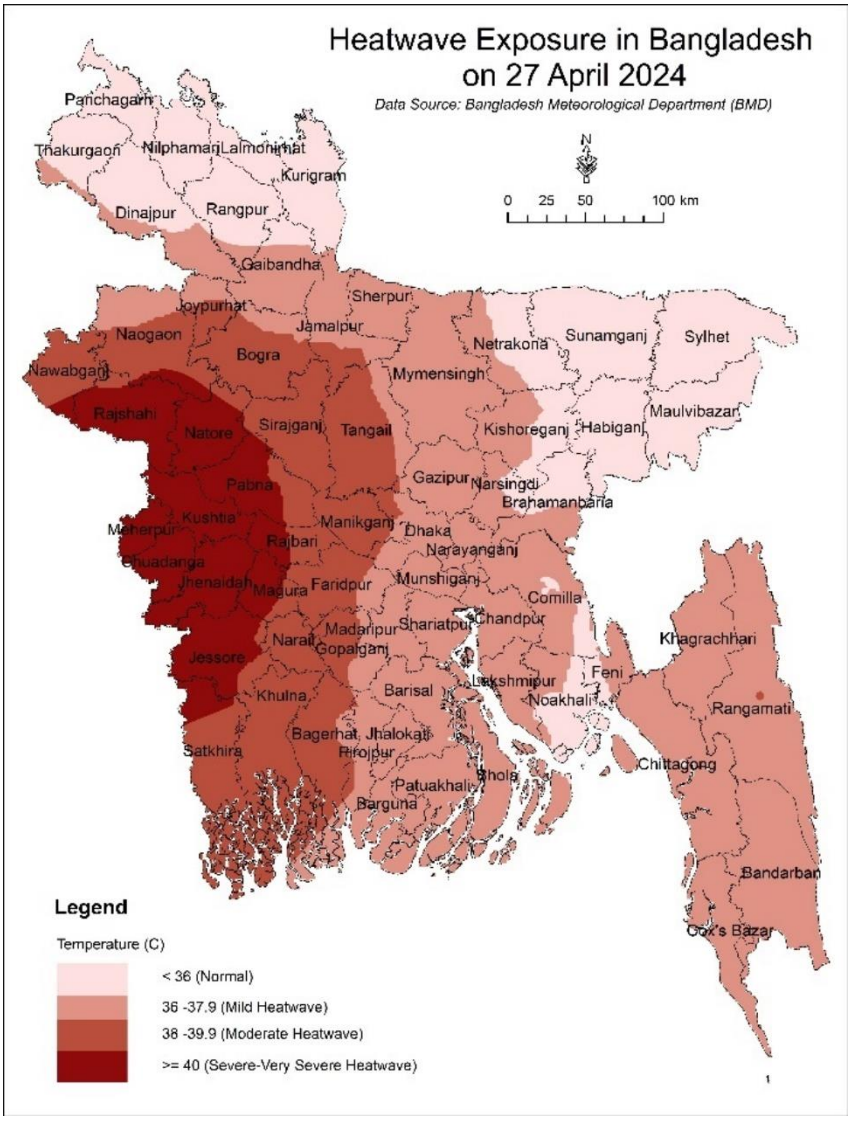
BANGLADESH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (BDRCS)
Nationwide Heatwave Early Actions/Response
Operations Update-01; 27 April , 2024

Overall Situation:

In Bangladesh, according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) dated on 27 April 2024 severe to very severe heatwave (>=40°C) has been observed in the districts of Rajshahi, Pabna, Chuadanga, Natore, Chapai Nawabganj, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Jashore, Meherpur and Bogura. Moderate heat wave (>38-39.9°C) is sweeping over the districts of Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Barishal, Patuakhali, Jhalokathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur ,Thakurgaon, Joypurhat, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Faridpur, Madaripur, Magura, Manikganj, Rajbari, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Naogaon, Gaibandha and it may spread. Also, a mild heatwave (>36-37.9°C) is sweeping over the districts of Shariatpur, Narail, Narayanganj, Rangamati, Narsingdi, Noakhali, Netrokona, Munshiganj, Comilla, Maulvi Bazar, Kishoreganj, Lakshmipur, Khagrachhari, Brahamanbaria, Chandpur, Chittaganj, Bandarban, Sunamganj, Cox's Bazar, Habiganj and Feni.



The fluctuation of day and night temperature is visible, and the discomfort may increase due to of moisture incursion. As the heatwave is sweeping over the country, the government of Bangladesh declared closing of schools and colleges from 21 April to 27 April 2024 and people are avoiding unnecessary movement in the outside. Amid of heat alert, the hawkers are running business along the roadside while their earnings are impacted by less number of customers on the road. The severe heatwave has disrupted agriculture, and heightened the risk of heat stroke and other health complications.

