

BANGLADESH

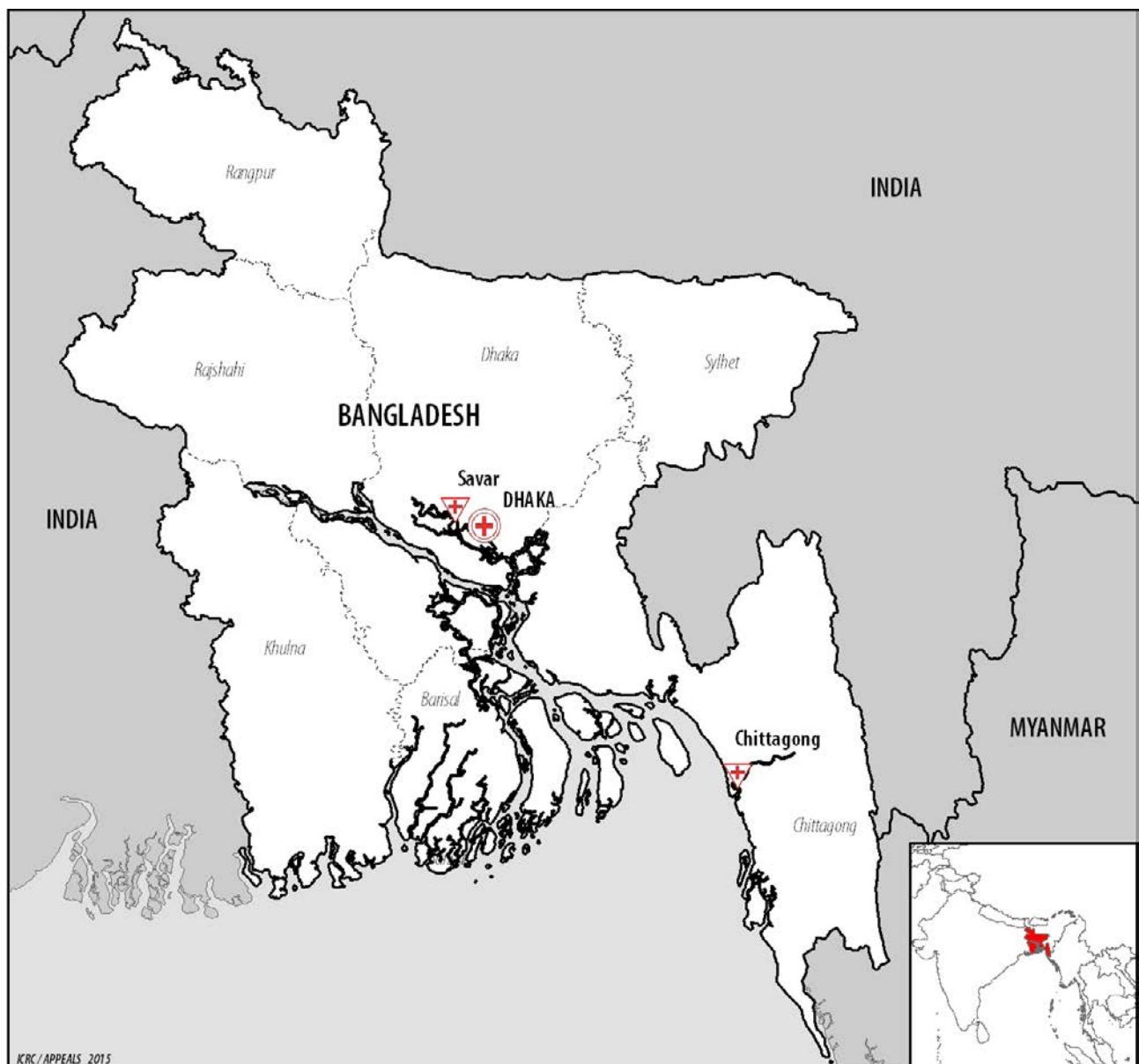
Present in Bangladesh since 2006, the ICRC opened a delegation there in 2011. It works to protect and assist people affected by tensions and violence; promotes IHL and its implementation among the authorities, armed and security forces and academic circles; and supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in building its capacities. It seeks to visit people deprived of their freedom in the country.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	1,779
Assistance	4,433
Prevention	1,154
Cooperation with National Societies	695
General	91
Total	8,153
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>498</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	20
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	75



ICRC/APPEALS 2015

ICRC delegation

ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic project

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- the authorities, the armed forces/police and key members of civil society support and facilitate the Movement's humanitarian activities, particularly for victims of violence and people deprived of their freedom
- vulnerable people meet some of their needs through Bangladesh Red Crescent Society/ICRC emergency relief and livelihood-support initiatives in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and support for services at 2 Cox's Bazar health centres
- emergency/medical personnel are respected and better equipped, helping them to deliver first aid, manage trauma cases and refer/transfer patients during incidents of violence or disasters
- disabled patients receive quality services from 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)			
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPS, RETURNEES, ETC.)					
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)					
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	2,500		
Productive inputs		Beneficiaries	1,000		
Cash		Beneficiaries	1,500		
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	5,000		
Health					
Health centres supported		Structures	2		
WOUNDED AND SICK					
Physical rehabilitation					
Projects supported		Structures	2		
Patients receiving services		Patients	1,200		

CONTEXT

The situation in Bangladesh has stabilized since the February 2014 elections, but daily life remains at risk of disruption by general strikes (*hartals*) and/or incidents of violence. The violence is often linked to political issues, such as those raised by opposition parties and the matter of the alleged 1971 war criminals whose cases are pending at the International Crimes Tribunal. Intercommunal tensions persist in parts of the country, notably in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and sometimes lead to violent clashes. Natural disasters are a constant threat. The violence, the political/social unrest and the natural disasters cause injuries, deaths and arrests, have adverse economic consequences and result, ultimately, in vulnerable communities in need of essential services.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC delegation will pursue its dialogue and nurture its working relations with actors of influence in Bangladesh to further cooperation in providing humanitarian assistance to violence-affected communities and to people deprived of their freedom and upholding humanitarian principles and IHL. It will work with its main partner, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, which will receive support for developing its capacities to: provide assistance to victims of violence/disaster, specifically in the areas of primary health care, first aid, livelihood support and restoring family links; and promote IHL and humanitarian principles.

The National Society and the ICRC will be ready to provide victims of violence or natural/man-made disasters with cash and/or essential items to cover their immediate needs. They will implement a project that provides material/technical support and training for medical facilities and emergency personnel, student groups and other first responders, to enhance their delivery of first aid/trauma care and to refer patients if needed. Training in human remains management, particularly for security forces and others involved in emergency response, will help ensure that victims do not go missing. Tracing and RCM services will enable family members separated by violence, disaster, detention or migration to restore contact or learn the fate of relatives unaccounted for.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the National Society/ICRC will help communities cover their basic needs and support their livelihood activities, through distribution of agricultural inputs and other assistance. The ICRC will work with community members and water boards to improve water and sanitation facilities on the basis of a needs assessment. The ICRC will maintain its support for a National Society initiative to enable health facilities to provide quality preventive and curative health care to communities in the Cox's Bazar district.

The ICRC will continue to provide material support/training to two branches of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and to its affiliated training facility, the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) in Savar. Together with dialogue/cooperation with other actors concerned, this will help ensure that physically disabled people receive quality sustainable rehabilitation services and benefit from efforts to promote their rights and their social integration, such as the organization of a regional sports competition.

