

# Programme Update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## BANGLADESH

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This report covers the period 01 July 2008 to 31  
December 2008.



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society volunteers marching along with community people in the district of Jessore during the World AIDS Day rally. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

## In brief

**Programme purpose:** Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters, such as cyclones, earthquakes, tidal surges, tornadoes, floods, river bank erosions, droughts and cold waves. This is further compounded by climate change and the rise in ocean levels, disease and seasonal variability. The extent of any natural disaster's impact on the country is usually massive and often exceeds the capacity of local coping mechanisms. Thus, the purpose of the disaster management programme is to accomplish its Global Agenda Goal 1 by reaching out to the most vulnerable, alleviating human suffering resulting from natural catastrophes by capacity building through prevention, response and recovery with an emphasis on disaster risk reduction and ultimately safer communities.

To achieve Global Agenda Goal 2, the capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (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 HIV through community-based, integrated intervention.

With increasing disasters and poverty in the country, the organizational development programme aims to build the capacity of the national society with an aim at making the local community resilient to disasters and resist the impact of climate change and thereby achieving Global Agenda 3.

Global Agenda Goal 4 is a cross-cutting issue which is reached through influencing the behaviour of staff, volunteers, beneficiaries and other stakeholders in all programmes.

**Financial situation:** The budget for the reporting period is CHF 1,372,722 (USD 1.3 million or EUR 894,303).

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

### No. of people we help:

Reporting period	Programme title	Total beneficiary numbers		
		Female	Male	Total
June – December 2008	Disaster Management	10,000	5,000	15,000
	Health and care			103,756 <sup>1</sup>
	OD	150,000	300,000	450,000
	HV	150,000	300,000	450,000
	<b>Total</b>			<b>1,018,756</b>

**Our partners:** BDRCS has around 40 partners comprising of community-based non-government organizations, government bodies, UN agencies, and Movement partners. Main donors for 2008 so far include the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Japanese and Swedish Red Cross Societies, SIDA through Swedish Red Cross, ministry of health and family welfare, World Health Organization, UNICEF, DPHE, IEDCR and the Safe Blood Transfusion Programme.

## Context

It is presumed that the national election in December at sub-district and national levels, combined with the holy festival holiday, will contribute to less economic activities and an unstable political situation resulting in less productivity in the country. This will also to some extent affect the smooth continuation of the planned activities. However, precautions have already been taken regarding this matter. The plan of action of all programmes have been revised, keeping as less activities as possible during the month of December.

During the reporting period, despite the bumper rice harvest, food grains remain high priced and this trend will continue in the months to come due to an increase in production costs, which shot up to 54 per cent in one year. Additionally, the back-to-back floods and cyclone Sidr last year damaged at least 1.8 million tonnes of standing crops<sup>2</sup>, posing a serious threat to the country's food security. Moreover, the income of people working in the agricultural sector has decreased by two to five per cent, according to a recent study conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Plus, the prices of essential items have increased by 20 to 25 per cent. This has a direct impact on the nutrition of the vulnerable communities. It is hoped that with the newly harvested rice and potatoes starting to arrive for winter, the prices of essential commodities may be reduced. The present situation in the country has resulted in an increase in the overall poverty. The population affected by cyclone Sidr, whose livelihoods were destroyed, have especially been affected by the price hikes. People dependent on labour and labour wages have also been affected as wages have not increased in line with the inflation rate in the country. Thus, the number of vulnerable persons rose during this reporting period.

Added to the existing problems, another incident that occurred during this period is the detection of melamine in milk powders sold in the market. In a country where only 42 per cent of children below six months are breast-fed, 43 per cent are stunted and 48 per cent are underweight (children under five years)<sup>3</sup>. This will, in the years to come, create a negative impact on their growth and development. At the same time, this has created an opportunity in promoting exclusive breast feeding up to six months and extending breast-feeding up to two years which will not only improve children's nutritional status and incidence of diarrhoeal diseases but will also improve the mothers health in many ways.

## 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.

<sup>1</sup> This data has been recorded but divided into male and female

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Food and Disaster Management 2008

<sup>3</sup> Child and maternal nutrition in Bangladesh – Key statistics from State of World's children 2006, UNICEF.

2. Cyclone preparedness programme (CPP)	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	National society and targeted communities are better prepared with appropriate knowledge and measures for reducing the potential risk to climate change.



