

BANGLADESH ICRC OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY TO JUNE 2021



COVID-19: ISOLATION CENTRES INAUGURATED IN BANGLADESH'S PRISONS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues to support the Prisons Directorate in Bangladesh to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within prison facilities. In May 2021, three COVID-19 isolation centres (70-bed centre in the central jail of Keraniganj, 41-bed centre in Feni District Jail-2, and 28-bed centre in Kishoreganj District Jail-2) have been inaugurated by His Excellency Asaduzzaman Khan, the Minister of Home Affairs. These centres are a result of close cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the Prisons Directorate, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the ICRC.

Elaborating on the ICRC's support to help set up COVID-19 isolation centres in three prisons, Katja Lorenz, Head of the ICRC's delegation in Bangladesh, said, "Prisoners are among the most vulnerable populations when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic. Hence, it is essential for the prisons to be able to separate those who have caught the virus from the rest of the prison population. Our support included designing and setting up the centres and providing technical support to establish guidelines and to implement infection prevention and control measures. We also provided basic medical and sanitation equipment as well as furniture."

The Prisons Directorate has been consistently working since the beginning of the pandemic to develop an efficient and comprehensive system to prevent the spread of COVID-19 inside prisons. These constant efforts involve all the Prisons Directorate staff, from headquarters to prison guards. This work has been supported by different partners (including the MoHA, the MoHFW, and the ICRC) present from the very start and actively involved in different projects such as training sessions on precautionary measures against COVID-19 for prison staff, regular distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) in all 68 prisons and the renovation and establishment of three isolation centres for detainees who have COVID-19.

*Brigadier General Md Mominur Rahman Mamun,
Inspector General of Prisons*

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh in 2020, the ICRC has cooperated with the Prisons Directorate to identify the most important needs concerning the response to the pandemic in the prisons.



Donation of body bags & PPE items to the first responders to ensure dignified handling of COVID-19 deceased (Read more)



Second phase of the ICRC/BDRCS Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) program in 31 health complexes across the Chittagong Hill Tracts region (Read more)



100 traffic police personnel & first responders under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) received basic first aid training (Read more)



Support to Teknaf Municipality in Cox's Bazar by setting up a faecal sludge management plant to help prevent water & vector-borne diseases & protect the environment (Read more)



Medical waste management services are part of our support to health complexes in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh to develop sustainable infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. In recent months, three medical waste management facilities were inaugurated in Chakaria, Ramu and Pekua health complexes which will help reduce cross-infection, sharps injuries and environmental hazards that result from the improper handling of medical waste (Read more)



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Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Bangladesh. Tweets about ICRC's activities in the country and elsewhere.



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