

2022

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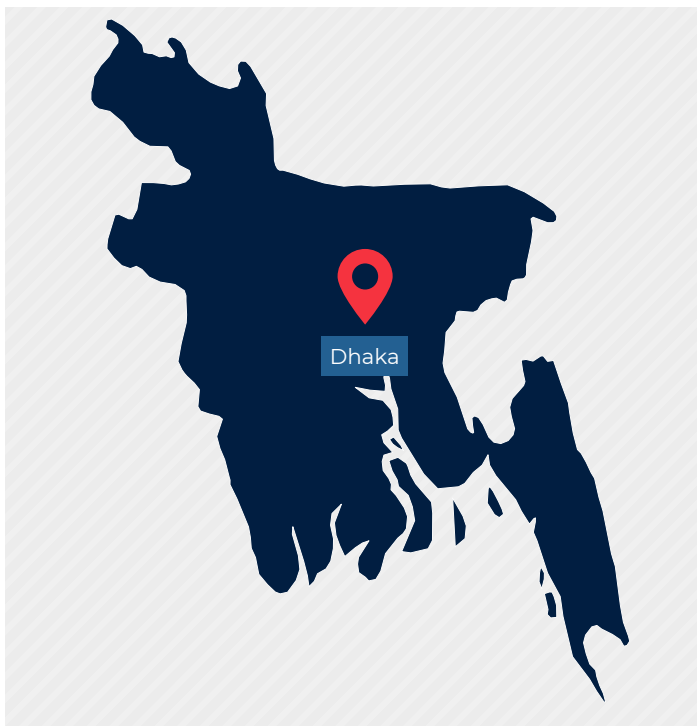
BANGLADESH

IFRC COUNTRY PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs

6.3 million

As part of a total Federation-wide funding requirement in Swiss franc **21.1 million***



National Society
branches

68



National Society
staff

3,834



National Society
volunteers

164,583



People to be reached

854,000

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this plan, listed here as funding requirements. For information on the IFRC's emergency operations, please visit [ifrc.org/appeals](https://www.ifrc.org/appeals).

* Total for IFRC and National Societies working internationally. Not including the country National Society's funding requirements.

+C IFRC

Appeal number
MAABD001

www.ifrc.org

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

167 million

Human Development Index Ranking

133

Vulnerability to disasters



Floods



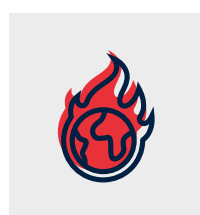
Migration



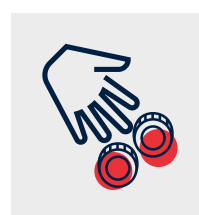
Infectious disease



Landslides



Climate change



Poverty

Bangladesh is home to 167 million people from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds. It is the eighth-most populous country in the world and one of the most densely populated.

Since 2010, approximately eight million people in Bangladesh have transitioned out of poverty, and the country remains on track to achieve the first Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030.

Straddling the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta and containing more than 230 rivers and tributaries, Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to hydrological and climate-induced extreme weather events. At the national level, cyclones and floods pose the greatest threat, while some regions are also vulnerable to earthquakes, droughts, and landslides.

Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to tidal flooding caused by rising sea levels, as two-thirds of the country is less than five metres above sea level, and 28 per cent of the population lives along the coast. Bangladesh could lose 11 per cent of its land with a projected 50-centimetre sea level rise by 2050, affecting approximately 15 million people living in the low-lying coastal regions and leading to widespread displacement.

River erosion and flooding are driving displacement inland, and the Government considers four million people who live on river islands to be “immediately threatened”.

In 2021, flash flooding and waterlogging of farmland were common across some parts of the country, but Bangladesh has not experienced the widespread severe flooding that it had seen in recent years.

Bangladesh is home to the world’s largest refugee camp, Cox’s Bazar. The camp is located in the southeast coastal district of the country and provides refuge to some 870,000 people from Rakhine state in Myanmar.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also created many challenges for the people of Bangladesh. Beginning in April 2021, the Delta variant began ravaging the country, causing daily cases and deaths to rise rapidly. July marked the deadliest month of the pandemic, as some 200 daily deaths were registered on 19 days during the month. The situation has been improving since the end of August, when daily cases and deaths began to fall.

