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Emergency appeal

Bangladesh: Cyclone Amphan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRBD024

To be assisted: 50,000 people

Appeal launched: 28/05/2020

Glide n°: [TC-2020-000137-BGD](#)

DREF allocated: 293,810 Swiss francs
FbA by DREF allocated: 134,317 Swiss francs

Appeal ends: 24/05/2021

Funding requirement: 5 million Swiss francs

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of some **5 million** Swiss francs (CHF) to enable the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** to support the **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)** to deliver assistance and support recovery to up to **50,000 people (10,000 households)** for **12 months**, with a focus on the following areas of focus: **shelter, livelihoods and basic needs, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Strengthening the National Society is an integral part of the appeal.** The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments.

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

16 May 2020: Cyclone Amphan formed over the Indian Ocean and started moving north over the Bay of Bengal.

17 May 2020: BDRCS activated its cyclone contingency plan and opened control rooms at the NHQs and in coastal districts.

18 May 2020: BDRCS triggered [cyclone Early Action Protocol \(EAP\)](#) as the triggering thresholds have exceeded based on forecasts and predicted impact.

19-20 May 2020: Approximately 2.4 million people evacuated to 14,636 permanent and temporary shelters in 19 coastal districts.

20 May 2020: Extremely severe cyclonic storm Amphan slammed into the coastal districts of West Bengal, India and then it entered Bangladesh at evening with wind speed of 150 kmph and caused destructions in 26 districts across the country.

21 May 2020: IFRC approved [imminent DREF](#) of CHF 293,810 to provide immediate relief assistance to 30,000 people.

28 May 2020: Emergency Appeal is launched for CHF 5 million to assist 50,000 people.



Following the land fall of Cyclone Amphan and people returning home, BDRCS assisted with food packs in one of the worst affected districts in Satkhira. (Photo: BDRCS)

The operational strategy

Background

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)'s special weather bulletin dated 19 May 2020, the 'super cyclone' Amphan was lying over west-central of Bay of Bengal and adjoining area and it was forecasted likely to move

in a north-easterly direction and may cross Bangladesh coast between Khulna-Chattogram during late night of 19 May to afternoon/evening of 20 May. On 20 May, the BMD issued "great danger" signal number 10 for coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Pirojpur, Borguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barisal, Laxmipur, Chandpur and their offshore islands and *chars*¹. Following the great danger signal and evacuation order of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), more than 2.4 million people were moved to 14,636 permanent and temporary shelters in 19 coastal districts before the cyclone hit the country's coast. Cyclone Amphan had weakened from a super cyclone to an "extremely severe cyclonic storm" on 20 May 2020, causing strong winds and heavy rain in parts of Odisha, West Bengal in India and Bangladesh coastal areas as it advanced towards the India-Bangladesh coast. On 20 May 2020, it slammed into the coastal districts of West Bengal, India and then it entered Bangladesh in the evening with wind speed of 150 kmph and caused huge destruction in 26 districts across the country. 26 people were killed, seven people were injured due to treefall, boat capsize, wall collapse and drowning. More than 353,385 houses were damaged. It destroyed standing crops, vegetables and fruits on 176,000 hectares of lands, uprooted thousands of trees and damaged fish farms worth approximately CHF 36 million in the most impacted districts. 150kms of protection embankments, around 200 bridges and culverts, and 1,100kms of roads were damaged. About 15 million people lost electricity after the cyclone hit the country. Around 65 freshwater ponds inside the forest were flooded with seawater. 18,235 water points and 40,894 latrines were destroyed in most impacted districts. According to primary estimates, the cyclone caused damages worth around CHF 130 million.

Summary of the response to date

BDRCS along with IFRC Country Office (CO) and other Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners closely monitored the situation and kept close coordination with the GoB at national and district levels, and with other agencies. BDRCS and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) worked together and in coordination with local authorities to implement life-saving cyclone readiness activities in line with COVID-19 situation while observing imposed restrictions in all vulnerable unions of the 13 coastal districts, including the camp settlements in Cox's Bazar. More than 70,000 volunteers (including 55,556 CPP volunteers, Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers, community volunteers and camp volunteers in Cox's Bazar camps) engaged to disseminate early warning messages among community and camp people, and helped local authorities to evacuate people to cyclone shelters², providing first aid support as necessary. BDRCS volunteers also provided masks, hand sanitizers and soap to the people in some 40 cyclone shelters.

