

LEARNING FROM 2024 DISASTER RESPONSE AND ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS

A COAST Foundation Workshop Report



DISASTER ANTICIPATORY ACTION
DISASTER ANTICIPATORY ACTION
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
DISASTER ANTICIPATORY ACTION

CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD (CHS)
ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE AFFECTED POPULATION (AAP)

COMPLAINT RESPONSE MECHANISM (CRM)

HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

DISASTER RESPONSE

COMPLAINT RESPONSE MECHANISM (CRM)



DISASTER ANTICIPATORY ACTION
DISASTER RESPONSE

Abbreviations

COAST	COAST Foundation
APP	Accountability to Affected People
CRM	Complaint Response Mechanism
HP	Humanitarian Principle
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standards
ED	Executive Director
DED	Deputy Executive Director
DRF	Disaster Risk Financing
AD	Assistant Director
JD	Joint Director
HCTT	Humanitarian Coordination Task Team
HHs	Households
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
NID	National Identification Number
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
NFI	Non-Food Items
MPC	Multi-Purpose Cash
HR	Human Resource
MFS	Mobile Financial Service

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1. Introduction

Held on 15–16 November 2024, the workshop on Disaster Anticipation Actions and Response Learning and Strategy brought together COAST’s frontline disaster response teams to deliberate on enhancing preparedness, response mechanisms and long-term resilience strategies. The workshop focused on identifying challenges, sharing lessons learned and preparing actionable strategies in disaster anticipation and response. This brief report summarises the key discussions, outcomes and recommendations.

A. Background:

Bangladesh is disaster-prone country. Each year, the country faces multi-hazard disasters such as flood, cyclone, heatwaves, and others. COAST Foundation has been working in the coastal areas where disasters are frequent. This year alone, COAST undertook one anticipatory and six response projects in three climate vulnerable districts, namely Bhola, Patuakhali and Feni.

During the response operations in the affected communities, our response team faced enormous challenges and gathered vast knowledge about disaster response and its impacts. The November 15-16 workshop was organised to capture and document this knowledge and chalk up a future strategy for disaster response. The main purpose of this exercise was to support the affected communities even better, quicker and more effectively with appropriate assistance as per CHS commitments and mandate of the COAST Foundation.

This brief report summarises the discussions and outcomes of the workshop.



Rashida Begum, AD was sharing her thoughts about impartiality during beneficiary selection process

B. Objectives of the Workshop

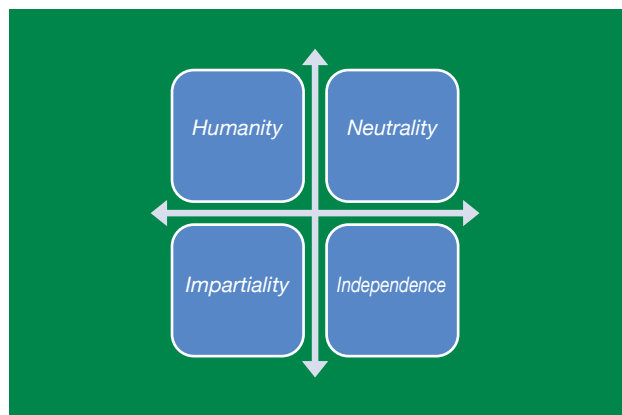
1. To identify gaps and improve organisational preparedness for disaster management.
2. To strategise future disaster anticipatory actions of the organisation.
3. To consolidate recommendations for organisational development and long-term disaster resilience.

2. Workshop Methodology

- Discussion and presentation on Core Humanitarian Standards, CRM, Humanitarian Principles, and Accountability to Affected Population for improving the understanding of COAST’s disaster response team.
- Discussion and presentations to identify challenges and opportunities.
- Group work to propose strategies for response and anticipatory actions.
- Sharing insights/feedback on completed projects on finance, audit, and procurement process.
- Suggestions and recommendations from disaster experts to explore potential organisational strategies that could enhance disaster response effectiveness in the future.

3. Discussions and Insights

COAST has a dedicated team assigned to respond during emergencies when a disaster occurs. To enhance their understanding of CHS, Humanitarian Principles (HP), CRM and Accountability to Affected People (APP), the first session of the workshop was designed to focus on these topics.



