



American Red Cross

## Quarterly Project Report Narrative

**FY 2024 Q2: [Oct 2023] – [Dec 2023]**

### A. Progress Narrative

#### 1. Project Overview

<b>Project Name:</b>	Enhancing Community Preparedness and Institutional Readiness in Bangladesh: Coastal DRR Program - Phase 3		
<b>Implementing Partner:</b>	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)		
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	1/1/2022	<b>Project End Date:</b>	31/12/2024
<b>Budget Total:</b>	\$1,814,378	<b>Location/s:</b>	Country: Bangladesh Locations: Dhaka/BDRCS NHQ (CPP HQ and Control Room/Zonal offices) Three coastal districts of Patuakhali, Bagerhat and Khulna.
<b>Project Sector:</b>	Disaster Preparedness	<b>Project Sub-Sector/s:</b>	Institutional response readiness, community disaster preparedness, organizational development, Branch Capacity Building
<b>LOP Beneficiaries Reached:</b>		<b>LOP Beneficiaries Covered:</b>	
<b>Partner Program Manager:</b>	Md. Jahangir Alam	<b>Report Prepared by:</b>	Md. Jahangir Alam
<b>AmRC Field Delegate:</b>		<b>Report Submitted Date:</b>	17 January, 2024

#### Project Summary

The purpose of this Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Program is to reduce the impact of disasters on 25 coastal communities across three hazard-prone districts in the Bay of Bengal. This will be achieved by further enhancing and connecting the preparedness and response capacities of community, local and national actors, and by strengthening the organizational and response systems of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and as well as Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), which is a joint initiative of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MODMR), Government of Bangladesh.

Building off the successes and learnings from the prior phases, the program redesigning exercise and the community disaster readiness assessments conducted in the last quarter of 2020 to address the changing context, the proposed phase of the Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction (Coastal DRR) Program will continue to focus on two key outcomes. **Firstly, ensuring individuals and communities build their knowledge of disasters and vulnerabilities; self-organize and take individual and collective actions to establish a culture of preparedness and reinforce their networks and connectedness.** This will be accomplished through increasing integrated initiatives at the community level in terms of preparedness, early warning and early action, and response in the face of changing climate risks. **Secondly, ensuring BDRCS has mechanisms (local and national) in place to provide accountable, efficient, effective and timely assistance to affected and at-risk populations.** This will be accomplished through support in further improvement of relevant tools, systems, institutions and governance frameworks that will contribute to more

effective localized and decentralized preparedness, early warning and early action, and response, and thus, will increase the disaster readiness of the at-risk communities in the coastal belt of Bangladesh. The program has the following two overall outcomes;

- **Overall Outcome 1:** Individuals and communities build their knowledge of disasters and vulnerabilities; self-organize and take individual and collective actions to establish a culture of preparedness and reinforce their networks and connectedness.
- **Overall Outcome 2:** BDRCS has mechanisms (local and national) in place to provide accountable, efficient, effective and timely assistance to affected and at-risk populations.

## **2. Financial**

<b>Total Budget FY24</b>	<b>Quarter Forecast</b>	<b>Quarter Expenses</b>	<b>% Variance this quarter</b>	<b>Life of Project (LOP) Budget</b>	<b>LOP Expenses</b>	<b>% LOP spent</b>
\$ 611,008.00	\$ 115,489.00	\$ 199,294.41	-73.04%	\$ 1,814,378.00	\$ 1,210,961.79	66.74%

## **3. Project Staffing<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Personnel Type</b>	<b>Personnel Requirements</b>	<b>Positions Currently Filled</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Partner Staff</b>	31	31	
<b>Partner Volunteers</b>	75	75	Unit/Branch Disaster Response Teams in 3 districts: Bagerhat, Khulna, Patuakhali.