All in-country partner National Societies (PNSs) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were closely engaged in preparedness, early actions and relentless coordination with their field operations, government agencies and other humanitarian organizations. While German Red Cross' Forecast based Financing team closely monitored the movement of the cyclone and provided technical support in triggering Early Action Protocol (EAP) and supported actions on the ground, American Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross supported with preparedness activities and resources to enable local units to take early actions as required. Danish Red Cross was on standby to provide psychosocial support (PSS). British Red Cross supported with stock prepositioning of tarpaulins, hygiene parcels, water purification tablets and jerry cans that can be quickly mobilized in case of need.

In Cox's Bazar, BDRCS, IFRC and PNSs have worked very closely from the onset of the depression and initiated preparedness and awareness actions immediately. The Emergency Operation Cell (EOC) and contingency plan were activated and National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) were alerted. While contingency stock was updated, other logistics arrangements were put in place. Communication with the camp focal points, CPP supervisors, Communication with Communities (CwC), Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and UN agencies were done on a regular basis.

All the PNSs engaged in Cox's Bazar (American Red Cross, British Red Cross, The Canadian Red Cross Society, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent) were involved in awareness raising; early warning and preparedness activities including preparation of evacuation centres; engaging PSS and WASH community volunteers; sectoral coordination; repair and maintenance of damaged shelters and facilities in side camps; and other assistance in their respective camps and areas of work. The preparedness and response actions have been coordinated and inclusive from the very beginning both in Cox's Bazar and in Dhaka.

BDRCS triggered the cyclone EAP on 18 May based on forecasts and predicted impact. Under this EAP, BDRCS targeted 20,000 most vulnerable people and supported the evacuation of people, livestock and moveable assets (through vehicles), and provided food, water and basic first aid service at the cyclone shelters. On top of the EAP, following the request from BDRCS, Imminent Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of CHF 293,810 was approved by IFRC to reach an additional 30,000 people with similar early actions. With the imminent DREF, BDRCS immediately

¹ Char in Bangladesh refers to island in river, or a piece of land surrounded by water.

² Except camp settlement in Cox's Bazar.

undertook necessary actions in terms of providing emergency shelter, food, WASH and health support in the aftermath of the cyclone. BDRCS has already allocated 1,200 tarpaulins, 750 shelter toolkits, 1,200 hygiene parcels and 500 water containers in three of the most affected districts (Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore).

Needs assessment

An online rapid damage and need assessment form was developed and BDRCS immediately started collection of information from its local branches. Immediately after the landfall, the BDRCS district branches were given one short assessment template using Kobo toolkit. The volunteers filled that on their mobile devices and submitted. The information management team in national headquarters (NHQ) analyzed the information to feed to the operation team. At the same time, BDRCS has been gathering secondary information from different source like Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG³), media and government source. According to preliminary reports, 353,385 houses were damaged including 60,899 totally destroyed in nine most impacted districts of Khulna, Satkhira, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Noakhali, Bagerhat and Jashore. Due to storm surge and embankment collapse, many houses were inundated and washed away along with household items; houses were either fully destroyed or partially damaged as uprooted trees fell on the houses. The wind and tidal surge damaged livestock and destroyed standing crops, vegetables and fruits on 176,000 hectares of land (65 per cent of agricultural land in 19 coastal districts), uprooted trees and damaged fish farms. Some of the households have increased levels of food insecurity as they have lost their food supply and crops due to the winds and floods.

In Bangladesh, the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed in 8 March 2020 and as of 24 May 2020, the country has 33,610 COVID-19 positive cases (with increase of cases day by day) against 243,583 total tests and the total number of confirmed deaths is 480. As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, limited food access and purchasing power, decreased livelihood options, lack of cash liquidity, caring practices and poverty are considered to be the major limiting factors in these affected areas. Water points and latrines were destroyed in most impacted districts. Many people having lost houses and livelihoods, have taken shelter in evacuation centres that is also causing major health risks; not only the fear of coronavirus infection but also lack of nutrition, mother and child health (MCH) issues, sexual and reproductive health risks, risks of communicable diseases and comorbidity, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), mental health and psychosocial distress, etc.

