers. In this regard, BDRCS staff and volunteers are sensitized on gender, age, disability specific needs and on how to communicate respectfully with persons with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities as well as persons with mental health disabilities, and older people. Existing IFRC staffs supported to BDRCS in terms of planning, coordination, information management, need assessment, communication and implementation.

Initially BDRCS deployed six NDRT members to assist the BDRCS district unit offices to select the most affected people and distribution of tarpaulins and tents. One regional disaster response team (RDRT) member was mobilized from Sri Lanka to support BDRCS in relief and reporting activities as a primary task for a period of one month. Approximately, 100 RCY volunteers and staff orientated on Open Data Kit (ODK), PGI and CEA and household's assessment from different districts and deployed to conduct the assessment in affected areas. Later on, BDRCS deployed more than 15 NDRT members, two officers, two interns to support for the MPCG distribution in four districts namely Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Satkhira. One dedicated IM team in Dhaka worked on data cleaning and analysis.

Information Technology and Information Management

A dedicated IM team consists of BDRCS staff, NDRT and IFRC staff worked throughout the operation and supported response team in terms of conducting assessment using Kobo collect mobile application, analyzing data for selection of the most vulnerable people following agreed criteria. A Dropbox shared folder was created to collect and share all relevant information within the NS, IFRC, PNSs in country. Also, a WhatsApp group was in place for sharing regular operational information among the BDRCS, IFRC and PNSs.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

BDRCS Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) team was engaged in the operation from the very beginning and provided necessary support to ensure quality of implementation throughout the operational management cycle. BDRCS was responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of the operation, primarily at the unit level. BDRCS and IFRC monitoring teams, including the NDRTs were deployed overseeing the progress of the implementation and providing support for the better accomplishment of the proposed actions in the intervention areas. IFRC PMER provided necessary support in terms of reporting. A post distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted after the distribution of MPCG in different areas. A lesson learned workshop was conducted at the end of the DREF operation.

Administration and Finance

Both operation and finance team of IFRC and BDRCS worked closely to ensure necessary fund was available for implementation of operational activities. At the same time BDRCS NHQ transferred fund to respective districts and settled bills accordingly with IFRC.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 19,250

Male: 9,817

Female: 9,433

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 targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements assistance	17,500	19,250
Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter items to have a space that meet the minimum living conditions	3,500	3,850
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 awareness raising trainings on safe local building techniques to local builders and/or volunteers and staff	1	7

Narrative description of achievements

To address the emergency shelter, need in the affected communities, BDRCS distributed tarpaulins and tents as emergency shelter assistance among 3,850 cyclone affected families across the seven targeted districts. BDRCS unit executive members, unit level staff, volunteers along with deployed NDRT members were engaged. Total 3,500 families received tarpaulin⁴ and 350 families received family tents. In addition to that BDRCS organized technical demonstration sessions on proper fixing of tarpaulins and tents. During the distribution, BDRCS also provided Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials on proper fixing of tarpaulin. Details of shelter materials distribution as follows.

No.	District	# Tarpaulin	# Tents
1	Satkhira	500	50
2	Khulna	500	50
3	Bagerhat	500	50
4	Bhola	500	50
5	Patuakhali	500	50
6	Barguna	500	50
7	Pirojpur	500	50
Total		3,500	350

These tarpaulins and tents helped the targeted households to build their makeshift shelter immediately. These assistances helped them to protect from adverse weather particularly during the cold wave in December 2019 and January 2020.



One of the targeted people after receiving tarpaulins from BDRCS distribution center (left) and a female member standing in front of her makeshift shelter where she used the tarpaulin as roof covering in Bagerhat. (Photo: BDRCS)

⁴ Each household received one tarpaulin based on the recommendation of Bangladesh shelter cluster

Challenges

BDRCS faced difficulties to mobilize emergency shelter items from the Chattogram warehouse to the affected districts due to nationwide transport strike that continued for more than one week in mid-November. However, once the strike was over, immediately BDRCS dispatched relief items from warehouse to affected districts.

It was also challenging for BDRCS to identify the targeted household with the limited resource as the number of affected households was higher. BDRCS addressed this challenge through introducing community engagement activities and complaint response mechanism.