A. Humanitarian Principles

A detailed presentation shared during the discussion included HP and CHS by Md Iqbal Uddin, Joint Director, MEAL and Research. The Humanitarian Principles are:

Key takeaway:

- Always keep in mind that Humanity is above everything. COAST believes in this moto.
- Prioritise human dignity and life in all disaster response efforts, focus on alleviating suffering of the affected population.
- Provide assistance based on need, without discrimination.
- As a humanitarian worker, we cannot discriminate based on race, religion, nationality, or political affiliation.
- Maintain neutrality, without taking sides of any party. Focus only on humanitarian assistance.

B. Core Humanitarian Standards

The nine commitments of CHS were discussed in a comprehensive manner during the session. Following the presentation, participants were asked to share their understanding of each commitment. Rather than memorising the nine commitments in full, participants summarised them in short as listed below:

1. Right to participation
2. Right to receive effective and timely support
3. More prepared and resilient for future disasters
4. No harms to human and environment



Md Iqbal Uddin, JD, presenting slides on CHS & HP.

5. Right to place complaint securely, and ensuring confidentiality and transparency
6. Coordination and complementarity
7. Improve the quality of assistance based on community feedback
8. Skilled human resource, respectful to all and staff wellbeing
9. Responsible and ethical use of resources

C. Complaint Response Mechanism

During the implementation of the emergency response project in recent disasters, COAST ensured CRM was in place. However, areas for improvement were identified, particularly in ensuring the smooth operation of the CRM and addressing time constraints during such short-term responses. To enhance clarity and understanding of COAST's CRM policies and overall CRM standards, these issues were discussed in the workshop:

Key takeaway:

1. Always keep in mind the four key principles of CRM-accessibility, confidentiality, security and transparency
2. Welcome and address all complaints seriously, even if they are anonymous
3. Ensure confidentiality and security of both the complainant and the accused
4. Resolve all complaints in 21 days
5. Ensure dignity of the complainant
6. Ensure the documentation process of CRM



M K Akanda, Director sharing CRM policy, key challenges and way forwards



Md. Shahinur Islam, AD-Humanitarian Response, sharing core principles of Accountability to Affected Population

D. Accountability to the Affected People

COAST upholds the principle around AAP. To this end, COAST prioritises the needs of the community by actively listening to them and sharing with them every key aspect of the project from the very beginning through the end of the project. During the workshop, the principles and significance of AAP were thoroughly discussed.

Key takeaway:

1. Four principles: a) Clear information or transparency about organisation and project, b) Participation of crisis affected people, c) CRM and d) Adaptation.
2. Ensure that the affected community and other stakeholders are regularly informed in a simple manner using appropriate language, format, and media.
3. Inform the community about how CRM functions and how it ends.
4. Ensure that a mechanism is in place, so they can offer their feedback and suggestions and
5. Always uphold the dignity of the affected population.

4. Session Summaries (completed projects, finance and audit)

A. Overall Budget and Burn Rate:

COAST has implemented seven disaster response projects in 2024. Six of them are supported by Start Fund Bangladesh and one by Japan-based international organisation Shapla Neer and Japan Platform.

SL No	Project title	Partner name	Project period	Budget (in BDT)	Expenditure (in BDT)	Burn Rate
1	Emergency Preparedness & Response of Cyclone in Patuakhali	Start Fund Bangladesh	25 October 2023 to 03 December 2023	996,469	734,881	74%
2	Emergency Preparedness & Response of Cyclone in Patuakhali	Start Fund Bangladesh	24 May 2024 to 30 June 2024	9,323,381	8,680,705	93%
3	Rebuilding Coastal Districts: Post-Nor'easter Shelter Support Project	Start Fund Bangladesh	25 April, 2024 to 08 June, 2024	1,626,885	1,595,454	98%
4	BGD FCDO START Fund Bangladesh Phase IV (Alert B054)	Start Fund Bangladesh	For the month of June & July 2024	14,832,600	14,837,600	100%
5	Emergency Response with Lifesaving Assistance for Flood Affected People in Feni District (Alert B056)	Start Fund Bangladesh	For the Period of 26 August to 9 October 2024	4,312,620	4,083,307	95%
6	Ensuring Humanitarian Assistance to Flood Affected People in Feni District (Alert B057)	Start Fund Bangladesh	For the Period of 30 August to 13 October 2024	8,326,912	7,945,825	95%
7	Emergency Relief Assistance for Flood Affected peoples at Parshuram and Fulgazi in Feni District	Shapla Neer	25 September 2024 to 05 November 2024	35,831,423	35,830,981	100%
	Total			75,250,290	73,708,752	98%

B. Brief on Each Project:

All seven projects have faced unique challenges, which offered new insights on what went well and what went wrong. COAST will accommodate these new insights in their future disaster response activities.