To respond to these double crises, protection, trainings and operational support are required for the frontline healthcare staff and volunteers. Some of the MCH centres of BDRCS in the cyclone affected areas have been damaged; and so providing regular care will be a challenge in the coming days. With proper support, these MCH centres can be one of the main healthcare service points in the locality; thus, vulnerable populations will be able to reach necessary primary healthcare support during both emergency and non-emergency times. As millions of trees were uprooted and agricultural farms damaged, the need of vegetable and sapling support was also highlighted, which will ensure their nutrition as well as help for forestation in the future. There are a number of old cyclone shelters which need repair and renovation to ensure safe sheltering for the evacuees in the future.

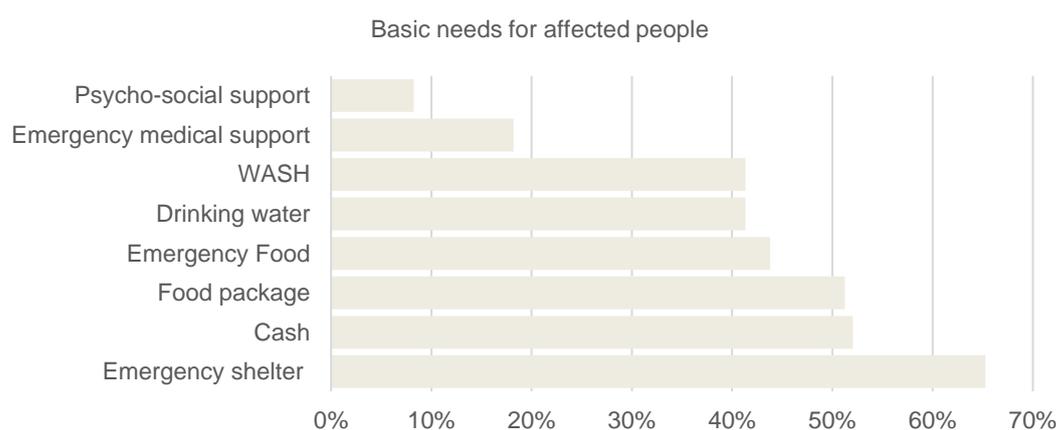


Figure: BDRCS online rapid assessment findings on priority needs of the affected population

Targeting

BDRCS is targeting 50,000 affected people and priority will be given to displaced people living in temporary shelters or makeshift houses. In addition, BDRCS will prioritize and ensure the dignity, access, participation and safety of the most

³ NAWG is the platform for government and non-government humanitarian agencies under HCTT (Humanitarian Coordination Task Team).

vulnerable population, which are elderly persons, children including adolescents, marginal income farmers, female-headed households, lactating mothers, and persons with disabilities. BDRCS in consultation with concerned stakeholders will be targeting the most affected districts and subsequently the most affected communities.

Selection of people to receive assistance

BDRCS will work closely with communities, local officials and leaders to assist the most affected families. Priority will be given to families caring for the most vulnerable population as mentioned above. BDRCS will coordinate with other agencies to avoid any duplication.

Coordination and partnerships

BDRCS is keeping close coordination with its districts units (branches), RCRC Movement partners as well as the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and other agencies. BDRCS attended coordination meetings with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and CPP Implementation Board at national level as well as the district level. BDRCS is issuing [situation reports](#) regularly highlighting RCRC actions, and the situation reports are being circulated widely.

IFRC has been supporting BDRCS with the initial mobilization of funds, as well as in preparing reports and providing technical support for a coordinated response operation. IFRC is also part of the needs assessment working group and is participating in different coordination meetings, including Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT). The Secretariat is actively coordinating with all in-country Movement partners. Currently there are eleven RCRC PNSs in the country: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, The Canadian Red Cross Society, 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. ICRC has a long-term presence in the country and has a close partnership with BDRCS.

