



SCB BULLETIN



Official Newsletter of Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB)



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Dear Readers

The birth of this bulletin stems from a vital need: to promote and embrace Sphere Standards in humanitarian endeavors across Bangladesh. Our mission is two-fold: firstly, to keep you informed about Sphere-related activities, both locally within Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB) as well as globally. Secondly, we aim to showcase real-world examples of how Sphere Standards enhance response efforts, boosting effectiveness.

This bulletin's true power lies in its ability to foster collaboration, uniting experts, organizations, and humanitarian clusters. It encourages your active participation through opinion pieces, editorial roles, and meticulous reviews. For SCB, a volunteer-driven initiative, your involvement is pivotal in nurturing a sense of ownership and accountability.

In the grand scheme, 'SCB Bulletin' seeks to define SCB's role within Bangladesh's humanitarian landscape. A lofty aspiration, yes, but one that aligns with our dream of making Sphere Community a transformative force in humanitarian action.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with us.

Sphere in Action:

BDRCS and IFRC's Synchronized Effort

A K M Zahirul Alam, Senior Officer, Shelter Cluster Coordination, IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation

In June 2022, northeastern Bangladesh faced severe flooding, impacting over 7.2 million people due to heavy rainfall in India's Cherrapunji region. With 94% of Sunamganj and 84% of Sylhet underwater, the disaster resulted in a substantial \$230.8 million loss, affecting crops, animals, and essential infrastructure.

Responding promptly to this crisis, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) initiated a focused plan to aid **300,000 affected individuals**, collaborating with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Their approach integrated immediate relief with long-term recovery, guided by the principles outlined in the Sphere guidelines.

In the critical **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector**, BDRCS's response adhered meticulously to Sphere standards. Over 175,000 liters of safe drinking water were distributed, 303 water sources disinfected, and 13 tube-wells installed to mitigate waterborne diseases. The construction of 100 emergency latrines and a comprehensive hygiene promotion effort reaching 150,000 people underscored their commitment to Sphere's preventive measures against outbreaks.

Addressing **food security**, BDRCS distributed essential supplies to over 164,000 individuals, demonstrating a commitment to Sphere's core emphasis on ensuring access to sufficient food during emergencies.

In the health sector, BDRCS prioritized well-being, offering emergency medical assistance, psychosocial support, and contributing to the renovation of a crucial "Mother and Child Health center" all in line with Sphere guidelines.

BDRCS's comprehensive flood response in 2022, anchored in the Sphere guidelines, not only

provided immediate relief but set the stage for a sustained and resilient recovery.



Bangladesh Red Crescent volunteers carrying relief items to communities in Companiganj, Sylhet during flood operation 2022. (Photo: IFRC)

Shelter provision was a central focus of BDRCS's response. Tarpaulins were swiftly distributed to 16,000 individuals, emergency shelter toolkits provided to 1,500 households, and conditional cash grants facilitated repairs for 500 households. These actions, aligning with Sphere's standards for safe and dignified housing, addressed immediate needs while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery.



BDRCS medical team is giving medical support to flood affected people in Sylhet. (Photo: BDRCS)

Empowering Resilience:

Case Studies from Plan International Bangladesh

Mohammad Shazed – Country Manager: Humanitarian Action, Plan International Bangladesh

Communities in Ballavherkhas, Kachakata, and Kaliganj Union are crafting tales of resilience empowered by Sphere Standards in the flood-ridden landscape of northern Bangladesh.

EMPOWERING THROUGH SPHERE STANDARDS

In Dhariarpar village of Ballavherkhas Union, **Chaina Begum**, a mother of seven, faced a difficult situation after the last flood. Her cramped home held the dreams of adolescents, emphasizing the need for hygiene. **Mahideb Jubo Somaj Kallayan Somity (MJSKS)**, supported by **Plan International Bangladesh**, brought Household (HH) kits, including essential hygiene materials and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits. Chaina expressed gratitude, noting, *"These kits are a lifeline for us."*

In Khamar village of Kachakata Union, 35-year-old **Kajoli**, raising her son alone, participated in an emergency response project by Plan International Bangladesh. Various HH kits provided through the project proved to be a lifeline, easing their lives.



Upstream in Dakkin Wabda village of Kaliganj Union, Jhorimon, a 32-year-old mother, faced threats from the Dudkumor river. Selected as a participant in the emergency response project, she

Received 15 HH items from MJSKS and Plan International Bangladesh, brightening her outlook. She remarked, "This support is a ray of light in our daily life, helping us meet our family's needs."

EMBRACING SPHERE STANDARDS



These stories exemplify Sphere standards in action. The Humanitarian Sphere Handbook's universal principles guided the responses led by MJSKS and Plan International Bangladesh. Every aspect was meticulously planned, **focusing on safeguarding and accessible distribution points**. The needs of vulnerable groups were prioritized, with facilities like breastfeeding corners and separate sitting arrangements established.

Better equipped to face the uncertainties of future floods, the HH kits provided essential support for daily life. These stories illustrate the transformative power of humanitarian response embracing Sphere standards. Flood-affected households, once in a difficult situation, are now on the path to resilience, thanks to the commitment of MJSKS and Plan International.

Recent Updates

SPHERE HANDBOOK TRANSLATION UPDATES

- Shelter Cluster Bangladesh has completed translating the chapters “What is Sphere” and “Shelter & Settlement” and circulated them for feedback.
- The Food Security Cluster BD translates the “Food Security and Nutrition” chapter; the synchronization process is underway.
- WASH Cluster segments allocated; the deadline for translations is December.
- Health Cluster considers a specific expert for translation.
- NIRAPAD is translating the Protection Principles
- Mr. Suman A. Islam has agreed to translate the Core Humanitarian Chapter

SPHERE ‘TRAINING OF TRAINERS’ IN BANGKOK

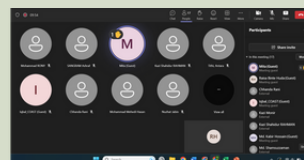
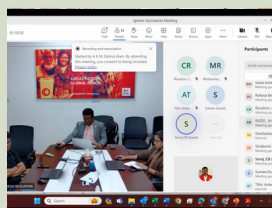


- Between 29 Sept - 8 Oct, 2023
- Sphere ToT and CHS Revision Workshop held together.
- All ToT participants attended the revision workshop.
- Also, safeguarding workshop ran concurrent with Sphere ToT.

GOVERNANCE TEAM FOR THE TERM 2023-24

Mehedi Hasan Shishir
Aminul Kawser Dipu
Hasina Akter Mita
Dulon Joseph Gomes
Mohammad Rony
Golam Motasim Billah
Nayeem Wahra
M.A. Halim
Shashanka Saadi
Suman A. Islam

LAST SCB MEETING- 17 AUGUST 2023 HOSTED BY WORLD VISION BANGLADESH



Scan to Download
Meeting Minutes



17TH AUGUST '23



18TH DECEMBER '23

Editorial Board

Raisa Binte Huda, Editor, SCB Bulletin
Mehedi Hasan Shishir, Country Focal, SCB

Moyen Uddin Ahmed, Care Bangladesh
Antara Das Tithi, Save The Children

Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB) Secretariat

IFRC Bangladesh Country Delegation
National Head Quarters, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)
Building 1 (1st Floor), 684-686 Boro Mogh Bazar, Dhaka-1217
spherebd.sec@gmail.com, www.spherebangladesh.com