



FROM THE FRONT LINE
The Fight Against COVID-19 by The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

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Published by

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
(IFRC)

Published on **August 2023**
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Content and Design

Communications Team, IFRC Bangladesh Delegation
&
Punchforon

Cover Photo

Mir Hossen

Printed by**Photos**

BDRCS and IFRC

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The strength of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) lies in its extensive network of 68 branches and dedicated volunteers across the country. Particularly praiseworthy is the invaluable contribution made by the Red Crescent Youth members, volunteers and staff during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. I express my sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to all the youth members, volunteers, and staff of the Society for their unwavering dedication to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, including their relentless support throughout the vaccination programme.

Major General (Retd.) ATM Abdul Wahab

Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)



‘ Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is proud of the successful collaboration between the government of Bangladesh, IFRC and many other international and local partners in the fight against COVID-19. This collaboration enabled authorities to vaccinate the majority of its citizens equitably and efficiently while also strengthening its health system to protect against future epidemics.

Md. Nur-Ur-Rahman

Vice-Chairman
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
(BDRCS)



‘ Despite being Bangladesh's largest humanitarian organization, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) operates with limited financial resources. Nonetheless, as evidenced by our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing the highest quality humanitarian aid within our constraints while ensuring transparent and accountable services. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the government ministries, departments, IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Partners, and corporate entities that have helped us, both directly and indirectly, in our mission to provide essential humanitarian services during that difficult time.

Mohammad Abdus Salam

Treasurer
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
(BDRCS)



‘ Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) played a crucial role in the COVID-19 response in Bangladesh, providing vital support to the authorities and, thus, to the people in need. With the deployment of 15,000 volunteers, we actively contributed to vaccinating 54 million people and efficiently transporting 89 million COVID-19 vaccines across the nation. The dedication and tireless efforts of our team were instrumental in our collective response. Together, we worked hand in hand, overcoming challenges and contributing to a healthier future for all.

Kazi Shofiqul Azam

Secretary General
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
(BDRCS)



‘ To support the Bangladesh government's fight against COVID-19, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) have been actively involved in the timely procurement and delivery of vital supplies for a period exceeding two years. Their profound engagement has yielded invaluable lessons and insights, which serve as crucial touchstones for shaping effective strategies in facing future pandemics.

Sanjeev Kafley

Head of Delegation
IFRC Bangladesh Delegation



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A Father, A Daughter and the Future

“My worries during the last three years of the pandemic were for my daughter, Tasnim, as she is my life and her future is of utmost importance to me.”

-S M Farid Rana, Small Businessman, Khulna

Coming from humble beginnings and raising a daughter in these challenging times is no easy feat. Every dream I have revolves around her becoming a resilient and empowered woman. The prolonged closure of schools during the pandemic has always been a concern, as I worried whether she would have the opportunity to receive the education essential for her future prospects.

My worries for her never cease. Even in the moment when I discovered I had contracted COVID-19, I couldn't help but think about the potential mistake of sharing my plate with her that very morning. Thankfully, by the grace of the almighty, she remained unharmed, while my wife and I battled the virus for over three weeks.

Now, Tasnim is attending her new school, cherishing each day spent with her friends as she learns new and exciting things. Witnessing her enthusiasm for education brings me a sense of relief and joy, knowing that she is on a path towards a brighter future.





VACCINATION SUPPORT





Leadership for Positive Change

"We have identified additional marginalized groups, such as the Horizons and sweepers, who were unaware of the vaccination process and encountered difficulties in getting registered."

-Hossain Mohammad Prodip, Red Crescent Volunteer, Kishoreganj

We encountered challenges in convincing some members of the Bede community to get vaccinated due to fear and lack of trust. To address this, we identified trusted individuals within the community, such as Deepali and her husband Sardar, and worked closely with them to build trust and raise awareness about the importance of vaccination. They went door-to-door, urging everyone to get vaccinated and even took the vaccine themselves to demonstrate its safety and effectiveness.

