



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## **National Conference on the Role of Red Crescent in Disaster Management in Bangladesh**

### **Dhaka Declaration on Collaborative Approaches in Disaster Management**

**1 December 2015, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other stakeholders present at this Conference

*Meeting in Dhaka Bangladesh from 30 November – 1 December 2015;*

*Acknowledging* that effective disaster management lies in our collaborative approaches, shared values and concern for groups in vulnerable situations;

*Recalling* the presentations and sessions of the National Conference on the Role of the Red Crescent in Disaster the Management in Bangladesh which explored the following issues: Paradigm shift of Disaster Management and Disaster Law in Bangladesh, the Auxiliary Role of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society; Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance in Bangladesh, Disaster Risk Reduction and Law in Bangladesh and the Protection and Inclusion of the Most Vulnerable in Disasters in Bangladesh;

*Noting* the important role that laws and regulations play to build community and institutional resilience to disasters, which are essential to creating an enabling environment for reducing disaster risks, preventing new risks from arising and making communities safer, as well as facilitating more effective international cooperation in times of disaster;

*Recognising* that individuals and communities are differently impacted by disasters due to gender, disability, age and diversity factors, and reaffirming commitments made by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at international, regional and national level to address such needs and vulnerabilities, including gender-based violence;

*Further noting* resolutions of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which have encouraged States to work in cooperation with their National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to review existing laws and regulatory instruments applicable to international disaster response and their legal provisions for promoting disaster risk reduction;

*Recognising* that the Government of the People' Republic of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society as an auxiliary, enjoy a specific and distinctive partnership, entailing mutual responsibilities and benefits, based on international and national laws of Bangladesh;

*Respecting* the importance of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in carrying out their humanitarian mandate in Bangladesh;



*Recognising* that 40 % of all disaster affected populations in Bangladesh are children and youth , who may have particular vulnerabilities to separation from their families during disaster (and requiring resourced Restoring Family Links Services), and that they are not only vulnerable but have important capacities and voices that need to be heard and responded to;

*Applauding* the dedication and commitment of all volunteers in Bangladesh, including those from Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, for the positive contribution they make in their communities

**Collectively Agree** to Undertake the Following Actions with a clearly mandated agency who will lead on implementation of each action, monitor and report on its progress and involve all other relevant stakeholders to ensure its fulfilment -

1. Work together to strengthen the domestic legal and policy framework for disaster management in Bangladesh and its implementation through utilisation of the DRR and Law Checklist to conduct an assessment and gap analysis of local level implementation, impact of the paradigm shift and accountability of disaster management laws in Bangladesh, with recommendations to be presented to the government.
2. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies undertaking, in partnership with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and in consultation with other key stakeholders, a review and gap analysis of the disaster management framework in Bangladesh against the International Disaster Response Law Guidelines to be submitted in 2016.
3. Enhance collaboration between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and other key local stakeholders, including women's networks, on gender based violence and disasters, including through working together to ensure effective local implementation ( at the community level) of legal frameworks and/or other mechanisms on prevention and response on sexual and gender based violence in disasters, including through educational institutions, youth networks and health services.
4. Enhance or develop community led initiatives, solution banks and information channels that facilitate meaningful joint action through community participation and coordination among different stakeholders, to inform early warning and community preparedness plans as well as law and policy development through partnerships, including with communities in particular with children, young people and volunteers.
5. Create an enabling environment for volunteers to take part in law and policy decision making as well as emergency response mechanisms that are being developed by Government, including Red Crescent Volunteers in the National Volunteer Platform, and to enhance their capacity through providing technology, equipment and Information and Communications Technology ( ICT) knowledge, tools and training
6. Expedite the process of enactment of a new legal base for Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to better reflect contemporary realities of the development and humanitarian context in Bangladesh, and the auxiliary role that Bangladesh Red Crescent Society plays in this, and ensure inclusion of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society on all government approved auxiliary lists.



7. Revitalise the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) defining clearly the roles and responsibilities of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
8. Ensure a sustained government budgetary allocation for Bangladesh Red Crescent Society for resilience, preparedness and emergency response interventions.
9. Review the commitments made at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and prepare effectively for and engage fully in the 32nd International Conference from 8 – 10 December 2015, including through potential use of the Dhaka Declaration as the basis of a joint pledge between the Government and Bangladesh Red Crescent at this Conference.
10. To meet in eighteen months to prepare a multi institutional public report to be submitted to the National Disaster Management Council in 2017 on progress against the Dhaka Declaration on Collaborative Approaches in Disaster Management.