The GoB allocated 3,100 metric tonnes of rice, 5 million Bangladeshi takas (BDT) (approximately CHF 58,000) in cash, 42,000 packets of dry food, BDT 3.1 million (approximately CHF 36,000) for child food and BDT 2.8 million (approximately CHF 33,000) for animal feed to the affected districts. Additionally, the GoB allocated 4,550 bundles of corrugated iron sheet and BDT 13.65 million (approximately CHF 160,000) for house repairs. The Health Emergency Operations Centre and Control Room of the Department General for Health Services (DGHS) as well as local control rooms are activated 24/7. Emergency medical buffer stocks replenished prior to the cyclone with WHO's support are used to provide emergency medical assistance. A total of 1,757 medical teams are operating. Bangladesh Armed Forces provided medical assistance, emergency rescue and relief assistance. They are also supporting the local administration to assess the full scale of the damages and already in action to repair the damaged embankments in some places. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change constituted a special team to assess the damages to the mangrove forest.

The NAWG under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) issued preliminary impact and key immediate needs in the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan on 23 May. Currently, NAWG is in the process to conduct phase 1 of a joint need assessment and expecting to share the assessment report by 29 May. Food security, WASH, shelter, health, gender-based violence and cash working groups are actively coordinating with partners. On 23 May, an inter-cluster meeting was held to share the preliminary impact and priority needs. As convener of the Shelter Cluster, IFRC has been regularly updating its members about the evolving situation of Cyclone Amphan and supporting partners through sharing available damage information and priority shelter needs. BDRCS participated in an emergency shelter cluster meeting that was held to help partners to ensure a coordinated shelter response. BDRCS is also attending the health cluster meetings. DG ECHO has allocated an amount of EUR 1,000,000 (approximately CHF 1.06 million) to address the immediate needs in Bangladesh, particularly in the most affected areas of Shatkhira and Khulna. The Start Fund Bangladesh Committee decided to allocate EUR 800,000 (about CHF 847,000) in response to the cyclone in Bangladesh.

Security

In the current context, the major threats in Bangladesh are increased health risks such as due to COVID-19 and seasonal mosquito borne diseases, difficulty of road access in some cyclone affected areas, road traffic accidents, sporadic civil unrest due to increased economical/financial tensions and instability in context of COVID-19 pandemic which may directly or indirectly interrupt the implementation of operational activities. However, to ensure the safety and security of all Red Cross Red Crescent personnel involved in this operation, adequate measures will be put in place. This includes, but is not limited to, situation monitoring, regular or ad-hoc security/safety updates and advice, pre-deployment security/safety briefs on the current security context, contingency plans, and the completion of the respective IFRC e-learning courses (i.e. Basic knowledge and prevention measures for responders, Personal Security, Security Management, Volunteer Security). The security team will also be keeping close coordination with external partners in country as well as with the BDRCS units and local administrations in the operational areas.

Proposed areas for intervention

The overall objective of the operation is to meet the immediate, medium-term (early recovery) and recovery needs of 10,000 households (50,000 people) affected by Cyclone Amphan through the provision of food, safe drinking water, shelter and hygiene items, health support, livelihoods support for restoring activities and DRR.

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitates to change the way of doing business. The business as usual and the conventional disaster response is not possible in the active COVID-19 context. It is therefore prudent for this Emergency Appeal to design an appropriate implementation strategy adapting to the ongoing pandemic and anticipated future challenges. This strategy is three folds:

COVID-19 safe implementation:

Design and deliver all proposed interventions in COVID-19 safe environment. Protection of the people we serve as well as the volunteers, frontline staff and contractors shall be considered all the time. While delivering any humanitarian service, the COVID-19 containment and prevention is of the utmost consideration through remote risk communication, online training, self-explanatory guidance, etc. so that the coronavirus is not spread further, and it is everyone's obligation and accountability towards the global population to help contain this global pandemic.

Localization of response:

As evident in many disasters, local units and volunteers are the first responders and any emergency response has been possible only by mobilizing local resources and volunteers. And it is even more critical to strengthen local response capacity in the COVID-19 context that limits movement of people and goods, meaning responding to any crisis and disaster in districts by the central team is not possible. Furthermore, any disaster almost always creates movement difficulty, logistical challenge as well as the paucity of time, meaning only the local team closer to the disaster site can reach vulnerable people quickly. This appeal will also adopt the green response principle in consideration of the environment and ecosystem. Therefore, it is prudent to strengthen local/unit capacity to respond by way of ensuring some liquidity, human resources, trained volunteers, rapid assessment tools and communications network connecting to the regional and central offices and response mechanisms. This however, may require the NS to look into the structural reform and devolution of power to the regional and district units by empowering them to take immediate action when needed. This is indeed a long-term process and requires a commitment of the NS to look into possible restructuring of the entire response mechanism in the country.

