

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh

Appeal No. MAABD001

This report covers the period 1 January 2008 to
31 December 2008.

28 April 2009



A female volunteer examining a young girl for anaemia. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

In brief

Programme(s) summary:

To achieve *Global Agenda Goal 1*, the following activities were undertaken by the disaster management programme:

Preparedness, Emergency response and early recovery: In 2008, the International Federation supported the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to respond to a number of emergencies: 65,700 families received blankets and 15,000 received coconut saplings. A total of 450 fire victims were provided with food and non-food items. Additional food and non-food packages were distributed to 3,000 families who were affected by water logging in south-western districts. A total of 11,200 families received suitable seeds and saplings. The cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) sent out information on cyclone warning signals for Cyclone Nargis and Reshmi, resulting in the evacuation of many people.

Recovery, CBDM, DRR/Climate Change: BDRCS carried out regular activities under the community-based disaster management (CBDM) and earthquake preparedness and response programme (EPRP) to prepare the community to better respond to potential disasters and to adopt with the climate change affects at community-level. The first drafts of the contingency plan for flood and cyclone disasters were also developed.

In collaboration with the South Asian regional initiative, 'Building Safer Communities in South Asia' school level poster competitions were held after a day-long orientation on climate change, adaptation and its linkage with disaster risk reduction (DRR). The third CBDRR field testing workshop was hosted by BDRCS in Dhaka to finalize the content and the methodology with

feedback and input from different DRR practitioners including donors, international non-government organizations (INGOs), etc.

Coordination and Capacity Building: Disaster management working group Bangladesh (DMWGB), a monthly meeting mechanism, was established for better coordination among International Federation and BDRCS. The BDRCS, through support from the International Federation country office, was able to send 36 staff members to attend 12 international events (conferences, trainings and regional meetings).

To achieve *Global Agenda Goal 2*, the health and care programme took the following initiatives: Capacity of the BDRCS health department and selected existing health programmes are supported to ensure more appropriate health services to the most vulnerable; and contribute to reduce the burden of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), through community-based integrated intervention. Undue delay in recruitment of staff for the HIV programme and in finalizing the information, education and communication (IEC) material affected the implementation of the programme to a larger extent. The deworming and anaemia prevention programme had to decrease the targeted districts due to limited funding, but was able to cover more than 19,397 households with 84 per cent involvement of women volunteers. The avian influenza threat continued to loom over the country throughout the year. Key staff and volunteers from 55 districts were trained to be well versed with the avian flu awareness message so that the same message can be disseminated to more people. But due to the government's rules that prevented others from producing IEC material on avian flu or reprinting government material, BDRCS was not able to produce IEC material to support the programme. In addition, the public health in emergencies (PhiE) programme is gaining more importance due to its empowering nature to the community volunteers and the easy integration with the disaster management programme.

To achieve *Global Agenda Goal 3 and 4* the following activities were taken by the organizational development (OD) and humanitarian values (HV) programme: 2008 has been a less active year than 2007 in implementing planned capacity building and humanitarian values activities due to political instability in Bangladesh. Other than the constraints of funds, the state of emergency, national election preparation, lack of resource personnel also contributed towards the delays of various activities. However, targeted activities which could not be achieved have been carried forward to 2009. Details of the activities which were carried out as planned are stated in the below sector under the programme achievements.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2008 is CHF 1,372,722 (USD 1,301,528 or EUR 917,258), of which 83 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 43 per cent.

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

See also (insert related appeals here)

No. of people we help:

Programme title	Total beneficiary numbers			Estimated Total 2009
	Female	Male	Total 2008	
Disaster Management	160,060	230,090	390,150	250,000
Health and Care	55,649	60,123	115, 772	255,800
Organizational Development			489,000	450,000
Humanitarian Values			450,000	450,000

Our partners: BDRCS has around 40 partners comprising of community-based non-government organizations (NGOs), government bodies, United Nation (UN) agencies, and Movement partners. Main donors for 2008 for disaster management includes the Swedish and Japanese

Red Cross societies, Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through Swedish Red Cross and Department For International Development (DFID) through British Red Cross. For the health and care programme, they are the ministry of health and family welfare, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), department of public health and environment (DPHE), institute of epidemiology, disease control and research (IEDCR), and the safe blood transfusion programme (SBTP) and the Ashar Alo Society (a people living with HIV (PLHIV) network). For the organizational development programme, it is the Japanese Red Cross.

