



JOINT STATEMENT

by

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

The International Committee of the Red Cross (the ICRC)

and

**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
(the IFRC)**

on

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Response to *Cyclone Remal*

Date 30 May 2024

BACKGROUND & NEEDS

The severe cyclonic storm Remal made landfall near the Mongla and Khepupara coasts in Bangladesh and West Bengal of India around 8:00 PM on 26 May 2024,. The maximum sustained wind speed within 64 kilometres (40 miles) of the cyclone centre was 90 kph, with gusts or squalls reaching up to 120 kph. The cyclone caused tidal surges and led to the collapse of dams (embankments) in several districts in Bangladesh.

The State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) said that at least 16 people were killed across six districts, with more than 3.7 million people affected in 19 districts. Around 35,500 households were completely damaged, and 115,000 households were partially damaged. The storm surge caused significant inundation, with water levels rising 8- 12 feet above normal tide level. Around 27 million consumers in the coastal region of the country have been without electricity for hours due to the impact of Cyclone Remal.

The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) estimates that a total of 8.4 million people, including men, women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons, may be affected across 19 districts. The rain and high tides damaged some embankments and flooded coastal areas in the Sundarbans, home to some of the world's largest mangrove forests, which is shared by Bangladesh and India. Rain brought by the cyclone flooded roads and disrupted movements in the capital Dhaka.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) along with Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) of the MoDMR, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and IFRC's in country memberships, Anticipatory Action Working Group (AAWG) members has been closely monitoring the forecast and analyze the situation regularly.

IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation (CD) has been supporting BDRCS and closely coordinating with IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and updating regularly about the evolving situation. IFRC GO platform has been updated. IFRC's in-country membership – Participating National Societies (PNSs) - are also coordinating and updating their respective regional office and headquarters about the impact of cyclone. Based on extent of damage and priority needs, IFRC and PNSs are ready to extend their support to contribute to BDRCS response plan.

THE MOVEMENT'S COLLECTIVE AMBITION AND INTENDED RESPONSE

We, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, express our solidarity with the people of Bangladesh, and we collectively express our concern on the devastating impact of this Cyclone Remal. We express our unity around BDRCS, its tireless staff and volunteers who have provided support in anticipation of the landfall as well as after the impact and continuously on the ground, supporting the affected communities. So far, BDRCS, with the support of the IFRC and IFRC's membership, has been able to deploy more than 2,000 volunteers for early warning dissemination, mobile water treatment plants, mobile medical teams, doctors and nurses and preparing for food distribution.

In response to the needs the IFRC, in consultation with BDRCS intends to launch an Emergency Appeal, which will be targeting and prioritizing the most affected communities, aiming to reach 500,000 people with humanitarian assistance in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, food security, livelihood, health and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) ensuring community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach.. Through Federation-wide efforts, 650,000 people are targeted, while 500,000 will targeted through the IFRC EA. BDRCS will ensure the dignity, access, participation, and safety of the most vulnerable populations, including oldery persons, children and adolescents, marginal income farmers and fishermen, female-headed households, lactating mothers, pregnant women, widows, and persons with disabilities. ICRC will provide support in restoring family link (RFL) if BDRCS identifies the needs, and remains available should any other support is required.

In this context, on 29 May 2024, BDRCS convened a mini-summit with the IFRC and ICRC to define the parameters of the Movement response. The partners committed to collaborate, leveraging each other's strengths and deliver the Movement's optimal collective humanitarian response to the growing numbers of people gravely affected in this crisis, which has compounded existing vulnerabilities. The country coordination team (CCT), in the absence of an approved Movement Coordination Agreement MCA, will be developed at strategic and operational/ technical levels, with 2 levels of coordination structure where strategic and technical/ operational decisions will be taken.

In accordance with the Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement (MCCIA, Seville Agreement 2.0), BDRCS has assumed the role of Convener, and IFRC the role of co-convener. In complementarity, the ICRC will support at the national or regional level if required and according to its possibilities, under the request of the Convener (in particular for RFL services).

Strategic level exchanges and meetings, will continue to ensure timely and relevant strategic guidance to operations.

WAY FORWARD

In responding to this crisis and in support to BDRCS, both IFRC and ICRC are present in Bangladesh. The Movement's interventions are and will continue to be in accordance to the fundamental principles, its Statutes and applicable laws, and are coordinated with the national and local authorities, as well as with the in-country International humanitarian organisations. In the interests of helping all people in need, the Movement partners are committed to ensure strong collaboration and coordination, and to complementing each other's activities to increase the program impact.

We, the Movement partners will make all efforts to significantly scale up the humanitarian actions reached through the BDRCS and to ensure solid accountability towards the affected people. We commit to ensuring public communication and related humanitarian diplomacy efforts including advocacy for humanitarian needs both at local and international forums in a cohesive and coordinated approach.

At the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we take this opportunity to express our sincere concern for, and solidarity with the affected population.

We thank all the partners for their support,


Secretary General/President 30/05/2024
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society


Head of Delegation for Bangladesh 30/05/2024
International Committee of the Red Cross


Head of Delegation for Bangladesh 30/05/2024
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies