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BANGLADESH

Disaster Management Reference Handbook

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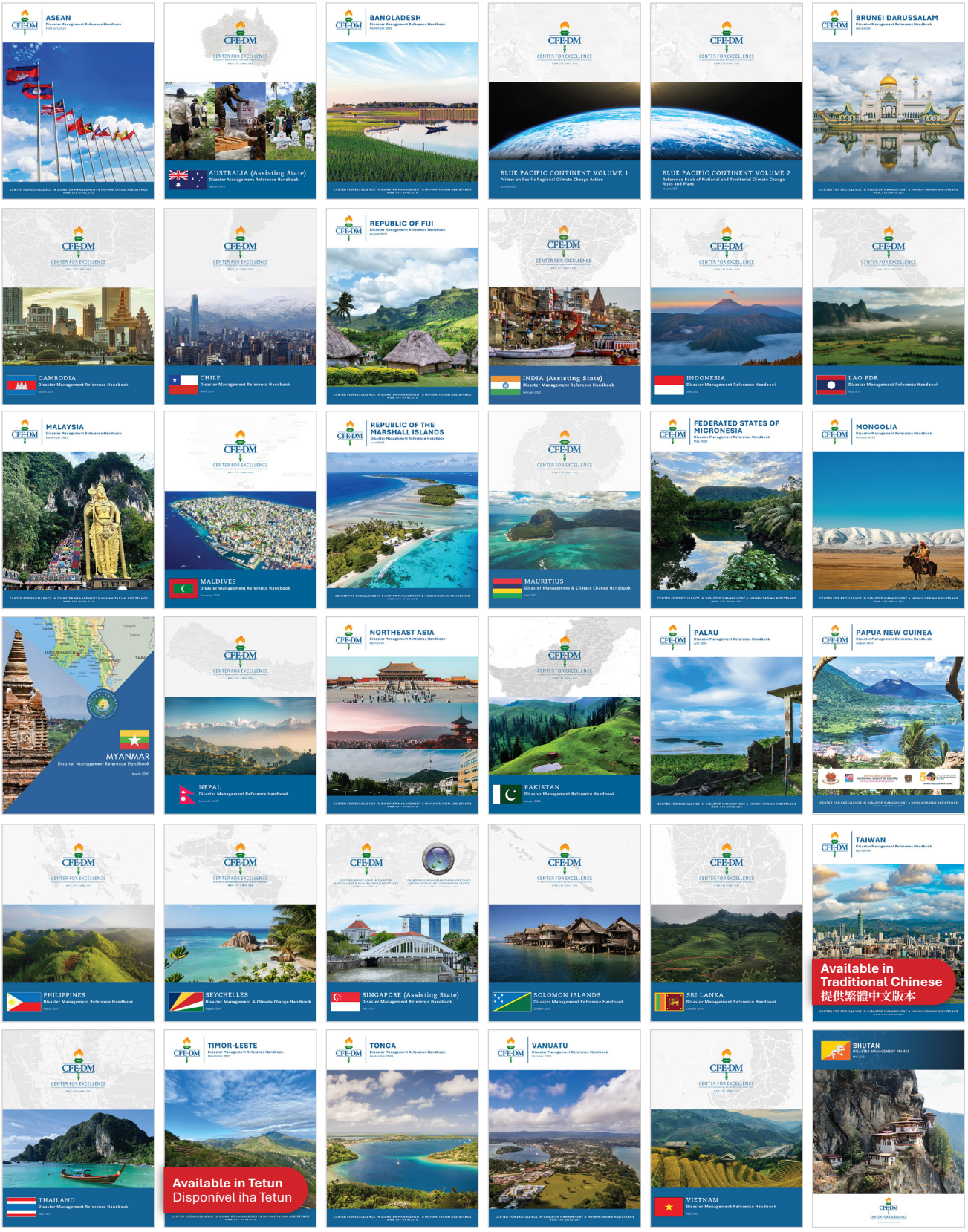


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About the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a United States (U.S.) Department of War (DoW, also known as Department of Defense) organization comprised of nearly 30 subject matter experts that provide academic research, civil-military coordination training, and operational insights to support decision making before, during, and after crises. The Center is designed to bridge understanding between humanitarians, civilian, and military responders. CFE-DM partners with a diverse group of governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as academic institutions to increase collaborations and capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. While maintaining a global mandate, the Indo-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Pacific Command (US PACOM) and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Vision

Resilient Joint Forces, Allies, and Partners that are fully prepared to respond across the spectrum of humanitarian crises.

Mission

CFE-DM builds crisis response capacity in US, Allies and Partner militaries across the Indo-Pacific to save lives before, during, and after emergencies.

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Letter from the Director

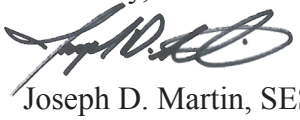
With more than 50 years of history, the bilateral Bangladesh-United States (U.S.) relationship covers myriad sectors. Building resilient economies and societies that contribute to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region is the emphasis of our shared work.

U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) and its components continue to build on joint-force collaboration with Bangladesh's armed services through exercises, workshops, and knowledge exchanges on disaster response, as well as on other areas of non-traditional security cooperation. As part of this holistic effort, the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) supports the planning, outreach, and shared training executed by, among others, the U.S. Army Pacific and Oregon National Guard, both of which partner with Bangladesh's civilian and military disaster responders to enhance readiness and interoperability.

CFE-DM has seen the steady advancement of this work in the past two decades. The maturity of ties between Bangladesh's disaster management community-of-practice, including the national armed forces, and the U.S. military exemplifies the potential for partnerships to build preparedness. As Bangladesh continues to confront the possibility of deadly and economically devastating disasters, the confidence built between our two countries will help ensure effective delivery of disaster response when needed.

This handbook makes key information available to civilian and military disaster management practitioners to enhance the efficiency of planning and execution of engagements with Bangladesh's community-of-practice.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Martin, SES
Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bangladesh is a country at high risk of experiencing negative impacts from major hazard events.

Cost of Disasters

The people of Bangladesh are still predominantly rural, but the country is urbanizing swiftly. Large concentrations of people and economic assets are located in flood-prone areas along major rivers and in coastal zones where the effects of cyclones have historically been deadly. In addition, a large proportion of productive agricultural land is exposed to repeated effects of drought and flooding. There is the potential for a massive earthquake to rock the country, and large-scale seismic activity could trigger follow-on landslides or technical incidents like fires or chemical spills.

In the past decade alone, more than 40 hazard events – cyclones, epidemics, extreme heat and cold, floods, and land- and mudslides – have killed upwards of 1,900 people. On average, economic damage totals more than US$500 million annually.

Because of this level of exposure and the high cost of response and recovery, the country has developed and continues to invest in early warning and preparedness programming to ensure that the public has access to information and knows what to do in case of an alert.

Building Capacity, Reducing Risk

The national disaster management (DM) structure has well-defined leadership and guidelines that reach from the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) at the strategic level to Disaster Management Committees (DMC) within lower administrative jurisdictions. Departments within the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) work across the DM cycle – mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery – to integrate national stakeholders ranging from the armed forces to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and a broad range of non-governmental organizations (NGO).

Despite enhanced institutional DM capacity, the country's resources are tested by multiple large-scale hazard events every year. When confronted with this level of repeated destruction and loss, the country can reach out to bilateral and multilateral partners not only to respond with assistance but also to support development of risk reduction programs that continue to reduce vulnerability and bolster coping capacity.

Enhancing Partnerships

There are various international and United Nations (UN) entities active in Bangladesh. They not only help address the needs of some of the country's most vulnerable people – especially people who have fled fighting and violence in Myanmar – but they also support planning and development of assets and practices to utilize the country's key logistics hubs and industrial capacity to respond swiftly when a disaster does occur. These UN entities and NGOs are backed by many bilateral and multilateral donors – including the United States (U.S.) – who work to ensure that Bangladesh's DM capacity does not decline in the face of economic or political challenges.

This handbook is intended to support governments and international organizations who are planning and executing DM operations, training, or engagements with Bangladesh's civilian and military responders. It provides background information on the hazards to which the country is exposed alongside details of national and local DM institutions and practices to promote better coordination among local, national, and international partners.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

A country that relies on monsoon rains and river flooding to replenish its land and water, Bangladesh remains mostly rural, although the populations of its cities are growing much more swiftly than its rural areas. With this urbanization, the services and industrial sectors of the economy provide the majority of revenue and jobs. Nonetheless, agriculture remains important for both employment and national productivity as it has historically cushioned the economy when global market shocks have disrupted Bangladesh's ability to export manufactured goods. Dissatisfaction with the government's ability to maintain improvements in quality of life and health has driven political instability in recent years, and changes in government could have short-, medium-, and long-term implications for sustained reductions in poverty and for continuing to build societal resilience to crises.

Geography and Environment

A land defined by some of South Asia's most important rivers, Bangladesh is both dependent on the rivers to maintain fertility and exposed to damage from regular flooding along those rivers' courses. Plentiful rainfall sometimes comes in heavy, damaging downpours, and already high heat and humidity are an increasing challenge to human health and labor productivity as periods of extreme heat are more common.

Bangladesh sits on the north coast of the Bay of Bengal in the delta of the Padma (Ganges) and Jamuna (Brahmaputra) rivers, which converge in central Bangladesh. The country shares borders with India to the west, north, and northeast, and with Myanmar in the southeast.

The total area of the country is 148,460 square kilometers (km^2; 57,320 square miles [mi^2]).[1] Land makes up 129,980 km^2 (50,185 mi^2), and water – mostly rivers – covers the remainder.[2] Figure 1 shows a map of Bangladesh.[3]

The country's geography is dominated by the alluvial plain of the two major rivers and their branches and tributaries. An estimated 80% of the country is a flood plain.[4] The topography is low (< 9 meters [m] or 30 feet [ft] above sea level) with a gentle slope upward toward the north. The exceptions are in the northeast and southeast where ridges of mountains run north-south along the borders with India and Myanmar. The far southern areas, on the Bay of Bengal, are marshy forests, known as the Sundarbans.

Rivers are among the most important geographic features, and many of them have changed course multiple times. Each year, between June and October, rivers overflow their banks and inundate the countryside before



Figure 1: Map of Bangladesh

receding in November. These floods are among the influences that change landscapes, lives, and livelihoods, as they replenish the land with fertile silt deposits but also damage crops, property, and livestock herds. Bangladesh's five main river systems – Padma, Meghna / Surma, Jamuna, North Bengal, and the rivers of the Chittagong Hill Tracts – rise in India, Nepal, or the People's Republic of China (PRC), and these countries, rather than Bangladesh, retain significant control over the rivers' flows.

The monsoon climate feeds the rivers. Most of the country receives plentiful rain – in excess of 1,500 millimeters (mm; 59 inches [in]) annual average. Large areas receive even more precipitation, especially Sylhet in the northeast, which receives 3,800-5,000 mm (150-200 in) of rain annually. Maximum rainfall comes during the monsoon – June-September – but high-intensity storms with wind speeds exceeding 160 kilometers per hour (kph; 100 miles per hour [mph]) tend to occur in April and May or September and October. These storms also whip up the Bay of Bengal and can drive waves cresting as high as 6 m (20 ft) into coastal areas. More than 1 million people have been killed by such storms since the 18th century.

Along with the rain, the country has generally warm temperatures and high humidity. From April to September, temperatures are in the mid-30s°C (low to mid-90s°F). April is the warmest month in most parts of the country. January is the coolest month, with high temperatures averaging in the mid-20s°C (mid- to upper 70s°F).[5]

Society and Demographics

Bangladesh's estimated population in 2025 was 175.7 million people.[6] This estimate is broadly consistent with the last census run by the government and based on recent growth trends. The population continues to grow and urbanize, and young workers are the largest cohort of the population. While the country continues to reduce the number of people living in poverty, impoverished people living in informal urban settlements are at high risk for both physical harm and loss of livelihoods during disasters. The ability to continue reducing disaster risk among key groups – for example, the elderly, people living with disabilities, and women – has the potential to pay economic and social dividends as annual deaths, injuries, damage, and loss from disasters will also fall.

In its 2022 Census, the Bureau of Statistics reported 165 million people in the country; this total marked a 14% rise over the previous Census (2011), when 144 million people were recorded. The Bureau calculated a 1.22% annual growth rate over the decade between census exercises, a rate slightly lower than the 1.46% annual rate calculated at the 2011 Census (over the 2001 Census). Bangladesh has seen 50 years of steadily falling population growth rates, from nearly 3% at the country's founding in the 1970s.

There are approximately 1.5 million more females than males in the country. People aged 65 years and older make up 5.86% of the population, whereas people aged 19 years and younger make up 38.64% of the population.[7] The median age is 26 years, and half of the population is under 30 years of age. The size of the working-age population means that Bangladesh is home to the world's eighth largest labor force. In addition to a large potential workforce, the country's people participate in formal labor at high rates,[8] albeit with stark differences between males and females (80% male participation rate versus 38% female participation rate).[9]

The rural population is more than twice the size of the urban population – 113 million versus 52 million – but urban populations have grown much more swiftly in the past decade – 19 million more urban people since 2011 versus 2.5 million more rural people in the same period. Males outnumber females in urban areas by about 1 million people; thus, there is a higher number of females in rural areas – approximately 2.6 million more.

The total population density is 1,119 people per km^2 (2,898 people per mi^2). This total masks significant differences among the country's eight administrative divisions:

- Dhaka – 2,156 people per km² (5,584 people per mi²)
- Mymensingh – 1,146 people per km² (2,968 people per mi²)
- Rajshahi – 1,121 people per km² (2,903 people per mi²)
- Rangpur – 1,088 people per km² (2,817 people per mi²)
- Chattogram – 979 people per km² (2,535 people per mi²)
- Sylhet – 873 people per km² (2,261 people per mi²)
- Khulna – 782 people per km² (2,025 people per mi²)
- Barisal – 688 people per km² (1,781 people per mi²)

Table 1 shows the populations of Bangladesh's main cities, per the 2022 Census.[10]

People of the Islamic faith make up 91% of the population; minority religions include Hinduism (8%), Buddhism (0.61%), and Christianity (0.3%).[11] Under the 1972 constitution, Islam is the state religion, but other religions may be practiced freely, and the constitution does not include any state favor for Islamic practice or institutions. Despite these legal protections, there have been instances of violence against religious minorities, especially the homes, businesses, and temples of the Hindu community, as, in times of political or social turmoil, Hindus can be perceived as supporting the government that was ousted in mid-2024 or being linked to Bangladesh's much larger neighbor, India.[12]

City (Division)	Population
Dhaka North (Dhaka)	5,979,537
Dhaka South (Dhaka)	4,299,345
Chattogram (Chattogram)	3,227,246
Gazipur (Dhaka)	2,674,697
Narayanganj (Dhaka)	967,724
Khulna (Khulna)	718,725
Rangpur (Rangpur)	708,384
Mymensingh (Mymensingh)	576,722
Rajshahi (Rajshahi)	552,791
Sylhet (Sylhet)	532,426
Cumilla (Chattogram)	439,414
Barisal (Barisal)	419,351

Table 1: Population of Cities

Three districts of the southeastern Chattogram division – Bandarban (53%), Khagrachhari (47%), and Rangamati (36%) – are the only districts that are not at least 75% Muslim. Nearly one-third of people in Bandarban are Buddhist, and there is also a large community of Christians. About one-third of people in Khagrachhari are Buddhist, and nearly 17% are Hindu. Finally, some 57% of people in Rangamati are Buddhist.[13]

Some 99% of Bangladesh's people are ethnically Bengali, and Bengali is the official language.[14] An estimated 99% of people speak Bengali as a first language, but there are many dialects used across the country.[15]

The 2022 Census found that 1.6 million people (less than 1% of the population) identify as belonging to an ethnic minority. Some 990,000 of them live in Chattogram division, with some 350,000 in each of Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts. Rajshahi, with 244,500 ethnic minority people, is home to the second largest minority concentration; its Naogaon city is home to more than 107,000 ethnic minority people. Of the 50 ethnic minority groups listed in the census questionnaire, Chakma people numbered 483,000, Marma numbered 224,000, Tripura numbered 156,500, and Saontal numbered 129,000; no other group numbered more than 100,000 people.[16]

Vulnerable Groups

Emergencies do not impact every member of society in the same way. People with the fewest options in life commonly live in areas more prone to damage during hazard events, and they suffer some of the largest losses as a percentage of their family members and assets. In addition, pre-existing inequalities based on sex, age, religion, or other characteristics shape who receives early warnings, who can evacuate from at-risk areas, who controls household resources, and who carries responsibility for caring for children, older people, people living with disabilities, and household assets.

The following profiles provide some indication of the existing conditions in Bangladeshi society that may lead to disproportionate harm being experienced by members of these groups. It is not intended to be exhaustive but to highlight some of the largest segments of society who may be excluded from decision-making around DM. People living with disabilities, people living in poverty, and women are not monolithic blocs but, rather, include people of different ethnicities, religions, and ages. Some people may otherwise fit into these larger groups, but their work, gender expression, or citizenship status could create different obstacles to participating in disaster planning or recovery.

Closing gaps that leave particular groups of people more susceptible to harm means planning and implementing mechanisms that assist in evacuation and safe relocation, constructing early warning systems that reach the "last mile" of people who access or understand information in ways different from the majority, stocking evacuation centers and relief distribution points with critical hygiene items, and developing recovery programs that do not inadvertently exclude people based on household head, lack of banking access, or other characteristics.

People Living with Disabilities

In Bangladesh, people living with disabilities commonly have difficulty accessing health care, education, employment, marketplaces, and transport systems because these services are not equipped, constructed, or staffed to address the needs of people living with mobility, visual, or auditory disabilities. The implications for DM include that people living with visual or hearing disabilities may have difficulty receiving hazard information or early warnings and that people living with mobility disabilities may be unable to evacuate at-risk areas without assistance or access evacuation centers that are not constructed for device-aided mobility.

In the 2022 Census, 2.36 million people or 1.43% of the population (1.63% of males and 1.23% of females) reported living with at least one disability.[17] However, BRAC, a national NGO, estimated that 10% of the population lives with at least one disability. The disparity may arise from stigma associated with disability status – i.e., respondents to the census questionnaire did not report a family member's disability due to a desire to avoid discrimination or ostracism – or from a systematic data limitation in that disability commonly correlates with poverty and people living in poverty may have participated lest robustly in the census exercise.[18]

Physical disabilities are experienced by 32% of people living with a disability. Visual impairments are the next most common at 11.5% of people living with a disability. More than 11% of people living with a disability actually report living with multiple disabilities.[19] Ensuring that hazard information is communicated through both visual and auditory media will help many Bangladeshis living with visual and hearing impairments receive and act on warnings. Moreover, integrating representatives of the disability community into DM planning can help ensure that people living with all types of disabilities can access evacuation centers and relief services that have been planned appropriately.

People Living in Poverty

In recent decades, the rates of people living in poverty have fallen. Bangladesh's economic growth and social programming saw the rate of extreme poverty (less than US$22.50 / month) fall to 5.6% and the rate of moderate poverty (less than US$31.37 / month) fall to 18.7%; for reference, the rates in 2010 were 12.2% (extreme poverty) and 37.1% (moderate poverty). Nonetheless, the World Bank estimates that 62 million people – approximately one-third of the population – risk falling back into poverty if a shock – e.g., a disaster – causes them to lose employment, experience illness or injury, lose shelter, or suffer the loss of a wage-earning household member.[20]

An estimated 1.8 million people live in "slums." The government defines "slums" as "a group of five or more houses located on public land, railways, roadsides, embankments,

or private land and… of very poor quality." The 2022 Census found that over half of the country's 507,486 "slum" households recorded were in Dhaka division; Chattogram division was home to about one-quarter of "slum" households.[21]

Impoverished households are unable to build monetary savings and are highly sensitive to price changes – especially related to food and fuel, which are exposed to volatile global markets. Commonly, these households are without title to their homes and lands, are headed by someone in informal employment, and have lower overall educations (and access to education). Their situation makes them prone to malnutrition, chronic and acute diseases, and exploitation by malign actors, and their outcomes after a disaster are inextricably linked to DM planners' ability to:

1) Develop hazard information and early warning systems that reach and are understood by them; and
2) Institute response and relief programs that take into account their physical locations, lack of access to information technology, and lack of bank accounts.

Rohingya

In a cluster of 33 settlements around Cox's Bazar and on the island of Bhasan Char in the Bay of Bengal, there are upwards of 1.2 million Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals – the term used in Bangladesh for most Rohingya – who have fled violence in neighboring Myanmar.[22]

In the initial stage of their presence in the area, some 730,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2016-2017; Bangladesh granted refuge to them,[23] but in the absence of appropriate national legislation to grant official refugee status or asylum along international lines, none of the Rohingya who reside in the camps are legally considered refugees in Bangladesh. Any identification provided to them is usable only to receive humanitarian aid.[24] With no legal identity or citizenship, most of these people are stateless and, therefore, without rights either within Bangladesh or in Myanmar.

The location of the camps is highly exposed to the impacts of monsoon rains and cyclones. These natural hazards and anthropogenic ones commonly lead to flooding, landslides, and structure fires that cause human casualties and destroy property.[25] Since 2023, fires, landslides, and floods have damaged or destroyed 24,000 shelters and affected at least 35,000 camp residents; 12 people were killed in landslides in 2024, and 53 people were killed in flooding and landslides in 2026.[26]

In addition to exposure to hazards, the already congested camps continue to see inflows of new refugees fleeing continued fighting; in 2025 alone, 130,000 new refugees arrived,[27] and as of August 2026, at least 155,000 new arrivals had already been recorded for the year.[28] This steady inflow of people with few assets increases levels of need among camp residents; as of 2026, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that one-third of households in the camps were food insecure and a similar percentage lack any source of income.[29]

Bangladesh places limits on these refugees' access to jobs, schooling, and services. Due to limits on productive activities, camp residents rely on humanitarian assistance. In-kind assistance and cash distributions commonly are insufficient to meet minimum daily expenditures that would meet a family's nutrition, health, and educational needs. Thus, many camp residents resort to negative coping strategies – i.e., reducing food consumption, borrowing resources, and reselling aid supplies.

An estimated one-third of refugees are youths aged 15-24 years.[30] Shortfalls in funding for education mean that nearly 200,000 youths are without educational opportunities. The consequences include not just lost learning but also increased vulnerability of youths without life skills or formal education. These youths commonly face recruitment into gangs, exploitation, child marriage, hazardous labor, and sexual abuse. Law enforcement has been the primary solution, but organized gangs continue to thrive, and they have perpetrated violence, robbery, extortion, abductions for ransom, and

trafficking.[31]

Malnutrition is particularly prevalent in the camps. Nutrition services are dependent on consistent funding from donor countries to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners. However, in recent years, that funding has fluctuated, leading to ration cuts. Although 2025 saw full rations reinstated, a study still found that only 36% of children and 27% of pregnant and breastfeeding women met targets for minimum acceptable diets.[32]

The Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), under MoDMR, administers the Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char settlements along with the district administrations of Cox's Bazar and Noakhali. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) leads the international response. The Rohingya Coordination Platform, which UNHCR leads and funds, coordinates donors and implementing partners and serves as the primary liaison with the RRRC.[33]

Women

Legally, women enjoy rights equal to men in the public sphere, and the country continues to build toward equal outcomes in health and education. Bangladesh's women commonly have high educational attainment, and there has been a female head of government (Prime Minister) for 30 of the years since 1991, when the parliamentary form of government was re-established. Nonetheless, the country's women continue to confront high rates of violence – 73% of ever-married women have experienced partner violence in their lifetime – and religious "personal" laws that govern marriage, divorce, custody of children, and inheritance commonly discriminate against women.[34]

Manufacturing jobs have stagnated since about 2016, and women – especially young women – have seen rising rates of unemployment (looking for but not in work). As of 2025, one-quarter of young (aged 15-29 years), educated (completed secondary school) women were unemployed, and the World Bank estimated that about half of employed young women were underemployed (working in low-paying jobs when the worker has skills for much higher-wage employment). In the past decade, new hiring has shifted to less productive – often agricultural (i.e., rural) – sectors,[35] but as rural male workers have filled services positions in the sector, rural female workers have entered the agricultural sector in self-employed or informal positions that are insecure and tend to disappear first when a shock hits the economy.[36]

In addition to wage work or business ownership, women in Bangladesh execute 85% of domestic and care tasks – cooking, cleaning, laundry, household management, and care for children, elders, the sick, and family members living with disabilities – according to a 2021 time-use survey.[37] In the wake of emergencies, women – especially female-headed households – face heightened risk of adverse outcomes due to asset losses, reduced income, disrupted services, spiraling unpaid care burdens, and unequal access to information and relief. A survey in the wake of the 2024 political unrest found that women who had been involved in protests were forced to scale back political engagement due to:

- Loss of access to health care (30%)
- Reductions in water and sanitation services that meant they either had to spend more time tending to household needs or could not access sufficient water to ensure hygiene (34%)
- Lost businesses that forced them to seek other work (16%)[38]

Government

The Constitution establishes a parliamentary system, with a president as head of state and a prime minister who is head of government. The central government performs most public service functions either directly or through representatives in the lower administrations. Meanwhile, popularly elected local councils have oversight over subnational administration. Among the responsibilities of the lower levels of administration are firefighting and flood rescue, but resources to implement these services can be limited.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of

Bangladesh was adopted in 1972 and remains in effect with amendments. In the wake of the July-August 2024 "Monsoon Revolution" of student-led protests that toppled the government, the Interim Government launched a constitutional reform process that led to the "July Charter" (2025). It was a politically negotiated document endorsed by 24 political parties and proposing various reforms, including constitutional amendments.[39] Alongside general elections in February 2026, 68% of voters approved the Charter. Its implementation will be up to the new government and its successors.[40]

The executive branch of government comprises the President, Prime Minister, and Cabinet. The President is elected by parliament for a 5-year term. The President then appoints the leader of the party with a majority in the legislature as Prime Minister.[41] The President, on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoints the Cabinet.[42] Presidents are limited to two terms.[43]

The unicameral parliament – Jatiya Sangsad (House of the Nation) – has 350 seats, of which 300 are filled by direct election. Fifty seats are reserved for a women's list, elected by the 300 popular-vote winners and distributed among the parties with seats in parliament on a system of proportionality. Members all serve 5-year terms.[44]

At the subnational level, there are separate types of administration for rural and urban areas and for the southeastern hill region. Urban subnational governments are two-tiered – city corporations and municipalities (pourshavas). Rural administration has three levels – district (zila parishad), sub-district (upazila parishad), and union of villages (union parishad). The "hill district parishads" are Bandarban, Rangamati, and Khagrachhari.[45] Table 2 enumerates the subnational divisions.[46]

Each division and district is headed by a commissioner. They and their advisors are appointed by the central government, but the division and district councils are elected. The Local Government Division (LGD) within the Ministry of Local Government, Rural

Division	District (Zila)	Sub-District (Upazila)	Local
Barisal	6 - Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalokati, Patuakhali, Pirojpur	42	Union Parishad: 356 Municipality: 26 City Corporation: 1
Chattogram	11 - Bandarban, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chattogram, Cumilla, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Khagrachhari, Lakshmipur, Noakhali, Rangamati	103	Union Parishad: 959 Municipality: 64 City Corporation: 2 Hill District Parishad: 3
Dhaka	13 - Dhaka, Faridpur, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, Madaripur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Tangail	88	Union Parishad: 886 Municipality: 63 City Corporation: 4
Khulna	10 - Bagerhat, Chuadanga, Jashore, Jhenaidah, Khulna, Kushtia, Magura, Meherpur, Narail, Satkhira	59	Union Parishad: 581 Municipality: 36 City Corporation: 1
Mymensingh	4 - Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Sherpur	35	Union Parishad: 353 Municipality: 28
Rajshahi	8 - Bogura, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Natore, Chapaj Nawabganj, Pabna, Rajshahi, Sirajganj	67	Union Parishad: 565 Municipality: 62 City Corporations: 1
Rangpur	8 - Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Thakurgaon	58	Union Parishad: 535 Municipality: 31 City Corporations: 1
Sylhet	4 - Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, Sylhet	40	Union Parishad: 338 Municipality: 19 City Corporations: 1

Table 2: Subnational Administrative Divisions

Development and Cooperatives (MLGRD&C) develops and implements legislation regulating urban subnational government bodies, while the Rural Development and Cooperatives Directorate oversees all affairs pertaining to rural local governments.[47] Hill district parishads are under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs.[48]

Directly elected mayors and councils lead city corporations and municipalities; on these councils, councilors represent wards (units of a city corporation or municipality). Two-thirds of ward representatives are elected by residents, and one-third are women elected by the other representatives. In rural areas, councils exist at the upazila and union parishad levels; they and their chairs are also directly elected.

Key responsibilities of the city corporations, municipalities, upazilas, and unions include public order and safety – firefighting services, preparedness for flood rescue, maintenance and management of transport hubs and arteries, and public health.[49] In the three hill districts, Hill District Councils are largely autonomous and are composed of elected representatives, with reserved representation for indigenous communities. They are responsible for education, health, local police, land management, agriculture, tourism, and cultural affairs.[50] All local governments rely heavily on central government funding to cover shortfalls in revenue for many activities.[51]

Economic Profile

The internal political unrest that erupted in street protests in mid-2024 slowed but did not stall Bangladesh's economic growth. Nonetheless, the unrest saw small businesses shutter, consumers hold off on non-essential purchases, and the overall national fiscal position soften, all resulting in an uncertain business environment. The potential for long-term effects of this slowing growth is compounded by additional headwinds. As an economy that is export-oriented, the country uses trade as the engine of growth, and global shocks – conflict, energy price swings – can be a brake on expansion. Meanwhile, domestic emergencies – for example, seasonal floods – damage assets and disrupt key economic sectors on a regular basis.

For two decades, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average of 6% annually on the back of the steadily expanding and export-oriented garment industry, as well as on remittance inflows and rising domestic consumption.[52] Provisional data from the Bureau of Statistics indicate growth across the economy in fiscal year (FY) 2026,[53] as the country continues to recover from 2024's political unrest. With a fiscal year that runs 1 July – 30 June, the country notched 3.97% GDP growth in FY2025 (which began just as the 2024 protests kicked off), slightly below the 4.22% growth recorded in FY2024 but well below the 5.78% recorded in FY2023 and 7.1% in FY2022.[54] Growth in FY2026 showed stronger agriculture and services revenues, while manufacturing growth slowed year-on-year.[55]

The services sector delivers some 50% of GDP and employs nearly 40% of the workforce. Recent years have seen expansion, with value-added services jobs created in the knowledge and technology sub-sectors – i.e., trade, transport, financial services, banking, telecommunications, and information technology. Bangladesh has begun exporting services in a sign that investments in digital connectivity are paying dividends. With the ninth largest mobile telephone market in the world, the country has the one of world's largest mobile financial services providers – bKash – and is the world's second largest provider of on-line freelance labor (650,000 freelancers).[56] This sector is broadly more resilient than other sectors that rely heavily on capital assets; as long as information technology (IT) infrastructure is resilient, recovery from crises across services can be swift.

The ready-made garment sector has been the cornerstone of the economy since the 1990s. Garments and other manufactured goods have generally accounted for one-quarter of GDP. On average, garments account for more than 80% of total exports, and other manufactured goods bring the share of all manufactures up to 95%

of exports.[57] Though major revenue earners, at their peak, garment factories employed about 4 million workers (less than 5% of the workforce), 80% of them women. Wages in the industry remained low. As automation is reducing the number of new jobs in the sector and Bangladesh's women become better educated and technologically competent, women's employment, including in the garment sector, has fallen off.[58] Photo 1 shows women at work in a ready-made garment factory in Dhaka.[59]

Agriculture accounts for approximately one-eighth of GDP.[60] The agricultural sector was the backbone of the economy until the late 20th century. It still employs some 40% of the workforce despite the steady decline in its contribution to GDP. The sector is a critical asset that allows the country to be self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs. It is the world's third largest producer of rice and vegetables and the fourth largest producer of freshwater fish.

Over the course of 20 years, up to 2021, the country reduced its poverty rate from more than 44% to under 13%. A broad constellation of policies related to education, health, investment in infrastructure, and attracting foreign direct investment saw a healthier, better educated workforce take advantage of opportunities in industries across all sectors. There are also 55 million young people armed with higher education, excellent health, and digital connections set to enter the workforce in the coming decade.[61] Nonetheless, employment in the country is a lingering area of inequality between the sexes. According to the Labour Force Survey (2024), the labor force participation rate among women was 38%, while that among men was 80%. This proportion translates into 22.9 million women employed versus 46.2 million men. Moreover, the survey found decreasing female employment, and other surveys consistently find that women are not participating fully in the workforce because of domestic and care work (11.7 hours / day) and inadequate alternative childcare.[62]

Though Bangladesh's economy has proven resilient to shocks like the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and socio-political unrest, it confronts a challenge in making the leap to a developed economy. Value-added services and technologically advanced manufacturing require steady investment in infrastructure and ensuring skilled labor is available in terms of both training and ability to enter the workforce because other responsibilities are met. In addition, protecting capital investments from damage during extreme weather to ensure continuity of business and livelihoods will require steady planning and enforcement of building codes by the new government.



Photo 1: Women at Work in a Garment Factory

DISASTER PROFILE

Bangladesh has historically been one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The country's low-lying topography, river systems, dense population centers, and concentration of productive economic assets in disaster-prone areas contribute to its repeated experience of severe impacts from a range of natural and anthropogenic hazards. Each year, the country faces flooding, landslides, storms, and other extreme weather events. The combination of its geographical location, topography, and high population density means these frequent events often translate into heavy loss of life and economic damage.

Hazards

Bangladesh is especially exposed to storms, including tropical cyclones, due to its geographic location along the Bay of Bengal. Much of the country's land features the low-lying terrain of river deltas, which are susceptible to flooding during both the seasonal monsoon and cyclones. Over the past two decades, coastal communities have experienced worsening floods, tornadoes, storm and tidal surges, and coastal and riverbank erosion.

Cyclones

Tropical cyclones, characterized by high winds, storm surges, and heavy rains, represent a considerable threat to coastal regions. Bangladesh frequently experiences significant impacts from tropical cyclones that sweep in from the Bay of Bengal and across the extensive coastline. Approximately 60% of global deaths caused by cyclones between 2000 and 2020 occurred in Bangladesh.[63] Tropical cyclones generally strike the country in two seasons, pre-monsoon (April-May) and post-monsoon (October-November). Storms can occur from March through December.[64]

Tropical cyclones frequently bring intense storm surges reaching as high as 9 m (30 ft). These surges drive high casualty numbers and property losses, concentrated mainly in the southern coastal regions.

In recent decades, Bangladesh's cyclone-related casualty figures have fallen to the low thousands even as storm intensity has grown. Much of this progress is thanks to preparedness efforts undertaken at every level, from local to national, and to the engagement of a wide range of actors across government and civil society.[65]

Drought

Drought is the second most widespread hazard in Bangladesh after flooding. It occurs most frequently in the northwestern region, though it can develop along any of the major rivers. The country experiences droughts on a 2.5-year cycle on average.[66] When drought sets in, food security is threatened with potential losses of up to 17% of the Aman (rice) crop, the largest harvest. Land subsidence further depletes groundwater reserves, a circumstance that intensifies drought conditions during the dry season.[67] Droughts may strike at any time of the year, although they are most prevalent in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons.[68]

Earthquake

Bangladesh is in a seismically active region. The northern and eastern regions of the country are particularly susceptible to earthquakes.[69] While no major earthquakes have been recorded in recent years, one of the largest known to have occurred was a magnitude-8.5-8.8 temblor in 1762.

The country has occasionally experienced moderate earthquakes,[70] and experts say a larger earthquake is imminent, although they cannot predict whether it will be in days or decades. Two likely epicenters for a major earthquake are along the Dauki Fault, which stretches from Sunamganj to Jaflong in the northeastern Sylhet region, and along the subduction zone that stretches from the hilly parts of Sylhet to Cox's Bazar in the southeast.

Dhaka is assessed as facing especially serious risk should a major earthquake occur. This

risk is related to unplanned urbanization and buildings constructed without following the earthquake preparedness code. A 2024 study under the World Bank-funded Urban Resilience Project estimated that a magnitude-6.9 earthquake along the Madhupur Fault in central Bangladesh could damage up to 865,000 buildings in Dhaka. If the quake occurs during busy daytime hours, it could kill 210,000 people and injure another 229,000 people. The study also estimated that the economic losses could be close to US$25 billion. The government would have to spend another US$44 billion to renovate and reconstruct damaged buildings.[71]

Epidemic Diseases

Several factors contribute to the country's exposure to diseases with epidemic potential. It is densely populated, with urban crowding, limited housing space, and frequent movement of people alongside shortages of healthcare workers, uneven access to medical facilities, and limited health infrastructure. Recurring droughts, flooding, and storms exacerbate these conditions because they decrease the availability of clean water and, consequently, can drive the incidence of water- or vector-borne infectious diseases.

An example of a constant threat is dengue, a mosquito-borne illness. Dengue is endemic in major urban centers. Cases occur throughout the year, with the highest incidence typically observed during the post-monsoon season after standing floodwaters promote mosquito reproduction.[72]

Similarly, communicable diseases can overwhelm the health system. Even with a wide-ranging public vaccination program, resurgent vaccine-preventable diseases occasionally spread rapidly. Measles has become a significant public health concern. On 10 August 2026, the Bangladesh Health Cluster – led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and co-led by the World Health Organization (WHO) – convened government agencies, UN organizations, partners from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and NGOs to assess the situation and coordinate response efforts. More than 75,000 suspected cases had been reported through mid-year. Most cases were concentrated among unvaccinated populations.[73]

Extreme Heat

Bangladesh ranks among the most heat-exposed countries in the world. According to a 2025 World Bank report, the country's maximum temperature has climbed by roughly 1.1°C (1.9°F) since 1980, while the "feels-like" temperature that people actually experience has surged by 4.5°C (8.1°F). This rise sharply increases heat stress on communities. The past nine years (2009-2025) have been the hottest on record worldwide, and Bangladesh sits on the front line of this trend, as Dhaka's heat index has risen approximately 65% above the national average.[74]

The consequences of extreme heat are severe. In 2024 alone, extreme heat contributed to an estimated 250 million lost workdays, costing Bangladesh's economy US$1.3-1.8 billion, 0.3-0.4% of GDP. These losses arise not from discomfort but from an increase in heat-related illnesses, including diarrhea, respiratory problems, exhaustion, depression, and anxiety. On extremely hot days above 37°C (98.6°F), productivity losses ran 36% higher than on milder ones.[75]

Flooding

Bangladesh's geography and location make it highly prone to flooding, the most frequent hazard event to impact the country. It is mostly low-lying, flat, and cut through by rivers, except for the hilly regions in the north- and southeast. Most of the alluvial plains have a very low mean elevation above sea level, with a large marshy jungle coastline to the south.[76]

Floods affect a greater portion of the population than any other natural hazard. Floods and riverbank erosion affect approximately 1 million people annually. Once every 3-5 years, up to two-thirds of the country is inundated. Bangladesh is considered at high risk for river, urban, and coastal floods, which means that each type of flood is expected to occur at least

once in the next 10 years with potentially damaging and life-threatening effects.[77]

Each year, an estimated 30-50% of the national territory is inundated, with the worst flooding concentrated in July and August. Flash floods strike northern, central, and portions of the southern regions, including the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the southeast, while riverbank erosion afflicts the margins of all major rivers. Flooding along both banks of the Jamuna routinely disrupts lives and livelihoods. The affected corridor extends from Kurigram in the north toward the center of the country.[78] Photo 2 shows a flooded village in northern Bangladesh.[79]



Photo 2: Flood-Affected Village in Northern Bangladesh

Mass Movement (Wet)

Rainfall patterns, terrain slope, geology, soil, land cover, and potentially earthquakes make localized landslides a frequent hazard phenomenon in Bangladesh. Climate change is likely to alter slope and bedrock stability through changes in precipitation and temperature. It is difficult to determine future locations and timing of large rock avalanches, as these depend on local geological conditions and other non-climatic factors.[80]

Disasters by Numbers

An examination of data about past disasters in a country can indicate how future hazard events may impact the country's people, economy, and land. This section breaks down available statistics from disaster events in Bangladesh since the year 2000 to illuminate trends over time and space to understand what types of events may necessitate an appeal for international assistance and, therefore, potential international military support to civilian responders. Moreover, it may support practitioners working toward Bangladesh's preparedness and capacity to mitigate hazard impacts.

The data used in this section come from the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters' Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT). The EM-DAT collects and makes available to the public data on the occurrence of disasters globally. It considers disasters to be events involving an unexpected and overwhelming harmful impact on human beings; for inclusion in the database, events must meet one of the following thresholds:

- At least 10 deaths (including dead and missing)
- At least 100 affected (people affected, injured, or homeless)
- A call for international assistance or an emergency declaration[81]

The data in EM-DAT derive from multiple sources, including UN agencies, national statistics and disaster offices, and national and international technical agencies and organizations. Because of the specific criteria set out by the database and its sources, there are data limitations. Nonetheless, EM-DAT data are used in this section because of their standardization and clarity.[82]

EM-DAT records 160 disaster events in Bangladesh between 2000 and 2026 (September).[83] Storms (46%) and floods (29%) combined represent more than three-quarters of all disasters during the study period. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of disasters by hazard type.

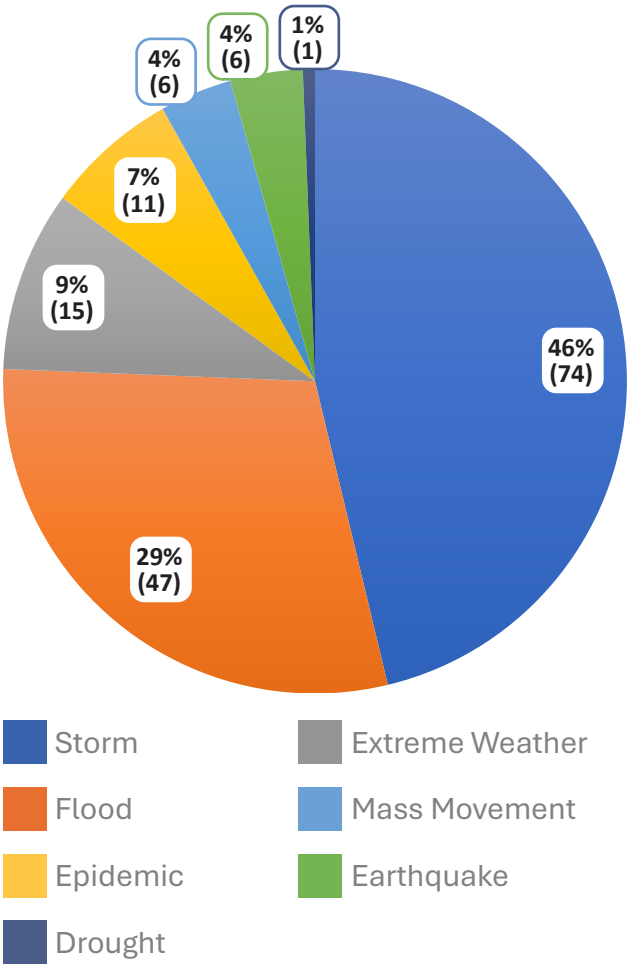


Figure 2: Proportion of Disaster Events, by Hazard Type (2000-2026 [September])

An examination of the human and economic impacts of disasters during the study period shows that cyclones are, by far, the events that exact the highest cost in terms of deaths, people affected, and economic losses.

Figure 3 shows that Cyclone Sidr in 2007 stands out as the deadliest individual event in Bangladesh from 2000 to 2026. It caused 4,234 fatalities. Beyond hydro-meteorological threats, biological hazards – disease outbreaks – are the next most deadly. EM-DAT recorded 253 deaths from the 2026 measles epidemic as of September 2026; note that the epidemic continued beyond the data survey period.

While epidemic diseases can be deadly, they do not rank as the hazard events that affect the largest numbers of people. Figure 4 shows the five most impactful events since 2000 in terms of people affected; of note, "affected" could mean loss of lives or property, temporary or permanent displacement, disrupted or lost livelihoods, or other direct effects.

The financial toll of disasters is heavily skewed toward the impacts of severe cyclonic storm systems, which devastate coastal economies and critical infrastructure. As shown in Figure 5, Cyclone Sidr (2007) and flooding in 2004 accounted for direct economic losses of US$2.3 billion and US$2.2 billion, respectively. These disasters batter earthen coastal embankments, damage power transmission

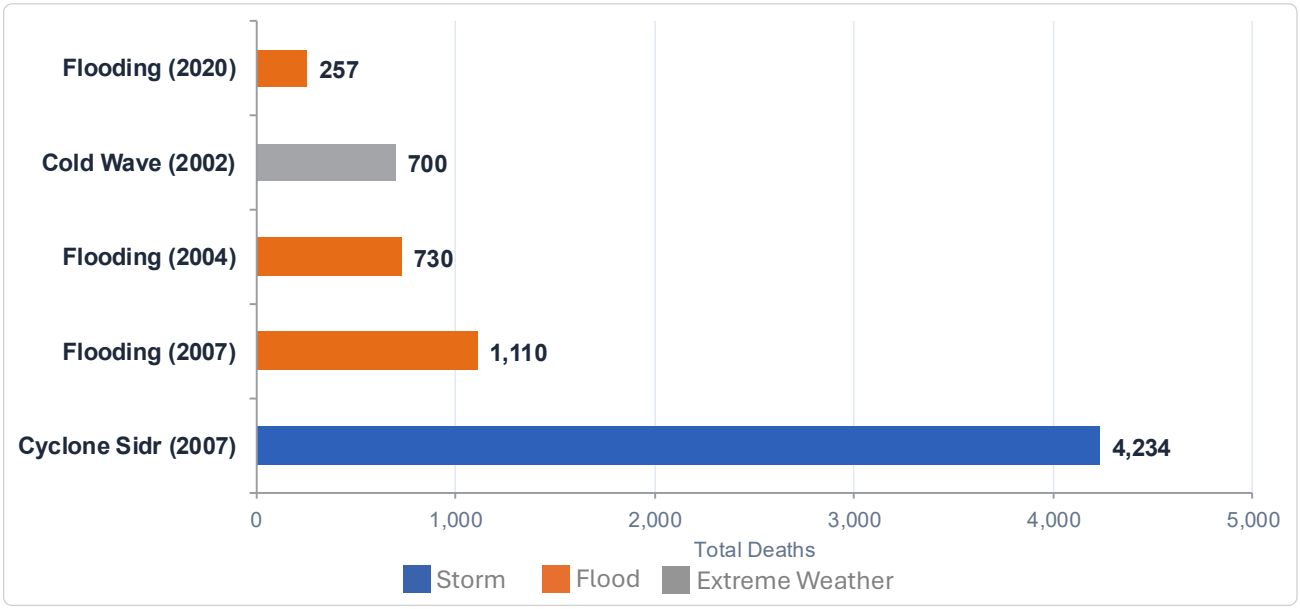


Figure 3: Five Disasters with Largest Death Toll (2000-2026 [September])

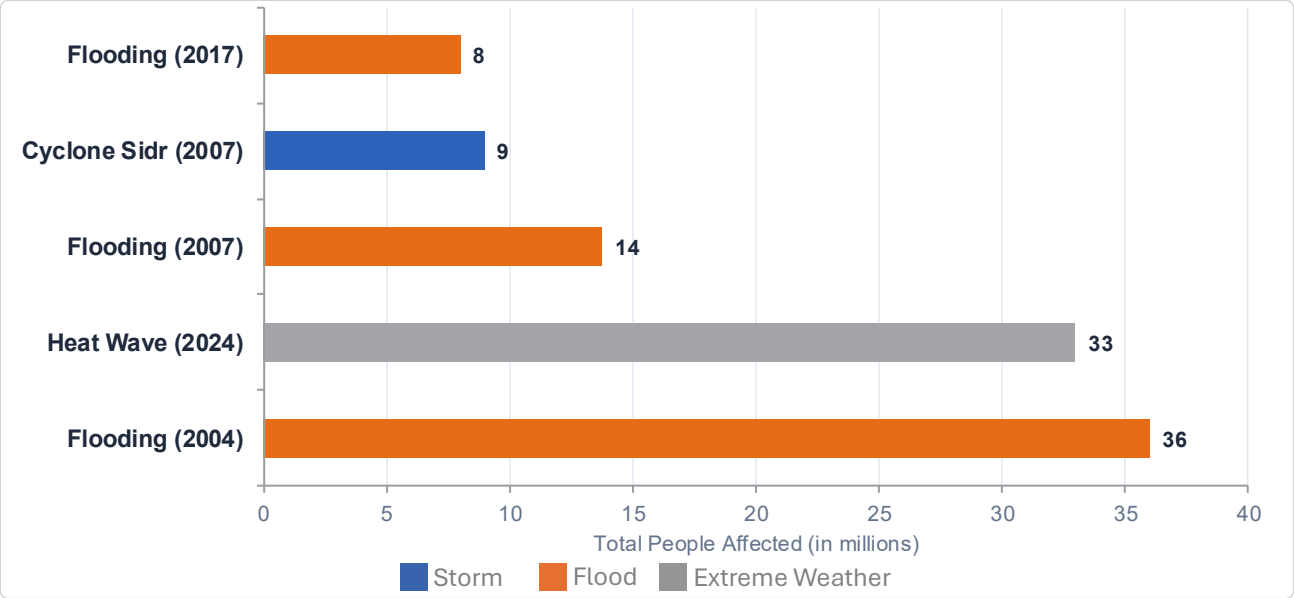


Figure 4: Top Five Disasters, by Number of People Affected (2000-2026 [September])

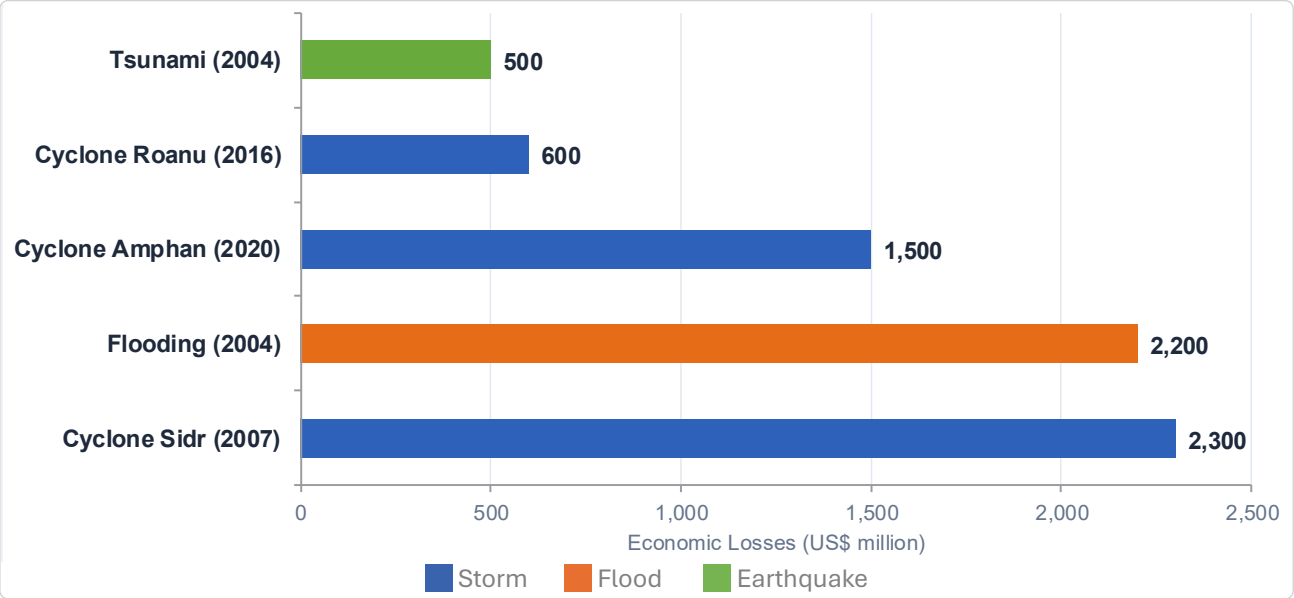


Figure 5: Economic Losses, Top Five Events (in US$ Millions; 2000-2026 [September])

grids, and destroy lucrative agricultural zones. Because severe storms decimate the regional productive land and economic assets, they severely hinder the country's self-reliance.

Hydro-meteorological disaster occurrences in Bangladesh do not occur at random intervals; instead, they follow highly predictable, seasonally bound cycles. April and May represent the critical pre-monsoon cyclone peak (with May alone recording 31 storm events during the study period), while a secondary, smaller storm peak occurs in October and November. Conversely, flood incidents heavily concentrate during the peak monsoon months of June, July, and August. Figure 6 shows a monthly cross-tabulation of major storm and flood events. Of course, geophysical and biological hazard events cannot generally be mapped as neatly onto a seasonal calendar. While disease outbreaks may erupt following major storms or floods, they tend to extend over longer periods while health workers attempt to trace and treat cases.

Not all districts of the country are equally exposed to major hazards. Of the 160 events in the dataset, 114 included district-level location

data. Analysis identified the 10 districts most frequently affected by disasters based on how often each district appears in the database's administrative unit fields. Ranking used event frequency rather than summed deaths or people affected. Because many EM-DAT events span multiple districts, attributing full impact totals to each location would overstate losses. In Figure 7, the pattern highlights persistent exposure along the southeastern coast, the northern riverine belt, and parts of the northwest, consistent with cyclone tracks and monsoon flooding.

Recent Disasters

The following are the major disaster events that have affected Bangladesh over the past decade (2016-2026).

Measles Outbreak – 2026

On 4 April 2026, the National International Health Regulations Focal Point for Bangladesh notified WHO of a nationwide increase in measles cases. At the time, the outbreak was affecting 58 of 64 districts across all 8 divisions. A total of 19,161 suspected measles cases and 2,897 laboratory-confirmed cases were reported between 15 March and 14 April; they included

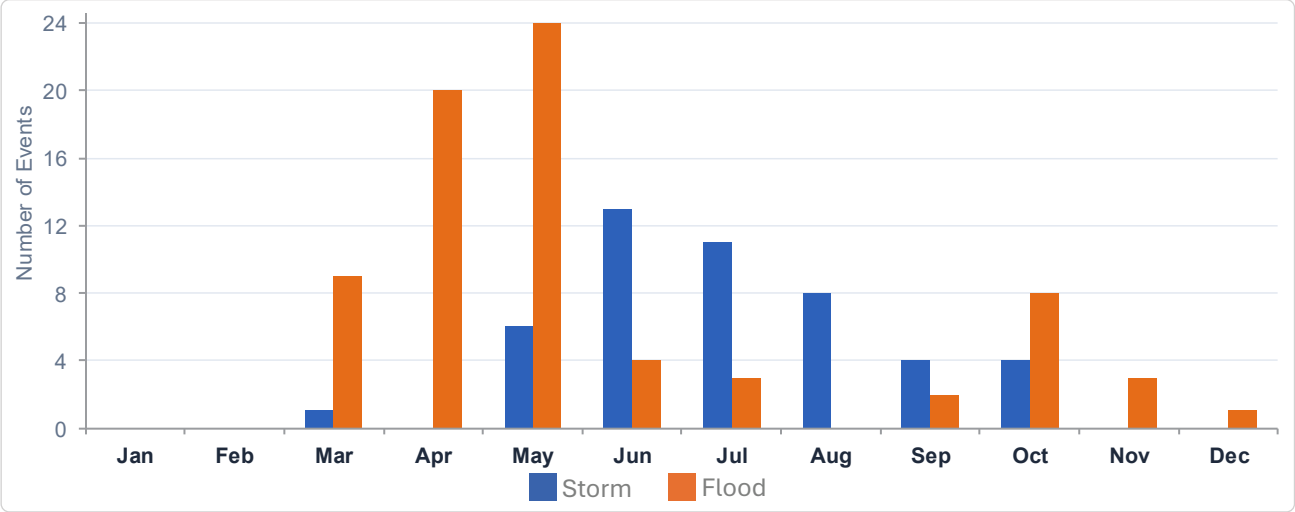


Figure 6: Number of Flood and Storm Occurrences, by Month of Onset (2000-2026 [September])

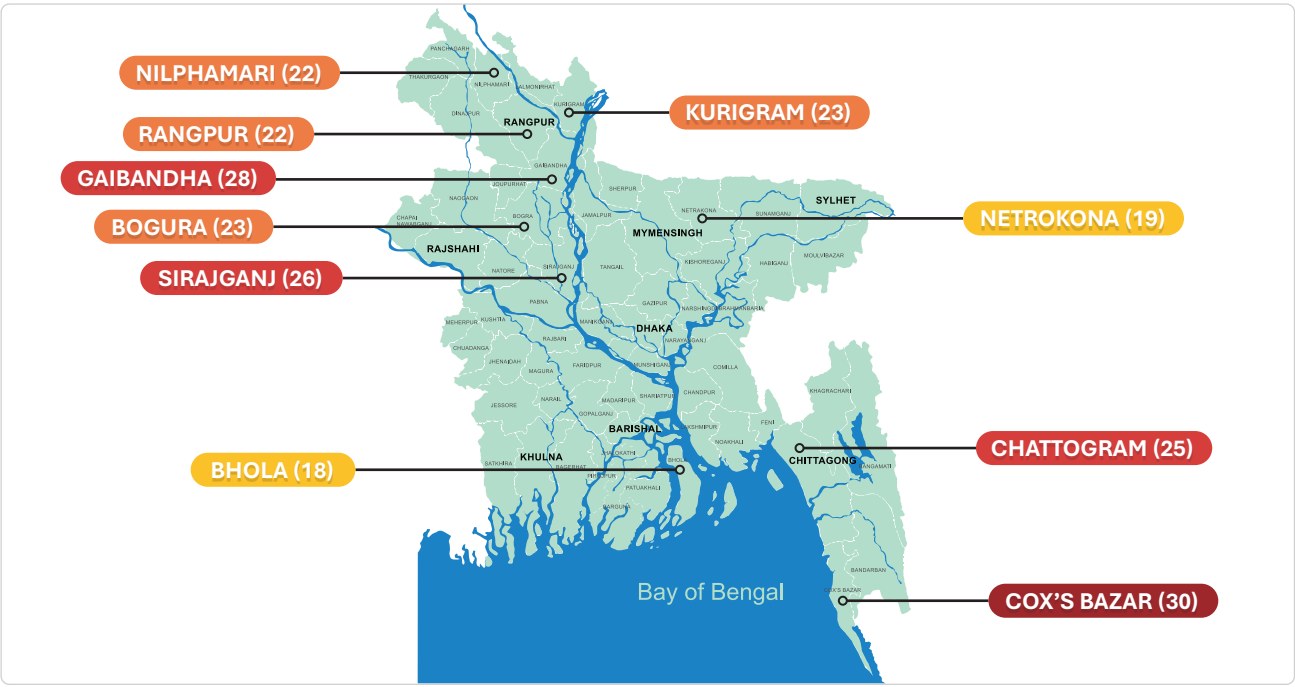


Figure 7: Ten Districts with Most Frequent Disaster Impacts (2000-2026 [September])

166 measles-related deaths. The majority (79%) of the reported cases were children under 5 years of age.[84] As of 7 October, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) had recorded more than 222,000 measles and suspected measles cases in the first 9 months of the year. These numbers included 200,293 suspected cases with measles-like symptoms and 22,020 laboratory-confirmed cases. The outbreak had caused 1,140 deaths, of which 104 were laboratory-confirmed cases.[85]

Dengue Outbreak – 2026

The country recorded 92,216 dengue hospitalizations and 289 deaths between 1 January and 7 October 2026, according to DGHS. People aged 16-30 years accounted for more than 38,000 of these cases, and men made up 62.3% of deaths. As of publication of this handbook, Dhaka continued to report heavy daily hospital admissions, and the virus was spreading quickly within Khulna, Mymensingh, and Chattogram, where it was straining local health systems. In September alone, hospitals recorded 43,774 admissions and 148 deaths from dengue.[8667]

Flash Floods – July 2026

Weeks of monsoon rain led to flooding and landslides in July 2026. As of 12 July, at least 38,422 people sheltered in 1,047 formal evacuation centers, while flooded roads, damaged bridges, landslides, and waterlogging limited humanitarian access. On 14 July, authorities reported 1.28 million people affected across 7 districts. Roughly 436,000 people were estimated to require humanitarian assistance, and 59 people had died. In total, 74,479 houses had been damaged or destroyed, and flooding had fully or partially damaged 29,076 water points and 36,550 latrines, severely disrupting access to safe water and sanitation across 42 upazilas. Combined losses to livestock and fisheries sectors were estimated at US$17.3 million.[87]

Earthquake – November 2025

In November 2025, a magnitude-5.5 earthquake struck Bangladesh with its epicenter near Narsingdi, about 40 km (25 mi) from Dhaka, according to the United States Geological Survey. At least five people, including one child, were killed, and around 100 people were injured. Buildings were damaged in many areas, including in Dhaka.[88]

Floods and Landslides – May 2025

Bangladesh experienced flooding in May 2025 after intense precipitation combined with increased river flows from upstream sources in India. By 1 June, the disaster had impacted numerous districts, among them Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Netrokona, Noakhali, Bhola, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, and Rangamati. Heavy downpours struck densely populated refugee settlements in the southeast between 31 May and 1 June, and they damaged thousands of shelters housing Rohingya. Compounding these conditions, a deep tropical depression bore down on the coastal district of Patuakhali, where more than 66,000 individuals felt its effects. The storm destroyed roughly 1,800 fish farms and inundated approximately 1,850 hectares (4,570 acres) of agricultural land.[89]

Floods and Landslides – June 2024

On 18 and 19 June 2024, powerful monsoon rains battered the camps in Cox's Bazar, where flash floods and 773 separate landslide incidents caused casualties and destruction. Humanitarian partners reported that, as of 19 June, 10 people had died and nearly 8,000 people were affected across the 33 camps. Roughly 1,200 shelters were damaged. Flooding from the heavy rains affected another 1.6 million people elsewhere in the country. Close to 30,000 people relocated to shelter centers, while many families were left unsheltered across northeastern Bangladesh. In Sylhet district alone, nearly 75% of the area, encompassing 23 wards of Sylhet city and 1,548 villages spread across 13 upazilas, was submerged; more than 825,000 people were directly affected. In Sunamganj district, the flooding affected 560,000 people.[90]

Tropical Cyclone Remal – May 2024

Tropical Cyclone Remal formed over the northern Bay of Bengal on 25 May 2024. It made landfall over the border area between the Indian state of West Bengal and Bangladesh's Khulna on 26 May. Tidal surges reached as high as 3.6 m (12 ft). Wind speeds reached 120 kph (75 mph). Many southwestern coastal areas were inundated.

According to MoDMR, about 4.6 million people across 19 districts were affected by the cyclone, and 16 people died. Roughly 807,023 people were evacuated to 9,424 shelters in 19 districts. Over 173,000 houses were damaged, including 40,338 rendered completely uninhabitable, and 80,591 hectares (199,144 acres) of cultivable land were inundated. In addition, 50,000 fish enclosures, 34,000 ponds, and 4,000 crab farms flooded, disrupting food supply chains and deepening livelihood and food insecurity. More than 530,000 farmers were affected by crop damage worth US$90.7 million.[91]

Heat Wave – April 2024

On 26 April 2024, Bangladesh set an all-time heatwave record when the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) logged a heatwave lasting 24 days; this total exceeded the previous record of 23 days, set in 2019. According to BMD on 27 April, severe to very severe heatwave conditions (hotter than 40°C / 104°F) were observed in 11 districts across much of the western region. A moderate heatwave (38-39.9°C / 100-103.8°F) swept over another 28 districts. Media reported at least 15 fatalities from heat-aggravated conditions, most of them in Magura district in southwestern Bangladesh.[92]

Floods and Landslides – August 2023

Chattogram, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, and Rangamati districts suffered extensive damage from heavy rainfall and water flowing down from the hills in August 2023. The UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) Flood AI Monitoring Dashboard reported a total exposed population of 2.4 million people, and 1.2 million people were recorded as being affected. The Divisional Health Office Chattogram reported 26 deaths as of 10 August. Humanitarian organizations reported that a staggering 90% of the Bandarban district was submerged.[93]

Tropical Cyclone Mocha – May 2023

Tropical Cyclone Mocha made landfall in southeastern Bangladesh and in neighboring Myanmar on 14 May 2023. It had maximum sustained winds of 250 kph (155 mph). The National Disaster Response Coordination Centre reported that 414,170 people evacuated to 7,040 shelters in 14 coastal districts. Significant damage to thousands of refugee shelters and camp facilities as well as host communities in Cox's Bazar district was reported. As of 15 May, the UN reported that nearly 430,000 people had been affected, more than 2,000 homes were destroyed, and more than 10,600 houses were damaged across Chattogram. There were no human deaths reported although injuries were reported.[94] Photo 3 shows the cyclone on 14 May, as imaged by NASA's Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS).[95]

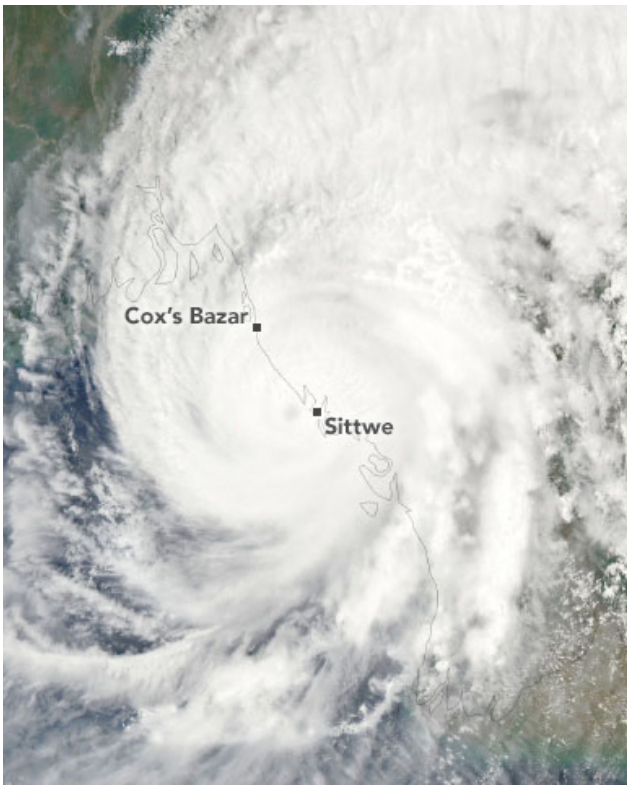


Photo 3: Cyclone Mocha Affects Bangladesh (NASA, 2023)

Floods – May 2022

Heavy monsoon rains starting in mid-May 2022 in northeastern Bangladesh caused flash floods that affected more than 6 million people, including almost 460,000 people who were evacuated to 1,432 safety centers. Millions of people were marooned in Sylhet division, which was inundated by rain and upstream waters. An estimated 94% of Sunamganj and over 84% of Sylhet district were submerged, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).[96]

Floods and Landslides – July-August 2021

Cox's Bazar experienced over 1,300 mm (51 in) of rainfall between 27 July and 1 September 2021; over 200 mm (8 in) fell in just two days, 27-28 August. Some 542 monsoon-related incidents were recorded in the region's refugee camps; these events were primarily windstorms, slope failures, and flooding. Responders found that 11,675 shelters were damaged. Approximately 75% of the shelters were damaged due to windstorms, and the rest were impacted by landslides and flooding.[97]

Northern Bangladesh also experienced flooding caused by heavy rainfall in late August 2021. The most affected districts were Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Tangail, Rajbari, Shariatpur, and Bogura. More than 40,000 households were affected, 7,759 hectares (19,172 acres) of agricultural land were damaged, and more than 200 houses were destroyed. People with urgent shelter needs moved to higher ground as rural roads were inundated, communication was disrupted, and livelihoods were affected.[98]

Tropical Cyclone Yaas – May 2021

Tropical Cyclone Yaas first made landfall on 26 May 2021 over eastern India before it moved into southern Bangladesh.[99] The storm occurred during a lunar eclipse, a coincidence that caused abnormal 1.8-2.4-m (6-8-ft) tidal waves across coastal districts including Bhola, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokati, Barguna, Barisal, and Pirojpur. Embankments were breached, large areas were flooded, and people were displaced. Three deaths were reported by the DGHS and the Health Emergency Operation Centre. The storm affected approximately 1.3 million people and damaged around 26,000 houses, 16,183 latrines, and 1,986 water points in 9 coastal districts. The cyclone also damaged an estimated 39% of cropland and affected 3,599 hectares (8,893 acres) of prawn and pisciculture areas. Many of the areas affected were recovering from Tropical Cyclone Amphan, which struck in May 2020.[100]

COVID-19 – 2020-2023

Bangladesh confirmed its first three cases of COVID-19 on 8 March 2020. At the onset of the pandemic, the country faced notable constraints in critical care capacity, with approximately 1,169 intensive care unit beds nationwide – about 70% of them located in Dhaka – and fewer than 300 operational ventilators. Despite these limitations, the government implemented a proactive response that included case diagnosis, quarantine of suspected patients, closure of government and private offices, widespread public awareness campaigns, enforcement of social distancing measures, and the introduction of several financial stimulus packages.[101] By 2023, the country had confirmed over 2 million cases of the disease and 29,445 deaths.[102]

Floods and Landslides – July-August 2020

Monsoon rains started in July 2020 and affected Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Naogaon, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Bogura, Jamalpur, Tangail, Netrokona, Rajbari, Faridpur, Madaripur, Manikganj, Feni, Sunamganj, and Sylhet across northern, northeastern, and southeastern Bangladesh. An estimated 2.4 million people were affected, and 548,816 families lost their homes.[103] By late August, flooding due to heavy rains and high tides in the southwestern region marooned 100,000 people in Satkhira where houses, fish farms, betel vines, and vast croplands were also damaged. In Cox's Bazar, the Rohingya camps were affected by heavy rains and winds; more than 109,312 people were affected, including more than 8,900 people displaced, 41 people

injured, and 14 people killed.[104]

Tropical Cyclone Amphan – May 2020

On 20 May 2020, Cyclone Amphan made landfall over India and Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, 26 people were killed, approximately 2.6 million people were affected, 205,368 houses were damaged, and 55,767 houses were destroyed across 19 districts. Additionally, 40,894 latrines, 18,235 water points, 32,037 hectares (79,165 acres) of crops and vegetables, 18,707 hectares (46,226 acres) of fish cultivation area, 440 km (273 mi) of roads, and 76 km (47 mi) of embankments were damaged.[105] The storm severely affected the livelihoods of at least 1 million people and destroyed houses and infrastructure, including irrigation facilities. The cost of damage to housing, infrastructure, fisheries, livestock, and crops was estimated to be at least US$130 million, with the most affected areas in the southwest, including Khulna, Jashore, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, and Noakhali districts.[106]

Although Cyclone Amphan did not directly strike Cox's Bazar, it still brought heavy rain and strong winds that affected close to 6,000 Rohingya in the camps where over 1,252 shelters were partially damaged, 159 shelters were destroyed, and 144 households were temporarily displaced.[107]

Tropical Cyclone Bulbul – October 2019

Bulbul, which formed from the remnants of Typhoon Matmo, first made landfall in India before crossing into Bangladesh's southwestern coastal region in the early morning hours of 10 November 2019. In Bangladesh, 8 people died, 15 fishermen went missing, and at least 30 people were injured. More than 17,000 houses were damaged, and river embankments were breached in Barguna.[108] Nationally, at least 722,674 people were affected, more than 150,000 houses were damaged, and at least 117,795 hectares (291,077 acres) of crops suffered damage.[109]

Monsoon Floods – June-July 2019

The monsoon season officially started on 17 June 2019. By 19 July, continuous rains had impacted several districts in the northern, northeastern, and southeastern parts of the country where they triggered flooding and landslides and caused the deaths of 37 people. More than 4.7 million people were affected, and at least 135,600 houses were damaged. The Jamuna River broke its banks on 16 July and inundated at least 40 villages, from which more than 200,000 people were displaced. Rescue and aid operations were hampered by road and communication interruptions caused by floods and landslides. Shortages of food and drinking water resulted in an outbreak of water-borne diseases in several areas.[110] The Rohingya camps had experienced monsoon-related incidents from April, before the official start of the monsoon season. By 20 June, around 290 camp residents had been affected by landslides, erosion, wind, storms, rain, and fires.[111]

Tropical Cyclone Fani – May 2019

Cyclone Fani made landfall over India on 3 May 2019 before it moved onward to Bangladesh where the storm killed at least 17 people.[112] Approximately 13,000 houses were damaged.[113] Bangladesh national authorities had ordered the evacuation of 19 coastal districts and opened 3,868 evacuation shelters ahead of the storm, a decision that likely saved thousands of lives. Some 133 hectares (330 acres) of crops were destroyed, while 31,338 hectares (77,437 acres) were partially affected. In Cox's Bazar, 144 Rohingya households were affected by the storm.[114]

Floods and Landslides – May-July 2018

Pre-monsoon rain started on 18 April 2018 near Cox's Bazar. From 14 to 21 May, in the Rohingya camps, over 50 households and more than 150 individuals were affected by landslides and windstorms. Between 22 and 30 May, 503 camp residents were relocated to safer areas, as more than 660 people were affected by weather-related incidents, including landslides. More than 25,000 people relocated within the camps

to safer areas or to facilitate construction and improvement works.

