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Final Report

Bangladesh: Cyclone YAAS

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRBD027
Date of Issue: 30 November 2021	Glide number: TC-2021-000058-BGD
Operation start date: 21 May 2021	Operation end date: 31 August 2021
Host National Society: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.	Operation budget: CHF 228,279
Number of people affected: 1.3 million people	Number of people assisted: 47,500 people
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Bangladesh (GoB), UN Resident Coordinator (RC) office, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs.	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The severe cyclonic storm 'YAAS' made landfall in India's West Bengal and Odisha coast on 26 May 2021 with a wind speed of 150 km/h. In the late evening, it crossed the west coast of Bangladesh. Cyclone YAAS occurred during the lunar eclipse, which caused abnormal 6-8 feet tidal waves across the coastal districts, namely Bhola, Patuakhali,



One of the community people of cyclone YAAS affected areas, she lost her house. Photo: BDRCS/IFRC

Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Barguna, Barisal and Pirojpur, resulting in breached embankments and inundation. Consequently, people in these areas were forced into temporary displacement or living in a marooned situation. According to the Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG) report dated 6 June 2021, the cyclonic event affected approximately 1.3 million people, damaged around 26,000 houses, 16,183 latrines and 1,986 water points in nine coastal districts. The most affected districts were Bhola, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Bagerhat, and Barguna. It is also estimated that the cyclone damaged 39 per cent of croplands and affected 3,599 hectares of prawn and pisciculture areas. Three deaths were reported by the Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS) and the health emergency operation centre (EoC).

Cyclone YAAS struck almost the same areas as Cyclone Amphan in 2020. These areas were still struggling when YAAS hit in the rainy season. Consecutive disasters impacted residents their entire lives, impeding their ability to recover. Frequent disasters in these coastal areas caused salinity intrusion and negatively affected livelihoods and agriculture sectors, forcing people to adopt negative coping mechanisms.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

Four preparatory meetings were organized on Cyclone YAAS, with active participation from BDRCS senior management and movement partners. BDRCS closely monitored the cyclone situation using various global and national forecasting models and shared the monitoring report (Synoptic Weather Analysis) with stakeholders, including in-country Movement partners and other non-movement partners. Subsequently, BDRCS updated its disaster contingency standard. The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of BDRCS participated in the preparatory meeting hosted by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).



BDRCS volunteers preparing dry food packages for the people affected by Cyclone YAAS. Photo: BDRCS/IFRC

Considering the forecast of Cyclone YAAS, BDRCS requested that IFRC mobilize the imminent DREF for implementing early actions to provide emergency relief assistance, such as food, water, health, and shelter. With this DREF, BDRCS allocated 9,500 family packages, which comprised dry food, ORS, face masks, drinking water, and soap, to the affected district branches - Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Satkhira, and Khulna.

With the national disaster response team (NDRT), volunteers and staff, relevant BDRCS branches distributed family packages among the 9,500 cyclone-affected households. The most vulnerable households also received 1,000 tarpaulins and 1,000 hygiene parcels. Additionally, the BDRCS reached 734 people with psychosocial support (PSS), 175 people with first-aid and 1,508 people with emergency health service through the mobile medical team. Also, BDRCS deployed national disaster WASH response team (NDWRT) members to install emergency latrines for the affected people. According to the revised operational strategy, BDRCS initiated coordination with respective district branches and relevant stakeholders to provide multipurpose cash assistance among 1,000 most affected households to meet their emergency needs for one month. At the same time, BDRCS coordinated with local authorities and affected communities to initiate the cash for work interventions.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Country Delegation (CD) in Bangladesh was in close coordination with BDRCS, Participating National Societies, and other relevant stakeholders. The forecast, possible impact, and preparedness measures for cyclone YAAS were updated regularly. Technical support was provided to BDRCS to take necessary readiness and early action measures like updating contingency stock and existing response capacity. The IFRC CD also alerted all their staff to provide necessary support as required.

Considering the Cyclone YAAS *forecast* and BDRCS request, the IFRC approved the DREF and allocated CHF 228,279 for emergency activities. These activities enabled the BDRCS to disseminate early warning awareness messages, support evacuation, distribute dry food, provide safe drinking water and distribute tarpaulins. The National Society could also offer technical orientation, distribute hygiene parcels, install portable handwashing facilities at the cyclone shelters and construct emergency latrine facilities for communal use. Mass awareness on COVID-19, first aid and psychosocial support and emergency health services through mobile medical teams could also be provided.

The in-country Participating National Societies (PNS) and ICRC closely monitored the situation and coordinated with BDRCS to prepare and respond to the adverse situation. The Movement Anticipatory Action team comprised BDRCS, IFRC, German Red Cross, American Red Cross, and the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Climate Centre started monitoring the disturbance detected by the Indian Meteorological Department. The team also observed the tropical disturbance detected by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and the Global Forecast System (GFS) model. The team shared technical weather synopsis regularly, which was also widely circulated with the inter-sectoral coordination group (ISCG) in Cox's Bazar as part of readiness activities. Multiple channels, like WhatsApp groups, were opened to circulate forecast analyses with partners and stakeholders, such as BDRCS, Cyclone Preparedness Protocol (CPP), MoDMR, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and ISCG to ensure timely coordination. The BDRCS organized the in-country Movement Forecast-based Action partners meetings on 19 and 20 May, where IFRC, RCRC Climate Centre, and in-country PNS, American Red Cross and German Red Cross took part. BDRCS, RCRC Climate Centre, and German Red Cross Forecast-based Financing (FbF) team in Bangladesh closely monitored the disturbance's pattern and provided necessary technical support to BDRCS. The American Red Cross, through its Forecast-based Action (FbA) under the coastal Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme of BDRCS, expanded their branch-level decentralized funding in the coastal districts based on the Tropical Cyclone Amphan experience.