Through meetings and dissemination activities, the National Society/ICRC will strengthen understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action among the authorities, armed forces/police – including troops bound for UN peacekeeping missions – religious organizations, academic institutions and the media. Dialogue will focus on: enhancing cooperation in activities for communities in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar; seeking agreement on the conduct of ICRC visits – according to its standard procedures – to people deprived of their freedom; and promoting respect for civilians and the safe passage of medical and humanitarian assistance during situations of violence, notably through emblem campaigns. Dialogue will be bolstered by technical input and training. For instance, the ICRC will provide support for the armed/paramilitary/police forces to incorporate IHL and/or internationally recognized policing standards in their training and operations. The authorities will also be given support for enacting domestic legislation incorporating provisions of IHL treaties and for helping the national IHL committee fulfil its role.

The ICRC will enhance instruction in IHL by organizing events/seminars for lecturers at universities.

The ICRC will coordinate its activities with those of other humanitarian actors working in fields of common interest, in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication of efforts.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Political and intercommunal tensions continue to disrupt people's lives, hindering access to health services at times and impeding livelihood activities.

People are separated from and lose contact with relatives during the natural/man-made disasters that take place frequently. Moreover, owing to limitations of coordination and insufficient capacity among the authorities and other stakeholders to properly deal with human remains, the dead are in danger of becoming unaccounted for, leaving families in the dark about the fate of relatives. Bangladeshis detained abroad, including migrants, also lack the means to communicate with their families.

Objective

All civilians, regardless of ethnic origin, are respected. Those directly affected by outbreaks of violence can cover their basic needs. Relatives dispersed as a result of violence, natural disasters, migration or detention are able to keep in touch. Families are informed of the fate of missing relatives.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection and assistance

- ▶ provide financial, technical, logistical and material support for the National Society to boost its capacity to address the needs of vulnerable people, particularly in the areas of primary health care, first aid, livelihood support and restoring family links

Protection

- ▶ deepen dialogue with the authorities, security forces and other key stakeholders, and remind them of the need to protect the civilian population and to facilitate unhindered access to health care during situations of violence

With the National Society:

- ▶ help communities in tension-prone areas reduce their exposure to the risks/consequences of violence through information campaigns on safe practices
- ▶ through the Movement's family-links services, and in coordination with the authorities concerned, enable families dispersed by violence, disasters, migration or detention to restore/maintain contact or to learn the fate of relatives unaccounted for; be ready to assist in repatriating vulnerable people, such as unaccompanied minors, pregnant women and released Bangladeshi detainees, and in reuniting them with their families
- ▶ through meetings and awareness campaigns: draw the authorities' and other stakeholders' attention to the plight of separated family members/families of missing persons; help enhance their understanding of the humanitarian aims of National Society/ICRC family-links services; and inform communities of the availability of such services

Assistance

Health and Water and habitat

- ▶ to facilitate access to preventive and curative care for communities in the Cox's Bazar district, provide support for the National Society, so that it can in turn support 2 health facilities (serving some 490,000 people) in: delivering essential services, including emergency and mother-and-child care; enhancing hygiene/sanitation and infection-control measures; training health staff; upgrading infrastructure; and referring patients for higher-level care (see *Wounded and sick*)

With the National Society:

Water and habitat

- ▶ on the basis of a needs assessment, facilitate access to sufficient quantities of safe water and adequate sanitation facilities for up to 5,000 people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Forensics

- ▶ to prevent people from becoming unaccounted for, especially in the event of natural/man-made disasters, provide material support to and facilitate the participation of some 60 members of the armed/security forces, National Society staff/volunteers, and other first responders in training/train-the-trainer courses, including courses abroad, on the proper handling of human remains; encourage coordination/exchange of information among institutions/organizations concerned, including on best practices, Islamic perspectives, and developing guidelines and incorporating them in disaster-response plans

Economic security

- ▶ provide essential household items or other appropriate support during emergencies to enable up to 500 violence-affected households (2,500 people) to cover their immediate needs
- ▶ in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, provide seed, tools and other agricultural supplies/equipment, and training, to help up to 200 households (1,000 people) affected by clashes restore their food production or improve it by at least 40%; and cash grants and other forms of livelihood support to enable 300 other households (1,500 people) to increase their income by at least 35%

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

An estimated 68,000 people are held in Bangladeshi prisons, some in connection with the 1971 liberation war, violence, unrest or State security, and some foreigners for entering the country illegally. Detainees' treatment and their access to basic services are reported to be sub-standard. Foreign detainees lack hygiene items, and their means for staying in touch with relatives are limited.

Objective

Detainees are afforded treatment and living conditions, including respect for judicial guarantees, that meet internationally recognized standards. They are able to keep in touch with their families.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ through bilateral meetings, a round-table and a study tour, and on the basis of the results of a first phase of pilot visits in 2014, pursue dialogue with the authorities on ICRC visits to detainees, including the conduct of a follow-up phase of visits, while clarifying the organiza-

tion's role and standard procedures, and its holistic and long-term approach to activities for detainees

- should permission to pursue the next phase of visits be granted:

- visit detainees in selected prisons to monitor their treatment and living conditions, paying close attention to the needs of minors, women and foreigners; share findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities
- provide basic hygiene supplies, clothing and recreational items to help up to 1,200 detainees enhance their well-being

- with the National Society, enable vulnerable foreign detainees to stay in contact with relatives and/or notify their consular representatives of their detention and, where appropriate, facilitate their return to their home country

- enhance security personnel's knowledge of internationally recognized standards on the use of force, including during arrest and detention (see *Actors of influence*), with a view to securing proper treatment of detainees

Assistance

- pending access to detainees, provide material/financial/technical support to detention authorities in rehabilitating/maintaining infrastructure, in order to improve living conditions, particularly access to water and sanitation facilities, for up to 12,000 detainees at 6 prisons

WOUNDED AND SICK

People injured during intercommunal tensions, politically motivated violence and natural/man-made disasters are often unable to receive timely care because of a lack of capacity among security forces, political groups and other people on the scene to deal with mass-casualty situations. Road blocks and other hindrances to medical services during situations of violence also make it difficult for the injured to receive proper care, while hospitals are often overwhelmed by patient influxes in these circumstances.

Disabled people in Bangladesh are often unaware of the physical rehabilitation services available, and also often lack the financial means to obtain these services. National capacities are insufficient, particularly in terms of the number of facilities providing services and the availability of trained prosthetic/orthotic technicians. A newly inaugurated BHPI school offers the first diploma course on prosthetics and orthotics in the country.

Objective

People injured during situations of violence or disasters receive timely and adequate first aid and/or medical care. Disabled people have access to appropriate and affordable rehabilitation services.

Plan of action and indicators

Assistance

With the National Society:

Medical care

- help ensure that people injured during violence or disasters receive timely and appropriate care, through a project that provides support to emergency personnel and medical facilities in tension-prone districts to boost their skills/capacities; specifically:
 - co-organize first-aid training, sometimes in tandem with sessions on the proper management of human

remains (see *Civilians*), for up to 300 first responders and/or instructors from the armed/security forces, political and religious groups and National Society branches, and equip them with first-aid kits; during dialogue with stakeholders, highlight the need to facilitate safe and unimpeded access to health care for those in need

- fund ambulance services to enable them to transfer patients needing secondary/specialized care to hospital or to ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres (see below)
- help hospitals cope with mass-casualty influxes by providing medical supplies/equipment, technical guidance for developing contingency plans, and support for training hospital staff and, where feasible, army doctors, in emergency-room trauma management

