



A Bangladesh Red Crescent Society volunteer makes household visits in the camp settlement. Photo: BDRCS

Appeal No: MDRBD018	To be assisted: 1 million people¹	Appeal launched: 18/03/2017 Appeal revised ² : 20/11/2021
Glide No: OT-2017-000003-BGD	DREF allocated: CHF 1.4 million³	Disaster Categorization: Orange

IFRC funding requirement:

CHF 133 million (2017-2024)

CHF 73 million (Cox's Bazar: 2022-2024)

CHF 6 million (Bhashan Char: 2022-2024)

Current Funding Gap:

CHF 75 million

Federation-wide funding requirement: **CHF 91.5 million⁴** (2022-2024)

¹ This consists of 884,000 displaced people in camps, 100,000 host community people, and 18,000 displaced people on Bhashan Char island.

² This Operational Strategy complements the seventh revision to the Emergency Appeal.

³ A total of CHF 1,385,104 was allocated already between 2017 and 2021, of which CHF 321,246 is not yet reimbursed.

⁴ This figure is the combined funding ask of IFRC (multilateral) and in-country Participating National Societies (bilateral) for 2022-2024.

Funding requirements

Federation-wide funding requirement 2022-2024

IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement (Incl. Bhashan Char)	IFRC Member Societies Bilateral Funding Requirement
	12.5 million CHF
	BDRCS Domestic Target
79 million CHF	N/A

Breakdown of the Operational Strategy 2022-2024

Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	Health and Care			
		10.06 million CHF 400,000 people			
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Bhashan Char	Coordination and Partnerships		
			4.4 million CHF		
		Livelihoods	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	CEA	
22.1 million CHF 155,000 people	16.2 million CHF 974,000 people	6.0 million CHF	3.1 million CHF 70,000 people	2.8 million CHF	0.856 million CHF
	13.3 million CHF 150,000 people				NSS 0.588 million...

TIMELINE



A bird's eye view of the camp settlement in Cox's Bazar. Photo: BDRCS

October to December 2016: A large number of displaced people from Rakhine State, Myanmar cross the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, following an outbreak of violence.

29 December 2016: The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) requests the support of BDRCS to provide humanitarian services in Cox's Bazar.

18 March 2017: IFRC launches an Emergency Appeal for 3 million Swiss francs, to enable the delivery of humanitarian aid to 25,000 people.

May to October 2017: The Emergency Appeal is revised three times – in May, September and October - to cater for more needs including **large numbers of displaced people from Rakhine in August (some 500,000 people are reported to have crossed the border between August and early October alone)**. The October revision seeks CHF 33.5 million for 200,000 people, with the operation categorised by IFRC as a red response.

February 2018: A partnership meeting was organized in Cox's Bazar from 13 to 15 February 2018. The Federation-wide One Window Framework was formalized as the agreed working modality for BDRCS, IFRC and in-country IFRC member societies.

June 2018 to October 2019: The Emergency Appeal is further revised another three times – June 2018, May 2019 and Oct 2019. The [sixth revision](#) in October 2019 sought CHF 82.2 million to support 260,000 people until 31 Dec 2021.

November 2021: The Emergency Appeal is revised for an extended period until 31 December 2024 seeking CHF 79 million to support around 1 million people for three years.

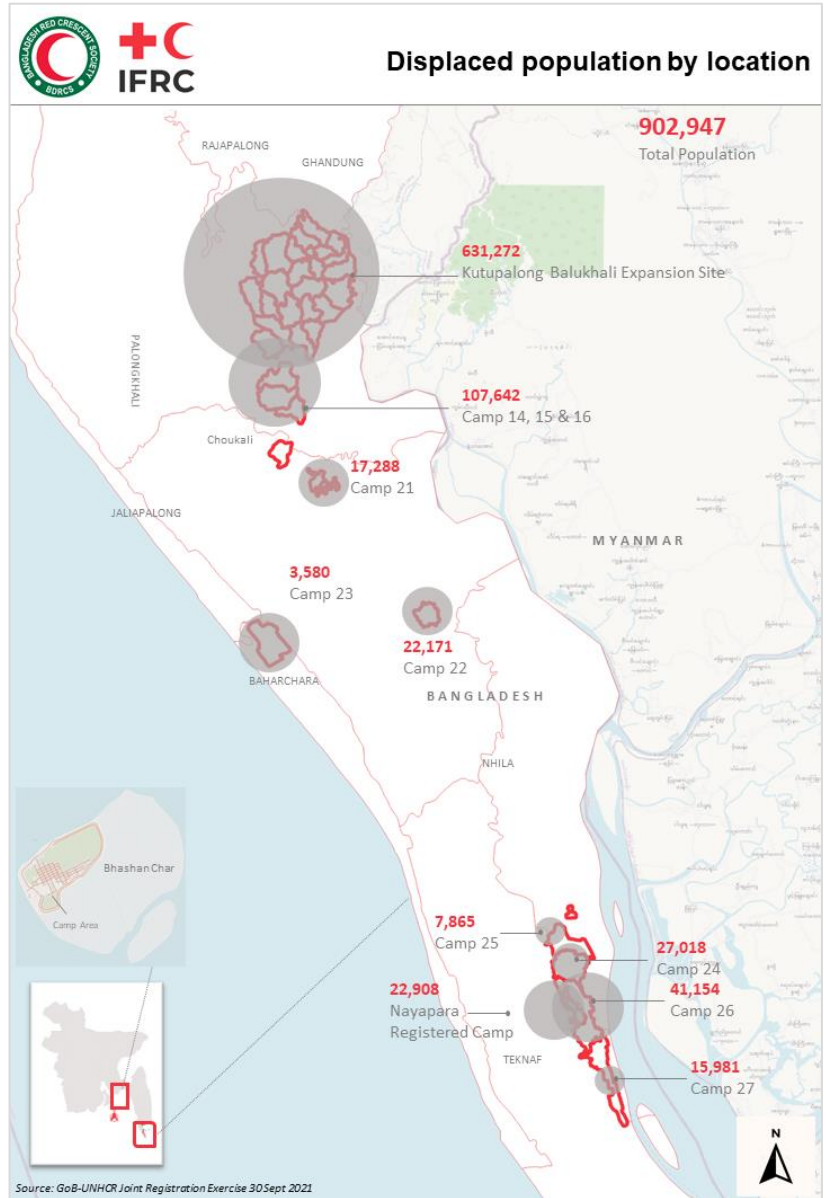
DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The population movement crisis that unfolded in 2016 resulted in the displacement of people from Rakhine, Myanmar, who crossed the border into Bangladesh. The situation continues today as a protracted crisis because of the colossal number of displaced people – 896,879 people⁵ – who are completely reliant on humanitarian assistance to meet their everyday needs amidst a backdrop of uncertainty on their future including the possibility of repatriation. These needs span food and basic needs, access to health services and safe water, shelter, protection services, and preparedness for seasonal cyclones and monsoon rains, and health disasters such as pandemics as well as protection against the impacts of environmental and ecosystem degradation. The evolving crisis is also manifested in the continuing challenges faced by the local community (also referred to as the host community) in terms of livelihoods and the local economy, among other factors, brought about by the presence of the huge number of displaced people from Rakhine (hereafter referred to as ‘displaced people’ or ‘camp community’).⁶

The Government of Bangladesh called on the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to respond to the emergency in December 2016, in line with the National Society’s mandate to provide humanitarian

services as auxiliary to the public authorities. Accordingly, an international operation was launched with IFRC DREF support, followed by an Emergency Appeal in March 2017 which was revised on six occasions, with the last revision covering the period 30 June 2020 until 31 December 2021. It should be noted that the large numbers of displaced people in August 2017 (with some 500,000 people reported to have crossed the border between August and early October 2017 alone) led to a significant revision to the Emergency Appeal in October 2017 in order to cater for more needs (*see timeline*). The revised Emergency Appeal for the coming three years (which this Operational Strategy complements) comprises the seventh revision and marks a new phase of IFRC support to BDRCS in its continued response to the protracted crisis, and in compliance with the request of the Government of Bangladesh to continue providing humanitarian services as auxiliary.