Most of affected areas were remote and some of these were inaccessible by road. As a result, BDRCS had to transport these tarpaulins and tents by boat or other local transport means as well. Due to this transportation challenges, BDRCS tried to reach as close as possible to the targeted communities.

Lessons Learned

Before distribution of family tents, BDRCS need to place more emphasis on installation techniques which will help targeted people to install tents properly. At the same time sufficient budget provision is required to sufficiently cover the transportation cost to deliver in remote locations.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 19,250

Male: 9,817

Female: 9,433

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>% of targeted people that have enough food and cash to meet their survival threshold</i>	100%	100%

Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of people reached with dry food assistance</i>	17,500	11,450

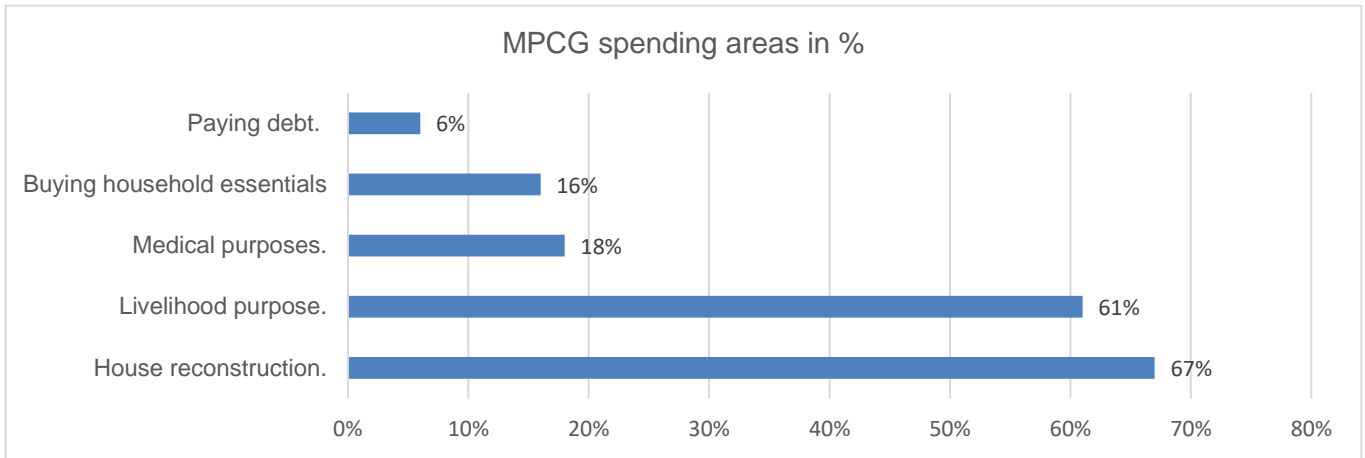
Output 1.2: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of households reached with multipurpose cash for basic needs</i>	3,500	3,850

Narrative description of achievements

Five-unit offices of BDRCS (Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Jhalakathi, Laxmipur) distributed packets of dry food (rice, sugar, puffed rice, biscuit) and drinking water among 11,450 people who resided overnight in the shelters during cyclone Bulbul.

BDRCS distributed the MPCG among 3,850 families in Satkhira, Bagerhat, Khulna and Pirojpur districts through Bangladesh Post Office (a financial service provider of Bangladesh government). BDRCS response department organized an orientation for NDRT members on 1 January 2020 about household assessment, PGI, CEA and fraud and corruption prevention. Similarly, these trained NDRT members were orientated volunteers in their respective assigned districts. BDRCS mobilized more than 15 NDRT members and IFRC mobilized one RDRT members along with BDRCS and IFRC NHQ staff to support respective district branch in terms of selecting most vulnerable cyclone affected households and providing MPCG assistance among the targeted households following BDRCS cash SOP. The household level assessment was conducted using ODK by a dedicated information management team consists of NDRT members and staff from both BDRCS and IFRC Bangladesh country office provided technical support. Through this assessment BDRCS collected multisectoral (shelter, Livelihood etc.) detail damage information. Based on agreed selection criteria, BDRCS finalized the list of targeted households in consultation with the affected communities.