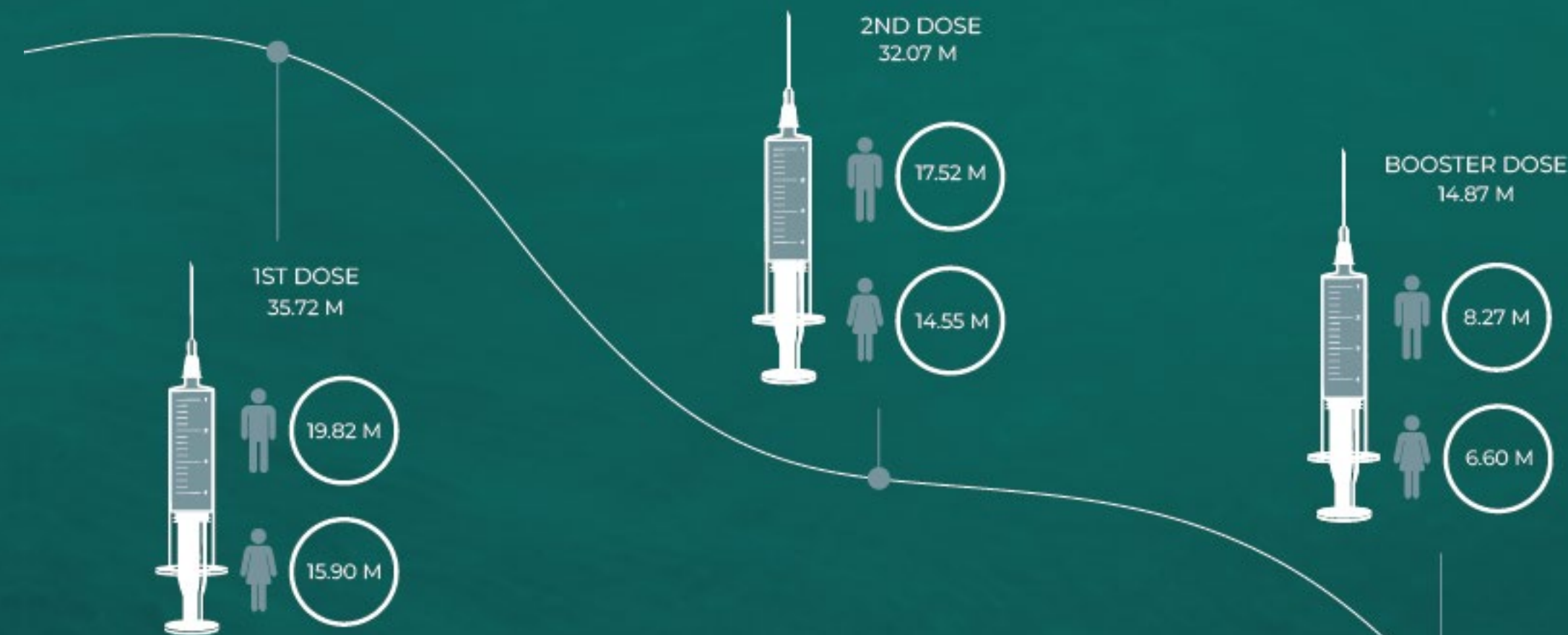
Their leadership and dedication proved influential, helping many others in the community overcome their fears and receive the vaccine. As a result, a significant number of Bede community members are now vaccinated and protected from illnesses. This achievement is a source of great pride for us, as we were able to make a positive difference in the lives of these vulnerable individuals. By addressing their specific concerns and collaborating with trusted community members, we successfully navigated the challenges of fear and mistrust, promoting the health and well-being of those who were initially hesitant.



NUMBER OF VACCINE INOCULATION SUPPORTED

REGULAR VACCINE

82.666 M DOSES



*M = Million

SCHOOL VACCINE

31 MILLION DOSES



16.60 M



8.17 M



8.43 M



14.68 M



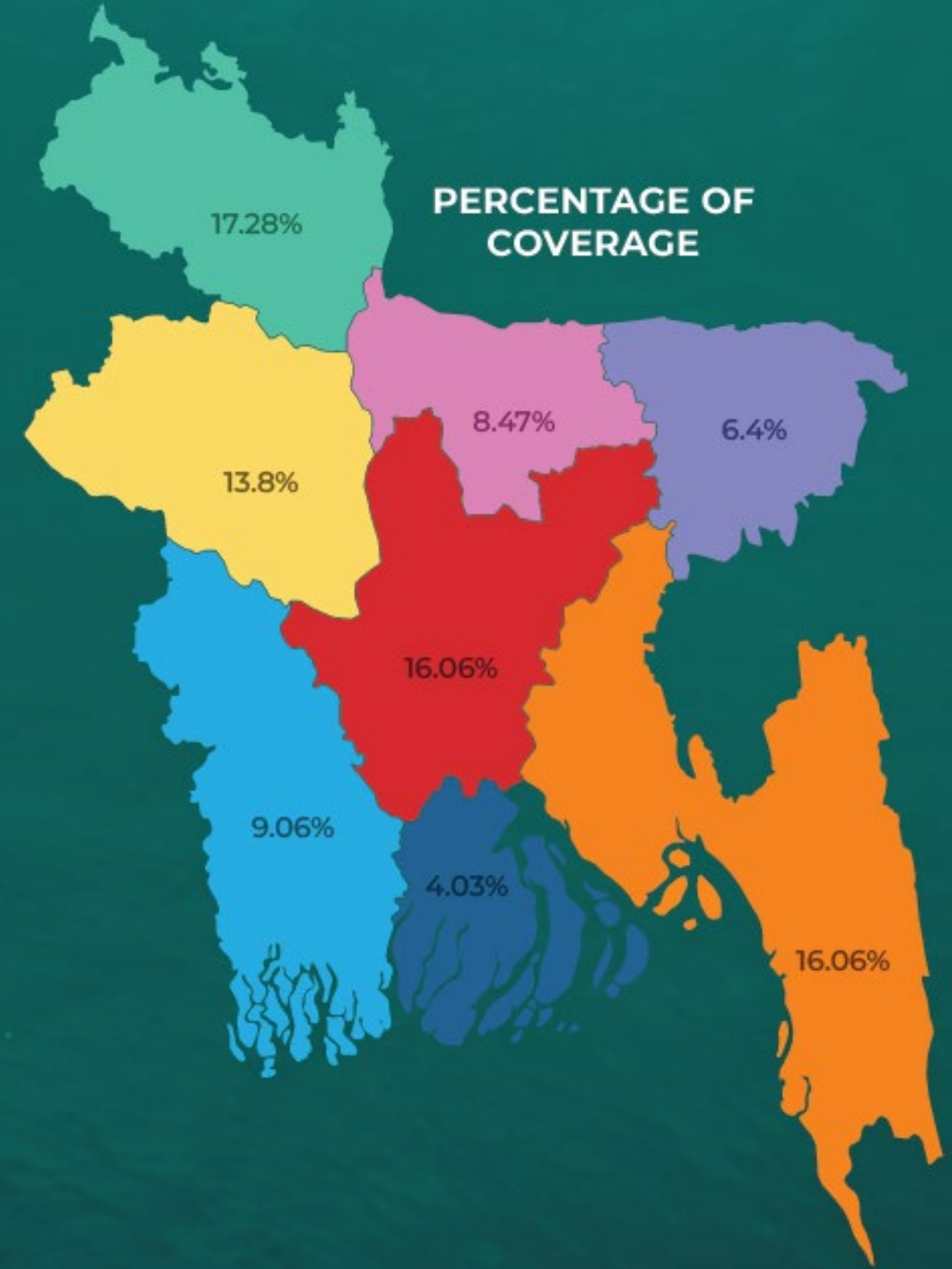
7.07 M



7.31 M



*M = Million



TOTAL NUMBER OF VACCINE DOSAGE

- 4,681,845 DHAKA
- 4,022,484 RAJSHAHI
- 5,037,681 RANGPUR
- 2,639,753 KHULNA
- 2,468,649 MYMENSINGH
- 1,867,106 SYLHET
- 1,174,238 BARISAL
- 4,681,845 CHATTOGRAM

CHILD VACCINE COVERAGE

2.6 M

DOSES

BAGERHAT
DISTRICT

1ST DOSE: 85%
2ND DOSE: 73%

TARGET POPULATION: 190,952

NARAIL
DISTRICT

1ST DOSE: 74%
2ND DOSE: 49%

TARGET POPULATION: 114,796

SATKHIRA
DISTRICT

1ST DOSE: 81%
2ND DOSE: 47%

TARGET POPULATION: 264,025

JASHORE
DISTRICT

1ST DOSE: 89%
2ND DOSE: 67%

TARGET POPULATION: 364,918

KHULNA
CITY CORPORATION

1ST DOSE: 85%
2ND DOSE: 83%

TARGET POPULATION: 75,349

BARISAL
CITY CORPORATION

1ST DOSE: 39%
2ND DOSE: 37%

TARGET POPULATION: 49,785

CHATTOGRAM
CITY CORPORATION

1ST DOSE: 97%
2ND DOSE: 89%

TARGET POPULATION: 400,000

DHAKA SOUTH
CITY CORPORATION

1ST DOSE: 85%
2ND DOSE: 29%

TARGET POPULATION: 211,563

DHAKA NORTH
CITY CORPORATION

1ST DOSE: 47%
2ND DOSE: 14%

TARGET POPULATION: 462,244

RANGPUR
CITY CORPORATION

1ST DOSE: 77%
2ND DOSE: 81%

TARGET POPULATION: 92,314

SYLHET
CITY CORPORATION

1ST DOSE: 80%
2ND DOSE: 77%

TARGET POPULATION: 94,680

*M = Million



Ability to help hundreds with disability

"My commitment to helping others remains unwavering, and I am determined to continue serving people throughout my entire life."

-Md. Ahsan Habib, Red Crescent Volunteer, Rangpur

I have a small disability—my two legs are twisted, which affects my ability to walk properly. However, I refuse to let this be a hindrance and instead channel my energy into humanitarian work within my community. Since 2017, I have proudly served as a volunteer for the Red Crescent.

Throughout the COVID - 19 pandemic, I took on the role of a hotline agent in the Covid healthline for the Red Crescent Society's Rangpur Unit. Simultaneously, I efficiently managed office tasks for the Red Crescent Society. I firmly believe that my disability does not define me or limit my potential to serve others through humanitarian efforts. It is a mere drawback that I have learned to overcome.

Currently, Ahsan is preparing for the BCS exam, while also striving to establish his own business platform. His determination and resilience are an inspiration to others, showcasing that one's limitations need not hinder their ability to contribute positively to society.



Leading the charge to ensure vaccination

“With six years of volunteering experience under my belt, I bring passion and commitment to my work, and always try to set an example for others”

-Ayesha Khatun, Red Crescent Volunteer, Cox’s Bazar

Together with our team of dedicated volunteers, we tirelessly strive to educate our community members about the critical importance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in curbing the spread of the disease. We embark on a door-to-door approach, distributing informative flyers and addressing any doubts or concerns individuals may have regarding the vaccine.

Being a part of the esteemed Red Crescent team fills me with pride, as I know our collective efforts make a tangible and positive impact within our community. Our work carries significant weight, and witnessing the relief and hope we bring to those affected by this pandemic brings me immeasurable satisfaction.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of my community through the Red Crescent, and I remain steadfast in my commitment to fostering resilience and combatting any challenge that comes to affect the life and livelihood of vulnerable people.





HEALTH & WASH

8,700+



DOCTORS & VACCINATORS REMUNERATED

981,200



PEOPLE RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

164,516



PATIENTS RECEIVED TREATMENT

886,146



LITRES OF DRINKING WATER PROVIDED

1



MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH (MCH) CENTRE BUILT

12,088,449



PIECES OF PPE PROVIDED

22,101



FACILITIES DISINFECTED

278,152



HYGIENE KITS PARCEL PROVIDED



When you need swift kindness

"I am eternally grateful for their support during my recovery, and I am humbled by the invaluable difference they are making in the lives of individuals like myself."

-Abdul Awal, Service Holder, Satkhira

I found myself falling victim to the COVID-19 virus in a neighboring village, Satkhira. As the illness took hold, I grew increasingly sick and worried about my condition. Fortunately, in my time of distress, the compassionate and dedicated volunteers of the Bangladesh Red Crescent were there to offer their unwavering support.

Upon reaching out to them, their response was swift and decisive. Their ambulance service arrived promptly, ensuring that I received immediate medical attention. Their efficiency and professionalism during this critical moment were truly impressive, providing me with a sense of relief and reassurance.

Throughout my hospitalization, the Red Crescent volunteers continued to be a source of comfort and care. Their kind-heartedness and empathy made the daunting experience more bearable. After three days of treatment, I was discharged from the hospital, and to my surprise, the volunteers went above and beyond by personally accompanying me back home. Their attentiveness to my well-being and their willingness to go the extra mile left an indelible mark on my heart.



22,101 FACILITIES
DISINFECTED

213 HOSPITALS

21,838 HANDWASHING POINTS



886,146 LITERS

DRINKING WATER DISTRIBUTED

218 PIECES OF WATER PURIFICATION
KITS AND DISINFECTANT SPRAYING
MATERIALS

278,152 PIECES OF HYGIENE PARCELS



HEALTH SERVICE



2758 PATIENTS (May, 2020 - April, 2022) RECEIVED COVID-19 TREATMENT IN HOLY FAMILY RED CRESCENT MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL



12,332 PATIENTS RECEIVED TREATMENT AS OUTPATIENT AND INPATIENT AT THE INFECTION, ISOLATION & TREATMENT CENTRES (IITC)



151,452 PATIENTS RECEIVED HEALTH SERVICES AT BDRCS' MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH (MCH) CENTRES



HEALTH SUPPORT



360,000 INDIVIDUALS WERE ASSISTED BY BDRCS VOLUNTEERS IN THE OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT (OPD) AT DHAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIB MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



621,200 TRAVELLERS AT DHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WERE ASSISTED BY BDRCS VOLUNTEERS WITH COVID-19 RT-PCR TEST REPORT VERIFICATION



2,600+ DOCTORS AND **6,100+** VACCINATORS FROM DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND NURSING INSTITUTES RECEIVED REMUNERATION SUPPORT



1,180,057 PIECES OF PPE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, DEALING COVID-19 CASES IN HOSPITALS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TO THE STREET VENDORS

DURING OCTOBER 2022, AN IMPACTFUL MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH a2i (INNOVATION AGENCY UNDER THE ICT DIVISION OF THE GOB), WAS INITIATED, LEVERAGING THE REACH OF SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS. THIS CAMPAIGN FEATURED 19 PROMINENT CELEBRITIES WHO BRAVELY SHARED THEIR PERSONAL JOURNEYS OF MENTAL STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS WITH THEIR FOLLOWERS.

ADDITIONALLY, THE CAMPAIGN INCORPORATED THREE COMPELLING ANIMATION VIDEOS THAT AIMED TO PROMOTE MENTAL WELL-BEING. THESE ENGAGING CONTENTS WERE EFFECTIVELY DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE POPULAR FACEBOOK PAGES MANAGED BY a2i AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH.

AS A RESULT OF THIS CONCERTED EFFORT, THE CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFULLY REACHED ITS INTENDED AUDIENCE MORE THAN 160 MILLION TIMES, MAKING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH.



ROUND TABLE ON MENTAL HEALTH

IN COLLABORATION WITH a2i, A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WAS ORGANIZED TITLED 'POSITIVE PATHWAYS OF MENTAL HEALTH TOWARDS SMART BANGLADESH 2041' ON 11TH OCTOBER 2022.

28 PROMINENT MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, PRACTITIONERS, ACADEMICS AND POLICY MAKERS ATTENDED THE SESSION SHARING THEIR OPINIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE STATE MINISTER OF THE ICT DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH ATTENDED THE SESSION AS CHIEF GUEST. THE FINDINGS FROM THE SESSION WERE PUBLISHED ON DHAKA TRIBUNE.



