



BANGLADESH

Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlement

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Bangladesh

Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements

Version 2: June 2023

The Shelter Cluster Bangladesh has developed the “*Environmental Profile for Shelter Response*” to fill a gap in the knowledge base of the cluster highlighted during past responses. The profile informs environmentally sustainable shelter programming by making key information about environmental considerations, impacts, concerns and opportunities relevant to shelter and settlements programming available and accessible to Shelter Cluster partners. Version 1 was completed in 2019 and updated in 2022 - 2023.

Quality programming includes understanding, preventing and mitigating negative environmental impacts. If environmental issues are not taken into account, shelter and settlement programmes may ultimately be inefficient since short-term outcomes can cause new problems, requiring further investment
– Sphere handbook 2018

This profile covers the whole country - with additional emphasis on flood and cyclone prone areas and areas with refugee influx - and is not intended to be exhaustive. It is meant to provide a quick basic understanding of the country-wide context and the most crucial factors relevant for environmentally sustainable shelter related operations. It is particularly to support humanitarian shelter actors with little knowledge of environmental concerns in Bangladesh. It aims to save the user time in investigating these issues by compiling existing information and pointing to key issues, additional sources of information and further references. After a disaster, the information in this profile should be contextualised based on the impacts of the disaster. The information in this document can serve as a baseline of environmental issues facing the country of relevance to humanitarian shelter and settlements interventions.

For more in-depth information on local building practices in Bangladesh, refer to the [Bangladesh Shelter Response Profile on local building cultures](#) created for the Shelter Cluster. In order not to duplicate information from this resource, regular references are made to this profile.

The checklist and annexes are living documents that can be revised and added to by the Shelter Cluster over time as new information becomes available. Future revisions will help to ensure that environmental and shelter and settlement related issues and practices vary greatly across Bangladesh.

The profile was developed with financial support from DG ECHO and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

Structure of the profile

Building off the 2018 Sphere Standards, the profile contains a **checklist** outlining key actions to be taken by the coordination team, program managers and field staff during each phase of the humanitarian program cycle, and **annexes** which provide further guidance on each of the actions. The structure is designed to be as operational as possible and allow users to easily access relevant information without having to read the entire document. The annexes can also be read as one country profile.

Sphere Shelter and Settlement Standard 7: Environmental sustainability

“Shelter and settlement assistance minimises any negative programme impact on the natural environment.”

~ Sphere Handbook 2018

It is recommended that coordinators, program managers and field staff be familiar with the content of the whole profile. Given the role of shelter and settlements in promoting health, supporting family and community life, and providing dignity, security and access to livelihoods, and environment being a cross-cutting issue, this profile is also relevant to other sectors. Issues of livelihoods, WASH, food security and energy are referenced, but not presented in the same level of detail.

Checklist and annexes

00	Checklist
Annex	Title and links
01	Environment, hazard, conflict, security and housing context
02	Key actors
03	Regulatory requirements and institutions
04	Ecologically Protected Areas
05	Hazards & Maps

06	<u>Guidance on environmental impact assessment for shelter and settlements programming</u>
07	<u>Environmental Management & Monitoring Plan</u>
08	<u>Project management cycle and sustainable construction</u>
09	<u>Utilising GIS for enhanced shelter programming</u>
10	<u>Environment and site selection & planning</u>
11	<u>Security of Tenure and environment</u>
12	<u>Site decommissioning</u>
13	<u>Green building practices and most common building materials</u>
14	<u>Green Logistics & Procurement</u>
15	<u>Greening household items</u>
16	<u>Key considerations for energy</u>
17	<u>Debris and waste management, recycling, reuse and repurposing</u>
18	<u>Climate risk management and adaptation & nature-based solutions</u>

For further information, to contribute to the country profile, or to provide feedback please contact coord1.BD@sheltercluster.org.



Authors and Institutions

AUTHORS

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Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Australian Red Cross
Swedish Red Cross
Energy and Environment Technical Working Group (Cox's Bazar)

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