

Focal Point organisation

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Bangladesh Delegation

Name and email address of the contact person(s):

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Describe briefly your organisation and how it fits into your role as Sphere Focal

Point (if applicable, please link it to the humanitarian situation in your country. Max. 20 lines)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people each year through its 191 member National Societies. The IFRC acts before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs of and improve the lives of vulnerable people. In Bangladesh, the IFRC Country Delegation and Cox's Bazar sub-delegation support the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) through development projects and disaster operations (including the recent COVID-19 response). In recent years, the IFRC has supported BDRCS through an average of two Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) or Emergency Appeal Operations per year, mainly in relation to cyclones and floods. This year, IFRC also supported the vulnerabilities through launch an emergency appeal on heatwaves for BDRCS.

As the current secretariat for Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB), IFRC strongly emphasizes the localization of humanitarian aid by actively encouraging the participation of local and national organizations in the dialogue and activities fostered by Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB). Moreover, IFRC is attempting to promote the Sphere Standards and Principles within government agencies. Finally, during its tenure, IFRC aims to cultivate a mindset that views Sphere as a 'process' of ensuring quality in humanitarian aid rather than as a collection of quantitative benchmarks to be arbitrarily achieved.

Following the terms and condition of SPHERE Community Bangladesh (SCB), IFRC by the turn took the responsibility to manage secretariat of SCB.

After IFRC's turn, secretariat has been sifted to another member organization of SCB which will be functional from January 2025 and continue till December 2026.

Is your organisation working with other Standards initiatives? If so, how do you collaborate with them? (Please indicate if you are a member of CaLP, CPMS, INEE, LEGS, Seep network, ADCAP and/or the CHS Alliance)

IFRC's work is guided by seven Fundamental Principles (humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality) and by Strategy 2020, which voices the organization's collective vision and determination to move forward in tackling the major challenges that presently confront humanity. IFRC is also practicing other standards like CaLP, LEGS, CHS Alliance to reach the humanities in an effective manner. And as the current secretariat for Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB), knowledge sharing and practicing the standards in a collaborative way.

Workplan 2024

List the Sphere activities your organization intends to conduct in the next 12 months?

Current/Planned Activities <i>(Please be as specific as possible)</i>	Tentative timeline <i>(if applicable)</i>
<p><i>Engagement with local authorities & Advocacy work</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endeavor to advocate for the adoption of Sphere within local government authorities. • Organize a national-level advocacy seminar aimed at promoting the utilization of Sphere principles. 	Jan-Dec 2024
<p><i>Sphere training and events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly organize an orientation on “Sphere; Humanitarian Charter; Protection Principles and CHS” and “Shelter and Settlement chapter” for the frontlines of the member organizations of Shelter Cluster Bangladesh. • Circulate the online training course to the member organizations on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use the Sphere Handbook? • How to be a Sphere Champion? as a prerequisite for in-person training. • Organize at least one ToT (Training of Trainers) on Sphere to create a resource pool. • Facilitate two orientation sessions on Sphere for relevant government officials. • Conduct at least six short additional training/orientation/sessions countrywide with the support of SCB members. • Organize an orientation session on the newly launched/reviewed Core Humanitarian Standards. 	Jan-Dec 2024
<p><i>Translation of the Handbook, Tools & Learning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of Sphere Handbook (Food Security and Nutrition Chapter; Revised Core Humanitarian Standards; Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Chapter; and Health Chapter) 	August 2024
<p><i>Coordination with the Sphere community at country/regional level</i></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly meeting among the members. • The SCB secretariat focal individual will participate in quarterly virtual meetings at the regional level. • Consistent coordination with clusters and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCTT) will be maintained to ensure the continual updating of the humanitarian system. • Initiate the process to handover the secretariate for the next tenure (Jan2025-Dec 2026) 	Jan-Dec 2024
Other activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing the SCB Bulletin, a bi-yearly official newsletter of Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB). • Other activities will be selected and done with priority. 	Jan-Dec 2024

How are you going to evaluate the success of the above-mentioned activities?

(Suggest success indicators for each above activity)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a survey on the above-mentioned activities/yearly activities during November-December among the SCB members. • Completion of those tasks with the appropriate document will be treated as the success which will be recognized by SCB members.