Students taking part in the poster competition in Matriphith Girls' High School at Chandpur district. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

### Achievements

**Expected Outcome 1:** In five flood-prone districts, 10 vulnerability capacity assessments (VCAs) were completed in 10 targeted community-based disaster management (CBDM) communities to identify, analyze and prioritize the needs of the targeted people. The five-day long VCA exercise was done with full participation of the community to increase their understanding of their exposure to multiple hazards and vulnerabilities as well as underlying causes, capacities and potentials in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Each of the

VCA exercises was facilitated by the CBDM unit/national headquarters, country office and community disaster management committee volunteers. The community then prioritized the problems, identified their vulnerability and capacity. Based on the VCA findings, the community, with support from the BDRCS, prepared a plan of action during the exercise. After the completion of the VCA exercise, all VCA findings and recommendations were shared with all respective communities for their validation and further input. Based on their comments and concerns, the findings were finalized. Following their final approval, a package of small scale mitigation and livelihood options were designed along with a plan of action and a budget for implementation.

Along with the South Asia regional office, the disaster management team assisted in coordinating a workshop on building safer communities in the region. The third eight-day long workshop aimed at developing a standardized community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) training curriculum targeting the DRR practitioners and the community to improve the overall quality and impact of DRR training programmes outputs in South Asia. This curriculum is designed to be used by other agencies/organizations working in the South Asia region and is developed with technical support from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). A draft CBDRR training curriculum and participants' handbook has been completed. With the intention of fostering feedback and input from DRR practitioners to the Red Cross Red Crescent and external partners, three field level workshops has been organized in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively.

The CBDRR field testing training curriculum workshop was organized from 12-19 September in Dhaka with part of the financial support from the tsunami programme. The agenda of the curriculum covered issues related to early warning, CBDM programme, mainstreaming of DRR into development, amongst others. A good number of DRR professionals from different countries in South Asia (Bhutan and Nepal),

donor agencies (Swedish Red Cross), international agencies (Plan International and Islamic Relief), national societies and the International Federation attended the workshop.

Based on the outcome of the field testing process, the following documents will be finalized:

- CBDRR training curriculum.
- Participants' handbook on CBDRR.
- Trainer's guidebook on CBDRR.
- A set of information, education and communication materials on CBDRR.

One of the components of the building safer communities in South Asia initiative in Bangladesh is the poster competition for school students on DRR issues. This component has been implemented through the CBDM programme. The concept note and terms of reference for the poster competition was introduced through the CBDM programme management at BDRCS for their buy-in and support for the implementation of the "poster competition". In order to capitalize strategic advances from schools, volunteers, etc, three CBDM programme schools from flood and earthquake preparedness and response programme (EPRP) constituencies were selected. The activity was kicked off by first covering DRR thematic issues during a two-hour session for 300 students. Instructions on the technical aspects of art work were also given by the judges. Following the instructional phase, the students were provided with crayons and 11"X14" art paper. Two-hour long drawing events were held in two selected schools. An overwhelming percentage (98 per cent) of registered students attended the drawing sessions. The outcome of the activity will be as follows:

- Best 45 posters, 15 each from the three schools will be used in different types of information, education and communication materials, i.e. annual calendars, annual planners, desk calendars, flipcharts, etc, for dissemination of DRR messages in DRR programmes.
- Selected posters will be shared with DRR practitioners, i.e. ECHO and DIPECHO partners in Bangladesh, comprehensive disaster management programme (CDMP), the government's disaster management bureau (DMB), UN agencies, and other partners for their use.
- Posters will be used as training/orientation materials, particularly in school-based disaster preparedness.

The focal person for the CBDM programme, along with the logistics officer, attended the regional logistic workshop held in October in Kuala Lumpur and organized by the Asia Pacific zone office. A total of 27 professionals from South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific attended the workshop.

**Expected Outcome 2:** A depression formed in the Bay of Bengal on 27 October. This depression turned into cyclone Reshmi, resulting in heavy rain and floods. The Number 7 signal was hoisted. The BDRCS cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) control room was activated for 24 hours while all CPP volunteers were on stand by. Community preparedness meetings were held around the coastal areas for quick and effective evacuation. The CPP and the International Federation's country office established a good communication network. A series of meetings took place with the meteorological department and the ministry of disaster management to accumulate more information and establish cooperation linkage with the CDMP of the government for immediate response according to the development of the situation. The situation was handled by the local administration and CPP.

During the months of October and November, the International Federation country office, with the joint effort of the BDRCS, has ensured that CPP has the required equipment to function early warning systems. Considering the cyclone season (March-April and October-November), equipments such as megaphones and dry-cell batteries for very high frequency radio networks were replaced for disseminating early warning for the cyclone season. These equipments were useful in disseminating warnings hoisted by the government during cyclones Nargis and Reshmi in the coastal belt and offshore islands.

BDRCS, in collaboration with the International Federation, has undertaken a project to repair 141 cyclone shelters that are maintained by the BDRCS's CPP. These shelters were constructed in between 1988 and 1994. Due to lack of regular maintenance, most of the shelters are now in bad condition and require renovation. The first phase of the project was carried out in the first half of 2007 and a total of 50 shelters were renovated in that phase. The second phase started in June 2008. During the reporting period, a team of technical experts have assessed the condition of 47 cyclone shelters in the south-eastern region of Bangladesh. As of November, six cyclone shelters in Bhola district have been repaired and renovated. These minor repair works were carried out by local labourers under the supervision of local CPP officers. However, some of the shelters were found to be in condition where expert/professional support was required to carry out the repair work.