From 11 to 18 June, monsoon rains triggered flooding and landslides in the camps; they affected 9,000 individuals and displaced more than 2,000 people. Small-scale landslides, floods, and high winds damaged structures, bridges, culverts, drainage channels, and access roads as well as water points, latrines, and other facilities in Ukhia and Teknaf. Between 2 and 7 July, monsoon rains affected 4,830 people in the camps as landslides, flooding, and wind damage also displaced 1,370 people.

Heavy rains continued from 23 to 25 July and triggered landslides and flooding throughout Cox's Bazar, which recorded 463 mm (18 in) of rainfall in less than 24 hours on 25 July. On 25-26 July, nearly 60 incidents of landslides, winds, floods, and waterlogging were reported in all settlements, with 445 shelters damaged.[115] On 25 July, the rains triggered landslides and flooding that killed 5 children near Cox's Bazar and Ramu and displaced 1,000 people. Approximately 21,000 Rohingya were relocated because their shelters were threatened by landslides.[116]

Diphtheria Outbreak – 2017-2019

In December 2017, diphtheria outbreaks were reported among Rohingya in the camps in Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh's government, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, launched a vaccination campaign for Rohingya children aged 6 weeks to 6 years and who were living in the temporary settlements near the Myanmar border.[117] By October 2019, there had been 8,827 total reported diphtheria cases, including 308 confirmed, 2,757 probable, and 5,762 suspected cases. A total of 45 deaths were reported due to diphtheria from the beginning of the outbreak. Among the total reported cases, only 226 were reported from the Bangladesh host community.[118]

Floods – August 2017

In August 2017, one-third of Bangladesh was flooded following heavy monsoon rains in the worst floods in four decades, per the MoDMR. Five divisions, 31 districts, 176 upazilas, and 1,173 unions saw flooding, and some 6.9 million people were affected. National authorities confirmed 114 people died and 197,416 people were temporarily displaced to 703 community shelters. As a result of the extensive floods, 77,272 houses were destroyed and 524,375 were partially damaged. Approximately 9,000 km (5,590 mi) of roads, 100 km (62 mi) of rail lines, and 500 bridges and culverts were damaged. Around 714 km (443 mi) of embankments were also washed away.[119]

Landslides – June 2017

Heavy rains affected coastal areas of Bangladesh on 12 June 2017. Landslides started on 13 June and resulted in 160 people dead, 187 people injured, and 6,000 houses destroyed along with damage to other key infrastructure. The events affected approximately 80,000 people across Bandarban, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati; 34,000 people lost houses, belongings, basic necessities, livelihoods, and food stocks.[120]

Tropical Cyclone Mora – May 2017

Cyclone Mora made landfall in Bangladesh on 30 May 2017. It killed 6 people and injured 136 people. The cyclone affected nearly 3.3 million people and damaged or destroyed approximately 52,000 houses. Some 260,000 people were in need of shelter. Cox's Bazar was heavily hit, with approximately 17,000 residences damaged. Six Rohingya settlements in the area were severely affected; in these areas, up to 70% of shelters, as well as latrines, clinics, and other infrastructure were damaged.[121]

DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY, PLANNING, AND RESPONSE

Bangladesh's DM system is guided by a set of national frameworks encompassing plans, policies, and legal instruments. Institutions span the national and local governments. The Prime Minister chairs a council that provides strategic direction. Coordination operates through a structure with national leadership and local operations. Emergency services and the national armed forces have dedicated roles and responsibilities for supporting civilian leadership during disasters. Finally, the country's international partners deliver assistance across the DM spectrum – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

National Disaster Management System

At the national level, Bangladesh's government agencies exercise leadership and strategic oversight of DM, including disaster risk reduction (DRR), mitigation, preparedness, response operations, and recovery. The focal point for this work is the MoDMR, which works across the government to ensure that laws, policies, plans, and processes are implemented and monitored.

Laws, Policies, and Plans

The national DM system incorporates a legal and operational framework that assigns responsibilities across ministries, specialized agencies, local government institutions, and DMCs from the national level down to the ward.[122]

Disaster Management Act 2012

The Disaster Management Act, enacted on 24 September 2012, provides the legal foundation for DM. It aims to make DM activities more coordinated and effective across all hazard types, with an emphasis on DRR alongside rescue, rehabilitation, and emergency humanitarian assistance. The Act establishes a tiered governance structure that includes the NDMC, chaired by the Prime Minister, the National Disaster Response Coordination Group (NDRCG), Department of Disaster Management (DDM), and DMCs at the city corporation, municipal, district, upazila, and union levels. It also authorizes the declaration of distressed zones and armed forces support to civil authorities, creates national and district DM funds, prioritizes assistance for the most vulnerable populations, and sets penalties for offenses such as misusing relief resources and price gouging in disaster areas.[123]

National Disaster Management Policy 2015

The National Disaster Management Policy 2015 places strong emphasis on DRR, and it was developed to articulate the national perspective on risk reduction and emergency management, establish a strategic framework, and set out the guiding national principles of DM. Strategic in nature, it outlines broad national objectives and strategies, with particular attention to securing financial resources for DM activities at all levels and strengthening institutional capacity.[124]

National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM 2021-2025)

The NPDM 2021-2025 builds on two earlier editions: 2016-2020 and 2010-2015. The plan was intended to guide implementation of the Disaster Management Act and the Standing Orders on Disaster 2019 (SOD 2019). Government ministries, departments, and other agencies use it as the basis for developing their Annual Work Plans. To support effective implementation, the plan adopts a whole-of-society approach.[125] A new NPDM 2026–2030 was being drafted as of publication of this handbook.

Standing Orders on Disaster 2019 (SOD 2019)

The SOD 2019 set out the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders at every stage of DM. Each ministry, division, department, and agency must prepare and implement its own work plan. National-level coordination falls to the NDMC and the Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Coordination Committee (IMDMCC), while DMCs coordinate at the division, district, city corporation, upazila, municipal, union, and ward levels.

The SOD recognizes that Bangladesh's extensive river network, low-lying coastal geography, seismic exposure, rapid population growth, and unplanned urbanization make the country highly exposed to a wide range of natural and anthropogenic hazards. Although disaster-related mortality has declined significantly, asset losses and the number of affected people continue to rise. In response, the SOD replaced the traditional DM model with a more comprehensive framework aligned with international commitments, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.[126]

Ministries, Committees, and Coordination Groups

The country has a well-established set of relationships that facilitate work across the DM spectrum, especially for delivering relief to affected communities. While the national government's NDMC and MoDMR retain overall control, local governments and their NGO and civil society partners serve as the frontline responders toward whom national government and partner support is directed.

National Disaster Management Council (NDMC)

The NDMC is headed by the Prime Minister; its membership comprises cabinet ministers and secretaries, as well as the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and other military formations. It provides direction for DM, including DRR, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

MoDMR has responsibility for coordinating national DM efforts across all agencies. It is the NDMC's Secretariat and ensures that information on DM flows to the NDMC and other national and local DMCs to support their decision-making. Its tasks include:

- Formulating and implementing DM laws, policies, and action plans
- Formulating policies and planning related to emergency humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation activities, and developing and maintaining a database of all relevant social security programs
- Undertaking measures to formulate planning, organize training, and carry out research activities on DRR, and coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating activities aligned with various local, regional, and international development partners
- Formulating and implementing programs that mitigate vulnerabilities of the poor and ensure food security
- Implementing employment generation for the poorest to reduce poverty and enhance disaster resilience of vulnerable households
- Coordinating activities related to the use and distribution of food and other emergency humanitarian assistance from foreign sources, and implementing activities aligned with UN agencies and development partners and other organizations
- Coordinating with relevant national and international organizations for the implementation of refugee-related programs
- Constructing disaster-resilient infrastructure
- Implementing capacity-building programs on DM and DRR, including training with early warning[127]

MoDMR has primary responsibility for ensuring the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is available, operational, and staffed.

Agencies under MoDMR, including the DDM and Cyclone Preparedness Programme

(CPP), assist the government's other ministries, departments, and agencies with implementing DRR, humanitarian assistance, and emergency response.

Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Coordination Committee (IMDMCC)

The IMDMCC integrates the secretaries of the Cabinet Ministries and is chaired by the Minister-in-change of the MoDMR. It facilitates policy making, planning, and implementation of DRR and emergency management measures. Most of its designated tasks relate to DRR, but across response and recovery, it has the authority to evaluate preparedness activities, assist in arranging drills and simulations, assist in arranging search-and-rescue teams, ensure coordination across levels of government, and advise on implementation of recovery plans.[128]

National Disaster Management Advisory Committee (NDMAC)

The NDMAC integrates leadership from technical agencies and departments, as well as from the BDRCS and Armed Forces Division (AFD). It advises MoDMR on DRR, response, and recovery with a focus on recommending plans and projects that adhere to "build back better."

National Disaster Response Coordination Group (NDRCG)

Chaired by the Minister of MoDMR, the NDRCG membership comprises leadership at the Secretary level from Cabinet Ministries and the AFD. It is the key coordination hub for planning, mobilizing resources, supervising response activities, and sharing information among government levels and with the public. It is tasked with:

- Evaluating the potential for mega-disasters
- Mobilizing response resources
- Ensuring proper dissemination of alerts and warning messages
- Coordinating response and early recovery activities
- Supervising evacuation and search-and-rescue activities during disaster responses
- Coordinating post-disaster humanitarian assistance activities
- Ensuring urgent dispatch of additional equipment and supplies when telecommunications are disrupted
- If needed, utilizing the armed forces' wireless signal system to establish alternative telecommunications
- Taking assistance from police and military forces
- Preparing or updating guidance for coordinating disaster response activities by different agencies
- Preparing or updating guidelines to implement a multi-agency disaster incident management system
- Undertaking necessary steps for debris and waste removal, dead body management, and proper management of humanitarian aid, health care services, and shelters[129]

Focal Point Operation Coordination Group of Disaster Management (FPOCG)

Chaired by the DDM Director-General, membership of the FPOCG comprises Directors and representatives of technical agencies and departments, including those responsible for meteorological services, mass communication, food supplies, education, transportation, public health, and public safety. It integrates representation from BDRCS, UN entities, and large NGOs. Its responsibilities are:

- Advise on coordination among DMCs at the national and local levels
- Provide recommendations for future actions, based on experiences and lessons learned from implementation of disaster preparedness and post-disaster response activities
- Update contact details of emergency focal points, with a view to strengthening DRR and emergency response activities
- Identify shortcomings in disaster risk management activities and recommend necessary improvements[130]

At the subnational level, DMCs operate across division, district, city, municipality,

upazila, union, and ward levels. Figure 8 illustrates the relationships among the national and lower-level DM authorities.[131]

First Responders

The Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has departments in each division and offices in each district. There are hundreds of fire stations throughout the country, and there are new stations under construction. FSCD is responsible for all types of emergency response – e.g., firefighting, ambulance, transportation accidents, search and rescue.

Alongside FSCD, the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP), sometimes called "Ansar Bahini," has some 6 million members and is also under the Ministry of Home Affairs. An auxiliary with both paramilitary and civilian law enforcement personnel, Ansar-VDP also has a large number of Town Defence Party (TDP) volunteers across Dhaka's wards. Together, the FSCD and Ansar-VDP are undertaking reforms to ensure personnel and TDP volunteers are prepared to respond to a disaster within the capital.[132]

Among other ongoing reforms and projects is FSCD's development of a Civil Defence and Emergency Response Control Centre (ERCC). As of mid-2026, planning and procurement was underway, and FSCD's manpower was expected to expand to meet the demands of staffing the ERCC, although a date for completion was not published.[133]

A specialized Chemical Disaster Response Team (CDRT) has been formed by the armed forces and is managed under the Bangladesh National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention.[134]

Subnational and Local Implementation

There are DMCs to coordinate activities across division, district, city corporation, municipality, upazila, union, and ward levels. Chaired by their respective jurisdiction's chief executive, each DMC integrates membership from across the administration, including DDM, police, Ansar-VDP, FSCD, water authorities, civil society, BDRCS, CPP, and transport authorities.[135] The DMC at the upazila level is important for disaster-affected communities as it is the level with authority to oversee early warning, relief distribution, shelter management, and planning for recovery.[136]

The country uses an incident management system at all levels of authority. The DMCs appoint Incident Managers to take overall control of response. The Incident Manager forms a Disaster Incident Management Team to integrate representatives of agencies with technical expertise and capability to execute emergency support functions, as spelled out in the SOD 2019.

Broadly, all levels of local DMCs share similar responsibilities during the response

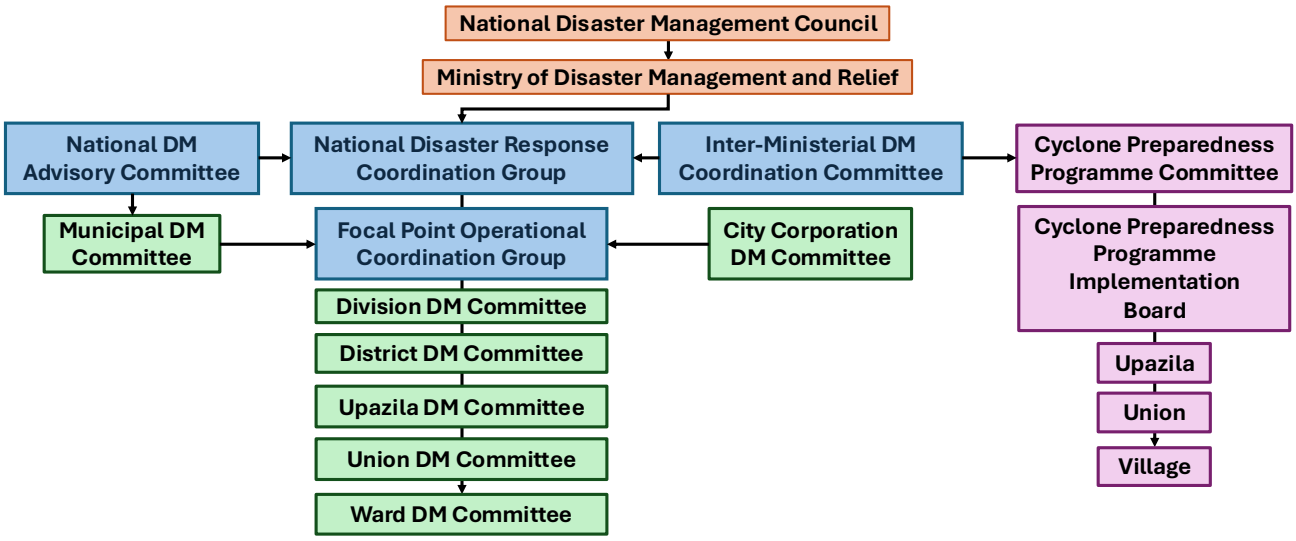


Figure 8: Organization Chart for Disaster Management

phase of DM. Key tasks include:

- Disseminate warnings, security messages, and alerts
- Coordinate emergency rescue by primary rescue authorities
- Take steps to prevent water-borne diseases by ensuring availability of purified water and arranging provision of oral saline
- Coordinate government and non-government humanitarian assistance activities
- Ensure provision of accurate information so people do not panic due to rumors about the disaster
- Ensure safety and security for women, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities in shelters or in other accommodations
- Provide support to agencies for transferring injured people to temporary health centers or hospitals
- Take appropriate steps for swift handling of dead bodies and prevent environmental hazards by burying animal carcasses
- Assist in the work of responding agencies for removal of debris
- Assist people to transfer their assets to a safer place

At the Division level, the DMC will guide establishment, as necessary, of an emergency operations center (EOC) to be operated by the District DMC during a response. The District DMC has primary responsibility for ensuring health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies and facilities are prepared and accessible. The upazila-level DMC may also operate an EOC to coordinate local-level evacuation, search and rescue, and assistance distribution.[137]

The Local Government (Union Parishad) Act 2009 designates the union as the lowest level of local government and mandates the establishment of a standing committee on social welfare and DM; it is tasked with preparedness, mitigation, emergency response, and post-disaster rehabilitation within the community.[138] Subsequently, the SOD mandated formation of a Union Parishad DMC (UDMC).[139]

The Union Parishad and its UDMC form the grassroots level of the national DM framework. Led by the Union Parishad Chair, the UDMC coordinates all aspects of local DM, including hazard risk assessments, early warning dissemination, contingency planning, damage reporting, community awareness, and quarterly reviews with stakeholders. It holds the power to mobilize volunteers, raise funds, manage shelters, conduct evacuations and search-and-rescue operations, and implement Risk Reduction Action Plans aligned with national goals. These roles emphasize inclusive governance for vulnerable groups, "build back better" recovery, and the integration of DRR into local development.[140]

Like the NDRCG, the SOD 2019 lays out the requirements for a local-level Disaster Response Coordination Group, generally chaired by the top executive in the jurisdiction – e.g., Mayor or Councilor. The Group comprises membership across development authorities, police, FSCD, AFD, public works, public health, education, and BDRCS. Their duties cover:

- Establishing coordination with the EOCs at other levels
- Informing higher and lower authorities and awaiting or sending instructions
- Preparing a directory on human and logistics resources
- Coordinating humanitarian assistance arrangements with AFD
- Assessing the disaster situation for aspects of gender and social inclusion
- Preparing and operationalizing emergency response teams, logistics, and other resources
- Monitoring search-and-rescue task force activities
- Undertaking initiatives to establish alternative telecommunication systems if needed and ensuring speedy delivery of additional machinery and equipment to repair and resume damaged telecommunications
- Ensuring information flow, including warning dissemination in preparation for disaster response[141]

Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Response

The Bangladesh armed forces include three services – Army, Navy, and Air Force. Their primary mission is to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bangladesh. In addition, they support the civilian government during periods of national emergency. Under the national DM framework, the armed forces work closely with MoDMR and maintain readiness to render assistance both domestically and beyond the country's borders.

The principal institutional mechanism through which civilian ministries request and channel military resources for DM, humanitarian relief, and other tasks to support civilian authorities is the Armed Forces Division (AFD), which serves as the coordinating body. AFD is the government body responsible for command, coordination, and oversight of the Bangladesh Armed Forces and holds ministerial status parallel to the Ministry of Defence. During emergencies, the AFD arranges the deployment of Army, Navy, and Air Force units in support of civil authorities. This formalized channeling preserves civilian leadership while enabling rapid military mobilization when required.[142] Figure 9 shows the flow of authority from the NDMC, through AFD, to mobilize armed forces personnel or capabilities for disaster response.[143]

During the disaster response, AFD will maintain communication and coordination with MoDMR and the NEOC and maintain a control room within the Prime Minister's Office. Based on the country's incident management system, AFD orders the deployment of units to undertake tasks based on the military's designated emergency response functions. AFD then monitors and collects data on task execution.

The Army's specified emergency response functions are:

- Establish and maintain a disaster control room at various headquarters levels operational 24-hours-a-day
- With relation to chemical disasters, hazardous materials (HAZMAT), or chemical weapons
  - Conduct rescue activities and ensure coordination with local administrations, FSCD, and other responders
  - Form a special unit of military/non-military doctors for the treatment of injured people
  - Participate in disinfection, removal of toxic chemicals, and dead body management
- Deploy task forces according to demand in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office and MoDMR
- Assist the local administration on emergency evacuation, search-and-rescue operations in collapsed structures, recovery of dead bodies, removal of debris, establishment of

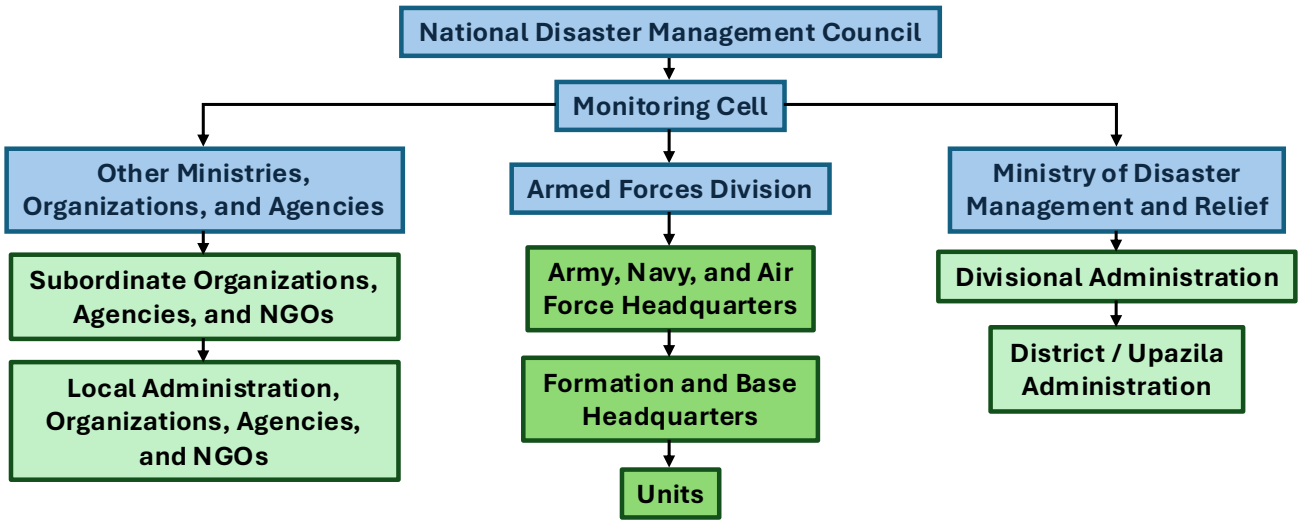


Figure 9: Armed Forces Integration into Disaster Management

field hospitals and provision of treatment, effective measures to prevent contagious diseases, construction and management of temporary shelters, and use of military aircraft to assess damage, loss, and needs
- Dispatch reports regularly to the coordination cell, NEOC, and MoDMR to keep NDMC informed about the latest situation[144]

The Navy's specified emergency response functions are:
- Issue alerts about a possible disaster to all units
- Collect and exchange information with the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System (IOTWS) and BMD
- Establish and maintain a disaster control room in the Naval Headquarters and at the Chattogram and Khulna ports to maintain communications with the Director of Naval Operations, Prime Minister's Office, NEOC, MoDMR, and the control rooms of the Army and Air Force
- Provide rescue ships to assist civil administrations
- Help the local administration assess damage, loss, and needs, provide medical services, transport and distribute humanitarian assistance aid, recover communication systems, and arrange necessary activities in coastal areas
- Manage specifically trained units for rescue, medical treatment, and disinfection after chemical-related disasters[145]

The Air Force's specified emergency response functions are:
- Keep transport planes and helicopters ready and, as necessary, in safe places in cyclone-prone areas
- Appoint one Liaison Officer to communicate with the Prime Minister coordination cell when necessary and maintain communication with the control room of the NEOC, MoDMR, Army, and Navy
- Keep a specialized trained unit ready to manage rescue programs, medical treatment, and disinfection after chemical-related disasters
- Monitor cyclones, floods, earthquakes, and land collapse situations
- Integrate additional meteorological information collected through own sources with the information of the BMD and send it to the concerned authority
- During a large-scale disaster, assist the civil authority with airlifts at remote affected areas for management of humanitarian assistance activities
- Transfer seriously injured people to the nearest hospital
- Participate in rescue and evacuation activities after an earthquake or other disaster[146]

The CDRT is a specialized emergency response unit responsible for responding to chemical accidents, HAZMAT spills, and toxic substance incidents. Its role includes identifying chemical hazards, containing and mitigating releases, rescuing and protecting affected people, and coordinating with relevant agencies to minimize casualties and environmental damage. Formed by all three services, the CDRT conducts joint training and exercises with agencies such as FSCD and police to strengthen emergency preparedness and coordination.[147]

Under the SOD, a civil-military coordination platform exists. It is chaired by the Additional Secretary within the MoDMR and comprises joint secretaries of other Cabinet Ministries, the Directors of DDM, CPP, and FSCD, and representatives of AFD, the police, BDRCS, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), and others. Its function is to advise national leadership and formulate strategies for coordination among Bangladesh's civilian government, humanitarians, and the national military. One of its key tasks is to establish and ensure communication with the DMCs at all levels of administration.[148]

An illustration of the armed forces' ability to support a disaster response came during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rapid mobilization and multisector coordination, including military

support, enabled Bangladesh's pandemic response, the rollout of vaccination, and the continuation of essential health services. In support of the MoHFW, the Army assisted in establishing field hospitals and provided medical personnel, testing booths, and isolation facilities. Military assets supported cold-chain distribution, transported vaccines to remote areas, and operated immunization centers for both uniformed personnel and civilians in select locations.[149]

The armed forces also participate in the government's Ashrayan rehabilitation program, which links humanitarian assistance with long-term development by constructing housing for displaced and landless families and transferring completed projects to local government. By reducing vulnerability and supporting post-disaster recovery, such initiatives bridge the gap between immediate relief and longer-term restoration.[150]

International / Regional Organizations

MoDMR works to ensure that Bangladesh's DM policies and practices align with various international frameworks. Moreover, it is a focal point for coordination with international partners – mostly UN entities – involved in DRR, emergency response, or humanitarian action, especially those involved in meeting the needs of Rohingya in the Cox's Bazar camps.

