



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT: COX'S BAZAR STATEMENT

15 February 2018

WHEREAS, We, the members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, have gathered in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, from 13-15 February 2018 to advance our common efforts to address the population influx crisis in Cox's Bazar, abiding by a 'One Window' operational Framework;

RECOGNISING, the role that the Government of Bangladesh has played in hosting and addressing the needs of displaced people from Rakhine State, Myanmar; as well as facilitating humanitarian access;

RECOGNISING, that the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), as an auxiliary to the Government of Bangladesh, and with the support of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners – the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and 31 Partner National Societies (PNS) - have since August 2017 conducted a large-scale humanitarian response to the population influx in Cox's Bazar; and that this response has reached more than a quarter of a million people.

We hereby declare and agree, to the following:

Commitment to meeting the needs of more than 200,000 people

BDRCS and its partners, as part of an integrated response, commit to continue to provide humanitarian assistance alongside more sustained services to meet the needs of 200,000 people; towards our common goal, one Plan of Action of supporting the safety, dignity and resilience of all communities in the affected regions of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

We commit to focusing on the following response priorities:

- (1) **Humanitarian Assistance:** In Health and Psychosocial Support (PSS), BDRCS and its partners will continue providing curative primary and secondary level health services to a catchment area of 300,000 people, complemented by health education and integrated with psychosocial support services. In Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH), BDRCS and its partners will support safe water and sustainable sanitation services for 110,000 people, including safe bathing areas, complemented by solid waste management. In Shelter and Non-Food Items, BDRCS and its partners will provide non-food items to cover the basic needs of 240,000 people and shelter assistance to meet the immediate needs of 300,000 people, as well as training and assistance to support safer and more resilient shelters. BDRCS and its partners will continue to offer services for Restoring Family Links (RFL).
- (2) **Preparedness for Response:** BDRCS and its partners commit to contingency planning for adverse weather events; for disease outbreaks, for repatriation and for further population influx, in order to be ready to act when needed, in close coordination with the Government of Bangladesh and other humanitarian actors.
- (3) **Community Resilience:** BDRCS and its partners, including community volunteers, will support the resilience and work to reduce disaster risk for displaced and livelihoods of the host communities; BDRCS and its partners, through our community level work and humanitarian

diplomacy, will work to ensure the dignity, rights and resilience of host and displaced communities.

Commitment to Cross-Sectoral Priorities

- (1) ***Commitment to Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)***: BDRCS and its partners will act to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, elderly and other marginalised groups to ensure their safety, dignity, protection and mental well-being. BDRCS and its partners will ensure two-way communication with communities in every sector: ensuring that the perspectives and needs of communities will be taken into consideration in programme design and policy dialogue.
- (2) ***Commitment to Localising Aid through Support to BDRCS National and Local Development***: BDRCS and its partners commit to ensuring that localisation is at the heart of our plans and response, recognising the importance of supporting the host communities. We recognize the central role to be played by the BDRCS as a local and national actor. BDRCS agrees to take primary responsibility for strong national society development, and its partners commit to supporting national society development and organizational capacity enhancement of BDRCS with adequate resources, in fulfilment of the spirit of the One Window Framework and BDRCS Strategic Plan.
- (3) ***Commitment to Effective Coordination***: The One Window Framework provides a practical platform to coordinate and optimise capacity and resources, while recognizing specific agreements and bilateral arrangements. The One Window Framework also supports the application of the principle of ‘shared leadership, shared accountability’ by Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.
- (4) ***Commitment to Humanitarian Diplomacy***: BDRCS and its partners commit to influence decision-making in favour of the needs of the most vulnerable, with full respect for fundamental humanitarian principles.
- (5) ***Commitment to Accountability and Quality Programming***: BDRCS and its partners commit to accountability and transparency to the communities we serve, to government, donors, staff, volunteers and all other stakeholders in delivering humanitarian assistance in Cox’s Bazar. BDRCS and its partners also commit to a zero-tolerance policy for fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse. BDRCS and its partner agree to establish a common planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting system under the One Window Framework.

Red Cross Red Crescent Perspective on Repatriation

RECOGNISING, that a number of steps have been taken by the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar towards the repatriation of displaced persons from Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh to Rakhine State, Myanmar: we emphasize that sustainable return must take place in conditions of safety, dignity and voluntariness. The needs and perspectives of displaced communities must also be at the centre of any return process. Should a fully informed and voluntary repatriation materialize BDRCS stands ready to extend and facilitate operational support as required, in line with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.