Overview of non-Movement actors in country

The MoDMR coordinated all necessary preparatory actions with relevant district administrations for support from the government side. The BMD regularly updated Cyclone YAAS situation and changes in the weather. District administrations of all coastal districts made regular updates regarding devastations of Cyclone YAAS from concerned Upazilas/sub-districts. Local government representatives, administration, and the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) worked with the local people to minimize the embankment damage. As per the NAWG report on government allocations, BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) was allocated for fodder and BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) for baby food for each of the nine Upazilas of Khulna district; BDT 2 crore 15 lakh (CHF 238,000) for emergency support in Satkhira district; BDT 1 crore 33 lakh (CHF 147,000) and 357 metric ton of rice for emergency relief purposes in Barguna district. *The government of Bangladesh through the MoDMR allocated BDT 45 lakh to support the most vulnerable. Additionally, the government issued BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) for fodder and BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) for baby food for each of the six Upazilas of Barguna district. In Patuakhali district, The Government allocated BDT 2 crore 20 lakh (CHF 244,000) for emergency relief purposes.* Also, 24 Upazilas of 10 districts received 5,100 bundle sheets of tin as a metal roofing material and BDT 15,300,000 (CHF 170,000) as cash assistance for house repairs. The MoDMR distributed 16,500 packages of food in 27 Upazilas under the nine worst affected districts. The Government also sanctioned loans for agricultural and fish farmers at low interest rates.

The Shelter Cluster met its partners for a coordinated response and participated in two inter-cluster meetings on Cyclone YAAS and overcoming losses. The Shelter Cluster also prepared the 'Cyclone YAAS: light coordinated joint needs analysis report' by the NAWG. Information was collected on partner activities on Cyclone YAAS. IFRC also participated in the Displacement Cluster meeting on Cyclone YAAS.

Save the Children Bangladesh Country office initiated an 'Early Action for Cyclone project' at Patuakhali and Bagerhat district with Jago NARRI and JJS in 2021. At the preparedness stage, the project identified thresholds and triggered potential community and family level early actions. For Cyclone 'YAAS', the project demonstrated pre-selected early actions like people evacuation, re-excavation canal, partial repair of weak embankment and roads, prepared cyclone shelters and WASH points through activation of the 'Readiness Trigger' in Signal-1. Subsequently, 700 families received cash and hygiene kits, and 300 received shelter kits under the 'Activation Trigger' when the signal increased. *This was evidence that early actions saved lives and assets and mitigated potential community losses and damages, which helped people cope with disaster (source: NAWG).* The IFRC CD worked closely with the national NAWG and provided timely inputs and feedback to prepare the needs assessment report. The NAWG is the platform for government and non-government humanitarian agencies under Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT). *CARE Bangladesh hosts the secretariat of the Working Group under the "Supporting Bangladesh Rapid Needs Assessment (SUBARNA) II Project".*

Needs analysis and scenario planning

As a result of Cyclone YAAS, the low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Bangladesh, namely Bhola, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokati, Barguna, Barisal and Pirojpur, were severely affected. Total 10,015 houses were fully damaged, and 16,540 were partially damaged. Due to the rainy season, temporary shelter assistance was one of the priority needs, particularly for displaced families who lost their houses.

According to NAWG's Light Joint Needs Assessment report, over 39 per cent of cropland was damaged in the nine most affected districts. It was also reported that 3,599 hectares of prawn and pisciculture (*gher*) areas were impacted. People's livelihoods would be severely affected for years, as pisciculture (*ghers*), agricultural lands, and livestock and poultry were washed away. Small businesses were destroyed, and day laborers lost their jobs.

The drinking water points were submerged with saline water due to the breach of the embankments caused by high tide

and storm surges. As such, the rehabilitation of water points, tube wells and latrines were urgently needed. Separate WASH facilities for women, girls, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the cyclone shelter required construction to provide the best services to vulnerable people. In the affected districts, 16,183 latrines and 1,986 tube wells were damaged (Source: DPHE). There was a risk of increased communicable disease outbreaks (e.g., diarrhoea and skin diseases) due to polluted water, disrupted sanitation systems and salinity intrusion.

The impact of Cyclone YAAS was most felt in low-lying areas where people had still been struggling to recover from the devastation of Cyclone Amphan amid the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Risk Analysis

Apart from the difficulty of road access in the affected areas and increased health risks considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, water-borne diseases and vehicle accidents, there were no significant threats in Bangladesh that were direct risks to the operational activities. BDRCS practised field implementation guidelines that considered the current COVID-19 context to minimize risk. IFRC CD also updated its framework on ABC (actioning business continuity), which helped reduce the risk of sustaining critical humanitarian needs.

