



# BRAC HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME

*Bridging humanitarian and development works*

## Our Journey

BRAC started its journey with humanitarian assistance to the war-torn population of Bangladesh after the Liberation War of 1971, thus, its humanitarian identity is at the core of its foundation and ethos. Since then, BRAC has stood by the people living in vulnerable situations with emergency response, recovery, and rehabilitation support after all major disasters in Bangladesh. Emerging from the need to address disaster management efforts more efficiently, effectively, and timely, BRAC created a dedicated programme called Disaster Environment and Climate Change in 2008. This programme was restructured and retitled as BRAC Humanitarian Programme (BHP) in 2018, which works to strengthen resilience across communities and provides holistic humanitarian support to the people affected by disasters and crises in Bangladesh.

## Our Goals

Strengthening the capacity of systems, institutions, and vulnerable communities so that they are responsive in reducing risks, saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and are prepared to recover from disasters.



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# Our Programmatic Priorities



## Our Approach

Our resilience building and emergency response efforts are stipulated by the post-2015 agenda and guided through Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and international humanitarian principles, standards, and guidelines. The support is timely, efficient, gender-sensitive, needs-and-evidence based, adequate in scale and reach, and linked to BRAC's development programmes through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. We work with the government and other stakeholders at national and local levels to maximize coordinated resilience-building and response delivery, to ensure the effective outcomes.

# Our Guiding Principles



**Gender Equality and Inclusiveness:** We promote gender equality, diversity, inclusiveness, social cohesion, and ensure the participation of women, adolescent girls, people with disabilities, the elderly, minorities, and ethnic groups in our programming. Our gender integrated approach strengthens the voice, choice and space for women and adolescent girls in humanitarian needs and enhances resilience to disasters.



**Downward Accountability:** We hold ourselves accountable to the population that is affected by ensuring provision of adequate information on our interventions and support, consulting with communities so they can participate in the decisions that affect their lives, and offering mechanisms to provide feedback and/or complaints about the support and services they receive.



**Localisation and Reinforcing the Local Capacity:** We localise humanitarian action in terms of enhancing the functional capacity and local coordination mechanisms. We also improve representation of local agencies in decision-making fora and strengthen systems through which local agencies can access and manage funds.



**Effectiveness and Quality:** We are committed to ensuring the highest quality of support and services through stringent process-based and outcome-based monitoring and evaluation of interventions. Our in-built monitoring and evaluation teams regularly assess progress of the interventions and support to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.



**Exchange knowledge and learnings:** Our decision-making process and effective programme designs are informed by a comprehensive knowledge management system. We share perspectives, ideas, experiences, lessons learnt and best practises in our interventions to strengthen coordination and collaboration with local, national, and global stakeholders in the context of resilience building and humanitarian response.



**Safeguarding:** We are committed to ensure safeguarding in all our endeavours and we practise 'Zero Tolerance' towards all forms of abuse including sexual harassment, bullying, discrimination, intimidation and violence, neglect, and exploitation against all our employees, clients, and relevant stakeholders.

## Our Readiness

***Our efficiency and effectiveness in resilience building and emergency humanitarian response lies in our organisational readiness through:***

- ❖ Global Humanitarian Strategy
- ❖ Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) to govern the emergency response mechanism
- ❖ Hazard-specific district level contingency plans and guidelines, and rapid damage and need assessment tools
- ❖ Enormous presence on the ground, localised knowledge, and ability to mobilise resources within the shortest possible time
- ❖ A skilled and self-driven Emergency Response Team (ERT) ready to carry out strategic and response management functions to any large-scale disaster across the globe

- ❖ Skilled and well-equipped disaster management teams at 64 districts and 492 sub-districts, capable of response within 72 hours after any disaster has occurred
- ❖ Emergency fund of BDT 100,000 at each of our sub-district level offices that enables the field teams to support the disaster victims immediately
- ❖ Prepositioned Non-Food Items (NFI) packages at a national level at strategic locations across the country that significantly contributes to meet the immediate needs of disaster victims
- ❖ Community-based disaster management fund that builds capability of women to unite and fight against the vicious cycle of disasters and poverty

## Our Team

Our team is a group of driven experts each with their own expertise, strengths, diversified backgrounds, qualifications, and personalities. During the non-emergency period, we work in small groups on different thematic areas, such as emergency response and preparedness, disaster risk reduction and capacity building, knowledge management and communication, and monitoring and evaluation. When humanitarian support is needed, our "One Team Approach" consists of joining together to bundle each other's strengths to the welfare of the people living in the most vulnerable areas.



# Our Response

BRAC has been working in disaster management and humanitarian response since its inception in 1972, particularly for people living in poverty in rural areas and urban slums of Bangladesh. Between 2016-2018, BHP's major response interventions include the following:



## Monsoon flood

- ❖ 147,730 people reached through holistic humanitarian response interventions
- ❖ 363,297 people supported through post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation initiatives



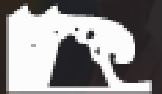
## Flash Flood

- ❖ 62,203 people reached through holistic humanitarian response interventions
- ❖ 313,108 people supported through post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation initiatives



## Cyclones

- ❖ 3,200 people supported through holistic humanitarian response interventions
- ❖ 10,507 people supported through post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation initiatives



## Riverbank Erosion

- ❖ 23,192 people received early warning messages on riverbank erosion
- ❖ 850 households received cash support for immediate recovery



## Landslide

- ❖ 9,508 people reached through emergency humanitarian assistance



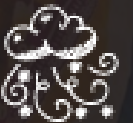
## Fire

- ❖ 6,043 people supported through emergency humanitarian assistance and psychosocial counselling



## Rana Plaza Collapse

- ❖ 450 survivors of the Rana Plaza building collapse supported through livelihood interventions
- ❖ 110 survivors of the Rana Plaza building collapse received medical care support



## Cold Wave

- ❖ 11,874 people supported through emergency humanitarian assistance



## Conflict

- ❖ 1,299 people supported through emergency humanitarian assistance
- ❖ 219 people supported through post-conflict recovery and rehabilitation initiatives



## Rohingya Crisis

- ❖ Providing humanitarian support to almost 1.3 million people from the Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar through a multi-sectoral integrated approach combining WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), shelter and non-food items, health, nutrition, site management support, education, protection, child protection, food security, and communication with the community.

## CONTACT

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