In February, a nationwide vaccination campaign was launched using AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm and Moderna vaccines. As of October, 10 per cent of the population had received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 20 per cent had received a single dose.



ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has its headquarters in Dhaka. The National Society has 68 branches across the country, with one in each of the districts and one in the cities of Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi and Khulna. A network of 82,472 life members, 8,091 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers, and 74,020 Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers helps the National Society act as a first responder to disasters, crises or pandemics.

The National Society manages a portfolio of hospitals across the country, including a medical college hospital, a general hospital, two eye hospitals, eight blood centres, four maternity hospitals, and 56 mother and child health care centres, one outdoor clinic, three nursing institutes, two nursing colleges and four midwifery training institutes.

Under the Strategic Plan of BDRCS for 2021–2025, the IFRC has three main goals for its work with the National Society in Bangladesh: enhancing capacity to contribute towards saving lives from disasters and crises to reduce adverse impacts through building resilient communities; improving access to quality health services for safe, dignified, and healthy living; and transforming into a strong National Society.

To meet its first strategic goal, the IFRC will support the National Society to ensure that its branches' preparedness and response capacities are fit for purpose by enhancing anticipatory systems that enable early warning and early action ahead of disasters and crises. The IFRC will also invest in community collaboration with international support mechanisms to improve the National Society's emergency response network.

To improve access to quality health services, the IFRC will ensure that there are no barriers to accessing quality health care and will strive to mitigate vulnerabilities to health resilience. The IFRC will enhance expertise to encourage well-being across social, mental and physical health while strengthening institutional capacities by including more qualified health professionals. The IFRC will also support the National Society to expand the reach of its blood donation service.

Finally, the IFRC will focus on organizational development to develop a stronger National Society in Bangladesh. It is building a plan for National Society Development that incorporates financial sustainability, human resource, logistical and ICT development, youth and volunteer engagement alongside planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
British Red Cross		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Canadian Red Cross	✓		✓	✓				✓
Danish Red Cross		✓	✓	✓				✓
German Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japanese Red Cross				✓				
Swedish Red Cross		✓	✓					✓
Swiss Red Cross		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will work closely with the National Society in protecting and assisting the displaced population from Myanmar's Rakhine State in Cox's Bazar.



GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

Local action – stronger National Societies

In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society to become a more trusted and accountable local actor by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian programming while ensuring local ownership and engagement across programming and policies.

Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction

The IFRC will support the National Society in enhancing the scale of humanitarian action they offer by establishing an emergency operation centre. This centre will link with regional hubs and enable the implementation of early action protocols across a spectrum of disasters while enhancing the capacity of volunteers and staff, strengthening response tools and enhancing internal and external coordination.

Global cash leadership

The IFRC will further strengthen the capacity of the National Society to deliver appropriate assistance in the form of scalable, timely and accountable Cash and Voucher Assistance.

Reduce cholera related deaths by 50 per cent

The IFRC will support National Societies to reactivate long-term WASH programmes and integrate WASH components into disaster risk reduction programming to reduce cholera-related deaths.

Global health security – epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response

Throughout 2022, the IFRC will continue to work with the National Society in its COVID-19 response by supporting the Government of Bangladesh on vaccination campaign, the national health system, and strengthening the National Society Holy Family Hospital, blood bank and maternal child health centres.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
2.0 million

People to be reached
150,000



Climate change is one of the most significant threats facing Bangladesh in the 21st century. The country's geographic location, frequent natural disasters, high population density and low resilience to economic shocks have made the country highly vulnerable to climate change. For the second year in a row, the Global Climate Risk Index stated that Bangladesh was the seventh most vulnerable country to climate change in the world.

Much of the country experiences flooding, erosion and even landslides during monsoon season but heatwaves and droughts are increasingly common during the dry season. These environmental impacts leave the population facing several challenges, including uncertain crop yields and internal displacement, which have implications for socio-economic and human security throughout the country.

In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society to undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from climate and environmental crises by enhancing the capacity and knowledge of staff and volunteers through training and advocacy initiatives while mainstreaming climate change across all programmes and interventions. The IFRC will also support the National Society to adopt environmentally sustainable practices which contribute to climate change mitigation. These will include awareness-raising campaigns with communities and the development of context-specific climate solutions.

TARGETS

- **150,000** people will be reached with climate and environmental activities.
- **10,000** people will be better protected from heat.



7th

most vulnerable country
to climate change

SUPPORT

- Increase community resilience through education on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.
- Promote nature-based solutions, including climate-smart agriculture and natural resource conservation.
- Engage in discussions with local-level organizations and the Government around new climate change policies.



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
950,000

People to be reached
180,000



Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, where cyclones, floods, river erosion and landslides occur annually, jeopardizing the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across affected communities.

Over the past decade, the National Society has launched 12 Emergency Appeals and 6 Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) requests, mainly in response to cyclones and floods.

Conventional approaches to disaster risk reduction are no longer sufficient to reduce the impact of Bangladesh's multiple hazards. The country has an immediate need to scale up programming that integrates disaster preparedness, adaptive capacity, resilience and protection services for the poorest and most vulnerable people affected by evolving crises and disasters, particularly women and girls.

The IFRC will therefore focus on strengthening disaster preparedness and response within communities by prioritizing community-based disaster risk reduction and resilience-building programmes.

The IFRC will ensure that the National Society can respond effectively to evolving crises and disasters, meeting people's needs for support and assistance in a timely manner. To better address these needs, the IFRC is supporting the construction of a new National Society headquarters facility in Bangladesh that will house a formal Emergency Operation Centre. The IFRC will also provide technical assistance and guidance to the National Society through this new centre, helping to digitalize disaster management workflow, increase mobile data collection, and enhance reporting via the IFRC's GO platform.



12

Emergency Appeals

6

**Disaster Relief
Emergency Fund**

requests launched over the past decade

SUPPORT

- Establish an early warning system for flood and cyclone-prone communities.
- Train volunteers and young people in disaster response, preparedness, and mitigation so they can be actively engaged in response activities.
- Implement longer-term community-based disaster risk reduction and resilience programming.

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1.9 million

People to be reached

500,000



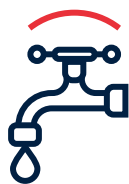
The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on the health and well-being of millions of people in Bangladesh. As of September 2021, Bangladesh had recorded 27,000 virus-related deaths and 1.5 million infections. Millions more have been affected by the social and economic repercussions of the virus and suffered poor health outcomes due to service disruptions.

While neonatal, under-five and maternal mortality rates gradually decreased over the last 25 years, the pandemic has disrupted maternal and child health care services and threatens to reverse this progress. Many women missed prenatal appointments, and children missed routine immunizations due to a limited ability to reach health centres and fears of contracting the virus.

The Government is aiming to vaccinate 80 per cent of the adult population with two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine as quickly as possible. As of 13 December, 50 per cent of the population had received a single dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while another 25 per cent had received two doses. The IFRC has supported the Government in these efforts by mobilizing volunteers across 64 districts to assist in the vaccination campaign.

Access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities remains a challenge in Bangladesh. In 2021, 68.3 million people lacked access to safe drinking water, 103 lacked access to safely managed sanitation facilities, and 61.7 million could not access basic hygiene facilities¹.

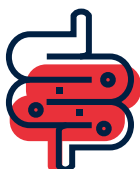
Households without access to improved water and sanitation facilities have a greater risk of contracting and spreading diarrhoeal diseases than households with improved sanitation facilities. This negatively impacts health outcomes, as Bangladesh reports some 30,000 diarrhoeal deaths annually². In 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies in strengthening WASH programming and implementing behavioural change campaigns around personal and community hygiene to improve access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services, particularly in hard-to-reach communities.



68.3 million
people do not have access to
safe drinking water



13%
of women's deaths
– aged 15 to 49 – are
related to pregnancy



30,000
people die every year
from diarrhea

TARGETS

- **300,000** people will be reached with contextually appropriate health services.
- **100,000** people will be reached through contextual water, sanitation and hygiene services.

SUPPORT

- Reactivate WASH programming in flood and cyclone-prone areas.
- Scale-up immunization campaigns across the country targeting hard to reach areas.
- Provide training to communities and volunteers on first aid, hygiene and sanitation transformation, and pandemic control techniques.

¹ UNICEF, July 2021

² BSS, 2013



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MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

300,000

People to be reached

4,000



Because of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events leading to flooding, river erosion and droughts, many people in Bangladesh are already facing annual internal displacement. By 2050, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates that one in seven people will experience internal displacement.

The Government of Bangladesh is finalizing a new *National Strategy for Management of Disaster and Climate-induced Displacement*. The IFRC and the National Society will continue to contribute to developing national guidelines on mass evacuations in natural disasters and shelter management. They will also contribute to Displacement Management Cluster initiatives led by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. This collaboration will ensure greater alignment on disaster response and preparedness activities and enable more effective and efficient humanitarian service delivery.

Bangladesh is home to nearly a million displaced people from Myanmar, creating one of the most complex, critical, and challenging displacement crises the region has faced in decades. The IFRC is responding to these humanitarian needs at Cox's Bazar by supporting preparedness activities, improving the quality of services, and enhancing the capacity of staff and volunteers.

In 2022, the IFRC will prioritize preventing displacement by supporting the National Society in implementing risk reduction interventions. This will focus on advocacy activities and mapping internally displaced populations and migratory routes. It will also support the National Society to establish Humanitarian Service Points along these routes to provide essential services and protection to people on the move.

The IFRC will also support the National Society in integrating migration and displacement into their strategic plan and enhancing cash-based emergency response interventions.



1 in 7

Bangladeshis will be displaced by 2050³



870,000

refugees living in Cox's Bazar

🎯 TARGETS

- **4,000** migrants and displaced people provided with assistance and protection services.
- Humanitarian Service Points established along migratory routes.

➡ SUPPORT

- Establish Humanitarian Service Points along migratory routes.
- Provide assistance and protection services to migrants and displaced people through engagement with local and national authorities.
- Integrate migration and displacement into National Society strategic planning activities.

³ According to estimates by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre



VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

400,000

People to be reached

20,000



Bangladesh is a top performer in bridging the gender gap when it comes to political decision making. In 2020, Bangladesh ranked 7th out of 155 countries on the World Bank's Global Gender Gap Political Empowerment subindex, suggesting the ratio of women to men in political positions was high relative to most other countries.⁴ This rank demonstrates remarkable progress in closing its political gender gap.

Child marriage had gradually declined in recent years due to increased national attention and IFRC programming, but the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase. As families faced insurmountable financial difficulties during the pandemic, reports of increased child marriage and gender-based violence were reported.

Since 2019, the National Society has run a women empowerment programme at the Nilphamari district to build resilience and increase livelihood options among marginalized women. This programme equipped women with skills to strengthen their income while providing training on preventing sexual and gender-based violence. In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society in expanding the scope of this programme to reach more beneficiaries.

The IFRC also focuses on engaging young people to inspire positive change throughout the country. In 2022, it will support the National Society to expand its humanitarian education programmes to provide youth with the skills and knowledge to make positive and concrete contributions within their communities.

The IFRC will also support the National Society in implementing minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies and integrating these elements across all programmes and operational activities. The IFRC also supports the National Society as it finalizes its protection of sexual exploitation and abuse policy and updates its Gender policy. These actions will build stronger relationships with staff, volunteers and communities, ensuring programmes and services are contextually appropriate and leave no one behind.

TARGETS

- **10,000** people will be reached through values, power, and inclusion activities.
- **10,000** people will be reached with Red Cross Red Crescent education programmes.

SUPPORT

- Expand humanitarian education programmes for young people.
- Streamline protection, gender and inclusion approaches across all programmes and operations.
- Develop child-friendly spaces and communication tools for emergencies.
- Promote the participation of women and minorities in disaster and emergency response teams.

⁴ https://tcdata360.worldbank.org/indicators/846d20f8?country=BGD&indicator=27960&countries=BRA&viz=line_chart&years=2006,2020



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ENABLER 1 – ENGAGED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

150,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its communication and engagement with internal and external partners, to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities within Bangladesh. It will do so by supporting the National Society in implementing its five-year strategic plan, ensuring proper engagement from all branches, members and volunteers.

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen the public profile of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Bangladesh. It will do so by supporting the National Society to conduct a study to understand community perceptions of the Movement in the country. Building on this, the IFRC will support the National Society in developing a longer-term roadmap to actively strengthen its role as an auxiliary to engage with local stakeholders through its branches. This will help to create widespread understanding, appreciation and trust in the roles that the IFRC and National Society undertake as principled humanitarian actors within Bangladesh.

The IFRC will support the National Society to innovate across services, tools, and approaches to better anticipate, adapt, and change for complex, costly, and unpredictable crises and development challenges. The IFRC will support creation of a research cell within the National Society to support these innovations and create a system that has the capacity to challenge systems, cultures and practices. The IFRC will also support a peer learning process between the Bangladesh National Society and other National Societies, focusing on regional linkages.

The IFRC will support the National Society's digital transformation by providing technical support and coordination services for developing and implementing standards for the digital delivery of humanitarian assistance. It will also support rolling out a central data and information management system across all National Society branches while strengthening digital security measures. The IFRC will also support the development of a volunteer registration application to register, engage and manage volunteers' relationships with the Bangladesh National Society.

SUPPORT

- Strengthen engagement with partners within and outside the network to work collectively on critical challenges.
- Prioritize innovation in services, tools and approaches to better anticipate and adapt to complex crises.
- Enhance the public profile of the IFRC through communications and public advocacy resources, including media engagement.



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ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
240,000

The IFRC has developed a new financing architecture that will increase financial resources to benefit National Societies across the network. The IFRC will leverage this new architecture to provide resources to the Bangladesh National Society more systematically through greater coordination with Movement partners. It will also support the National Society in developing a model on core cost recovery at the branch level to ensure that branches can be more self-sufficient in the long term.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to invest in and strengthen staff talent across branches and programmes in Bangladesh. This includes enhancing capacity through safety and security training of all National Society personnel. The IFRC will also provide logistics training for National Society staff.

The IFRC will support the National Society to improve accountability by integrating risk management practices across all programmes, operations and support teams. This includes ensuring all staff and volunteers adhere to the IFRC's policies, procedures, and standards. As part of this, the IFRC will provide training on the prevention of fraud and corruption as well as the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse so that integrity is upheld across the National Society.

🎯 TARGETS

- **100%** of emergency operations mainstream a Federation-wide risk management system.
- **15** IFRC staff trained on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- **50** IFRC staff complete fraud and corruption prevention training.

🔄 SUPPORT

- Develop a core cost recovery model for the National Society and its branches.
- Ensure more systematic provision of resources to improve the National Society's financial sustainability.
- Provide training on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and fraud and corruption.



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ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

320,000

The IFRC will support the Bangladesh National Society to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action by strengthening its internal coordination. The IFRC will support the National Society to coordinate all in-country programmes and operations through a single operational plan. It will provide a forum to discuss any coordination issues by facilitating monthly movement coordination meetings to support this process.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to adopt policies, guidelines, tools and mechanisms to prevent discrimination, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. This includes supporting the National Society in strengthening child safeguarding mechanisms and taking actions to prevent fraud and corruption.

To maximize the potential for domestic resource mobilization and improve financial sustainability, the IFRC will support the National Society to develop profitable business plans. It will also support the National Society to create a resource mobilization sub-working group to identify new funding opportunities.

The IFRC recognizes that volunteers and youth are critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action. In 2022, the IFRC will enhance their engagement at all levels by supporting the National Society to strengthen its leadership and training programmes. It will also support the National Society in updating its recruitment system to ensure that leadership, staff, and volunteers represent all backgrounds. As part of this, the IFRC will support the National Society in introducing the “red crescent youth talent hunt” programme, which will enable more robust youth engagement.

To ensure that people and communities affected by crises are empowered to influence decisions that affect them and trust the Movement to serve their best interests, the IFRC will support the National Society in operationalizing its community engagement and accountability policy in 2022. It will also support the National Society in developing a related performance measurement framework that integrates feedback mechanisms across all programmes and operations to ensure stronger accountability to the communities being served.

SUPPORT

- Ensure coordination through a single operational plan.
- Strengthen National Society leadership and training programmes.
- Operationalize community engagement and accountability policy.
- Integrate performance feedback mechanisms across all programmes and operations.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

Contact Information

Sanjeev Kumar Kafley

Head of Country Delegation for Bangladesh

T +880 179 458 1877

sanjeev.kafley@ifrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Society