In addition, both BDRCS and IFRC has a 'Zero Tolerance' policy against corruption, discrimination against gender or race, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and bullying. As a mitigating measure of the above risks, staff members/volunteers have been oriented accordingly on IFRC policies and guidelines.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

The overall objective of this DREF operation was to assist 47,500 people affected by the cyclone through the provision of emergency food, drinking water, MPCG, sanitation, health, shelter, and cash for work support.

Proposed strategy

Cyclone YAAS did not directly make landfall in Bangladesh as forecasted earlier when the imminent DREF was requested. Nevertheless, tidal waves across the coastal districts resulted in breached embankments and inundation that displaced or marooned numerous people. The operation strategy revolved around key activities to reach 47,500 people in the seven most affected districts, namely Bhola, Patuakhali, Sathkira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Barguna and Pirojpur in coordination with government and other stakeholders:

- Supported the mobilization of BDRCS volunteers, NDRT, NDWRT members, staff and conducted assessments to provide emergency assistance.
- Based on the disaster impact and priority needs of the affected communities in terms of food, WASH, shelter, and health, BDRCS increased the target (number of people) from 20,000 to 47,500 people provided with emergency food, water, ORS, face mask, etc.
- Provided affected people with emergency health services through mobile medical teams, first aid services and psychological first aid (PFA).
- The BDRCS targeted to reach 1,000 affected households with MPCG assistance and another 200 households through cash for work modality.

Communication

The communication team of the IFRC CD and BDRCS, in close coordination with the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) communication unit, maintained a steady flow of information and communication between operations in the field and major stakeholders, including media, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, and donors. Information on BDRCS, IFRC, and Movement partners' actions was shared via social media and national and international newspapers. The principal aim was to ensure that this humanitarian response was professionally communicated, and was understood, and supported by the stakeholders.

Since the forecast period of the cyclone, the preparedness activities and actions taken by BDRCS, CPP, and the partners were communicated externally. A press release was issued, covered by various Bangladeshi and international media, including [Al Jazeera](#), Reuters, Agence France Presse (AFP), and [Dhaka Tribune](#). Regular updates were provided to external audiences through the official Facebook and Twitter accounts of IFRC and BDRCS. The activities were widely covered by different Bengali newspapers as well.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

The CEA team of BDRCS, along with the IFRC, was continuously in touch with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) platform to disseminate the lifesaving messages in line with the COVID-19 context. Furthermore, BDRCS, through its social media, took steps to raise awareness in terms of 'dos' and 'don'ts' through social media. More than 238,500 people were reached. With support from the IFRC and American Red Cross, BDRCS engaged with CPP and MoDMR on updating the cyclone early warning protocol and messages for cyclone-prone areas considering the

COVID-19 pandemic situation. Based on the updated messages, BDRCS, jointly with CPP, organized a Facebook live event, '*Cyclone preparedness amid COVID-19 and things need to follow*' in May 2021. During the live event, more than 100 viewers joined and overall, more than 21,500 people were reached. Different questions related to COVID-19 and cyclone preparedness were answered by the panel of BDRCS' Deputy Secretary General, Director of CPP, and a DRR expert. During the event, the IFRC health officer addressed technical questions, and two volunteers from the field shared their experience during Cyclone Amphan in 2020.

Lifesaving messages before, during and after the cyclone was shared by BDRCS through its social media platforms. The same was shared with the RCCE platform for broader dissemination. BDRCS was ready to share the evacuation message via short message service (SMS) with the support of the RCCE platform through mobile networks, especially targeting the population at the coastal belt. However, since the cyclone signal was not raised further and the government did not give the official evacuation order, this was not executed. Nevertheless, the hotline number and feedback email (feedback@bdracs.org) of BDRCS were shared widely. Through these, BDRCS responded to the information request of 17 people about humanitarian assistance in cyclone-prone areas. At the distribution sites, volunteers engaged with the affected people through information desks and face-to-face communication. Questions/topics included targeting criteria, available support types, and possibilities for additional support, etc. NDRTs deployed received sensitization on the CEA and worked closely with the operation team on the ground. BDRCS deployed a dedicated NDRT focusing on CEA aspects of the operation to support the cash distribution.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Many people were displaced and took temporary shelter on embankments, open places (mostly highlands), cyclone shelters, and other houses. Women, girls, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) were more vulnerable, facing protection and safety issues due to the higher potential risk of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse, exploitations, and distress. Children separated from their families may be trafficked. Since households were damaged and minimum incomes were lost, families may adopt negative coping strategies. These could include borrowing money with a high interest rate, marrying off children at an early age, selling livestock at low prices and further exposure to vulnerabilities.

The critical needs of affected people, particularly women, girls, children, lactating women, pregnant women, senior citizens, and PWDs were prioritized for humanitarian assistance like food packages, hygiene parcels, and water. Trained volunteers and NDRT members conducted door-to-door household assessments. These groups were also given priority in the assessment for cash support. Apart from that, BDRCS developed and disseminated key lifesaving awareness messages on child protection, gender-based violence, and trafficking intended to reduce and mitigate SGBV, child abuse, and negative coping strategies. PGI considerations were mainstreamed into all the sectoral interventions of this DREF operation. The hygiene kit included ten sanitary pads for immediate need. At distribution sites, separate lines were maintained for males and females. Priority lines were also maintained for PWDs, the elderly, lactating women and parents with children.

Logistics and supply chain management

The initial household items like tarpaulins, hygiene parcels were dispatched from BDRCS pre-positioning stocks right after Cyclone YAAS made landfall, which allowed BDRCS to meet the immediate needs of the affected areas. Accordingly, the IFRC CD procured and replenished 1,000 packages of hygiene parcels through local procurement and 1,000 tarpaulins through the IFRC Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management unit in the Asia Pacific Regional Office (GHS&SCM-AP).

The IFRC CD and the BDRCS always maintained the required coordination with the National Logistics Cluster. They share operational information, the immediate response plan, updates to the targeted areas, problem/benefits, necessary support, relief import issues, customs clearance, and duty exemptions issues. For fleet support, IFRC CD logistics and procurement department accommodated the operational requirements within the existing capacity of the Vehicle Rental Programme (VRP) vehicles.

Emergency dry food, water, soaps and face masks were procured locally following the BDRCS and IFRC procurement process and these items complied with the minimum quality requirement of the government. For providing cash assistance, IFRC's framework agreement with the financial service provider was used to reach people with cash assistance. This framework agreement was concluded following the IFRC procurement process.

Human resources

The BDRCS utilized its existing staff, NDRT, NDWRT and volunteers for the response operation. To complete the DREF operation within the timeline, BDRCS mobilized 14 NDRT members, more than 200 volunteers and three mobile medical teams to provide emergency support.

IFRC staff in Bangladesh CD assisted BDRCS with the necessary support, such as planning, coordination, information management, need assessment, and technical support for operational management. Surge support was not deployed for the operation.

Information Technology and Information Management

Besides general IT systems maintenance and solutions, the IT and IM team provided technical support to develop assessment tools using the KoBo collect mobile application and train NDRT members in information collection to ensure data security. The IM team and programme personnel analyzed data to prepare a preliminary beneficiary list and provided information about SADDD.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

With the support of BDRCS staff and NDRT members and local volunteers, the operation team carried out periodic monitoring through regular data collection. BDRCS issued three situation reports and disseminated them widely through email. The IFRC's GO platform was also updated by the operation team. A lesson learned workshop was organized and captured lessons learned and best practices. A final report was also issued within three months after the operation ended. The lessons were elaborated per sector in the detailed operational report section.

Administration and Finance

The BDRCS and the IFRC finance and administration team provided necessary support to the operation as requested by the operation team. This included support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to BDRCS on procedures justifying expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

Security

Since the commencement of the operation, IFRC security closely monitored the security situation of operational locations and responded and communicated with all concerned accordingly. There was no major security issue except the difficulty to work with COVID-19 restrictions as well as road access to some affected communities as tidal water entered into the low-lying areas of coastal districts. However, to ensure the safety and security of the RCRC personnel, a movement monitoring system was in place for all field travels and security advisories were disseminated, including imposing temporary restrictions as appropriate. Safety and security alerts were also sent timely via WhatsApp messages.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 5,000

Male: 2,483

Female: 2,517

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements assistance	5,000	5,000
# of households provided with emergency shelter items to have a space that meets the minimum living conditions	1,000	1,000
# of awareness-raising training on safe local building techniques to local builders and/or volunteers and staff	3	4

Narrative description of achievements



Orientation conducted on fixing techniques of tarpaulins before the distribution (L) and one of the affected people on his way after receiving the tarpaulin and other items (R) in Bhola. Photo: BDRCS/IFRC

To meet the emergency shelter needs of the affected communities, BDRCS immediately mobilized 1,000 pieces of tarpaulins from its existing contingency disaster preparedness stock to reach 1,000 affected households. The BDRCS also mobilized its volunteers and staff to assess the community's affected households and targeted them based on shelter damage severity and other vulnerabilities.

During the distribution, BDRCS also organized awareness sessions regarding the safe fixing technique of tarpaulin with available local construction materials. These sessions helped targeted households construct their makeshift shelters. From post-distribution monitoring, the targeted people used these tarpaulins to cover the roof of their makeshift shelters.

Challenges

The number of people supported in affected areas was comparatively less than the actual number of affected people in need, especially for emergency shelter support. Nevertheless, BDRCS prioritized the vulnerable groups who needed the most emergency shelter support.

Lessons Learned

It was found that some of the targeted households are still struggling to manage resources to reconstruct their damaged houses. Based on field findings, the shelter cluster initiated to revise the guidelines and standards. It is recommended to provide conditional cash assistance along with tarpaulins as emergency shelter assistance.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of targeted people that have emergency food to meet their survival threshold	100%	100%
# of people reached with food assistance	47,500	47,500
# of households assisted through cash for work	200	200
# of households reached with MPCG	1,000	1,000

Narrative description of achievements

Under the DREF operation, BDRCS reached 9,500 households (47,500 people) with dry food packages during the immediate response period in seven affected districts, namely Khulna, Satkhira, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna and Pirojpur. Each of the households received 2.5 kg of flattened rice, one kg sugar, 800 gm energy biscuits (*ten* packets) along with drinking water, soap, oral saline, and facial masks.