For disaster response and humanitarian relief, the country operates a Cluster system, led by MoDMR. The Clusters are functional sectors of humanitarian activity that are coordinated by a relevant national ministry or agency and co-led by an NGO or UN entity.[151]

The Clusters can offer strategic direction for humanitarian activity, formulate plans and implementation strategies, advocate, monitor and evaluate activities, and assist in providing services.[152] Table 3 details the government leads and international humanitarian co-leads of the

Cluster / WG	Lead	Co-Lead
Food Security Cluster	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WFP
WASH Cluster	MLGRD&C	UNICEF
Shelter Cluster	MoDMR	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Education Cluster	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	Save the Children, UNICEF
Child Protection Cluster	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA)	UNICEF
Nutrition Cluster	MoHFW	UNICEF
Health Cluster	MoHFW	WHO
Displacement Management Cluster	MoDMR	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Logistics Cluster	MoDMR	WFP
Gender-Based Violence Cluster	MoWCA	UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
Anticipatory Action WG	MoDMR, Forecast-based Financing Task Force	BDRCS, WFP
Accountability to Affected Populations WG	BBC Media Action	UNICEF
Gender in Humanitarian Action WG	Department of Women Affairs	UN Women
Cash WG	DDM	OXFAM
Information Management WG	Bureau of Statistics	UNRCO
Needs Assessment WG	DDM	CARE

Table 3: National Humanitarian Cluster Leads and Co-Leads

national clusters and working groups (WG).[153]

Since 2012, Bangladesh has used the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) to review disaster preparedness and response arrangements. Jointly co-chair by MoDMR and the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Bangladesh, the HCTT is a forum to support national authorities in preparedness and response. The HCTT comprises Cluster coordinators from the UN or NGOs, government line ministry representatives for each Cluster, and NGO representatives. Development partners from the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom, the U.S., and the World Bank participate.[154] Figure 10 shows the HCTT connections to clusters, working groups and additional stakeholders.[155]

International Frameworks

To align Bangladesh's work with global initiatives, the country's DRR and development strategies are constructed to refer to UN-led global strategies.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

Every UN member state, including Bangladesh, adopted the Sendai Framework, which aims to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster-related risk, loss of life, and negative health, economic, physical, social, and environmental impacts. To prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk, it outlines the following four priorities for action:

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery[156]

Across these priorities, Bangladesh continues to work on and engage other stakeholders about strengthening its DM institutions, developing its planning processes, enhancing community participation, ensuring cooperation and funding, and improving early warning through international engagement.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The UN and its partners in Bangladesh are working towards achieving the SDGs, which are 17 interconnected objectives to address the major development challenges faced by people around the world. The targets are to meet the SDGs by 2030. As such, Bangladesh aligns its national development framework to protect its environment while improving economic stability with the SDGs.[157]

United Nations (UN)

The UN is represented in the country by a UNRC to provide leadership and strategic expertise to the UN entities working in the country, although each of those entities

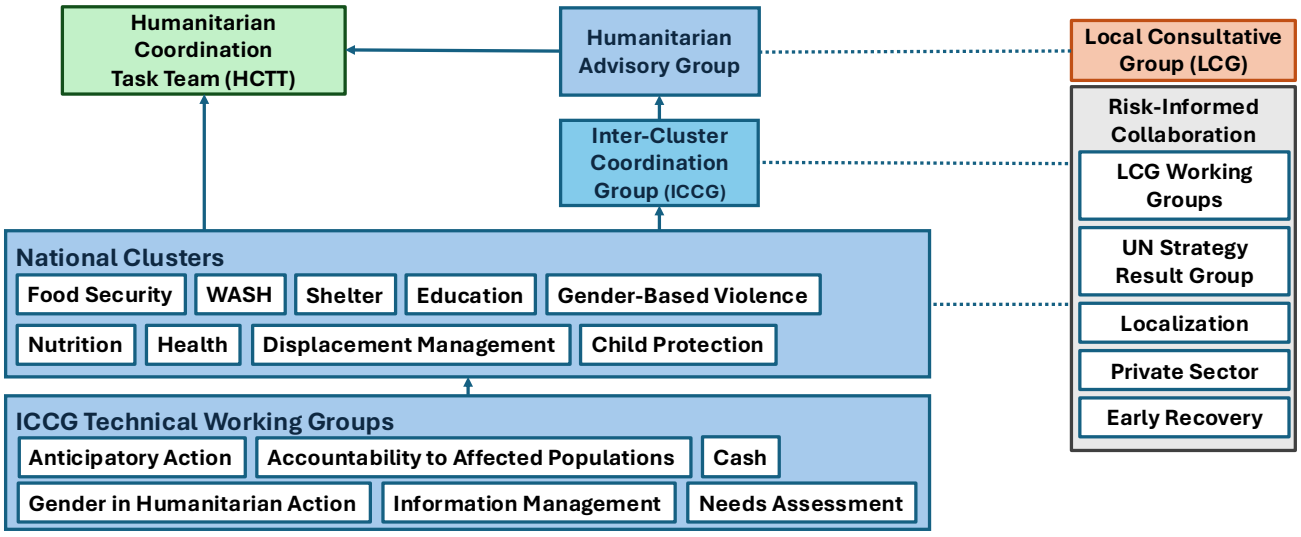


Figure 10: Humanitarian Coordination Task Team

maintains its own programs and operations. Under the UNRC, the UN Country Team (UNCT) and Bangladesh's government signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2022-2026, extended to 2027)158 to emphasize the country's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and address key development priorities. This strategy guides the work of UN entities in the country. In cases where international humanitarian assistance is delivered to Bangladesh, the UNRC also leads and coordinates the response efforts of UN entities.[159]

Some of the key UN entities working in Bangladesh are profiled below.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM operates in close partnership with the national government and a wide range of stakeholders. Its work focuses on migration governance, humanitarian assistance, border management, climate action, DRR, and community resilience, while ensuring the protection of migrants and displaced populations. IOM aligns its programming with key national and international frameworks. It supports the government in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and contributes to the UNSDCF, which prioritizes economic growth, human development, climate resilience, governance, and gender equality.[160] In addition to its national work, IOM works to address the urgent needs of Rohingya in Cox's Bazar through its work with partners on protection against sexual exploitation and trafficking and on delivering various health programs. The largest operational UN entity working on the Rohingya response in the country, IOM delivers multisectoral assistance across 17 camps.[161]

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

UN OCHA brings together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent, organized response to global emergencies, disasters, and armed conflicts.[162] The OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) covers Bangladesh and multiple other regional countries. ROAP comprises seasoned humanitarians with decades of experience in preparedness and response within the region and beyond. OCHA provides response capacity and tools before, during, and after humanitarian crises.[163]

In the absence of a major disaster for which OCHA deploys professional humanitarian coordinators, it advocates for sustained advances in humanitarian action, including through anticipatory action and data-informed planning.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP has maintained a presence in Bangladesh since 1972. It works with diverse partners to address critical development challenges in governance, poverty reduction, climate change, and disaster resilience in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.[164]

UNDP is assisting Bangladesh in its efforts to graduate from Least Developed Country status by late 2026 and to achieve the SDGs by 2030. To support these targets, UNDP Bangladesh has developed a comprehensive country program for 2022–2026 (extended to 2027)[165]; it is grounded in broad, inclusive consultations with communities, government, civil society, and donor representatives. Its initiatives engage two key groups as agents of change:

1) Women, addressing their vulnerability and marginalization
2) Youth, in recognition of their role as drivers of the country's economic growth and social transformation

UNDP also emphasizes harnessing new and innovative technologies, ranging from technological measures to protect the ozone layer to novel data-collection methods and platforms for presenting results to the digitalization of entire branches of government.[166]

UN Women

UN Women works with the government and

civil society partners toward income security, decent work, and economic autonomy for women. It aims for women to have better access to economic resources, training opportunities, social security and protection, and essential services that will reduce the unpaid care burden and enable women to engage more in productive work. UN Women in Bangladesh engages with the private sector to adopt the Women's Empowerment Principles and commit to gender-responsive business policies and practices that will empower women within their own institutions and outside. It is also working on policies and programs that try to ensure that women live a life free of violence and advocates for women and girls to contribute to and benefit equally from sustainable peace and resilience, prevention of disasters and conflicts, and humanitarian action.[167]

World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP provides emergency food assistance and supports sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities affected by conflict, disasters, and climate change. WFP has operated in Bangladesh since 1974. Its work has evolved from the delivery of food aid to integrated, lifecycle-based safety nets. It is a key partner in supporting Rohingya in Cox's Bazar, where the organization and its partners face severe funding shortages across all sectors. Despite massive funding cuts, WFP continues to provide essential food, nutrition, school feeding, and resilience-building support to the Rohingya population.[168]

World Health Organization (WHO)

For decades, WHO has been providing technical assistance to the government for the development and strengthening of the country's public health systems. Additionally, WHO has delivered technical assistance for development of policies, evidence-based standard guidelines and protocols, capacity enhancement of the health professionals and service providers, strengthening the knowledge base and research, monitoring the country's health situation, improving service delivery, and overall strengthening of the health system.[169]

Other Disaster Management Partners

Beyond government agencies and UN entities, Bangladesh's people are key stakeholders in DM because of their deep societal knowledge and historical connections to the land. As one of the largest organizations and an official government partner in DM, the BDRCS is a keystone of civil society. It is joined by large NGOs with international networks but local staff and mandates. Many of these organizations are represented on DMCs at various levels of government to ensure that the communities they represent have a voice in planning and executing DM.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a global humanitarian network that helps those facing disaster, conflict, and health and social challenges. The Movement consists of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the IFRC, and 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide.[170]

BDRCS is the National Society and, based on Presidential Order, it is an auxiliary to public authorities for DM and humanitarian emergencies. The national mandate is to support the government's emergency response initiatives, particularly plans and programs for disaster preparedness. It engages with the most vulnerable communities and proactively incorporates measures to mitigate the impact of disasters and climate change.

BDRCS is a pioneer in its remote community-based disaster risk management interventions, forecast-based action for flood and cyclone response, and ongoing work on heatwaves.[171] The organization maintains pre-positioned relief supplies across the country for swift distribution. BDRCS Disaster Response Units are equipped to work under extreme conditions. Finally, the Society works alongside CPP to deliver early warnings and support evacuations.[172]

Non-Governmental Organizations

Many large national organizations and well-known international NGOs operate in Bangladesh. While more than 2,000 local NGOs are registered with the government to carry out some form of programming in disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation, the best estimate suggests only around 300 are currently active. Large projects are funded through consortiums or directly in collaboration with the national government.[173]

Caritas Bangladesh

Caritas Bangladesh is headquartered in Dhaka with eight regional offices. It delivers integrated development programs focused on social welfare, ecological conservation, education, nutrition, health, and DM. It targets vulnerable populations, including indigenous communities, across 208 upazilas to improve living conditions and resilience. Caritas Bangladesh actively responds to emergencies, providing relief and rehabilitation services. It operates under a centralized management system and collaborates with international partners as a member of Caritas Internationalis, a global confederation of 165 Caritas organizations.[174]

Islamic Relief Bangladesh

Islamic Relief Bangladesh works to reduce suffering and improve dignity for vulnerable populations, including Rohingya and surrounding host communities in Cox's Bazar. The NGO focuses on climate change adaptation and disaster resilience to mitigate environmental risks affecting livelihoods and safety. It provides humanitarian crisis response and support, addressing urgent shelter, water, sanitation, and livelihood needs.[175]

Obhizatrik Foundation

Obhizatrik Foundation is an NGO based in Dhaka. It provides education support, emergency relief, food aid, health services, and livelihood programs to vulnerable communities, including flood-affected families and underprivileged children.[176]

Sidrah Foundation

Sidrah Foundation is a Bangladesh-based NGO that delivers support to vulnerable communities through four core programs: nutrition, livelihoods, health care, and safe water. It operates primarily in 14 districts including Dhaka, Sylhet, and Kurigram, with a focus on children, families, and communities facing poverty and limited access to essential services. Sidrah also addresses safe water access by installing tubewells, which promote community health. During emergencies, such as flash floods, the NGO distributes food and shelter kits through trusted local partners.[177]

Other civil society groups and NGOs actively partnering to support DM in Bangladesh include but are not limited to:

- Action Against Hunger - Bangladesh
- ActionAid Bangladesh
- AIESEC Bangladesh
- BYO Development Foundation
- Concern Worldwide - Bangladesh
- DanChurchAid - Bangladesh
- Danish Refugee Council - Bangladesh
- Doctors Without Borders - Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Bangladesh)
- Global One - Bangladesh
- Hafezzi Charitable Society Of Bangladesh
- Handicap International - Bangladesh
- HelpAge International - Bangladesh
- Human Appeal International - Bangladesh
- Ignite Global Foundation
- Integrated Development Forum (IDF)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC Bangladesh)
- Muslim Aid
- Nova Foundation
- Paribartan Khulna
- Practical Action in Bangladesh
- Purnima
- Rupantar
- Save the Children in Bangladesh
- SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL - Bangladesh
- Uttaran Young Power In Social Action (YPSA)

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Connecting the country's remote areas is an on-going process, and integrating redundancies into the transport, communications, and utilities networks will remain a challenge for the foreseeable future.

Given the present condition of infrastructure, a multinational disaster response will rely on the country's major airports as hubs for the movement of personnel and relief supplies or equipment. Overland movement will depend heavily on the type of disaster, as there is a high probability that flooding, wind-blown debris, and landslides will cut off some remote areas. The availability of dedicated radio, mobile, and satellite spectrum will support a multi-stakeholder response, but movement will be a significant challenge. Responders must consider ensuring self-sufficiency for water and power requirements.

The establishment of one or more humanitarian staging areas (HSA) in the country has been a topic of dialogue within the government and between government and humanitarian partners. It arose again in July 2026 as the Prime Minister reviewed preparedness for a major earthquake in the capital. The establishment of an HSA as a dedicated logistics hub and storage facility would help ensure rapid delivery of relief.[178]

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), which sits within the LGD of the MLGRD&C, is the key engineering, planning, and rehabilitation hub for many types of infrastructure – especially roads, bridges, culverts, cyclone and flood shelters, and slum improvements. It works in coordination with the Ministries for Aviation, Shipping, and Railways to ensure that large-scale infrastructure projects are connected to other development projects by local authorities.

Transportation

Overland – road – is the main mode of domestic passengers and freight transport, and roads reach all parts of the country. Railroads and seaports are critical facilities for the economy, but their limited reach makes them less useful for large-scale emergency response.

The entire national transport network is exposed to the effects of major hazards. On an annual basis, flooding, landslides, and storm effects cause damage. Roads suffer the greatest amount of damage (79% of the total) in a reflection of their presence even in the remotest, most exposed parts of the country.[179] Ports and airports are not immune to damage, but the ability of Bangladesh's international partners to move responders or relief supplies into the country through key nodes – airports – stands a high chance of remaining intact in case of a major cyclone, flood, or earthquake. Conversely, roads, bridges, and railways are more likely to be damaged, resulting in disruption of onward movement and distribution of relief supplies to affected communities.

Figure 11 provides a map of the country's key air- and seaports.[180]

Airports

Aviation is a critical source of connectivity for key cities. Cox's Bazar and Sylhet are among the districts that rely on their airports for passenger and freight movement; in case of a humanitarian emergency in the far northeast or southeast, these airports would also likely serve as hubs for relief personnel and supplies. The three main international airports all have significant experience moving large amounts of cargo, although only Dhaka's – Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) – has equipment for sudden inrushes of palletized cargo.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism operates the main airports. It is the regulator of the air transport sector and oversees safety standards. It also plays a role in policy



Figure 11: Map of Major Airports and Seaports

and infrastructure development to support growth.[181]

There are three international and five domestic airports. The three international airports are also the country's main cargo hubs and dominate logistics; they are HSIA, Shah Amanat International (SAIA, Chattogram), and Osmani International (OIA, Sylhet).[182] The delivery of any disaster relief supplies or equipment through the country's airports must be coordinated before their arrival in the country through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and MoDMR.[183]

There are six other airports that are either not operational or require advance approval for use;[184] they include Bogura (prior approval), Cumilla (no operations), Ishwardi (no operations), Lalmonirhat, Shamshernagar (prior approval), and Thakurgaon (no operations), all built during the British colonial period and operated through the 1960s.[185] Ishwardi (VISD / IRD) does see helicopter and light aircraft flight operations by the armed forces.[186] An additional airport is under construction – Khan Jahan Ali, in Bagerhat, Khulna; work on the project has stalled, and there is no projected date for completion.[187]

The national airline, Biman, has a dedicated cargo arm, Biman Cargo, which operates the key freight and logistics spaces within the country's main airports.[188] HSIA's "Cargo Village," which Biman manages, suffered severe damage in October 2025, when a fire at the import area – which stored fabrics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and other goods[189] – brought in firefighters from the armed forces, CAAB, Border Guards, and police in addition to 37 units from 13 fire stations.[190] A significantly smaller fire broke out in another area of the Cargo Village in June 2026,[191] and Biman remains under scrutiny for its processes and standards at the logistics hub.

There are important challenges to Bangladesh's logistics landscape linked to its air freight infrastructure. HSIA has a single runway and minimal ability to expand. Some of the air traffic and radar systems are overwhelmed with the daily civilian and military traffic at the airport, and any uptick in air traffic congestion poses a risk, not only for flight crews and aircraft but also to the residential areas surrounding the airport. Moreover, neither HSIA nor any other domestic airport has upgraded Instrument Landing System (ILS) capabilities that allow operations in weather that causes poor visibility.[192] High winds and heavy rains commonly disrupt the air transport network.[193]

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA)

HSIA serves the capital and connects Dhaka globally with service by more than two dozen airlines. On-going expansion, the "Third Terminal" project, initially slated for completion in 2024, is now projected to be complete in mid-2027.[194] It will bring the cargo terminal's capacity to 453,000 metric tons (500,000 tons) within a 41,200 m^2 (443,000 ft^2) building. There are more than 235,000 m^2 (2.5 million ft^2) of paved apron throughout the airport grounds, and there are 60,000 m^3 (2.1 million ft^3) of aircraft storage.

The airport delivers palletized-capable cargo handling for some of the world's largest wide-body jets. Biman Cargo manages the "Cargo Village" of 27,800 storage spaces and 5 cold rooms.

HSIA also serves the armed forces for emergency helicopter operations between HSIA and Tejgaon Military Airport (10 km; 6.2 mi away).[195]

Shah Amanat International Airport (SAIA)

The country's second-largest airport, SAIA serves Chattogram and shares some facilities with Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Zahurul Haq Base. Military helicopters commonly operate from the airport, and there is ample space for helicopter operations during an emergency. There is parking space for four wide-body aircraft simultaneously, and there is a small civil aviation hangar. On the military side, there are two plane hangars and additional aircraft parking.

Cargo handling (bulk) feeds into nine cargo areas with a total capacity of 100 metric tons (110 tons), and there is a cargo shed that can

accommodate up to 150 metric tons (165 tons) of freight. Biman Cargo operates the freight stations, including two cold rooms, and there is room for expansion of capacity in case of emergency.[196]

Osmani International Airport (OIA)

The country's third largest airport, OIA serves Sylhet and is undergoing expansion. It can accommodate up to the Boeing 777 ER for bulk cargo offload, but all equipment for bulk offload must be arranged for before arrival with Biman Cargo. Biman operates a 4,295-m^2 (46,231-ft^2) storage space (open and indoors) that can accommodate 1,000 metric tons (1,100 tons) of freight. There are no separate helipads.[197]

Cox's Bazar National

The busiest domestic airport in the country, Cox's Bazar is undergoing expansion and upgrading to international standards, to include a new terminal.[198] In August 2026, the Minister of Civil Aviation indicated that the upgrades could see the airport begin international operations as early as October 2026.[199] Military helicopters commonly use the helipad, and there is ample space for multiple helicopters to operate during an emergency and with CAAB approval.[200]

Table 4 provides some details about the country's main airports.[201]

Seaports

There are three operational seaports, and one deepwater facility is under construction. As an economy reliant on export-oriented manufacturing, the country has placed an emphasis on sea-borne cargo. Frequent damaging storms disrupt operations at the seaports. The ports' ability to operate as nodes for emergency response depends on the type and location of the hazard event that leads to a disaster response, and they may be inoperable or inaccessible during the emergency phase of a response.

Airport	ICAO / IATA Code	Location	Elevation	Runway Dimensions	Runway Surface
International					
Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA)	VGHS / DAC	Dhaka 23°50.7969'N 90°24.1574'E	8 m (26 ft)	14/32: 3,200 × 45 m (10,500 × 147 ft)	Asphalt / Concrete
Shah Amanat International Airport (SAIA)	VGEG / CGP	Chattogram 22°14'58"N 91°48'47"E	4 m (13 ft)	5/23: 2,940 × 45 m (9,646 × 147 ft)	Asphalt / Concrete
Osmani International Airport (OIA)	VGSY / ZYL	Sylhet 24°57'0"N 91°52'0"E	15 m (49 ft)	3,125 × 60 m (10,253 × 197 ft)	Asphalt
Domestic					
Barisal Airport	VGBR / BZL	Barisal 22°48'2.21"N 90°18'2.51"E	3 m (10 ft)	17/35: 1,827 × 30 m (5,994 × 99 ft)	Asphalt
Cox's Bazar Airport	VGCB / CXB	Cox's Bazar 21°27'6"N 91°57'50"E	4 m (13 ft)	2,734 × 45 m (8,970 × 147 ft)	Bituminous Concrete
Jashore Airport / BAF Matiur Rahman Base	VGJR / JSR	Jashore 23°11'01"N 89°09'39"E	6 m (20 ft)	16/34: 2,438 × 46 m (7,999 × 151 ft)	Asphalt
Saidpur Airport	VGSD / SPD	Saidpur 25°45'19.79"N 88°54'18.59"E	38 m (125 ft)	1,828 m (6,000 ft)	Asphalt
Shah Makhdum Airport	VGRJ / RJH	Rajshahi 24°26'16"N 88°36'54"E	19 m (63 ft)	1,828 m (6,000 ft)	Asphalt

Table 4: Specifications of Bangladesh's Airports

The Ministry of Shipping is responsible for overall management, development, investment, and regulation of seaports, land ports, and inland waterways.[202] Affiliated but independent of the Ministry are port authorities for each seaport; their responsibilities are to manage and maintain the port services and facilities and to control vessel berthing, movement, and navigation within the port environs.[203] The Chittagong Port Authority directs operations at the Chattogram and Matarbari ports, and Mongla and Payra are under their respective authorities.[204]

Port of Chittagong (Chattogram)

Handling some 92% of the country's trade, this port is significant to the Bangladeshi economy. It is on the right bank of the Karnafuli River, some 9 nautical miles (16.6 km; 10.4 mi) from the Bay of Bengal coast.[205]

With the cargo terminals nearing their full capacity, the port is growing. The Bay Terminal Marine Infrastructure Project is expected to double cargo handling capacity and reduce congestion. Slated for completion between 2029 and 2030, it will allow Chittagong Port to handle larger vessels, up to 12 m (39.4 ft) of draft and 280 m (919 ft) in length and carrying up to 6,000 containers.[206]

At present, the main port can accommodate ships with a maximum draft of 9.5 m (31.2 ft) and length of 190 m (623 ft).

Main Terminal
- Berths: 17 (conventional × 16; silo × 1)
- Berths 2-13 – bagged, bulk, breakbulk, roll-on-roll-off (RO-RO), and containers

Patenga Container Terminal
- Berths: 10 (multipurpose)
- Vessel max: 10.5 m (34.4 ft) of draft and 200 m (656 ft) of length

Equipment
- Gantry Crane × 18 (40-ton)
- Rubber-Tired Gantry Crane × 52 (40-ton)
- Mobile Harbor Crane × 5 (84-ton)
- Rail Mounted Yard Gantry Crane × 1 (40-ton)
- Mobile Crane × 39 (capacities 10-100 tons)
- Forklifts: 4 × 16-ton, 10 × 5-ton[207]

Port of Matarbari

The project to transform the Matarbari port into a deepwater hub is slated for completion by 2029.[208]

Located in Cox's Bazar district of Chattogram south of the Port of Chittagong, the port at Matarbari sits between a river channel and the sea. It is an artificial harbor with breakwaters surrounding the navigable channel. As of 2024, only the two jetties associated with the Coal Power Generation Company were operating. As it continues to expand, the port project is slated to comprise a special economic zone, liquid natural gas (LNG) terminals, a fuel pipeline, a petroleum complex, and other facilities.[209]
- Maximum Vessel Length: 150 m (492 ft)
- Maximum Vessel Draft: 10 m (32.8 ft)

Port of Mongla

Located on the Possur River in southwestern Khulna, Mongla is a key import-export node. It has a one-stop operations office for all agencies and entities involved in operating the port, and it has the equipment and storage space to handle significant amounts of cargo. It is well connected to Bangladesh's inland ports by river and to the country's manufacturing hubs and has seen a boost in cargo throughput since the 2022 opening of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, which connects Dhaka to the southwest across the Padma River.
- Berths: Conventional / Container × 5, Anchorage × 25, Silo × 1
- Maximum Vessel Length: 225 m (738 ft)
- Maximum Draft: 7.5-8 m (24.6-26.2 ft) at conventional berths; 8.5-10m (27.9-32.8 ft) at anchorage berths
- Equipment
  - Dockside Crane × 2
  - Container Gantries × 6
  - Mobile Crane × 6 (2 × 30-ton, 1 × 24-ton, 1 × 25-ton, 2 × 19-ton)
  - Forklifts × 58[210]

Port of Payra

Located on the central coast between Chattogram and Mongla, Payra is in Patuakhali district, on the bank of the Rabnabad channel in the Meghna estuary, 65 km (40 mi) inland. The port handles only bulk cargo.[211] It struggles to maintain the navigation channel at depths that allow large vessels to visit the port. In early 2026, silt had blocked parts of the channel and reduced the maximum depth to 6.5 m (21.3 ft), down from its designed 10.5 m (34.4 ft).[212]

- Berths: 15
- Maximum Length: 200 m (656 ft)
- Maximum Draft: 8 m (26.2 ft)
- Equipment
  - Mobile Crane: 1 × 64-ton
  - Forklifts: 3 (1 each of 25-ton, 10-ton, and 5-ton)[213]

Roads

Road transport is the main means of moving people and goods around the country. It accounts for some 70% of domestic passenger traffic and 60% of domestic freight. Traffic volume on the country's roads has been growing at a staggering 10% per year in recent years.[214]

With roads and bridges present throughout the country, these transport network assets are prone to damage during hazard events. Heavy rains and surface flooding commonly disrupt road traffic, and bridges are frequently damaged by flooding during the seasonal monsoon.[215] Onward movement of disaster response personnel and relief supplies from airport nodes to affected communities will depend heavily on the ability of local authorities to clear and repair blocked or damaged roads and bridges.

Responsibility for oversight and regulation of the assets of the road network is shared among various offices:

- The Road and Highways Department, under the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, is responsible for constructing and maintaining 22,476 km (13,965 mi) of roads.
- The Bridge Division of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges oversees the country's bridges.[216]
- In addition to other tasks related to ensuring rural areas gain and retain access to economic development, LGED oversees more than 350,000 km (217,500 mi) of rural roads and thousands of bridges.[217]
- Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), under the Ministry of Shipping, operates 11 inland ports. It is responsible for infrastructure development, cargo handling, storage improvements, and fostering public-private partnerships. Five additional inland ports are operated under build-operate-transfer (BOT) arrangements with private companies.

National highways (designated by a number preceded by "N"), regional highways ("R"), and district roads ("Z" for zila) are maintained by the Roads and Highways Department.[218] There are 114 "N" roads with a total length of 4,205 km (2,613 mi).[219] Of the "N" roads, there are 500 km (310 mi) of 4-lane highway, 21 km (13 mi) of 6-lane highway, and 17.5 km (11 mi) of 8-lane highway.[220] There are 152 "R" roads with a total length of 5,016 km (3,117 mi), and there are 724 "Z" roads with a total length of 13,254 km (8,235 mi).[221]

There are four main inter-city arterial highways: Dhaka-Chattogram, Chattogram-Cox's Bazar, Dhaka Elevated Expressway, and Dhaka-Mymensingh.

The Padma Multipurpose Bridge, completed in 2022, is a keystone infrastructural investment. It spans just over 6 km (3.7 mi) across the Padma River, which cuts diagonally northwest to southeast across the country from Rajshahi to Barisal. The upper deck of the two-deck bridge carries a four-lane highway and has cut travel times between Dhaka and the Southwest. Ferries between the capital and southwestern districts (Barisal, Jashore, Khulna, etc.) could take 15-22 hours to deliver people and cargo to their destinations; that time has been cut for both road and rail transit.[222]

There are 24 land ports – 16 of them operational.[223] They are located on the country's borders with India (23 ports) and Myanmar (1 port), and all rely on road transport for onward connectivity. While the country's seaports are

major routes for exporting goods, the land ports serve primarily to import consumer goods, mostly from India.[224]

Potentially the most important land port, Benapole, is in Jashore near the border with the Indian state of West Bengal.[225] It handles some 80% of trade between Bangladesh and India.[226] The Petrapole (India) – Benapole (Bangladesh) border crossing has been a key crossing for passengers and freight since opening in 2016 because it supports direct movement between Kolkata (India) and Dhaka.

At the far southeastern border with Myanmar, the land port at Teknaf is in Cox's Bazar district where the Naf River forms the frontier between the two countries. Under a BOT, the BLPA has handed over control to the United Land Port Teknaf Ltd.[227] In operation since 2003, the land port has historically been a key gateway for Myanmarese goods – mostly food products – coming into Bangladesh and for manufactured equipment and building materials flowing the other direction. However, in recent years, due to conflict in Myanmar, the terminal has commonly been closed or under tight security that disrupts the flow of cargo.[228]

Railways

The rail network connects major cities and industrial areas. However, outside the Dhaka-Chattogram corridor, it cannot compete with road transport for speed and reliability. As with roads, rail is prone to disruption during major hazard events – e.g., tracks washed out by flooding or covered by landslides. Repairs can be slow, and the network's lack of redundancy in many areas reduces its usefulness for transporting emergency personnel or supplies.

Bangladesh Railway sits within the Ministry of Railway. It operates a 3,000-km (1,865-mi) network with 485 stations. To improve service and compete with road transport, Bangladesh Railway has been investing to overcome constraints linked to inconsistent track gauges, shortages of rolling stock, outdated signaling, and aging facilities.[229] An additional limitation was long linked to the Jamuna River, which cuts the country into eastern and western halves and across which there were few bridges. While the railway network is still divided into two regions – Eastern and Western – for administrative and operational purposes,[230] investments into assets like the Padma Bridge are increasing interconnections between the two.

The Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar corridor carries some 32% of all passenger rail traffic and 55% of all rail-borne freight. It is double-track, dual-gauge and has seen significant investment, including from development partners like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Nonetheless, sections regularly are damaged by flooding that can force the railway to operate under speed restrictions.[231]

The Padma Bridge not only provided a desperately needed road link between the southwestern districts and the capital, but it delivered a major rail link. The lower deck of the bridge is used for both passenger and freight trains between Khulna and Dhaka (225 km; 140 mi); a transit that used to take 15-22 hours across rail, road, and ferry has been cut to just 4 hours.[232] The rail line connects to the Trans-Asian Railway and enables continuous rail travel between India and Chattogram.[233]

Navigable Waterways

Depending on the season, rivers can provide significant reach into areas of the country that are not served by airports or roads. However, vessels transiting many of the rivers cannot have deep drafts and, therefore, cannot carry large quantities of heavy equipment. Nonetheless, they may serve as distribution networks for supplies or personnel working on a disaster response.

Three offices within the Ministry of Shipping play roles in use of the country's navigable waterways.

- The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has responsibility for oversight and management of the inland water transport sector.
- The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) operates government-owned assets, including 119 vessels, within the sector.

- The Department of Shipping handles safety training and inspection, as well as overseeing implementation of rules and regulations.[234]

Out of 24,000 km (14,900 mi) of rivers, streams, and canals, nearly 6,000 km (3,725 mi) are navigable by mechanized vessels during the monsoon and about 3,800 km (2,360 mi) are navigable during the dry season.[235] The waterways are classified into four categories based on draft and clearance, from the 683 km (424 mi) of "Class I" rivers, required to maintain a minimum draft of 3.66 m (12 ft) year-round, to the 2,400 km (1,491 mi) of "Class IV" rivers with less than 1.52 m (5 ft) of draft along mostly seasonal routes.[236] Photo 4 shows the ways that some local communities use inland rivers for small-scale trade.[237]

Together BIWTA and BIWTC facilitate, deliver, and pilot passenger and cargo movement for a total of 7,000 vessels, and they maintain 22 inland ports and landings. In addition to the inland river ports, BIWTA manages river-borne freight and passenger movement onward from the seaports of Chattogram, Mongla, and Payra.

BIWTC runs RO-RO ferry services for vehicles on seven routes that range from 3 km (1.86 mi) between urban Dhaka landings to 28 km (17.4 mi) between more remote districts on the upper reaches of the Jamuna.

The 22 BIWTA river ports are: Aricha, Ashugonj-Bhairab Bazar, Baghabari, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Chandpur, Char-Jannat, Chatak, Cox's Bazar, Daulotdia, Dhaka, Khulna, Maoa, Meghnaghat, Munshiganj, Nagarbarj, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Noapara, Patuakhali, and Tongi. These stations provide significant market access to some 25% of the population that do not have sufficient road access.[238]

One key potential humanitarian logistics hub located on major river transport arteries is Pangaon International Container Terminal, outside Dhaka. It is under joint oversight of BIWTA and the Chittagong Port Authority. It is a key logistics hub for containers arriving at or departing from Chattogram. It has a storage capacity of 3,500 20-foot equivalent units (TEU) of containers and handles 116,000 TEU containers annually. The total yard area is approximately 55,000 m^2 (592,000 ft^2), and facilities include a bonded warehouse.[239]

Communications

The country has one fully end-to-end early warning system (EWS) – the CPP. It integrates government institutions, technical agencies, and the public, especially volunteers, to ensure that at-risk communities receive information about their exposure and what actions to take. Additional EWS components for flooding, landslides, and earthquakes are less developed but remain the subject of Bangladesh's partnerships with international consortia and networks. All EWS solutions will rely on the country's communications network. Public services are increasingly entirely digital or digitally enabled. Mobile network providers have invested heavily in modernizing and upgrading infrastructure, and there are multiple redundancies. Nonetheless, there is the potential for the spectrum to be overwhelmed if an emergency



Photo 4: River Hosts Floating Vegetable Market

triggers large-scale data demands or damages swaths of telecommunications towers.

Early Warning Systems and Information Sharing

Various government and non-government actors are involved in identifying and monitoring hazards, forecasting hazard events, projecting hazard event impacts, and developing warning or alert messages to inform the public about a potential disaster.

- Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) – monitors meteorological phenomena and forecasts changes; generates forecasts for hydro-meteorological extremes
- Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) – specific responsibility for forecasting flooding, especially flash flooding
- Department of Disaster Management (DDM) – disseminates early warning
- Division, District, Municipal, City, Union, and Ward Disaster Management Committees (DMC) – disseminate warnings, security messages, and disaster forecasts
- Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) – communicates early warnings about cyclones in coastal regions
- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), civil-society, and NGOs – volunteers, mosque leaders, community radio, and SMS systems communicate early warning messages about flooding and landslides

The methods that technical agencies use to disseminate forecasts or warnings mean that the present system is broadly hazard specific rather than being multi-hazard. In fact, only cyclone forecasts and warnings have an end-to-end warning system, the CPP, which moves cyclone forecasts from the BMD to CPP focal points within upazila and union DMCs, which then use CPP volunteers and ward DMC members to disseminate the warnings to community members.

The SOD 2019 outlines EWS aspects, but it does not detail roles down to the volunteer and community levels.[240] Under the SOD, only two specific EWS components are mentioned: the Committee for Speedy Dissemination of Special Weather Bulletins, Disaster Warning Message, and Determining Strategy; and the 1090 Interactive Voice Response system.

Committee for Speedy Dissemination of Special Weather Bulletins, Disaster Warning Message, and Determining Strategy

Chaired by DDM's Director-General, the Committee membership includes Directors-General from various media, BMD, FFWC, CPP, and additional representatives from the inter-agency. It is tasked with determining strategies and methods for disaster-related information dissemination and improving forecasting and warning. Its dual mandate sees it developing public awareness campaigns for risk awareness and determining how to quickly disseminate messages to at-risk communities. It may use the armed forces' wireless signal system for alternative communication, as needed.[241]

1090 Interactive Voice Response

Anyone anywhere in the country can use any mobile device to dial 1090 (toll free) for weather advisories and disaster early warning alerts. Through this service MoDMR delivers 24-hour-a-day access to updated pre-recorded messages from the FFWC and BMD. Messages cover inland river port warnings for safer river navigation, sea bulletins for vessels in the Bay of Bengal, 24-hour general weather forecasts, and 5-day agriculture-oriented forecasts. Since the system is a voice message, it avoids the issues of people who cannot read or who do not have the appropriate mobile device for text-based messages.[242]

Early Warning Systems

Given the regularity with which Bangladesh confronts cyclones and flooding events, these hazards are the subjects of the country's most robust assessment, warning, and decision-making capacity. Early warning for landslides is significantly less robust and is mostly based on rainfall projections, with warnings

and responses left to local authorities to determine.[243]

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)

BMD is the national meteorological service. Its meteorologists, engineers, and scientists maintain observation equipment, develop modeling, and oversee international relationships with fellow meteorological services globally. Storm warning centers and geophysical monitoring centers are located in key areas of the country alongside inland waterway observation stations and agrometeorological offices. BMD collects and shares meteorological, air, agrometeorological, seismic, and astronomical data with public and private entities across the country.[244]

Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)

The CPP dates to the 1970s when newly independent Bangladesh, the BDRCS, and the predecessor of the IFRC partnered to consider how to reduce the deadliness of cyclones along the country's Bay of Bengal coast. From 1973, the country unilaterally institutionalized and funded the CPP under the MoDMR. Its development integrated communications technology to connect Dhaka and the coast, as well as infrastructure – earthen refuge mounds (killa) – and, most importantly, volunteers from within the communities at-risk of cyclone impacts.[245]

As of 2026, there are nearly 79,000 volunteers in 49 upazilas and 398 unions.[246] CPP's critical contribution is rapid dissemination of BMD cyclone warnings to communities. Thus, the links between DDM, BMD, and the CPP are extensive and integrate BDRCS for its national reach. Beyond warnings, the CPP is engaged in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.[247]

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC)

The FFWC resides under the national hydrological service, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). It generates and provides flood forecasts and warnings to national agencies and communities. With more than 125 stations along rivers throughout the country, BWDB gathers real-time data and maintains a database to inform decision-making.

BWDB's data on river water levels are delivered through the FFWC platform, available in English and Bengali and with configurable layers and visualizations for users to understand the potential impacts of high waters. Through the platform, users can subscribe to alerts and examine historic data with probabilistic impact analyses.[248]

Anticipatory Action

Since 2015, BRDCS has operated an anticipatory action program for river flooding. An OCHA-coordinated anticipatory framework debuted in 2020, and this framework has been updated several times since then. Activation triggers the disbursement of funds from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund for implementing partners to provide lifesaving assistance ahead of peak flooding with additional funds available when follow-on agreed-upon triggers are reached. Among the actions taken during anticipatory action are cash transfers to at-risk households either through the postal money network or bKash, a national mobile-based wallet system.

This shift to anticipatory action protocols from response-oriented planning marks a shift toward more holistic DM.

As of 2025, the national flood anticipatory framework uses a 15-day readiness trigger (1) and a 5-day action trigger (2), based on global weather forecasts and hydrological modeling (1) and FFWC impact analysis and action options (2). It specifies protocols for action after forecasts to ensure operational communication and finance are activated appropriately. The Padma and Jamuna basins are the primary areas monitored by a team representing an inter-agency, government-civil society, UN-local technical working group on flood anticipatory action.[249]

Early Warnings for All

Work on anticipatory action feeds into Bangladesh's participation in the UN-led

Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative to strengthen multi-hazard EWS capacity within institutions, forecasting systems, and communities. The initiative has four pillars that its proponents and partners work across to support the participating countries. They are:

- Disaster risk knowledge – UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Detection, observation, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting – World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Warning dissemination and communication – International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- Preparedness and response capabilities – IFRC[250]

The MoDMR convened its first EW4All workshop in late 2023 to deliver a gap analysis of the steps needed for the country to reach the objectives of the initiative. Afterward, it began drafting its roadmap with the technical support of the four leads and the participation of the BMD and BWDB, each of which surveyed existing capabilities and needs, especially with regard to end-to-end early warning for flooding and drought.[251]

The resulting EW4All National Roadmap (2025-2030), approved by MoDMR, is a strategic framework for developing an end-to-end multi-hazard EWS. By 2030, the target is to better integrate fragmented data systems and improve inter-agency interoperability, close last-mile communications gaps, and develop local capacity to translate warnings into action at the community level.

With MoDMR as the national coordinator, DDM oversees the government's work and collaborates with FFWC, BMD, and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). UN agencies, coordinated by the UNRCO, BDRCS, CARE Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide, and local NGOs are all implementing partners. Finally, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) and the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute are contributing technical agencies.[252]

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES)

RIMES is an inter-governmental institution with more than 60 participating countries. Member-states (22) and collaborating countries (38) work to build resilience to hydro-meteorological and geophysical hazards through cooperative development of data-driven EWS. RIMES' main role is to connect national meteorological, hydrological, oceanographical, and seismic services with each other and with decision makers in DM and related sectors. As a member-state since 2012,[253] Bangladesh is active in ensuring the MoDMR and BMD gain tools and expertise to deliver forecasts, alerts, and warnings that are appropriate and actionable.

Bangladesh's RIMES membership has contributed materially through the "Scaling up Forecast-based Action and Learning" (SUFAL) program that works with communities, government institutions, and local DMCs to implement community-focused, forecast-based actions to mitigate the impacts of monsoon flooding. The 4-pronged approach led to an anticipatory action framework with:

1. Greater access to impact-based forecasts and early warning
2. Agreed-upon triggers for early action
3. Testing to ensure actions address needs and priorities of vulnerable communities
4. A base of evidence and lessons to influence policy, plans, and financing[254]

Warning Dissemination

MoDMR coordinates with BTRC on mobile alerting and emergency telecommunications capabilities. It is developing a cell-broadcast EWS that ensures that geo-targeted alerts can be delivered regardless of the amount of traffic on mobile networks.

As a complement to their EW4All work, BMD and BWDB have convened local workshops nationwide to train journalists and media professionals on understanding warnings and conveying them quickly and accurately. Additionally, students at the University of Dhaka have been developing a system to

translate forecasts and warnings into plain language, voice, and sign language to expand access to the EWS for people with lower literacy levels or who may live with auditory, visual, or intellectual disabilities.

The peculiarities of the Cox's Bazar refugee camps include that their management and populations are not integrated into the surrounding communities. IOM has developed an EWS for landslides, floods, and cyclones that are projected to impact the camps. It works through 1,600 volunteers who activate sirens, use megaphones, or broadcast via radios once an alert is received. It also relies on anticipatory actions that have been developed to relocate households, reinforce slopes, improve drainage, and pre-position supplies to ensure that the more than 500,000 residents of these camps are not isolated from Bangladesh's EWS.[255]

Information Sharing Focal Points

Department of Disaster Management (DDM)
4th Floor, 92-93 Bir Uttam AK Khandakar Road, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka 1212
Disaster Helpline: 1090
Tel: 8801-711415554
Email: *ictprovati@ddm.gov.bd*
Web: *https://www.ddm.gov.bd*
Facebook: @ddmbangladesh

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)
Agargoan, Dhaka 1207
Tel: 8802-41025705
Email: *info@bmd.gov.bd*
Web: *https://server6.bmd.gov.bd/*
Facebook: @BMD.bd

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC)
Pani Bhaban, Level 2, Block G, Office 214, Panthapath, Dhaka 1205
Tel: 8802-222230070
Fax: 8802-9557386
Email: *ffwcbwdb@gmail.com*, *ffwc05@yahoo.com*, *ffwc@bwdb.gov.bd*
Web: *https://ffwc.gov.bd/app/home*

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
Pani Bhaban, Level 5, 72 Green Road, Dhaka 1205
Web: *http://www.bwdb.gov.bd*
Facebook: @bwdb.gov.bd

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)
684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka 1217
Tel: 8802-48310188 / 8802-48310189
Fax: 8802-9352303
Email: *info@bdrcs.org*
Web: *https://bdrcs.org/*
Facebook: bdredcrescent
X: bdrcs1

UN Resident Coordinator's Office
UN House, House 1 (9th Floor), Road 86 & 88, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212
Web: *https://bangladesh.un.org/en/about/about-the-resident-coordinator-office*
Facebook: uninbangladesh
X: UNinBangladesh

Telecommunications Infrastructure

Bangladeshi society is increasingly digitized. Government services can be accessed online. Business is underpinned by strong digital finance and logistics. Finally, public discourse, health care, and education are served by the country's strong telecommunications market and infrastructure.

Despite the sector's strengths, there are weaknesses. One of the weaknesses is political pressure on service providers. During the height of the "Monsoon Revolution," in July 2024, a 3-hour 4G shutdown hampered mobile banking, ride-hailing, logistics, and myriad other online business and social activities. Another weakness is a lack of redundant infrastructure in remote areas, with the Chittagong Hills being somewhat underserved due to the difficulties of running cable or siting towers in the terrain there.[256] The entry of low-earth-orbit geo-stationary satellite providers – e.g., Starlink – is a possible solution to the high cost and high risk of placing traditional assets in this region.