Though a structural reform is out of the purview of an Emergency Appeal, it does envisage a support in this process by providing some resources to review and analyze the current structure and come up with the best possible model of localized or regionalized response structure of the BDRCS. At the same time, the Appeal plans to promote the local early action fund concept by provisioning a unit level revolving fund of CHF 5,000 in each of the 20 coastal and peripheral districts that are vulnerable to the cyclonic storm. This concept has already piloted in some districts with the help of some partners and has been effective and greatly facilitated the recent early action in Cyclone Amphan as well. This good practice shall be promoted and provisioned gradually in other flood prone districts as well. The fund will serve as the revolving fund, enabling units to act quickly, and the fund will be replenished later through local fundraising or partners' contribution or other response tools such as DREF and Emergency Appeal if activated.

A dedicated operations team:

There will be a dedicated operations team at both BDRCS and the IFRC recruited to manage the proposed operation. Given multiple emergency operations concurrently running in the country at the moment, existing human resources in the response department is extremely overburdened, hence a project-based separate team shall be installed to manage the operation. All other relevant services such as finance and reporting will be strengthened by adding capacity if needed. Human resources capacity available with the in-country partners shall be leveraged as required and appropriate. However, given the travel restriction due to the COVID-19 outbreak, international surge deployment is out of context until for some months or even a year, so the operation shall be managed by best utilizing locally available capacity.

In short, with the COVID-19 crisis, the BDRCS will need to rapidly innovate agile structures by adapting and sourcing quality capacities both at the NHQ and respective branches along with decentralization to ensure quality delivery with accountability. This will be in line with the strengthening of the localization process with the respective branches and volunteer networks in the districts of operation.

Areas of Focus



Shelter

People targeted: 15,000

Male: 7,500

Female: 7,500

Requirements (CHF): 1,640,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: Based on the BDRCS rapid online assessments, it is found that emergency shelter support in terms of roof covering and repairing materials are needed. As the monsoon season will start in June, affected people who lost their houses and have no alternative option for taking shelter are most vulnerable and in need of both emergency and long-term shelter assistance. It is also reported that due to storm surge and embankment collapse, many houses were inundated and washed away along with household items. Houses were either fully or partially damaged as uprooted trees fell on the houses. Some of the affected people are trying to build their makeshift shelter with salvaged materials. The affected people have raised their concerns about the lack of privacy and protection from adverse weather. Additionally, there are cyclone shelters which are damaged and in need of renovation work to ensure that people are safe while taking shelter.

Population to be assisted:

- 3,000 households will be assisted through the provision of tarpaulins and standard shelter toolkits⁴ along with technical orientation. According to the [Bangladesh Shelter Cluster standards](#), each targeted household will receive one tarpaulin and one set of shelter toolkits.
- 2,000 households will be provided shelter recovery assistance in terms of cash, in-kind and technical guidance.
- 10 cyclone shelters will be renovated to ensure safe evacuation.

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.

Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistances are provided to the affected households.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Selection and distribution of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits.
- Replenishment of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits.
- Provision of conditional cash grant and in-kind support to improve shelters with technical guidance.
- Detailed structural assessment and renovation of damaged cyclone shelters.
- Post-distribution monitoring.

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.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Orientation on proper fixing of tarpaulins and use of shelter toolkits.
- Technical assistance and monitoring of shelter interventions.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 25,000

Male: 12,500

Female: 12,500

Requirements (CHF): 755,000

⁴ Each of the shelter toolkits consists of 2kgs of nails, 1 roll of tie wire, 1 roll of measuring tape, 1 shear, 1 claw hammer, 1 handsaw, 30 meters of 3mm rope and 30 meters of 6 mm rope.