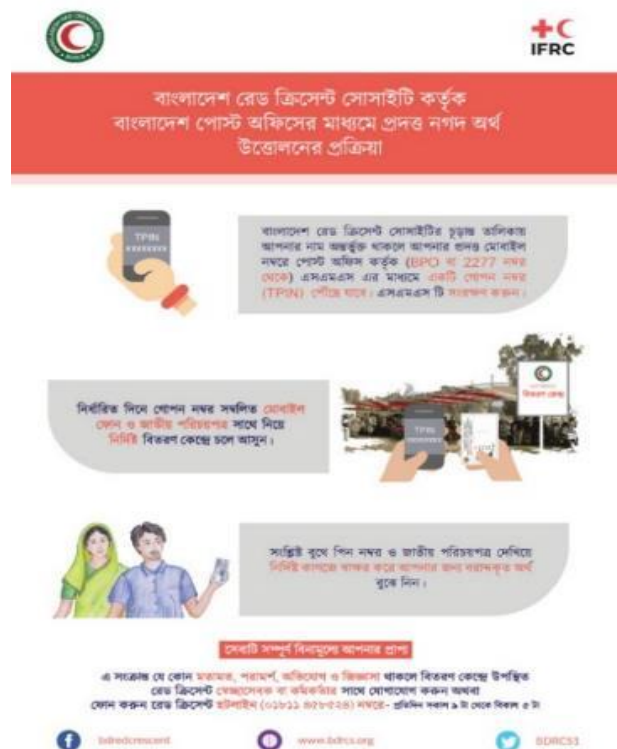
BDRCS provided cash assistance among the targeted households using its existing agreement with Bangladesh post office through the EMTS. BDRCS with the support of IFRC CO developed a leaflet in Bangla language describing the steps of MPCG process through post office. These leaflets were disseminated among the targeted households with proper orientation

According to post distribution monitoring (PDM) in Satkhira and Bagerhat districts, it revealed that:

- 98 per cent of total responders were satisfied with the cash support and preferred to receive cash assistance in future as well.
- All the responders were informed about feedback response mechanism and about the hotline services of BDRCS.
- 80 per cent of total responders spent less than BDT 100 to transport essential goods from the local market
- Right side chart shows the MPCG spending areas.



One of the family members of targeted household after receiving the multi-purpose cash grant from the BDRCS distribution venue in Bagerhat district. (Photo: BDRCS)



IEC material with necessary step by step information on receiving cash from BDRCS through Post Office service. (Photo: IFRC)

Challenges

BDRCS experienced difficulties in some of the district to procure dry foods within short period of time before cyclone land fall as only limited shops were opened and inadequacy of essential dry foods in the local market. However with the support of district executive members, volunteers and staffs and in coordination with respective local government,

BDRCS was able to procure and transport dry food items to targeted areas in the shortest time possible prior to cyclone Bulbul landfall.

As the most targeted areas were remote with poor access to electricity, mobile network, and internet, BDRCS and BPO faced challenges to provide cash assistance among the targeted households. Some of the targeted people did not receive the notification from BPO on time due to poor mobile network. Considering this challenges BDRCS immediately coordinated with BPO and asked to resend the notification with the support of dedicated information management team.

Lessons Learned

Cash Based Interventions (CBI) is an effective way of helping targeted households in dignified manner even during the emergency phase while the local market is functioning. BDRCS followed CBI SOP throughout the operation through providing training and orientations to its volunteers, staff and the executive members. Different modalities and mechanisms of cash transfers can be used in the same type of operation considering the local context following the CBI SOP. BDRCS will continue provide cash assistance through the financial service provider to ensure accountability and transparency.

During the lessons learned workshop, it is recommended that BDRCS will give more emphasis on timely delivering cash assistance through increasing more distribution booths and coordinating with BPO and mobile operating company prior to the distribution. At the same time by shortening opening ceremony will allow to reach the targeted number of people quickly and timely during distribution.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 19,250

Male: 9,817

Female: 9,433

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Does the operation demonstrate evidence of NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors?</i>	Yes	Yes

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS volunteers conducted assessment for the provision of emergency shelter items and cash grant distribution among the affected families. RCY volunteers and NDRT team received training on how to select beneficiaries by applying SADDD data. Basic orientation sessions were conducted in districts where approximately 100 RCY volunteers, NDRT members and Unit Level Officers (ULOs) were sensitized about PGI, CEA and ODK. BDRCS also shared the hotline number in the community to ensure the community's participations. During the assessment, volunteers were trying to find out the most vulnerable affected people as beneficiary.