Context

During the period of 2008, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with the support of the International Federation, responded to a series of natural catastrophes. Cyclone Sidr and floods that had occurred in the second half of the year alone affected over 21.9 million people. The political turmoil which had troubled Bangladesh (resulting in a state of emergency being declared and a new chief adviser of the caretaker government sworn in), drove the government to set the general election date for December. During this time, the BDRCS had also set a date for the annual general meeting. The annual general meeting never took place because of an annual general meeting voting right query launched by one of the BDRCS’s delegates. The said issue was then passed over into legal hands and will be heard in a court of law. As such, the annual general meeting for January 2009 was postponed. This affected the momentum of all planned activities. Moreover, natural disasters and the political situation created an impact on the implementation of the programmes as a number of planned activities were delayed. During this time, it was very difficult to get in touch with personnel at the BDRCS units to carry out regular monitoring and evaluation visits to programme sites. Despite the continuing problems and challenges arising from natural calamities, political instability, working days off to celebrate the holy festival of Eid and the poor financial situation in some of the programmes, steady progress was made under all programmes. Overall implementation was successful, resulting in a visible impact in some areas of the programmes.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme Component	Outcomes
1. Community-based disaster management (CBDM)	Targeted high risk flood-prone communities are better able to mitigate, prepare for and respond to floods and other disasters.
2. Cyclone preparedness programme	Capacities of targeted vulnerable coastal communities to respond to cyclonic disasters are strengthened.
3. Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) development programme	Living conditions and peaceful co-existence among the various ethnic groups in targeted communities of Chittagong are improved.
4. Earthquake preparedness and response programme (EPRP)	Targeted high risk communities are better prepared to respond to earthquakes.
5. Disaster response	Disaster response capacities of the national society are further strengthened.
6. Climate change (CC)	National society and targeted communities are better prepared with appropriate knowledge and measures for reducing the potential risk to climate change.

Achievements

- 1. Community-based disaster management (CBDM):** BDRCS carried out 20 extensive vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) exercises in nine flood-prone districts to assess, analyse and prioritize the need of the targeted communities as well as to prepare



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society trainers conducting a vulnerability and capacity assessment at one of the nine flood-prone districts during the curriculum development workshop. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

vulnerability reduction action plan. In addition to the VCAs implemented in CBDM communities, with the support from the International Federation's South Asia regional office, a VCA exercise was piloted in an urban context.

As part of community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) training curriculum development activity, through the "Building Safer Communities in South Asia" initiative, the third eight day-long CBDRR training curriculum field testing workshop was held in Dhaka. With technical support from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), around 30 disaster risk reduction practitioners, including participation from the Red Cross

and Red Crescent societies in South Asia and donors, developed the pre-final version of the curriculum.

A poster competition on disaster risk reduction thematic issues at schools was held in three schools in Bangladesh. Around 300 students attended the poster competition event. The winning posters have been used in a calendar and other IEC materials and disaster preparedness messages.

Officials from the CBDM programme of BDRCS and relevant department of community development attended the regional logistic workshop and disaster risk reduction training curriculum development workshop held in Kuala Lumpur and Delhi.

2. ***Cyclone preparedness programme:*** The BDRCS, with the support of the International Federation, responded to a series of natural catastrophes, along with the on-going operations of floods and Cyclone Sidr. During the warning preparation for Cyclones Nargis and Rashmi, the BDRCS cyclone preparedness programme disseminated cyclone warning signals. The cyclone preparedness programme control-room was activated for 24 hours. All cyclone preparedness programme volunteers disseminated information based on the warning signal and evacuated coastal communities to safe places. Better equipment was installed to enhance a more thorough dissemination through this early warning system. Additionally, for the community's greater safety, 97 cyclone shelters that were constructed between 1988 and 1994 were repaired and renovated.
3. ***Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) development programme:*** The International Federation country office had re-evaluated its support to the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) development programme to make sure that the programme folds into the regular programmes. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had provided support of USD 5 million (CHF 5.8 million or EUR 3.6 million) at the CHT area. Thus, considering the situation, community development suspended direct support to the project.
4. ***Earthquake preparedness and response programme:*** Building of awareness and response capacity at family and community levels at three earthquake prone urban cities in the country had taken place in 2008. Basic and refresher first aid training was given to 1,250 students from 30 selected schools in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet. Blood-typing of 1,100 students and teachers were also done in Dhaka. Community and squad volunteers disseminated messages with different IEC materials on earthquake preparedness by going

door-to-door to the targeted families. A number of street drama skits of earthquake preparedness were staged at programme areas. First aid kits and “search and rescue” kits were distributed to the squad and community volunteers in order to increase response capacity. The earthquake preparedness and response programme (EPRP) director and the International Federation programme officer attended simulation exercises with government as well as two workshops on command control of earthquake incidents.

Due to the floods and Cyclone Sidr operations, attention was diverted to emergency response which impeded the implementation flow of EPRP. Therefore, the BDRCS and International Federation country office requested the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China (HKRC) for a no-cost extension targeting to complete the project in March 2009. The plan of action was revised and approved by the HKRC for the extended period. The plan of action was again revised in November due to expected slow down of work in December and January because of the national elections.

