COUNTRY GUIDE



ASIA

Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Penal Code text reviewed has no general offense of failing to help a stranger. Documents reviewed show a statutory basis for a government-run volunteer program in disaster management, a long-running Cyclone Preparedness Programme that relies on volunteers, and a registration regime for NGOs receiving foreign funds for voluntary or charitable work.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
No general duty found

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
Limited

GIVING AND SERVICE
4 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

NO GENERAL DUTY FOUND

No provision imposing a general duty to rescue or aid a stranger was found in the Penal Code, 1860 as published on the Bangladesh Laws portal. Sections 32 and 33 treat illegal omissions as acts, and the omission provisions found (sections 187 and 202) concern assisting a public servant or giving information of an offense that a person is legally bound to give.

The Penal Code, 1860 (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (Bangladesh Laws portal))

Are people who help protected?

LIMITED

No Good Samaritan statute for bystanders was found. Penal Code section 92 provides that an act done in good faith for the benefit of a person is not an offense by reason of harm caused, where consent cannot be obtained, subject to provisos (it excludes intentionally causing death, among others). Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act 2012 bars criminal or civil proceedings against the government, government employees, and councils, committees or groups formed under the Act for good-faith, non-negligent tasks; whether it reaches individual volunteers is not stated in the text reviewed.

The Penal Code, 1860 (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (Bangladesh Laws portal)) Disaster Management Act, 2012 (Act No. 34 of 2012), Bangladesh Gazette, additional issue, September 24, 2012 (English text) (FAOLEX, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

How the government promotes giving and service

Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)

The government's CPP portal has sections on CPP volunteers, team leaders, volunteer qualifications, a volunteer award, and a life-saving volunteer award (read in Bengali; this guide's reading of the menu is a translation). A Red Cross-affiliated page describes the program as operating since 1972 in 13 coastal districts with over 55,000 volunteers who provide early warning messages; counts vary by source and date.

GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH, CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME

Disaster Management Act 2012, section 13: National Disaster Volunteers

The English text states that the government may formulate a community-based program and form a volunteer organization named National Disaster Volunteers,

with responsibilities, training, dress, benefits and functions to be set by rules.

FAOLEX, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

The Society states it was constituted in 1973 by President's Order No. 26 of 1973 (then as the Bangladesh Red Cross Society), and the CPP is run jointly with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society per the Prepare Center page. The Order itself was not fetched.

BANGLADESH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act 2016

The Act defines foreign donations for voluntary or charitable activity and requires NGOs to register with the NGO Affairs Bureau. It is a regulatory framework for foreign-funded voluntary work, not a program that rewards giving.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW (REPRODUCTION, NOT AN OFFICIAL SITE)

Ways to give and volunteer

Bangladesh has a large civil society, and foreign-funded charitable work is regulated by the government, so legal channels matter. Rely on the Red Crescent and official programs for disaster response.

Check a charity before you give

The government office that registers and approves NGOs receiving foreign funds; its site lists registered NGOs, though many pages are in Bengali, and there is no single public registry covering every domestic charity.

NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB)

Give your time

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

The national society, with volunteer youth and disaster response programs across the country.

Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)
A government and Red Crescent program that trains volunteers for cyclone warning and rescue along the coast.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
The UN's volunteer programme, with an online portal for assignments.

Give money, blood or a donation

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
The national society, which takes donations for relief and runs blood services.

In an emergency or a crisis

Find A Helpline: crisis and emotional support lines in this country
A directory of free crisis and emotional support lines, run by ThroughLine. No single national line could be confirmed for this guide, so check the line you choose before you rely on it.

Before you act

- Foreign donations to NGOs in Bangladesh need approval from the NGO Affairs Bureau, so a foreign visitor or resident should not set up or fund a group outside these rules.
- Ask any group for its registration with the NGOAB or the Department of Social Services and check it, and avoid giving cash to individuals who approach you with unverified appeals.
- Foreign volunteers should arrange work only through a registered host organization and check visa rules first.

This list does not cover local mosque-based or village committees, or private groups that are outside the government's registration lists. Checked 2026-10-28. Listing an organization is not an endorsement, and none of them has endorsed this site. Some official sites block automatic checks, so a link may need a second try.

One thing worth knowing

Disaster volunteering has a statutory footing: section 13 of the Disaster Management Act 2012 authorizes a national disaster volunteer organization, and the CPP portal publicly lists volunteer awards.

What this does not mean

The research brief mentioned National Volunteer Service programs and domestic charity law; no primary source for either was fetched, so they are not described. The Disaster Management Act text is an English version from FAOLEX that may be a translation, and the FDVA copy is hosted by a third party. This is not legal advice. This is a plain-language summary of public sources, not legal advice, and it does not rank countries. No government named here has endorsed this site. Not reviewed by a lawyer. Statutes were read in public sources and may have changed. Last checked October 26, 2026.

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