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Severity Analysis and Ranking of Affected District:

Severity is analysed based on min, max, mean, median value of land surface temperature (LST), NDVI, population density, housing structure with roof type, total slum area, hospital floor area of each hana of Dhaka city. Then the normalized value is calculated to identify social and physical vulnerability. All the information is compared with BMD's forecasted temperature. Finally, the ranking is generated for each thana[1]. Thus, the high impacted areas according to the rank value are considered as most vulnerable and selected for intervention through activating the Heatwave early actions by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The similar analysis is applied for other districts too to get high affected areas. According to the BMD currently 10 districts are facing severe to very severe heatwave, 32 districts are experiencing moderate heatwave while 21 are mild.

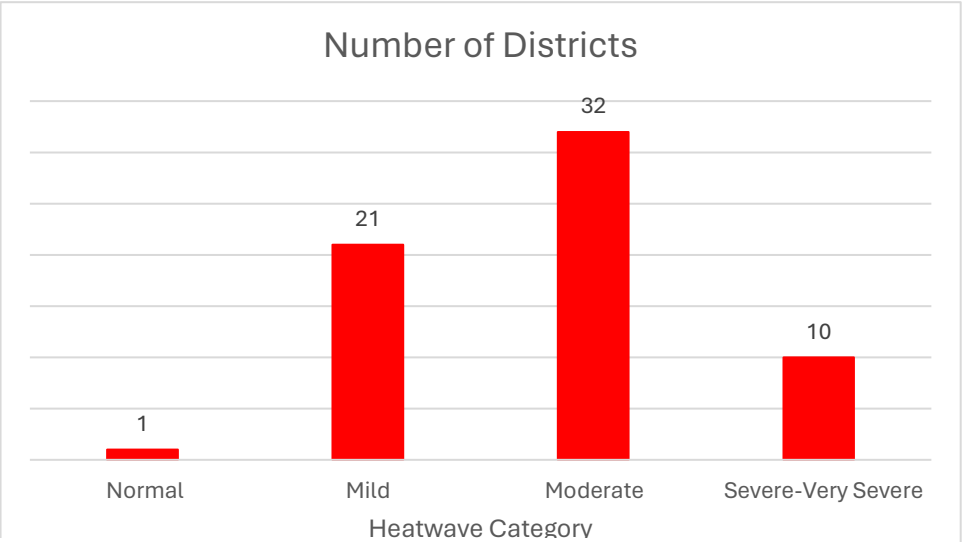
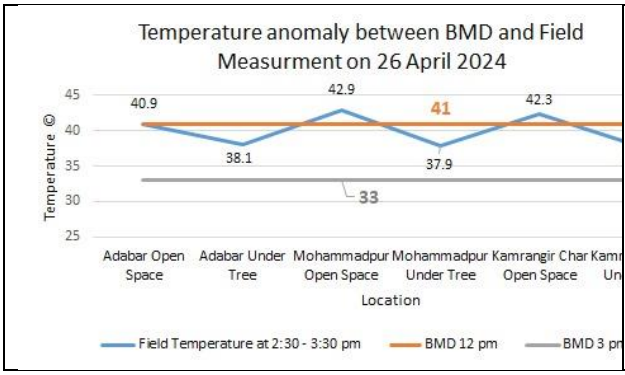
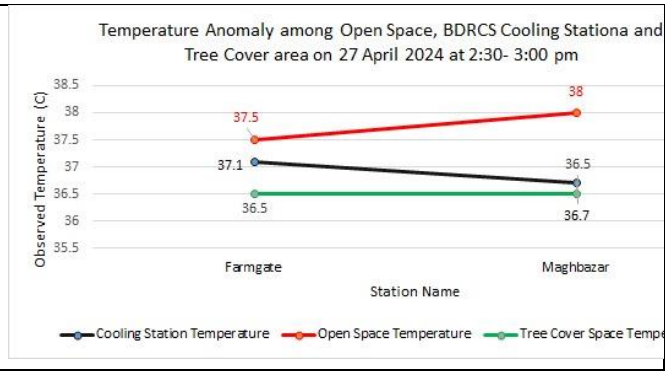


Figure 1Heatwave Category in Bangladesh on 26 April 2024





Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Actions in Dhaka City through Heatwave EAP:

1. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has been closely monitoring the heatwave forecast since the beginning of April and considering the heatwave forecast and its possible impacts on people, BDRCS activated its Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Heatwave in Dhaka on 21 April 2024. This initiated a series of anticipatory actions to support people at risk before the worst impacts of the heatwave is felt. Heatwave EAP is supported by financing from the Anticipatory Pillar of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF), with a budget of around CHF[2] 249,000 to support early actions. By activating this EAP BDRCS started to implement the activities such as raising awareness through loudspeakers/public service announcement (PSA), distributing leaflets with lifesaving messages, providing safe drinking water bottles, and offering multipurpose cash assistance to vulnerable residents in highly affected areas since 22 April 2024. BDRCS, following a quick orientation, has mobilized more than 250 volunteers in Dhaka and set up three cooling stations (with paramedics). In addition to BDRCS also providing heatwave related first-aid support and ambulance service to the affected persons. BDRCS also considering the ongoing heatwave situation across the country, with the support of its local branches already has started disseminating live saving awareness

[1] Thana refers to police stations. Generally, there is one police station for each upazila (sub-district) in Bangladesh. However, larger administrative units may have more than one police station covering different regions.
[2] CHF: Swiss Francs. CHF 1 = BDT 119 (Approx)

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messages on heatwave through distributing leaflet and loudspeaker miking. At the same time BDRCS local branches have been providing drinking water to people who are coming out on the street despite of the scorching heat. BDRCS contributing to develop the National Guideline on Heat-Related Illness in coordination with Directorate General of Health Services under the ministry of Health and Family Welfare, UN, Dhaka North City Corporation and other development partners. BDRCS is expected to reach 300, 000 peoples by implementing the following activities under the heatwave Early Action Protocol (EAP).



Figure 2: BDRCS's volunteers is conducting household level assessment in the slum areas for distributing MPCG, Photo- BDRCS

01. 250,000 persons will be reached through early warning messages and awareness generation in all wards[3].
02. 62,000 people to be reached through safe drinking water
03. 4,500 people to be reached through oral saline, respectively.
04. 3,500 people to be reached through umbrella and cap (for rickshaw/van pullers, street hawkers, others), respectively.
05. 20,0000 people (4,000 households) will be reached by Multi-purpose Cash Grant (MPCG). Each household will receive BDT 5000. At the same time, BDRCS has also a plan to top-up 10 per cent households with BDT 2,500/each family with Persons with Disability (PwD).
06. 1,000 persons to be reached through cooling stations with paramedic support.
07. Ambulance and heatwave related first-aid support to the affected people.
08. BDRCS already mobilized more than 250 volunteers in Dhaka city for ensuring smooth implementation of planned activities under heatwave EAP.
09. BDRCS also distributing the lifesaving key messages through the different channels.

As of 27 April 2024, three Cooling Stations have been established and at risk peoples are getting service from the cooling Stations, Data collection and verification for MPCG is done and 1,290 households received MPCG, PSA along with leaflet distribution is done in 64 wards in Dhaka City. RCYs are reaching vulnerable population by providing safe drinking water, cap, leaflet and umbrella.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Actions Across the Country:

In other districts, BDRCS has already started its various activities by distributing drinking water and disseminating awareness messages through PSA/loudspeaker miking and leaflet distribution to reduce the sufferings of the pedestrians. The Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers of BDRCS are actively engaged in these activities. Banners, festoon with awareness raising messages are also being displayed in public places. Besides, drinking water has been distributed to the rickshaw/van pullers, and pedestrians along with umbrella and caps.

As of now all the activities are being implemented through locally mobilized resources at the branch level. Also, few of the branch are jointly implementing the awareness raising activities jointly with respective Zila Parishad.

BDRCS, based on the weather forecast by BMD and analysis of the possible impact of the ongoing heatwave, has targeted around 35-40 districts for nationwide response by reaching approximately 30,000 people per district. BDRCS has prepared a one plan which needs BDT 65.67 Million approximately USD 597,000.00 to implemten the heatwave response activities in 35 to 40 districts. . Key actions are included the plan :

1. dissemination of life saving awareness messages on heatwave
2. distribution of safe drinking water,
3. distribution of electrolyte drink
4. distribution of cap and umbrella for personal shading
5. set up temporary cooling stations
6. provide first aid and Phycho Social Support services and ambulance services for referral.

IFRC, PNSs and Other Partners:

[3] Ward is an elective unit of a City Corporation or Municipal Corporation.

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IFRC, Participating National Societies (PNSs) and other partners are supporting BDRCS through technical and financial assistance. As BDRCS with the support of IFRC-DREF, has activated the Heatwave EAP, IFRC Country Delegation in Bangladesh and relevant in country PNSs e.g. German Red Cross, American Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross are supporting BDRCS in implementing the Early Action Protocol (EAP) on ground. Also, different PNS's are exploring additional pool of fund to support further on districts which are not under Heatwave EAP coverage but considered as vulnerable due to ongoing heatwave situation. At the same time, BDRCS and IFRC are working on launching a DREF to support additional vulnerable people due to the ongoing heatwave across the country.

Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Actions:

BMD is providing heatwave forecast information and based on which "heat alert" is being declared from time to time. DNCC has planned to plant 200,000 trees in two years to reduce Dhaka's temperature. Dhaka Metro-Politon Police (DMP) is distributing safe drinking water to the at risk peoples.They are also spreading water across the city for reducing heat.

Some Photos of BDRCS in Actions (Photo Credit: BDRCS amd IFRC)



Youth volunteers are working in various slums of Dhaka and conducting assessment to identify most vulnerable families impacted by the ongoing heatwave.



A Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteer is having a conversation with a rickshaw puller who lives in a slum.



BDRCS youth volunteers from the NHQ are conducting mobile phone call verifications to identify the beneficiaries of the heatwave in various slums of Dhaka.

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BDRCS RCY volunteer doing assessment through the Kobo form.



BDRCS organised orientation for volunteers prior to engage them in the heatwave EAP activites.



BDRCS distribution of umbrella and cap for street vendors



Distribution of water



Awareness message dissemination



Community engagement and accountability to ensure transparency

Internal



After the assessment, BDRCS hang primary list of the people who will receive the unconditional cash grant in the community.



BDRCS distributing leaflets and drinking water among people who are directly impacted by the ongoing heatwave in Dhaka and other districts.

Internal



In the scorching heat, rickshaw pullers cannot rest in any shade on the road. They are very happy to rest in the shade and drink clean water provided by BDRCS. This is from one of cooling centres established by BDRCS in Dhaka city.



A tired rickshaw puller seeks relief and water from the Red Crescent cooling centre after a long day of driving in the heat wave.

Internal



The National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members are currently working on creating a list of beneficiaries and assessing the current status of the heat wave.



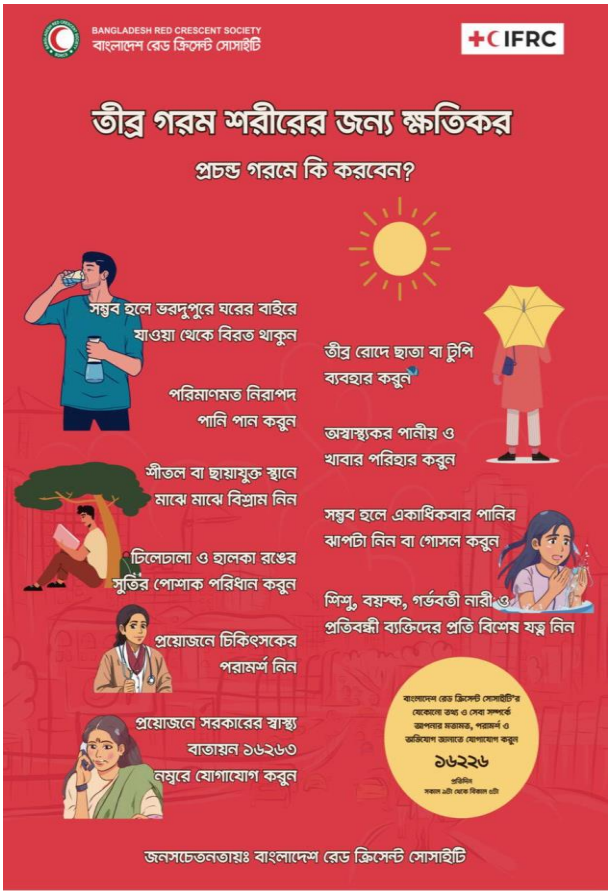






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BANGLADESH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY
বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটি
IFRC
তীব্র গরম শরীরের জন্য ক্ষতিকর
প্রচন্ড গরমে কি করবেন?
সম্ভব হলে ভরদুপুরে ঘরের বাইরে যাওয়া থেকে বিরত থাকুন
পরিমাণমত নিরাপদ পানি পান করুন
শীতল বা ছায়াযুক্ত স্থানে মাঝে মাঝে বিশ্রাম নিন
ঢিলেঢালা ও হালকা রঙের সুতির পোশাক পরিধান করুন
প্রয়োজনে চিকিৎসকের পরামর্শ নিন
প্রয়োজনে সরকারের স্বাস্থ্য বাতায়ন ১৬২৬৩ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন
তীব্র রোদে ছাতা বা টুপি ব্যবহার করুন
অস্বাস্থ্যকর পানীয় ও খাবার পরিহার করুন
সম্ভব হলে একাধিকবার পানির ঝাপটা নিন বা গোসল করুন
শিশু, বয়স্ক, গর্ভবতী নারী ও প্রতিবন্ধী ব্যক্তিদের প্রতি বিশেষ যত্ন নিন
১৬২২৬
জনসচেতনতায়ঃ বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটি





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