5. Disaster response: Along with the on-going 2007 floods and cyclone Sidr operations, the BDRCS also responded to a series of natural calamities. The BDRCS provided assistance to the people affected by cold waves, tornadoes and water logging. Cold wave annually affects millions of poor people in Bangladesh. During the cold wave in 2008, the BDRCS was able to support families in 64 districts with blankets. Thousands were assisted with standard food and non-food packages due to water-logging at the Jessore and Satkhira districts. In addition, a few hundred fire victims were assisted with food and non-food items.

With the contribution from Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO) in Sidr response 15,000 targeted beneficiaries were assisted with 75,000 coconut saplings (five saplings for each). The 11,200 families, assisted with seeds and saplings under ECHO’s support to the flood response in 2007, were able to restore their traditional agriculture productivity by 2008. An evaluation on the effectiveness of the flood response under ECHO’s contribution in 2007 to the floods was conducted by a team comprising of BDRCS, the International Federation country office and an external evaluator. The findings of the evaluation would help the BDRCS and the International Federation towards a better disaster response strategy.

The BDRCS completed the second draft of the cyclone and flood contingency plan following a three-day working group meeting held in Dhaka. The first draft of the contingency plan was done with the technical support from the International Federation’s South Asia regional office. On relief operation mechanisms and other issues related to disaster management, a three day-long refresher workshop for 100 BDRCS staff and officials was organized in Dhaka.

To identify the needs and to assist the most vulnerable ethnic people affected due to food scarcity, the International Federation country office participated in a joint-assessment on CHT food crisis with other international and government agencies in April. To help build better response capacity, two representatives of the disaster management team of the International Federation country office participated in the Global Relief training held in Geneva. The response programme officer facilitated a training of trainers (ToT) workshop for the regional disaster response team in Delhi in October. The BDRCS relief officer attended the regional disaster response training held in Kathmandu in November.

6. Climate change: A day-long orientation on climate change, adaptation and linkage between disaster risk reduction and development was held. This was aimed at introducing climate change as an independent topic in the disaster risk reduction framework. A group of 50 people, including department programme heads and officials of BDRCS as well as delegates and officials from the International Federation country office, attended the orientation. A pilot project on climate change has been approved by the BDRCS to be implemented in two communities through the regular CBDM project. The BDRCS has appointed a focal person for the climate change programme who had attended the climate change workshop in Sweden, and the role of civil societies organized by the Swedish International Development Agency Civil Society Centre.

Constraints or Challenges

Large scale operations like Cyclone Sidr and the 2007 floods diverted the attention of a group of skilled programme personnel hampering the smooth continuation of programme activities and caused delay of programme implementation. This delay in the programme demonstrated the need for the BDRCS to build capacity in their staff and expand their volunteer training and mobilization. The national elections further hampered ongoing implementation of programmes. The problem of finalizing the appointment or clarification of the role of the two directors appointed by the BDRCS and the government in parallel for the cyclone preparedness programme has not been resolved yet. The BDRCS has appointed a director on an ad hoc basis who managed to pick up the cyclone preparedness programme activities in 2008. The approval of the cyclone preparedness programme director's appointment is still pending from the cyclone preparedness programme implementation board.

Working in partnership

The BDRCS, in collaboration with International Federation country office, formed the disaster management working group Bangladesh (DMWGB) to enhance coordination of disaster management activities. The DMWGB meeting is co-chaired by the BDRCS disaster management manager, deputy secretary general and the International Federation disaster management delegate. The meeting takes place on the first Monday of every month. The DMWGB organized an initial coordination meeting with partner national societies to share the ongoing BDRCS Strategy 2009-2011 to get feedback on the disaster management section and disaster management and disaster risk reduction activities that have been carried out through the national society. The concept of operational alliance on emergency response and community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) has been introduced to BDRCS. The said two points will facilitate in implementing the alliance.

Over the years the BDRCS has, through the cyclone preparedness programme and with support from the International Federation country office and partner national societies implemented community-based programmes and early warnings for cyclone response and contributed to the national emergency standing orders. Other community-based initiatives (CBDM, disaster risk reduction and climate change) have been implemented from the national headquarter through the units and have been less successful in the coordination of their activities with external agencies such as the government, UN agencies, donors, and other international, national and local agencies for building partnerships. The response and relief departments, in BDRCS have coordinated with government and its coordination mechanisms such as disaster and emergency response.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Community-level response groups formed under the CBDM programme were able to respond to flood-affected people through search and rescue, and first aid services. The 15,000 targeted beneficiaries affected by Cyclone Sidr were assisted with an equal quantity of coconut saplings and shovels with ECHO contributions in the Sidr response operation. This will lead to the long-term recovery of livelihoods and a re-generation process.