**Expected Outcome 3:** In 2008, the International Federation re-evaluated its support to the Chittagong Hill Tracts programme. The reason for the re-evaluation was that the programme should fold into the regular programmes. Additionally, the Chittagong Hill Tracts area received a USD 5 million (CHF 5.8 million or EUR 3.6 million) support from UNDP. In this context, the International Federation stopped funding the Chittagong Hill Tracts project in April, followed by the curtailment of salary support in June.

**Expected Outcome 4:** Under the EPRP programme funded by the Hong Kong Red Cross, awareness sessions on earthquake preparedness and first aid training were given to 1,000 students in 10 schools and in two programme areas. Due to the loss of staff and the time diverted to handle the 2007 floods and Sidr response, the BDRCS and International Federation requested the Hong Kong Red Cross for a no-cost extension targeting to complete the project in March 2009. The CBDM flood and EPRP plans of action have been revised and approved by the Hong Kong Red Cross.

**Expected Outcome 5:** Along with the on-going 2007 floods and cyclone Sidr operations, BDRCS also responded to a series of natural catastrophes. During this reporting period, a response was carried in the districts of Jessore and Satkhira. Since early August, due to water logging about 3,000 families are marooned in the two south-western districts. The water-logging occurred due to the rise of water from heavy rainfall, silts in the river bed and unplanned activities created drainage problems. This led to homelessness and loss of livelihoods. To tackle this situation earmarked funds were diverted from the water and sanitation component under the 2007 flood response operation to the most affected families. All non-food items and the first round of food distribution were completed in December. This emergency response was based on a joint BDRCS/International Federation field visit to assess the situation and needs of the affected population. Registration of beneficiaries was done by the local Red Cross youth volunteers through a family-based survey. As part of the disaster management committee of the government, BDRCS has shared the plan of humanitarian assistance in waterlogged areas that helped in avoiding duplication/overlapping of resources and reaching into the remotest geographical locations.

The second draft of the cyclone and flood contingency plan for BDRCS have been developed following a three-day working group meeting that was held in Dhaka from 9-11 November. The meeting focused on the flood and cyclone emergency situation. Separate technical committees comprising of relevant officials of the BDRCS and International Federation have been formed to facilitate the development process. The first draft of the contingency plan was done with the technical support from the South Asia regional office. The final version of the contingency plan will be ready by December and approved by the BDRCS governance in January 2009.

Two refresher workshops were held by the relief department of BDRCS in Dhaka with the help of an external facilitator. The aim of the workshop was to refresh knowledge on relief operation mechanism and other issues related to disaster management, such as coordination with government and other concerned agencies in order to improve the quality of response activities. As a lesson learnt from the 2007 flood response, the workshops were facilitated in improving the existing response mechanism. The three-day long workshop was attended by approximately 100 participants, i.e. members of the executive committee, volunteers from 39 flood-affected units, relevant officials from BDRCS national headquarters and International Federation. The response programme officer facilitated the regional disaster response team training of trainers that was held in Delhi in October. The BDRCS relief officer was supported by the International Federation to attend the regional disaster response training held in Kathmandu in November.

**Expected Outcome 6:** Due to the DRR initiatives, the BDRCS also benefited from the South Asia regional office climate change programme. A pilot project on climate change has been approved by the BDRCS for implementation in two communities through the regular CBDM project. In order to implement this project within November and December, a focal point for climate change in BDRCS and the International Federation country office was designated. In collaboration with CBDM, a plan of action was drafted and submitted to the South Asia regional office for approval. The focal person for climate change attended the workshop on climate change and the role of civil societies organized by the Swedish International Development Agency Civil Society Centre in August in Sweden. Around 200 people from different parts of the world participated in the workshop.

In addition to workshops/training attended by the disaster management team members, the disaster management delegate attended the strategic meeting organized by the South Asia regional office and Zone office.

## **Constraints or Challenges**

Large scale operations like Sidr diverted the attention of skilled programme personnel resulting in delays in the programme implementation. Compounded by the lack of skilled human resource has also hampered the smooth continuation of the activities. The finalization of the appointment or clarification of the role of the two directors appointed by BDRCS and government in parallel for CPP is still a pending issue. BDRCS has appointed a director on an ad hoc basis, who has managed to pick up the CPP activities in 2008. The approval of the CPP director's appointment is still pending by the CPP implementation board.

