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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Bangladesh: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRBD014	Glide n° FL-2014-000117-BGD
For Emergency Appeal: 12 September 2014	Expected timeframe: 12 months Expected end date: 20 August 2015
Appeal budget: CHF 2,206,628 DREF allocated: CHF 280,160	
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Total number of people affected: 3 million	Number of people to be assisted: 97,350 (19,470 families)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 165 volunteers and 24 BDRCS and IFRC staff mobilized so far in 20 districts	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Bangladesh, UN Agencies, INGOs	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

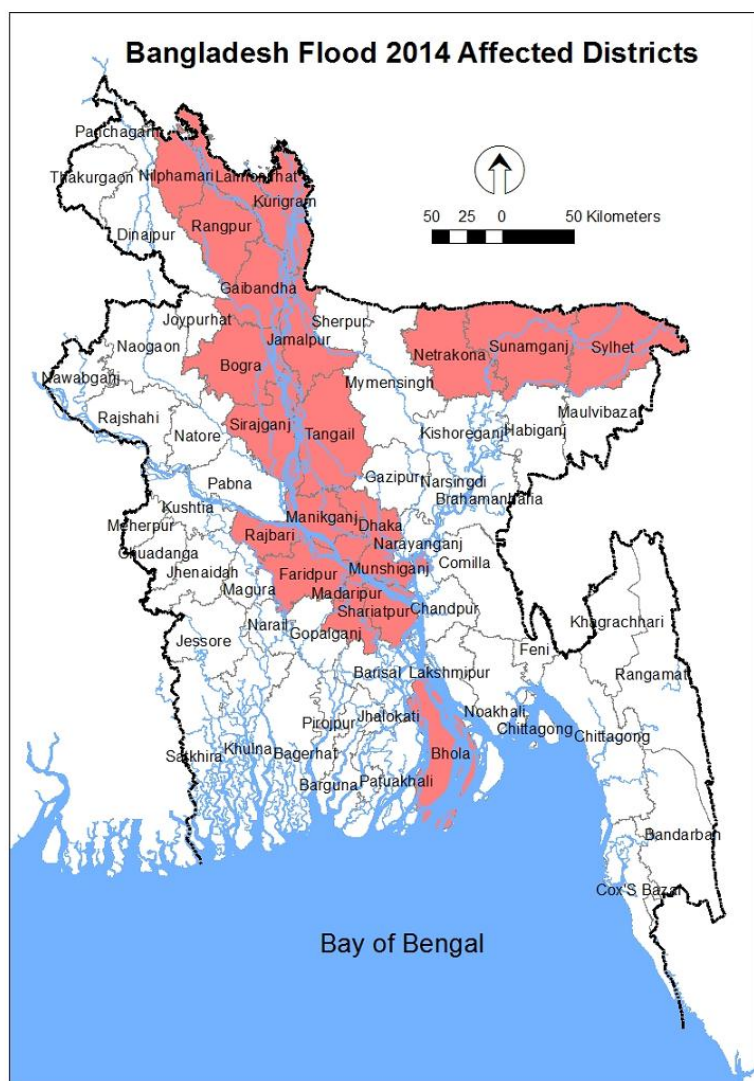
Since the second week of August, heavy rains in the main river basins and upstream catchments of India, along with continuous rainfall in northwest and north-eastern parts of Bangladesh have caused severe flooding in low-lying districts in several parts of Bangladesh, affecting 3 million people. Districts in the north-west of the country have been heavily impacted which triggered a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) to be carried out in 9 districts by members of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT). Situation reports from the Disaster Management Information Centre (DMIC) and reports from BDRCS' local units as well as other NGOs brought attention to the seriousness of flooding in those districts clustered around the north-west (Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Serajganj, Jamalpur, Sherpur).

In the following week, with the continuation of heavy rainfall and many rivers flowing above



Pictures showing the flood situation in the north-eastern districts
(Photo: BDRCS)

peak levels, the number of districts hit by floods increased as new areas were inundated. Sunamganj, Sylhet and Netrokona in the North-east of the country and districts in the center of the country (Munshiganj, Tangail, Faridpur, Manikganj, Rajbari) were affected by the floods. Due to the collapse of embankments on the night of 28 August, 100 more villages (approx. 100,000 families) were inundated. In total 20 districts are or have been affected by flooding in the past three weeks. Previously in the monsoon season, normally starts in June, districts in the South (Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna) experienced various levels of flooding since July and districts such as Feni and Chittagong had been waterlogged around the same time for several days due to heavy rains.



Districts in the south, namely Bhola, have been suffering from waterlogging (blocked rivers and waterways) since the end of July. A light JNA was done and published on August 13. The situation has started to improve, but many people are still affected.

DMIC situation report issued on 9 September shows that close to 630,000 families (3 million people) are affected, of which more than 68,000 families (320,000 people) are displaced, including close to 34,000 families (160,000 people) whose homes have been totally inundated and destroyed. A total of 99 official floods shelters are active in the affected districts, housing around 15,000 displaced people while others have settled in along elevated roads and with host families. Government reports indicate that 59 people have drowned and more than 440 have been injured as a result of the flooding, based on data from ten districts only.

Summary of the situation (source: DMIC, 10 September)

Districts affected	20
People affected	2,992,159
Dead	59
Injured	447
Families affected	629,243
Families displaced	68,622
Houses destroyed	33,893
Houses damaged	236,409

The JNA report finalized on September 8 mentions the 2014 floods as 'the most severe floods the country has faced since the so called mega-flood of 2007' and reports over two million people being affected by the current flood in the nine districts assessed. In Kurigram alone, 120,000 people were displaced at the time of the assessment. The most prominent needs are reported to be food, followed by water and sanitation and livelihoods.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has been operating since the flooding started and has already reached more than 6,000 families with food, non-food relief items, safe drinking water and medical services. The government has allocated food and cash for the affected population and hundreds of medical teams have been deployed.

The districts in the north-western area of Bangladesh are 'Monga' which refers to cyclical problems of poverty and food insecurity, linked to planting seasons. Besides flooding, the areas also experience drought and during December and January, cold waves, when temperatures can drop to as low as 3 degrees centigrade. These chronic and seasonal issues compound the situation.

According to the latest government report, all rivers and waterways are currently receding, with the exception of the upper parts of the Meghna river in the north eastern parts of the country. Only three measuring stations remain above the danger level, down from the peak when 18 stations (out of 83 across the country) were above danger levels. As the monsoon season extends up to October, there is a risk of a protracted or even worsening situation. However, current short- and medium term weather forecasts do not indicate heavy rains.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

BDRCS is a key humanitarian organization in Bangladesh and has been involved in the monitoring and response since the onset of the disaster. Information about the situation and requests for assistance has been flowing from the networks of district branches and volunteers on lower administrative levels to BDRCS National Headquarters (NHQ), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies (PNSs). With the onset of flooding, BDRCS mobilized volunteers as first responders to provide search and rescue and first aid services to the affected people.



BDRCS members travelling to remote areas with relief items
(Photo by BDRCS)

On August 22 BDRCS deployed four members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) to take part in the JNA initiated by the HCTT. BDRCS, along with IFRC, led the assessment in three sub-districts; while taking part in the assessment with other agencies in 20 sub-districts.

In parallel BDRCS initiated the first phase of the operation, mobilizing resources and allocating BDT 11,000,000 (CHF 11,000¹) for eleven districts (Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Bhola and Sunamganj). This allowed for the distribution of dry and cooked food along with basic non-food items (NFIs) (including fire boxes and candles) to the affected people. In five days, BDRCS distributed food and relief items to 4,470 families.

In consideration of the acute scarcity of safe drinking water among the affected population in the north-west region, BDRCS mobilized one Kit 5 water treatment plant to support Kurigram district with supply of fresh drinking water. The unit was set-up on 4 September and produced a total of 18,000 liters of water distributed to 5,000 people, together with WASH relief items (jerry cans, buckets, purification tablets). The National Disaster Water and Sanitation Relief Team (NDWRT) members and two NDRTS were deployed to set-up and operate the unit. Based on new information from the field and emerging needs, the Kit 5 is now being dismantled and replaced by six Aquasure units. These units produce less water per hour than the Kit 5 unit, but are more mobile and will be used to target pockets of affected areas that remain without clean water.

With food distributions ongoing and a water treatment unit deployed, the overview of the situation indicated clearly that the situation goes beyond existing BDRCS resources. As such, BDRCS requested the IFRC to launch a DREF for CHF 280,160 to support ongoing and expanded operations. The DREF was launched on September 6. At the same time, BDRCS formally activated its contingency plan for floods, which outlines roles and responsibilities as well as most-relevant service delivery sectors based on capacities and experience. The activities in this emergency plan of action (EPoA) falls within the interventions outlined and planned for the relief phase in the contingency plan.

¹ This amount was wrongly indicated as CHF 116,000 in the EPoA released for the DREF.



BDRCS distributing emergency relief goods to flood affected people in Jamalpur (Photo by BDRCS)

BDRCS, with the DREF support, has moved into the second phase of the operation that includes distributions of food parcels and relief items to 2,400 families. As procurement is done on district or union (sub-district) level, BDRCS has been able to act very fast. New distributions started immediately when the DREF was approved.

The initial DREF have also been used to deploy four medical teams to four districts. These teams have been operative since 6 September and served more than 2,700 patients. The teams are expected to stay in the field for around 10 days, or longer if the situation demands.

In Jamalpur, as part of an ongoing multilateral Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) project, money from a revolving fund has been used to assist 362 families with food packages. The initial funding was enough for 200 families, but the community decided to adjust the package and stretch the available resources to reach more families.