A disaster risk reduction lessons learnt workshop conducted is influencing the disaster risk reduction strategies. The participation of BDRCS volunteers, management and programme staff brought up certain issues/constraints related to programme/project design, community participation, scaling-up and replicating good practices, promoting community practices such as local and traditional knowledge, and so on. ECHO's disaster preparedness programme (DipECHO) funded an advocacy pilot project for climate change. This will be implemented through the community-based organizations which will contribute to the longer-term climate

change programme. Lessons learned from the flood management workshop were used to review the BDRCS's relief manual and response mechanism.

The disaster management delegate attended the strategic meeting organized by the South Asia regional office, the Asia Pacific Zone office and the Asia ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction which is playing an important role in helping to strengthen the linkage and long-term coordination.

Looking ahead

Community-based organizations and volunteers are key actors in facilitating sustainable disaster risk reduction programmes that allow for the participation of vulnerable people and their capacity in the implementation of programmes. Successful implementation of disaster response during natural calamities and emergencies show BDRCS's potential strengths in trained volunteers who will continue to respond in future, to unforeseen calamities and emergencies. A synergistic effort, through coordination between different disaster risk reduction programmes and their contributions to BDRCS's response and preparedness programmes must be better understood, clarified and coordinated with the community, units and BDRCS's headquarter to enhance the quality of response and programmes. The formalization of 'community based volunteers' in BDRCS would go a long way to better strengthening the units/volunteers and disaster response and recovery mechanism.

Health and Care

Programme component	Component outcome
1. HIV and AIDS	Vulnerability to HIV infection where HIV's impact is reduced.
2. Public health	Improved health status of the vulnerable population, especially that of children and adolescent girls among the targeted group.
3. Public health in emergencies	Effective response to public health issues in emergencies.

Achievements:

1. HIV and AIDS: Preventing further HIV infection - In three programme districts, 83 volunteers received a training of trainers (ToT) session on the prevention of HIV and life skills. In one of the units, volunteers had trained 215 youth peer educators from seven schools and seven colleges. The programme could not move further as BDRCS has yet to finalize IEC materials which are needed to continue the programme. Five BDRCS blood centres observed World Blood Donor Day by organizing rallies and seminars. Furthermore, it is recognized that regular voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and conducted voluntary blood donation camps played an important support role. As per the reports received from the blood centres, a total of 1,800 people benefited by these activities.



A street play staged by volunteers on World AIDS Day. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Expanding HIV care treatment and support - Ashar Alo Society (a People Living with HIV (PLHIV) network) was encouraged to develop a proposal for income generation activities for PLHIV and their families. A memorandum of understanding was developed by the national

society with the International Federation and shared with Ashar Alo. This aims to support 21 PLHIV with income generation activity.

Reducing stigma and discrimination - Out of the 15 districts selected for observing World AIDS Day, only ten showed interest. The main theme was anti-stigma and discrimination. The message was disseminated through rallies and street plays by the volunteers at five different points in their towns. It has been estimated that nearly 15,000 members of the general public have benefitted through receiving this message.

Strengthening the national society's capacities - The HIV steering committee formed by the BDRCS in 2008 met four times between June and November. Director of the national AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) programme participated in one of the meetings. During the fourth meeting in November, the steering committee selected eight districts for HIV programme implementation.

2. Public health: De-worming and anemia detection programme - Though it was planned for programme implementation in seven districts, due to financial constraints, the programme was implemented in only four districts. Two districts from the CBDM and cyclone preparedness programme were selected. Community-based volunteers (100 per cent women volunteers) and cyclone shelter volunteers (50 per cent women volunteers) were trained in looking for signs of anaemia, the prevention of anaemia, and nutrition for women and children. In the first round, they distributed de-worming and iron tablets to children from six to ten years and adolescent girls from 11-19 years of age (shown in table 1). During the second round of implementation of the programme, they also distributed seeds of green leafy vegetables to each family in the targeted communities. They are expected to encourage households to have kitchen gardens and adequate iron rich food for family members. Two types of posters were developed on worm infestation and anaemia and nutrition to bring awareness among the community by the volunteers. Local folk music troops were also involved in disseminating relevant information to school children.

Table1: Distribution of deworming and iron tablets

Districts	Volunteers	Beneficiaries		
		House holds	6-10 years	11-19 yrs
Round 1				
Lalmonirhat	24*	6,376	5,519	2,413
Kurigram	24*	6,053	3,915	1,712
Chittagong	18**	3,820	4,616	1,420
Noakhali	18**	3,148	3,872	1,588
Round 2				
Lalmonirhat ***	24*	6,275	7,755	2,214
Kurigram ***	24*	6,033	3,806	1,759

* All women volunteers

** 50% women volunteers

*** Same families, children and adolescent girls were the beneficiaries as seen in the first round

Avian Influenza - In 2008, avian influenza spread through 47 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and forced the killing of nearly two million birds while 2.2 million eggs were destroyed. The first human case of H5N1, a highly pathogenic avian influenza strain of infection, was detected in an 18-month old male child. The child survived the infection. H5N1 infection among poultry birds was reported again after an interval between five to six months in five districts in December 2008. A total of 185 key staff and volunteers from the national headquarters and 55 units were trained in awareness, creation and communication among the communities through various programmes.

First aid for road traffic accident victims – Dhaka to Sylhet highway was selected to implement first aid to road traffic accident victims by trained volunteers. A total of 22 volunteers selected from six districts were trained in first aid and received first aid kits and stretchers. As per the discussions with the volunteers, it is expected to benefit on average 60 road traffic accident victims every month.

3. Public Health in Emergencies: The review and refresher conducted for 28 CBDM volunteers who were trained in public health in emergencies in 2007 has helped coping with disasters such as the floods. It was further extended to train two volunteers from each of the 113 cyclone shelters with the available tsunami funds. A total of 177 cyclone preparedness programme volunteers (80 female volunteers), and 12 cyclone preparedness programme officers were trained in basic public health issues, including basic first aid for injuries, drowning and snake bites. These volunteers will be providing first aid, safe water and sanitation facilities to the people who take shelter in the cyclone shelters during cyclones and tsunamis. Two BDRCS personnel and one from capacity development (CD) attended the regional disaster response team within a public health in emergencies training, which was conducted by the South Asia regional office. This will be beneficial to volunteers and staff of public health in emergencies in the future, for when there is an expansion of scope.

Constraints or Challenges

Getting a quality report on time from various levels of BDRCS is a major challenge. Importance of monitoring and reporting needs to be emphasised in the coming year for a better accountability of existing programmes. Though IEC materials were developed by the government of Bangladesh and used by many national and international agencies in the country, the same was not possible in BDRCS due to cultural and religious backgrounds of few of the BDRCS personnel resulting in preventing the printing of IEC material for the HIV prevention programme.

Working in partnership

Discussions with the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) on various occasions helped the national society to understand the newer areas to be focused on while taking up avian influenza awareness creation in future. Small backyard poultry farms, live bird markets and urban slums were recommended by the ministry of health and family planning (MoHFP). Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster meetings were regularly organised by the public health engineering department with the support of UNICEF. The meetings lead to the development of standard guidelines to be used in emergencies in the country context: Water and sanitation and the hygiene rapid assessment tool; guidelines on standard water; sanitation; hygiene when working with non-food items; and guidelines of excreta disposal. They were jointly developed and accepted by most of the national and international organizations involved in water and sanitation during emergencies.

Contributing to longer-term impact

All programmes have encouraged participation from more women volunteers at various levels which is evident from the participant lists. An encouraging number of women volunteers (75 per cent) participated in the anaemia prevention programme at the community level, with another 33 per cent in the HIV programme and 82.4 per cent in the public health in emergencies programme. This has enabled a direct approach with women in the households – women, who are the most vulnerable segment. The lessons learnt exercises and refresher courses for CBDM volunteers who were trained in public health in emergencies helped in understanding the usefulness of the programme during floods and newer areas to be covered. The national society and the units need to be motivated, but also assessed through regular and simple reporting procedures that will be helpful in monitoring the programme and evaluating the effectiveness of the programme.

Trainings at various levels addressed the principles of the Movement, the code of conduct for the within the Movement and non-governmental organizations in disaster relief and Sphere standards, especially in public health in emergencies trainings. The programmes are designed to support the nation's commitment toward achieving Millennium Development Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6.

In order to build the capacity of the national society on a long-term basis, two personnel from BDRCS and one from the International Federation country office participated in the community-based health and first aid in action master facilitators' workshop organized in Sri Lanka, and regional disaster response team within public health in emergencies training in Pakistan. Three BDRCS health personnel attended a regional training of trainers workshop on HIV prevention care, treatment and support for community volunteers.

Looking ahead

Lessons learnt and experience gained through programme implementation in 2008 is very valuable for 2009. BDRCS's health department needs to widen its vision towards community-based and long-term programmes. This is very important especially in the light of the HIV prevention programme which has been affected due to lack of conceptualizing the importance of it in the long run. The composition of human resource structure and their skills play a very important role in this. Almost a year's delay in staff recruitment and selection of districts for the programme implementation in 2008 has affected the smooth continuation of the programme.

