



Strengthening Emergency
Preparedness and
Resilience in Bangladesh

SERB

SUPPORTED BY



USAID
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Bangladesh:

A DISASTER HOTSPOT IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION

Bangladesh is among the most disaster-prone countries. The population is often affected by water-related natural disasters, including floods, riverbank erosion and cyclones. In addition, rapid urbanization increases the risks of earthquakes as well as man-made disasters. – *Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief*

Managing disasters has been a major focus with investments in DRM significantly decreasing disaster mortality in recent years. The context, however, is changing as climate induced disasters poses a challenge to its rapidly growing cities. The Program for **Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Resilience in Bangladesh (SERB)** seeks to achieve an integrated approach for emergency management at national, sub-national and community levels and help develop resilient healthcare facilities across the country.

The program provides technical assistance to the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen the ongoing and past efforts in emergency preparedness in Bangladesh. It aims to improve the institutional and technical capacity of **sub-national** and **local partners** in preparedness for response by strengthening medical facilities and upskilling the Urban Community Volunteers in the country.



Photo Credit: ADPC

THE EVOLUTION OF SERB

2013

Started as 'Strengthening Earthquake Resilience in Bangladesh' by the ADPC with initial funding from the USAID Mission in Bangladesh.

Focused on building resilience against earthquakes.

2019

Initiated its second phase as 'Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Resilience in Bangladesh'.

Adopted a multi-hazard strategy to enhance disaster preparedness.

SERB FOCUS



Government

Supports the national and sub-national authorities to **operationalize Standing Orders on Disaster 2019**, including the implementation of district-level response plans in the country.



Health Facilities

Enhances disaster preparedness of health facilities through **building the capacity of medical professionals and implementing response plans** in hospitals and institutions.

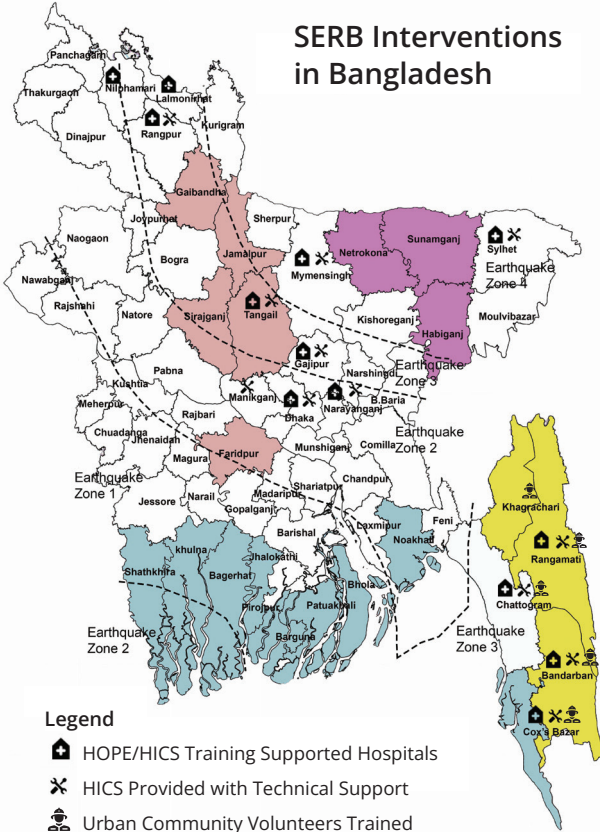


Community

Upskills Urban Community Volunteers to reduce dependence on external help during emergencies and form a network of local actors which can be deployed during disasters.

TARGET AREAS

SERB Interventions in Bangladesh



Legend

- HOPE/HICS Training Supported Hospitals
- HICS Provided with Technical Support
- Urban Community Volunteers Trained
- Target areas in SERB 2

WE'VE REACHED MORE THAN 3,300 PEOPLE



2,040

Urban Community Volunteers Trained



51

Advanced Refresher Training Conducted for Community Volunteers



851

People Trained on HOPE



295

People Trained on HICS



12

Districts and Cities Reached



19

Hospital Emergency Response Plans Developed



26

Hospital Disaster Safety Assessment Conducted

*data from 2013 - July 2022
Photo Credit: ADPC and Freepik

SERB COMPONENTS

Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies

HOPE

5-day interactive course

- Foundation of emergency preparedness in health facilities.
- Targets different health facility departments.
- Imparts skills to manage mass casualties events, while continuing daily operations.



Hospital Incident Command System

HICS

5-day specialised course

- A follow-up to the HOPE Basic Course.
- Assist hospitals with all-hazard emergency planning and response efforts.
- Provides technical know-how on commanding, coordinating and controlling an emergency incident.



Hospital Disaster Safety Assessment

HDSA

- Assess the safety of healthcare facilities.
- Identifies vulnerabilities and provides recommendations to address the existing gaps in emergency management.



Hospital Emergency Response Plan

HERP

- Emergency Response Plan is developed based on the HDSA.
- Frames a strategy to address and manage unique catastrophes.



Multi-Hazard Emergency Operation Plan

MHEOP

- A comprehensive emergency plan to address multiple hazards.
- Promotes the integration of the SOD 2019 for wider application.



Simulation / Tabletop Exercises

- Tests the functionality of the hospital emergency plan before its implementation.
- Allows the hospital management to understand the plan and check its efficacy.

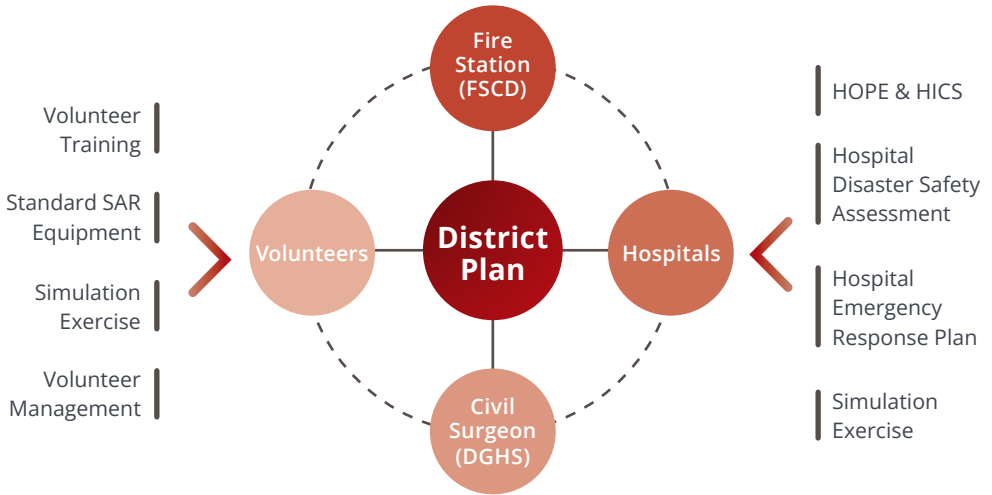


OUR PARTNERS



- Department of Disaster Management (DDM)
- Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
- National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM)
- Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD)

Development Response Capacity



The goal is to integrate SERB curricula, guidelines, processes and systems into the training programs of partner institutes and annual budgets.

SERB enhances the overall institutional capacity for emergency preparedness in Bangladesh by contributing to key priorities in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which highlights **the need to strengthen DRR measures in critical facilities like hospitals and promote the resilience of new facilities.**

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