BDRCS volunteer carrying out the need assessment through ODK in the cyclone affected district. (Photo: BDRCS)

BDRCS organized an orientation session on minimum standards for PGI and CEA in emergency for the NDRT teams and staffs on 1 January 2020 at NHQ. In that

session, reference handouts were disseminated among the participants. These trained participants also conducted similar orientation in their assigned districts down to the field.

With the support of PGI personnel, BDRCS incorporated and collected the SADDD through household assessment. It helped a lot to analyze the collected data specially to identify the most vulnerable groups.

CEA was ensured through the provision of relevant information to disaster-affected communities and creating accessible feedback mechanisms. It was also ensured that the communities can raise valid concerns and the operation may receive feedback about the quality of humanitarian assistance being provided, Feedback and Complaints Mechanism (FCM) was put in place through setting up of a feedback desk, information booth and hotline number. Prior to relief distributions, community people were informed about the distribution packages and services. BDRCS also disseminated their hotline number (+88 01811458524) in the targeted communities.



BDRCS volunteers are helping affected people to find out their name in the final list in Pirojpur district. (Photo: IFRC)



Volunteers are taking care of beneficiary during MPCG distribuion in Bagerhat district. (Photo: IFRC)

Challenges

The staff, NDRTs, NDWRTs and volunteers engaged in this emergency operation tried to focus in completing the assessment quickly according to specific needs through collection of SADDD data within limited time; which exposed additional challenges for volunteers to extract specific data from the target people. In emergency period it is very difficult to provide daylong training on specific issues and sensitize properly on gender and diversity, Child Protection and Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) to the volunteers and staff to response according to demand of needs. However, orientations were provided as and when possible by integrating with other operational aspects.

Lessons Learned

During non-disaster time, volunteers and staff can be provided with more training on specific issues like need assessment process, PGI, CEA, SGBV, Child Protection and gender and diversity etc.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: 2,106,918

Male: 1,074,528

Female: 1,032,390

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people supported with cyclone preparedness and mitigation	2,100,000	2,106,918

Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with early warning campaigns and evacuated	2,100,000	2,106,918

Narrative description of achievements

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) monitored the cyclone track closely and started coordination meetings with all relevant government and non-government stakeholders from 8 November. On 8 November afternoon, a CPP implementation board meeting took place at MoDMR. BDRCS attended these coordination meetings and IFRC representative also attended the CPP implementation board meeting as one of the technical members.



Community volunteers of BDRCS disseminating early warning messages in Bagerhat. (Photo: BDRCS)

In anticipation of Cyclone Bulbul, the BMD assigned great danger signal No 10 for the maritime ports of Mongla, Payra along with nine coastal districts of Bhola, Borguna, Patuakhali, Barishal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and their offshore islands and chars. Meanwhile, maritime port of Chattogram along with coastal districts of Chattogram, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur and their offshore islands and chars were put under the great danger signal No 9. However, Cox's Bazar was put under cautionary signal No 4. According to the MoDMR situation update⁵, the local administration in the coastal districts with the help of CPP volunteers, BDRCS volunteers, Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD), Police, Armed Forces and other organisation, evacuated 2,106,918 people to some 5,587 cyclone centres on 9 November. Around 56,000 CPP volunteers were active in all the coastal districts in terms of disseminating early warning and evacuation of vulnerable people. Through this DREF operation, BDRCS covered mobilization cost of its volunteers and the telecommunication cost of around 3,700 CPP unit team leaders who played an important role in evacuating and providing necessary support to the coastal districts' communities during the cyclone Bulbul.

Challenges

Dissemination of early warning among the people living in cyclone prone areas is challenging work for BDRCS, CPP and government in a short timeframe with limited resources. However, with the support of all the dedicated staffs and volunteers of BDRCS and CPP; government was able to evacuate safely more than 2.1 million people.

Lessons Learned

In future BDRCS will continue its support and enhance coordination effort with CPP and government for early warning dissemination and evacuation as these efforts have proven to be effective and lifesaving.

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
# of NS branches that are well functioning (in the operation)	7	7
Output 1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NDRT/NDWRT/volunteers/staff mobilized	700	900

Narrative description of achievements

In this operation, under the leadership of BDRCS response department, all the concerned departments actively worked from the very beginning. In addition to that, BDRCS seven district branches also actively worked in close coordination with BDRCS NHQ. More than 900 volunteers and staff were mobilized and actively worked prior to the cyclone land fall to disseminate and to evacuate most vulnerable people in the coastal districts. During the initial relief distribution more than 100 volunteers, NDRT members and staff were actively engaged.



Integrated briefing session on mobile-based data collection, PGI, CEA, fraud and corruption for the deployed NDRTs at BDRCS NHQ. (Photo: IFRC)

Challenges

Some of district branch office had less experienced volunteers and staffs in terms of data collection through mobile based application. To address this challenge, BDRCS mobilized more than 15 trained NDRT members and formed a dedicated data management team to provide continuous support in the respecting branch offices to complete the MPCG distribution process.

Lessons Learned

BDRCS will emphasis in organizing more trainings on household assessment through using mobile based data collection applications, cash-based intervention, fraud and corruption prevention, CEA, and PGI for the staffs and volunteers regularly, and cyclone prone districts will be prioritized.

It was also found that trained NDRT members played an important role throughout the operation and BDRCS will strengthen its surge capacity through increasing number of trained NDRT members.

International Disaster Response

Outcome 2: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of appropriate operational and technical support provided for DREF implementation</i>	Yes	Yes
Output 2.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of RDRT deployed</i>	1	1
Output 2.2: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Procurement is carried as per IFRC standards and items replenished in the operation timeline.</i>	100% compliance	100%
Output 2.3: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention.</i>	Yes - Inter Agency group	Yes

Narrative description of achievements

With the support of IFRC APRO and following IFRC HR procedure one RDRT member mobilized from Sri Lanka to assist BDRCS for implementing operational activities.



A briefing session being conducted by the RDRT member in Pirojpur. (Photo: BDRCS)

In this operation, IFRC CO completed the replenishment of 3,500 tarpaulins through IFRC Asia Pacific Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management.

Both BDRCS and IFRC Bangladesh CO maintained close coordination with Government, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders by attending government led meetings and different coordination platforms like HCTT, shelter cluster, food security cluster, logistic cluster, health cluster, WASH cluster and different working groups (need assessment working group, cash working group etc.) meetings. In addition to that IFRC was one of the key members of NAWG to conduct the joint rapid need assessment.

Challenges

N/A

Lessons Learned

Contribution from RDRT members is highly appreciated by the volunteers, staffs of district branch office and BDRCS will use this surge tool in future emergency operations based on need.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome 3.1: 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
<i>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</i>	Yes	Done

Output 3.1.1: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of assessment done for needs, capacities and gaps</i>	1	2
<i># of lessons learned workshop conducted</i>	1	1

Outcome 3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of national appeal launched</i>	1	1

Output 3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Resources mobilized through national appeal</i>	Yes	No

Narrative description of achievements

Both BDRCS and IFRC had been coordinating with different cluster, working groups and HCTT members. Through sharing inputs, situation report and community priorities, BDRCS played an influencing role. End of the operation, BDRCS organized a lessons learned workshop (LLW) on 14 February 2020 in Khulna. All the relevant representative from respective Red Crescent branches participated in the LLW. This workshop was facilitated by BDRCS PMER and captured learning for future operation. During the LLW, participants shared challenges and recommendations for future programme. More than, 25 BDRCS and IFRC colleagues actively participated in the LLW.



BDRCS organized a lesson learned workshop (LLW) after completion of the TC bulbul DREF operation in Khulna. (Photo: IFRC)

Based on the rapid assessment findings and request from the BDRCS, IFRC immediately mobilized DREF to assist the most vulnerable households affected by cyclone Bulbul in terms of providing emergency food, shelter, and multi-purpose cash assistance.