Experience from the de-worming and anaemia prevention programme implemented at the community level with particular involvement of more than 87.5 per cent of women volunteers shows that if this programme continues for another year, then more of such programmes can then be replicated in other districts. Public health in emergencies for volunteers has proven to be an effective mechanism to reach the communities through volunteers. It can be expanded to cover more areas in coordination with various disaster management/disaster risk reduction programmes. The BDRCS was unable to grasp the opportunity of receiving funding support for the humanitarian pandemic preparedness (HPP) programme during the last part of 2008, which will be looked into again in 2009. This will make a vast difference to BDRCS in the wake of the recurring avian influenza infection among the poultry birds in the country and the reporting of one human case during 2008.

Organizational Development

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Planning and accountability development	BDRCS capacity in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) and managing effective programmes are strengthened.
2. Governance and management development	Members of the BDRCS governing board and branch executive committees are well informed of the role of governance and management, code of conduct, policies, systems and procedures.
3. Legal base	BDRCS legal base is strengthened.
4. Volunteer management and development	BDRCS volunteer base has increased and developed into a gender diverse, well trained, highly motivated network (including youth volunteers).
5. Financial resource development	BDRCS has enhanced capacity to manage its financial resources and fundraising effectively.
6. Human resource development and management	BDRCS human resource capacity enhanced to render improved service delivery.
7. Branch development	Systematic branch development is taking place

Achievement

1. **Planning and accountability development:**

Through Zone and South Asia regional office assistance, the BDRCS strategic planning meeting held in May at the national headquarters, where the first draft of the strategic plan was launched. To continue working on the second draft, a committee at the national headquarter level was formed comprising of all the BDRCS relevant programme personnel and International Federation's head of the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit. To finalize the strategic plan draft, a workshop was held from 11-13 November with 24 representatives from 24 units (vice chairman/secretary and executive members), including four



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society personnel, with representatives from 24 units, finalizing the Strategic Plan in November 2008. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

representatives from the International Federation country office participated. This bottom-up approach has helped in gathering accountable feedback to be incorporated into the final document. The final document will then be submitted to the governing board of BDRCS to obtain final approval.

Since December 1 2008, the PMER unit in the International Federation country office has been established to assist all programmes. To better facilitate the unit, the head of PMER attended the grants management training in Kula Lumpur. The training focused on management of grants from institutional donors. To clarify the role of PMER and ways to produce donor acceptable reports as well as the finalization of logical framework for 2009-2010, a PMER session was held by the regional head of PMER in the country office. More than 20 participants from the BDRCS and International Federation, including Sidr operation delegates and national staff, took part.

2. Governance and management development: Branch executive committee members, along with volunteers and unit staff, participated in several trainings, workshops on the Movement's principles, code of conduct, and relief management.

3. Legal base: The translation of the BDRCS integrity policy into Bengali did not take place due to the priority given on the preparation for the BDRCS's annual general meeting. The respective departments have taken the initiative for a wider dissemination of the policy among BDRCS staff and volunteers. Translating the BDRCS Statute, human resource policy and finance regulations into Bengali could not take place as they have not been adopted yet.

4. Volunteer management and development: Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers have demonstrated a considerable high level of motivation, dedication and commitment towards the Movement through various events such as awareness raising campaigns, International Mother Language Day, World Health Day, World HIV/AIDS day, World Blood Donor Day and World First Aid Day. Khulna city organized the third assembly with 400 RCY volunteers from different schools and colleges. Five three-day-long Red Cross Red Crescent basic and first aid training was conducted with the participation of 200 students

from ten schools. All these events were initiated by BDRCS raising funds locally through a membership drive in schools and colleges as well as personal donations.

The RCY workshop participated by youth chiefs of 68 units, helped in providing a platform to get feedback through an exchange of views and ideas on how to further systematize, develop and motivate the volunteer base. They also come up with activities that enhanced a more participatory approach towards achieving the project's objective. The two seven-day long training of trainers conducted for 50 RCY on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and basic first aid aimed to create a more motivated spirit-driven youth and volunteer troop. In view of improving the progress on developing the volunteer policy, BDRCS reformed the six-member committee (formed in 2006). The International Federation country office has been following up and providing necessary support for the process.