## **Working in partnership**

The disaster management working group Bangladesh (DMWGB) has been formed and a secretariat has been established. The BDRCS, in collaboration with the International Federation, formed the DMWGB to enhance coordination of disaster management activities by strengthening the Red Cross Red Crescent collaboration and sharing information between and among intra- and inter-thematic initiatives, programmes, etc. The DMWG meeting is co-chaired by the BDRCS disaster management focal point/deputy secretary general and the International Federation disaster management focal point. A secretariat of DMWG to organize the agendas, schedules and record minutes of meetings has also been formed with the representation from both the BDRCS and International Federation. The meeting is held on the first Monday of every month.

The first coordination meeting between the disaster management/DRR programmes of BDRCS supported by the International Federation and partner national societies has been held and based on this, future coordination mechanisms will be established. The DMWGB organized an initial coordination meeting with partner national societies to share the ongoing BDRCS disaster management strategy draft and disaster management/DRR activities that have been carried out through the national society. All partner national societies working with the BDRCS attended the meeting. The objective of holding this kind of meeting is to enhance the level of coordination for taking strategic advances, standard mechanism/guideline towards efficient programme implementation. Based on the results from the initial meeting, regular meetings are planned.

The concept of the operational alliance on emergency response and community-based disaster risk management has been introduced to the BDRCS. The above two points will facilitate in implementing the alliance.

BDRCS, with support from the International Federation, has been implementing community-based programmes such as DRR and climate change in collaboration with relevant actors like government, UN agencies, and donors, other international, national and local agencies by building partnership. In addition, the intra- and inter-thematic coordination between and among different DRR programmes has enhanced the level of output of activities.

## **Contributing to longer-term impact**

Community-level volunteers and response groups formed under the CBDM programme reacted on time with their available resources to respond to the flood-affected people for search and rescue and first aid services.

The 15,000 people, who are being provided with food and non-food items diverted from the water and sanitation component of the 2007 flood response programme, were able to prevent asset erosion.

Community-based organizations such as community disaster management committee, community disaster response team and unit disaster response team have made strategic entries for taking new DRR initiatives and replicating it at the same. The pilot project on climate change 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 help review the relief manual of BDRCS and response mechanism for better response in future.

## **Looking ahead**

Community-based organizations are key actors to facilitate sustainable DRR programmes that allow a wide-scope of participation of vulnerable people and their capacity in implementation of programmes. A synergic effort, through coordination between different DRR programmes enhances the quality of programmes.

## Health and Care

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

### Achievements

**Expected Outcome 1:** Upon receiving inputs from the regional office and HIV/AIDS Global Programme Unit in Geneva, necessary modifications were carried out in the draft concept paper of the Global Alliance on HIV, Bangladesh. It was officially launched by the regional office on World AIDS Day in December. The BDRCS has selected eight new districts for scaling up the HIV programme and prepared a detailed plan of action. This year, the government decided not to observe World Blood Donor Day.

**Preventing further HIV infection:** In Cox's Bazar, one among the four districts selected earlier for the HIV prevention programme, trained 30 Red Crescent youth volunteers on HIV prevention and life skills. It was a four-day long training for training of trainers. They are now ready to be involved in the HIV prevention programme through training youth peer educators in selected schools and colleges. In Jessore district, those who received the peer education training of trainers training have trained more than 200 peers by December. Youth peer educators are encouraged to disseminate HIV prevention messages and motivate the peers for behavioural change if necessary through life skills approach. In Bagerhat, the programme could not continue due to the absence of a BDRCS executive body, which is expected to be in place by early next year. Lack of information, education and communication material is hampering the progress of the programme and this has been repeatedly discussed in the steering committee meetings. Decision is yet to be taken regarding this matter.

Five BDRCS blood centres organized rallies, held meetings to honour regular blood donors, arranging blood donor motivation sessions, discussed about the importance of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation and conducted voluntary blood donation camps.

**Expanding HIV care treatment and support:** In view of providing livelihoods and food support for the most vulnerable along with 'Ashar Alo' (a people living with HIV (PLHIV) network), an income generation project have been developed and approved by BDRCS. A memorandum of understanding is in the final stage of development and the project is expected to start in two months' time.

**Reducing stigma and discrimination:** Stigma and discrimination is included in all the volunteers' and youth peer educators' trainings. This has been addressed during the observation of World AIDS Day by the units. A total of 14 districts and the national headquarters were short listed by the HIV steering committee for observing World AIDS Day. The units proceeded rallies and street plays which were staged by volunteers at various spots in the districts.



Volunteers performing a street play on HIV/AIDS in Bagerhat during World Aids Day. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

**Strengthening the national society's capacities:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> HIV Steering Committee meetings were held on 28 July and 15 October respectively. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the director of the national AIDS/STD programme, government of Bangladesh participated. So far, members from other organizations such as WHO and UNAIDS have not participated and to date, no PLHIV network was invited to participate in the meetings. Delays in the selection of districts for implementing the programme, recruitment of more programme staff, printing the information, education and

communication materials and providing healthcare to PLHIV were the topics discussed during the meeting.

**Expected Outcome 2:** The second round of the de-worming and anaemia prevention programme was completed in two districts. A further two districts will be completed by the end of December.

**De-worming and Anemia detection programme:**

At the national level, iron deficiency and worm infestation continues to be the most important factors contributing to anemia among young children and adolescent girls. Between March and July, the first round of de-worming and anemia detection was implemented in districts of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Chittagong and Noakhali. The second round was implemented during October in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram. By the end of December, the de-worming activity will be completed in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram. The same number of volunteers who participated in the first round of the de-worming programme continued in the second round. All the volunteers in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram were female, while in Chittagong and Noakhali 50 per cent of the volunteers were female. The volunteers went door to door to administer de-worming tablets to six to ten-year-old children of both sexes and 11-19-year-old girls in their community. They also looked for signs of anemia among the community members and referred those with signs of anemia to the nearest government hospital. Some of the volunteers were even carrying their infant children and toddlers while attending the refresher and making community visits. They received help from others in the community while doing so. Information, education and communication material was found to be simple and educative by the communities. While distributing de-worming tablets and disseminating health and nutrition messages they also distributed green leafy vegetable seeds to each and every household to help them have a kitchen garden. The kitchen garden aims to provide adequate nutritious food, especially rich in iron, to the families. The number of anemia cases are found to be less during the second round due to not only the programme, but also this time the volunteers were more careful due to the experience.

Name of the districts	No. of volunteers & communities	Number of households	Target groups		Anaemic
			6-10 yrs	11-19 yrs girls	
Lalmonirhat	24	6,275	7,755	2,214	1,087 (11%)
Kurigram	24	6,033	3,806	1,759	990 (17.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>48 (all female volunteers)</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>11,561</b>	<b>3,973</b>	<b>14.4% (average)</b>

**Avian Influenza:** Since June, the H5N1 infection has not been reported in the country. Bangladesh has been selected by the International Federation as one of the countries for implementing the humanitarian pandemic preparedness with the support of USAID. The national society has expressed its interest in taking up the programme and is in the process of developing an extended concept paper and it is currently awaiting permission from the government of Bangladesh.

**Expected Outcome 3**

**First aid for road traffic accident victims:** A total of 25 volunteers were selected from communities which are near accident-prone areas of the national highway from Dhaka to Sylhet. The selected volunteers will be trained for five days on providing basic first aid to accident victims before proper medical aid arrives. They will also be given first aid boxes, aprons and necessary stationeries. The stocks will be replenished at regular intervals.

**Public Health in Emergencies (PHiE):** It was planned to train 80-90 volunteers from disaster-prone communities in PHiE. Due to the availability of funds from the tsunami programme, the plan was revised and 226 volunteers will be trained (two each from 113 cyclone shelters). One male and one female volunteer who are already part of the CPP were selected from each cyclone shelter area. They are also trained in public health issues, including basic first aid. A total of 24 volunteers, half of which are female, from 12 cyclone shelters of Chittagong district have been trained. Though their literacy level is low, the volunteers showed a keen interest in learning things due to their personal experience in cyclones in the past; the training they received under the CPP; and the relevancy of the topics. While expressing their

opinions, the volunteers said keeping a first aid box, some hygiene material like soap, safe drinking water and a clean toilet in the cyclone shelters will help tremendously in reducing the sufferings of the communities during cyclones and other disasters.

With the support of the South Asia regional office and the involvement of the International Federation country office, the BDRCS started the process of preparing a contingency plan for floods and cyclones. Emergency health is an integral part of that plan. It is in the final stages of completion.

### Constraints or Challenges

The volunteers involved in the HIV programme acknowledges the need to learn about reproductive health and HIV prevention methods, including the correct method of condom use due to changing lifestyles and circumstances that may lead to risky circumstances. But a few individuals at the national society level still feel that due to the country's religious and cultural background, these topics should not be covered. This misconception is also delaying the development or reprinting government approved and field-tested information, education and communication material that are used by many other organizations in the field. Therefore, the trained volunteers are not able to carry forward the programme. There is also undue delay in selecting the districts and recruitment of staff to scale up the programme during the reporting period. Instead of six districts which were initially planned, eight have been selected for expanding the programme in 2008-09. These issues were taken up for discussions in the steering committee a few times but are yet to be resolved.

### Working in partnership

Wash (water, sanitation and hygiene) cluster coordination meetings organized by the department of public health engineering and UNICEF and health cluster meetings organized by the ministry health and family welfare with the World Health Organization (WHO) are regularly attended by the BDRCS and International Federation. Other health programmes, such as de-worming and anemia detection programmes, are implemented in coordination with the health authorities at the district level.

