

# Saving Lives in the Humanitarian Development Nexus - Bangladesh

Core Group, June 2018  
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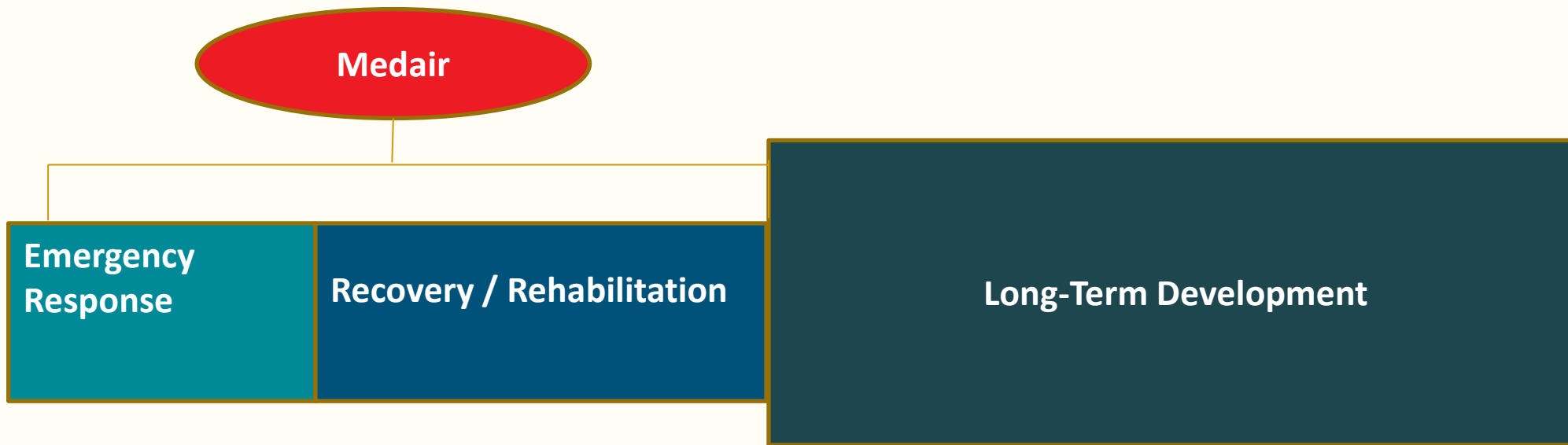
## Mission

- Medair is an impartial, independent and neutral humanitarian organization inspired by Christian faith to relieve human suffering in the world's most difficult to reach and devastated places.



# What we do...

*Focus on basic life-saving activities and public health emergencies...*



*And resilience-building and disaster-risk management*

# Where we work



Afghanistan, Bangladesh,  
DR Congo, Iraq, Jordan,  
Lebanon, Madagascar,  
Myanmar, Nepal, Somalia,  
South Sudan, Syria



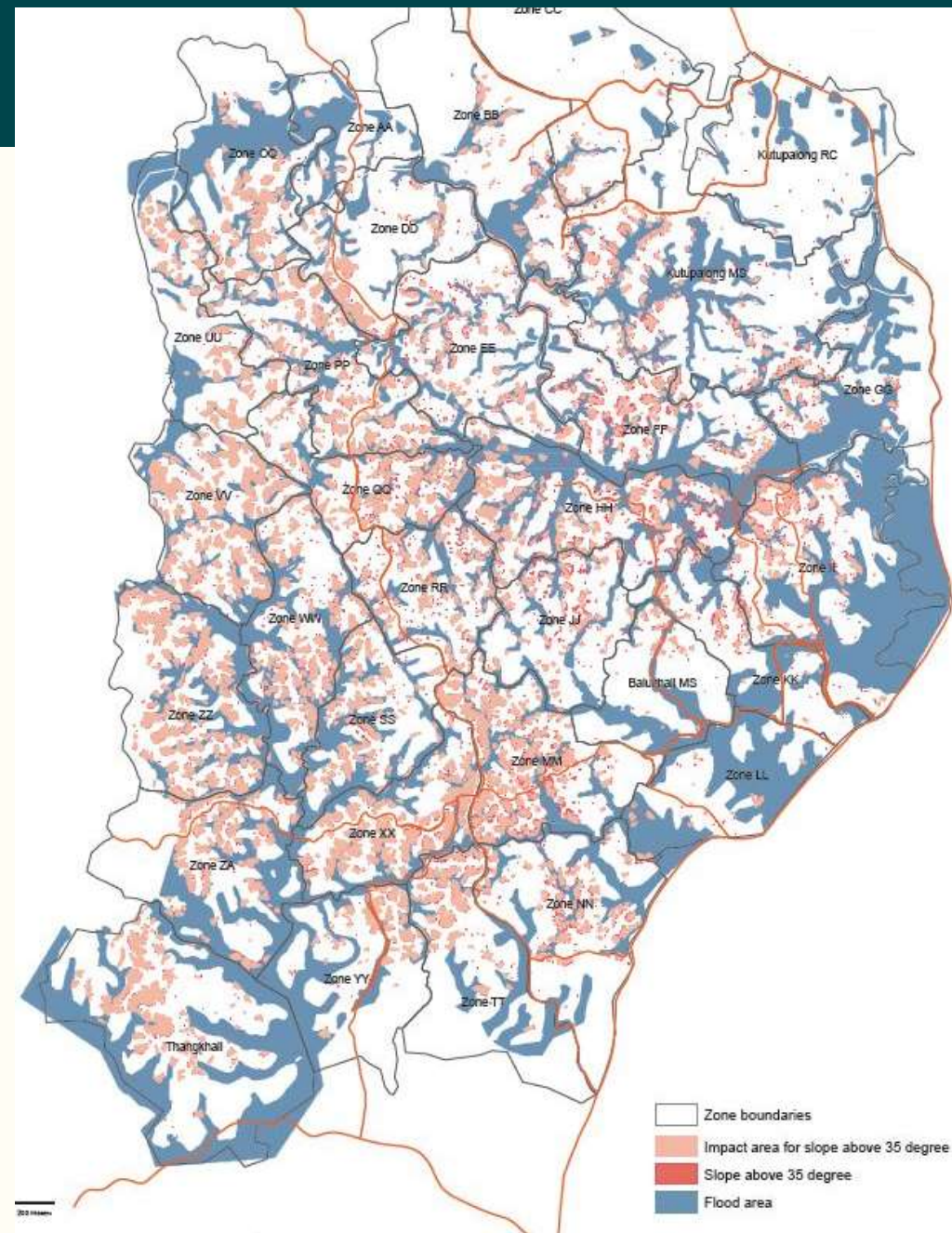
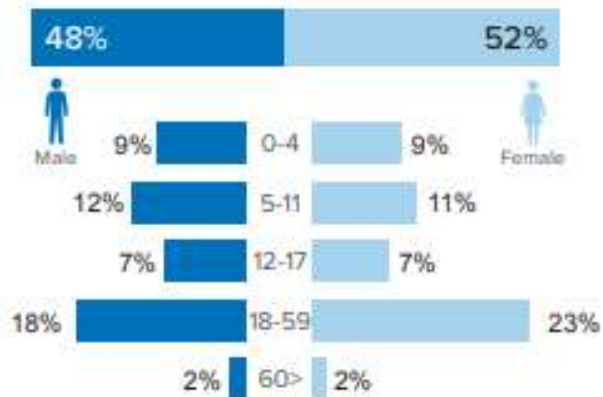
# Context

## Refugee Population Figure



\* Some refugees living in host communities and in certain locations beyond the camp boundaries may not have been counted.

## Demography





# Medair's Response in Bangladesh



# Humanitarian – Development Partnership

- **Its just not natural....**

- Different mandates – Save lives NOW vs. Save lives who will come in the future
- Different philosophies – Give a fish vs. teach to fish
- Different strengths, experiences, and skill sets – uphill sprint vs. a marathon
- Different standards – core humanitarian standards, Sphere standards
- Different risk appetites – financial risk, political risk
- Different coordination systems – cluster system vs. government led coordination
- Different language – acronym soup

# Challenges as Humanitarians in Bangladesh

- **Access and Registration were complicated and delayed the ability to rapidly scale up relief interventions**
- **Technical guidelines and standards were not available several months into the response**
  - Essential Package of Primary Health Care Services defined but not adhered to by many organizations (integrated services vs. vertical)
  - IMNCI and Helping Babies Breathe
  - CMAM – adaptations for refugee response not completed – actors all using different admission and discharge criteria
  - Guidelines on salary scales and cadres of health work force not available for new agencies to adhere to local standards
- **Historic actors were not forthcoming with lessons learned from past experiences**



# Way Forward

## Humanitarians

- **Promote local standards and guidelines**  
– salary scales, packages of health care, country specific guidelines and drug policies
- **Adapt our language and style to enable participation of other actors**
- **Recognize our strengths – don't stay too long when the heavy work of systems building is not in our tool kits**



# Way Forward

## Development Actors

- **Seek to understand the strengths of the humanitarian system to save lives in the short-term and promote their effective use in new onset emergencies**
- **Communicate– seek to participate in humanitarian coordination mechanisms to share your experience and baseline knowledge, to provide standard country materials**
- **Prioritize efforts in emergencies – recognize your limitations and provide high quality smaller projects if needed rather than attempting to do too much with less effectiveness – make coverage with the highest quality your goal**







Thank you!