- 5. Financial resource development:** BDRCS had put much effort into developing the system of managing financial procedures and resources. The activities undertaken were Navision training of the finance staff from the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital and Medical College; establishing contact with software implementing partner (Southtech Ltd.) for maintaining accounting software; and facilitating on a regular basis a smooth running of the software. To enhance the capacity of the BDRCS accounts department, financial management training at the national headquarter level was conducted. The Navision software refresher training and the revision and updating of the financial regulations workshop for the BDRCS accounting and finance staff could not take place as change of personnel are expected following the BDRCS election.
- 6. Human resource development and management:** Induction training on the Movement and Sphere was conducted with the staff of the BDRCS and the International Federation country office. Topics covered were on humanitarian charter, Code of Conduct and Sphere minimum standards. With two major relief, recovery and rehabilitation operations taking place (floods and Sidr), it was necessary to enlighten staff on the Fundamental Principles, Code of Conduct and Sphere minimum standards among other things. Due to various factors, some of the activities under this component were shifted to 2009.
- 7. Branch development:** Due to the two ongoing emergency operations, Cyclone Sidr and the 2007floods, almost all the activities under this component were concentrated in the units of the cyclone and floods operations. Throughout 2008, computers and accessories have been distributed to five units under the floods operation. The organizational development officer participated in the regional organizational development meeting, entitled "Priorities and Modality in Organizational Development 2009-2010" in New Delhi, India. The workshop aimed at sharing experiences and ideas on the existing organizational development activities in the region. The International Federation is assisting the BDRCS in the process of creating a volunteer database. The proposed format of this database from BDRCS is yet to be received.

Constraints or Challenge:

Getting all the planned activities done on time is often a challenge due to the inavailability of resource persons or delays in the BDRCS administrative process. The delay of the implementation of the new organigram has hampered the relevant process of developing different systems and procedures for the national society. Due to the uncertainty of the BDRCS governing board members election, some activities have either been cancelled or carried forward to 2009. Absence of a revised constitution (Statutes) and the coordination agreement in place have made the legal base of the BDRCS very ambiguous. Thus, to overcome some of the issues, steps can only be taken once the new BDRCS governing board is in place in 2009.

Working in partnership

The Japanese Red Cross has been collaborating and extending its support to carry forward several activities from 2008 to 2009, especially in strengthening capacity building. The "operational alliance on emergency response and community-based disaster risk management" has been introduced initially to the BDRCS, with the support of all the participating national societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In 2009, the International Federation country office and BDRCS will work closely towards finalizing it so that the national society gets the full ownership of the project.

Contributing to longer-term impact

With the establishment of the BDRCS PMER department by 2009, BDRCS's approach to PMER activities will be further strengthened and systematized. The BDRCS's youth and volunteers and unit affairs departments have always maintained a gender sensitive approach in implementing activities, e.g. under the branch development aspect, the BDRCS launched gender diverse membership drive in all 68 district units with the aim of enhancing women: participation, leadership, women empowerment and their capacity building in the community. A volunteer database will also help immensely in keeping track of the members and volunteers in times of need.

Looking ahead

Many of the activities crucial to the development of the organization, such as the establishment of the PMER department, development of a volunteer policy and management system, revising the existing standing order for human resource and other policies, are moving at a slow pace. Although these activities are prioritized by the BDRCS, in order to have speedier implementation, a more organized approach to taking the necessary steps is required and discussions are underway. As 2008 was the election year for BDRCS, some of the activities on governance management, legal base development and branch development are being postponed until next year. Likewise, the branch coordination meeting which was planned to be held for branches in Khulna division had to be postponed considering the political implication.

Humanitarian Values

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Understanding of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values	Raised awareness among BDRCS governing board, branch executive committee and key staff on Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles, history and humanitarian values.
2. Integration of humanitarian values into DM, Health and OD programmes	BDRCS DM, health and OD programmes are designed to include Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and HV to promote non-discrimination and social harmony.
3. Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values advocacy	Targeted sectors of civil society have a positive change in attitude in areas of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Achievement

The humanitarian values 2008 plan of action has been revised in June. Many of the planned activities were cancelled due to lack of funding while some were postponed.

- 1. Understanding of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values:** Induction training on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement took place in April, with participants from BDRCS and the International Federation country office. Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values among other things were given to educate staff. Due to lack of funds, the planned activities did not take place during the second part of the year.

2. Integration of humanitarian values into DM, Health and OD programmes:

Humanitarian values as a cross-cutting issue has been integrated into training courses of all programme areas. Four workshops were conducted in March, with 111 participants. Volunteers, members of branch executive committee, several members of board of governance, and International Federation staff took part. "Implementation team recovery activities" training (under disaster management) was provided twice in Barisal with the participation of 30 volunteers and executive committee members. In this training as a cross cutting issue, humanitarian values messages to humanitarian partners and communities/beneficiaries were disseminated.

3. RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values advocacy:

The World Red Cross RedCrescent Day was celebrated on 8 May 2008. The day was commemorated with much grandeur through events organized to observe the occasion as rallies, discussion sessions, cultural and art competitions as well as a television feature. The Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values were widely disseminated through the print and electronic media.