### Contributing to longer-term impact

A total of 30 per cent of the volunteers participating in HIV programme are female volunteers. In the anaemia prevention programme, all the volunteers from the two districts were female from the communities and 50 per cent of them were female who were trained in PHiE. The trainings were conducted at the community or nearer to their community. This encourages more participation of female volunteers. In conservative communities, due to cultural and religious background, participation of more female volunteers will be very useful for the women in the communities.

In order to build the capacity of the national society on a longer-term basis, two personnel from the 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 October in Sri Lanka. In November, the three health personnel participated in the regional disaster response team in PHiE training in Pakistan.

All health and care programmes were developed keeping in mind the nation's commitment in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The programmes are relevant to Millennium Development Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6.

### Looking ahead

With the parliamentary and local-body elections as well as religious festivals ahead in December, there are possibilities of delay in implementation of the planned programmes. Plan of action for all health and care programmes have been prepared for the next two years before the end of the year. However, all efforts will be taken to avoid delays in implementation of planned activities.

## Organizational Development

Programme component	Component outcome
<b>1. Planning and accountability development</b>	BDRCS capacity in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation & reporting (PMER) and managing effective programmes is strengthened.
<b>2. Governance and management development</b>	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.
<b>3. Legal base</b>	BDRCS legal base is strengthened.

<b>4. Volunteer management and development</b>	BDRCS volunteer base has increased and developed into a gender diverse, well trained, highly motivated network (including youth volunteers).
<b>5. Financial resource development</b>	BDRCS has enhanced capacity to manage its financial resources and fundraising effectively.
<b>6. Human resource development and management</b>	BDRCS human resource capacity enhanced to render improved service delivery.
<b>7. Branch development</b>	Systematic branch development is taking place.

## Achievement

**Expected Outcome 1:** As an ongoing process of preparing the BDRCS 2009-2011 Strategic Plan in May, a workshop was conducted from 11-13 November at the national headquarters. A total of 24 representatives from 24 units (vice chairman/secretary and executive members), including four representatives from the International Federation, participated. The workshop provided the opportunity to share the draft of the strategic plan, which was done in May with the help of the South Asia regional office and the Asia Pacific Zone office.. Some accountable feedbacks were received which will be incorporated into the final draft. This will then be submitted to the governing board of BDRCS to obtain the final approval.



Workshop on the second draft of the Strategic 2009-2011 Plan, conducted in the national society headquarters with the participation of representative from all 24 units. Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Since 1 December, the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit in the International Federation country office has been established to assist in the PMER system for all four core programmes as well as for the Sidr and floods operations. The head of the PMER unit attended the grants management training from 5-7 November in Kuala Lumpur. The training focused on management of grants from institutional donors relating to ECHO/DIPECHO, EU long-term funding, AusAID, the British Department for International Development (DFID), the Japanese government, USAID, OPEC, Global Fund and World Bank DRR facility grants. From 16-20 November, a PMER session was held by the regional head of PMER in the country delegation. More than 20 participants from BDRCS and the International Federation, including Sidr operation delegates and national staff, took part. The main aim of the day-long session was to clarify the role of PMER and ways to produce donor acceptable reports. The training also touched on producing plans of action and the logical framework for 2009-2010.

**Expected Outcome 2:** In the revised plan of action, no activities were planned for second half of 2008, assuming that the focus of the BDRCS would be on the preparation of the sub-district and national elections.

**Expected Outcome 3:** The planning and development department of the BDRCS has started working on the translation of the BDRCS Integrity Policy into Bengali. The activity started in October and the respective department 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.

**Expected Outcome 4:** Two seven-day long training of trainers were conducted on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and basic first aid in November and December. Fifty Red Cross youths from selected units participated. The aim was to create a more motivated spirit-driven youth and volunteer troop. In view of improving the progress on developing the volunteer policy, the BDRCS reformed the six-member committee (formed in 2006) which includes a representative from the International Federation country office. The first meeting will be held in December 2008. The International Federation country office has been following up and providing necessary support for the process.

Meetings for preparing the BDRCS volunteer management system (VMS) did not take place and has been carried forward to 2009, as forming a volunteering policy has been considered to be the first step of this task.

**Expected Outcome 5:** A financial management training for the BDRCS accounts department staff and other key staff members at the national headquarter level (eight persons) was conducted in mid-December with the aim of sharing updated finance and accounting matters among the staff to enhance finance-related capacities. Additionally, on 10 December, the senior top ranking personnel of the board of governance and 100 commercially important personnel launched a fundraising programme, with four steps detailing the long-term funding proposals. The first campaign provided each of the invitees with BDRCS information kits (appeal for donation and BDRCS activities, and funding source). This activity has been added recently to the plan of action following the request from BDRCS.

The Navision software refresher training and the revision and updating of the financial regulations workshop for the BDRCS and International Federation accounting and finance staff did not take place as change of personnel are expected following the BDRCS election in December.