The BDRCS respective district branches, with volunteers and deployed NDRT members, conducted a rapid household assessment to identify the most affected households. At the same time, district branches procured required dry food items and arranged local transport for quick delivery.

As the impact on livelihoods was significant, a cash for work and multipurpose cash grant assistance component was included. Under the cash for work, 200 household representatives participated in 20 days to repair the damaged earthen roads in Barguna and Patuakhali districts. Each of the households received BDT 8,000 (CHF 84) after completing the twenty days' work.



Cash for work activities in Barguna, Photo: BDRCS.

Through the MPCG assistance, BDRCS reached a total of 1,000 most affected households in Barguna (400 HH), Patuakhali (400 HH) and Bagerhat (200HH) through the electronic money transfer services (EMTS) of the Bangladesh Post Office. Each of these targeted households received BDT 4,500 (CHF 47) to meet the emergency need of one month. *Training volunteers and NDRT members conducted a detailed household assessment using the KoBoCollect (mobile application) to identify the targeted households.* Priority had been given to the displaced people in the affected areas. In addition, vulnerable groups like elderly persons, children including adolescents, marginal income farmers, female-headed households, lactating mothers, and people with disabilities were prioritized for support.

According to the post-distribution monitoring, *the targeted households utilized MPCG to purchase emergency food, repair their houses, and for medical purposes.*



Distribution of multipurpose cash grants in Barguna (L) and Bagerhat (R) to affected people. Photo: BDRCS

Challenges

During the immediate response, difficulties were faced in procuring relief items locally as the suppliers were preferring cash instead of bank cheques used by BDRCS. However, BDRCS was able reach agreement with the suppliers based on BDRCS procurement process and get the required relief items from local markets.

The implementation of cash for work scheme was challenging and delayed due to rain in the targeted areas. With the support of local government, unit volunteers and executive members, BDRCS was able to complete the cash for work scheme within the operation time frame. Through this cash for work initiative damaged earthen roads were repaired, which enhanced the road communication withing the targeted communities. At the same time through these cash work scheme initiative, total 200 households got the opportunity to work for 20 days when there was limited scope for them to work.

Lessons Learned

BDRCS reached very hard to reach locations with humanitarian assistance, and the affected community people appreciated the overall beneficiary selection process using the mobile-based application. It is recommended to replicate a similar beneficiary selection process in future operations.

During this operation, BDRCS received cooperation from community people, UDMC, local leaders and government officials to implement the planned activities. It was recommended that similar coordination and consultation with concerned stakeholders in future operations are ensured. Based on the lessons learned workshop, it was also recommended to implement a cash for work scheme during the dry season, as the team experienced difficulties to continue cash for work during the rainy season.



Health

People reached: 47,500
Male: 23,584
Female: 23,916

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with clinical health care services during emergencies	500	2,208
# of people reached by first aid services	100	175

# of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities.	47,500	47,500
# of people reached by psychosocial support	100	734

Narrative description of achievements

The BDRCS deployed three mobile medical teams (MMTs) and first aider volunteers to support the vulnerable community reduce immediate risks to the health. The BDRCS provided emergency health service to 2,208 people through the MMTs and first aid service to 175 people. Along with the disaster, addressing the COVID-19 context in the country was prioritized, and access to personal protection equipment (PPE) like adequate face masks for the most vulnerable people and the staff and volunteers was ensured. BDRCS provided some 95,000 facemasks and 47,500 ORS among the 9,500 affected households. The health team also conducted mass awareness on COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. To lessen the psychological impacts of and after the disaster, the BDRCS health team reached 56 individuals through the psychosocial support call centre, including BDRCS' staff, volunteers, and affected people. The National Society reached 678 patients with psychological first aid (PFA) through MMTs in Satkhira, Patuakhali and Barguna districts. Besides that, BDRCS also oriented MMT members on PFA, including three doctors and three paramedics. During the orientation, BDRCS covered the sessions on understanding crises and reactions, stress management, critical management, self-care, etc.

Psychological first aid is a method of helping people in distress so they feel calm and supported in coping with their challenges. It is a way of assisting someone to manage their situation and make informed decisions. The basis of psychological first aid is caring about the person in distress. It involves paying attention to the person's reactions, active listening, and, if needed, providing practical assistance, such as problem-solving or helping to access basic needs.



Deployed medical teams are providing free medical assistances in the affected areas in Barguna (L) and Bagerhat (R) districts. Photo-BDRCS.

Challenges

Since many patients were seeking treatment from mobile medical teams (MMT), it was challenging to provide health service initially, based on the community needs. The BDRCS was able to deploy three MMT with the available resources. When needs were higher, BDRCS referred critical cases to nearby health facilities. Due to remoteness and limited accessibility, MMT faced difficulties while travelling to these most vulnerable communities.

Lessons Learned

It is recommended to increase the number of MMT and extend the deployment duration based on community needs. In addition to that, the BDRCS health team should continue its advocacy and coordination with government and non-government health service providers to address the emergency health needs.