BDRCS is now, with this Emergency Plan of Action, starting up the third relief phase of the operation which will include the distribution of NFI's and hygiene parcels as well as unconditional cash equaling the amount of a feed package for one month, targeting an additional 2,600 new families in 16 districts, in addition to the target set out in the DREF. Selected beneficiaries will receive BDT 3,000 (CHF 38) which is calculated to cover a food packages for one month. The third phase will also include expanded relief distributions as described above, pending quick contributions to the appeal. Because of the rapid local procurement, BDRCS can turn confirmed contributions into distributions in a short time. From the launch of the Appeal, there is a two week window of opportunity where BDRCS, with support from partners, still can make an impact on the relief phase.

BDRCS has requested two Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members from South Asia to deploy to Bangladesh to support the ongoing relief efforts and to initiate the field level planning for the early recovery phase.

Summary of BDRCS response as of 10 September

Intervention	Families/people reached	Districts	Remarks
Dry food distributions	4,500 families	11	
Food package	1,427 families	4	
Safe drinking water	5,000 people	1	3,5 liters per beneficiary
Medical services	2,788 patients	4	

Following the third phase, initiated with funding from the DREF, once completed, BDRCS will have reached 15,000 families with various forms of assistance.

Overview of BDRCS main relief activities in three different relief phases (*completed in green, ongoing in yellow and planned in red*)

Phase	Timeframe	Activity	Area	No. of beneficiaries reached
1	0-2 weeks	Distribution of dry food as immediate food assistance	11 districts	4,470 families
		Participation in JNA	4 districts	
2	1-3 weeks	Distribution of locally procured food packages for 15-days	4 districts	1,427 families
		Distribution of emergency shelter material, non-food relief items and hygiene parcels	12 districts	2,400 families

		Provision of safe drinking water (Kit 5 water treatment plant) and distribution of WASH relief items ² (water buckets, purification tabs)	4 districts	5,000 people
		Providing emergency health assistance through mobilizing 4 medical teams for 10 days	4 districts	2,788 patients ³
		Distribution of ORS	16 district	TBD
3	3-6 weeks	Distribution of emergency shelter material, non-food relief items and hygiene parcels (pending funding)	16 district	2,600 families
		Distribution of unconditional cash grants, based on 30 day food packages price (pending funding)	16 districts	5,000 families
		Provision of safe drinking water through mobilizing and running 5 Aquasure units and distribution of WASH relief items (water buckets, purification tabs)	3 districts	TBD

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC has had a country delegation presence in Bangladesh for three decades. In the current structural set-up, the country delegation is supported by the IFRC Regional Delegation for South Asia (SARD) in New Delhi for longer-term programmes and disaster preparedness and the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) within the IFRC Asia Pacific Zone (APZ) Office in Kuala Lumpur, particularly in disaster response and operational coordination. The country delegation is well-resourced and has highly experienced staff supporting the BDRCS in operations, longer-term programming, capacity building and organizational development.

Several PNSs have a presence in the country, including American Red Cross, British Red Cross, German Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent. The main focus of the partners is on longer-term programming, including supporting BDRCS in large Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programmes. They are also active supporters of BDRCS disaster response and as such, BDRCS is counting on their support for this plan of action.

ICRC re-established its presence in Bangladesh in 2006 and seeks to protect and assist people affected by politically motivated and inter communal violence and other emergencies. The ICRC supports the BDRCS's efforts to provide first aid services and medical evacuation of the injured, as well as distribution of aid to families affected by violence and disasters. It reunites families, through re-establishing and maintaining contacts, with relatives detained abroad using tracing network, telephone and Red Cross Message (family news) services. The ICRC also promotes awareness and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) among authorities, academic institutions, law enforcement agencies and armed forces.

IFRC has been supporting BDRCS with the initial mobilization of funds and personnel, as well as in preparing situation reports and providing technical inputs for a coordinated relief operation. Four IFRC staff are supporting BDRCS in the field in the immediate relief phase, in four of the key districts being targeted with DREF funds.

IFRC is also participating in different coordination meetings, including HCTT and the Disaster Emergency Response (DER) of Local Consultative Group (LCG), and, as was part of the JNA Core Team for the north-west assessment. In addition IFRC is participating actively in the WASH Cluster and Information Management Working Group. IFRC is closely monitoring the situation together with the BDRCS and actively coordinating with all in-country PNSs. An Operations Coordinator from the Asia Pacific Zone (APZ) Disaster Management Unit (DMU) in Kuala Lumpur has been deployed to support the emergency planning process and operation.

Movement Coordination

The existing coordination mechanism within IFRC involves a bi-monthly PNS Coordination Meeting. These cover the regular updates from the society's present, immediate issues and follow-up on plans of action. The latest Movement Partners Coordination meeting was held on 27 August when the flooding was ongoing, and the floods were naturally brought up on the agenda. On 4 September, a specific flood coordination meeting was held with the partners. BDRCS arranges an annual Pre-Disaster Meeting which this year was held in May. The meeting addresses the broader preparedness issues and reviews preparedness ahead of the season.

² Distributions numbers for WASH relief items still pending. Then 5,000 people reached include people who brought their own water buckets and jerry cans.

³ The medical teams have in total seen around 700 patients per day

Humanitarian Coordination

The humanitarian community in Bangladesh has well-defined coordination mechanism on all levels and these have been enhanced and built on over the past years. Key to this coordination is the sectorial Local Consultative Groups (LCG), which also includes the Disaster and Emergency Relief (DER) co-chaired by the Ministry of Disaster Management and the UN Resident Coordinator. The DER is mandated to ensure effective coordination of national and international stakeholders around all aspects of the disaster management cycle.

Within the LCG-DER is the HCTT working group which provides an operational level forum for coordinated disaster preparedness, response, and recovery across sectors. The group consist of all cluster leads, two representatives from the donors, three elected representatives the INGO Forum Emergency Sub Group, one representative of the NGO community and the IFRC.

Bangladesh has a national cluster system and the clusters link up with the sectorial LCG while cross-cluster coordination is done through the HCTT.

A key part of the coordination is the system with JNA that are initiated by the HCTT. Utilizing the strength of HCTT members, tens of organizations pool resources and do different types of assessments. This coordinated approach gives a common understanding of the needs and a common starting point for interventions. Phase one JNA are rapid assessments focusing on reviews of secondary data and discussion with authorities in affected areas. Phase two JNA include consultations with beneficiaries and household surveys while phase three JNA a detailed sectorial assessments under the leadership of the clusters. In the current situation, as noted, a phase one JNA has been done in nine districts in the north, while discussions are ongoing about a phase two JNA covering selected affected areas across the country, including those more recently affected by flooding. BDRCS and IFRC plays a key part in these JNAs, often taking the lead in several districts and providing staff, volunteers and other support to the assessments in the field.

Shelter Cluster Coordination

IFRC is coordinating with the Shelter Cluster co-lead UNDP and ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in compiling shelter and non-food item (NFI) contingency stock data to prepare for the upcoming response. In accordance with the MOU between UNDP and IFRC, UNDP have requested IFRC to take over the coordination role during this disaster period. As such, IFRC hosted and chaired a Shelter Cluster Meeting that was held on September 4 to discuss with the cluster members the response strategy in relation to shelter and NFIs. IFRC is sharing the 4W matrix along with providing gap analysis with the Shelter Cluster partners regularly to track and guide the flood response.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Since the start of the monsoon season, the government has distributed rice and cash to affected areas. Since mid-July, a total of 12,200 MT rice and BDT 24,400,000 (CHF 295,000) have been distributed or allocated. The government rice, distributed together with a small cash grant, is estimated to cover around half of the needs for the coming month. For housing, the government has announced a package for transitional shelter, which will contain two bundles of corrugated iron sheet (CGI) sheets (18 pieces) and 6,000 BDT in cash. The government plans to provide this assistance to around 6,300 families.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has activated the National Health Crisis Management Centre and a 24/7 Control Room with a hotline has been opened on district level. More than 600 medical teams have been mobilized to handle health problems in the affected areas.

HCTT has conducted a phase one JNA in nine north western districts (Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Sirajganj, Bogra, Rangpur, Jamalpur, Nilphamari and Sherpur). The final report was shared with relevant stakeholders on 9 September. Discussions are ongoing about a phase two JNA that would cover areas flooded since the initial phase one JNA.

Several organizations are active in the affected areas. UNICEF has installed temporary water points and latrines and allocated 3,000 hygiene kits and close to 12,000 family kits for distribution in the worst affected districts. UNICEF has also mobilized four water treatment plants for Sirajganj and Bogra districts. The World Food Programme (WFP) has distributed close to 80 MT of high energy biscuits across five districts. The DeSHARI consortium (Save the Children International, Muslim Aid, Dan Church Aid and Action Contre La Faim) have distributed cash grants and some food and will proceed to distribute NFI sets to around 6,500 families. Care is planning to distribute 150 MT food ratios as well as 7,000 NFI sets. Islamic Relief and World Vision are also

active in food distributions. The World Health Organization (WHO) is giving technical supporting the DGHS in monitoring the health situation.

Needs analysis and risk assessment

This needs analysis is largely based on the recent phase one JNA, in which BDRCS and IFRC played a key role, as well as previous experience from flood situation. It's important to note that the JNA was conducted in nine districts that were, in the end of August – and to a large extent still remain – the worst affected. Assumptions of similarities in the additional 11 districts affected can be made based on the JNA results and ongoing assessments and a possible phase 2 JNAs will give more detailed and contextualized information from the other areas.

In general, it's worth noting that large parts of the affected areas, and particularly the current worst affected districts, have high levels of pre-existing vulnerabilities, including poverty, malnutrition and social deprivation. In the extreme poverty map, the borders of the affected districts have been highlighted. Sector-specific baseline data will be further discussed under the following sub-headlines.

Cross-cutting issues

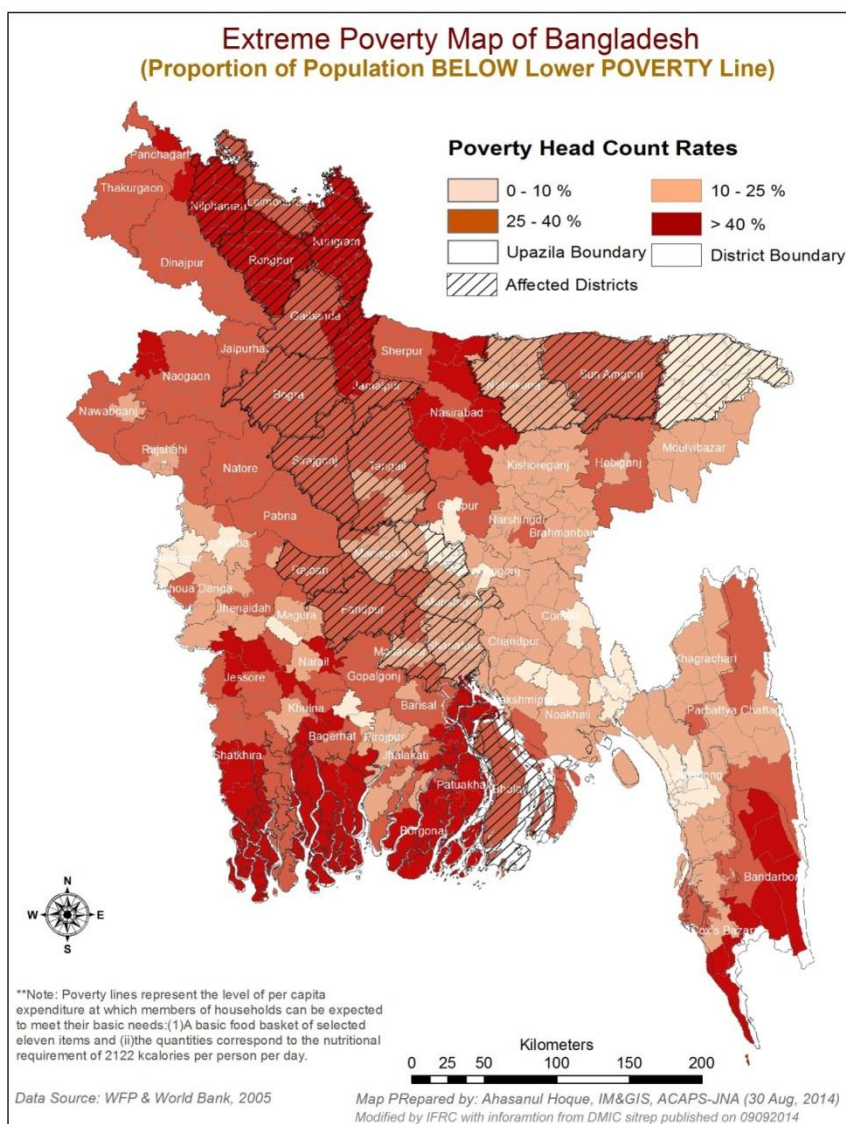
Several cross-cutting issues will have to be taken into account in this operation, including gender. Across the 9 districts covered by the JNA, female headed households are 7.8 per cent of the total number of households and, as past disaster events have shown, these households are especially vulnerable to any shocks to livelihood.

Data from previous assessments, studies and reports show that women's wages are substantially lower than males and their employment is more often temporary. The phase one JNA that has now been completed recommends a phase two JNA with a purposive sampling across all the districts that are now affected. One key recommendation for that assessment is to take a more detailed gender perspective and understand the variation in needs across the different areas.

Older persons and persons with disability are regularly left out of recovery efforts including livelihood assistance. Ensuring access to information for all is critical as this is sometimes only passed on to men or controlled by men thus leaving other groups without sufficient information to make safe and appropriate decisions. These issues and other emerging issues will be taken into account in the beneficiary selection, design and implementation of different interventions (relief and recovery) under this plan, particularly related to WASH, shelter and livelihoods.

Recovery

With major damage to housing, agricultural lands, harvest and thereby disruptions to regular livelihoods patterns, the early recovery/recovery needs following this flooding will be significant. Recovery interventions that focus shelter and livelihoods will be needed. The risk for set-backs to recovery through flooding, cyclones and cold



waves (see risk assessment) is a concern. In fact the northern char⁴ region has increased vulnerabilities because it can be said to be in constant recovery in recent years – many of the areas where for example hit by three periods of flooding in 2012. This needs to be considered in terms of the vulnerability of people living in these areas and their ability to “bounce back” from the present floods without resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

Recovery needs as they appear now with existing information and based on previous experience are noted in this needs analysis under each of the relevant sectors below.

Shelter and settlements and household items

Shelter, although not mentioned as the biggest priority at the moment, is a concern for most of the assessed unions. According to government figures (9 September), a total of 33,893 houses being fully damaged and 236,409 houses being partially damaged in the twenty districts.

The Shelter Cluster has established the recommended list for priority emergency shelter items (tarpaulin and rope) and household NFIs (candle, firebox, cooking/kitchen utensils, cloth and bucket).

To meet emergency shelter and NFI needs, the JNA recommended focusing on people displaced and those with fully damaged shelters (ensuring that transitional shelter responses include landless families, the most vulnerable members of the community). The Shelter Cluster recommends that households with fully damaged shelters be considered as a priority group for government and non-government Cash for Work (CfW) initiatives and other cash based assistance to ensure regular income generation which can enable them to repair and reconstruct their shelter. The JNA report is also highlighting the need to address vulnerabilities in timely manner before onset of cold wave in December 2014.

In the post flood situation, shelter is always one of the major priorities. In northern Bangladesh, where the currently worst affected areas are, houses are mostly built of mud, wood and bamboo which are very susceptible to floods and flash floods. Prior to the flooding, the majority of shelters in all of the districts affected are ‘kutchra’ (mud wall) construction. The northern Char lands (within the assessed area) are very susceptible to erosion which can cause the complete wash off of houses and properties. Char houses are mainly small and built from locally available grasses, these need to be replaced regularly but they are adapted to floods and erosion because they can be dismantled and moved. Floods in the range of 0.5-1m above plinth level tend to result in the total loss of kutchra (mud) house walls. As such, as the floods start to recede it is expected that there will be a high amount of need for emergency and longer term shelter support. This support will have to be designed to suit the local context to increase their resilience against future similar events.

For recovery, the JNA report recommended an assumption that when house have been damaged or destroyed, the latrine is also affected. For this reason the cluster advises that shelter response should be coordinated with WASH; shelter interventions in particular should be well coordinated with sanitation rehabilitation. In case of rebuilding of houses in new locations, sites should be assessed so that, as far as possible, building takes place on areas that are free of the risk from further erosion.

The Shelter Cluster will make further recommendations on transitional shelter solutions and modalities around shelter repair assistance, and these recommendations will be incorporated into the implementation design and future revisions of the EPoA.

Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has announced plans to provide shelter support to damaged household by providing two bundles of CGI seers (18 pieces) along with a small cash grant for 6,300 families.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Access to safe water has been one of the key concerns in the current flooding situation. Out of the 215 affected unions assessed, 78 per cent reported that water supplies were affected and 91 per cent that sanitation was affected. When people are displaced in Bangladesh, past experience has shown they will go to available high ground and reside in spontaneous settlements which are usually without sanitation, without privacy and often without easy access to safe drinking water. All of these issues are borne out in the information reported from affected areas.

⁴ The Char is an area with channels, swamps, lakes, and flood plain sediments (chars).

The traditional water supply system in the affected areas is based on ground water extraction either by shallow or deep tube-well which has been seriously affected by the floods. Large numbers of tube-wells are reported inundated which could potentially be contaminated by floodwater, forcing the affected population to seek alternative sources of water. Reports suggest that these alternative sources are often contaminated and polluted water bodies near to where people are staying. The JNA report flagged the “acute” and “serious” need of safe drinking water in the affected area. Besides the provision of water purification tablets and safe drinking water, other recommended emergency interventions as the waters recede include the disinfection of contaminated water sources and repairs to hand pumps, which would improve access to safe water.

Another concern is the lack of latrines in the spontaneous settlements. Many latrines have been washed away and inadequate sanitation facilities have caused many to openly defecate, hence contaminating pond waters and increasing the risks of spread of water-borne illness. Thus, temporary latrines are one recommended intervention in the JNA report. The JNA also recommends hygiene promotion and the distribution of hygiene kits and materials.

Beyond the immediate relief phase, household latrines will require attention. Conventional on-site direct pour-flush sanitation system is the most common technology in the affected area. The communities are very used to simple reinforced cement concrete (RCC) ring and slab systems with locally made superstructure. Following this extreme event, most of the latrine pits filled with flood water and superstructures collapsed or were washed out. As such, there will be a need for reconstruction of household latrines. There are in any case large gaps in the number and hygiene standards of latrines. The Bangladesh National Sanitation Strategy aims to have 100 per cent of the population with access to sanitary latrines by 2015. Currently, across the country, 60 per cent of the population has latrines, 32 per cent hygienic and 25 per cent unhygienic.

Among the longer-term needs is continuous work to improve and elevate platforms for hand pumps, to reduce the risk for contaminated water sources in future flood events. Many communities are likely also in need of new or additional tube wells, with elevated platforms, which will improve their access to safe water. Such new tube wells should be sited following a hydrogeological survey in close coordination with the local authorities and community based groups.

Health and Care

One of the major impacts of floods on health services (especially in the remote north-western parts of Bangladesh) is that government health facilities, even when functioning, are very limited and hard to reach for the affected communities who are marooned by standing water even during regular monsoons periods. Health clinics are often located in high-risk locations for flooding and will continue to be at risk unless mitigation work is undertaken. It could be difficult for medical teams to reach marooned people due to a shortage of water vehicles (engine boat, river ambulance, etc.).

In the JNA, health was considered to be an issue in just under half of the assessed Unions. Since the flooding started, the National Health Crisis Management Centre Control Room of DGHS has recorded a number of cases of diarrhea, ARI, skin diseases, eye infections, injuries and snake bites, but these figures are yet to be analysed against baseline data to show if this is an increase compared to normal levels. In any case, the flooding has decreased access to health centres which is a concern. The government and also BDRCS have mobilized mobile medical teams to reach those in need of medical attention in the affected areas and the teams are expected to stay in the field for between one and two weeks, until the water receded and access to health facilities is improved/normalized.

Issues highlighted to the JNA teams around health was mostly related to WASH; shortage of safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities but also temporary shelter arrangements. All of these factors could increase the risk of respiratory infections and communicable and water borne diseases, such as cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, and dysentery. Diarrhea is highly prevalent throughout the year, but typically spikes in April and October and is likely to increase when the water recedes. Malnutrition is a key underlying health risk in these districts.

The JNA notes that although anthrax has been reported by the media in flood affected areas, the health cluster and WHO confirm that there is no correlation between this and the flooding situation or any increased likelihood of the spread of the disease which is air borne rather than water borne. The JNA report also notes that, whenever possible, interventions should try to ensure mothers have safe, private and hygienic spaces to continue breastfeeding their infants and young children.

The WHO (Health Cluster) is closely monitoring the overall situation with the National Health Crisis Management Centre and the Control Room and is providing technical support if/as needed.

Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods

Due to displacement of people and loss of food stocks to the flood water there continues to be an urgent need for food assistance. In the JNA, food is the highest prioritized need mentioned by virtually all union officials. More than half of the unions report that food stocks have been and are being damaged by flood waters, leaving families fully dependent on relief support. In 27 unions the damage to food stocks is reported to be severe.

Many have been surviving on the little dry food that they were able to take with them like puffed rice, flattened rice, etc. The ability to cook food and boil water is also an issue raised in many unions. Short term food security appears more imminent a problem; however there will still be a significant impact on long term food security due to the damage to agriculture crop and disrupted livelihoods. With crops ruined, the availability and price of food on the local market will likely change and a reduced demand for wage labour can be expected for several months. With less work opportunities follows reduce purchasing capacity of the vulnerable households which will result in a prolonged lean season and negatively affect their food security and nutrition status.

Elderly, child headed households, pregnant and lactating women and those already relying on food aid (such as the VGF - Vulnerable Group Feeding, a national safety nets programme) are the most vulnerable in terms of food security, in relief as well as in the recovery phase.

According to information from the affected areas, the flood has caused damage to ready-to-harvest Aush paddy fields as well as damage to standing Aman paddy crops which were to be harvested in November. Initial data from the government indicates that over 40,000 hectares of crops remain or have been submerged for a significant amount of time during the past weeks. Food will continue to be a major issue in the longer term if damaged crops are not replaced with newly planted seeds. Further, the upcoming cold wave season (December, January) could have a significant impact on crop agriculture (in particular the boro harvest), extending the lean season even further, as was the case in 2013.

Most food packages and parcels distributed by the government, WFP, BDRCS and others have been to cover food needs of a family for 15 days. WFP has focused on high-energy biscuits in particular as many of the affected districts have chronic food security and malnutrition problems.

Looking at the longer-term livelihood (early recovery/recovery) needs, and pending more detailed assessments, several issues emerge. In all affected districts agriculture, agricultural processing (mainly rice), livestock rearing and fishing represent the main livelihood activities. According to the JNA results, all these activities appear to be heavily impacted by the floods. Small and marginal farmers, agricultural day laborers and non-agricultural day laborers were identified by Union authorities and assessment teams as the livelihoods most likely to be most affected. In this region the major employment opportunity is agricultural labour, and off-farm income for the unskilled rural poor is restricted to the brickfields, the rice and saw mills, earth works and rickshaw pulling. Further investigation is needed to understand the impact of the floods on these other forms of income generation.

The JNA notes that the impact on the livelihoods could evolve negatively rapidly in the coming days and weeks especially if the water does not recede quickly enough and people are not able to begin self-recovery livelihood activities. A key issue related to self-recovery now is to ensure a winter (Boro) crop, as farmers are likely to have consumed or lost any seed they had saved.

Especially in the northern region, livestock is an important asset and the JNA reports deaths/loss of livestock in many of the nine districts assessed. The most reports of severe levels of death among livestock have been from Unions in Bogra and Rangpur.

A Food Security Cluster rapid assessment report from the northwestern areas in October 2012 report no local means to generate alternative income for marginal, landless farmers and day labourers. Farmers may resort to borrowing money with high interest rates to invest in next planting season. If farmers are not ready for plantation of upcoming crops, such as wheat and Boro, due to lack of capital, the agricultural day labourers will find even less employment opportunities. This can force out-migration of men and in some case women to urban areas, often keeping their dependents in village in the hope of sending remittances. Negative coping strategies such as distress sale of movable property and livestock have been reported in past disasters, as has an increase in the number of underage people joining the labour market.

From previous disasters and floods in this region, lessons learned have shown that employment generation through cash grant assistance to vulnerable population was appropriate for affected communities for bridging the gap between the immediate impact of the floods and the recovery phase by providing resources that allowed households to make their own decisions for re-building livelihoods. An assessment of floods in 2013 found that many households in the affected north-west districts took loans directly after floods with the greatest use of loans for recovery being in in Jamalpur, Gaibandha and Bogra. If assistance is not timely, this negative coping strategy is likely to be repeated.

Among the key intervention recommendations in the JNA are the provision of cash for investment in cultivation, cash transfer support for food in areas where markets are functional (based on past events, markets have been found to recover quickly), food and/or cash distributions targeting vulnerable groups and small farming families as well as support to agriculture (seeds, fertilizer) coupled with training.

Restoring Family Links

Information and assessment reports from the affected areas give no indications of significant needs in restoring family links.

Risk Assessment

Several risks are associated with the planned operations. The immediate risks are related to more flooding, as the monsoon season still continuous into October as well as hartals (strikes) and political demonstrations that can often be disruptive and restrict access and movement. Going forward, the second peak of the cyclone season starts in October and Bangladesh is likely to experience a few tropical depressions or cyclones towards the end of the year. In December and January, many of the affected areas experience cold waves with temperatures falling below 10 degrees Celsius, which annually causes a number of deaths and serious health problems. The cold wave season will be more challenging this year given that the areas will still be recovering from the floods.

Logistics and access is a challenge in the current situation and will to some extent continue to be so for the remainder of the operations, depending to some extent on the decisions of targeting for the recovery phase. A lack of coordination can also be seen as a risk, as it might lead to humanitarian actors can result in duplication of efforts.

Refer to [Annex](#) for details of the main risks, their impact, likelihood and possible mitigation strategies.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective of the operation is to ensure that immediate humanitarian needs of 19,470 families affected by floods in up to 16 districts of Bangladesh are met through the provision of emergency food and non-food items, shelter, WASH and health support. The recovery interventions will cover up to 4 of the most affected districts.

Proposed strategy

The proposed strategy outlined below includes a phased relief effort (see summary of response) bridging into early recovery and recovery. Additional assessments, including a Household Economic Security (HES) assessment, will be needed to make detailed plans for the recovery phase.

As BDRCS is a key humanitarian organization in Bangladesh and is expected to provide some level of assistance in the affected areas, the focus of the relief phase will be on a total of 16 districts, up from an initial 12 targeted in the previous version of this EPOA due to the changing situation. Recovery interventions will focus on four badly affected districts, pending detailed assessments, while the provision of safe water is currently planned for only three districts.

Refer to [Annex](#) for the operation strategy detailing the targeted districts.

Assessments

BDRCS and the IFRC will continue to support possible second and third phases of JNA's in the coming weeks and months, as needed. In 2012, BDRCS and IFRC did a HES assessment that covered many of the now worst affected districts in the north-west. As part of the proposed operation, a new HES assessment validating the

findings from 2012 and covering additional districts is planned. This assessment will give more details on the needs and propose suitable interventions. The results will be shared with the HCTT and could form an important common understanding of the livelihood needs and intervention strategies among all members in the HCTT. As part of the planned assessments, opportunities will be sought to pilot the use of RAMP (Rapid mobile phone-based surveys) in assessments, for BDRCS to gain experience in the utilization of smartphones for data collection. Provisions have been made in the budget for smart phones and orientations sessions in the use of RAMP.

Recovery

Early recovery/recovery livelihoods interventions will be a high priority in the coming months as the flooding has made large-scale damage to houses and severely disrupted farming and other livelihoods. In this document, planned recovery interventions are found under each of the relevant sectors below, namely Shelter, WASH and Livelihoods.

Shelter, settlements and household items

The relief component of this operation started at scale with the DREF allocation approved on September 2. In the initial stages, BDRCS targeted 2,400 families with a limited NFI package, including emergency shelter, and a hygiene parcel. While the SPHERE standard for fully damaged houses is two tarpaulins, cluster members have informally agreed to distribute only one tarpaulin per family. The main reason is that there is a gap in emergency shelter (only 25% coverage as per September 11). Previous experience also shows that families tend to utilize only one tarpaulin. The other is often given to other families in need. Culturally, tarpaulins are also not used as ground sheeting, often limiting the immediate need to one tarpaulin.

NFI Package for 1 family

Item	Unit	Quantity
Tarpaulin	pcs	1
Nylon Rope	Kg	0.5
Candle	pcs	12
Fire box	pcs	12
Bag for holding relief items	pcs	1
Jerry can (10 litres)	pcs	1

Hygiene Parcel

Item	Unit	Quantity
Laundry Soap	pcs	1
Bathing Soap	pcs	1
Washing Powder (0.5 kg)	pcs	1
Tooth Powder (250 gm)	pcs	1
Comb	pcs	1
Sanitary Napkin	pcs	1

Recovery

In the recovery phase, two different support packages are planned for shelter to meet the early recovery and recovery needs of two different categories of affected households. For some completely damaged households, new transitional shelter will be provided, whereas partially affected household will receive cash grant support along with shelter toolkits to repair their houses. While the toolkit is normally provided in the emergency phase, previous experience show that tools are sometimes not available on the local market in the months after flooding. This can hamper construction and repairs. If markets are functioning, similar items procured locally can be provided, if there is a need for the households to provide hired carpenters with tools. PASSA (participatory approach to safer shelter awareness) will be implemented in the selected communities to raise the awareness on safe shelter and settlement.

The shelter beneficiaries will be selected through a community participatory approach. Among the shelter beneficiaries – all of those provided with full transitional shelter and some of the targeted with repair assistance – will also be provided a household latrine in coordinating with the WASH intervention.

250 families with totally damaged houses will be assisted through cash grants for construction of transitional shelters. The design of the transitional shelter will be according to the Bangladesh building code and the recommendation of Shelter Cluster. Culturally appropriate and user-friendly designs will be ensured by including

community consultation. The main structure of the shelters will be constructed by a local builders/skilled labour and there will be beneficiary contribution in terms of raising mud plinth and extending veranda. These beneficiary contributions will turn the transitional shelter into a permanent shelter within a few years' time.

PASSA will be implemented through BDRCS trained volunteers and staff. This tool will allow the community to identify the risk in term of shelter and settlement, and then help them to come up with possible build back better solutions to turn an unsafe shelter into safe shelter. PASSA tools will allow shelter beneficiaries to decide how effectively they can utilize the shelter cash grant to rebuild and upgrade his or her shelter safer. The shelter repairs, targeting 1,000 families, will be implemented through cash grant handed over to beneficiary through individual bank accounts. There will be strong monitoring by community committee, respective district BDRCS staff and volunteers.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Too meet immediate needs for safe drinking water, BDRCS mobilized a Kit 5 unit capable of producing 4000 liters of safe drinking water per day. The unit was operational for a number of days, producing in total 18,000 liters that was distributed to 5,000 people along with lesser numbers of WASH relief items (water buckets and water purification tablets) as many of those benefiting from the water distribution were able to bring their own jerry cans and water buckets for collection. The strategy for the provision of drinking water has since changed. The Kit 5 is now dismantled and replaced by 5 smaller and more mobile units, producing up to 1,000 liters of water per hour. These units will target pockets of populations that continue to have serious difficulties accessing clean water in a planned 3 districts. The units can easily switch places as ongoing assessment data and observations become available. At this point in time, these units are expected to run for up to 5 days, or longer if the needs dictate. Water buckets and water purification tablets will be distribute with the safe drinking water to a total of 3,000 families (50% of the overall target of 30,000 people/6,000 families), based on needs.

To improve the access to water, BDRCS is planning to make emergency repairs to hand pumps and disinfect contaminated water sources in the relief and early/recovery phases. Communities targeted with hand pump repairs will also receive a hand pump repair tool kit and repair training for user groups, in order to ensure sustainability.

Recovery

For the recovery phase, BDRCS plans a number of interventions that will improve access to water and reduce risks of poor access to WASH related diseases. With many reports from the affected areas of contaminated tube-wells, BDRCS plans to provide elevated platforms and hand pumps to reduce the contamination risk in future flooding events.

In addition to this, a provision has been made in the budget for the installation of additional, new tube wells, to ensure better coverage and access to safe drinking water. This will be coupled with the same hand pump repair tool kit and training approach described above. Shallow tube-wells are appropriate and feasible in all districts, with the exception of Sirajganj where deep tube wells are needed to mitigate the risk of arsenic contamination, should the district be one of the targeted for these types of interventions. Arsenic filters can also be considered, although sustainability issues needs to be analyzed. A provision has been made for an expert to analyze available hydrological survey data ahead of the intervention.

Using of shared latrines or community latrines is not common and culturally viable in the affected communities. In the recovery phase, BDRCS plans to construct household latrines to improve access to sanitation facilities. Given the present sanitation coverage, some additional number would improve the overall sanitation system of the affected area. The WASH Cluster has a guideline for the installation of new household latrine which comprise of one RCC slab and five RCC rings with locally available superstructure. Household latrines will also be built with the transitional shelters planned (see Shelter section) to give a comprehensive solution to the affected people.

PHAST has been found to be a very effective tool to increase hygiene practices following disasters. BDRCS plans to implement PHAST in the key districts selected, targeting the same communities (1,000 families) that will be provided with new tube-wells and household latrines. This should create a demand for safe water and appropriate sanitation in the community and at the same time sensitize people about the hygiene awareness. Hygiene parcels have been planned to be distributed in connection with the PHAST sessions.

Health and care

BDRCS health interventions, as per the contingency plan, have so far focused on the mobilization of four mobile health teams to the affected areas. Each team consists of three medical staff and they are assisted by volunteers.

To provide means to treat diarrhea, oral rehydration salts (ORS) will be available in the NFI's distributions and key messages on diarrhea and the use of ORS will be included in the health and hygiene promotion linked to distributions.

For the immediate term, volunteers trained on Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) will be mobilized to provide health message to communities and refer cases to relevant health facilities in close cooperation with the health authorities. The funding for refresher trainings for this intervention is secured from an existing project and therefore no provision has been made in the budget. As a longer-term intervention BDRCS will provide health promotion in the affected areas in the recovery phase to increase resilience by improving health awareness, knowledge and behavior. Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) volunteers will be given refresher trainings in order to start up promotion activities in the recovery stages. BDRCS will retain a readiness to mobilize these volunteers earlier, should the health situation on the ground require.

Food, Nutrition and Livelihoods

Food has been highlighted as one of the top needs in the ongoing situation. BDRCS direct contribution to these immediate needs will be focused on the first and second phase of the relief operations. In the first phase, starting in late August, BDRCS distributed dry food to 4,470 families and as part of the second phase relief, food parcels have been distributed to 1,500 families (more than initially planned in the DREF as the items on the market had lower than anticipated prices). In addition 5,000 families will be targeted with unconditional cash. The cash grant of BDT 3,000 (CHF 38) is based on the price of a food parcel for 30 days and the assumption is that many beneficiaries will priorities food from the local markets using the cash support.

Food Package for 1 family for 1 month

Item	Unit	Quantity
Rice	kg	20
Pulse	kg	3
Oil	Ltr	2
Salt	kg	1
Sugar	Kg	1
Shuji (baby food)	Kg	1

In the early recovery/recovery phase of the operation, BDRCS plans to implement cash based support to help re-establish/initiate livelihood activities for 1,000 families through a cash grant of BDT 6,000 (CHF 75). The above mentioned HES assessment will help identify more detailed targeting and modalities. In all likelihood, small farming farmers will be among the targeted, which will directly improve their food security. The cash support for livelihoods is likely to be two-fold, based on positive experiences in previous operations. The first part will be cash support for restarting/re-establishing of livelihoods and the second part cash grants of BDT 4,000 (CHF 50) incentives to take part in trainings (see DRR section below).

Pending more detailed recommendations from relevant clusters and sufficient and timely support to the appeal from partners, the budget provision for livelihoods cash support might also be utilized for early recovery distributions of seeds or cash grants for seeds. This would push self-recovery as farmers could plant winter (Boro) crops. However, the time constraints (the planting season is coming to an end very soon) and feasibility regarding damaged farm lands need to be considered.

Disaster risk reduction and preparedness

This EPoA has several DRR interventions mainstreamed into different sectors, including the use of Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) in the implementation of recovery activities.

A provision has been made in the budget for a cash for work (CFW) scheme that would aim at local risk reduction activities, including clearing of roads, linking roads to flood shelters and repairing or improving river embankments. The options, their feasibility and prioritization, will be explored with selected communities.

Another cash based intervention will be the provision of trainings sessions, partly linked to livelihoods, partly to risk reduction. A total of four sessions will be arranged with selected communities, covering the topics of health and hygiene, livelihoods (poultry, livestock, kitchen gardening), DRR and a session on business. Targeted family

members will be provided with BDT 1,000 (CHF 13) per training as an incentive to join the sessions. The targeted families will be the same targeted with cash to restart/establish livelihoods. This intervention can also be classified as livelihoods support, and will likely be targeted towards the same families that will be targeted with the above livelihoods support.

In the WASH sector, BDRCS will construct a total of 40 elevated platforms for tube wells and hand pumps in the four key districts, to mitigate the risk of damage to pumps and/or contamination of water sources during future flooding. The communities for this intervention will be selected based on hazard mapping and consultations with the communities. BDRCS will also install 20 new tube wells in four districts, to reduce the risk of lack to safe water during and after flooding.

As noted above, during December and January, parts of Bangladesh experiences cold waves, including the northern parts of the country that are currently flooded. This season, many of the affected areas are likely to still be in recovery from the floods. As such this EPoA includes preparedness stocks of blankets – a total of 5,000 – to ensure BDRCS can respond during the cold wave season and assist especially those covered by other activities in this EPoA, as needed.

BDRCS has a total of 25 Aquasure units that can produce 1,000 liters of water per hour. These are pre-positioned across the country. The water purification tablets used in the units has a life length of two or three years and the current stock has expired or is soon expiring. As a preparedness measure, this EPoA includes 25 buckets of water purification tablets (150 tablets per bucket, each bucket is good for purifying 30,000 liters). If these critical preparedness stocks can be procured and prepositioned with the units, BDRCS ability to quickly mobilize the Aquasure units is greatly enhanced.

As a preparedness measure, volunteer insurance for volunteers involved in the operation during 2014 as well as costs to insure 2,000 volunteers in 2015 has been included in the budget. The volunteers to be insured will be those most likely to respond to disasters and they will be selected based on hazard mapping throughout the country.

Selection of beneficiaries

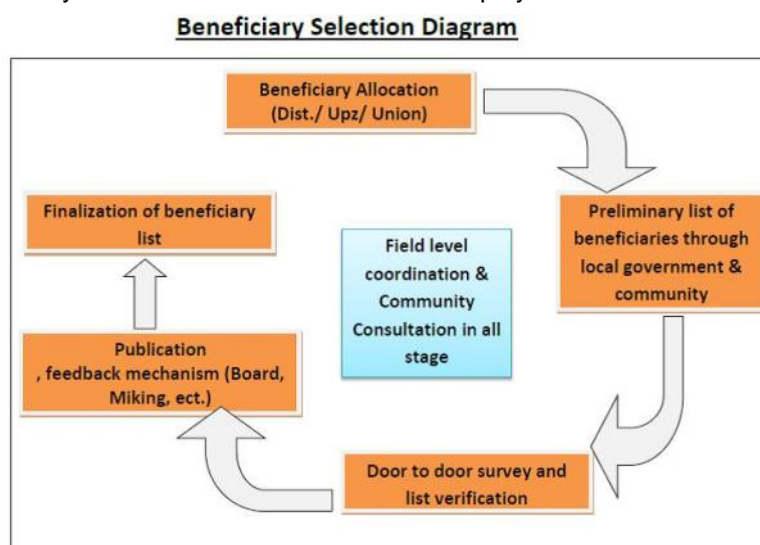
Relief

The population in temporary shelters or makeshift houses will be prioritized in the selection of beneficiaries in the affected locations. The vulnerability criteria will focus on the elderly, women, marginal income farmers, women-headed families, lactating mothers, and physically challenged people.

Recovery

In the recovery phase, beneficiary selection process will ensure community participation by holding consultation sessions, suggestions and feedback and complaints mechanism. At the start of the beneficiary selection for the recovery phase, NDRT members and a Beneficiary Communication team will be deployed to the districts to support the setting up of community consultation and suggestion and feedback mechanisms. District branch will maintain coordination with District Disaster Management Committees, responsible for overall coordination, to ensure appropriate area selection. 4W mappings done by the Information Management Working Group will also be consulted. BDRCS/IFRC works in close contact with other humanitarian actors to avoid potential overlapping in case of selection of geographical locations and beneficiary households.

A simplified beneficiary selection diagram for the recovery phase has been developed by the BDRCS:



National Society Capacity Building

BDRCS completed the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) exercise on March 2014. The OCAC process has identified the National Society strengths as well as the capacity deficits. The OCAC assessments provided scope to coordinate and monitor tailor-made support to NS's context. BDRCS has decided to make the OCAC public and BDRCS is very open to share the findings with all in-country movement partners. With guidance from the Planning and Development Department, BDRCS has taken couple of initiatives to follow-up the priorities identified by the OCAC assessment. Accordingly, BDRCS is in a process to upgrade their four year development plan and inform the movement partners to extend their hands to support where there is a need; either technical or financial.

A lot of the planned work revolves around BDRCS development of response capacities, including the decentralization of response capacities. This includes upgrading of general preparedness, prepositioning of relief stocks and the continuous development of contingency plans. A key part of the general preparedness is the well-developed National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) that has proven itself in conducting need assessment, developing implementation plans and distributing relief goods.

A key BDRCS strength is its ability to mobilizing its volunteer's network rapidly. To enhance this strength further, BDRCS has started to implement the Resource Management System (IFRC), a platform developed by IFRC to keep track of volunteers and staff and their level of training as well as assets.

Since a few years back, BDRCS has a PMER section in the NHQ and has a plan to expand the PMER cell in the district unit's level.

Taken the above into account, this operation will contribute to the overall capacity building of the National Society, with a main focus on response related initiatives. The support planned is

- Implementation of Resource Management System (RMS) in the operational districts, the translation of RMS into Bengali language and support to the development of an offline version of RMS that would be key to RMS roll-out in Bangladesh
- Renovation and maintenance support for the warehouse in Dhaka
- Piloting RAMP in the early recovery phase, with a longer-term view to establish RAMP as a tool in response and recovery as well as for surveys in longer-term programming
- Supporting the PMER cell development in the six districts where the early recovery activities will be carried out
- Organizing a new NDRT training, targeting staff and volunteers from flood affected districts
- Providing personal gears to NDRT members ahead of the next cyclone and flood season

Operational support services

Human resources

For the relief phase of the operation, BDRCS is using its existing staff and volunteers. Around 160 volunteers and 20 NDRT and NDWRT members have been mobilized for the operations. BDRCS has activated its contingency plan, meaning that all staff can be pulled into the operation when need arises.

The overall HR plan for the operation will be finalized as the funding level and its impact on implementation becomes clear in the coming weeks and months. As an early outline of the HR set-up foreseen, and based on experiences for previous operations, a number of provisions for BDRCS National Staff, IFRC National Staff and International Staff have been made.

For the early recovery/recovery phase BDRCS will proceed to assign existing staff or recruit new staff for specific tasks related to the implementation. The provision made in the current budget include a Project Coordinator, a Project Monitoring Officer/Assistant Coordinators, two finance officers (HQ and field), a Communications and Reporting Officer, four District Project Officers, and two technical officers for both WASH and Shelter.

For IFRC staff to support BDRCS in the implementation, provisions have been made for a Senior DM Officer based in the field to ensure accountability and transparency and facilitate BDRCS for the implementation and monitor the overall progress. Provisions have also been made for two generalist Response Officers to oversee

implementation, supported by Technical Officers for WASH and Shelter. In addition, there could be a need to recruit a Project Monitoring Officer and a Finance Officer, and provisions have been made accordingly.

For international staff, provisions have been made for an IFRC Operations Manager for three months extendable, to support BDRCS and the operations team in finalizing the relief phase and revise the EPoA for the recovery phase. In addition, two RDRT's are being mobilized for one month missions to work in particular with the BDRCS NDRT's in the field to ensure a smooth finalization of the relief phase.

As noted, all of the above will be adjusted and confirmed according to funding of the Emergency Appeal and subsequent impact on planned implementation.

Besides salary costs as outlined above, this EPoA budget covers travel, accommodation and per-diem costs related to the BDRCS and IFRC staff and volunteers. The EPoA also covers insurance for the volunteers used in the operation through the IFRC global volunteer accident insurance scheme as well as additional insurance for 2015 as a preparedness measure.

Logistics and supply chain

The logistics in the operation will be done by BDRCS, supported by IFRC in-country and with technical support from the IFRC Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU). All procurement during the operation will be done locally, but replenishment of some items (tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, jerry cans) distributed from preparedness stocks as well as the procurement of additional preparedness stocks (blankets) are expected to be done through the ZLU. All procurement will follow standard IFRC procurement guidelines.

The tarpaulins and shelter kits included in this plan will initially be sourced from existing in-country disaster preparedness stocks. All household items/non-food relief items as well as food items will be procured local for rapid distributions. All procurement related to this EPoA will be following IFRC standards procurement procedures. A total of 12 NDRT's have been deployed to the field and they will be briefed on key issues around procurement and work with the district procurement committees in the coming days and weeks. The two relief RDRT's being deployed will also be briefed on procurement and support the NDRTs. BDRCS and IFRC procurement experts will also visit the relevant districts to monitor and support ongoing procurement.

BDRCS will utilize existing warehouse and transport capacities to support the operation. BDRCS has a central warehouse in Dhaka and warehouses in several of the affected districts. With local procurement, most transport will be local, but some items are being transported from Dhaka warehouse to the affected districts. The replenishment and preparedness stocks will initially be directed to Dhaka. Decisions around the logistics and timeframes for replenishing and pre-positioning preparedness stocks will be determined once the procurement part has been implemented and delivery times are confirmed. Transport and distribution costs within the country have been provisioned for in this appeal.

IFRC will provide logistics support according to its standard procedures to timely and efficiently source, procure and deliver equipment and other materials. IFRC's zone logistics unit (ZLU) in Kuala Lumpur will provide the technical support to the Bangladesh delegation.

Communications

BDRCS and IFRC Communication Department has been working to draw attention to the humanitarian needs and the Red Cross Red Crescent response through proactive media relations and public information activities. Since the beginning of the response various activities have been carried out including the distribution of a media advisory, communication on social media, production of talking points and a News story for publication on ifrc.org.

Planned activities for the operation going forward include continued media relations work with national and international media. Efforts will also be made to facilitate media field trips as the Emergency Appeal is launched or immediately thereafter, to raise awareness about the current humanitarian situation and profile the role of the BDRCS and IFRC.