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: The cyclonic wind, along with rain and tidal water, has affected crops and the coastal livelihood systems. In all the affected districts, agriculture, fishing ponds and sea fishing represent the main livelihood activities⁵. According to the MoDMR, the winds and the tidal surge damaged livestock and destroyed standing crops, vegetables and fruits on 176,000 of hectares of land (65 per cent of agricultural land in 19 coastal districts), uprooted millions of trees and damaged fish farms worth BDT 3.25 billion (approximately CHF 36 million). The harvests of jute, lentils, summer fruits mango and litchi are among those severely damaged. It is also reported that 150kms of protection embankments were washed away at 84 points in 13 districts and 200 bridges and culverts and 1,100kms of roads were damaged. Due to the protection embankments being washed away, crops land and fish farms are inundated in some of the coastal districts. Considering the context of the post cyclone scenario, accessibility in many areas will be difficult for response and recovery interventions. Due to damage of roads and culverts, the operations would be difficult in some hard-to-reach areas.

According to the BDRCS rapid assessment, some of the households have increased levels of food insecurity as they have lost their food supply and crops due to the wind and floods. Livelihoods are heavily impacted across the region as agricultural activities are halted because of damages sustained by the agricultural areas and equipment. It was also found that people whose livelihoods are depending on the Sundarbans are also severely impacted.

On the other hand, as the pandemic is going on, according to COVID-19 impact analysis of NAWG, limited food access and purchasing power, decreased livelihood options, lack of cash liquidity, caring practices and poverty are considered to be the major limiting factors in these affected areas. Secondary data shows that the most vulnerable and impacted groups are daily labourers (agricultural and non-agricultural), and small and marginal farmers. Most of the food storage in the assessed locations were affected.

Given that Bangladesh does not have an insurance system, small-scale farmers, businesspersons, and entrepreneurs will not be able to claim their losses and may opt for distress selling. The demand for capital will increase and is most likely to be met by informal sources and micro finance institutions with high interest rates.

Population to be assisted:

- 5,000 households will be assisted with food (hot food and food packages), with consideration of local context and need.
- 5,000 households will be provided multi-purpose cash grant (MPCG) assistance along with seeds distribution.
- 1,000 households will receive livelihood recovery assistance.
- 500 households will be assisted through cash for work for emergency livelihoods to those who are able to work.

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

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

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Procurement and distribution of food parcels.
- Post-distribution monitoring.

Output 1.2: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, income generating activities and post-harvest management.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Support affected community to recover their income sources (through cash transfers and capacity building).
- Vegetable seeds distribution for own vegetable consumption and income generation.
- Emergency livelihoods assistance through cash for work for those who are able to work.

⁵ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 2014 and IPC 2015.

Output 1.3: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Market assessment.
- Provide MPCG through financial service provider.
- Post-distribution monitoring.



Health

People targeted: 50,000

Male: 25,000

Female: 25,000

Requirements (CHF): 190,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: Amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, Cyclone Amphan has brought dual burden for the areas affected. Normal management system having been destroyed, access to proper healthcare is difficult, where need of access to health/nutrition facilities is increased; now, with the coronavirus widespread, this demand is more than any other time. In Bangladesh, the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed on 8 March 2020. Initially, the caseload seemed comparatively low in March, but gradually with the increase in number of cases, the country went for a lockdown since the last week of March to tackle the spread of infection. During April and May, the caseload increased significantly and escalated all over the country, and as of 24 May 2020, the country has 33,610 COVID-19 positive cases against 243,583 total tests and the total number of confirmed deaths is 480. The trend shows that the number of cases increased in May.

Due to this devastating cyclone, the infrastructure especially in rural areas has been heavily damaged. Many people having lost houses and livelihoods have taken shelter in shelter centres that is causing major health risks; not only the fear of COVID-19, but also lack of nutrition, mother and child health issues, sexual and reproductive health risk, risks of communicable diseases, SGBV, mental health and psychosocial distress, etc.

Some of the Mother and Child Health (MCH) centres of BDRCS in the cyclone affected areas have been damaged badly; now providing regular care will be a challenge in coming days. With proper support, these MCH centres can be one of the main healthcare service points in the locality; thus, vulnerable population will be able to reach necessary primary healthcare support during both emergency and non-emergency time. Community health during and after cyclone is always a major concern.

To respond to this doubled crisis, protection, trainings, and operational supports are required for the frontline healthcare staffs and volunteers. Therefore, adequate supply and distribution of necessary logistics along with proper training and operational support will be essential.