## **4. Analysis<sup>2</sup>**

### **4a. Project progress to date:**

In FY22Q3, the first quarter of the current program phase, the agreement was signed between BDRCS and American Red Cross to implement this MACP-supported program. In the first calendar year of this phase, the program will continue in the existing 25 Phase II communities of Bagerhat, Khulna, and Patuakhali districts to complete some of the activities which have remained pending due to the COVID19 pandemic. Community Organizers were engaged to support all communities update and validate their risk reduction action plans with the support of the program's field teams. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) trainings were provided to the religious leaders of the communities. These highly respected members of the communities were trained as the religious institutions are strong sources of disseminating accurate information during disaster emergencies, as well as during regular times. The program supported the local government in the formation of Ward<sup>3</sup> Disaster Management Committees (WDMC), and then provided orientations on the Government's key disaster regulatory framework, Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) to its members to raise awareness on their roles and responsibilities as outlined by the Government. The program engaged with other local NGO, such as the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), in order to ensure relevance and uniformity of the orientations provided. The National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) 2022 was observed at the national, district, sub-district, union and ward levels in close collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), local government institutions, Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), and NGO. Activities, such as national workshop jointly organized by MoDMR and BDRCS in Dhaka with engagement of high officials including Minister of MoDMR, discussion rallies in the districts, sub-districts, unions and wards, distribution of IEC materials, etc. were held, following COVID19 regulations, to raise awareness on DRR. Regular activities included courtyard sessions on DRR and COVID19 for all communities, monthly meetings for Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC),

<sup>1</sup> Put all paid positions in full-time equivalent; Count as a volunteer any person recruited specifically for the tasks under the project who work greater than 4 hours per year.

<sup>2</sup> Indicator Tracking Table and updated Gantt chart need to be attached

<sup>3</sup> Ward = the lowest tier of Bangladesh geographic administration of the government

Upazila<sup>4</sup> Disaster Management Committee (UzDMC), WDMC and Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC), Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT), CPP volunteers, Program Implementation Committee (PIC), and Unit Disaster Response Team (UDRT) were held as per plan in the first quarter. In the first quarter of the program, a planning workshop was also conducted in Barishal, where all the BDRCS colleagues of CDRT from both NHQ and field joined to prepare a yearly plan for the smooth implementation of the program.

In FY22Q4, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) orientation was conducted for the Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) members and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers of Khulna. BDRCS supported the local government to reform the Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and WDMC, not only in the program areas but also in adjacent areas of the same districts as well. After the reformation, the committees were also oriented on Standing Order on Disaster (SOD). Based on the findings of the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA), Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) validation was done at union level of all the program areas. Training of the Trainers (ToT) on Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) for UDRT, CDRT and COs were held in Dhaka and based on the training they received, CBHFA sessions were also conducted at the field level for the community people. In May, World Red Cross Red Crescent Day was observed in both NHQ and field level. Training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and leadership was conducted for WDMC and CDMC members. For the communities of Phase -1, which are to be phased out at the end of 2022, EVCA and Contingency Plans (CP) were updated. The CDMC and CDRT members of the Phase-1 communities also participated in exchange visits, where they visited the communities of Phase-2, to share their learnings and their sustainability plan and also gathered insight about what is happening at the Phase-2 communities. At the replication communities of Paikgacha, Khulna, the local government asked BDRCS to provide support in conducting EVCA at the remaining wards of Deluti union and BDRCS deployed volunteers to support the wards.

In the reporting quarter and the previous quarter, community interventions focused on reaching the most vulnerable community members with skill development trainings on climate smart agriculture, alternative livelihoods, effective livestock rearing, and homestead gardening. Sessions were also conducted to orient the community members on the social safety and disaster preparedness schemes of the government that they are entitled to. With a view to connecting the communities with the key local government offices and services, the program arranged the facilitators panel with representatives from the relevant Local Government departments, such as the Department of Agricultural Extension office, Livestock Services, Women Affairs, and Social Services, as well as technical actors working in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the program areas. In the current phase a total of 1,350 female community members were provided with the aforementioned skill development training.

In FY23Q1, a study was conducted on the all of the community members received this training in the program's Phase II – to identify how best the support was utilized. Best cases were documented and a total of 166 female community members were shortlisted to receive advanced level skill development training. With a view to increase the coping capacity of the communities to consequently reduce their vulnerability to coastal hazards, this advanced training further supported the community members to flourish their livelihood opportunities.