**Expected Outcome 6:** Following the revision of the plan of action, many of the activities under this component were postponed until 2009. In the strategic planning meeting, the unit level officers emphasized on ensuring annual performance appraisal. According to their recommendation, a committee will soon be formed to take care of the appraisal process. Additionally, the current board of governors still has to give its final approval for the BDRCS organogram.

**Expected Outcome 7:** Due to the two ongoing emergency operations, cyclone Sidr and the 2007 floods, almost all the activities under this component were concentrated in the units of the cyclone and floods operations. During the reporting period, 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 OD 2009-2010" from 23-27 November in New Delhi, India. The workshop aimed at sharing experiences and ideas on the existing organizational development activities in the region. It also focused on various initiatives and priorities of the organizational development programme. Some strategic and practical working modalities were also proposed, such as establishing a virtual organizational development office, and introducing exposure visits, amongst others.

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 Challenges**

Getting all the planned activities done on time is often a challenge. Many of the activities are on hold due to the unavailability of resource persons or delays in the BDRCS administrative process. The delay of implementation of the new organogram has hampered the relevant process of developing different systems and procedures for the national society.

The national election is scheduled to take place on December 29; hence, various stakeholders are focused on the event. With the upcoming BDRCS governing board members election, some activities are either cancelled or carried forward to 2009.

The governance and management are so poorly mixed that it has made things very difficult for the programme to implement most of the planned activities. The lack of a proper constitution (statutes) in place has made the legal base of the national society very ambiguous and vulnerable to the political engagements of the governing board members with the confusing national politics. Thus, to overcome some of the issues, steps will 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 in 2008, 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 partner national societies in country and

the 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 January 2009 BDRCS's approach to PMER activities will be further strengthened and systematized. 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. A volunteer database will also help immensely in keeping track of the members and volunteers in times of need.

### Looking ahead

The plan of action for 2008 has been revised in June during the process of preparing the plans for 2009-2010. 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 BDRCS, in order to have speedier implementation, a more organized approach to taking the necessary steps is required and discussions are underway. As this is the election year for BDRCS, some of the activities with regard to governance management and development, 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

HV 2008 PoA has been revised in June. Many of the planned activities were cancelled due to lack of funding while some were postponed.

**Expected Outcome 1:** Due to lack of funds, the activities under this programme component did not take place during the reporting period. .

**Expected Outcome 2:** A three-day long training of trainers on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement was conducted among the youth leaders on 8 September. Within these three days, one day was devoted on the cross-cutting issues of humanitarian values in different programmes. The cross-cutting issues were also discussed with the unit members during the BDRCS 2009-2011 strategic planning workshop on 11-13 November.

Wider dissemination of humanitarian values among volunteers, staff, and other stakeholders contribute immensely in a better understanding of the Movement. Organizing street plays on humanitarian values in five selected units has been cancelled since the BDRCS humanitarian values focal person did not think it is a realistic effort to serve the purpose. The task to develop, print and distribute materials on humanitarian values for staff and volunteers did not take place due to lack of funds.

**Expected Outcome 3:** 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 the months of September and October. Workshops on the Movement, the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values issues could not be conducted because there has not been sufficient funds allocated.

### Constraints or Challenges

As with most cross-cutting issues, the main challenge has been to make the humanitarian values programme a priority for the national society. Due to other priorities, the BDRCS humanitarian values focal

person was not able to initiate any activities during this reporting period. Not having a proper organogram and lack of sufficient staff in BDRCS has also been an obstacle in undertaking the planned activities. However, the lack of funding remains the most significant challenge.

### Looking ahead

The plan of action for 2008 was revised in June. Once the organogram is finalized, activities for organizational development, disaster management and health will be able to integrate humanitarian values into the programmes, both with regards to training and implementation.

How we work	
<p>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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact: (text in Arial 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bangladesh Red Crescent Society: M. Shafiul Alam, Secretary General; email: <a href="mailto:bdracs@bangla.net">bdracs@bangla.net</a>; phone: +88 02 935 2226</li> <li>• Federation country office in Bangladesh: Pepe Salmela, Head of Office; email: <a href="mailto:Pepe.salmela@ifrc.org">Pepe.salmela@ifrc.org</a>; phone: +88 02 933 7314 and fax +88 02 934 1631.</li> <li>• Federation regional office in India: Al Panico (Head of Regional Office); phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128; email: <a href="mailto:al.panico@ifrc.org">al.panico@ifrc.org</a>;</li> <li>• Federation zone office in Kuala Lumpur: Jagan Chapagain (Deputy Head of Zone); phone: +603 9207 5702; email: <a href="mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org">jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org</a>; Penny Elghady (Resource Mobilization and PMER Coordinator); phone: +603 9207 5775; email: <a href="mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org">penny.elghady@ifrc.org</a> or <a href="mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org">zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org</a>;</li> </ul>	

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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MAABD001 - Bangladesh