Physical rehabilitation

- with the National Society and other organizations concerned, raise disabled people's awareness of the services available at the CRP's Chittagong and Savar branches, through dissemination sessions, networking, outreach programmes and referrals from emergency responders and trained National Society youth volunteers
- to help disabled patients obtain quality, sustainable services from the two CRP branches:
 - cover treatment, accommodation and transportation costs for up to 1,200 destitute patients, and the cost of materials needed to produce prostheses/orthoses for up to 650 patients
 - provide technical advice/equipment to reinforce the centres' efforts to streamline their patient-management systems, treatment protocols and professional guidelines
 - enable the centres' prosthetic/orthotic technicians and physiotherapists to upgrade their skills through on-the-job training and sponsorship to attend formal training abroad
- to contribute to the development of Bangladesh's physical rehabilitation sector:
 - cultivate dialogue with the authorities and other stakeholders on pertinent issues; in particular, encourage involvement in promoting the rights of disabled persons and their social integration – through a regional sports competition, for instance
 - guide and support the new BHPI school as it runs the prosthetics/orthotics course for the first batch of students under ICRC scholarship; offer scholarships to others interested in attending the course

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Bangladesh is among the largest contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping missions. It also deploys personnel from its security forces throughout the country to maintain public order, primarily during political, social or ethnic tensions. In such situations, these forces – together with the authorities, political groups and/or community/religious organizations – are involved in: ensuring that civilians are protected; administering first aid to victims; and providing/facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those affected.

Academic institutions help raise awareness of humanitarian principles among students, some of whom are politically active. There are a number of well established local media outlets, but their coverage of humanitarian issues remains limited.

The recently established national IHL committee has begun its work.

Objective

The authorities, security forces and key civil society actors understand and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in situations of violence, and incorporate these in their decision-making processes. The media, academia and other groups with influence help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among all parties concerned and in the wider public, thus securing greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

With the National Society:

- ▶ increase awareness of and seek support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action by:
 - developing relations with ministry officials, armed/security forces, community/religious leaders and academic institutions through bilateral dialogue – including discussions on enhancing cooperation in activities benefiting communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Cox's Bazar district, and detainees (see above) – to ensure that vulnerable people are protected and receive humanitarian assistance
 - holding information sessions on Bangladeshi Red Crescent/ICRC activities – often in tandem with training in first aid and emergency care (see *Wounded and sick*) and/or campaigns on the red cross/red crescent emblems – for local authorities, health workers, security forces, political parties, community/religious organizations, National Society volunteers and beneficiary communities, stressing key messages of the Health Care in Danger project
 - organizing/participating in related events and training sessions for religious organizations and sponsoring the participation of officials in seminars abroad
 - inviting/sponsoring media representatives to attend IHL-related or Movement events/activities, to encourage accurate coverage of humanitarian issues
 - regularly disseminating print/electronic publications and promotional materials in the local language
- ▶ to encourage incorporation/implementation of IHL or, where applicable, internationally recognized standards,

in domestic law, training/operations of armed forces/police (see *Civilians and People deprived of their freedom*) and university curricula:

- co-organize training for instructors/officers of the armed/paramilitary forces and the police on the use of force and firearms during law enforcement operations, including arrest and detention, and on other pertinent subjects; brief troops departing on UN peacekeeping missions
- sponsor the participation of officials in national or regional seminars/workshops on IHL implementation
- provide the national IHL committee and government officials technical support for enacting the updates to the 1936 Geneva Convention Implementing Act; organize round-tables on implementing legislation for the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and weapon-related treaties
- enable university lecturers and students to participate in IHL training courses/competitions

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Bangladeshi Red Crescent is a key responder during natural/man-made disasters and is developing its capacities to provide emergency response during situations of violence, with support from Movement partners. It is also pursuing reforms, focusing on its legal status and strategic plan.

Objective

The National Society has a strong legal basis for independent action. It is able to carry out its core activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ provide the National Society technical expertise, training and material/financial support to:
 - acquire skills/tools and pursue organizational development and other initiatives to enhance its capacity to implement projects/activities in line with the Fundamental Principles, particularly in the areas of health, first aid, livelihood support and restoring family links (see above), and to promote IHL and humanitarian principles (see *Actors of influence*)
 - conduct its activities safely by incorporating the Safer Access Framework in its training and action plans
 - lobby for the adoption of a law strengthening its status; and once it is adopted, to provide technical and financial support for its promotion and implementation
 - ▶ coordinate activities with other Movement partners through meetings/workshops