

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

### **Consultant (firm) for developing/updating Climate Change Strategy for the Disaster and Climate Risk Management Department of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society**

*Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent  
Societies (IFRC), Bangladesh Country Delegation  
American Red Cross, Bangladesh Delegation*

#### **Context/Background:**

Bangladesh, geologically set in two different natural interfaces ranging from Himalayan piedmont in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south. Almost every year the country experiences recurring floods associated with river bank erosion, tidal surges, cyclones, droughts, low- and moderate-level seismic tremors, and other small- and moderate-scale disasters such as the cold wave, heat waves, fires, landslides and urban flooding. Due to the funnel shaped coast, Bangladesh often becomes the landing ground and breeding place of catastrophic cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal. An average of 1-3 severe to moderate cyclonic storms hit each year, with associated storm surges as much as 13 meters higher than normal in extreme cases, which can reach as far as 70 km inland.

Intensification of these disasters by climate variability and change has raised further vulnerability of the poorer people of Bangladesh. Approximately 45 million people living below the poverty line are often compelled to settle in areas that are particularly disaster prone, such as coastal areas and lands newly emerged from river beds. These people have little coping capacity and as a result, they suffer more when a disaster strikes.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), was established in 1973. BDRCS has been working to prevent and alleviate human suffering through rendering humanitarian services throughout 68 district units, in line with international humanitarian standards and the seven fundamental principles of the global Red Cross Red Crescent network. BDRCS has several national commitments to promote disaster preparedness and response in Bangladesh. BDRCS's national mandate as stated in the Government of Bangladesh's Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) is to complement the government's emergency response efforts, particularly disaster preparedness plans and programs. The strength of the National Society's partnerships with local Bangladesh government agencies and community groups reflects the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement's role and value-added in reaching the shared global humanitarian aid goals of the Grand Bargain and the localization agenda.

**About IFRC:** The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network that reaches 150 million people in 192 National Societies through the work of over 13.7 million volunteers. To find more about the IFRC visit [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org).

**Type of Consultancy:** Firm/agency (with at least 10 years of experience)

#### **Purpose:**

As BDRCS has updated its DRM department's title to Disaster and Climate Risk Management department, it is committed to establish an appropriate mechanism to address the convergence of climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas in its community-focused and institutional level policies and interventions. BDRCS wishes to translate the hard science of climate change prediction into tangible, community-level actions to support adaptation of the way poor people live and work in the face of increased hydro-meteorological hazards. There are growing calls for linking the community-level adaptation with DRR efforts, to reduce climate-related damage and losses through a more widespread implementation of DRM interventions.

The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) creates provision with mandate for BDRCS in the theme 2(T2) Comprehensive Disaster Management program (P2) improvements in cyclone and storm surge warnings and dissemination and program (P3) community-based disaster preparedness and improved resilience, theme 3 (T3) Infrastructure, Program (P2) repair and maintenance of existing cyclone shelters. BDRCS's existence in the BCCSAP, will facilitate in building partnership with government and other relevant agencies in terms of community based CCA programs, early warning, identifying, and addressing risk of community people.

While the importance of climate change is recognized as a key element in the BDRCS Strategic Plan, a BDRCS Climate Change Strategy needs to be developed with the view to intervene actions promoting best practices and community-based adaptations in the changing climate, as well as plan for institutional readiness to be able to support at-risk communities to tackle the adverse impacts of the changing climate, and sustain the community efforts made through various interventions.

While specific mandates are outlined in the Bangladesh National Strategy, BCCSAP, National Adaptation Plan, and Standing Orders on Disasters (SOD) for BDRCS in Disaster Management, Early Warning, Anticipatory Action and Community based Actions, BDRCS also plays an auxiliary role to the government. Hence it is necessary to clearly distinguish BDRCS humanitarian role in response to disasters and emerging hazard that complements with the mandates at a national and organizational level. Specific activities of BDRCS, in this regard, has to be spelled out in order to intervene and serve the vulnerable population effectively.

The purpose of the Climate Change Strategy is to promote BDRCS's Climate Change interventions relevant to the changing climate that would enhance community resilience in the face of recurrent and emerging hazards, as well as contribute to the overall National Adaptation Plan of the Government of Bangladesh.

### **Key Objectives of the work**

- To identify key themes of work BDRCS can do towards responding to climate change
- To identify the areas for BDRCS to work on Climate Change in line with Bangladesh National Adaptation Plan, BCCSAP, Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, and other relevant climate change doctrines related to Bangladesh; as well as the BDRCS strategic plan
- To explore opportunities with Government, technical experts, and other relevant stakeholders active in the field of climate change at the national, district and local levels, as well as key actors in the region and globally, within the strategy;
- To assess and develop a SWOT analysis for BDRCS in regards to climate change action
- To explore nature of partnership with universities in area of CC, research, academic course and exchange of knowledge, within the strategy.

In consideration to the role to be played by the BDRCS under the climate change context, an understanding of the organizational capacity is important to realize the scale of humanitarian work conceivable. The areas of enhancement of BDRCS have to be identified in order to plan and allocate resource to reinforce its humanitarian actions in DRR and Climate Change.

### **Responsibilities of the consultant**

- a) Review the relevant documents, including existing Climate Change strategy of BDRCS;
- b) Conduct FGD/interview with BDRCS, IFRC and Movement partners' staff members as well as government and external partners BDRCS works with
- c) Develop an outline of the strategy and share with BDRCS and IFRC
- d) Draft the BDRCS strategy through identifying key themes
- e) Finalize the strategy with the feedback and comments of BDRCS and IFRC

**Technical Steering Committee**

A technical steering committee comprising of staff members of BDRCS, IFRC, and American Red Cross along with other movement partners will provide guidance and input to the whole process. The consultant will work in close coordination with the committee.

**Timeframe**

The consultant is expected to complete the task within 30 working days.

**Deliverables of the consultant**

- a) Develop BDRCS Climate Change Strategy
- b) Develop a process documentation report

**Confidentiality**

All the outputs e.g., reports, documents, information etc. produced by this assessment will be treated as BDRCS, IFRC, and American Red Cross's property and consequently confidential. So, the above-mentioned outputs or any part of it cannot be sold, used or reproduced in any manner by the assigned organization / individual without prior permission from BDRCS, IFRC, and American Red Cross.

Note: The firm/agency will produce the deliverables in line with the ethical values and principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and validated and approved as needed. BDRCS, IFRC and American Red Cross will have full rights to the materials produced under this ToR and will have the right to edit/modify as needed and share the materials with relevant stakeholders through websites, social media, cloud space, etc.

The BDRCS, IFRC, and American Red Cross will have the full right to ask for corrections in the materials as many times as needed before the finalization.

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