In 17 phase 2 communities of Bagerhat, Khulna and Patuakhali, a total of 6,951 disaster preparedness plans were developed/updated with the support of the Community Organizers and volunteers mobilized by the program. This plan enables each household member in the communities covered by the program to understand their roles and responsibilities in times of disaster emergencies.

3-day First Aid trainings were provided to 25 (F:22 M: 3) Community Organizers and CDRT members who newly joined as part of the program. Besides, as a part of capacity building of the local government in terms of disaster risk reduction BDRCS has provided support to organize 3-day first aid trainings for five Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) members. In total 107 (F:47 M: 60) WDMC members have participated in the training. These trainings were facilitated by the trained UDRT members from the BDRCS district offices.

CDRT members from 16 communities were provided with 2-day long Disaster Risk Management refresher training which covered topics on natural hazards, disasters, climate change, adaptation, mitigation, household level disaster preparedness, early warning system, coordination, leadership development, vulnerability and risk analysis, etc. A total of 358 (M:183 F:175) members of the CDRT participated in this refresher training which was facilitated by the program team from the district and Dhaka.

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<sup>4</sup> Upazila = sub-district

In FY23Q3, Community Disaster Ready Assessment have been completed in 25 communities in 3 districts. 'National Lessons Learned Seminar on Cyclone Sitrang' was organized with support from MoDMR where Honorable Minister of MoDMR and representatives from Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), other NGOs, CPP, BDRCS, IFRC and AmRC attended the seminar. A Tripartite MoU have been signed with International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) – led by the renowned Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq OBE, one of the top 10 climate scientists of the world in Nature's list, for formal collaboration in climate change action. 8 communities from phase-I have been handed over to the communities along with all the materials. 8 new communities (4 in Bagerhat and 4 in Khulna) have been identified and selected for program implementation. 6 new communities have been identified and selected in Morrelganj, Bagerhat for CPP expansion. Consultant for Endline study of 8 phaseout communities have been identified and selected, and the study will be completed in the next quarter.

In FY23Q4, the selection of WDMC members and trainings have been conducted in 8 newly selected communities (4 in Bagerhat and 4 in Khulna). Trainings have been provided to school teachers on DRR and Climate Change, disability inclusion, and health risks. 8 School Disaster Preparedness Action Plans have been developed (7 in Patuakhali district and 1 in Bagerhat district) in collaboration with school management authorities, CPP and local government. Endline assessment have been conducted in 8 phase-out communities in Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts, while the baseline for the new communities are planned to begin in the next quarter. RCRC Day 2023 have been observed at national, district, sub-district and ward levels in collaboration with all respective stakeholders, including the government. CPP volunteers in 6 unions of Morrelganj, Bagerhat have been recruited and training are being provided to them, which will be completed in the next quarter.

Aligning with the latest reports on climate change, BDRCS has initiated updating its Climate Change strategy. IFRC and American Red Cross, in partnership with ICCCAD, has developed the draft, which will be finalized within the next quarter. At the request of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and CPP to BDRCS in supporting the development of the first national Early Action Protocol for Cyclone. Data collection from field and relevant ministries, partners, working groups, the first draft has been developed together with BDRCS, CPP, IFRC, American Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Climate Centre, through engaging a local technical expert. The national EAP is developed with the aim to harmonize anticipatory action efforts, triggering protocols, criteria and expand coverage across the country. The draft report will be further reviewed by the relevant government agencies and finalized through the government's procedures before it is widely disseminated within the current fiscal year.

In FY24Q1, the baseline and DRC assessments of 8 new communities have been conducted in Bagerhat and Khulna. Community Organizers from 8 new communities have received basic training on DRR, Climate Change, etc. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) orientation for the 8 new communities have been organized. After the orientation, Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA) have been conducted in the new communities with active engagement from community people. After the collection of data using various tools, Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) have been developed for the 8 new communities. School Disaster Preparedness (DP) plan have been prepared in 12 educational institutions in Patuakhali and Bagerhat with close coordination from the school teachers. 1200 new CPP volunteers have been trained on revised curriculum (in line with MoDMR) in Morrelganj and equipment have been provided to them. Besides, a draft report of BDRCS Climate Change Strategy have been presented in the 7<sup>th</sup> Partnership Meeting of BDRCS where more than 20 National Societies, government high officials and other stakeholders attended.