With overcrowding in shelter centres, there is a risk of extensive spread of the virus which will result in further increase of caseload and severe illness. Therefore, mass awareness on COVID-19 and health promotion is required to the affected population. First aid including psychological first aid and PSS will be a major need for both cyclone aftermath and COVID-19 impacted people.

Population to be assisted: 50,000 people

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Output 1.1: Improved access to healthcare and emergency healthcare for the targeted population and communities.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Provision of first aid service.
- Renovation of damaged MCH centres and equipping them.
- Provision of emergency health service through BDRCS MCH and referral to other health centres.
- Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the staffs and volunteers.

- Provision of PPE as relevant such as masks, hand sanitizers for the vulnerable people in cyclone shelters, the sick, and provide referral to care institutions.

Outcome 2: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced

Output 2.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Mass awareness on COVID-19.
- Reproduction and distribution of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.
- Orientation of staffs and volunteers on ECV/CBHFA and volunteer safety.
- Social media campaign to raise awareness of COVID-19 and other diseases.

Outcome 3: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Output 3.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Provision of psychosocial support through hotline.
- Provision of duty of care to ensure staff and volunteer wellbeing.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 15,000

Male: 7,500

Female: 7,500

Requirements (CHF): 481,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: The high wind speed, tidal surges and water logging in the affected communities damaged the water and sanitation facilities especially tube-wells and latrines. According to BDRCS online rapid need assessment information, it was found that access to safe drinking water and restoration of sanitation facilities are pressing needs. According to government 18,235 water points and 40,894 latrines were destroyed in most impacted districts. As a result, shortage of safe drinking water is one of the concerns for the affected people which turns into a priority need. It was also found that latrines were washed away by the water in number of districts. The temporary latrine is extremely poor and not safe in terms of health and hygiene and security of women as well. In some cases, a single latrine is shared by many families, due to very limited access to sanitation facilities.

Population to be assisted:

- 10,000 cyclone affected people will be provided safe drinking water through mobilizing water treatment units and repairing of 200 tube-wells to ensure safe drinking water.
- 3,000 households will be provided with hygiene parcels.
- Affected people will have access to 100 communal emergency latrines to be installed.
- 2,000 household will be assisted with conditional cash grant along with technical guidance to install household latrines.

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

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

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Provision of safe drinking water through repair of 200 tube-wells.
- Distribution and replenishment of 1,500 jerry cans/buckets.
- Mobilization of trained National Disaster Water and Sanitation Response Teams (NDWRTs) and volunteers.

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

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Distribution and replenishment of 3,000 hygiene parcels.
- Awareness on hygiene practices considering COVID-19 including handwashing and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).

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

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Construction of emergency communal latrines for affected people.
- Provision of conditional cash grant to install household latrines along with technical guidance.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 50,000

Male: 25,000

Female: 25,000

Requirements (CHF): 30,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: Since many houses were either fully destroyed or partially damaged, the affected people have raised their concerns about the lack of privacy and protection from adverse weather. Many daily necessity and hygiene materials were washed away raising specific concern in menstrual hygiene management for women and adolescents' girls. Also, COVID-19 lockdown situation on top of Cyclone Amphan has increased the risk of sexual and gender-based violence in the affected communities.

Population to be assisted:

The operation will ensure the promotion and participation of men and women of different age groups through orientation and consultation. While the household need assessment will be conducted, sex, age, 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 continued to ensure programmes mainstream DAPS (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety) approach relevant to the needs and priorities of humanitarian imperatives on the ground.

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.