Up to 30 June 2021, funding coverage of the existing Emergency Appeal stood at 70 per cent⁷. The funding has allowed to reach already 873,434 displaced and host community members through the Cyclone Preparedness



⁵ This is the figure referenced in the [Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR population factsheet](#) issued 30 Sept 2021. The camp population figures are updated periodically. The official GoB-UNHCR map in this section, issued 30 Sept 2021, indicates a total population of 902,947 because it takes account of people on Bhashan Char island; for details.

⁶ [Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of Bangladesh Humanitarian Response for Refugees, 2020, UN OCHA](#) (J-MSNA, OCHA, 2020); [Joint Response Plan, 2021, UN OCHA](#) (JRP, OCHA, 2021); [ACAPS, Covid-19 and secondary Impacts, 2020](#) (ACAPS, 2020)

⁷ [IFRC, MDRBD018 Operational Update No. 12, 17 Sept 2021](#)

Programme (CPP) alone via Disaster Risk Reduction programming under the Emergency Appeal, while a combination of other sectoral support reached 300,000 people among both displaced and host communities.



BANGLADESH: Population Movement Operation

2017 to 2021



74,360

households reached with shelter and settlements assistance



28,045

households provided with unconditional cash support



320,937

people have received essential health services at the BDRCS field hospital



219,132

people reached with psychosocial support



175,044

people supported with water, sanitation and hygiene services



91,084

people have access to emergency water supply stocks



24,741

women and girls supported with menstrual hygiene management kits



3,800

people visit Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) centres every month



24

hubs or desks for community feedback and information dissemination



74,360

households reached with shelter and settlements assistance



21,440

infants and children screened for nutritional deficiency



873,434

people supported through Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)



Severity of humanitarian conditions

1. Impact on accessibility, availability, quality, use and awareness of goods and services

Access to the camp settlement (of 34 camps) where 896,879 displaced people are housed, is managed by the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) which is an agency of the Ministry of Disaster

Management and Relief (MoDMR), designated to serve as the camp authority. By virtue of its role as auxiliary to the public authorities in the delivery of humanitarian services, and the close coordination undertaken with the RRRC, BDRCS and IFRC along with the membership have broader access to the camp settlement for the provision of humanitarian services compared to other actors. In addition, the legal status accorded to IFRC in Bangladesh, enables it to facilitate the import of quality goods and services in a timely manner.

2. *Impact on physical and mental wellbeing*

August 2021 assessments undertaken jointly by BDRCS and IFRC observed unmet needs among pregnant and lactating women in the displaced community, while specialized maternity services were cited as a need among the host community. Other needs cited among the displaced community were critical diagnosis and treatment for non-communicable diseases related to the heart, kidneys, and lungs; a referral system, treatment for the elderly, and mental health.

These results reconfirm and add to the 2020 ISCG Joint Multisectoral Needs Assessment⁸, which observed a likely reduction in health-seeking behaviour i.e. a drop in the proportion of individuals in need of treatment, and who actually sought treatment. This circumstance was attributed to the possible impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and associated containment measures. Similarly, the proportion of children aged 6 to 59 months reported to be enrolled in nutrition-feeding programmes had also seen a likely drop.

In the host community, the percentage of households reporting on pregnant/lactating women (PLWs) enrolled in nutrition-feeding programmes remained low. This was linked to a lower incidence of nutrition programming in the host community compared to the displaced community, but also to low levels of understanding of nutrition services and their benefits.

Food shortages and consumption gaps, also linked to the COVID-19 outbreak and associated containment measures, were noted among both the displaced and host communities.

In terms of mental wellbeing among the host community, school closures brought about by COVID-19 containment measures not only affected children's education but their general wellbeing in the form of disruptions to daily routines, children sent to work and girls getting married. In the displaced community, child protection and wellbeing were reported to have been exacerbated by the pandemic lockdown.

3. *Risks & vulnerabilities*

This is fundamentally a protection crisis – and now a protracted crisis - in which the vulnerabilities of the displaced population persist. Children make up almost 51 per cent of the camp population; women and girls represent almost 52 per cent of the population, and one in three displaced families have at least one easily identifiable protection vulnerability, such as human trafficking, underage marriage, sexual exploitation and abuse.⁹ While their registration documents¹⁰ entitle the displaced to assistance and protection in Bangladesh, many continue to require significant humanitarian assistance for basic survival and subsistence. They face ongoing instability, lack of education and employment, health issues, poverty, and natural and climatic hazards, which demand a prolonged humanitarian response. Similarly, in reference to the host community, priority needs identified are access to food, access to cash, shelter materials, access to income-generating activities and access to clean drinking water.¹¹

⁸ J-MSNA, OCHA, 2021; [Joint Multi Sector Needs Assessment Host Communities, OCHA, 2021](#) (J-MSNA HC, OCHA, 2021)

⁹ JRP, OCHA, 2021;

¹⁰ Registration and documentation will support the protection of refugees from Rakhine in Bangladesh, while preserving their right to return in line with Strategic Objective Four of the Joint Response Plan. In June 2018, the Government of Bangladesh, with the support of UNHCR, launched a comprehensive refugee registration exercise, including the issuance of biometric identification cards, which was completed at the end of 2019. (JRP, OCHA, 2021)

¹¹ J-MSNA, OCHA, 2021; JRP, OCHA, 2021; ACAPS, 2020

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Response capacity

1.1. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society response capacity

The BDRCS Population Movement Operation (PMO) office in Cox's Bazar was established in 2017 and today has a staff strength of 370, while the Cox's Bazar unit¹² of BDRCS has been supporting the operation from the beginning of the crisis, particularly through its Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers numbering some 300. The BDRCS headquarters in Dhaka has been providing oversight support and has also deployed staff and resources during this operation. As auxiliary to the public authorities in the provision of humanitarian services, BDRCS serves as a key partner in this response and engages with various authorities at both the national and local levels. Since the 1978 movement of people from Myanmar, BDRCS' relationship with the Bangladesh authorities has been steadfast. Accordingly, BDRCS enjoys access to all operational areas in reference to the response to the population movement crisis, in coordination with the authorities and the UN-led Inter-Sector Coordination Group. Apart from the PMO office and unit office (branch) located in Cox's Bazar town, key facilities of BDRCS utilized for this response include two distribution centres in the camps, and three warehouses and a field office in the host community area. There is also a longstanding collaboration between BDRCS and the UNHCR to jointly undertake the Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO) - this extensive initiative has been in place since 1992.

1.2. National capacity and response

The Government of Bangladesh's response in the camp settlement is led at the local level by the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), which is an agency of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) designated as the camp authority and therefore leads the humanitarian operation in the camp settlement. Other authorities active in this response at the local level include the Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar district, Police, the Armed Forces Division (AFD), the Department of Public Health Engineering, and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). At the national level, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and, more prominently, the MoDMR, are at the forefront of the response.

2. International capacity and response

2.1 IFRC and membership

The IFRC has a country delegation in Dhaka and a sub-delegation in Cox's Bazar with 35 national and 9 international staff supporting BDRCS in Cox's Bazar, in the implementation of activities under the PMO and in coordination with various stakeholders. IFRC closely monitors the evolving humanitarian situation and is coordinating at various levels with the government, humanitarian actors and the donor community, among others.

Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal in 2017, a total of 28 IFRC member societies have supported BDRCS multilaterally via the appeal. In February 2018, the Federation-wide One Window Framework was formalized as the agreed working modality for BDRCS, IFRC and in-country IFRC member societies. *(For more information, see the section on 'Federation-wide approach' below)*

Currently, 10 in-country IFRC member societies, also known as Participating National Societies (PNS), have been supporting BDRCS bilaterally or multilaterally or both for the PMO. Those in-country partners are the American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese

¹² Unit is a term equivalent to a BDRCS branch at district or city level. The Cox's Bazar unit is one of 68 BDRCS units across the country in 64 districts and four city corporation.

Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent. Collectively, the Federation-wide response in Cox's Bazar is undertaken by a total of 370 staff including 22 internationals. Out-of-country IFRC member societies which have provided bilateral funding to BDRCS comprise the Iranian Red Crescent, Kuwait Red Crescent, and UAE Red Crescent.

2.2 International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement¹³

In addition to the IFRC and member National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is responding to the crisis with a focus on the border areas carried out in partnership with BDRCS. The existing Movement coordination mechanisms with IFRC, ICRC and in-country IFRC member societies include a bi-monthly coordination forum led by BDRCS in Cox's Bazar.

2.3 International Humanitarian Stakeholders

Apart from the international response launched by IFRC on behalf of BDRCS through the Emergency Appeal on 18 March 2017, the main international response is coordinated by the UN-led Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and reflected in their annual Joint Response Plan (JRP). The 2021 JRP reflects the intended humanitarian support provided by nine UN agencies and 125 local and international non-governmental organizations with the Government of Bangladesh, targeting both the displaced community in the camps and the host community in the Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts.

IFRC, on behalf of BDRCS and RCRC partners, coordinates regularly with the UN system and the wider humanitarian community in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and camp levels. IFRC, in its role as secretariat for its membership comprising BDRCS and IFRC member societies, is engaged as an observer with both the Strategic Executive Group (SEG)¹⁴ and the ISCG (IFRC attends both the SEG and Heads of Sub-Office Group meetings) and the various programmatic sectors and working groups.

3. Gaps in the response

The response to the various needs of the vulnerable displaced population as well as affected host population is a well-thought-out effort undertaken over the past years by a multitude of humanitarian actors including the BDRCS and its partners, in accordance with existing and agreed geographical areas and sectoral responsibilities per area allocated to BDRCS and the wider IFRC membership and to other humanitarian actors.

Nevertheless, gaps in humanitarian support continue to exist, particularly due to funding challenges faced by some humanitarian actors. Specific health care service improvements are required to match the needs identified in assessments, notably as regards mother and child health, mental health and psychosocial support as well as sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Enhancements are needed also in shelter constructions and WASH services. Considering that the displaced have been living in the camps already for five years and continue to live in them, structural strengthening is necessary with due attention to environmentally more sustainable solutions. It is in this context that BDRCS as auxiliary to the public authorities in the provision of humanitarian services, will exert its efforts to fill gaps, based on context and as and when such gaps materialize. To this end, the revised Emergency Appeal (which this Operational Strategy complements) will be used to support BDRCS in addressing the gaps. In addition to its auxiliary status, it is envisaged that the advantage which BDRCS presents to the donor community is the cost-efficiency that will materialize, in that it is a leading local organization with a wealth of technical expertise provided by its international IFRC-network partners.

¹³ The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement consists of three components: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

¹⁴ The ISCG secretariat is guided by the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) in Dhaka, which is led by co-chairs from UNHCR, IOM and the UN Resident Coordinator.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

The most significant operational challenge faced in recent times is COVID-19 and intermittent restrictions on access to the camps imposed by the government authorities on all humanitarian actors as part of efforts to contain the spread of the epidemic. As such, several non-essential programmatic activities such as construction activities as part of the shelter and WASH programming were temporarily halted. Nevertheless, essential activities continued during such periods of lockdown – these included health and hygiene promotion, the operations of health facilities including the BDRCS Isolation and Treatment Centre (ITC), community engagement, and WASH support (such as the installation of additional tap stands and distribution of hygiene kits), along with disaster response activities following heavy monsoon rains. In this connection, trained community volunteers have proven to be instrumental in continuing various activities during lockdown periods and these include community-based activities such as household visits. The community volunteers comprise residents in respective displaced and host communities, who have been trained to provide support in various sectoral interventions. In view of the continuing pandemic and the many benefits of having trained individuals among the vulnerable population – a significant benefit being the fact that trained residents help improve the resilience of their communities – this new phase of PMO will continue to see the training and deployment of community volunteers. *For more information, see the risk management section in the latter part of this document.*

FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The revised Emergency Appeal (complemented by this Operational Strategy) is part of a Federation-wide approach utilized to support BDRCS in its response to the population movement crisis and to maximize the collective humanitarian impact of the IFRC membership. The approach is reflected in a One Window Framework (OWF) developed in 2018 with the agreement of BDRCS, IFRC and in-country IFRC member societies,¹⁵ and accompanied by a Plan of Action developed in early 2020. The Federation-wide approach has included fortnightly coordination meetings at the leadership level, and regular technical meetings among programmes, as well as reporting tools such as regular situation reports. Most significantly, one of the most successful outcomes of the Federation-wide approach is the **Shared Leadership** modality piloted by IFRC and American Red Cross jointly in this operation. Through this arrangement in which the American Red Cross provides all its support to the BDRCS PMO multilaterally via IFRC, many benefits have materialized – these include collective fundraising, with American Red Cross facilitating the largest funding contribution from a donor to PMO; and American Red Cross undertaking the entire disaster risk reduction programming component of the EA in support of BDRCS. Other benefits include the utilization of IFRC’s financial and procurement services, resulting in significant reductions in cost and time. Another current example of the shared leadership approach is the Japanese Red Cross Society’s secondment of its health staff in support of the IFRC Emergency Appeal.

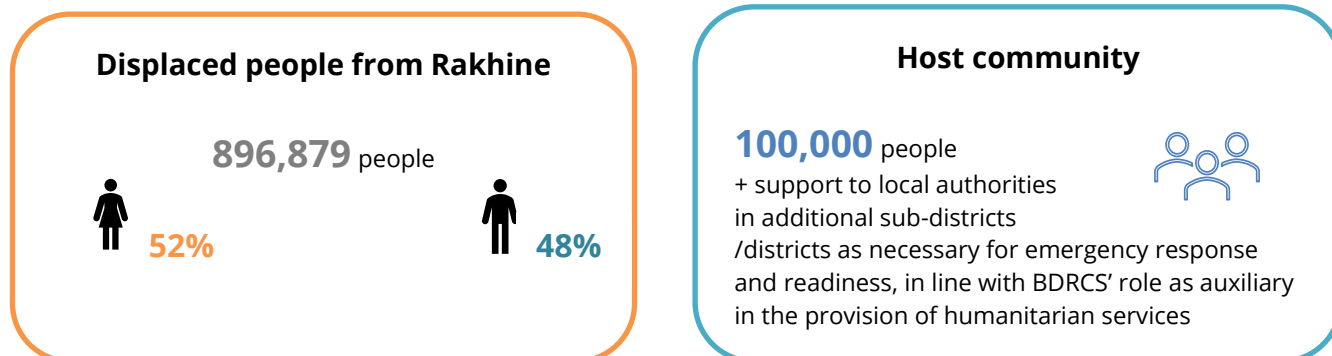
This revision to the Emergency Appeal has been guided by OWF considerations, as well as a Movement-wide Lessons Learnt workshop held on 6 September 2021 to guide the way forward for the continuation of BDRCS’ response to the population movement crisis with the support of all Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners. Accordingly, the lessons drawn from the workshop are reflected in this Operational Strategy which seeks, among others, to facilitate the strengthening of linkages between various programming undertaken by all OWF partners in support of BDRCS. More importantly, the existing Federation-wide OWF Plan of Action will be revisited after the launch of the IFRC revised Emergency Appeal and this Operational Strategy, to further enhance the Federation-wide approach. This will include looking at the possibility of more in-country IFRC member societies adopting the Shared Leadership modality which has a number of variations to suit the needs of individual IFRC member societies.

¹⁵ The ICRC is not part of the One Window Framework. Nevertheless, it is operational in Cox’s Bazar and actively engages with BDRCS, IFRC and the wider membership..

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Targeting

Communities targeted for support through the revised Emergency Appeal



The goal to reach 896,879 displaced people comprises the entire camp population across 34 camps, supported through Disaster Risk Management programming. In reference to other sectors of intervention in the camps, this will encompass approximately 300,000 people. In reference to the host community, 100,000 people are targeted. This targeting has been based on existing and agreed geographical areas and sectoral responsibilities per area allocated to BDRCS and the wider IFRC membership and other humanitarian actors. This is part of well-established arrangements in the UN-led Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) mechanism for the management of the camp settlement in Cox's Bazar, in consultation and coordination with the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) which is an agency of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) designated as the camp authority. Other considerations which have guided targeting are the findings of multisectoral needs assessments¹⁶ undertaken in the camp settlement and host community areas by BDRCS/IFRC in August 2021, and is undertaken also in close alignment with the UN-led Joint Response Plan and the various sectors (as part of the ISCG mechanism) which BDRCS and Movement Partners partners engage with regularly.

Considerations for protection, gender and inclusion

The findings of the recent IFRC/BDRCS multisectoral needs assessment have served to confirm the needs and vulnerabilities identified in the Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment¹⁷, and have given deeper and more current insights into needs in the specific areas where BDRCS programming with IFRC support has been undertaken. Vulnerable groups identified in the assessment comprised women and girls, transgenders, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and other marginalised groups or individuals.

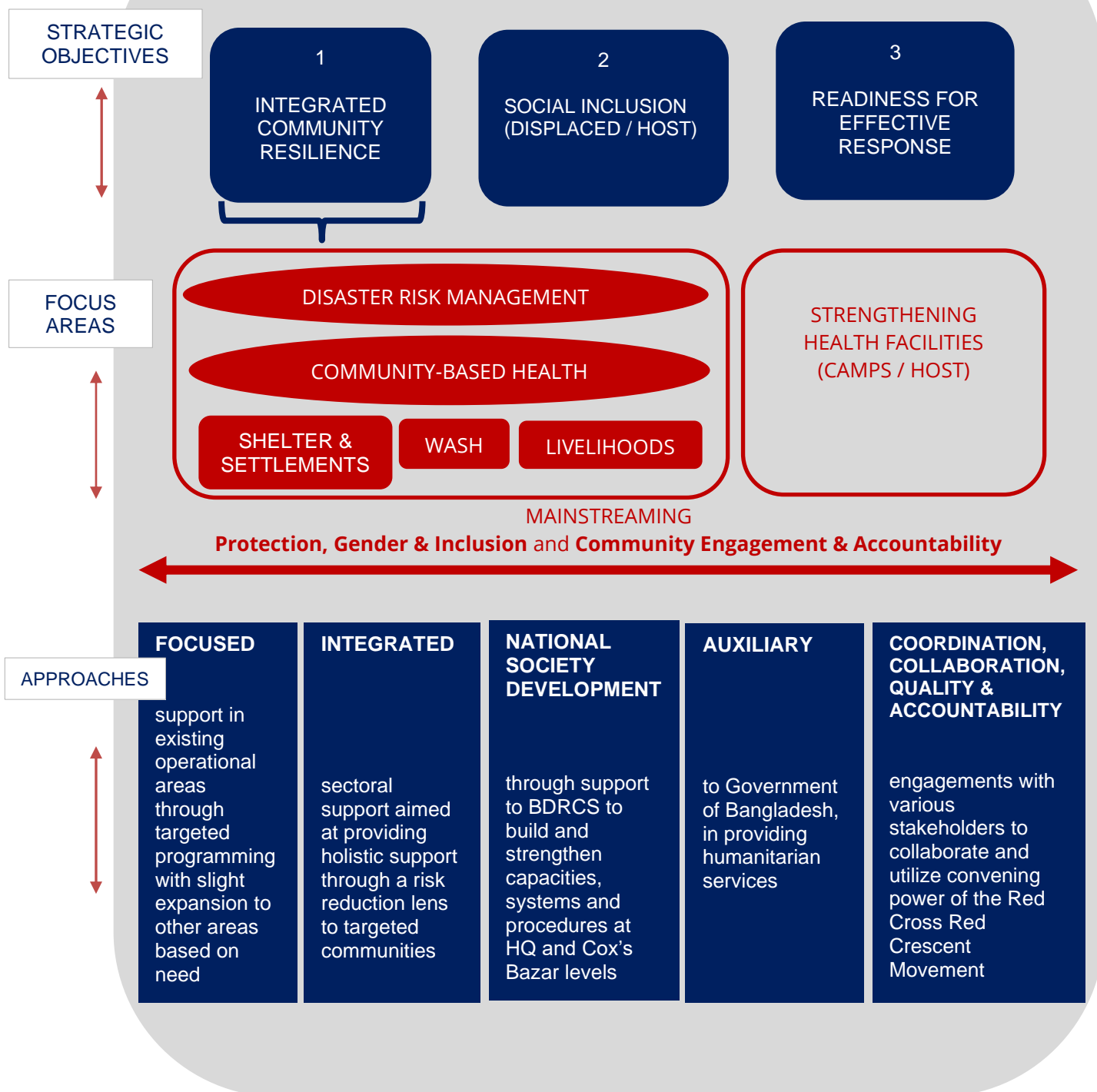
¹⁶ [Highlights 2021](#)

¹⁷ J-MSNA, OCHA, 202

Vision: 2022-2024

Through the revised Emergency Appeal complemented by this Operational Strategy, IFRC aims to continue supporting the BDRCS in its response to the population movement crisis. This will be in line with the shared vision of BDRCS, IFRC and in-country IFRC member societies, in coordination with ICRC, to consolidate and improve on existing services to affected communities, in continued alignment with the three-pronged strategy adopted at the start of this operation i.e. the strategy to achieve *integrated community resilience, social inclusion, and readiness for effective response*.

Strategy of support for Displaced and Host Communities (2022-2024)



Accordingly, the response will continue to be guided by the existing PMO Resilience Framework - developed in April 2019 - to ensure the linkage and integration of every sector and support BDRCS' efforts in assisting displaced and host communities to adopt risk-informed, holistic approaches which aim to address their underlying vulnerabilities and strengthen their resilience. The approaches of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) underpin this framework as they will be mainstreamed across all programmes. The revised appeal will also continue to facilitate social inclusion through the promotion of sustainable programming on dignity, access, participation and safety. Social inclusion efforts that seek to engage with both displaced and host communities as equal actors in this crisis are viewed as a means to reduce violence and tensions. The readiness for an effective response approach serves to strengthen BDRCS' local capacities to act quickly and efficiently, and in ways that are appropriate to the local context, through its network of volunteers who are permanently present at the grassroots level.

As indicated in the graphic featured in this section, three hallmarks of the PMO over the next three years are:

- **Integrated community resilience** This will encompass efforts to integrate or complement various programmatic support with each other through a risk reduction lens wherever possible, with the aim of providing holistic support which will help improve the resilience of targeted communities. The flagship services of BDRCS comprising *disaster risk management*, and *health and care* will serve as the two critical areas of sectoral support provided under the PMO. These will be supported or integrated with supporting sectoral services comprising shelter & settlements, WASH and livelihoods.
- **Strengthening of health facilities in the camp settlement and host community areas** This will involve efforts to consolidate, streamline and link existing services currently being provided by IFRC and five in-country IFRC member societies at 14 health facilities in the camp settlement (and seven new facilities planned in both the camp settlement and host community areas).
- **The mainstreaming of PGI and CEA approaches** These cross-cutting approaches will continue to complement and strengthen sectoral programming. Over the next three years, they will be expanded and strengthened within existing operational areas, and as per current practice, both approaches will be closely coordinated with each other. The emphasis on these approaches is premised on the ongoing vulnerabilities of communities that guide PGI support, as well as the tenets of community consultation and/or ownership of various support provided, and securing the trust of communities that guide CEA efforts.

For details on these hallmarks, see the 'Planned Operations' section in this document.