In FY24Q2, skill development activities of the community members and DRR orientation of religious leaders of 8 new communities in Bagerhat and Khulna district have been conducted. Members of Kalapara Upazila DMC under Patuakhali district have received orientation on SOD-2019. IDDRR 2023 have been observed at the community, sub-district, district and national level where essay competition among school students, rally, simulation, etc. were organized. BDRCS with support from CPP, MoDMR, IFRC and AmRC organized a 2-day multistakeholder meeting where high-level government officials from relevant departments, I/NGOs, volunteers and community representatives involved in Anticipatory Action participated. The National Early Action Protocol for Cyclone has been soft-launched at the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action awaiting final approval from the MoDMR and countrywide roll-out. The first National Consultative Workshop on Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) was jointly organized by the MoDMR, BDRCS, IFRC, WFP and UN-RCO with the advisory support of the Prime Minister's Office. High-level officials of Bangladesh government, including met departments, national telecommunications, and CPP, along with the Global Pillar leads – UNDRR, WMO, ITU and IFRC – participants from the development, humanitarian, and academic agencies actively participated in this planning workshop. Moreover, BDRCS with support from IFRC and AmRC have participated at COP28 in Dubai where the Government and the pillar leads have worked together to finalize the Road Map and Financial Plan which was presented on COP28 in global and Bangladesh sessions.

Apart from these activities regular activities such as the monthly meetings of UDMC, PIC, CDRT, CDMC, as well as courtyard sessions on disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation were held successfully.

#### **4b. Summary of current quarter's progress/accomplishments:**

**Overall Objective 1:** Individuals and communities build their knowledge of disasters and vulnerabilities; self-organize and take individual and collective actions to establish a culture of preparedness and reinforce their networks and connectedness.

- **Output 1:** 8 existing communities from Phase 1 are linked with WDMC and are Disaster Ready.

*None to report in this quarter.*

- **Output 2:** 12 existing communities from Phase 2 are linked with WDMC and are Disaster Ready.
  - *Activity 1.1.2.2:* 36 CDMC meetings were held in all 12 communities of Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts where a total of 539 (M:261, F:278, including PwD:6) CDMC members participated.
  - *Activity 1.1.2.9:* 36 CDRT meetings were held in all 12 communities of Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts where a total of 628 (M:270, F:358, including PwD:1) CDRT members participated.
  - *Activity 1.1.2.12:* 287 Courtyard sessions on DRR, Climate Change (raising awareness on the issues, hazards, adaptation, mitigation, nature-based solutions etc.) were held in all 12 communities of Bagerhat and Patuakhali where a total of 5120 (M:371, F:4749, including PwD:4) community members participated.
- **Output 3:** 13 communities (5 from Phase 2 and 8 new) are Disaster Ready through an enhanced CPP-led CBDRM model in coordination with WDMC.
  - *Activity 1.1.3.2:* Support was provided to organize 61 WDMC meetings in 13 communities of Khulna and Bagerhat district. A total of 1181 (M: 669, F:512, including PwD:38) members of the WDMC participated in these meetings.
  - *Activity 1.1.3.4:* Skill development activities for communities on Climate-smart DRR mitigation were conducted in 8 new communities under Khulna and Bagerhat district. A total of 882 (M: 8, F: 874, including PwD:2) community members participated.
  - Support was provided to organize 61 WDMC meetings in 13 communities of Khulna and Bagerhat district. A total of 1181 (M: 669, F:512, including PwD:38) members of the WDMC participated in these meetings.
  - *Activity: 1.1.3.6.1:* 312 Courtyard sessions on DRR, Climate Change (raising awareness on the issues, hazards, adaptation, mitigation, nature-based solutions etc.) were held in all 13 communities of Khulna and Bagerhat where a total of 5,864 (M:372, F:5492, including PwD:21) community members participated.
  - *Activity 1.1.3.7:* DRR orientation for religious leaders were conducted in 8 new communities under Khulna and Bagerhat district. A total of 54 (M: 54, F: 0) religious leaders participated.
- **Output 4:** At least 9 non-project communities/wards within the program sub-district replicate the CPP-led CBDRM model in coordination with WDMC
  - *The community people from non-program communities visit the program communities regularly to involve in participatory planning process and implementation. Emergency pre-disaster WDMC meetings were organized in the replication wards in Deluti union under Khulna district in preparation of cyclone Hamoon's landfall.*
- **Output 5:** 20 existing schools from Phase 2 are Disaster Ready
  - *No activity was conducted under this output in the reporting quarter.*
- **Output 6:** At least 3 sub-districts' CRA are updated in coordination and engagement of local stakeholders, including CPP and local DM committees
  - *Activity: 1.2.1.4:* A meeting was conducted to link local experts and stakeholders to community and their action plan. In the meeting, a total of 10 (M: 8, F: 2) participants from different organization and agencies participated in the event.