Project 1:

Project Name	Rebuilding Coastal Districts: Post-Nor'easter Shelter Support Project
Project Area	Upazila- Monpura, District- Bhola, Bangladesh
Target Beneficiary	66 HHs
Type of Support	Financial support to households for reconstructing shelters affected by cyclone
Duration	25 April 2024-8 June 2024
Supported By	Start Fund Bangladesh
Total Budget	BDT 16,26,885
Total Burn Rate	98%



A cyclone victim in front of his demolished house. He later received cash support to rebuild the house. Monpura, Bhola, 7 May 2024. Photo: Osman Goni



This family received cash support to rebuild their houses destroyed by Nor'easter. Monpura, Bhola, 4 May 2024. Photo: Md. Babul

Project 2:

Project Name	Emergency Response with Lifesaving Assistance for Flood Affected People in Feni District (Alert B056)
Project Area	Dagonbhuya and Chagolnaya, Feni
Target Beneficiary	1,600 flood affected population
Type of Support	Food and Non-Food Items
Duration	26 August 2024-8 October 2024
Supported By	Start Fund Bangladesh
Total Budget	BDT 43,12,620
Total Burn Rate	95%



COAST team distributing dry food and water at shelters. Matubhuiya, Feni, 27 August 2024. Photo: Shibli Mahmud.



COAST team on the way to cyclone shelters. Matubhuiya, Feni, 27 August 2024. Photo: Shibli Mahmud

Project 3:

Project Name	Ensuring Humanitarian Assistance to Flood Affected People in Feni District (Alert B057)
Project Area	Feni Sadar and Sonagazi, Feni
Target Beneficiary	600 HHs
Type of Support	Cooked food, medical camp and cash support (through mobile banking)
Duration	31 August 2024-13 October 2024
Supported By	Start Fund Bangladesh
Total Budget	BDT 83,26,912
Total Burn Rate	95%



A woman cooking food after receiving food items after the flood. Izzatpur, Feni Sadar, 4 September 2024. Photo: Md. Shahinur Islam



Affected people received NFIs at Izzatpur, Feni, after the flood. 10 September 2024. Photo: Md. Shahinur Islam

Project 4:

Project Name	Emergency Response of Cyclone Remal (Alert B054)
Project Area	Sadar Upazila, Tazumuddin Upazila, Lalmahan Upazila, Char Fahsion Upazila and Monpura Upazila of Bhola District
Target Beneficiary	1400 Households
Type of Support	Community kitchen, cash support (through mobile banking), hygiene kits distribution, cash for work
Duration	1 June 2024-15 July 2024
Supported By	Start Fund Bangladesh
Total Budget	BDT 1,48,32,600
Total Burn Rate	100%



An affected woman after receiving cash support from COAST. Jahanpur, Bhola, 15 June 2024. Photo: Md. Shahinur Islam



COAST installed deep tube well in Dhal Char union, Photo: Din Mohammad Shibly

Project 5:

Project Name	Readiness and DRF for Early Action and Responses to Humanitarian Crisis
Project Area	Patuakhali district
Target Beneficiary	1700HHs
Type of Support	Water purification tablets, Jerry cans for 1700 HHs, cash support (through mobile banking) for 300 most vulnerable HHs
Duration	25 October 2023-3 December 2023
Supported By	Start Fund Bangladesh
Total Budget	BDT 9,96,469
Total Burn Rate	74%



Affected people receiving cash support. Golachipa, Patuakhali, 26 May 2024. Photo: Atiqur Rahman.