MENTAL HEALTH SELF-HELP COURSE

IN COLLABORATION WITH a2i AND ITS E-LEARNING PLATFORM MUKTOPAATH, AN ONLINE BASIC COURSE ON MENTAL HEALTH WAS LAUNCHED ON 11TH OCTOBER 2022. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSE WAS TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW ON DIFFERENT MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND WHAT TO DO IN EACH CASES

13,981
PEOPLE ENROLLED AND COMPLETED THE COURSE UNTIL 31 JANUARY 2023

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

1,965 PEOPLE RECEIVED PSYCHOSOCIAL FIRST AID (PFA) THROUGH PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (PSS) CALL CENTRE

59,662 PEOPLE WERE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RECEIVED PSS

60 VOLUNTEERS TRAINED FOR PSS

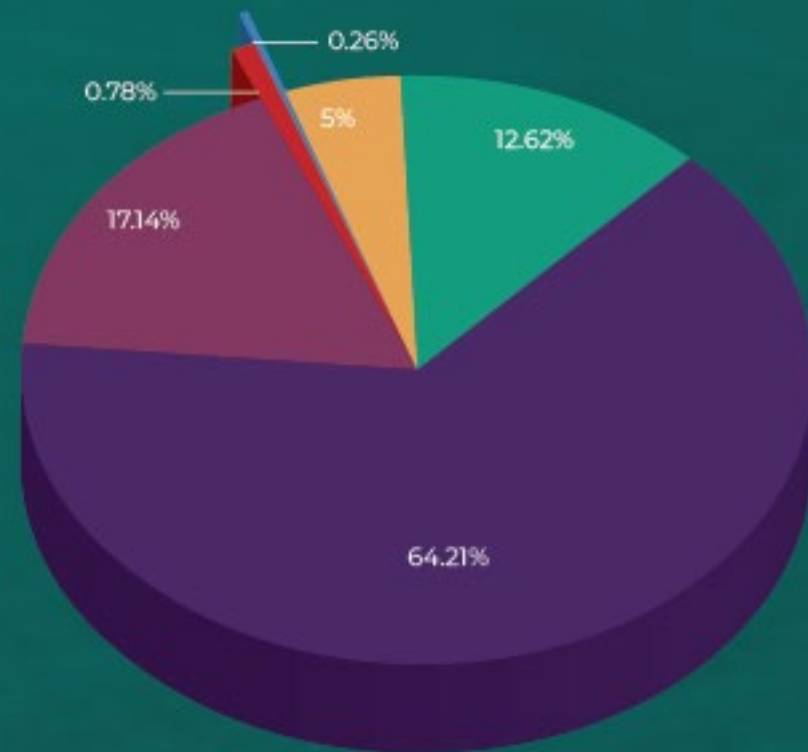




2,344

COVID-19 PATIENTS
RECEIVED AMBULANCE
SUPPORT SERVICES
IN 21 DISTRICTS

PERCENTAGE OF AMBULANCE
COVERAGE (DIVISION-WISE)



- BARISAL
- DHAKA
- CHATTOGRAM
- RAJSHAHI
- RANGPUR
- KHULNA



4,924

PEOPLE RECEIVED OXYGEN SUPPORT



400

OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR



1,714

OXYGEN CYLINDERS PROVIDED



1,389

OXYGEN CYLINDERS REFILLED



39,652,580
PEOPLE REACHED WITH COVID - 19 MESSAGES (ALONG WITH DIARRHEA & DENGUE) THROUGH MIKING

15,286,206
PEOPLE RECEIVED AWARENESS MESSAGES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

2,055,142
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE THROUGH IEC MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

701,331
PEOPLE REACHED WITH HYGIENE PROMOTION AND PGI MESSAGES

66,349 PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES PARTICIPATED IN COVID-19 AWARENESS SESSIONS

59,799 PEOPLE IN THE PRISON COMMUNITY REACHED WITH IPC MATERIALS THROUGH **913** RCY VOLUNTEERS

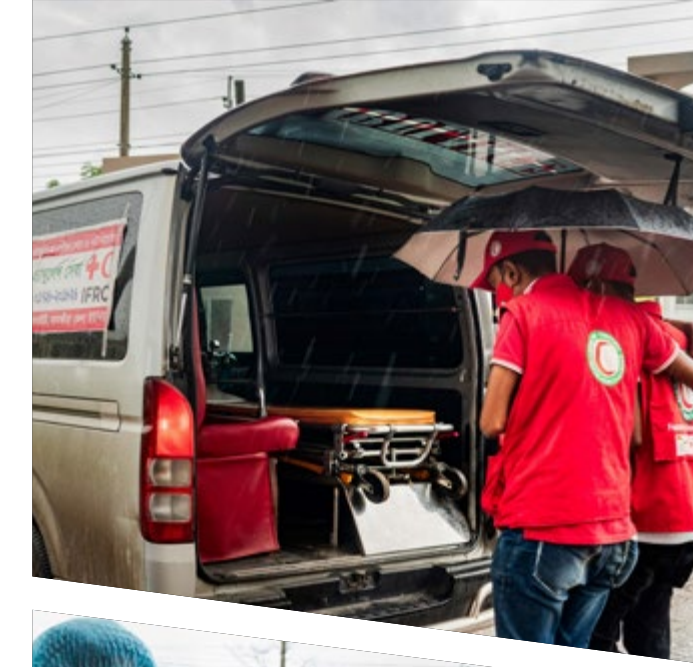
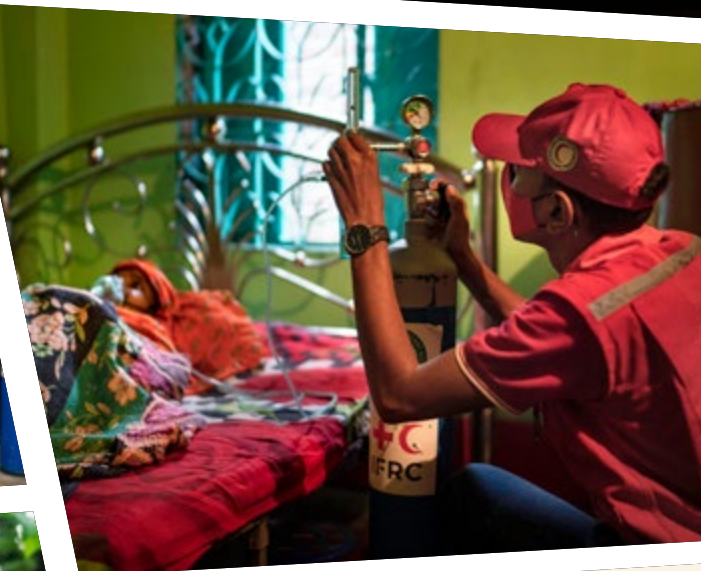
44,490 IPC MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

6,520 T-SHIRTS AND **464** MEGAPHONES DISTRIBUTED AMONG RED CRESCENT VOLUNTEERS

970 CASES OF COMPLAINT RECEIVED AND FEEDBACK PROVIDED UNDER THE CEA INITIATIVE

313 RELIGIOUS LEADERS PARTICIPATED IN AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Bangladesh Red Crescent volunteers are replacing the empty cylinder with a new one at the home of a COVID - 19 patient, Subbir Hossain (71). This elderly person was treated for his COVID-19 symptoms at Govt. hospital, but continuously needed with oxygen support at his home after release, provided by the BDRCS.



BDRCS volunteers are helping Majeda Khatun (65), who has been treated as suspected COVID-19 patient for more than 7 days. Bangladesh Red Crescent provided ambulance carried her to her home after getting released from Satkhira Medical College Hospital. She was also provided with Oxygen cylinder support for her post-recovery phase at home.

Communication is Aid

The BDRCS volunteers have played a pivotal role in sharing accurate information about COVID-19, combating rumors, and dispelling misinformation. They have conducted extensive door-to-door activities, focusing on preventing virus transmission and promoting good practices. Furthermore, staff members and community volunteers have actively participated in health and hygiene promotion, ensuring consistent messaging and distributing hygiene materials effectively.

Recognizing the significance of preparedness, the BDRCS has trained over 1,700 cyclone preparedness volunteers in handwashing and hygiene promotion. These volunteers have been actively engaged in both COVID-19 response and cyclone preparedness, emphasizing the multifaceted approach taken by the BDRCS to address public health challenges.

Through these collaborative efforts, the BDRCS and its dedicated volunteers and staff continue to make a substantial impact by promoting essential hygiene practices, delivering vital information, and safeguarding the well-being and safety of the affected communities in Cox's Bazar.





DIRECT ASSISTANCE

FOOD ITEM



1,314,146 PEOPLE

TRAINING



38,247 PEOPLE

NON FOOD ITEM



12,088,449 PIECES

CASH GRANT



388,670 PEOPLE

As a mother of four children, navigating through the challenges imposed by the ongoing pandemic has been an arduous journey for my family. The loss of my husband's job during the prolonged lockdown further exacerbated our already strained financial situation. However, our hardships reached a breaking point when a devastating storm ravaged our area, leaving our house severely damaged and us virtually homeless.



In the depths of despair, a glimmer of hope emerged when the Bangladesh Red Crescent supported us with a shelter repair kit, a vital tarpaulin for temporary shelter, essential hygiene materials, and much-needed food supplies. It revitalized our spirits and granted us a newfound sense of stability during this tumultuous period. Without their intervention, we would have faced immense challenge to rebuild our lives without any means or direction.

-Nargis Khatun, Housewife, Satkhira

Glimmer of Hope



1,314,146
PEOPLE

FEBRUARY 2020 - DECEMBER 2021



COOKED FOOD

100,000 PACKETS DISTRIBUTED BY RED-CRESCENT VOLUNTEERS

448,000+ PACKETS AMONG THE FLOATING/HOMELESS PEOPLE

ON EID DAY, 3,000 PACKETS DISTRIBUTED TO HOSPITALS AND GOVT SERVICE PROVIDERS IN DHAKA

DURING RAMADAN, 95,000 PACKETS DISTRIBUTED



FOOD PARCEL

313,000 HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED PARCELS CONTAINING ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS (RICE, PULSE, SUGAR, SALS, OIL AND SEMOLINA)

17.7+ MILLION BOTTLES OF DRINKING WATER (500ml) DISTRIBUTED AMONG SELECTED COVID-19 DEDICATED HOSPITALS, TEST AND RESPONSE CENTERS AND POLICE STATIONS AT SEVERAL DISTRICTS

NON FOOD ITEMS

12,088,449 PIECES

MARCH 2020 - JUNE 2021



APRON



MOP CAP



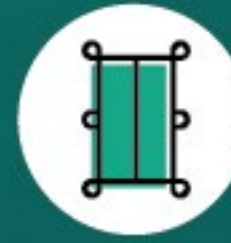
HAND SANITISER



MASK



PROTECTIVE COVER



DEAD BODY BAG



GLOVES



SURGICAL PROTECTION



ELDERLY KIT



FEMALE HYGIENE KIT

PROVIDED MULTIPURPOSE CASH GRANT (MPCG) SUPPORT TO **69,934** HOUSEHOLDS (HHs)

MPCG SUPPORT PROVIDED TO **1,800** HHs IN DHAKA SOUTH CITY CORPORATION (DSCC) THROUGH MOBILE MONEY TRANSFER PROGRAMME.

MPCG SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED TO **6,000** HHs THROUGH CASH IN ENVELOPE IN CHATTOGRAM HILL TRACK AREAS



388,670 PEOPLE

FEBRUARY 2020 - DECEMBER 2021



39,385 PEOPLE

15,494 STAFF & VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED TRAINING ON COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

22,753 PEOPLE RECEIVED TRAINING ON HAND WASHING

1,078 PEOPLE RECEIVED TRAINING ON INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

60 VOLUNTEERS TRAINED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Delivering essentials during tough time



Stringent disinfection measures were implemented for the BDRCS staff at Cox's Bazar, including temperature checks before entering the office. Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, gloves, sanitizers, and gowns were provided to all staff members at the facilities. Additionally, masks and hand sanitizers were given to every staff member for their personal safety when working outside.

To support those in need, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society built new isolation facilities in the camps. The existing Red Cross and Red Crescent health facilities, totaling 12 in number, were prepared to effectively respond to COVID-19 cases. The construction of 80 isolation and treatment facilities, for both displaced people and the host community in Cox's Bazar, progressed rapidly with the collaboration of BDRCS, IFRC, and partners.

Over 1,500 families from the host community in Cox's Bazar received LPG gas cylinders and stoves. This enabled them to cook food using in-house fuel, eliminating the need to collect wood or stove fuels from outside. Additionally, food items and hygiene kits were distributed among the host community to support them in staying at home and maintaining a safe environment.



Small gesture shows the glimpse of hope

"To me, the best thing after a long day of work is to enjoy a family dinner with a smile on everyone's face."

-Shimul Dutta, Small Businessman, Kishoreganj

Starting a business can be challenging even in the best of times, but the pandemic has made the process even more difficult. As a father of five, I was devastated by the pandemic and worried that my family would not have enough to eat. I searched for ways to overcome the hardships caused by the pandemic and discovered the cash grant program run by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). With the financial assistance provided by the BDRCS, I was able to set up a food stand in the local market of Kishoreganj where I sell fresh and delicious betel leaves that customers love. They appreciate the freshness and size of my betel leaves, as well as the ability to choose their own spices to add different flavors. I work hard all day and earn enough to support my family and children. I am grateful to the BDRCS for their support during this difficult time.

BDRCS's MPCG program has brought happiness to many more like Shimul Dutta. BDRCS local volunteers make regular visits to the families and households that benefited from the cash grant.





POPULATION MOVEMENT OPERATION (PMO)

CEA INFO/FEEDBACK



38,662 PEOPLE

COVID - 19 OUT & IN PATIENT SUPPORT



12,332 PEOPLE

TOTAL REACHED



352,326 PEOPLE

HYGIENE PROMOTION



626,265 PEOPLE

PGI KEY MESSAGE DISSEMINATION



75,066 PEOPLE

Living in fear

"Having a life overshadowed by fear has become a constant for us, but for the first time, I feared for myself about who would be there to care for me if I were to contract the virus."

-Mahfuza, Rohingya Refugee, Cox's Bazar

Five years ago, tragedy struck when my husband died in Myanmar. Alone and with two young children to care for, I had no help from relatives or anyone I knew. To provide for my family, I became a housemaid, working in different households. In 2017, we fled to Cox's Bazar with other villagers to escape danger. For over two and a half years, we've survived in the camps, relying on aid organizations for support.

As the COVID-19 cases started spreading, I became anxious, but a Red Crescent staff member informed me about the virus and taught me proper handwashing technique. Regardless, my worries grew as I realized going outside was unsafe, and I feared for our food and water. Life in the camps had been tough, but the threat of the virus made it even more challenging.



Preparing for a double whammy



To prepare for the imminent threat of cyclone Amphan, the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) and dedicated volunteers from Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) raised the third red flag in the camps, despite the added challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The refugees and host communities were informed of the upcoming cyclone and were advised to take necessary precautions.

