



Organisational Readiness for Humanitarian Response

BRAC Disaster Risk Management Programme

BRAC was created to assist the war-ravaged population following the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, thus its humanitarian identity is at the core of its ethos and foundations. Since then, BRAC has stood by the disaster affected population with emergency response recovery, and rehabilitation supports after all major natural and human-induced disasters and crises in Bangladesh.

Introduction

BRAC's humanitarian response promotes a shared vision of how to address the needs of disaster affected most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged population in an effective, efficient and timely manner with high standard, and rationalized services irrespective of gender, diversity, and inclusiveness.

BRAC's efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian response lies in its organizational readiness with a comprehensive governance structure; skilled emergency response teams; contingency fund; and a set of well-defined strategy, standing operating procedures, contingency plans, guidelines and tools; along with enormous presence on the ground, localized knowledge, and ability to mobilize resources within the shortest possible time.

Our Readiness

Global Humanitarian Strategy: We hold a Global Humanitarian Strategy that aims to position BRAC as a globally known key player for humanitarian response and thought leader on community-centered and community-driven disaster risk reduction, preparedness and emergency response.

Disaster Management Steering Committee (DMSC): Our humanitarian response is governed by a comprehensive DMSC constituted by the senior management team and led by the Executive Director of BRAC who meets very frequently and provides strategic guidance, leadership and management supports to deliver the humanitarian assistance in a timely and effective manner.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): Our well-defined and updated SOP for emergency response provides a robust institutional and operational framework so that critical decisions and actions can be taken quickly in response to any large-scale disaster and crisis by ensuring the consistency and high standards.

Emergency Response Team (ERT): We created a dedicated a central ERT - a group of multi-sectoral trained, skilled and self-driven human resource ready to be deployed at a short notice for carrying out strategic and operational management functions to any large-scale emergency response both nationally and globally.

Emergency Operation Center (EOC): Our dedicated and well-equipped EOC at the head office functional for 24/7 during an emergency and play the key role for monitoring and updating the situation, guiding the response team at all levels, and maintaining coordination and liaison with the government, donors, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders.



Hazard-specific district level contingency plans:

We enhanced our readiness at field level for timely, efficient and effective response to cyclone and flood by developing and regularly updating district-level cyclone contingency plans for 14 coastal districts and a comprehensive flood response guideline with clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the field teams in different scenarios, and available resources and capacities.

Rapid damage and need assessment guidelines and tools: We introduced systematic rapid damage and needs assessment guidelines and tools for quickly collecting sector-wise information for assessing the needs of people in a holistic manner, which greatly helps to design and provide need-specific emergency support to the disaster affected population in an effective manner within the shortest possible.

District and Upazila level Disaster Management Teams: We have skilled and well-equipped disaster management teams at all 64 Districts and 492 Upazila in the country, who are always ready to reach with humanitarian assistance at the door step of the affected communities within 72 hours after any disaster and crisis.

Contingency funds for emergency response: BDT 100,000 is available at each of our Upazila level office as emergency response fund that enables the field teams to support the most vulnerable households with emergency food, water, medicine and other necessities immediately after any disaster and crisis without waiting for approval from Head Office.

Prepositioning of emergency relief items: A stock of emergency relief (non-food items) and shelter items always stored at the national level and strategic locations in disaster prone districts across the country that significantly contributes to meet the immediate needs of the disaster affected population within the shortest possible time.

Community-based disaster management funds: We introduced community-based disaster management fund by providing a seed money @BDT 100,000 to 38 Polli Shomaj (a women-led community-based organisations created and supported by BRAC's Community Empowerment Programme to uphold the voices and realise their rights) with an aim to build the capability of vulnerable women to unite and fight against vicious cycle of disasters and poverty.

Since BRAC is committed to stand by the disaster affected population with effective emergency response supports within the shortest possible time, it will continue to strengthen its capacity and readiness to achieve its humanitarian response goal of providing humanitarian assistance to the affected populations, improving quality and rationalising services to ensure equal access for gender and diversity to achieve consistently high standards, meeting core humanitarian standard as a high priority.

Way
Forward