Affected people receiving water jerry cans. Doshmina, Patuakhali. 23 December 2023 Photo: Sania Easmin

Project 6:

Project Name	Emergency Preparedness & Response of Cyclone in Patuakhali
Project Area	Patuakhali district
Target Beneficiary	300 Households
Type of Support	Multipurpose cash support
Duration	24 May 2024-30 June 2024
Supported By	Start Fund Bangladesh
Total Budget	BDT 9,323,381
Total Burn Rate	93%



Disaster victims received relief at Ala Uddin Nasim Madrasha, Chitolia, Parshuram, Feni. 27 October 2024. Photo-Farid Uddin

Project 7:

Project Name	Emergency Relief Assistance to Flood Affected People in Parshuram and Fulgazi Upazilla in Feni district
Project Area	Mirzanagar and Chitolia in Parshuram Darbarpur in Fulgazi
Target Beneficiary	4,875 households
Type of Support	Food and non-items for 20 days of a family
Duration	25 September to 5 November, 2024
Funded By	SHAPLA NEER and Japan Platform
Total Budget	BDT 3, 58,31,423
Total Burn Rate	100%



Relief packages are ready for distribution. Chitolia, Parshuram, Feni. 27 October 2024. Photo: Tanjir Roni

C. Key Achievements

1. Nearly 45,000 affected people received support from these seven projects in four disaster-prone districts of Bangladesh.
2. 6,877 households received food and non-food items.
3. 2,366 HHs received direct cash support and they used it for house reconstruction, food and medicine.
4. 13 roads repaired, 11 deep tube well installed, 20 community Bridges (*Shakos*) built, 9 community toilets constructed in the flood and cyclone-affected areas.
5. Nearly 1,200 people received primary healthcare services.
6. A group of dedicated volunteers were identified and sensitised on CHS, CRM, PSEA. They can assist their community in any future crisis/ disaster upholding humanitarian principles.
7. A strong relation has been built with local government and administration that will help COAST to respond more effectively and timely in the future.
4. Separate and dedicated procurement team enhanced overall project efficiency.
5. Collecting NID of all members of the target household helps avoid duplications of beneficiaries from the same households.
6. Affected people need to understand that CRM registration is not a guarantee for receiving aids. The community needs to be sensitised about it through community consultation before undertaking the project.
7. Experienced PIU staff can lead the emergency project smoothly.
8. Publishing circular in Bdjobs site for big procurement reduces the workload.
9. Data validation by internal audit team during data collection process helped significantly in selecting right beneficiaries.
10. During data collection, providing unique code to data collectors helps avoid data submission by other users.
11. Use of social media and short video increase visibility.

D. Key Learnings

1. Media coverage is crucial in ensuring accountability to the affected people. At the same time, it strengthens coordination and relation with local administration.
2. Prior and strong coordination with local authorities can enhance efficiency in project implementation.
3. Responsive and supportive management facilitates quick decision-making, reducing delays in implementation.

5. Strategic advice and suggestions for anticipatory action from disaster expert

- Focus on the most vulnerable populations, though they are receiving support from government social safety nets.
- Consider the victims who don't have NID cards (currently, it is 23% in certain areas).
- Plant long banana tree for coastal protection and use during floods.



Sanat Kumar Bhowmik, DED, explaining humanitarian principles.



Gawher Nayeem Wahra, Disaster expert sharing his experience and guidance to be better prepared.



“We want to be better prepared to reduce human sufferings in any disasters. That would be our prime objectives to respond.”

*Rezaul Karim Chowdhury
Executive Director, COAST Foundation*

- Incorporate Starlink services for reliable communication in disaster scenarios, especially in the area where mobile network is not available.
- Conduct advocacy for installation of mobile tower generators and raised platforms for uninterrupted service.
- Use cotton cloth and alum for water purification.
- Revive local market by procuring MPCs and food from nearby vendors.

6. Consolidated Recommendations for Organisational Development: COAST’s Next Course of Action

A. Future Programming

- Bamboo plantation in coastal areas for protection against cyclone and house/shelter-building materials.