In the coming months the following activities are planned;

- Generate people-centred communications content linked to major milestones in the operation, including web stories, blogs and social media content for distribution to media outlets and partner National Societies
- Contract professional photographers & videographers to produce high-quality photographs and video b-roll to be shared with news agencies, broadcasters and National Societies
- Produce regular fact sheets and key messages on the operation
- Support the BDRCS communication team with basic in-house communication training Develop and promote humanitarian diplomacy messages around issues related to the main recovery sectors; livelihoods, shelter and WASH

Beneficiary Communications

Beneficiary Communication and Accountability (BCA) will support emergency response through provisioning relevant information to disaster-affected communities and help create an environment of accountability through accessible feedback mechanisms. While information needs are assessed on the ground, appropriate messages will be disseminated among wider population through reachable communication channels.

BDRCS and IFRC will maintain coordination with the Communication with Communities (CWC) working group under the HCTT in this regard. The operation will engross participatory community selection process and implementation mechanism. A participatory community mobilisation plan will be developed to establish processes that will increase beneficiaries' decision-making capacity on key aspects of the operation.

A communications plan will be in place to cause behavioural change in areas of WATSAN, NFI and disaster risk reduction interventions. Examples of such activities include hosting call in radio show, hotline to reach the BDRCS and community kiosks. A Complaints and Response Mechanism (CRM) will be employed for communities to raise valid concerns and receive a response about the quality of aid. This can better inform decisions as programming moves into the recovery stage.

There are currently negotiations ongoing about the implementation of TERA, the SMS based mass-communication tool rolled-out by the IFRC in a few countries globally. If agreements can be reached with one operator and TERA is in place during the recovery stage, exchange of information with communities and blasting of information can be done through SMS service.

A beneficiary satisfaction survey will be conducted in the relief and recovery phase of the operation to evaluate the quality of service to communities.

Security

One potential security and access issue that can have an impact on the operation are hartals (strikes and road blocks) and political demonstrations. These types of events are to a large extent unpredictable – recently the opposition called for demonstrations in all districts across the country on September 10 and in Dhaka on September 11, with one days' notice – and can be disruptive to movement. While BDRCS is in high regard and often can move despite road blocks and demonstrations, it is not guaranteed and with large crowds and demonstrations comes certain security risks.

On the side of demonstrations and strikes, accessibility is in any case an issue in many of the affected unions due to damaged infrastructure and ongoing flooding. Despite having problems in getting access to the affected regions because of inundation and absence of transportation services, the BDRCS volunteers are utilizing locally available facilities and knowledge, including boats in many places, to carry out assessment and render immediate response services in affected areas. As the monsoon season continues, adverse weather conditions may affect response operation.

IFRC and BDRCS will constantly monitor the weather situation and take precautions on time. All staff and volunteer involved in the operation will be briefed on existing security rules and regulations as needed to ensure these are followed in the operation. Specific issues, like the use of life jackets, will be brought up with staff and volunteers in briefings. The IFRC has a security focal point in Dhaka monitoring the situation and a SMS-based system to alerts staff to emerging issues, such as hartals and demonstrations.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

BDRCS will be responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of the operation - primarily at the branch/unit level, but supervised and supported closely by its headquarters and the IFRC. BDRCS and IFRC monitoring teams, including the National Disaster Response Team, will visit the operation sites. The field coordinators assigned from NHQ to the disaster areas will be responsible for monitoring and reporting against the detailed operational plan. Monitoring will consist of due tracking of planned activities and indicators. For this purpose, the BDRCS and the IFRC DM manager will be supported by the IFRC PMER delegate and the BDRCS's PMER section to develop simple, measurable indicators against the planned results of the operation. Any additional request for support in results monitoring will be met by the available technical resources in PMER.

IFRC, through its country office in Dhaka and the Disaster Management Unit in Kuala Lumpur, will provide technical support to BDRCS. The affected districts will be regularly visited by joint IFRC and BDRCS monitoring teams on a needs basis. This will help identify and, where possible and necessary, resolve any problems.

A final report on this DREF-supported operation will be made available three months after the end of the operation. An after action review will be carried out at the end of this operation, followed by a lesson learned workshop to be conducted for those involved in the response operation

As the proposed emergency operation is over nine months in length, a real time evaluation (RTE) will be planned for within the first three months of the operation.

Administration and Finance

The operation will rely on existing financial management and administration systems in BDRCS and IFRC. Provisions have been made for communication costs related to the operation as well as financial charges and general expenses (refer to attached budget).

implementation)														
Output 2.2: Provision of communication tools for community mobilisation and information sharing														
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Establishing kiosks/information boards in strategic locations														
Opening hotlines for complaints and feedback														
Launching bi weekly call in radio shows on behavioral change and aid assistance														
Establishment of TERA (pending progress in negotiations with tele-operators)														
Output 2.3: Provision of feedback mechanisms on aid assistance														
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Register complaints and feedback in the hotline/call in radio/ SMS														
Coordinate response towards complaints and feedback														
Conducting Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey														

Health & care

Needs analysis:

Water, sanitation and hygiene have been reported as a key issue in the current situation. To mitigate health issues arising from contaminated water and poor hygiene, clinical health services are needed in the flooded areas. Diarrhea cases are being reported and ORS is needed for rehydration. To reduce risks longer term, health promotion to increase health awareness is needed, especially in the currently worst affected areas that get flooded regularly.

Population to be assisted:

- Affected people (target TBD) to be assisted with emergency health intervention through 4 medical teams in 4 districts for 10 days
- 5,000 families will receive ORS packages with 20 sachets as part of NFI distributions
- Health messages and referrals by ECV trained volunteers in 16 districts in the relief and early recovery phase (target TBD)
- 1,000 families to be supported with improved health knowledge through 8 health promotion sessions in 4 districts in the recovery phase

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations in 4 districts are reduced														
Output 1.1: Provision of medical assistance with 4 medical teams in 4 districts in the relief phase														
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Mobilizing 4 medical teams from NHQ to 4 districts														
Providing emergency health support to the affected population for 10 days														
Replenishing medicine and medical equipment following standard procurement procedures														
Output 1.2: Distribution of ORS to 5,000 families in 16 districts														
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Distributing ORS to the identified families (targeted with NFI's)														
Outcome 2: The medium term risks to the health of affected populations in 4 districts are reduced in the recovery phase														

Outcome 2: Sustainable reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities in 4 districts in the recovery phase													
Output 2.1: Access to safe water is ensured to target population													
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Disinfection of 160 tube-wells (10 in each of the 4 districts)													
Repairing of 40 tube-wells (10 in each of the 4 districts)													
Raising platform of 40 tube-wells (10 in each of the 4 districts)													
Analysis of available hydrogeological data to inform the installation of new tube wells													
Procurement and distributed of hand pump repair tool kits for operation and maintenance													
Training for user groups on the use of hand pump repair toolkits													
Installation of 20 new tube-wells (5 in each of the 4 districts)													
Output 2.2: Improve access to sanitation facilities to 500 families													
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Construction of 500 household latrines with superstructure (including 250 for transitional shelter)													
Output 2.2: Improve sanitation practice hygiene knowledge and behaviour of 1,600 families													
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orientations/training of volunteers in PHAST													
Introduce PHAST in 4 districts													
Hygiene parcel distribution to 1,600 families (400 families in each of the 4 districts) with PHAST													

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Needs analysis:

Emergency shelter assistance is required for the affected population who have been displaced by the flood and have been living in embankments, roads and high grounds. Families with totally damaged houses will be assisted through cash grants for reconstruction of houses, while those with partially damaged houses will receive cash support for house repair. As the affected population have also lost their essential household items, distribution of NFIs will help them continue their household activities and recover.

Population to be assisted:

- 5,000 families to be assisted with emergency household NFIs in the relief phase in 16 districts, including emergency shelter items
- 5,000 families to be assisted with emergency shelter assistance (tarpaulin and rope) in 16 districts in the relief phase
- 1,000 families to be assisted with conditional cash grant of BDT 25,000 (CHF 313) for house repair in 4 districts
- 250 families to be assisted with conditional cash grant of BDT 150,000 (CHF 1,850) for house reconstruction in 4 districts
- 1,250 families to be targeted through PASSA in 4 districts

Outcome 1: Immediate shelter and household needs of the affected population in 16 districts are addressed in the relief phase The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met

affected districts and also where the NHQ is located)														
Piloting RAMP in the early recovery phase														
Supporting the PMER cell development in the six districts where the early recovery activities will be carried out														
Organizing a new batch of NDRT training targeting staff and volunteers from flood affected districts														
Providing personal gears to NDRT members														

Disaster preparedness and risk reduction

Needs analysis:

The north-eastern region undergoes multiple disasters every year and integrating DRR elements is most beneficial for the longer term. Tree plantation is a way of reducing chances of river erosion which is frequent in the region. This has subsequent impact on the local soil erosion, damage in the roads and embankments. Training and sensitization on certain DRR aspects is also an effective way of disseminating key messages and raising awareness about the effects of climate change.

Population to be assisted:

- 1,000 families to receive training on DRR issues in 4 districts
- 5,000 blankets to be prepositioned as preparedness measure for the upcoming cold wave
- Water purification tablets for 25 Aquasure units are procured as preparedness stocks

Outcome 1: Disaster preparedness measures are taken at the community level in 4 affected districts														
Output 1.2: Training provided to family members of 1,000 families on DRR issues⁵														
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Beneficiary selection														
Conducting training sessions at different locations in 4 districts														
Distribution of IEC materials														
Outcome 2: BDRCS preparedness to respond to future disasters is enhanced through the procurement of preparedness stocks														
Output 2.1: Prepositioning 5,000 blankets in the Disaster Preparedness Stock for cold wave in the upcoming winter season														
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Procurement of 5,000 blankets														
Procurement of water purification tables for 25 Aquasure units														

⁵ Four sessions: health and hygiene, DRR, livelihoods and business - with cash of BDT 1,000 (CHF 13) per person per training as incentive.

Annex 1

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Flooding	Medium/high <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remobilization of volunteers for first response activities, search and rescue required Triggering of new assessments/JNA, which requires redeployment of NDRT and volunteers Need for additional resources, which will be contingent upon early contributions to the Emergency Appeal 	Medium/high <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monsoon season continuing into October There are aspects beyond the control of Bangladesh related to water management in India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous monitoring coupled with scenario planning. New Flooding patterns are well known and the currently affected areas is likely Revision of this EPoA to include and appeal for additional resources
Hartals, political demonstrations	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary disruption to activities Restrictions in movement and access If ongoing/continuous, can have a more severe impact on activities, but unlikely to affect many unions or districts 	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hartals have already taken place in Rangkur and political demonstrations have been called for the whole country on September 10 and for Dhaka on September 11 The occurrence and timing of such events are to a large extent unpredictable The risk of Hartals is significantly lower now than during the lead up to the elections in January 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and good information flow to ensure hartals can be taken into account in planning and implementation Follow security plans
Cyclones	Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas under direct threat in the south and south-east Can bring rain and localized flash floods to the currently affected areas A strong cyclone causing significant damage in the south, triggering a second operations and temporarily or longer-term stretching BDRCS resources (staff, volunteers) 	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal through-out most of the year, but activity peaks around April-May and October to December Cyclones are highly likely to hit the coast of Bangladesh during the implementation period of the Emergency Plan of Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous monitoring and analysis of cyclones forming in the Bay of Bengal Utilization of volunteers for early-warning in the areas of operation to mitigate impact
Cold wave	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the cold wave season starts, many of those now displaced and whose houses have been destroyed will likely live in transitional shelters With household items and assets lost, people will have less options to protect themselves from the elements Every years, people succumb to cold temperatures, often through pneumonia and other health issues 	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold wave occur in December and January, particularly in the north west of the country that is currently worst affected by the floods Normally temperatures drop to between 6 and 8 degrees Celsius, but during extreme cold waves the temperature can stay at 4 to 6 degrees Celsius. During the winter of 2012/2013 more than 2 million people were affected by the cold wave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of blankets to the most vulnerable ahead of the season Procurement of blankets as preparedness stocks for additional distributions if the season becomes particularly bad
Access	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slows down implementation Increases risk for staff and volunteers with changes in means of transport (for example utilization of boats) 	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the affected areas have islands in the river systems (Char) with affected populations which can cause inaccessibility temporarily Some areas are in any case remote and hard to access even outside of the monsoon seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizing local knowledge Taking specific access challenges into account in planning
Lack of coordination	Low/medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can lead to duplications in efforts by government and humanitarian actors Lowers efficiency and effectiveness in a situation where overall resources are unlikely to meet all needs 	Low/medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination issues will emerge, as always, in operations, particularly with organization not fully engaged in the humanitarian coordination mechanisms in country However, the HCTT/JNA approach builds a good foundation for strategic and operational coordination; a common starting point for everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous active engagement in all relevant coordination mechanism Continuous active engagement in the HCTT/JNA approach Continuous active internal coordination

EMERGENCY APPEAL

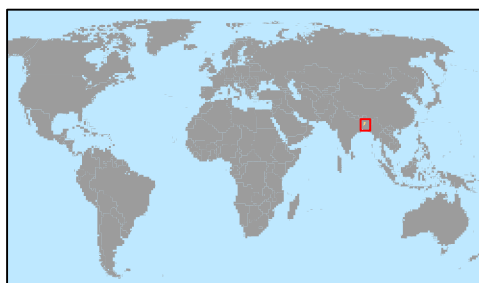
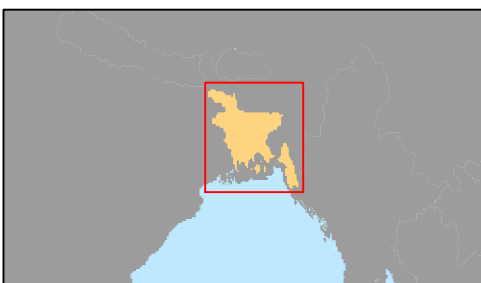
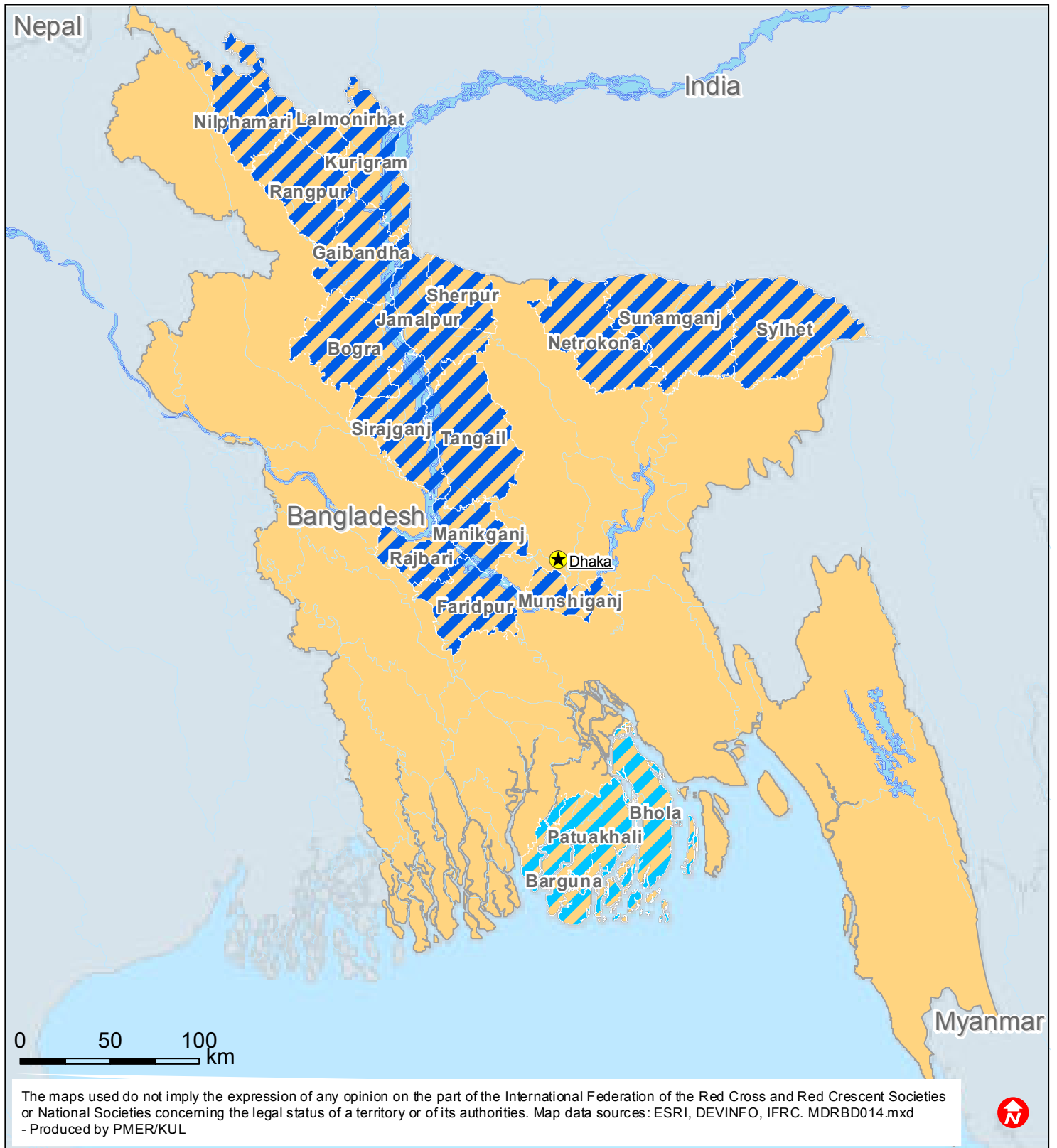
11/09/2014





MDRBD014 Bangladesh: Floods

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	113,875	-	113,875
Shelter - Transitional	468,750	-	468,750
Clothing & Textiles	35,000	-	35,000
Food	41,875	-	41,875
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	132,963	-	132,963
Medical & First Aid	11,500	-	11,500
Utensils & Tools	32,750	-	32,750
Other Supplies & Services	625	-	625
Cash Distributions to Beneficiaries	650,000	-	650,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	1,487,338	-	1,487,338
Storage, Warehousing	13,250	-	13,250
Distribution & Monitoring	7,500	-	7,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,375	-	14,375
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	35,125	-	35,125
International Staff	36,000	-	36,000
National Staff	60,200	5,775	65,975
National Society Staff	99,400	-	99,400
Volunteers	64,150	-	64,150
Total PERSONNEL	259,750	5,775	265,525
Consultants	31,250	-	31,250
Professional Fees	14,000	-	14,000
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	45,250	-	45,250
Workshops & Training	87,650	2,750	90,400
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	87,650	2,750	90,400
Travel	27,000	4,000	31,000
Information & Public Relations	40,000	1,250	41,250
Office Costs	25,250	-	25,250
Communications	8,500	-	8,500
Financial Charges	5,000	-	5,000
Other General Expenses	2,400	-	2,400
Shared Office and Services Costs	34,914	-	34,914
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	143,064	5,250	148,314
Programme and Services Support Recovery	133,781	895	134,677
Total INDIRECT COSTS	133,782	895	134,677
TOTAL BUDGET	2,191,958	14,670	2,206,628



Bangladesh: Floods



-  Affected districts
-  Districted flooded since July 2014
-  Rivers
-  Capitals