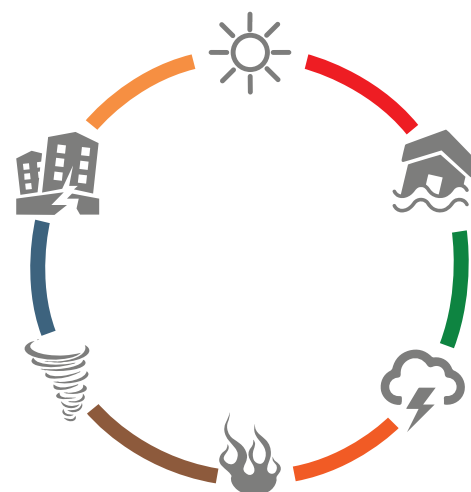


ActionAid Bangladesh's Work in Disaster Risk Management

ActionAid Bangladesh is working in disaster risk management with an unique, inclusive and responsive approach. It emphasises the role of partnership and involves participation from multi-level stakeholders, spanning from community to national level. With the aim to specially empower the most vulnerable groups of disaster, we introduced ' Women and Young People-Led Disaster Management' approach in 2013. As part of state level advocacy, we have contributed to national Disaster Management Act in 2012, National Disaster Management Policy in 2015 and in Standing Orders on Disaster in 2019 in Bangladesh. We also have successfully initiated the process of establishing the first ever Private Sector Emergency Operations Centre in Bangladesh and South Asia.



Achievements (2012-2022)

- **440,971** people have been reached through 37 humanitarian response projects, between 2012 – 2022.
- Over **3,82,237** people have been supported with multiple interventions in Rohingya response since 2017.
- **30,000** people have been trained on fire safety preparation through awareness sessions and simulations in urban areas under Strengthening Urban Public Private Programming for Earthquake Resilience (SUPER) project, in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD), City Corporations in Dhaka, ECHO Partner Organisations and Urban INGO Forum.
- Importance of **Women Friendly Space** have been promoted since 2017 and introduction of one stop crisis centre in the Standing Orders on Disaster (2019) has been ensured.
- Need of **Menstrual Hygiene Kit** as an essential humanitarian support item has been incorporated in the SOD 2019, as a result of advocacy.
- **Community Based Disaster Preparedness Institutionalisation Model** has been developed by ActionAid Bangladesh led National Alliance for Risk Reduction Initiatives consortium. It was reflected in the Seventh Five Year Plan and NARRI was awarded with UN SASAKAWA Award in 2013.

Voice from the Ground

“Women are active agents of change. We believe goals can be achieved through collective efforts. We therefore work together to reduce risk and raise awareness among women and marginalised groups in disaster risk management. If others from the communities also come forward, we will be able to achieve greater results for building resilience,” says Laily Begum, a community volunteer developed by ActionAid Bangladesh.

Laily organises and trains women to work as community volunteers in disaster preparedness and emergency response. She and her group led emergency response in 2013, during cyclone Mahashen. She has inspired rural women from the south coast of Bangladesh to lead during disasters, prevent and respond to gender-based violence during and post-disasters, and bounce back from the aftermath of disasters.

Talking about her work, Laily mentioned, “We inform the community, especially women, persons with disabilities, elderly, and children, on the forecast of cyclone and alert them on the risks of landslides with the aim to reduce the number of deaths and injuries during cyclones and disasters in the community.”

Women community volunteers like Laily also engage local government institutions and different service providers to access support and services for disaster preparedness and response. They have proved that all disaster risk management, including emergency response, can be done by women.



Multi-stakeholders' participation is critical for success in complex scenarios like disasters. We need to strengthen existing mechanisms and update periodically, in line with emerging needs.

Learnings Over the Years

Disaster and response preparedness should be pragmatic to address unforeseen situation, considering the impacts of climate change and the diversity of disaster, as we learnt from COVID-19 pandemic.