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

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Orientation for staff and volunteers on the PGI minimum standard in emergencies.
- Collection and analysis of SADDD.
- Development and dissemination of IEC materials on PGI.
- Dissemination of life-saving and awareness and important messages through different media.
- Use of minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion as a guide to support sectoral teams to include child protection and measures to mitigate the risk of SGBV.
- Establishment of a system to ensure IFRC and NS staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct and have received a briefing in this regard.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 2,000,000 (pre-disaster)

Male: 1,000,000

Female: 1,000,000

Requirements (CHF): 222,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: Disaster impacts in developing nations are potentially severe as they affect agriculture, health, water and food supplies. To protect family and household from devastating disaster and climate change, knowledge about risk and vulnerability is needed. To take any preventive measures, the community must have an idea about disaster risk and vulnerability identification. Millions of trees were uprooted that used to act as wind barrier to reduce disaster risk during this cyclone. Hence, vegetable and sapling support for affected people will be provided for their nutritional supplement as well as help for forestation in the future. The world's largest mangrove forest, Sundarban which is situated in south-eastern part of Bangladesh, play an important role to reduce the impact. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change constituted a special team to assess the damages to the mangrove forest. So, strengthening Sundarban forest is also vital for the future risk reduction.

Population to be assisted:

- 2 million people will be reached through early warning dissemination with the support of CPP and BDRCS volunteers.
- 10,000 household will be provided appropriate sapling in consultation with communities and concerned stakeholders.
- BDRCS units in each of the 20 coastal and peripheral districts vulnerable to the cyclonic storm will be provided a revolving fund of CHF 5,000 each.

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

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

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Mobilization of CPP and BDRCS volunteers for early warning dissemination and evacuation.
- Provision of transportation facilities to evacuate people and livestock.
- Advocacy with concerned stakeholders for the people whose livelihood depends on Sundarban forest.
- Promotion of nature-based or green solutions for DRR.
- Training on DRR and climate change adaptation for community and volunteers.
- Provision of appropriate sapling among cyclone affected households.
- Enhancement of community organization and lead role in strengthening resilience.
- Promotion of risk communication, public awareness and public education towards building resilience integrating with sectoral activities.
- Review and update of community early warning system and community contingency plans with the input from lessons learned workshop.

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 1,682,000

As Bangladesh has been continuously confronted with cyclones 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. There are ongoing institutional preparedness measures to cope up with the increasing response needs which will need to harmonize with the changing context.

National Society Preparedness for Effective Response

- Provision of insurance to volunteers and staffs to be deployed in the response operations.

- Orientation on needs assessment, fraud and corruption prevention, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), PGI, community engagement and accountability (CEA), post-distribution monitoring and exit survey for volunteers and staff.
- Ensure CEA through establishing feedback response mechanism and using BDRCS hotline.
- Mobilization of NDRT, NDWRT, volunteers, sectoral experts and staff.
- Detailed recovery needs assessment.
- Exit survey, post-distribution monitoring and evaluation.
- Training of trainers on livelihoods and cash and voucher assistance.
- Preposition/replenishment of relief stocks (household items).

National Society Development

- Review, finalization and launch of existing small-scale disaster response model of BDRCS.
- Provision of branch level revolving fund of CHF 5,000 in each of the 20 coastal and peripheral districts to enable fastest localized response.
- Construction of one regional warehouse cum multipurpose centre in one of the south western coastal districts to enable localized and decentralized response capacity.
- Capacity building initiative based on Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) priorities.
- Bringing the effective localized response agenda in the BDRCS next strategic planning process.

Ensure effective international disaster management

IFRC has been present in Bangladesh since the 1970s and supporting BDRCS in disaster response and management. For this operation as well, necessary programme 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. Apart from tarpaulin, all other procurement will be done locally. Currently, BDRCS is dispatching relief items from its stock which will be replenished.

Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced.

Community engagement and accountability will be ensured in the operation by BDRCS through an integrated approach in line with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) approach. As a convener of the Shelter Cluster, IFRC has regularly been updating its members about the evolving situation of Cyclone Amphan and will continue its support to ensure a coordinated emergency shelter response.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

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 Emergency Appeal, an evaluation and lessons learned workshop will be conducted.

Ensure a strong IFRC

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, evaluation and reporting, partnerships and resource development, Shelter Cluster coordination, and finance and administration.** More details will be available in the Emergency Plan of Action.

Funding requirements

EMERGENCY APPEAL

MDRBD024 – Bangladesh: Cyclone Amphan

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	222,000
SHELTER	1,640,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	755,000
HEALTH	190,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	481,000
PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION	30,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES	922,000
OTHER STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION	760,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	5,000,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Jagan Chapagain
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Forecast-based triggered action](#)
- [DREF Emergency Plan of Action](#)
- [Previous appeal updates](#)

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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.**