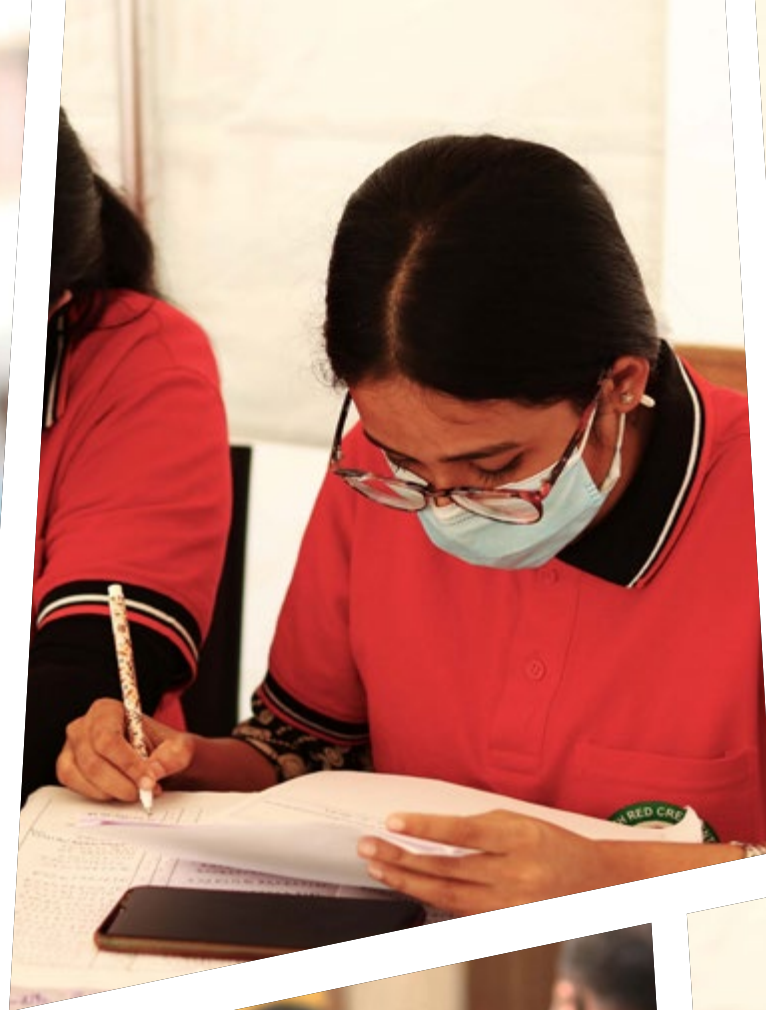
To ensure the safety of responders and individuals seeking shelter, all the essential personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, gloves, sanitizers, and gowns, were distributed at the cyclone shelters. These measures were put in place to minimize the potential spread of the virus within the sheltered communities.

After the cyclone had passed, assessment teams from the BDRCS meticulously surveyed the affected areas to determine the extent of damages and the urgent needs of the affected communities. Significant support, such as cash and home repair kits, were provided to facilitate the reconstruction of damaged shelters and to help communities recover from the various losses inflicted by the cyclone.



RED CRESCENT VOLUNTEERS





Finding meaning of life

“Not everyone has the chance to engage in such meaningful work, and I am immensely glad that I could make a significant contribution to my community.”

-Aparajita Sutradhar, Red Crescent Volunteer, Dhaka

When the vaccination campaign commenced in Bangladesh, I promptly registered as a volunteer for the Red Crescent. As a medical student, the burning desire to assist others had long been brewing within me, and I felt incredibly fortunate to finally put it into action. Alongside my team, we tirelessly worked at a health center in Mohakhali, Dhaka, administering vaccines to approximately 1,000 individuals each day. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have volunteered with the Red Crescent during this vital vaccination campaign.

Despite encountering challenges, including impatience from those unwilling to wait in line, the work proved to be profoundly fulfilling. Though demanding, the expressions of gratitude and blessings we received from those we served made every moment worthwhile. The mental solace derived from making a genuine difference in people's lives was immeasurable.

A lifelong commitment



“One of the most precious gifts you can offer to someone is your time, as it entails giving a portion of your life that can never be reclaimed.”

-Md. Helal Mahmud, CPP & Red Crescent Volunteer, Khulna

As a member of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) since 2010 and later as the Unit Team Leader in Shyamnagar CPP unit, I couldn't ignore the call to action when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Volunteering at a relief center, we distributed essential supplies and adhered to strict safety protocols. Despite the challenges, the gratitude of those in need made it a fulfilling experience. As the pandemic continued, our operations expanded, and I personally delivered supplies to individuals unable to reach the Union Parishad. I even served as a team leader for the burial team during COVID-19. Being a Red Crescent volunteer during this crisis was profoundly rewarding, making a tangible impact on struggling individuals' lives. It reminded me that small acts of kindness can make a significant difference. Today, I continue volunteering with the Red Crescent, fueled by the belief in the transformative power of compassion and service.

This book is dedicated to

All staff and volunteers of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the IFRC Bangladesh team who supported in the COVID - 19 response in Bangladesh.

Thanks to all our donors and partners.

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