There are four main mobile network operators – Grameenphone, Banglalink, Robi, and Teletalk – all of which have nationwide coverage. Teletalk is government-owned.[257] There are at least six other key companies in the telecommunications sector,[258] and Starlink became available in the country in May 2025.[259] Grameenphone has the largest mobile service market share at 43% and Teletalk the smallest at 3%.[260] Mobile service providers own and operate more than 46,500 telecommunications towers, and an increasing proportion of these towers are shared by multiple operators, as service providers seek to extend 4G service and prepare for 5G.[261]

There are upwards of 186 million mobile telephone connections in the country. Thus, there is a mobile teledensity of 105%. Nearly three-quarters of all lines are broadband capable (3G, 4G, or 5G). While teledensity has been mostly constant for nearly a decade, the share of broadband connections has steadily risen,[262] as smartphone handsets have become more affordable. By 2025, nearly 70% of handsets were smartphones. Even in rural areas, mobile phone ownership has topped 56%, and 4G reached 97% of the population. There remains some relevance for 2G service, as feature [not smart] phones are more common in coastal areas, and cyclone warnings rely on SMS broadcast.[263]

Internet use has grown strongly in the past decade, from 20.6 million people in 2015[264] to more than 134 million people in 2026. More than 90% of internet subscriptions are mobile broadband.[265] There are 64 million unique social media identities registered to the country. Facebook is used by approximately 100% of social media users, with TikTok and YouTube also used by large proportions of users (86% and 78%, respectively). Nearly 99% of social media users access the web via their mobile devices. Some 95% of all mobile handsets in the country are Android devices.[266]

Mobile financial services are critical links for Bangladeshi consumers and businesses. bKash, the largest mobile wallet app, has 70 million customers (40% of the population), and QR-code-enabled payments are increasingly common even for very small purchases. Nonetheless, the speed of data services in rural areas can be noticeably slower than in rural areas,[267] and mobile money may be less convenient in these areas in the wake of a disaster.

Mass and Social Media

There is a large, lively mass media sector with state-owned, commercial, and community outlets. Satellite television and online publications are joined by social media – especially Facebook – as the essential information sources for Bangladeshis. While legacy media – especially community radio – still enjoy a large audience and can reach at-risk communities with important information regarding hazards, young – particularly urban – audiences are better served by new media, where creators and audiences interact and which provide avenues for two-way communication about disasters and responses.

Television commands an audience of over 80% of news consumers.[268]The largest broadcasters – BTV and Bangladesh Betar (radio) – are both state-owned.[269] They have national reach, and Bangladesh Betar's local services deliver some localized content. They are joined by 30 more radio stations and 30 more television channels. Most television is accessed via satellite or cable.[270] Among the most popular TV stations are Jamuna TV, Somoy TV, and Ekattor TV.[271] It is on radio that smaller communities may hear about issues important to themselves. In most cases, NGOs or civil society groups operate community radio stations,[272] but there are also dozens of stations that are privately-owned, national commercial stations.[273]

Outlets that used to be print and monolingual are increasingly available in both English and Bengali and in both hard copy and online, where bilingual multimedia outlets are the norm.[274] Historically, the two leading daily papers were the English-language Daily Star and the Bengali-language Prothom Alo;[275] both now publish bilingually online. There are at least

seven more national print outlets publishing in Bengali, English, or both.[276]

Despite the presence of multiple outlets, audience trust in the information provided through traditional mass media is low, as many perceive owners, editors, and journalists as politically biased.[277] While state-owned media is, by definition, controlled by the ruling party / parties, it does contribute to disseminating important public interest messages, including those related to safety and disasters. Many commercial outlets are owned by people or companies perceived as connected to political factions. Community radio is among the more trusted mass media types, but its reach is limited by two elements: 1) financing relies on community fund drives; and 2) a lack of links to local government authorities means that these authorities may not pass critical hazard or risk information to these outlets for dissemination to their audiences.

Traditional outlets and new (social) media reach wide swaths of the populace online due to the ubiquity of mobile broadband connections. National television stations are not only available through satellite or cable but through YouTube and Facebook. Moreover, individual social media content creators have gained large audiences. The dissemination of mis- or disinformation has been noted as a problem in the social media spaces frequented by Bangladeshi audiences.[278]

Utilities

Bangladesh has extended power and water-sanitation services to most of the population in the past decade. While these investments are paying off in terms of health and economic productivity, maintaining levels of service during and after repeated floods, storms, and other disasters is a challenge. Even under normal circumstances, potable water can be scarce, and power blackouts are common.

To ensure that water and sanitation are prioritized during responses, the HCTT maintains close ties to national utilities regulators, planners, and providers who participate in the cluster system. Even with this focus, responders commonly must plan to be self-reliant in water and electric power.

Within the national clusters, the MLGRD&C has primary responsibility for providing emergency services during a disaster and for post-disaster rehabilitation of public systems. Many of its divisions and departments are integrated into programs that not only build resilience to disasters but also are oriented toward sustainable development. The Ministry's LGD implements development and public service activities alongside the authorities of union parishads, upazilas, districts, municipalities, and city corporations. Under LGD are the LGED, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Chittagong WASA, Khulna WASA, Rajshahi WASA, and the National Institute of Local Government.[279]

Power

The power sector is exposed to local hazards and international shocks. At home, plant inefficiencies, logistical challenges, and damage to network assets during storms, floods, and landslides all contribute to regular disruptions. Meanwhile, growing reliance on imported electric power and imported fuels exposes the country to the volatile global market, and price spikes translate into disruptions in power supply for Bangladesh's critical manufacturing industry.

There is sustained investment in diverse generation plants and inputs, as well as in more resilient transmission and distribution networks. However, uncertain public and private financing climates could slow this build out. The ability to reach and repair parts of the network damaged during disaster events may rely heavily on international cooperation, especially for financing.

The Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources is the central authority for all public electricity projects and policies. Under the Ministry:

- The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) regulates the electric,

gas, and petroleum sectors with a remit that encourages new entrants and private investment.[280]
- The Power Division is charged with ensuring quality, uninterrupted electric power nationally by 2030.[281]
- The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), an independent agency of the Ministry, is the central generator, grid operator, and distribution company, with subsidiaries handling the day-to-day at plants, sub-stations, and local offices.[282]
- The Rural Electrification Board works through 80 rural electricity cooperatives to ensure sustainable development of electric power services throughout rural areas.[283]

As of 2025, electric power reached some 99% of the population, and generation capacity reached 30,000 Megawatts (MW). In the expectation that demand for electric power will continue to rise, the country continues to invest in generation and distribution capacity, grid reliability, and diversification of inputs. Public and private entities are involved in the supply side of the electric power sector, with private power producers now delivering approximately half of total installed generation.

Natural gas is the backbone of all energy consumption, and some 50% of electricity is generated using natural gas.[284] The country still produces significant quantities of gas, but it increasingly imports LNG. Domestic output currently only meets about three-quarters of domestic demand, and production continues to fall off from its peak, reached between 2015 and 2020. As such, the contribution of imported gas rose by 75% between 2019 and 2023, and it is expected to continue rising.[285]

There is ongoing investment in floating storage and regasification units (FSRU) to receive and store LNG for onward distribution within the domestic network. Two operating FSRUs are located off Moheshkhali (Chattogram);[286] they are integrated mooring systems and subsea pipelines that feed gas into the national pipeline.[287] While these two terminals are critical gateways for energy feedstock, they are not without risk. High winds (> 13 m per second [29 mph]), ocean swells (>2 m [6.5 ft]), and ocean currents can affect the transfer of LNG from ocean-borne tankers to the FSRU. Storms in the Bay of Bengal – especially between June and November – can disrupt operations at the FSRUs. Globally, storms commonly disrupt FSRU operations, albeit generally only for brief intervals as the storm systems pass. Nonetheless, longer-term impacts can emerge, as occurred with one of Bangladesh's FSRUs in 2024 when Cyclone Remal caused some damage to the FSRU mooring vessel; the FSRU was offline for four months. The knock-on impacts were felt across Bangladesh's gas-dependent economy.[288]

One-third of generation is based on oil, and 12% relies on coal, with only 3-4% generated by renewables. Installed renewable generation is a mixture of on- and off-grid, with a total installed capacity of less than 1,600 MW, dominated by solar (80%), with some hydro (15%), wind, and biomass. Bangladesh also imports power from India; as of 2025, some 15-17% of all national electricity was imported from this neighbor.[289]

As part of Bangladesh's long-term goal of diversifying and stabilizing its power inputs, the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) in Pabna district (160 km / 100 mi west of Dhaka) is being built with Russian technical and financial assistance. It has a designed combined capacity of 2,400 MW across its two reactors.[290] In June 2025, a revised schedule for completion and commercial operation was released. It indicated that Unit 1 could enter operations in December 2026 and Unit 2 in December 2027, but as of the publication of this handbook, the schedule is under review with a potential first commercial operation of June 2028.[291] The fuel started loading at Unit 1 in April 2026; the nuclear fuel supply chain to and return of spent fuel from Rooppur are linked to Russia's Rosatom.[292] While RNPP is being built up to international standards, it is sited on the banks of the Padma River, which is prone to seasonal flooding and has multiple FFWC monitoring stations along its course well upstream of RNPP. There is high potential for local and district DMCs to

require additional technical expertise in case of a disaster affecting the plant.

Water and Sanitation

The availability of clean water and improved sanitation facilities is a key aspect of public health, and water and sanitation systems are vulnerable to disruption during a disaster. The potential for a public health emergency to follow a disaster is high, as people may have difficulty accessing sufficient, clean drinking water or sufficient water for hygiene. Bangladesh's management and regulatory environment for water is fragmented, and there may be no single authority with responsibility or capability to swiftly repair water systems, a lack that could leave disaster-affected communities to rely on marginal water sources or trucked water for longer periods of time.

DPHE is the government lead for safe water, sanitation, and waste management. Since 2008, there has been a standing national WASH cluster that brings DPHE, UN entities, and NGOs together to coordinate both DRR and response as part of the HCTT.[293] With DPHE coordination, LGD's WASAs are responsible for safe drinking water supply, solid waste disposal, and sanitation all over the country. For example, Dhaka WASA is responsible for planning, infrastructure development, and maintenance of water supply, sewer, and drainage facilities in Dhaka City and Narayanganj.[294]

In the 2022 Census, more than 95% of Bangladesh's population reported that their drinking water was accessed via pipe to the home or via tubewell. Dhaka and Chattogram – 26% and 12%, respectively – had the largest proportions of their populations using piped water. The division with the lowest pipe or tubewell coverage was Khulna, at approximately 90%.[295] Despite this level of access, surveys consistently find that some 41% of households' water is not "safety managed."[296] Per the WHO, "safely-managed" means drinking water from an improved source accessible on premises, available when needed, and free from fecal and chemical contamination.

Fecal and arsenic contamination of drinking water remains a concern nationally. Fecal contamination is the most common source of water-related risk. WHO highlights that this contamination is the leading cause of cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid, and polio globally.[297] Within Bangladesh, nearly 85% of households sometimes test as having higher-than-acceptable microbial (mostly fecal microbiota) contamination in their drinking water. WHO also assesses that some 15% of the country's drinking water sources are contaminated by arsenic.[298] Wells drilled shallower than 100 m (328 ft) are at high risk of drawing from arsenic-contaminated waters.[299] Finally, in coastal areas of the country, saltwater intrusion is increasing the salinity of drinking water sources.[300]

Floods or storm surges may overtop clean water storage tanks. Floodwater may also bring contaminated water into clean water systems. Storms may knock out power to well pumps. All of these events have the potential to leave communities with insufficient clean water. The ability to deliver emergency water supplies while repairing or rehabilitating damaged equipment is a key capacity that must be planned for ahead of a disaster. In part, insufficient planning to support household water needs could leave already vulnerable communities at greater risk. Even under normal circumstances, responsibility for collecting water for the household is commonly a sex-segregated chore. Surveys have found that some 86% of water collection is carried out by women and girls. This chore means that women and girls have less time for other valuable tasks, including paid work and school.[301] If gathering household water becomes more time consuming, women and girls will suffer disproportionate impacts from a disaster that damages water systems.

Open defecation has been almost eliminated in Bangladesh. In the 2022 census, some 78% of all households reported having toilet facilities that were improved – either "safe disposal with flushing / pouring water" or "pit latrine with slab / ventilated improved latrine / composting latrine." There was significant variation across

the country among divisions, with Mymensingh and Sylhet at the low end having 64% and 61% coverage, respectively, and Chattogram and Dhaka at the high end having 80% and 85% coverage, respectively.[302] Meanwhile, surveys find that only about 68% of households have a handwashing facility with water and soap.[303] Therefore, while human excrement may be safely handled in many areas, handwashing may not be the norm, and this lack continues to lead to public health challenges related to fecal-oral transmission of bacteria.

Health Systems

Bangladesh's health sector has achieved notable success over the past 50 years through targeted, high-impact programs. The country is recognized globally for its advancements in family planning, routine immunization, widespread use of oral rehydration therapy for diarrheal diseases, and effective detection and treatment completion rates for tuberculosis. These gains are largely the result of strong community-based health programs, long-standing partnerships with NGOs, and the expansion of primary healthcare services.

A cornerstone of achievement has been the nationwide network of women community health workers. Through routine home visits, these workers mobilize families to participate in immunization campaigns and provide essential health education. They also promote and administer oral rehydration solution (ORS) to prevent dehydration caused by diarrheal illnesses, a treatment that significantly reduces child mortality. ORS itself was pioneered by Bangladeshi researchers at the Cholera Research Laboratory, now the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).[304]

Bangladesh is among the most densely populated countries globally. Much of its population lives in urban settings where crowding, limited housing space, and frequent movement of people create conditions that allow infectious diseases to spread quickly once transmission begins. At the same time, several long-standing systemic challenges weaken the country's health system. These include a shortage of healthcare workers, uneven access to medical facilities between urban and rural areas, limited investment in health infrastructure, and inadequate critical care capacity. Together, these challenges heighten Bangladesh's vulnerability during disasters and disease outbreaks.[305]

The country is experiencing a rapid rise in mortality associated with non-communicable diseases (NCD), including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's disease, and tobacco-related conditions. Efforts to strengthen NCD prevention and treatment are underway.[306] However, several challenges continue to impede equitable access to care. Many healthcare facilities are understaffed, and high out-of-pocket expenses limit the ability of many households to seek needed treatment. To address gaps in the health workforce and improve service quality, WHO is working with the MoHFW to develop Bangladesh's first national medical education strategy, focusing on curriculum development, accreditation standards, and faculty training.[307]

The MoHFW is responsible for developing national policies, plans, and decisions related to health care and medical education. These directives are implemented through various authorities and health delivery systems at national, regional, and community levels. MoHFW oversees a broad range of functions, including public health, disease control, family planning, nutrition, medical education, and health system strengthening. Through its regulatory bodies, the Ministry also exerts indirect oversight over health services provided by NGOs and the private sector. Its leadership is central to advancing national health goals and achieving universal health coverage.[308]

The DGHS serves as the main implementation arm of the MoHFW. It is responsible for carrying out national health programs, managing health service delivery, and operationalizing policies aimed at progressing toward universal health coverage. DGHS provides technical assistance to the Ministry, supports health management and planning, and coordinates nationwide health activities

to ensure consistent and effective service delivery.[309]

On 31 March 2026, Bangladesh launched the Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) 2026–2031, which provides a strategic framework to address increasing climate-related health risks. The health sector faces growing challenges from extreme weather events, such as higher incidences of vector-borne diseases, water-borne illnesses, and malnutrition stemming from changes in agricultural production. Cyclones, floods, and other hazards further intensify these risks by damaging public health infrastructure and disrupting essential services. The HNAP outlines key strategies and priority actions to strengthen health system resilience, enhance preparedness, and maintain continuity of essential care, particularly for populations most vulnerable to these health impacts.[310]

The country has a three-tiered healthcare system consisting of public, private, and NGO-run facilities that operate across national, district, and community levels. Despite this broad structure, overall capacity remains insufficient relative to the country's large population. The private sector plays a dominant role in service provision; it delivers an estimated 70-80% of all healthcare services. Recent years have seen rapid expansion in private diagnostic centers, hospitals, and telemedicine platforms. Major urban centers such as Dhaka and Chattogram host many of the country's leading private hospitals and specialized diagnostic networks, while rural areas continue to experience limited access to even basic health services.[311]

According to the MoHFW, as of September 2026, Bangladesh has 39,434 total health facilities nationwide.[312] Together, these institutions form the backbone of public healthcare delivery, although significant disparities in distribution and capacity remain across regions.[313]

A particular challenge lies in addressing the needs of both the Rohingya in camps around Cox's Bazar and vulnerable host communities. Since 2017, MoHFW, the RRRC, WHO, and humanitarian partners have integrated hypertension, diabetes, and mental health services into camp-based primary health care. These services are aligned with WHO's PEN-HEARTS (Package of Essential Non-communicable Disease Interventions – Healthy lifestyle, Evidence-based protocols, Access to essential medicines and technology, Risk-based management, Team-based care, and System monitoring) as well as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support protocols. Innovations such as standardized treatment protocols, task-sharing between clinicians and trained community health workers, mobile outreach clinics, and robust monitoring and supervision systems have helped maintain continuity of care.[314]

Under Priority 3 of the NPDM (2021–2025), titled "Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience," Bangladesh places strong emphasis on strengthening the resilience of national health systems. The plan calls for integrating disaster risk management principles into primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare services, with particular focus on facilities at the local level. It also aims to build the capacity of health workers to understand disaster risks and apply DRR approaches in their daily work. Key priorities include expanding training in disaster medicine and supporting community health groups to incorporate DRR practices into local health programs.[315]

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the MoHFW and the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), continues to support the development of Bangladesh's health workforce through the three tiers of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). Through FETP, CDC and its partners train health professionals in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, public health research, program evaluation, communication, and applied epidemiology. CDC also collaborates with the icddr,b to train hospital staff in infection prevention and control, helping reduce the spread of infectious diseases among patients and healthcare workers. In addition, CDC's National Public Health

Institute Program provides technical assistance under the Data Impact Program.

CDC, IEDCR, and MoHFW work jointly to strengthen the country's public health emergency preparedness, management, and response systems. CDC supports and trains personnel at the national Public Health Emergency Operations Center housed within IEDCR. This operations center is directly linked to national rapid response teams, which work alongside FETP trainees to investigate disease outbreaks and respond to emerging public health threats.[316]

Shelter and Housing

The country has seen a drastic reduction in cyclone-related mortality in the past 50 years; this success is partly due to the construction of shelters in cyclone-prone areas and partly due to the steady improvement of warning and evacuation procedures. There remain major challenges with evacuation shelters nationally; many problems relate to accessibility for women, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities, but there are also reported problems linked to governance, maintenance, and service delivery. Moreover, housing stock nationally tends to be built without resilient materials or methods. Without resilient housing, more prolonged evacuations will remain common, whereas changes to planning, construction, and maintenance of housing could reduce the need for evacuations and, therefore, for emergency shelter.

The Shelter Cluster Bangladesh is co-led by MoDMR, UNDP, and IFRC. As part of the national DM structure, it advocates for institutionalizing more resilient housing construction, and it is part of response coordination to ensure proper management of emergency shelter. The SOD 2019 tasks the Shelter Cluster with:

- Providing assistance to government ministries and departments in formulating Early Recovery Plans
- Assessing needs for recovery
- Providing assistance in formulating guidelines for emergency shelter management and reconstruction[317]

Bangladesh uses pre-emptive evacuation as a strategy to reduce disaster-related mortality. Although this strategy helps save lives, it does contribute to stressors linked to displacement. Storm-driven displacements can be prolonged because homes are damaged or destroyed and livelihoods are disrupted. While short-term mass evacuations may resolve swiftly, persistent displacement remains common, and in prolonged displacements, the ability of evacuees to access public services or take up new livelihoods is lessened.

A 2026 study by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre found that, between 2008 and 2025, there were 21.3 million disaster-related displacements in Bangladesh. Some 99% of these displacements were related to hydro-meteorological phenomena:

- Cyclones / storm surges: 11.3 million displacements
- Floods: 7.8 million displacements
- Storms: 2.2 million displacements

The most impactful individual events were Cyclones Aila (2009), Mahasen (2013), Bulbul and Fani (2019), Amphan (2020), and Mocha (2023), alongside monsoon floods in 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2024. The cyclones and two of the flooding events displaced more than 1 million people each. Although a vast majority of people displaced by these events return to their homes swiftly, in at least two cases – after Cyclone Amphan and the 2020 monsoon floods – people remained displaced for 30 days or more. In these cases, rural-to-urban permanent displacement becomes more common, and this movement tends to increase pressure on informal urban settlements, where housing stock tends also to be less resilient.

It is common for the same areas, households, and individuals to be displaced repeatedly due to geographical exposure and concentration in hazard-prone areas. Moreover, an estimated 50% of disaster-related displacements were pre-emptive evacuations before cyclones struck.[318] This pre-emptive evacuation is one of the

aspects of the CPP.

In the nearly 60 years since the CPP launched, multi-purpose cyclone shelters have been a key aspect of the strategy of reducing cyclone-related mortality. There are 19 cyclone-exposed districts (147 upazilas), but 48 upazilas directly on the coast are considered at high risk for cyclone impacts – high winds, storm surge, saltwater inundation of crops and freshwater sources, and coastal erosion.[319] Across all cyclone-exposed upazilas, CPP shelters are intended for a few hours of occupation during inundation; they can function as temporary living quarters during post-cyclone reconstruction, but most cyclone shelters are elementary schools,[320] and if they are occupied by displaced people, they cannot resume their function as schools, a situation that disrupts education for many children.

The shelters are managed somewhat differently across the covered area, and they may have differing designs, capacities, and facilities, with many having triggered complaints about poor sanitation, a lack of safe drinking water, and few or no facilities for women.[321]

Regardless of the capacity and upkeep of the shelters, accessing these facilities remains a challenge. With local roads absent or in poor shape during an emergency, many people will walk to the nearest shelter. Government policy is that people are no further than 1.5 km (0.93 mi) from a cyclone shelter, but only about 38% of upazilas meet this goal.[322]

Beyond evacuation shelters in cyclone-prone regions, successive studies have noted a lack of attention paid to building resilient housing. Vulnerable households – especially those with fewer financial resources – tend to be unable to ensure the sites on which their homes sit or the materials and designs used to build them are the best available to resist destruction during major storms.[323]

The 2022 Census found that nearly 95% of housing structures are "kancha" or "jhupri."

- Kancha is a structure with a floor made of soil or wood or any material other than brick, cement, or concrete, and a roof made of bamboo, nipah/golpata, palm leaves, chhan (thatch grass), or straw
- Jhupri is a structure with a floor made of soil, wood, or bamboo, and walls and a roof made of straw, bamboo, chhan, golpata, palm leaves, or polythene

In 2025, the Shelter Cluster surveyed 20 districts that both had a high percentage of vulnerable people – e.g., households headed by day or agricultural laborers – and had experienced recurring disasters in recent years. The survey found that 98% of households had experienced disaster-related damage to their homes. Recovery was based on the availability of loans from family, personal savings, and selling household assets. Meanwhile, the survey found that only about one-quarter of affected households received shelter support in the immediate post-disaster phase. These findings indicated a need to reform the way organizations involved in emergency shelter and post-disaster reconstruction operate.

There were three specific types of hazard areas that were dominant in the surveyed areas: monsoon flood zones, cyclone-prone areas, and flash flood exposed areas.

- Permanent displacement was 10-13% in each of the three zones
- Damage / destruction of water-sanitation facilities (35%) was the prevalent loss in monsoon flood zones
- Loss of kitchen utensils and damage / destruction of water-sanitation facilities both affected 29% of households in cyclone-prone areas
- Loss of kitchen utensils affected 42% of flash flood-prone areas
- More than 10% of families in all zones had lost essential individual or household documents in disasters

Finally, of the households surveyed, about two-thirds were able to rebuild within 6 months, but 90% indicated that they had not been able to rebuild to the same standard as their house had been before the disaster.[324]

Food Security

As a country that relies on its own agricultural sector for a large proportion of food consumed by its people, Bangladesh has strong farm-market connections, value-added food industries, and partnerships with global food security stakeholders – FAO and WFP – to ensure capacity to meet emergency food needs. However, two major threats hang over the sector:

1. Large areas of the country's farmland are damaged or destroyed by hazard events each year
2. The price of imported fertilizer swings wildly

Large-scale distribution of emergency food assistance – in-kind or cash transfers – is common after localized disasters. Meanwhile, larger-scale, constant food assistance goes to Rohingya in the Cox's Bazar area. The steady need to adapt to local and global market conditions has seen food assistance implementing partners gain flexibility in procurement, storage, and distribution of food aid in the country.

As of 2020, the country was self-sufficient in rice, fish, and vegetables. The basis of this achievement is increased production across the agricultural and fisheries industries, but the ability of Bangladeshis to purchase and consume these foods was bolstered by the strong economic performance of manufacturing, which sent household incomes soaring.[325]

Although it has highly productive agriculture and strong markets for both local and imported foodstuffs, the country struggles with a dual-malnutrition challenge – i.e., some communities still do not have access to sufficient, quality food, while other communities purchase and consume food with too much fat, salt, and sugar and are increasingly overweight.

In 2025, WFP projected that some 16 million Bangladeshis would face crisis-level food insecurity during the year. Some 1.6 million children under 5 years of age were acutely malnourished at the time of the WFP's assessment. There are already seasonal upticks in malnutrition among vulnerable households, and food security partners commonly work to ensure school nutrition programs assist children from food-insecure families throughout the year.[326] Concurrently, the expansion of the corporate and services sectors has seen a shift in traditional diets and physical activity levels, and higher consumption of fatty and carbohydrate-rich foods alongside sedentary work have led to rising rates of nutrition-related NCDs and the proportion of the population that is overweight.[327]

Alongside the availability and choice of foodstuffs, production does run into challenges.

Drought damage to crops is common and predominantly affects rural livelihoods. Over the course of 50 years, some 20 droughts have been severe enough to require humanitarian assistance. The most intense droughts tend to affect the first copping season in the northwest (Rangpur and Rajshahi), with some impacts noted in Barisal and Khulna, where 30% of cropland experiences some drought effects every four years.[328] Meanwhile, it is a nearly annual occurrence for at least one rice harvest to be disrupted by flooding. The annual monsoon coincides with both planting and harvesting in some areas, and damage to these crops can lead to localized or widespread food insecurity depending on the scale of damage.

Figure 12 illustrates the seasonal food security calendar.[329]

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Planting / Growing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
First harvest	●		●	●							●	●
Second harvest						●	●	●				
Third harvest				●	●							
Lean season			●	●						●	●	

Figure 12: Seasonal Food Security Calendar

In addition to seasonal cycles. long-term climate risks threaten the country's ability to maintain the sufficiency, quality, and accessibility of its food supply. Severe, prolonged monsoon rains, more frequent heatwaves, and submergence of productive coastal land under rising seas all put some of the country's productive land and people at risk.[330]

Finally, beyond seasons and long-term climate change, Bangladesh's farmers are heavily dependent on imported fertilizer. The World Bank noted in June 2026 that the country imports 85% of its fertilizer,[331] mostly from Canada, Morocco, PRC, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia.[332] A combination of conflict in the Middle East that is halting flows of fertilizer out of the region and Bangladesh's own lingering macroeconomic challenges mean that both livelihoods and health are threatened over the short term because of a lack of this key farming input.[333]

There is a public program to reduce food insecurity. The Public Food Distribution System (PFDS) procures rice and wheat from domestic and international markets, stores them in public warehouses, and distributes them through various methods, as needed. The PFDS' objectives are three-fold:

- Make foodgrains available to poor households
- Distribute food during emergency situations
- Provide incentive prices to producers to encourage domestic production
- Stabilize market prices

Monetized channels of PFDS distribution deliver subsidized grains to institutions, large employer kitchens, and impoverished people through Ministry of Food programs. Non-monetized channels are safety-net programs managed by MoDMR, MLGRD&C, MoWCA, and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.[334]

The ability of Bangladeshis in most areas of the country to access PFDS and other safety-net programs differs from the situation of both citizens and Rohingya in the southeast.

In Cox's Bazar, the Ministry of Agriculture, MoDMR, and UDMCs work with WFP to identify and execute climate adaptation and risk mitigation projects to reduce food insecurity among both refugees and host communities. One of the key aspects of this work is building, extending, and repairing farm-market roads and canals. This work not only improves year-round market access for producers and consumers but also reduces flood risk and improves integrated water management for crop irrigation.[335]

Separate from the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the southeast, the country has protocols for delivering emergency food supplies to disaster-affected communities.

When a disaster displaces people, destroys homes and livelihoods, or disrupts markets, the government and its partners work to ensure food access. MoDMR, DDM, and local DMCs coordinate with partner and implementing organizations through the HCTT and Food Security Cluster. The Cluster integrates 55 NGOs and 14 government ministries that deliver both emergency response and preparedness. WFP, as a key partner, has field-level agreements for rapid response with 16 implementing NGOs in 27 disaster-prone districts.

Delivery of emergency rations relies on a network of pre-positioned assets, community mobilization, and funding. In very localized cases, DMCs and partner NGOs can deliver emergency food within 48 hours. However, larger-scale interventions can take significantly longer. Rather than rely on movement of foodstuffs, anticipatory action is increasingly being implemented in flood-prone areas. When agreed-upon water-level triggers are reached, the government and NGOs partners release unconditional cash to at-risk households. Using mobile money transfers, this action allows at-risk or affected people to immediately purchase food or other necessities rather than waiting for relief schemes to be started.[336]

CONCLUSION

The risk landscape of Bangladesh is shaped by the country's exposure to natural and anthropogenic hazards, vulnerability rooted in socio-economic and political inequities, and institutionalized but sometimes under-resourced coping capacity.

The country's 175.7 million people are still majority rural, although urbanization continues to see already large cities becoming ever larger. Dhaka, the capital, is home to more than 10 million people and is the most densely populated place in Bangladesh. It, like the country's other cities, sits on the major rivers – Padma and Jamuna and their tributaries – that are lifelines for the economy not only for transport of people and goods but also for the water and replenished soils they deliver to the agricultural sector. Parts of Dhaka and other major settlements are, therefore, exposed to hazards linked to the river; unplanned urban growth onto floodplains or other marginal land puts ever more people and their properties at risk.

Numerous hazard events – coastal and riverbank erosion, cyclones, floods, landslides, saltwater intrusion, tidal surges, tornadoes, and other extreme weather events – affect the country every year. Because of the country's topography and areas of high population density, loss of life and economic damage are also recorded nearly every year. The costs of frequent disaster response operations erode the ability of the government and people to build resilience rather than simply operating in emergency mode.

Monsoon flooding and nearly annual cyclones affect tens if not hundreds of thousands of people annually. Meanwhile, in the past decade, more than 1,900 people have been killed in disease outbreaks, flooding, heatwaves, and landslides, some of them driven by cyclones arriving from the Bay of Bengal. Although these losses and associated impacts can be locally devastating, the country has seen its death toll from hazard events drop drastically since independence in the 1970s. From an era when hundreds of thousands would be killed annually by major storms to today, the country has reduced its losses through institutionalization of early warning, emergency management protocols, resourcing of trained responders, and community awareness, as well as through construction of cyclone shelters..

Responsibility for DM is shared between the national and local levels. At the national level, the NDMC provides strategic and policy direction, while the MoDMR and its DDM deliver coordination across all agencies. In the divisions, districts, cities, municipalities, upazilas, unions, and wards, DMCs manage responses. It is toward these DMCs that national-level support – information, expertise, funding, and other resources – is directed. The local DMCs' relationships with NGOs and civil society partners are among the key components that ensure that warnings and technical hazard information are translated and delivered to at-risk communities.

In addition to national civilian DM practitioners and local first responders, the AFD is a critical contributor to disaster response coordination. As the hub for arranging Army, Navy, or Air Force support to civil authorities, the AFD can respond to needs identified by the NDMC, MoDMR, and others by identifying and communicating with the joint force. The armed forces specialize in logistics, delivering needed equipment and supplies swiftly, but they can also support facilities management and health services.

Given the strong civilian leadership institutionalized in Bangladesh's DM structure, the country's bilateral and multilateral ties tend generally to connect to the MoDMR and subnational DMCs. However, MoDMR-DMC-AFD connectivity and capacity development is an aspect of sustained cooperation between Bangladesh and its international partners.

APPENDICES

Risk Indices

Risk calculation takes into account exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and coping capacity. Addressing all of these elements is important in reducing and mitigating disaster risk. Various indices emphasize structural or institutional risk while others emphasize hazards or losses (human and economic). Regardless of emphasis, disaster risk calculations use some form of the equation:

Disaster Risk = (Hazard × Vulnerability) / Capacity[337]

Taken from the UNDRR glossary, definitions will help clarify this formula:

- Capacity - The combination of strengths, attributes, and resources available within an organization, community, or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.
- Disaster risk - The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets, which could occur to a system, society, or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity.
- Hazard - A process, phenomenon, or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation.
- Vulnerability - The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets, or systems to the impacts of hazards.[338]

In general, the goal of indexing risk is to inform decisionmakers and DM practitioners of the level of risk to and underlying capacity of the target community. The various risk calculation models support proactive crisis management frameworks and are helpful for prioritizing allocation of resources and for coordinating actions focused on anticipating, mitigating, and preparing for humanitarian emergencies.

INFORM Risk Profile

INFORM is a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning, and Preparedness with the European Commission. It is a multi-stakeholder forum for developing shared, quantitative analysis relevant to humanitarian crises and disasters. The Joint Research Center of the European Commission is the scientific lead. There are three operational dashboards – i.e., INFORM Risk, INFORM Severity, and INFORM Climate Change.[339]

The **INFORM Risk Index** is an open-source assessment that supports prevention, preparedness, and response decisions. It measures the risk of humanitarian crises and disasters in 191 countries. The INFORM model is based on the standard dimensions of risk: Hazards and Exposure, Vulnerability, and [Lack of] Coping Capacity. The first dimension measures the natural and human hazards that pose the risk. The second and third dimensions cover population factors that can mitigate against or exacerbate the risk. The Vulnerability dimension considers the strength of individuals and households relative to a crisis while the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension considers factors of institutional strength.[340]

The INFORM model is split into different levels to provide a quick overview of the underlying factors leading to humanitarian risk. INFORM gives each country a risk score of 1-10 (1 being the least risk and 10 the greatest) for each of the dimensions, categories, and components of risk, as well as an overall risk score.[341] The higher the score the more risk a country faces.

In the 2026 INFORM Risk Index, Bangladesh had an overall risk score of 6.2/10, which INFORM categorizes as the "High" risk

class and lands Bangladesh as the 25th most at-risk country in the Index. The Hazards and Exposure dimension score takes into account a combination of both natural and anthropogenic hazards, and Bangladesh rated 8.4/10 or 3rd most at-risk of 191 countries. The Vulnerability dimension score was 6.2/10 or 30th of 191, and the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension score was 4.5/10 or 84th of 191. Physical exposure to River Flooding at 9.9/10, was the greatest natural hazard threat in the Hazards and Exposure dimension, while Conflict rates a 9.9/10 under anthropogenic hazards. Uprooted People (under "Vulnerable Groups") measured 8.7/10, the highest driver of risk in the Vulnerability dimension. [Lack of] Governance rated 7.1/10 to be the most significant risk in the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension. Figure 13 shows the INFORM Risk dashboard for Bangladesh for 2026.[342]

U.S. Government Disaster Management Engagement

The bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Bangladesh is overseen in terms of the day-to-day programming by the Chief of Mission (COM) of the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. If Bangladesh experiences a disaster that overwhelms its national capacity to respond, the government may approach the international community, including the U.S. via the Embassy, for assistance. While there are U.S. federal agencies that specialize in delivering foreign disaster assistance, the COM is the lead authority for U.S. government work in the country.

U.S. Country Team

The U.S. has maintained an Embassy in Dhaka since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1972. The COM oversees the work of a country team that represents various agencies and offices of the U.S. government. Programming coordinated through the Embassy covers trade, cultural ties, higher education, and security cooperation.

In December 2025, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM; now U.S. Pacific Command [USPACOM]) sent a delegation to Dhaka for the 12th iteration of the command's Bilateral Defense Dialogue with Bangladesh's armed forces. Participating leadership ensured a shared understanding of crisis response, peacekeeping operations, disaster relief, maritime domain awareness, medical cooperation, and military education.[343] More recently, a high-level security consultation in August 2026 saw Admiral Steve Koehler, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit Dhaka. He met with the Prime Minister, Defense Advisor, and the Bangladesh Navy Chief of Naval Staff to discuss maritime security.[344]

In addition to periodic high-level consultations between the two countries, the Oregon National Guard and Bangladesh share a partnership under the U.S. National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP). Since 2008, under the SPP, Oregon Guard personnel have worked with Bangladesh civilian and military agencies on various issues of security, including peacekeeping and DM. Among the largest-scale activities that has, in the past, involved the Oregon Guard, is the annual Exercise Tiger Lightning, which supports the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Theater Army Campaign Plan and security cooperation plan objectives to enhance professional relationships, military operations, readiness, and interoperability between U.S. and Bangladesh Army formations.[345]

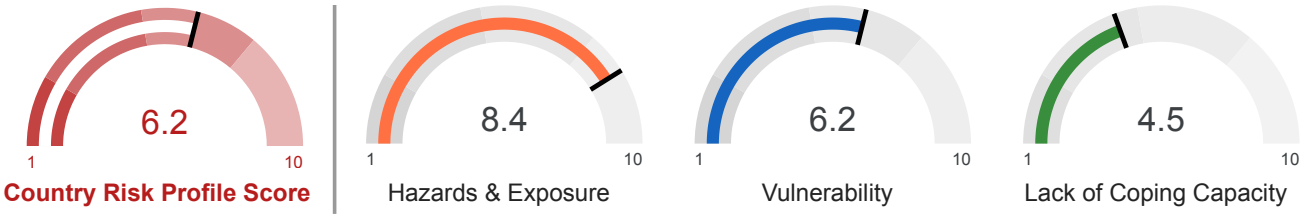


Figure 13: INFORM Risk Dashboard for Bangladesh (2026)

Separately, for many years, the U.S. has moved funding through the Embassy to implementing partners in Bangladesh to address the needs of Rohingya who have resided in the country's southeast for nearly a decade after fleeing conflict in Myanmar. Additional assistance has seen U.S. federal agencies and Bangladesh's first responders and civil society bolster local and national DM capacity.

Since 2014, the Medical First Responder Seminar (MFRS) program has delivered training, tools, and supplies to the FSCD. More than 600 FSCD officers have gone through training in life-saving skills, and many have undertaken "train the trainer" skills augmentation to be able to deliver the course themselves.[346] In 2024, the U.S. Embassy's Pacific Augmentation Team (PAT) donated swift-water rescue and HAZMAT protection equipment to FSCD. Eight boats, 110 life vests, 120 disposable coveralls, and 100 medical bags were handed over to bolster operational readiness and ensure quicker and more effective responses.[347]

An additional partnership saw the U.S. hand over 200 cyclone shelters repaired under the "Increasing Community Resilience to Disaster (ICR)" project, completed in September 2021. Implemented by World Vision in southwest Bangladesh, the shelters provide over 100,000 community and project participants across Koyra, Dacope, Shyamnagar, and Kaliganj sub-districts with access to safe and secure shelters during cyclones and flooding. As a result of the renovation, communities have access to shelters with clean WASH facilities. Shelters are also more accessible with improved access roads and ramps and have safe spaces for vulnerable groups including women, adolescents, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities.[348]

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Responses in the Past Five Years (2022-2026)

If Bangladesh requests international assistance to respond to a disaster, the COM will determine if conditions meet the requirements for a Declaration of Humanitarian Need (DHN) under U.S. federal government policy. If the COM issues a DHN, the U.S. State Department, led by its Bureau of Disaster and Humanitarian Response (DHR), will coordinate the U.S. federal government's response across deliveries of funding, technical expertise, and in-kind relief supplies. In the past five years, in addition to deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines during the pandemic, U.S. government assistance to Bangladesh has been delivered in response to flooding and cyclones. The U.S. has also continued its support to Rohingya.

Emergency Food – April 2025

The U.S., through WFP, delivered 17,000 metric tons (18,740 tons) of food produced by U.S. farmers. WFP distributed the food aid to Rohingya in Chattogram.[349] This donation followed US$23.8 million given by the U.S. government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID, replaced by DHR) in April 2023. USAID and WFP worked together to provide food and nutrition services to 925,000 refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char. Between 2017 and 2023, the U.S. had given upwards of US$2 billion to support aid delivery to the Rohingya hosted in Bangladesh.[350]

Flooding – July 2024

The U.S. government, through USAID, provided US$350,000 to BDRCS to deliver relief to flood-affected communities in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts. Some 30,000 people were displaced, and 2.5 million people were affected by the monsoon-driven flooding in the northeast.[351]

Flooding – August 2023

USAID delivered US$250,000 to BDRCS on behalf of the U.S. government after monsoon rains caused flooding and landslides

in Bandarban in mid-August 2023. At least 51 people were killed, and 1.3 million people were affected; at the time of the USAID donation, 200,000 people remained displaced.[352]

Cyclone Recovery – May 2023

On 17 May 2023, the U.S. government announced that it was providing US$250,000 to assist in relief and recovery efforts after Cyclone Mocha struck Bangladesh's southeastern coastal areas, where it affected more than 500,000 citizens and 1 million Rohingya. Tidal surges, heavy rain, and high winds damaged homes and drove flooding and landslides.[353]

Flooding – June 2022

Record rainfall led to catastrophic flooding across northern Bangladesh in June 2022. The U.S. delivered emergency funds (US$244,680) through USAID to provide relief for affected communities.[354]

DoW DM Engagements

If DHR seeks and DoW approves the use of military capabilities to support a disaster response, the mission will be assigned to a commander, commonly a Geographic Combatant Command – e.g., USPACOM – to designate a unit and assets to support DHR's operations. DHR and the involved U.S. military units follow a specific process to manage, track, and evaluate tasking.

Separate from disaster response missions, U.S. forces undertake training and exercises alongside their Bangladesh counterparts to ensure that, in case of a crisis, they share an understanding of common tools and processes and can operate together effectively and efficiently. In the absence of examples of U.S. military response in Bangladesh in the past 10 years, the following bi- and multilateral events describe the types of shared activities that bring U.S. and Bangladesh military personnel together.

Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE)

For many years, USARPAC, Bangladesh's MoDMR, and the AFD conducted a series of DREEs. In October 2019, the three co-hosts brought together some 650 participants from 20 countries, including the Oregon National Guard, government agencies, and NGOs to compare best practices for disaster response. The event, the largest ever in terms of scope and participation, culminated in an exercise simulating a large-scale earthquake response. Over the years, Bangladesh and the Oregon Guard used the DREE to inform many other smaller exchanges on specific training and capabilities.[355] Photo 5 shows 2019 DREE participants during a crisis communication drill.[356]



Photo 5: U.S. and Bangladesh Participate in Disaster Response Exercise

Pacific Angel

Pacific Angel is a multilateral program focused on humanitarian assistance and disaster response. It brings together air force personnel from the U.S. and partner nations to enhance cooperation in medical readiness, air safety, engineering support, and DM operations. This series enhances regional defense cooperation and humanitarian preparedness by simulating real-world crises.[357] The most recent iteration of the exercise to include Bangladesh kicked off in September 2025 in Chattogram, where participants spent a week working through scenarios that covered disaster response operations, mobile medical site establishment, and search-and-rescue training.[358]

Additional Resources

This appendix provides additional references, with links, to enable readers to find relevant and contextual information.

International and U.S. Government Sources
U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh https://bd.usembassy.gov/
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Bangladesh https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/bangladesh.html
United Nations in Bangladesh https://bangladesh.un.org/en *Covers leadership and links to UN entities active in the country.*
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework *Provides UN member states with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disasters.*
ReliefWeb UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs https://reliefweb.int/ *Collects and collates information from global disaster management practitioners; maintains dedicated resource pages for on-going and historic response operations.*

National Disaster Risk Reduction/Management
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief https://modmr.gov.bd/
Armed Forces Division https://afd.gov.bd/
Bangladesh Fire and Civil Defence https://fireservice.gov.bd/
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Bangladesh Red Crescent Society https://bdrcs.org/
Humanitarian Coordination Task Team https://response.reliefweb.int/bangladesh/humanitarian-coordination-task-team *Co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and MoDMR; ensures humanitarian action is coordinated across sectors or clusters.*

Regional Resources
Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations ("APC-MADRO Guidelines") The Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC-MADRO) & OCHA, 2014 https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/asia-pacific-regional-guidelines-use-foreign-military-assets-natural-disaster-response *Reference guide for states planning and executing foreign military support for regional disaster response.*
Multinational Force Standing Operating Procedures (MNF SOP) – Annex C: Humanitarian Assistance/ Disaster Relief Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT), U.S. Pacific Command https://www.pacom.mil/Portals/55/Documents/J7/MNF%20SOP%20Ver%203.4_14%20FEB%2025_vbf.pdf?ver=4LVTNxMJB8_1xpfxYdARrg%3d%3d (D1 C1/ PDF pg. 883) *Annex on international humanitarian assistance; part of broad standing procedures for regional multinational force operations other than war.*

U.S. DoW Training
Humanitarian Assistance Response Training – Disasters (HART-D) Course CFE-DM, U.S. Pacific Command https://www.cfe-dmha.org/hart-d *Target Audience: O3-O6, E6-E9, and DoW civilians who may plan for or execute a foreign disaster response mission or participate in disaster response activities in exercises or security cooperation engagements.*
USINDOPACOM Foreign Disaster Response in the Indo-Asia-Pacific April 1991 – January 2024 **CFE-DM, U.S. Pacific Command** https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/New-Releases *Contemporary historical synopsis of foreign disasters the U.S. DoW responded to in the Indo-Pacific.*

Acronyms and Abbreviations

°	Degree(s) – of temperature (C = Celsius; F = Fahrenheit) or latitude and longitude (N = North; S = South; E = East; W = West)
$	Dollar(s) – of the U.S.
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFD	Armed Forces Division
BDRCS	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
BERC	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission
BIWTA	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
BIWTC	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation
BLPA	Bangladesh Land Port Authority
BMD	Bangladesh Meteorological Department
BOT	build-operate-transfer
BPDB	Bangladesh Power Development Board
BTRC	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAAB	Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (of the U.S.)
CDRT	Chemical Disaster Response Team
COM	Chief of Mission
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services
DHN	Declaration of Humanitarian Need
DHR	Disaster and Humanitarian Response (of the U.S. State Department)
DM	disaster management
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DoW	Department of War (of the U.S., also Department of Defense [DoD])
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DREE	Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange
DRR	disaster risk reduction
EM-DAT	Emergency Events Database (of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters)
EOC	emergency operations center
ERCC	Emergency Response Control Centre
EW4All	Early Warnings for All
EWS	early warning system
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the UN)
FETP	Field Epidemiology Training Program

FFWC	Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre
FPOCG	Focal Point Operation Coordination Group of Disaster Management
FSCD	Fire Service and Civil Defence
FSRU	floating storage and regasification unit
ft / ft^2	foot (feet) / square feet
FY	fiscal year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HCTT	Humanitarian Coordination Task Team
HNAP	Health National Adaptation Plan
HSA	humanitarian staging area
icddr,b	International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh
IEDCR	Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMDMCC	Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Coordination Committee
in	inch(es)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IT	information technology
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
km / km^2	kilometer(s) / square kilometers
kph	kilometers per hour
LGD	Local Government Division
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LNG	liquid natural gas
m / m^2	meter(s) / square meters
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFRS	Medical First Responder Seminar
mi / mi^2	mile(s) / square miles
MLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
mm	millimeter(s)
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
mph	miles per hour
MW	Megawatt(s)
NCD	non communicable disease
NDMAC	National Disaster Management Advisory Committee
NDMC	National Disaster Management Council

NDRCG	National Disaster Response Coordination Group
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Centre
NGO	non-governmental organization
NPDM	National Plan for Disaster Management
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (of the UN)
ORS	oral rehydration solution
PAT	Pacific Augmentation Team (of the U.S. Embassy)
PFDS	Public Food Distribution System
PRC	People's Republic of China
RIMES	Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System
RNPP	Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (of UN OCHA)
RO-RO	roll-on-roll-off
RRRC	Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOD	Standing Orders on Disaster 2019
SPP	State Partnership Program
TEU	20-foot equivalent unit
TDP	Town Defence Party
U.S.	United States
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOSAT	United Nations Satellite Centre
UNRC / RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator / Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
USPACOM	United States Pacific Command
USAID	United States Agency for International Development (replaced by DHR)
USARPAC	United States Army Pacific
VDP	Village Defence Party
WASA	Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
WASH	water, sanitation, and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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