Publication of humanitarian values-related issues in daily newspapers has been postponed to May 2009. Due to lack of funds, the publications could not take place in 2008. Workshops on the Movement, the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values issues could not be conducted due to lack of funds.

Constraints or Challenges

As with most cross-cutting issues, the main challenge has been with making humanitarian values a priority for the BDRCS. Due to other priorities, the BDRCS humanitarian values focal person was not able to initiate much activity throughout 2008. Not having a proper organogram and lack of staff with the correct skill sets in BDRCS has also been an obstacle in undertaking the planned activities. However, the lack of funding remains the most significant challenge.

Looking ahead

Once the organigram is finalized, activities for organizational development, disaster management and health will be able to integrate humanitarian values into the programmes.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAABD001 - Bangladesh

Annual report 2008

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAABD001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	840,611	339,606	137,708	15,586	39,211	1,372,722
B. Opening Balance	652,574	201,708	112,515	664	1	967,462
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross (from British Government)</i>	160,938					160,938
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	30,000	20,000	10,000			60,000
<i>Kuwait Red Crescent</i>	0					0
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		64,013				64,013
C1. Cash contributions	190,938	84,013	10,000			284,950
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>British Red Cross (from British Government)</i>	-112,833					-112,833
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		-80,593				-80,593
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-112,833	-80,593				-193,426
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	22,000					22,000
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					17,000	17,000
C4. Inkind Personnel	22,000				17,000	39,000
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Services</i>					36,312	36,312
C5. Other Income					36,312	36,312
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	100,105	3,420	10,000	0	53,312	166,837
D. Total Funding = B + C	752,679	205,128	122,515	664	53,313	1,134,299
Appeal Coverage	90%	60%	89%	4%	136%	83%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	652,574	201,708	112,515	664	1	967,462
C. Income	100,105	3,420	10,000	0	53,312	166,837
E. Expenditure	-378,951	-183,442	-43,666		12,485	-593,575
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	373,728	21,685	78,849	664	65,798	540,724

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Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
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Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		840,611	339,606	137,708	15,586	39,211	1,372,722	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	1,935							1,935
Construction Materials	14,832							14,832
Clothing & textiles	75,000							75,000
Seeds,Plants	9,840	4,463	6,100			10,563		-723
Water & Sanitation	45,749	2,220				2,220		43,528
Medical & First Aid	8,885	2,199	4,580			6,780		2,105
Other Supplies & Services	126,500	6,161				6,161		120,339
Total Supplies	282,741	15,043	10,680			25,724		257,017
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	3,710	3,661				3,661		49
Computers & Telecom	14,190	15,245	1,097			16,342		-2,152
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	11,794	14,017		172		14,189		-2,396
Others Machinery & Equipment	483							483
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	30,177	32,923	1,097	172		34,192		-4,016
Transport & Storage								
Storage	500	4	285			290		210
Distribution & Monitoring	2,472	2,966				2,966		-494
Transport & Vehicle Costs	30,756	13,289	5,258	1,802		19,666	-684	11,091
Total Transport & Storage	33,728	16,260	5,543	1,802		22,921	-684	10,807
Personnel								
International Staff	459,390	83,170	84,914	1,688		72,476	242,248	217,142
National Staff	124,514	14,489	15,052	10,134		7,337	47,012	77,502
National Society Staff	136,757	102,833	16,201	6,723		3,147	128,904	7,853
Total Personnel	720,661	200,492	116,167	18,545		82,960	418,164	302,497
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	113,999	48,312	29,258	12,795		1,958	92,324	21,675
Total Workshops & Training	113,999	48,312	29,258	12,795		1,958	92,324	21,675
General Expenditure								
Travel	16,057	5,751	2,187	2,020		4,633	14,591	1,466
Information & Public Relation	40,511	20,355	7,328	6		-102	27,586	12,926
Office Costs	19,575	1,574	635	446		9,510	12,165	7,410
Communications	17,846	1,832	189	29		6,397	8,447	9,399
Professional Fees						154	154	-154
Financial Charges	6,500	29,102	43	5,000		-143,667	-109,522	116,022
Other General Expenses	1,700	-4,186	-3,449	-30		28,272	20,607	-18,907
Total General Expenditure	102,189	54,427	6,933	7,471		-94,804	-25,973	128,162
Programme Support								
Program Support	89,227	23,292	12,115	2,920		-1,917	36,411	52,816
Total Programme Support	89,227	23,292	12,115	2,920		-1,917	36,411	52,816
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-11,798	1,649	-39			-10,188	10,188
Total Operational Provisions		-11,798	1,649	-39			-10,188	10,188
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,372,722	378,951	183,442	43,666		-12,485	593,575	779,147
VARIANCE (C - D)		461,660	156,163	94,042	15,586	51,696	779,147	