The PPE provision among the targeted people, volunteers, and staff helped BDRCS continue its emergency relief support.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with WASH services	47,500	47,500
# of people have access to safe drinking water	47,500	47,500
# of emergency latrines constructed	100	100
# of people have access to emergency latrine facilities	2,000	2,480
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	5,000	5,000
# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items	1,000	1,000

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS distributed 38,000 litres of safe drinking water and 19,000 handwashing soaps among 9,500 households. BDRCS locally procured 19,000 pieces of 2-litre PET (polyethene terephthalate) bottle of drinking water (mobilization of the water treatment plant was not a feasible option due to saline water intrusion) and 19,000 pieces of handwashing soap. In addition, BDRCS immediately mobilized 1,000 sets of hygiene parcels from its disaster preparedness stock and distributed them to 1,000 most vulnerable households.



Dissemination of hygiene messages and briefing about the items in the hygiene parcel before distribution in Pirojpur (L); One of the beneficiaries receiving a hygiene parcel in Bhola (R) (Photos: BDRCS/IFRC)

Each of these hygiene parcels consisted of bathing soap (12 pieces), laundry soap (eight pieces), sanitary pad (one pack), toilet paper (five rolls), toilet brush (one piece), nail cutter (one piece), toothpaste (two pieces), toothbrush (five pieces), hand washing liquid soap with dispenser (one piece) along with refill packages (two pieces), hair oil (one bottle), comb (one piece) and towel (one piece).

Before the distribution, the volunteers oriented the targeted households *on using* each item in the hygiene parcels and conducted an awareness session on hygiene practice. During the awareness sessions, the trained volunteers disseminated information regarding proper handwashing, cleaning teeth, keeping the latrine clean, etc. Form the post-distribution monitoring, *the targeted people utilized* the hygiene parcel items according to their needs. They were satisfied with the quality of hygiene items, and these items full filled their hygiene needs for more than one month.

BDRCS mobilized their trained staff and NDWRT members in three districts, namely Sathkira, Barguna and Patuakhali, to construct emergency communal latrines targeting the displaced people *living near* the cyclone shelter, road and embankment. *In three districts, one hundred latrines were installed in coordination with the affected communities, local authorities, and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).* Once the emergency need was over, BDRCS handed over these latrines among individual households.

As there was no mass evacuation at the cyclone shelter, the installation of the handwashing station was cancelled.

Name of Unit	# of latrines	# families reached	Total no. of people reached
Sathkira	30	150	750
Barguna	30	150	755
Patuakhali	40	195	975
Total	100	495	2,480



Construction of a communal latrine (L); An owner standing by her newly installed latrine (R) (Photos: BDRCS)

Challenges

- There was lack of sufficient human resources to install latrines locally. To overcome this challenge, BDRCS engaged skilled persons from the nearby communities. The BDRCS also mobilized trained volunteers to install these latrines.
- Due to remoteness and poor road communication, it was difficult to transport construction materials to the construction site.

Lessons Learned

As hygiene parcels were mobilized from existing disaster preparedness stock, the emergency response was on time. Later IFRC Bangladesh delegation procured and replenished these hygiene parcels through this operation. Based on preparedness for effective response (PER) assessment, BDRCS is planning to increase its disaster preparedness stock up to 10,000 households, in view of the current disaster trend.

It is recommended to increase the WASH response capacity (including emergency latrine installation) of local units through organizing NDWRT training for volunteers and staff.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

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

Narrative description of achievements

In addition to the volunteers and staff of respective branches, BDRCS mobilized 14 NDRT to assist local branches to provide humanitarian assistance following the minimum standard of PGI in emergencies. These NDRT members received orientation on Dignity, Access, Participation and safety (DAPS), Code of Conduct, child protection policy and PSEA during NDRT training. These NDRT members guided and supported respective branches to ensure sitting arrangement, separate toilets for men and women, childcare corner, safe drinking water facilities etc. BDRCS prioritized the most vulnerable groups like elderly persons, children including adolescents, marginal income farmers, female-headed households, lactating mothers, and PWDs.

BDRCS provided MPCG assistance among the most vulnerable households through conducting household details assessment to meet the diversified needs of the affected people in a dignified manner. Sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) identified the vulnerable people. BDRCS also provided additional cash support to people

with special needs as a PWD allowance among 50 HHs. All of this cash assistance had been provided through the financial service provider, the Bangladesh Post Office (BPO).

To adapt to the COVID-19 situation, lifesaving and awareness messages on child protection, SGBV and negative coping strategies were disseminated through social media and IEC materials were developed and distributed in the affected areas.

Challenges

Amid to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training on protection gender inclusion (PGI) and gender and diversity sessions could not be physically organized. By following the COVID-19 guidelines and security instructions, BDRCS and IFRC staff visited the affected areas, and dedicated and trained RCY volunteers were engaged to accomplish PGI activities.

Lessons Learned

It is recommended that local capacity in terms of PGI and CEA related activities should be further enhanced.

The collection of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) was beneficial for identifying vulnerable people. BDRCS will continue to collect SADDD information in future operations as well.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people supported with cyclone preparedness and mitigation	2 million	47,500
# of people reached with early warning campaigns	2 million	47,500
# of people assisted through evacuation	20,000	0

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS FbA team, with the support of the German Red Cross and RCRC Climate Centre, started monitoring the disturbance detected by Indian Meteorological Department right after Cyclone Tauktae made landfall in India on 17 May 2021. The FbA team regularly observed the tropical disturbance detected by the ECMWF, GFS model and shared technical weather synopsis, which was widely circulated with internal and external partners as part of readiness activities. Multiple channels, like WhatsApp groups, were opened to circulate forecast analyses with partners and stakeholders like BDRCS, CPP, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MODMR), BMD, ISCG, etc ensure timely coordination.

Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of BDRCS participated in the preparatory meeting of the MoDMR regarding preparation for Cyclone YAAS. Alert messages had been disseminated in all 13 coastal districts since 18 May 2021, and branches of the coastal districts had taken preparation based on periodic coordination meetings.

BDRCS, CPP, IFRC and the American Red Cross worked together to customize the national CPP and cyclone early warning messages in line with the COVID-19 situation and based on the experience of Cyclone Amphan in 2020. A virtual orientation was organized for CPP and BDRCS volunteers and staff from the coastal belt as part of the cyclone season readiness activity.

In Cox's Bazar, under the DRR initiatives of [Population Movement Operation Emergency Appeal](#), BDRCS, with support from the IFRC and American Red Cross, revised the camp-settlement context Early Warning Early Action (EW-EA) protocol to ensure proper and timely coordination between CPP, Refugee Relief Repartition Commission (RRRC), site management agencies, and other stakeholders. A preparation meeting was held on 20 May among BDRCS, American Red Cross and IFRC Disaster Risk reduction (DRR) team to see the preparedness level *and* take the necessary arrangement for emergency management. A total of 12 camps were reached with orientation on cyclone preparedness procedures in coordination with CPP camp focal and consultation with CiCs and respective site management support (SMS) agencies in camps before the cyclone YAAS landfall. Virtual meetings were held with Disaster Management Committees of different camps *to be* involved with the EW-EA process. Host disaster management committee (DMC) members were provided with health PPE. BDRCS ensured regular communications with the camp focal, CPP supervisor and Communication with Community (CwC), ISCG and UN agencies.

Around 18,500 people (approximately 4,600 families) who fled violence in the Rakhine state of Myanmar and took shelter in Cox's Bazar camps were relocated to Bhashan Char island by April 2021. Though it was uncertain about the

possible path of the cyclone, the BDRCS team in Bhashan Char was also closely coordinating with the RRRC and Bangladesh Navy representatives and other agencies on the island. Unlike the camp settlement, there were 120 well-constructed three-storied shelters available at the island, where people could take cover during a cyclone. Based on the "danger" signal, the BDRCS team prepared people to evacuate to the shelters.

Later based on the more accurate forecast, it was anticipated that there was a minimal possibility that Cyclone YAAS would make landfall directly in Bangladesh. However, as the Cyclone YAAS was coinciding with the full moon, a higher tidal surge across the coastal belt area was anticipated and people were alerted accordingly. As a result, there was no official instruction from the government for mass evacuation to protect people from the direct impact of Cyclone YAAS.

BDRCS reached approximately 200 households under the cash for work scheme (detailed in the livelihoods section). The cash for work scheme was selected in consultation with local government and targeted communities. Through this initiative, the affected people benefited from a livelihood opportunity. The initiative also contributed to the DRR of the targeted communities. The concerned local government engineering department provided the overall technical and monitoring support.

Lessons Learned

The cyclone did not directly hit Bangladesh with high wind speed. However, due to storm surges, there was significant impact in coastal areas. The Government and metrological department, BDRCS and other relevant stakeholders have been working to include storm surge in forecasts to alert coastal people.

Strengthen National Society

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS branches that are well functioning in the operation	7	7
# of NDRT/NDWRT/volunteers/staffs mobilized	100	250

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS mobilized more than 200 volunteers, 14 NDRT members, three NDWRT members, and engaged more than 35 staff for Cyclone YAAS response during the reporting period. Before deploying NDRTs, NDWRTs and volunteers, BDRCS organized an orientation on relevant subjects such as code of conduct, fraud and corruption prevention, safety and security, PGI, CEA with the support of concerned colleagues from BDRCS and IFRC.

Meanwhile, the BDRCS CEA team and IFRC were continuously in touch with the RCCE platform to disseminate the lifesaving messages in line with the COVID-19 contexts. On top of that, the hotline number and feedback email (feedback@bdracs.org) of BDRCS were shared widely. Through these, BDRCS responded to the information request of 17 people about humanitarian assistance in cyclone-prone areas. At the distribution sites, volunteers engaged the people through information desks and face-to-face communication and addressed different questions of the affected people. Questions/topics included targeting criteria, available support types, possibilities for additional support, etc. NDRTs deployed received sensitization on the CEA and worked closely with the operation team on the ground.

BDRCS responded in seven districts, and all these district branches functioned well and responded with trained volunteers, executive members in coordination with local authorities and relevant stakeholders.

Challenges

All these seven responding units were very busy with the vaccination programme, ambulance service, providing oxygen support for COVID-19 patients and other humanitarian assistance under the COVID-19 operation while implementing cyclone Yaas operation. As a result, human resources of concern units were stressed and BDRCS deployed additional NDRT, NDWRT members to complete the cyclone Yaas operation within the timeframe

Lessons Learned

It is recommended to have a separate dedicated team both in BDRCS national headquarters and unit office to implement the multiple operations simultaneously.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable</i>	Yes	Yes
# of assessment done for needs, capacities and gaps	1	1
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

BDRCS and IFRC actively communicated and coordinated with the public authorities, national government, and other stakeholders like UN agencies, INGOs, donors etc., through HCTT, cluster, and working group meetings. Both BDRCS and IFRC actively engaged with the need assessment working group to assess the priority needs and gaps of the cyclone-affected communities.

Under this DREF operation, BDRCS organized a lesson learned workshop (LLW) in Khulna after completing all the planned activities in the field and national headquarters level. The BDRCS senior management, namely BDRCS's Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, the managing board members, staffs, volunteers, IFRC, British Red Cross, American Red Cross, CPP, Community's representatives and RC unit's representatives of coastal districts actively participated in the lesson learn workshop (LLW).



BDRCS conducted a Lesson Learned Workshop (LLW) in Khulna on TC YAAS DREF operation. Photo-IFRC

Challenges

Though cyclone YAAS did not directly make landfall in Bangladesh as forecasted earlier, tidal waves across the coastal districts resulted in broken embankments in many places and inundation, which forced people into temporary displacement or living in a marooned situation. Considering the significant impact on food and livelihood and based on the priority needs of affected people, BDRCS revised the operational strategy to reach 1,000 affected households with appropriate cash assistance.

Lessons Learned

The *critical* lessons learned were captured through *the* workshop and reported in the sectoral section of this report. BDRCS will design the future operation considering the lessons learned from this operation.

Effective, credible, and accountable IFRC

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC extends appropriate technical support	Yes	Yes
% of compliance with IFRC HR procedures	100%	100%

Narrative description of achievements

Since the beginning of this operation, the IFRC staff supported BDRCS by maintaining close coordination with BDRCS counterparts, IFRC APRO counterparts and in-country PNSs. At the same time, support services such as logistics, finance, resource mobilization, communication, PGI, reporting, planning, monitoring and security were provided by IFRC staff.

D. Financial Report

A total of CHF 228,279 was allocated for BDRCS to assist 47,500 people affected by the cyclone. Funds were utilized to provide emergency food, drinking water, MPCG, sanitation, health, shelter, and cash for work support. The total expenditure recorded at the end of the operation was CHF 199,905 (87.5 per cent of the budget), leaving a balance of CHF 28,374. The cyclone YAAS did not directly make landfall in Bangladesh as forecasted earlier when the imminent

DREF was requested; as a result, some early actions like mass evacuation, providing transportation and handwashing stations etc. were not implemented. The balance of funds will be returned to the DREF pool. For further details on expenditure, please refer to [the attached final financial report](#).

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

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

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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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.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/05-2021/10	Operation	MDRBD027
Budget Timeframe	2021/05-2021/10	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 18/Nov/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBD027 - Bangladesh - Impending Cyclone

Operating Timeframe: 21 May 2021 to 31 Aug 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	228,279
DREF Allocations	228,279
Expenditure	-199,905
Closing Balance	28,374

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	16,710	19,494	-2,784
AOF2 - Shelter	19,495	11,491	8,003
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	59,131	133,006	-73,875
AOF4 - Health	35,080	4,336	30,744
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	38,321	5,909	32,412
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	2,228		2,228
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	170,964	174,236	-3,272
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	50,185	25,669	24,516
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management			0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	7,130		7,130
Strategy for implementation Total	57,315	25,669	31,646
Grand Total	228,279	199,905	28,374

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/05-2021/10	Operation	MDRBD027
Budget Timeframe	2021/05-2021/10	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 18/Nov/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBD027 - Bangladesh - Impending Cyclone

Operating Timeframe: 21 May 2021 to 31 Aug 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	131,765	173,596	-41,831
Shelter - Relief	13,598	10,790	2,808
Food	51,254	63,358	-12,104
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	35,982	22,130	13,852
Medical & First Aid	24,571	3,033	21,537
Other Supplies & Services	4,268		4,268
Cash Disbursement	2,092	74,285	-72,193
Logistics, Transport & Storage	24,633	9,713	14,920
Storage		1,123	-1,123
Distribution & Monitoring	2,510	7,511	-5,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	17,416	287	17,129
Logistics Services	4,707	792	3,915
Personnel	17,782		17,782
National Society Staff	4,184		4,184
Volunteers	13,598		13,598
Workshops & Training	8,368	2,057	6,311
Workshops & Training	8,368	2,057	6,311
General Expenditure	31,798	2,338	29,460
Travel	6,694		6,694
Information & Public Relations	8,368	1,692	6,676
Office Costs	1,046	71	975
Communications	15,690		15,690
Financial Charges		576	-576
Indirect Costs	13,933	12,201	1,732
Programme & Services Support Recover	13,933	12,201	1,732
Grand Total	228,279	199,905	28,374