Challenges

N/A

Lessons Learned

N/A

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC		
Outcome 4: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC extends appropriate technical support</i>	Yes	Done
Output 4.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>% of compliance with IFRC HR procedures</i>	100%	100%
Narrative description of achievements		
IFRC has been regularly providing technical and monitoring support through its existing staff. Periodic monitoring support and technical guidance is provided by the IFRC response team. Regular updates, including photos and video stories, have been provided through social media platforms. IFRC also provided necessary support in designing IEC materials, PGI mobilization, necessary orientation to the NDRTs and preparing operations update. In all IEC materials, and during the field activities, IFRC visibility was ensured. The operation was also supported by engaging one RDRT (external human resource) to the affected area. The RDRT was deployed to support operational activities of BDRCS in close coordination with IFRC program team.		
Challenges		
N/A		
Lessons Learned		
N/A		

D. Financial Report

A total of **CHF 386,249** was allocated for BDRCS to cater to the immediate basic needs of dry food, as well as evacuation of the people to safe shelters, CPP volunteers communications and then meet the shelter and livelihoods needs of cyclone-affected people in targeted villages of coastal districts, particularly through disbursement of multi-purpose cash grants and distribution of portable household level water filters.

The total expenditure recorded by end of operation was **CHF 333,701** (86.4 per cent spent of budget), leaving a balance of **CHF 52,548**. The variation in the expense and budget is mainly because, initially DREF budget was estimated considering response operation in 14 coastal districts. However, except the early actions like dissemination of early warning and evacuation; BDRCS focused response operation in seven most affected districts; as a result, operational cost was significantly reduced. At the same time, replenishment of tarpaulins and orientation on proper fixing of tarpaulins were completed successfully with less cost compare to the estimated budget.

The balance funds will be returned to the DREF pool. For further details on expenditure, please refer to attached final financial report. [click [here](#)]

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation 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

Note: the final report issued on 15 May 2020 has since been updated on 24 June 2020 to reflect the most up-to- date information on expenditure and final balance.



Click here for:

- [Previous updates](#)
- [DREF 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 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.

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**.

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/11-2020/5	Operation	MDRBD023
Budget Timeframe	2019/11-2020/2	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 24/Jun/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBD023 - Bangladesh - Cyclone Bulbul

Operating Timeframe: 14 Nov 2019 to 14 Feb 2020

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	386,249
DREF Allocations	386,249
Expenditure	-333,701
Closing Balance	52,548

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	25,149	52,717	-27,568
AOF2 - Shelter	72,303	50,106	22,197
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	222,075	2,411	219,663
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	319,527	105,234	214,293
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	35,286	221,980	-186,694
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	8,982	6,487	2,495
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	3,208		3,208
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	19,247		19,247
Strategy for implementation Total	66,722	228,467	-161,745
Grand Total	386,249	333,701	52,548

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/11-2020/5	Operation	MDRBD023
Budget Timeframe	2019/11-2020/2	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 24/Jun/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBD023 - Bangladesh - Cyclone Bulbul

Operating Timeframe: 14 Nov 2019 to 14 Feb 2020

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	266,261	250,221	16,040
Shelter - Relief	59,638	41,265	18,373
Food	16,867	4,341	12,526
Cash Disbursement	189,756	204,615	-14,859
Logistics, Transport & Storage	26,325	34,422	-8,098
Storage		1,939	-1,939
Distribution & Monitoring		21,969	-21,969
Transport & Vehicles Costs	22,710	9,048	13,662
Logistics Services	3,614	1,466	2,148
Personnel	8,434	1,606	6,828
International Staff		1,576	-1,576
Volunteers	8,434	30	8,404
Workshops & Training	3,012	1,809	1,203
Workshops & Training	3,012	1,809	1,203
General Expenditure	58,644	25,101	33,543
Travel	41,566	12,544	29,022
Information & Public Relations		2,992	-2,992
Office Costs		306	-306
Communications	15,180	9,172	6,009
Financial Charges	1,898	87	1,810
Indirect Costs	23,574	20,542	3,032
Programme & Services Support Recover	23,574	20,542	3,032
Grand Total	386,249	333,701	52,548