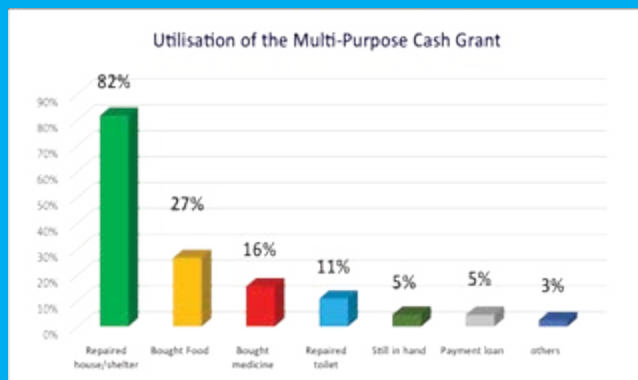
a. Multi-Purpose Cash Support during Disasters

Addressing Immediate Needs or Call for More Durable Solutions?

In May 2024, COAST Foundation responded to Cyclone Remal’s devastation in Patuakhali and Bhola districts with support from Start Fund Bangladesh. Multi-Purpose Cash assistance was provided to 1,700 households (1,400 in Bhola and 300 in Patuakhali), targeting the most vulnerable, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. The cash transfers aimed to reduce the cyclone’s impact by enabling recipients to address urgent needs like food, shelter, and medical care. MPC is widely regarded for its efficiency, flexibility, and ability to empower affected communities to prioritise their own needs. COAST adhered to the cash distribution guidelines of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) in its implementation.

A post-distribution study revealed that 82% of recipients used the funds to repair or rebuild cyclone-damaged homes, while 27% used the money to buy food, 16% to buy medicine, and 11% to repair damaged toilets. Beneficiaries emphasised the importance of MPC in helping them recover quickly, with a focus on rebuilding shelter—a critical need in cyclone-prone coastal areas.

However, findings raise an important question: should humanitarian agencies invest more in durable housing solutions alongside MPC? With most aid going toward temporary housing repairs, there is a pressing need for innovative and sustainable cash support approaches that address lifesavings, enhance resilience and reduce long-term vulnerabilities to severe weather events.



- Focus on education for children and then migrate them from disaster-prone areas.
- Building disaster-resilient housing by raising household plinth.
- Consider new technology for drinking water. Experience can be gathered by visiting Khulna and Satkhira districts. Use of plastic will be avoided in relief distribution.
- Explore portable water purifier machine for distribution in shelters.
- Doctors/paramedic will be recruited to run community health programmes.
- Consider sustainable materials instead of wood in constructing houses, bridge etc.
- Herbal and bamboo production as a means of sustainable livelihoods.
- Recruitment of doctors and paramedics for medical support during emergencies.
- Medicine in relief packages.
- Area-based fund allocation.
- Project period needs to be increased (2 months).

b. How Complaints are Addressed and Responded?

During the implementation of the Emergency Relief Assistance to Flood-Affected People in Parshuram and Fulgazi Upazila, Feni, we faced challenges maintaining the Complaint Response Mechanism. Complaints were collected through a hotline, a complaint desk, and direct visits to our office. Many beneficiaries reported not receiving relief despite informing their needs, and some claimed eligibility but were not reached out during data collection. We documented all complaints, verified them thoroughly, and provided support to those who were eligible. However, tension rose when non-eligible families demanded relief and complained to the UNO. The UNO convened a meeting with COAST representatives and the complainants. At the meeting, COAST representatives explained the situation, which helped clarify and resolve the issue.

B. Documentation

- Proper documentation process in reporting and CRM.
- A beneficiary should understand properly that CRM registration is not aid support in itself. Let the community know about CRM prior to the project implementation. This can be discussed during community consultation.
- Local level/project level/regional level CRM number should be in the system.

C. Human Resources

- Identification and deployment of proactive staff are critical for disaster response projects.
- A disaster response team, including area managers, auditors, and other potential staff from the core programme, will receive orientation on disaster management, AAP, and CHS.
- Local scout teams from educational institutes and Red Cross/Red Crescent disaster committees will be linked to the organisational structure and provided with skill development training.
- Policy adjustments will be made regarding deployment of staff in emergencies, and development partners will be informed.
- No accountant from microfinance will be deployed in emergency response project; a new accounting group will be developed.
- Trustworthy, loyal, and committed staff should be involved in warehouse management.
- No political affiliation will be allowed for staff, including field facilitators/enumerators.
- Waiver policy in HR, procurement during emergency.
- Region-wise volunteer list.

D. Procurement

- Vendor enlistment prior to disasters will facilitate immediate procurement.
- Local vendors will get priority for construction support during disaster response projects.
- For large-scale procurement, advertisements will be published on online platforms such as bdjobs.com and in local newspapers.
- Prior vendor enlistment will be implemented



Md Ahsanul Karim, director, sharing slides from audit section

for procurement, especially in the case of DRF/ anticipatory programming.

- Vendor selection will be based on procurement strategy.
- Purchase of a large Rescue Boat for Betua to Monpura travelling. Inflatable boats could also be considered.

E. Internal Audit

- Audit teams will be actively involved in beneficiary selection process for quick and accurate response.
- Emphasis was placed on eliminating direct cash handling.
- Ensuring proper documentation for all financial transactions.
- Verbal approval from ED in case of super emergency. Also, send him email for further documentation.

c. Aman Seedlings: Supporting Farmer Rehabilitation and Food Security in Feni

After the devastating flood in Feni, COAST has distributed Aman seedlings to 600 farmers in Valukia, Maizbaria, Laxmipur, Alokdia and Goarua villages supporting the cultivation on 100 acres of flood-affected land. As part of a broader rehabilitation programme supported by Start Fund Bangladesh, COAST has distributed these seedlings which is expected to produce 2 tonnes of rice. This effort has amazed farmers, as the devastating floods had washed away all local seedlings, leaving them hopeless. COAST sourced the seedlings from other districts, ensuring farmers could recover their livelihoods and secure food for the future. Agriculture officers provided guidance and pledged further support, while farmers expressed deep gratitude for this life-changing assistance.



A farmer pose for a photo after receiving Aman Seedling. Sonagazi, Feni. 19 September 2024. Photo: Mizanur Rahman



COAST serving hot meals through community kitchen in Dhalchar in response to cyclone Remal, 1 June 2024, Photo: Khokan Chandra Shil

d. Community Kitchen: A Life-Saving Support for Flood-Affected People

The devastating flood started on 22 August 2024 and COAST Foundation began rescue operations and providing hot meals on 24 August 2024. Understanding that disaster-affected people often face rights violations, COAST ensures community participation and accountability in all its humanitarian efforts. Using experience from cyclone responses, COAST carried out intensive relief work in flood-affected areas of Cumilla, Laxmipur, Noakhali, and Feni. People were taken to shelters, and food was delivered using banana tree rafts called “Bhela.” Community kitchens were set up in shelters with support from center committees and COAST staff. Around 1,200 people received hot meals for 11 days during the flood.



Mohammed Omour Faruk Bhuiya, JD, sharing the slides from Finance section

- Include one staff member from audit section in procurement.

F. Finance

- Creation of a “Special Emergency Fund” to allow rapid response during emergencies.

- Transition to a digitalised banking system for efficient and quick approval and fund disbursement.
- Regular staff transfer policies in disaster response projects.
- Advance adjustments processing in due time.
- Addressing challenges of MFS.
- Controlling frequent changes to project bank account signatories.
- Increase the advance limit for emergency.
- Flexibility in budget to change the budget line/head.

e. Towards a Sustainable Humanitarian Response

Insights from frontline workers

In this workshop, frontline responders identified critical gaps in traditional emergency response projects and offered recommendations for a more sustainable humanitarian response. These include:

Contingency Fund for Immediate Action: Immediate support during disasters is essential. While initiatives like Start Fund Bangladesh lead rapid responses, it still takes 6–7 days to reach beneficiaries. A contingency fund available with partners can enable lifesaving actions immediately during a disaster. Traditional projects will follow later on.

Use of Multipurpose Cash: Current multipurpose cash assistance often amounts around BDT 6,000, and 85% of beneficiaries used it for house reconstruction. As the support is much below the requirement, aid organisations should revise the amount to address the actual needs effectively.

Water and Toilet Infrastructure: Access to clean drinking water and toilets remains a challenge in disaster-affected areas. Some projects support building of such facilities, but long-term solutions such as pond excavation, rainwater harvesting, tube wells, and supply systems are essential.

Inclusive Community Health Programme: Some health packages and activities address the needs of crisis-affected communities. However, elderly individuals with chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, who require daily lifesaving medications, are often overlooked. To bridge this gap, recruitment of doctors and paramedics is essential to provide sustained healthcare support beyond the limited scope of traditional health camps.

Environmentally Friendly Relief Items: Relief packages often include plastic items, which harm the environment. Alternatives such silver or environmental friendly non food items should replace plastic for sustainable aid practices.

Herbal Production and Bamboo Plantation: Planting herbs and bamboo in coastal areas serves as a sustainable, long-term strategy to enhance resilience against cyclones and provide essential materials for housing and shelters. In regions where access to healthcare or medical facilities is limited, herbs can serve as natural remedies, particularly for addressing child health needs.

Standardised Overhead Costs: Development partners and intermediaries should adopt a standardised 10% overhead cost policy with flexibility for organisational development, ensuring equitable support for partners.

Staff Insurance and Festival Bonuses: Most partner staff do not get insurance coverage and festival bonuses, creating inequities. Donors and intermediary organisations should ensure these benefits are standard to promote equal partnerships.

G. Emergency Response

- Adoption of paid software, such as Kobo, for systematic data collection and analysis.
- Provision of motorcycles, generators, and vehicles (microbuses and pickups).
- Establish warehouses in Cox's Bazar and arrange staff accommodation in response areas.
- Shelter construction through beneficiaries/local vendors will be monitored by the organisation.
- Coordination with stakeholders at all levels.
- Each NID must be checked at branch level before selecting beneficiaries.
- Mobile money transfer.
- A small generator will be purchased for project implementation in hard-to-reach areas.

- Emergency organisational plan for staff mobilisation.
- Staff security policy during emergency.
- Collect data of vulnerable beneficiaries who receive social safety net support.
- Awareness raising issues must be ensured before project implementation.

7. Conclusion

The workshop on Disaster Anticipation Actions and Response Learning and Strategy brought together key staff members to evaluate and enhance COAST Foundation's disaster response efforts. By reviewing past projects, identifying challenges, and sharing best practices, the workshop provided valuable insights to improve preparedness, response mechanisms, and long-term strategies.

f. Partnership with local organisation for faster Response and reach outreach

To reach faster the flood-affected areas in the eastern region such as Noakhali, Lakshmipur and Feni, we initially partnered with OPCA for Feni region, PRAN for Noakhali region, PRANTIC for Begumganj region, and CWDA for Lakshmipur region. This initiative, funded with COAST's own budget, was found effective, especially in providing hot meals and saving lives in hard-to-reach areas. These partners were allowed full freedom to utilise the fund. They have potential to work more efficiently during future disasters if their capacity to respond can be enhanced. They also need visibility for big national and international NGO to reach out to them in critical period. Building their leadership capacity will require special investments.





COAST Foundation originated from a project working in Southern part Bhola island since 1984, which was situated in the mouth of Bay of Bengal where joint flow of mighty river Meghna meet. Meghna is the joint flow of South Asian river Jamuna and Bramaputra. World 5 % dangerous cyclone being happening here. And during monsoon, all the water from South Asia flow with the speed of per second 2 million cubic fit touching the island. The organization and the work force have intensive experiences of managing humanitarian response almost in all cyclones and since 2017 it has been gaining experiences on Refugee response in Cox's Bazar too.

Now, the organization cover almost all coastal area including small islands of coastline covering Patuakhali to Cox's Bazar district. This year (2024), we had six humanitarian response projects which includes tornado, cyclones and one flood. We have responded flood in Lakshmipur, Noakhali, Feni and Commilla, especially in the remote boarder of Parasuram sub-district. Our response initially started with our own money / disaster management fund accumulated from the surplus of micro finance Income. This has done with the help of PKSF (a government owned body for supporting employment and income for the poor families) with the approval from MRA (Microfinance Regulatory Authority). But we also received generous support from Start Fund Bangladesh and Shapla Neer (A Japanese NGO working in Bangladesh) with the help of Japan Platform. World Food Program (WFP) engaged us in monitoring of their flood response projects.

We felt, from this year, annually we should have experiences sharing and review workshop with all involved staff, which will lead to prepare a disaster / humanitarian response strategy for next year / future. We have also discussed humanitarian principles, core humanitarian standard, complain response mechanism and accountability to the affected population. This is the brief report in this regard, we have highlighted, how we can build resilience community, organization capacity, how to address food security, how and why to work with very local organization, and what are the suggestion for donors and intermediary organization.



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