Additionally, and to complement the above, the difference and added benefits that this new phase of support to the BDRCS PMO intends to bring about, is encompassed in five main and overarching approaches comprising (see graphic):

- **Focus** - in reference to geographical location, this approach signifies that the IFRC network will continue providing support in existing operational areas comprising 18 camps and two sub-districts through a more focused 'care and maintenance' approach, with potential for expansion to new areas for some interventions based on unmet needs and available funding. In reference to programming, focus will be on BDRCS flagship sectors comprising disaster risk management, and health and care. The 'care and maintenance' approach will include improvements to various facilities, as well as emergency preparedness and response readiness.
- **Integration** - this approach, which supports the three hallmarks described previously, emphasizes the need to integrate and complement programmatic interventions through a risk reduction lens wherever possible, with the aim of providing holistic support which helps improve the resilience of targeted communities. Accordingly, due consideration to environmental and climate risks will be reflected in certain innovative interventions. At the same time, the shared vision among the IFRC networks to consolidate, streamline and link common services or activities (particularly services at health facilities) that it currently provides. In recognition of the continued protection vulnerabilities of the displaced community, cross-cutting approaches of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) will continue to complement programmatic support.
- **National Society Development** - this represents support to BDRCS, focusing on building and strengthening capacities, systems and procedures which the National Society will require in order to

transition and operate effectively and efficiently as a strong local actor whilst independently undertaking certain functions and services in the longer-term, in furtherance of the localization agenda. As such, emphasis will also be placed on strengthening linkages between BDRCS headquarters, the Cox's Bazar unit (branch) and the PMO office in Cox's Bazar, laying the foundation for a localized response with international connections and support from the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- **Auxiliary** to the public authorities of Bangladesh, in providing **demand-driven humanitarian support** – this approach serves to emphasize the status of BDRCS as auxiliary to the government in the provision of humanitarian services, and the role of BDRCS to step up to fill gaps in humanitarian support as required.
- **Coordination, Collaboration, Quality & Accountability** – as part of this approach, IFRC and BDRCS, with support from IFRC membership and the ICRC, will increase emphasis on their engagement with various stakeholders (Bangladesh authorities, ISCG, donor community among others) at all strategic levels (Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and field) with the aim of strengthening the access and convening power which BDRCS and the IFRC enjoy, as a result of the auxiliary role of the National Society, as well as the legal status accorded to IFRC in Bangladesh.¹⁸ In this connection, humanitarian diplomacy, a key function of IFRC, will continue to be undertaken by the leadership and senior management in various fora, with the aim of advocating for enhanced assistance or solutions for the benefit of the displaced community. Existing collaborations that BDRCS enjoys with stakeholders including healthcare actors through the facilitation of in-country IFRC member societies will be maintained and taken forward where possible. In addition, increased emphasis will be placed on quality and accountability, and ensuring that resources are rationalized according to needs.

Sectoral support

The focus placed on sectoral support for the 2022 to 2024 period will be in line with the Operational Strategy graphic above. Accordingly, the flagship services of BDRCS comprising **disaster risk management**, and **health and care** will serve as the two critical areas of sectoral support provided under the PMO. These will be supported or integrated with supporting sectoral services comprising shelter & settlements, WASH and livelihoods. Meanwhile, the cross-cutting approaches of community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), will continue to complement and strengthen sectoral programming.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

	Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery¹⁹	Displaced community: 884,000 people	CHF 16.2 mil
		Host community: 100,000 people	
Objective: The disaster readiness and resilience of communities are strengthened			
Priority Actions:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a comprehensive disaster risk management (DRM) structure across all camps. 2. Strengthen the existing DRM structure across the host community. 3. Advance interventions on cyclone preparedness; climate-smart disaster risk reduction; and multi-hazard emergency response and preparedness, as part of the DRM structure across all displaced and host communities respectively. 	

¹⁸ The Red Cross Red Crescent footprint in the response to the population movement crisis includes the longstanding collaboration between BDRCS and the UNHCR to jointly undertake the Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO) - this, extensive initiative has been in place since 1992.

¹⁹ For the new phase of the PMO (2022-2024), this sector will see a shift in focus towards Disaster Risk Management programming.

Main focus for 2022-2024:

This sector which has the largest existing reach currently – approximately 1 million people across the camp settlement and host communities - will see a shift towards more macro-level support such as linking the existing cyclone preparedness programme which spans all 34 camps in the camp settlement to the nationwide early warning system (EWS) in accordance with the relevant government standing orders on disasters. Accordingly, this shift in focus will include the establishment of disaster management committees in each camp (or block within a camp), equipped and trained to respond to multiple hazards - similar to committees already in existence in the host community. This will be undertaken in collaboration with other humanitarian actors functioning as site management and site development agencies in each camp, to ensure harmonization with existing disaster management and emergency response team (ERT) interventions undertaken by these agencies. Similarly, in the host community, efforts will be undertaken to strengthen existing disaster management committees with the aim of strengthening the overall disaster risk management structure so that the community is better able to mitigate, prepare for and respond to multiple hazards. As such, apart from cyclone preparedness, CPP volunteers will be trained and equipped to enhance their existing capacity to respond to multiple hazards such as monsoon, landslides, fires and other hazards. Hence the renaming of this sector from disaster risk reduction to disaster risk management for the new phase of PMO programming.

Also of significance is the fact that disaster management is the flagship service of BDRCS, and what the IFRC network is known for, among the humanitarian community, authorities and donors. This vital role is evidenced in the position of BDRCS/IFRC as chair of the Technical Committee on Cyclone Preparedness covering both displaced and host communities. Further, BDRCS/IFRC, in cooperation with the ISCG Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPRWG), has contributed towards the incorporation of Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) elements into the ISCG cyclone contingency planning. BDRCS' lead is also attributed to the fact that it jointly undertakes the nationwide Cyclone Preparedness Programme with the Government of Bangladesh – an initiative extended to Cox's Bazar following the unfolding of the population movement crisis in 2017. The CPP in the camps features 3,400 camp residents known as CPP volunteers (100 volunteers in each of the 34 camps) trained, equipped and deployed to prepare for and respond to multiple hazards such as approaching cyclones, monsoon, landslides, fires and other hazards. This intervention has been instrumental in saving lives and reducing injuries, as well as damage to shelters and other assets in the camp settlement. It has also enabled BDRCS to command an extensive reach across the camps.

Finally, as part of efforts - during this new phase of the IFRC-supported PMO - to provide communities with integrated sectoral support so that communities receive support that is holistic and aimed at improving their resilience towards future disasters (natural or man-made), disaster risk management and the other core service of BDRCS comprising health and care, will serve as anchors to which other programmatic sectors (shelter & settlements, WASH and livelihoods) will be integrated, wherever possible. Additionally, various interventions will include climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, where relevant.

In-country IFRC member societies providing existing bilateral support in this sector:

British Red Cross and German Red Cross

 Health & Care	Displaced community: 300,000 people	CHF 10.06 mil
	Host community: 100,000 people	
Objective: Health risks of targeted communities are reduced, and communities enjoy improved health and wellbeing		
Priority Actions:	1. Medical Services Provide services at BDRCS health facilities for benefit of displaced and host communities 2. Community Health	

Provide Community-Based Health Services to displaced and host communities

3. Emergency response

Re-establish mobile medical teams

4. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Provide mental health and psychosocial support to displaced and host communities through services at BDRCS health facilities and community outreach services via CBHFA (psychological first aid)

Main focus for 2022-2024:

Health and care is another flagship service of BDRCS. Moving forward, as part of the agreed Federation-wide vision, efforts will be undertaken to consolidate, streamline and link existing services currently being provided by IFRC and five in-country IFRC member societies at 14 health facilities in the camp settlement. In line with this, an upgrade of certain structures and facilities is envisioned for the field hospital supported mainly by IFRC, and which is one of the first health facilities to be established in the camp settlement in the early days of the crisis. At the same time, the hospital will serve as a referral facility for five primary healthcare centres run by the IFRC member societies. The health and care sector will also see increased emphasis on emergency preparedness and response not just in reference to natural disasters but also health emergencies such as a pandemic. In this connection, mobile medical teams will be re-established by using existing health human resources in the health facilities to respond to disasters. Community-based health services will be emphasised to provide pre-hospital care services such as health promotion and disease prevention activities for communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and sexual and reproductive health for vulnerable communities.

Specifically in reference to MHPSS, IFRC together with IFRC member societies, will promote access to mental health and psychosocial support services by ensuring that MHPSS is integrated in all BDRCS health facilities, as part of an integrated response model that links health facilities and community-based health services. A strong referral system to specialized mental health service providers in the displaced and host communities will be ensured. In addition, the capacity of BDRCS to protect the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of its frontline staff and volunteers will be strengthened through a caring for staff and volunteers approach. Wherever possible, MPHSS will be linked to PGI support, particularly in reference to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

IFRC support in 2022 will also see the construction of a mother and child healthcare centre and a primary healthcare centre coming to a finish, followed by the operationalisation of these two facilities located in host community areas. Additional health facilities planned by IFRC member societies in 2022 comprise five health posts – this will bring the total number of BDRCS facilities supported by IFRC and its member societies to 21.

In-country IFRC member societies providing existing bilateral support in this sector:

Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent



Shelter, Housing and Settlements²⁰

Displaced community: 120,000 people

CHF 22.1 mil

Host community: 35,000 people

Objective: The safety and well-being of communities are strengthened through shelter and settlement solutions

²⁰ Housing is not a component of this sector in this Operation in alignment with guidance from the GoB.

Priority Actions:

1. Provide shelter and settlement solutions, and essential household items for the displaced community and host community.
2. Construct and improve community infrastructure both in camps and host community areas.
3. Build awareness and capacity of community on safe shelter among both displaced and host communities.

Main focus for 2022-2024:

Moving forward, this sector will see increased emphasis on providing more durable and environment-friendly shelter and settlement solutions aimed at improving living conditions for both displaced and host communities. The sector will consult with partners and the community to enhance shelter durability and protection and explore alternative construction materials to help sustain the supply of bamboo as the main shelter material while mitigating environmental damage.

As highlighted in the recent multi-sectoral needs assessments, household-level site improvements and rebuilding or repairs to community infrastructure are needed. The sector will work beyond the scope of shelter, providing shelter-site improvements such as slope protection, household drainage, raising plinths and step pathways, and community infrastructures such as mosques, schools; and child and women-friendly spaces. Household item assistance will be based on the result of the assessments, taking into consideration the use of voucher assistance that aims to provide household beneficiaries some degree of freedom to choose their preferred household items. Further, the distribution of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refills will continue to reduce deforestation.

Efforts will also be placed on strengthening coordination and promoting complementarity with focal agencies for shelter in respective camps. In addition, building awareness among communities on shelter safety will continue, thus increasing the capacity of communities to maintain and strengthen their shelters through participatory-based approaches.

In-country IFRC member societies providing existing bilateral support in this sector:

German Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Turkish Red Crescent

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

Displaced community: 115,000 people

CHF 13.3 mil

Host community: 35,000 people

Objective: Communities experience reduced risk of waterborne and water-related diseases, and as such, enjoy improved wellbeing

Priority Actions:

1. Provide water supply including climate-smart, nature-based solutions, to displaced and host communities.
2. Provide environment-friendly, innovative sanitation services and management for the benefit of displaced and host communities.
3. Promote improved hygiene among displaced and host communities.

Main focus for 2022-2024:

As part of the 'care and maintenance' approach of this operation in moving forward, this sector will focus on user-friendly upgrades of existing WASH facilities. In addition, and wherever possible, innovative solutions that are climate-smart or nature-based will be employed – this will include climate change adaptation and

mitigation efforts. Examples of WASH support that will see such innovation include solar-powered water supply networks (this will feature flexible and reliable power generation that is free of carbon dioxide), and a rainwater harvesting system to counter depleting groundwater sources.


Solid waste management will include cleaning of blocks (each camp consists of several blocks) and drains which will help keep the environment clean and prevent slow or clogged drainage, waste collection, segregation of organic and inorganic waste, composting from organic waste, and providing inorganic waste to local scrap dealers for recycling.

Innovation in faecal sludge management (FSM) will include the construction of solar-powered FSM systems requiring minimum land area while providing maximum capacity. Sludge-generated wastewater will be treated before discharge into the environment so that it is pathogen-free and not harmful to the population living downstream.

The promotion of improved hygiene among displaced and host communities will continue to feature as an integral component of this sector. In particular, it will be conducted in complement with the various hardware elements, and trained community volunteers comprising residents among displaced or host communities, will be key in efforts to promote positive behaviour change leading to reduced public health risks. In this connection, hygiene promotion activities will include handwashing, water safety, safe sanitation, waste management, and the provision of hygiene kits, hygiene top-up kits and menstrual hygiene management kits – all of which will be in accordance with Sphere standards. As per previous practice, hygiene promotion and its impact will be monitored through Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys.


In-country IFRC member societies providing existing bilateral support in this sector:

British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent


	Livelihoods	Displaced community: 20,000 people	CHF 3.1 mil
		Host community: 50,000 people	
Objective: The livelihoods of communities are restored and strengthened			
Priority Actions:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide skills development opportunities including training, for most vulnerable individuals among displaced and host communities. 2. Household livelihood assistance for vulnerable households among the host community. 	
Main focus for 2022-2024:			
<p>This sector will see strategic initiatives planned for economically vulnerable households in host community areas that are vulnerable to multiple hazards. They will be initially identified through the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) team’s conduct of an Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (EVCA) in which the selection of beneficiaries will be based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria developed through community consultations facilitated by the community livelihood committees that will be formed as part of the overall process. Support is also planned for individuals with the aim of diversifying the incomes of the most vulnerable families. Along with cash for livelihood assistance, targeted households will be oriented on soft business and market access. Other initiatives will include cash and voucher assistance (CVA) such as cash-for-work, cash-for-training, and the provision of essential household items through vouchers as modalities, for targeted beneficiaries or households in camps – the recipients will be selected through an integrated approach conducted with other sectors such as shelter, WASH and DRM, as well as PGI.</p>			

In-country IFRC member societies providing existing bilateral support in this sector:


British Red Cross, German Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent

 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Displaced community: 115,000 people	CHF 2.8 mil
	Host community: N/A	
Objective: Vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups are supported and empowered.		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide essential PGI services at various facilities and through household outreach in both displaced and host community areas. 2. PGI mainstreaming across all sectoral programmes delivered in both displaced and host community areas. 3. Refer protection cases to case management actors and providers of essential services such as protection and health. 	
Main focus for 2022-2024: Initial steps undertaken in reference to PGI mainstreaming, will be taken forward in full strength from 2022 onwards. PGI mainstreaming entails the incorporation of PGI by programmatic sectors in their planning (including programme design) and implementation. As per current practice, PGI efforts will be well coordinated with CEA, including the CEA feedback mechanism as well as community awareness sessions comprising CEA content and which are conducted at Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) centres (these centres are run as part of PGI support).		
In-country IFRC member societies providing existing bilateral support in this sector: British Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross		

Enabling approaches

 Community Engagement and Accountability	Displaced community: 300,000 people	CHF 855,661
	Host community: 100,000 people	
Objective: Targeted communities are consulted and are able to share their views about assistance received or planned, and programmes and operations are planned and adapted accordingly.		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide and strengthen community feedback and participation channels for both displaced and host communities. 2. Provide support to programmatic sectors in undertaking community consultations at various stages of programming for both displaced and host communities. 	
Main focus for 2022-2024: CEA efforts from 2022 onwards will be expanded and strengthened within existing operational areas – this will include increasing the number of feedback collection units so that communities have easier and closer access to them and mainstreaming the Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for CEA. This strengthening will be aimed at complementing and supporting the various sectoral or programmatic		

interventions provided in a particular area. As per current practice, CEA efforts will be closely coordinated with PGI support.

 <p>National Society Strengthening</p>	<p>1,500 volunteers and staff including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 140 female volunteers (Cox's Bazar unit/branch) ○ 150 male volunteers (Cox's Bazar unit/branch) 	<p>CHF 587,880</p>
<p>Objective: BDRCS has strengthened capacities, systems and procedures at central and Cox's Bazar levels</p>		
<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build capacity of BDRCS at Cox's Bazar, branch and headquarters levels, including human resources comprising staff and volunteers. 2. Strengthen systems, procedures and guidelines across a broad spectrum of support services and operations at BDRCS headquarters level, with relevant decentralisation to Cox's Bazar and branch levels in place 	
<p>Main focus for 2022-2024: All efforts will be aimed at helping BDRCS put in place at various levels, the systems, procedures and resources which it will require in order to transition towards and independently undertake certain functions and services in the longer term, in furtherance of the localization agenda. Accordingly, these efforts will include tangible actions in support of the Cox's Bazar unit (branch) which the Movement will help take forward collectively. In this connection, the various reflections and recommendations made in reference to National Society strengthening at the Movement-wide PMO Lessons Learnt workshop held on 6 Sept 2021 will be deliberated on further by the membership after the launch of this revised Emergency Appeal – the aim will be to capture agreed actions which will be reflected within the updated Federation-wide One Window Framework (OWF) Plan of Action which this appeal will contribute towards.</p>		

 <p>Coordination and Partnerships</p>		<p>CHF 4.4 mil</p>
<p>Objective: To better articulate the auxiliary role of BDRCS and its convening power among a plurality of stakeholders, and accordingly strengthen the IFRC network footprint in the response to the population movement crisis.</p>		
<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Membership Coordination Consolidate and harmonise the multilateral and various bilateral support provided to BDRCS through the One Window Framework (OWF) approach. 2. Engagement with external partners Represent the IFRC network at various external fora involving various stakeholders (government, donor community, humanitarian community) at all levels including Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and the camp settlement. 3. Movement Cooperation 	

Promote a Movement-wide approach, as well as support to BDRCS, wherever possible.



Secretariat Services

CHF 1.07 mil²¹

Objective:

To provide a range of quality support services to in-country IFRC member societies with the aim of saving costs and improving efficiency.

Priority Actions:

1. Renew existing integrated and service agreements with respective in-country IFRC member societies.
2. Maintain and strengthen quality of services provided to in-country IFRC member societies by virtue of such agreements.

Risk management

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating steps
1. COVID-19 pandemic continues	Almost certain	Access to operational areas impeded; delays in programming or operation as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty of care to staff continues with various measures (PPE, regular disinfection of facilities, isolation protocols) • COVID-19 contingency plan in place • PMO Business Continuity Plan in place • Continued training of community volunteers who have already undertaken various sectoral activities independently during periods when access to the camps and host community areas was restricted.
2. Seasonal cyclones and monsoon, and other hazards including fire and floods	Almost certain	Loss of life/serious injury; loss and damage to shelters and other infrastructure, assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDRCS Emergency Operations Centre mechanism in place, in Cox's Bazar • Scenario-based Early Warning Early Action Plan (cyclones and other hazards) in place • Regular training of BDRCS volunteers and CPP volunteers in multi-hazard emergency preparedness and response • Install & regularly update firefighting equipment & fire safety plan in the camp facilities in particular & in other relevant places.

²¹ In the breakdown table in the early part of this document the secretariat services budget is incorporated within individual programme sector budgets.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating steps
3. Clashes/violence in camps	Likely	Delays to programming; damage to facilities/ assets in camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring and updates on camp situation; timely advisory to teams functioning in the field; effective civil-military liaison to remain updated on developments.
4. Social discord between displaced and host communities; accountability	Possible	Delays in programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced support for both displaced and host communities; robust community engagement and accountability (CEA) outreach; robust civil-military liaison work by IFRC to keep abreast of developments.
5. Crime (theft in camp facilities, in particular)	Possible	Loss /damage to valuables and assets; harm to personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular dissemination of security guidance (including via WhatsApp Security group) to staff and visitors on developing crime trends and the required prevention and response by staff and visitors; IFRC sites are assessed in compliance with IFRC Minimum Security Regulations; security/safety training for staff.
6. Militant attacks	Unlikely	Serious injury/death; disruption to project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFRC has a good internal and external information-sharing network; Critical Incident Management and Medical Emergencies plans are in place; timely information is shared with all staff and visitors on current or emerging threats via WhatsApp Security group and/or electronically disseminated Security Advisories including guidance in case of a complex attack.

The risks above are extracted from the PMO risk register which is regularly updated. Also revised recently were IFRC's PMO Business Continuity Plan and the COVID-19 Contingency Plan, with the focus on readiness for a dramatic worsening of the COVID-19 situation.

In reference to security in the camps in particular, IFRC's Security Manager serves as civil-military liaison, a role which is vital to keeping abreast of developments in the operational environment in the camp settlement and adjoining host community areas, as well as remaining on good terms with law enforcement actors.

Quality and accountability

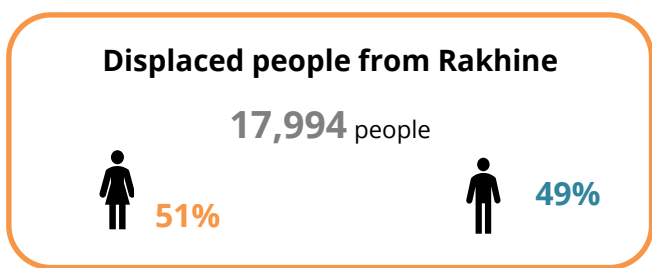
Efforts to ensure quality and accountability in this operation will continue to encompass a broad spectrum. This will include regular audits, programmatic and operational evaluations, and fulfilment of the BDRCS accountability plan of action. Emphasis will also be placed on rationalising resources according to need – this will be part of the shared vision among the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to consolidate, streamline and link common services or support that it currently provides.

Regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of programming will continue through a centralized data collection system (fed with data submitted by various partners) that is used to produce IFRC and Federation-wide products.

IFRC products include operations updates (serving as general reports for donors and other audiences) and pledge-based reports (serving as specific donor reports), as well as information management products such as the [IFRC Go page for PMO](#) which includes Federation-wide information. PMO Operations Update for the period July to Dec 2021 is scheduled to be published in early 2022, and thereafter, Operations Updates will cover the new phase of the PMO under the revised Emergency Appeal ending 31 Dec 2024. Federation-wide tools and products comprise Federation-wide situation reports and an annual report. IFRC M&E will be guided by an overarching implementation plan, while Federation-wide M&E will be guided by the existing One Window Framework (OWF) Plan of Action to be revisited and updated following the launching of the revised Emergency Appeal.

In reference to accountability to targeted communities, the cross-cutting approaches of CEA and PGI will continue to complement and strengthen sectoral programming. Other efforts include community perception surveys, adherence to guiding instruments such as the BDRCS Guideline on Community Feedback System for PMO, BDRCS deployment guidelines for community volunteers (comprising trained residents among displaced and host communities), the respective IFRC and BDRCS policies on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and the ISCG Standard Operating Procedure on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Complaints Referral in Cox’s Bazar.

Support for the displaced community on Bhashan Char island



In addition to the above support focused on Cox’s Bazar, support is also planned for the continuing humanitarian needs of the displaced community relocated from the camp settlement in Cox’s Bazar to Bhashan Char island. There are approximately 17,994 displaced individuals (4,316 families) on the island at present²² – this is to be viewed within the context of the Government of Bangladesh’s overall target to relocate up to 100,000 displaced individuals from Cox’s Bazar to the island, as part of efforts to reduce congestion in the camps²³. The displaced community currently on the island has been relocated by the authorities from Cox’s Bazar in six phases so far, beginning in December 2020.

In response to a request for support from the Government of Bangladesh in December 2020, BDRCS in its role as auxiliary to the public authorities in the provision of humanitarian services has been supporting the displaced community on Bhashan Char with a wide spectrum of support. BDRCS support is currently undertaken by a team of six personnel (1 field coordinator and 5 field officers) based on the island, and who closely coordinate their work with government authorities including the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Bangladesh Navy and other local organizations providing support on the island. The RRRC has allocated

²² BDRCS has been assisting the Bangladesh government with the registration of displaced individuals on the island.

²³ [Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Press Release, 4 dec 2020](#)

a four-storey building on the island for BDRCS. There is a possibility that the seventh phase of relocations from Cox's Bazar to Bhashan Char will occur in late 2021.

During a Red Cross Red Crescent Movement visit to the island, led by BDRCS, on 13 to 15 March 2021, it was observed that while the Government of Bangladesh has clearly made progress in reference to infrastructure development on the island, international and/or external support is needed to provide a broad range of essential humanitarian services for the relocated displaced people. Further, as the numbers of displaced people on the island continue to increase with more relocations, there has been an expectation on the part of the authorities and the local NGOs that international humanitarian actors will come forward to extend assistance. In this connection, it should be noted that very recently, on 9 October 2021, the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR (on behalf of UN agencies working on the population movement response in Bangladesh) entered into a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) which “establishes a common protection and policy framework” for the humanitarian response on the island.²⁴ The UN response will build upon and complement the humanitarian assistance so far provided by Bangladeshi NGOs on the island. On this note, BDRCS is well placed to meet humanitarian needs on the island, in continued and strict adherence to the Red Cross and Red Crescent position and that of the international humanitarian community i.e. the relocation of displaced people must be voluntary, with safety and dignity assured, in line with the protection and policy framework established in the MoU, as well as the *Protection Framework for Humanitarian Response* which frames the JRP 2021.

Needs

Needs (as identified during the March 2021 visit) are food security and livelihoods support, health and care including COVID-19 awareness and mitigation, WASH including solid waste management and environmental hygiene; disaster risk management, protection and wellbeing, restoring family links, and education. There are also concerns that the population on the island could become further isolated during the cyclone and monsoon seasons. Planned support should also factor in preparedness for periods when there is limited access to outside help.

With this in mind, the IFRC secretariat funding ask for the provision of support to the displaced community on Bhashan Char is CHF 6 million for the period 2022 to 2024, for the provision of BDRCS flagship services comprising **relief, disaster risk reduction, and health and care**, as well as livelihood and WASH programming, supported and complemented by protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) approaches. This support will be guided by the existing PMO Resilience Framework with the aim of ensuring the linkage and integration of every sector of support, so as to address the underlying vulnerabilities of the displaced people while helping to strengthen their resilience. In particular, livelihoods support will involve skills and vocational training, as well as capacity building initiatives, while WASH support will also be linked to livelihoods opportunities where possible. The emphasis on livelihoods support is linked to the aim to contribute towards helping the displaced people “better prepare for their sustainable reintegration in Myanmar when conditions allow for voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation”²⁵. Funding will also be utilised to cover support services.

²⁴ [Dhaka Tribune news article, 9 Oct 2021](#)

²⁵ [UN and Government of Bangladesh sign Memorandum of Understanding for Rohingya humanitarian response on Bhasan Char | United Nations in Bangladesh](#)

Note: interested donors can contribute to the Bhashan Char intervention through a separate project code.

 <p>Support for displaced community on Bhashan Char island</p>	Displaced community: 17,994 people ²⁶	CHF 6 mil
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Objective:

To enable the displaced community on the island to be disaster-ready and benefit from improved health

Priority Actions:

1 Relief distributions

- Distribute liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders with stoves; regular cylinder refills.
- Distribute blankets and sleeping mats.
- Provide technical and coordination support to government and other agencies in their relief distributions.

2 Disaster risk reduction support

- Strengthen existing disaster risk management (DRM), including early warning and early action systems linked with local or national meteorological systems structure across the island, in close coordination with local authorities and other humanitarian agencies including CPP and community volunteers.
- Develop contingency plans and improve them through regular simulation drills by engaging community disaster response teams.
- Develop and disseminate targeted messages to community volunteers, leaders (*majhi, imam*) to trigger community preparedness actions (integrated with PGI and CEA).
- Advance interventions on cyclones, tidal surges, water logging, droughts, cold wave preparedness, disaster risk reduction and emergency response and preparedness as part of the disaster risk management (DRM) structure across the island.
- Tree planting in close coordination with the Forest Department and local authority.

3 Health and care services

- Support the health system on the island through deployment of BDRCS medical health teams to address outpatient needs.
- Deploy emergency health mobile medical teams (MMT) to address immediate needs following a crisis (e.g. cholera/diarrhoea outbreak).
- Provide of Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) for the relocated community.
- First Aid training for relocated community and for other stakeholders (including government officials) on the island.
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) to the relocated community by strengthening services at government health facilities and through community outreach services via CBHFA (psychological first aid).
- Provide dead body burial support, including training to community volunteers and religious leaders (*imam*) on safe burial protocols.
- Mass awareness on COVID-19, social mobilization for vaccination campaign, and provision of volunteer assistance/coordination (with the Directorate General of Health Services) for vaccination campaign.
- CEA activities to promote community-based disease control and health promotion including vector control awareness-raising.

²⁶ The number of relocated people on Bhashan Char island as of 30 September 2021. This number is expected to increase in the coming months with new batches of relocations from the camp settlement to the island - the overall target of the Government of Bangladesh is to relocate 100,000 people. Accordingly, BDRCS support is projected to increase.

- Distribute mosquito nets.

4 Livelihood support

- Provide skills development opportunities including training and equipment/materials for most vulnerable individuals among the relocated community.
- Provide cash support, in close coordination with the authorities.

5 WASH support

- Provide environment-friendly, innovative sanitation management for the benefit of the people on the island (linked with the experience and learning from the Cox's Bazar camp settlement).
- Distribute hygiene kits and dignity kits, with top-up kits and the promotion of improved hygiene among the relocated community.
- Strengthen waste management across the island including provision of necessary awareness raising. This will include livelihoods opportunities, wherever possible.
- Develop a hygiene communication plan (including awareness on menstrual hygiene management) and build the capacity of community volunteers (among the displaced people) to implement the plan.

6 Protection and inclusion through community engagement

- Ensure comprehensive support to vulnerable people through effective systems that promote dignity, access, participation and safety.
- Complemented by protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) approaches.

7 Maintain and strengthen coordination among the government, aid agencies and other stakeholders for integrated response activities on the island

8 Security

- As per standards with all IFRC operations, Minimum Security Requirements will apply, and this will be enhanced through additional security plans. While IFRC security personnel visited the island in March 2021, area specific Security Risk Assessments will also be conducted prior to deployment of IFRC personnel either by visiting the island or through close coordination with the BDRCS Bhashan Char team, its Noakhali and Chattogram branches, law enforcement agencies (LEA), and ICRC and UN agencies. Risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. The IFRC security team will monitor the safety and security context and will update IFRC personnel regularly on the prevailing situation, security risks, as well as the required prevention and mitigation measures in case the situation deteriorates.
- Travel to Bhashan Char involves water transport. Depending upon the type of vessel, it may take one to four hours to reach there from mainland Noakhali. The cyclone season poses a higher risk and during this period, commercial water transport options are not available.
- Law Enforcement Agencies on Bhashan Char comprise Navy and Armed Police Battalion, as well as a regular police station.
- There have been sporadic incidents where the guest community was agitated due to lack of food/late delivery of food items.
- The absence of proper healthcare facilities and livelihood may result in agitation among the guest community people. The very nature of these needs is such that any sudden protest is quite likely.
- There is currently no emergency evacuation option available in Bhashan Char. Any kind of evacuation would require boat or air travel. However, the helipads in Bhashan Char (under responsibility of the Bangladesh Navy) can be used in coordination with the navy. An arrangement can be made with commercial 'medevac' providers in Bangladesh such as MAF, Square, etc. to provide such support.
- Fire services are available on Bhashan Char.
- Electricity is available via solar panels only. During rainy days, the lack of electricity can hamper the charging of mobile phones and as such, the channel of communication – this is because mobile communication is the only form of communication available on the island.

- All IFRC personnel, and other RCRC staff and BDRCS volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security. Staff and volunteers are required to keep abreast of the security situation and briefed on reactions in emergency, before deployment to the operational area.

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