- *Activity 1.2.1.5: The Upazila DMC (UzDMC) members of Kalapara sub-district from Patuakhali district have received orientation on Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019 with a total of 46 participants (Male – 42, Female – 4).*
- **Output 7:** At least 2,000 new CPP volunteers are trained to support community preparedness and response, and are capable of executing innovative approaches in multi-hazard complex contexts in a newly identified vulnerable sub-district.
  - *No activity was conducted under this output in the reporting quarter.*

**Overall Outcome 2:** BDRCS has mechanisms (local and national) in place to provide accountable, efficient, effective and timely assistance to affected and at-risk populations.

- **Output 8:** At least 2 National Level BDRCS plans and policies and 4 tools or systems (IM, CEA, CVA, FbA) are improved through IFRC to strengthen BDRCS’s disaster and climate risk management.
  - *Activity 2.1.1.23: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2023 have been observed in National, District, Sub-district and Community level in collaboration with all respective stakeholders. A total of 3013 (M: 1560, F: 1453) people participated in observing the event.*
  - *The National Early Action Protocol for Cyclone has been soft-launched at the 2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action awaiting final approval from the MoDMR and countrywide roll-out.*
- **Output 9:** 1 CPP National Level Early Warning System is improved and expanded in coordination with MoDMR, BMD and local government institutions
  - *No activity was conducted under this output in the reporting quarter.*
- **Objective 10:** BDRCS establishes/strengthens formal partnerships with at least 3 sectoral expert institutions to improve service delivery to reduce disaster and climate change threats through collective efforts
  - *No activity was conducted under this output in the reporting quarter.*

**4c. Current Challenges:**

None to report this quarter.

**Issue/Risk Log**

Name/Description	Plan of Action	Person Responsible	Month Started/ Status
Potential political disturbances	Avoid	Md. Jahangir Alam	August 2023

**4d. American Red Cross Action Needed:**

**5. Accountability to Beneficiaries Feedback Data:**

Feedback			
Feedback/question received	Responses/Action	Number	Status
None to report this quarter.			

**6. Cross-Cutting Themes**

**7. Transition Strategy**

## 8. Reflections, Anecdotes, Stories and Photos

### Photos



IDRR 2023 day celebration in Patuakhali



Simulation being conducted in coordination with Fire Department at Bagerhat city to observe IDRR day 2023



Beneficiaries under Panchakaran union of Bagerhat district participating in Skill Development Activity



Religious leaders orientation being organized at Panchakaran Union in Morrelganj upazila under the bagerhat unit.



WDMC meeting at Ward No. 2 of Lata union under Khulna district is being conducted chaired by the union chairman



Community volunteers are in field and working together with local disaster management committee before cyclone Midhili landfall

## 9. Annexes

1. Indicator Tracking Table<sup>5</sup>
2. Gantt Chart<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Use the complete Indicator Tracking Table (ITT).

<sup>6</sup> This should reflect the updated work plan for the entire project. It should be the updated version of the Gantt chart that was initially approved as part of the Logframe/Gantt annex of the signed agreement with the American Red Cross.

## B. Feedback on the QPR

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Part B serves as a template to provide comments to the quarterly progress report and provide organized feedback to national society. The feedback helps the project receive timely and appropriate technical advice, if any.

<b>Feedback Prepared by:</b>	
<b>Review Date:</b>	

### Feedback:

Programmatic including monitoring and evaluation:

Financial:

Administrative:

Partnership: