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# Bangladesh Annual Report 2014

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAABD001**

**29 April 2015**

**This report covers the  
period 1 January to 31  
December 2014**

*Participants in the Listener's Club in  
Kurigram during the live call-in radio  
program 'Hello Red Crescent-We listen  
to you'*

**Photo:** Louise Taylor.



## Overview

The BDRCS has continued the work to enhance communication with and involvement of beneficiaries in programmes. The live call-in radio program 'Hello Red Crescent-We listen to you' is the only one of its kind in Asia Pacific, and will rotate between community radio stations located in some of the most vulnerable areas of Bangladesh. A story has been published on this event on the [IFRC public website](#).

The BDRCS was the first agency to respond to the floods in north-western Bangladesh in August 2014. The BDRCS's volunteers carried out search and rescue and first aid services to the affected people and the operation has since expanded to address the needs. The latest Operation Update can be found [here](#). In this operation, the community-based Disaster Relief Emergency Funds established in the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction programme were utilised for the first time to procure relief items, demonstrating the sustainability of the community DREF and the benefits communities can avail from them in disaster situations.

The BDRCS's Chairman was supported by the joint ICRC/IFRC Commission for National Society Statutes to bring the constitutional review process forward with the Bangladeshi government. A notable progress in the process to review law and statutes of the National Society in line with standards was made.

## Working in partnership

The IFRC country office in Bangladesh operates through a number of partnerships. Components of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programmes are supported through Memorandums of Understanding with BRAC University and University of Dhaka. A Memorandum of Understanding is also underway between the UNDP and IFRC concerning the leading role of the two agencies during emergency phase and development respectively. In this latter partnership, the UNDP requested IFRC to take over the Shelter Cluster Coordination role during the emergency response to the floods in 2014. The IFRC contributed and participated as such in a joint needs assessment as well as in the phase one Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) that was undertaken during at the onset of the flooding.

In-country partner national societies (PNS) included American Red Cross, British Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross, who all signed the Integration Agreement with the IFRC. In addition, the Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent were also present in Bangladesh. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also an important partner to the IFRC in Bangladesh. Please see the section on Financial Situation for additional information on partners in 2014.

## Progress towards outcomes

Some of the outcomes in the LTPF were adjusted in 2014 to better reflect the programmes, projects, and services managed by the country office. Outcome indicators were also developed in 2014 to measure the results. This annual report intends to provide an overview of the progress towards the main directions of the LTPF and the changes that the country office aims at contributing to in 2012-2015. For business lines 2 and 3 summaries of the overall performance of the programmes under each outcome are included, based on the achievement rate of targets, the number of people reached, and the expenditure. For more detailed explanations on specific programmes and services of the country office, the Development Operational Plan for 2014 and its subsequent biannual reports are referred to.

### **Business line 2: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people**

#### **Outcome 1: More effective and timely disaster response and services to vulnerable people through improved systems and mechanisms.**

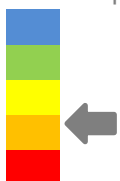
**Indicator(s):** Disaster response assistance to affected communities is provided within 72 hours of the occurrence of a medium to large scale disaster.

**Progress towards outcome 1:** The IFRC provides a continuous support to the BDRCS with the aim of enhancing the National Society's response capacity. The tools, systems, and procedures in disaster preparedness developed and strengthened are implemented in the emergency response operations. In 2014, The BDRCS managed two major disaster response operations; the last phase of the response to cyclone Mahasen (initiated in 2013) and the relief phase of the operation in response to the floods in north-western Bangladesh initiated in August 2014. The BDRCS was able to deliver a timely response to the floods, by applying the tools and capacities developed under the Preparedness for Response project. The use of tools and capacities include the support provided by trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members, the activation of the BDRCS's Flood Contingency Plan, and the activation of mobile water treatment plants.



### Preparedness for Response

Overall performance:



People reached:

Not applicable

Expenditure rate:

98% (DM sector)\*

The overall performance is rated as fair, as no progress was made towards the objectives during the second half of 2014 due to the initiation of the Bangladesh floods emergency operation in August 2014. The planned preparedness for response activities altered into response mechanisms in the emergency operation, where many of the tools and capacities proposed as preparedness measures were applied in the relief phase.

*\*The budget sector for DM is also covering the projects under outcome 5 on DRR, please see page 5 in this report.*

## Outcome 2: Community's access to basic health care is increased.

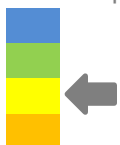
**Indicator(s):** # people have benefitted from basic health care services in 2014 by the MCH centres.

**Progress towards outcome 2:** The expected result of increasing communities' access to basic health care is articulated through the support to the Mother and Child Health care program of the BDRCS. The MCH program consists of 56 MCH centres in 29 districts of Bangladesh which provides primary health care to people in remote rural areas. In 2014, the programme reached 263,087 patients. The Epidemic Control for Volunteers in Asia Pacific is also part of the support to strengthen the access to basic health care, but since this initiative still needs to be rolled-out at community level in Bangladesh it has not been possible to measure the longer-term changes of the ECV.



### Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) and Mother and Child Health Care (MCH)

Overall performance:



People reached:

601

Expenditure rate:

77%

All targets for MCH and ECV interventions were achieved in 2014. However, some planned activities relating to MCH were not included in the DOP 2014, only in the budget. These activities were cancelled because of the political unrest towards the end of 2014, resulting in a low expenditure rate for health. The overall performance is hence rated as good.

## Business Line 3: To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development.

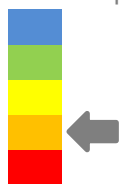
### Outcome 3: Strengthened BDRCS leadership and efficient management through improved structural, human and financial resources and systems for effective service delivery.

**Indicator(s):** 1) BDRCS leadership functioning through approved Legal Base by 2015, 2) BDRCS NHQ and at least 25% district branches are well managed through proper system and procedures by 2015.

**Progress towards outcome 3:** The constitutional revision process of the BDRCS was enhanced towards the aim of establishing law and statutes of the National Society in line with standards. Several important steps have been taken in 2014 to have a leadership of the BDRCS functioning through an approved legal base by 2015. The joint ICRC/IFRC Commission for National Society Statutes supported the BDRCS's Chairman in bringing the legal base issue of the BDRCS forward to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and other government stakeholders. While this mission resulted in major achievements, the election procedures of the Chairman of the BDRCS might cause delay in the process of enactment of the law. In 2012-2014 effort has been put on developing proper systems and procedures for the branches in the form of Branch Operation Manual, Code of Conduct for branches, Branch Governance Manual and an Asset Management Policy. Focus will now be put on building the capacities of the branches on how to use these tools.

**Organizational Development (OD)**

Overall performance:



People reached:

Not applicable

Expenditure rate:

97%

The targets on OD included in the DOP 2014 are to be fully achieved by March 2015. That is why the performance in 2014 is rated as fair. Even so, the expenditure rate in the OD program in 2014 is high. The main reason is that most activities have been held, but as the expected results of those activities are still to be fully accomplished, the achievement of targets is not in line with the expenditure.

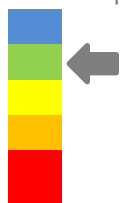
**Outcome 4: Resilience to disaster and climate change risk of vulnerable people is enhanced.**

**Indicator(s):** 1) # consultations between CDMCs and local stakeholders, 2) # meetings between BDRCS and national stakeholders, 3) # communities with access to flood warning, 4) # fellowship program through collaboration with academic institutions, 5) community best practices workshop/forums shared through exchange visits

**Progress towards outcome 4:** The Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction programme aims at linking the targeted communities with local authorities to increase their resilience. In 2014, 70 consultations were held between the Community Disaster Management Committees and local authorities on promotion of disaster tolerant rice varieties and modern technology relevant for fish culture and agro farming. Two meetings were held at national level with two government institutions. The flood early warning system was coordinated with the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre and the National Disaster Preparedness day was discussed with the Department of Disaster Management. Two community based flood early warning system were finally established in 2014. The fellowship program with academic institutions and the best practices forums are planned for 2015.

**Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)**

Overall performance:



People reached:

123,930

Expenditure rate:

90%

The overall performance of this programme is rated as very good, as all targets were achieved except one. Some of the annual targets were substantially overachieved, as the programme went through a revision of budget and plan in August, which resulted in some areas being prioritized over others. More women and men in both targeted communities and as indirect recipients were reached, especially more female recipients. The actual outreach of the programme resulted in 171% of the planned number of people to be reached by the programme.

**Outcome 5: BDRCS emerges as a lead humanitarian agency for its services in DRR, CCA and development initiatives to reduce vulnerability of poor people in Bangladesh.**

**Indicator(s):** 1) # urban communities are better prepared to respond in an emergency situation with trained volunteers and contingency plan in place, 2) BDRCS promoted the concept of culture of safety in at least # schools located in urban areas in line with DRM strategy, 3) Cyclone early warning dissemination process is ensured through functioning # radio stations, 4) CCA issues are integrated into # DRM programs in line with BDRCS CCA strategy, 5) At least # best practices and success stories on DRR/CCA/Response/Recovery captured and disseminated in wider stakeholder level.


**Progress towards outcome 5:** In 2012-2014, there have been four projects under the expected result to strengthen BDRCS' services in DRR, CCA and development initiatives. These have all been in line with the BDRCS's Disaster Risk Management Strategy. Within the scope of the Urban Disaster Risk Reduction project four Slum Disaster Preparedness Committees were formed in 2014, with the aim of carrying out contingency planning in 2015. The other urban DRR project, the



Disaster Preparedness for Safer Schools (DPSS) project promoted the concept of a culture of safety in 50 schools. At the end of 2014, 98 radio stations were functioning to disseminate early warning messages to coastal communities. The BDRCS's strategy on Climate Change Adaptation has been developed within the scope of the CCA project that was ended in 2014 and the strategy is currently being integrated into programmes. Two success stories were produced in 2014. One story on the DPSS project was produced for the American Red Cross website and the other one was a story on the [BDRC's project on weather schools](#) project published on the official website of the Road to Sendai.




#### Urban Disaster Risk Reduction (UDRR)

Overall performance:  People reached:  
11,100  
Expenditure rate:  
98% (DM sector)

The performance for UDRR is also rated as fair. Only half of the targets were reached in 2014. Two of the four targeted slum areas were evicted in 2014 and the planned activities could not be carried out. This also resulted in that less than 50% of the planned number of people reached in the project was actually reached.




#### Disaster Preparedness for Safer Schools (DPSS)

Overall performance:  People reached:  
90,000  
Expenditure rate:  
98% (DM sector)

This project was implemented over a period of 20 months, from August 2012 to April 2014. All project targets except the ones for small scale mitigation were met which is why the overall performance is rated as very good. 70% of the planned number of people reached was actually covered in this project.




#### Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

Overall performance:  People reached:  
81,105  
Expenditure rate:  
98% (DM sector)

This three-year project was finalized in April 2014. The programme performance is rated as very good, considering the expenditure rate as well as the number of targets achieved. The actual outreach was 60% of the planned number of people reached.



#### Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)

Overall performance:  People reached:  
6,443,400  
Expenditure rate:  
98% (DM sector)

The number of direct recipients in the CPP interventions was 5,400 people. However, CPP has a vast outreach through the network of 3,219 units in the coastal areas of Bangladesh and their dissemination of early warning messages to an estimated number of 2,000 people per unit. Nevertheless, due to decreasing financial commitments to CPP, only a limited part of the targets were achieved in 2014 and the performance is rated as fair. The actual outreach was 49% of the planned number of people reached.

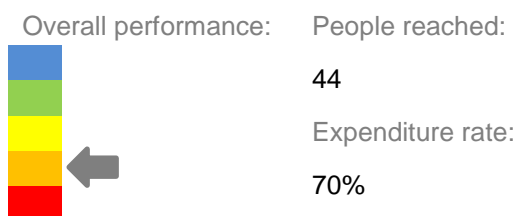
**Outcome 6:** Improved health through access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

**Indicator(s):** By the end of the project, # targeted people are properly using improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (improved facility according to Joint Monitoring Programme/Millennium Development Goal definition).

**Progress towards outcome 6:** This expected result captures the IFRC supported Community Development Initiative (CDI) of the BDRCS. The initiative has been developed under three phases, under which CDI I was initiated as a result of learnings from the cyclone Sidr operation in 2010 and ended in June 2012. It was extended to four communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts through a project called the CDI CHT (Chittagong Hill Tracts) in October 2013 and will be finalised in the end of 2015. In late 2014, the CDI II programme was initiated with more emphasis on WASH services. Hence, there was no progress towards the outcome in 2014.



#### CDI CHT & CDI II WASH



The overall performance of CDI CHT and CDI II WASH in 2014 is rated as fair. There was a five-month delay in initiating the CDI II WASH programme, resulting in a low expenditure rate and achievement of only a few targets. The planned activities in half of the targeted communities in the CDI CHT project were cancelled in 2014, resulting in a low achievement of targets. The actual outreach in CDI CHT resulted in 62% of the planned number of people to be reached, while there was no planned outreach for CDI II WASH during the inception phase of CDI II WASH.

#### **Business line 4:** *To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work*

**Outcome 7:** BDRCS image and profile is further improved and its due space in national and international area as a leading humanitarian agency in Bangladesh is reclaimed and sustained.

**Indicators:** 1) A Movement communications strategy in Bangladesh is developed, 2) A communications strategy for the BDRCS is developed.

**Progress towards outcome 7:** In 2012-2014, effort has been put on developing strategies to achieve the outcome of improving the BDRCS's image and profile. In late 2014, the BDRCS's Communication Policy and Strategy 2013-2015 was finally approved by the board. The Movement perception study, initiated by Movement partners in Bangladesh in 2013, was finalised. Some changes are being incorporated into the BDRCS's Communication Policy and Strategy 2013-2015 in line with the perception study. It is expected that a Movement communication strategy will be in place in 2015.

#### **Business line 5:** *To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability*

**Outcome 8:** More effective coordination and management at the IFRC country office to support more integrated programmes and harmonised services of all RCRC partners in the country.

**Progress towards outcome 8:** The expected result on improved coordination and management encompasses important support services of the delegation such as finance, human resources and administration, security management, and Movement coordination. The fund transfers to the BDRCS work via a working advance system and required due processing of transfers and reports. Support to the BDRCS and the PNS was provided under the cooperation and integration

agreements in areas like recruitment of staff, maintaining office facilities and systems, travel and accommodation support. Security management consisted of monitoring of the situation in Bangladesh and due information sharing with partners. Security is a core service of the IFRC as well. Movement coordination was ensured through Movement partner coordination meetings on a regular basis.

### **Stakeholder participation and feedback**

The number of Movement partners present in Bangladesh has increased in 2014, with six PNSs now with physical presence in Dhaka as compared to three in 2013. The main Movement coordination issues covered in the Movement partner coordination meetings held in 2014 included cluster participation of Movement partners in Bangladesh, security management, health insurance coverage for BDRCS's volunteers, and 4Ws coordination for the emergency operation initiated in August in response to the floods in north-western Bangladesh. In addition, two specific meetings were held in 2014 with Movement partners present in Bangladesh in regard to the ongoing emergency operation.

The work to enhance communication with and involvement of beneficiaries in programmes, the Beneficiary Communication and Accountability (BCA) initiative, was further rolled out in 2014. In February, a training on beneficiary accountability was held at the BDRCS's national headquarters. A draft concept note on BCA in BDRCS was also developed, as well as SOPs for including BCA in emergency and resilience programming. The Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) held a training on setting up complaints and response mechanisms in programming with the BDRCS and its partners in July 2014. Work is now ongoing to set up a complaints and response mechanism in the BDRCS's programmes. A radio training was also held in October, targeting volunteers and staff from flood and cyclone prone areas. As a result, the BDRCS successfully launched a live call-in radio program, 'Hello Red Crescent-We listen to you'. A story has been published on this event on the [IFRC public website](#).

### **Key Risks or Positive Factors**

Hartals were part of the political landscape in Bangladesh, even though to a lesser extent than in 2013. Even so, the political unrest in Bangladesh towards the end of 2014 did affect most programmes. The Movement Contingency Security Plan developed in 2014 was applied to handle upcoming security issues.

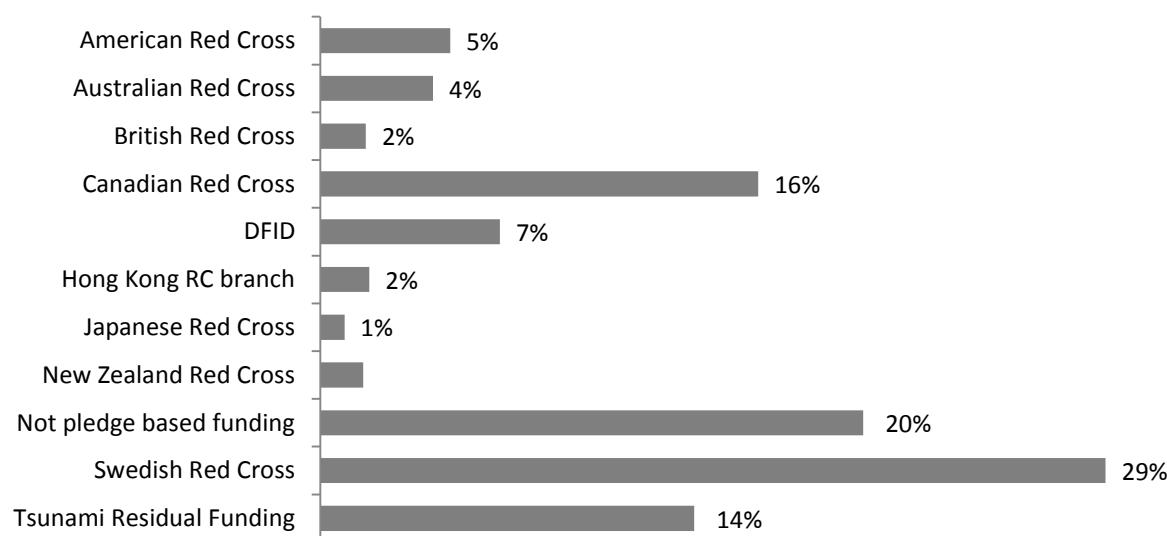
### **Lessons learned and looking ahead**

In 2014, three evaluations were carried out. The two projects that were phased out in 2014 were subject to final evaluations: the CCA project and the DPSS project. Lessons learned workshops were also organised at the completion of these projects. Both evaluations included important lessons learned and management responses are now developed to incorporate them into ongoing programmes. BDRCS was also chosen as one out of 22 National Societies for the Asia Pacific zone office's review of the Epidemic Control for Volunteers Toolkit Rollout. At the completion of the cyclone Mahasen operation a lessons learned workshop was held with all relevant stakeholders, resulting in revised guidelines for cash-based programming, among other things. In 2014, effort has also been put on implementing recommendations from the external review carried out in 2013 of the floods and landslides operation.

## Financial situation

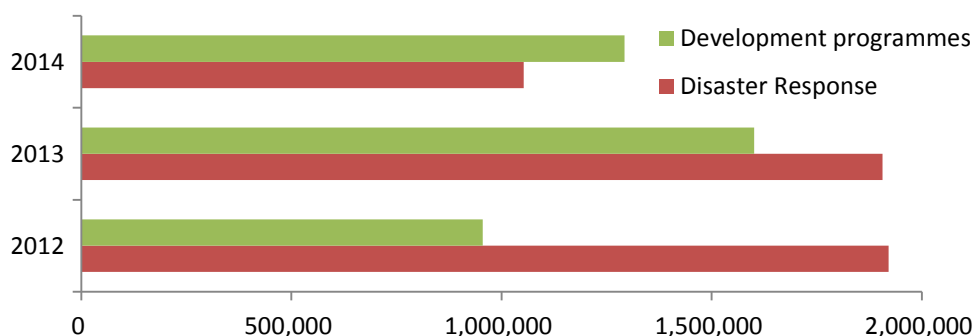
### Partners in 2014

The operational plan for the country office in Bangladesh was supported by nine partners in 2014, through cash contributions and/or in-kind personnel. The Swedish Red Cross was the main donor in 2014. One fifth of the funding was not pledged based but consisted of a general contribution from the Taiwan Red Cross and unspent funding from previous emergency appeals (cyclone Sidr in 2007 and two flood operations in 2013).



### Disaster response operations and long-term services and development programmes

While not included in the LTPF for the delegation, the inclusion of funding for disaster response operations in 2012-2014 provides a fair overview of all the operations, long-term services, and development programmes managed by the delegation during this period. The funding for disaster response operations in 2012 and 2013, shown in the graphic below, reflect the size of the emergency operations initiated in response to the floods and landslides in south east Bangladesh in 2012 and to cyclone Mahasen in 2013. 2014 was the first year of the LTPF period when funding for long-term services and development programmes has exceeded that for emergency response and early recovery operations. The emergency operation in response to the flooding in north-western Bangladesh initiated in September 2014 has not been supported to the same extent as the emergency operations in 2012 and 2013.



[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)



## 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 Disaster 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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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