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/10
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
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>840,611</b>	<b>339,606</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>15,586</b>	<b>39,211</b>	<b>1,372,722</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>652,574</b>	<b>201,708</b>	<b>112,515</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>967,462</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Cash contributions</b>						
<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
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>	<b>190,938</b>	<b>84,013</b>	<b>10,000</b>			<b>284,950</b>
<b>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>						
<i>British Red Cross (from British Government)</i>	-112,833					-112,833
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		-76,050				-76,050
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>	<b>-112,833</b>	<b>-76,050</b>				<b>-188,883</b>
<b>Inkind Personnel</b>						
<i>Armenian Red Cross</i>	13,200					13,200
<b>C4. Inkind Personnel</b>	<b>13,200</b>					<b>13,200</b>
<b>Other Income</b>						
<i>Services</i>					30,490	30,490
<b>C5. Other Income</b>					<b>30,490</b>	<b>30,490</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	<b>91,305</b>	<b>7,962</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,490</b>	<b>139,757</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>743,879</b>	<b>209,670</b>	<b>122,515</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>30,490</b>	<b>1,107,219</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>81%</b>

**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>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>652,574</b>	<b>201,708</b>	<b>112,515</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>967,462</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>91,305</b>	<b>7,962</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,490</b>	<b>139,757</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-314,329</b>	<b>-167,790</b>	<b>-30,293</b>		<b>-29,269</b>	<b>-541,681</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>429,550</b>	<b>41,880</b>	<b>92,222</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>565,539</b>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAABD001 - Bangladesh

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAABD001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	
A		B						A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>840,611</b>	<b>339,606</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>15,586</b>	<b>39,211</b>	<b>1,372,722</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	1,935							1,935
Construction Materials	14,832							14,832
Clothing & textiles	75,000							75,000
Seeds,Plants	9,840		6,028				6,028	3,812
Water & Sanitation	45,749	2,220					2,220	43,528
Medical & First Aid	8,885	2,199	3,877				6,077	2,808
Other Supplies & Services	126,500	6,161					6,161	120,339
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>282,741</b>	<b>10,581</b>	<b>9,906</b>				<b>20,487</b>	<b>262,254</b>
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Vehicles	3,710	3,661					3,661	49
Computers & Telecom	14,190	13,151	1,001				14,151	39
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	11,794	10,794		172			10,966	828
Others Machinery & Equipment	483							483
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>30,177</b>	<b>27,605</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>172</b>			<b>28,778</b>	<b>1,399</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	500		285				285	215
Distribution & Monitoring	2,472	2,472					2,472	-0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	30,756	9,975	5,585	1,739		-969	16,331	14,425
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>33,728</b>	<b>12,447</b>	<b>5,870</b>	<b>1,739</b>		<b>-969</b>	<b>19,088</b>	<b>14,640</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	459,390	67,718	71,784	1,688		33,089	174,279	285,111
National Staff	124,514	12,275	13,066	7,230		240	32,812	91,703
National Society Staff	136,757	84,318	13,044	5,336		2,747	105,446	31,311
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>720,661</b>	<b>164,311</b>	<b>97,895</b>	<b>14,255</b>		<b>36,076</b>	<b>312,537</b>	<b>408,124</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	113,999	34,898	24,559	10,120		1,256	70,833	43,166
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>113,999</b>	<b>34,898</b>	<b>24,559</b>	<b>10,120</b>		<b>1,256</b>	<b>70,833</b>	<b>43,166</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	16,057	4,454	1,712	1,466		318	7,950	8,107
Information & Public Relation	40,511	12,429	4,900	6		-136	17,199	23,312
Office Costs	19,575	1,088	517	446		8,295	10,346	9,228
Communications	17,846	1,193	144	55		6,032	7,424	10,422
Professional Fees						154	154	-154
Financial Charges	6,500	4,065	22			-51,743	-47,655	54,156
Other General Expenses	1,700	-4,255	-3,534	-30		28,082	20,262	-18,562
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>102,189</b>	<b>18,974</b>	<b>3,761</b>	<b>1,942</b>		<b>-8,997</b>	<b>15,680</b>	<b>86,509</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	89,227	19,610	11,008	1,982		1,902	34,502	54,725
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>89,227</b>	<b>19,610</b>	<b>11,008</b>	<b>1,982</b>		<b>1,902</b>	<b>34,502</b>	<b>54,725</b>
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		25,903	13,790	82			39,776	-39,776
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>25,903</b>	<b>13,790</b>	<b>82</b>			<b>39,776</b>	<b>-39,776</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>1,372,722</b>	<b>314,329</b>	<b>167,790</b>	<b>30,293</b>		<b>29,269</b>	<b>541,681</b>	<b>831,041</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>526,282</b>	<b>171,816</b>	<b>107,416</b>	<b>15,586</b>	<b>9,942</b>	<b>831,041</b>	